

GSA Meeting Agenda
Date: December 2, 2020



1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:04

Please put your full name and program in the Zoom chat so attendance can be taken!

Karndeeep Singh	Sarah Tanveer	David Annis	Amanda Boyer
Eposi Elonge	Sol Baik	Alexander Malyshev	Joy Schucker
Chintal Shah	Gila Fridkis	Saba Shahzad	Ashley Marquardt
Kristen Montgomery	Ioana Ghita	Rashed Alsahafi	McKayla Mickle
Sanjana Rao	Chrissy Carney	Jennifer Kirk	

2. Review minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Ashley Marquardt and Joy Schucker
3. Reports
 - a. **President**
 - i. Announcements:
 1. RED Folder training for GSA reps held by UMB Student Counseling Center on Wednesday, December 9th from 5PM - 6PM! This is optional but all reps are encouraged to attend to learn how to help other students during mental health crises. Register [here!](#)
 2. Please fill out the Fall 2020 COVID-19 Survey to provide meaningful feedback on the fall semester and how to improve for the spring semester, linked [here](#). This survey asks questions about coursework, clinicals, laboratory research, etc.
 3. All students coming to campus need to seek a COVID-19 test results between November 30th and December 18th as a safety precaution.
 4. As of Jan. 1, 2021, each student, faculty, and staff member approved to be on campus will be required to have a COVID-19 test that was taken within 14 days prior to their first day on campus. The negative COVID-19 test result must be uploaded into SAFE on Campus (or Castle Branch) before arriving on campus.

5. Sign up for a GSA committee! Check them out [here](#). Every GSA rep is asked to serve on one committee! Options include: Communications, Diversity & Inclusion, Finance, GRC Planning, Professional Development, Social, Stipend, & Volunteer/Outreach.

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

1. Social Activities Committee: Next meeting 12/11 at 4:00pm. Not too late to join!
2. USGA Announcements:
 - a. Core discussion during the last meeting was around URecFit, including whether it should open and if it does not, should we be charged. Opinions on this?
 - b. Still looking for one more alternate!

c. Treasurer

1. Current Balance from our budget: \$2625.23 Total amount in account: \$8761.85
 - a. Pending items: Professional Development Award
 - i. Budgeted: \$500.00
 - ii. Amount Awarded: \$500.00
 - b. Pending items: 3MT Thesis
 - i. Checks on the way
 - c. Balance after pending item: \$8118.50**
2. 3MT Awardees - check on the way
3. Finance Committee:
 - a. NA

d. Secretary

i. Announcements:

1. Still waiting to hear back about stipend review process
2. Working on details of planning a virtual GRC

e. Grad Council rep

i. Announcements:

1. Thank you to everyone who submitted a Professional Development Award! We have three awardees, Linda Zhang, Sol Baik, and Jacquie

Roth. Congratulations!

2. We are still figuring out the best and safest way to pick up shirts and masks due to University of COVID guidelines. Thank you SO MUCH for your patience and if you have any suggestions for this please let me know.

- ii. U of M grad council:
 1. Next meeting is tomorrow. Stay tuned for updates.

f. **PR**

- i. Announcements:
 1. December Grad Gazette tbd
 - a. Please send me any news, events, announcements, personal pieces, etc!
 2. Consider signing up for one of my subcommittees! No members in either one yet
 - a. Communications: Help gather info and come up with story ideas for the monthly Grad Gazette
 - b. Volunteer/Outreach: Help find and plan volunteer opportunities within the Baltimore community
- ii. Communications Committee
 1. No updates
- iii. Volunteer Committee:
 1. No updates

g. Meyerhoff: No updates!

h. NOVA: No updates!

i. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns:

i.

4. Old Business:

- a. Meet & Confer updates
 - i. Meetings occurred on 11/19 and 12/2/20 (today!)
 - ii. Dr. Flavius Lilly (Vice Dean of Graduate School & Vice Provost of Academic and Student Affairs) has joined these meetings now
 - iii. Discussed:
 1. Campus Safety: SafeWalk program & Blue Lights
 2. Campus Shuttle & Lyft program
 3. COVID-19 concerns for graduate students
 4. Mental health services: will follow up on role of case manager in referral process & opportunity for mental health app free to students

-Updates from Sarah Tanveer from email w/ Patty Alvarez and Emilia Petrillo:

Gallagher is collecting data from HealthiestYou

Student feedback about HealthiestYou

Dr. Petrillo will send list of diverse counselors to Gallagher/HealthiestYou so they can reach out to ask if they will become part of HY

