



◆ **GSA Meeting Minutes**
Date: August 5, 2020

1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:05 PM
- 2.

Tim Mowry	David Annis	Nick Montes	Chintal Shah
Ashley Marquardt	Karndeeep Singh	Jennifer Kirk	Ioana Ghita
Tomi Fadiran	Sanjana Rao	Chrissy Carney	Sarah Tanveer
Rainer Butler	Kristen Montgomery	Kelly Rock	McKayla Mickle
Eposi Elonge			

3. Review minutes of previous meeting -
 - a. Motioned to approve: Ashley Marquardt, Chrissy Carney
4. Reports
 - a. President
 - i. Announcements
 1. Orientation will be the week of August 24th!
 - a. Graduate School will host events on August 26th and 27th
 - b. Sign up to volunteer: Orientation task list in Zoom chat!
 - i. Need volunteers for ethics moderators and for grad school 101 panel - thank you!
 2. All courses and campus wide activities will be held virtually for Fall 2020
 - a. Please communicate thoughts & concerns
 - ii. Meet & Confer Committee- GSA members meet with Grad School Admin staff to talk about student needs and issues
 1. We met twice so far: July 16 & 30th
 2. Next one: (pending) August 6th
 3. Updates in New Business

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

1. Social Activities Committee:

a. Virtual Trivia Social: Tentative date: August 13th?

i. The social will be conducted over WebEx and initially limited in size. This is a new type of event and we want to make sure it is manageable.

ii. Working on incentives

iii. Please contact me if you'd like to be involved!

2. USGA Announcements:

a. None

c. Treasurer

1. Current Balance: \$12,812.67

a. 14,433.35 is the amount in checking pending distribution of checks from last fiscal year's awards and reimbursements.

b. Some checks have been distributed but not cashed therefore they will be included in the Fall budget.

2. Fall 2020 Budget Proposal (Includes pending reimbursements and awards from last fiscal year). Only proposing a budget for Fall 2020 since we don't know what Spring 2021 entails.

3. COVID WFH Support Award

a. Vote: PASS- will vote on specific amounts for awards after more research is done on what might be requested and the cost

b. After the 4th quarter travel award email went out, I received a lot of emails from students asking that we use part of the funds for the travel award to help students who had to buy items in order to successfully work from home. We propose to split the \$3000 travel award for the Fall into 2 awards since most conferences will be virtual, and students will not spend much on travelling.

- c. Possible application requirements: Specific aims or abstract and description of items they want to use the money for and a letter of support from PI.
 - d. Input from reps to describe what items should be included or excluded from the award (software you would normally have access to in your lab, webcam, wifi boosters,wifi hotspots etc)
4. Proposal to change Travel Award
- a. Vote: PASS
 - b. Proposal to change travel award: Instead of applying for award after the conference. Allow students to apply for awards that cover expenses for upcoming conferences. (The application would remain the same). For fall 2020 this award would cover registration fees and abstract submission fees for virtual conferences.
 - c. Apply for an award in the quarter before the conference.
 - a. "Tentative Award Upon Presentation of Receipts. The GSA is accepting travel applications prior to conference attendance on the basis of anticipated costs. The application and corresponding abstract will be judged and given a maximum award value, all travel receipts must be submitted in a single pdf document including conference registration and accepted abstract after the conference in order to receive the funding. Costs reimbursed will not exceed the awarded value. Awards given prior to conference travel can be submitted one application quarter prior to the anticipated travel. Reimbursement based awards will be given precedence in the application Quarter."
 - b. When can pre-applications be applied?
 - i. In the Quarter before travel
 - Quarter 1: July-September (Application due date June 15) Forms

- Quarter 2: October-December (due date September 15)
- Quarter 3: January-March (due date December 15)
- Quarter 4: April-June (due date March 15)
- Make the receipts due the 1st of the month following the quarter (eg October 1 for Quarter 1). Will take in effect second quarter DUE to us already being in quarter 1. Will send an email announcing changes to travel award. Explain that for those who travelled between July-Sept apply for quarter 1 and those who anticipate attending a conference or academic workshop between October and December (2ND QUARTER).

Previous quarter due dates

- ii. Quarters are 1: July, Aug, Sept **Due:** Oct 15
2: Oct, Nov, Dec **Due:** Jan 15
3: Jan, Feb, March **Due:** April 15
4: April, May, June **Due:** July 15
- iii. Depending on availability reimbursement awards will be given precedence over pre-applications. The awarded funds are to be taken from the applied quarter (not the traveled quarter), depending on demand the funding quarter may be in the anticipated travel time period.

d. Secretary

i. Announcements:

1. Updating Rep list for 2020/2021
2. Potential move to Google Group/Microsoft Teams for communication/resource
 - a. Any other ideas for more efficient communication esp. during COVID?
 - b. Waiting for resolution of GPILS email issue

3. Slight change in meeting agenda send out- add your questions and concerns to the Google Doc! We hope this will make conversations easier, especially while we remain virtual.

