



Graduate Student Association

**GSA Meeting Agenda**

**Date: December 1, 2021**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/95332633899>**

1. Welcome/Call to order:

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

***For this meeting, please indicate whether you are the primary, alternate, or extra rep or a guest!***

Theeb Alquria	Corinne English	Darwin Argueta	Sarah Clem
Kristen Montgomery	Chintal Shah	Sanjana Rao	Lauren McCarthy
Ioana Ghita	Megan Stemberger	Kasey Knopp	Makenzy Mull
Darwin Argueta	McKayla Mickle	Amanda Boyer	David Annis
Alexis Cirko	Sarah Tanveer	Emily Smith	Ashley Marquardt
Mashhood Wani	Lola Chavez	Zakiya Carter	

2. Review minutes of previous meeting

a. Motion to approve minutes

3. Reports

a. **President** - Sydney Ashton ([umb.gsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.president@gmail.com))

i. SeizingPsych is a 501(c)3 charity organization that collaborates with NAMI@UMB. They're running their 6th annual Holiday Adopt-A-Family initiative to provide two local Maryland families experiencing financial difficulty due to mental healthcare expenses with gifts from their wishlists. SeizingPsych is seeking monetary gifts and donations of items (in person or through Amazon)

1. [Click here](#) for the flyers with a list of items and Amazon links to the wishlist. Please feel free to share these!

ii. UMB Food Pantry is officially open! [Click here](#) to place an order for pickup in the

SMC Campus Center

1. They also have a pop-up in the first floor of the Campus Center on December 8th from noon to 1pm where students can pick up cost-free bags of food

b. **Vice President** - Rainer Butler (umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com)

i. USGA update

1. Some concerns raised about shuttle (issues with timing/location of pick ups)
2. [tgreen@umaryland.edu](mailto:tgreen@umaryland.edu) for concerns about parking and transportation
3. There was a wifi survey for the medical students - wanted to know if anyone in the graduate school has had trouble with the wifi in the library?
4. Any issues receiving KN95s?
5. Possible virtual talent show - no date yet

ii. Winter social!

1. Plan is to set up drinks (coffee, hot water for tea and hot chocolate, and cider along with some individually wrapped snacks, and maybe some bailey's) on lawn of HSF3. Thinking mix and mingle then grab stuff to go to remain covid compliant.
2. I have contacted HSF3 and am waiting for them to respond so I can put the event in UMBengaged
3. Thinking will happen Dec 16. Does this date sound okay?

c. **Treasurer** - Gillian Mbambo (umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com)

i. Checking account Balance is \$5873.31

1. Venmo - \$485.32 (will be transferred to the bank)
2. Cashbox: \$2473

ii. Pending Disbursements/reimbursements

1. Travel Awards - student accounts
2. NOVA - check (waiting for receipts and attendance sheet)

- iii. Completed Disbursement - BankMobile
  - 1. Award Disbursement: Outstanding Rep Awards (\$100)
  - 2. Orientation Grad 101 panel and Ethics perceptors (\$650)
- d. **Secretary** - Hadley Bryan (umb.gsa.sec@gmail.com)
  - i. Sign in- please put your name, email, program, and primary/alternate/extra rep in the chat!
  - ii. Waiting to hear back from Erin about in-person GRC. Have any ideas about things you want to see this year? Let me know!
- e. **Grad Council Rep** - Nikita Aggarwal (umb.gsa.gcrep@gmail.com)
  - i. No new updates
- f. **Public Relations** - Jenn Kirk (umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com)
  - i. Volunteer Subcommittee:
    - 1. The Thanksgiving drive was a huge success! A GSA representative on the volunteer committee reported: "that by the 3-5 PM shift with the Thanksgiving drive volunteers were so efficient/great at getting everything packed, they wrapped up hours before my scheduled shift!"
    - 2. Potential Spring Volunteer Events:
      - a. Survival kits for the homeless will involve putting together kits in January or February for the homeless population near campus
      - b. If interested email [umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com)
  - ii. [New GSA Logo](#) (Can we vote on this today?)



- iii. Submit any stories or commentary for the grad gazette:
 

<https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/gsa/gazette/submit/>

- iv. Communications subcommittee
  1. Still need GSA Rep support
  2. [Link to subcommittee sign-up sheet](#)
- g. **Meyerhoff**
  - i. Still working on finding a new representative
- h. **NOVA**
  - i. NOVA's Fall Lab Tours event will be taking place on Friday, December 3rd! We will be hosting students from the Vivien T Thomas Medical Arts Academy and showing them various demos of research being done here at UMB. Sign up [here](#) if you are interested in serving as a chaperone for either the morning or afternoon session!
- i. **Graduate School DEI Committee** - Nikki Aggarwal
  - i. DEI pulse survey
  - ii. Currently GS DEI is working on the following goals-

Creating, cultivating and sustaining a welcome, supportive, and inclusive Graduate School culture.