5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

- a. Graduate School has created a committee and our GSA rep Nikita Aggerwal will serve as the student representative!
- b. First action items: transparent fee waiver process & Graduate School wide use of personal pronouns on communication

6. Student fees:

- a. Recommended not to charge student activities fee by GSA or USGA in the spring
- b. Likely that URECfit will not open in spring either
- c. No word on tuition changes
- d. Any specific feedback on fees for the spring? Our VP Lauren McCarthy can bring the concerns to the next USGA meeting

iv. Anything that we should bring to their attention?

b. Student gifts for incoming students:

- i. Shirts and masks for both incoming and current students are organized and ready to distribute. Current students - look in your email for pick-up times/locations.
- ii. Incoming students will receive their shirts and masks via their program coordinators. Look out for emails from them!

5. New Business:

a. Transportation Updates for Spring 2021 Semester

- i. Both Lyft discount programs are live: Lyft On-Demand Shuttle & Lyft Ride Smart at UMB
 1. Lyft On-Demand Shuttle: through Parking & Transportation services; 16 rides per month; up to \$4 off each ride; 6AM - 11AM and 3PM - 11PM
 2. Lyft Ride Smart at UMB: through UMB Public Safety; 3 rides per month; up to \$4 off each ride; 7AM - 1AM
 3. Thoughts or concerns about either program?
- ii. Niv sent out a Student Transportation Survey to all UMB students asking for feedback on accessibility to campus during the pandemic and shuttle alternatives (ex: Lyft programs)
 1. PLEASE encourage your fellow students to fill this out. We NEED this valuable data.
 2. Survey linked [here](#).

3. 229 responses so far!!!
- b. COVID-19
 - i. Currently no intent to “shut down” again or move back from Phase 2 but there is always possibility for change
 1. COVID cases are low on UMB campus
 2. Hospital is almost full currently and will be full by next week (unknown what this means for research on campus)
 - ii. Updated communications to research community:
 1. UMB Face Mask Policy linked [here](#)
 2. For those who do research on campus, the UMB COVID Research Task Force Research Advisory Group released updated guidance on November 25th via email
 - a. Reinforced COVID-19 compliance guidelines
 3. The University of Maryland system is pushing for COVID-19 vaccines for our community. Updates to come.
 - iii. All reporting is still required to go through UMB Hotline via EthicsPoint. You can call the hotline or fill out a form online linked [here](#). Please spread the word on this!
 - iv. Baltimore Convention Center offers COVID-19 testing Monday - Friday now! Link to find available appointment times [here](#). You can also walk-in but will likely have a longer line to wait in.
 - c. UMB Student Counseling Center updates
 - i. Working with them to:
 1. Edit and prepare FAQ document for students on the counseling process and the subsequent referral process
 2. Explore opportunity to provide a free mental health app to all UMB students
 - a. Thank you for your feedback and interest on this from the last meeting!
 - b. Headspace & Calm do not have agreements with schools anymore but, instead, offer student discount memberships (ex: Headspace \$10 per year)
 - i. Will ask SCC to promote this!
 - d. Graduate student needs & concerns assessment
 - i. Thank you GSA reps for filling out the survey to initially assess this
 - ii. Results are linked [here](#)
 1. Top responses are:
 - a. Impact of current stressors on productivity and learning
 - b. Transportation to and from campus

- c. Mental health services
 - iii. We plan to focus our efforts on each of these areas as well as start to address the other responses. This can be reinforced with the Fall 2020 COVID-19 Survey sent out by UMB linked [here](#).
 - iv. Any additional thoughts?
 - e. Request for feedback on the “good and bad” of mentorship during the pandemic/virtual learning
 - i. Please fill out this quick anonymous survey on what has worked for you and your mentor vs. what needs to be improved
 - ii. [Here](#) is the link!
 - iii. This information will be given directly to a committee of faculty looking to improve graduate student research and education for the spring 2020 semester
- 6. Upcoming Events:
 - a. RED Folder Training for GSA reps (optional but encouraged)
 - i. NEXT Wednesday, December 9th from 5PM - 6PM
 - ii. Register [here](#)!
 - b. Other Business/Announcements
 - i. Please fill out the Fall 2020 COVID-19 Survey to provide meaningful feedback on the fall semester and how to improve for the spring semester, linked [here](#).
 - ii. If you do decide to celebrate the holidays in person, please follow COVID-19 safety guidelines and take advantage of the testing centers available to you, preferably 5-7 days after the event.

Date of next meeting: January 6th, 2021

Motion to adjourn: Ashley Marquardt and Karndeeep Singh