e. Grad Council rep

- i. Announcements:
 1. Outstanding Mentor- Dr. Owen Woodward
- ii. U of M grad council:
 1. No meetings til Fall

f. PR

- i. Announcements:
 1. No updates
- ii. Communications Committee
 1. No updates
- iii. Volunteer Committee:
 1. BARCS have opened the opportunity for people to foster pets in their homes during the outbreak. This can be something worthwhile to avoid having cabin fever. More info will be in the Grad Gazette
 2. Skype a Scientist is a fun program where families or individuals can reach out to us as scientists and ask general questions in regards to COVID-19 or the person's field of study (Will have more info in the Grad Gazette)
 3. Groups like CHD have launched "Adopt a Grandparent" which will allow volunteers to do just that. This is to compensate for the loneliness the elderly will have during the time of the pandemic. This campaign may also be interesting to some people (More info will be in the Grad Gazette).

g. Meyerhoff: No updates.

h. NOVA: NOVA has made a Twitter account as a platform for virtual #scicomm and to communicate about our events! Give it a follow: @NOVAatUMB

i. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns:

- i. Need update on student health insurance plan and how UMM Immediate Care will be functioning this fall
- 5. Old Business:
 - a. Graduate Student Lounge
 - i. Survey sent out July 21st to assess graduate student opinion
 - ii. Results: students would like a graduate student lounge but much prefer it on the main campus instead of the Lexington market area
 - iii. Working with Graduate School and UMB admin to communicate our findings and make a game plan moving forward
- 6. New Business:
 - a. Orientation
 - i. All virtual!
 - ii. Will have speakers from various student offices or services to introduce UMB either live or recorded videos
 - 1. Students can ask questions through the chat
 - iii. Thank you for volunteering for the ethics session and grad school 101 panel!
 - iv. GSA is going to get UMB or Graduate School t-shirts & masks for incoming students
 - 1. Ideas?
 - b. Meet & Confer updates
 - i. Following up on our anti-racist action items proposed in May:
 - 1. Special edition of Grad Gazette to demonstrate how GSA is following up on these items
 - 2. Discussed campus-wide anti-racism training
 - 3. Discussed new Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
 - 4. Discussed creation of a more transparent reporting process for racism and discrimination: EthicsPoint [hotline](#)
 - a. How many reps knew about this hotline? (curious)
 - 5. Discussed providing more opportunities to BIPOC for grant applications,

funding opportunities, mentorship

a. PROMISE program: Summer Success Institute

6. Discussed recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff

- ii. Will discuss COVID-19 concerns and challenges with virtual learning/fall semester at our next meeting
- iii. Other agenda items to include?

c. COVID-19

- i. Currently in Phase 2
- ii. May have a Town Hall with the task force and the Graduate School (soon)
- iii. Fall student services affected:
 - 1. No shuttle services
 - 2. No updates when Campus Center is opening: gym, cafe, study space
- iv. Tuition and fees affected
 - 1. Flavius Lilly sent out letter on 7/30/20 regarding this
 - 2. Questions or concerns?
- v. Specific concerns to address with Graduate School?

d. Student Stipend Subcommittee

- i. Issue: Large disparity in stipends within Graduate School and compared to other universities
 - 1. Data we have so far for [PHSR specifically](#) and for [greater university](#)
- ii. GOAL: Present to Graduate School (Erin) and to UMB admin (Drs. Jarrell & Ward) to advocate for stipend increases
- iii. Action: collect data on other university graduate school stipends and cost-of-living, etc.
 - 1. Headed by:
 - 2. Need reps to sit on this committee

e. Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee

- i. Subcommittee/partnership with PDAC and USGA for student concerns
 - 1. Concern that students don't have a clear resource for reporting problems.

While the subcommittee would focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at UMB, it could ultimately become a forum for graduate students to feel comfortable asking questions and seeking resources that may not have one clear place to go.

ii. Action: compile resources and connections

f. GPILS students:

i. umaryland email discontinuation

1. Elice sent out an email on Friday, July 31st about this
2. Questions or concerns?

ii. New Career & Leadership Development seminars

1. Seminars relevant to your year in graduate school (ex: 1st year- timeline for a successful grad school experience; 4th year- types of careers, CV development)
2. Jenn Aumiller is putting this together & wants GSA's feedback!

7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Orientation- Virtual Events
- b. Suggestions on how to make a virtual orientation feel more connected

8. Other Business/Announcements

a. Resources from discussion:

Maryland State Testing Info: (updated each Monday)

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>

UMB's Advice on Testing/How to Get Tested

<https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/content/testing-hygiene-and-health/where-can-i-get-tested-for-covid-19.php>

Scheduling for Testing at the Baltimore Convention Center

<https://myportfolio.umm.edu/mychart/SignupAndSchedule/EmbeddedSchedule?id=RES%5E84002422&vt=22697>

Date of next meeting: September 2, 2020

Motion to adjourn: Rainer Butler