**Develop a culture of inclusion, belonging, equity, antiracism for all faculty, staff, and students, whatever their social or cultural identity happens to be.**

1. Assess inclusivity and belonging within the graduate school--Graduate School Climate Survey
2. Assess inclusivity and belonging within the graduate school--Graduate School Feedback Structure

**Promote a culture of inclusion, belonging, equity, antiracism for all faculty, staff, and students, whatever their social or cultural identity happens to be.**

3. Examine images and other representation of the GS to ensure they reflect contributions and values of a diverse group

**Ensure a culture of inclusion, belonging, equity, antiracism for all faculty, staff, and students, whatever their social or cultural identity happens to be.**

4. Create initiatives that build intercultural skills, knowledge

and understanding

**Elevate important concerns identified by BIPOC, differently-abled, LGBTQ, and international students, staff, and faculty related to their experiences of equity and inclusion to higher levels where solutions can be created.**

5. Hold regular, facilitated conversations with students, staff, faculty to learn about their experiences with issues of equity, difference, and privilege across the graduate school.
6. Create a structure for collecting and reporting all issues and concerns, including discrimination, harassment, and mistreatment
7. Create accountability structure for creation and implementation of solutions
8. Develop a mechanism for transparency of concerns and solutions

iiii. EDI Chief Officer has asked to share our goals and recommendations on how we can be more intentional in integrating EDI throughout the structure and fabric of the graduate school, specifically within our own department/school.

[https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5zrMbFm2yJGJtzg](https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zrMbFm2yJGJtzg)

**j. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns**

i.

4. Old Business:

a. Old announcements

- i. Please complete the campus safety survey if you have not already!

1. <https://bit.ly/umbpdsurvey2021>

b. Campus parking expenses

- i. Discussed ways to reduce parking costs for students. Exploring two potential solutions:

1. Whether the Graduate School can cover (or at least subsidize) parking costs
2. Whether parking can be charged to the PI's grant directly (parking for staff/employees is removed from their paycheck automatically)
3. Unfortunately, these options are \*not\* possible because it would be considered "supplemental pay", which is against our graduate assistant contracts. Let me know if you have any new ideas!

5. New Business:

- a. The Graduate School Steering Committee is working to develop its own “strategic objectives” to align with and implement UMB’s new Strategic Plan. They have drafted 9 objectives and would like student input early! The next step is to develop measurable actions to complete the objectives and measure their effectiveness. The objectives are:
  - i. i. Enhance the internal/external brand of the Graduate School Branding and Rename the Graduate School
  - ii. ii. Leverage PALLA (Physician Assistant Leadership & Learning), PhD-HPE, and the Physician Assistant program to achieve preeminence in the PA discipline
    - 1. PA program used to be in conjunction with a community college, but want to move all students and faculty to our campus
  - iii. iii. Grow the enrollment of existing Graduate School central self- supporting academic degree programs
  - iv. iv. Cultivate a Graduate School culture of equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice
  - v. v. Optimize student academic advising
  - vi. vi. Pioneer innovative academic program review processes for graduate programs
  - vii. vii. Expand the community impact of the Graduate School (SAFE Center, VVR, ALL, Entrepreneurship)
  - viii. viii. Enhance and promote excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activities in the Graduate School
  - ix. ix. Expand partnerships with UMB’s Schools and develop innovative models to support the Graduate School’s signature affiliated degree programs.

b. Meet & Confer updates

*Meet and Confer is a committee of students chaired by the GSA President that meets monthly with Dr. Bruce Jarrell (UMB President), Dr. Roger Ward (Interim Provost, Executive Vice President & Dean of the Graduate School), Dr. Erin Golembewski (Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School) and other campus leadership*

- i. Last meeting occurred Oct. 21
- ii. GERO stipend levels
  - 1. UMBC is hesitant to increase the stipend. Leadership are meeting with

them again early this month, so should have another update at January's meeting

- a. UMBC's tuition remission is different than UMB's, so the PIs actually have to fund that themselves → they're already paying more for their students that UMB is
  - i. UMB is actually the only institution in the System that funds tuition remission as an employee benefit
- iii. Grammarly discounted subscriptions for students
  1. UBalt has a similar program, so leadership going to look into how this works to see if we can implement
  2. Going to work with the Writing Center; they have a lot of programs already to support people whose first language is not English, so they might be interested in helping us get Grammarly
- iv. Talked a lot about hiring, promotion & tenure decisions
  1. We feel like this is how the university could really commit to things like DEI they say they believe in!
  2. Apparently the faculty are really in charge of these decisions and UMB can't really tell them how to assess candidates
  3. But Dr. Diane Forbes Berthoud (Chief Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer) is working on this and President Jarrell says he is "committed" to it
    - a. She is bringing "metrics" to help more quantitatively measure things like teaching effectiveness
- v. Next meeting will be Dec. 16th at 8 am (virtual)
  1. Still looking for new members to attend these meetings! Contact Sydney if interested
- c. USMSC Updates

*The University System of Maryland Student Council meets monthly and includes two representatives from each USM Institution (UMB's are the GSA and USGA Presidents)*

  - i. Last meeting occurred Nov. 14th
    1. UMBC is working on removing the GRE requirement for applying to all of their graduate programs. Some programs at UMB have already removed this requirement, but maybe we can work with UMB to make this campus- or system-wide
    2. Also working with UMBC reps regarding stipend increases! They shared a really informative survey they conducted with their student body on the livability of their stipends. Should we conduct a similar survey?
    3. Total enrollment in System schools is down 4%--retention problems due to pandemic?
    4. The USM vaccine mandate is being extended to the winter and spring

terms (so that people who did not come on campus in the fall aren't "exempt" from the mandate)

- a. There will be \*no\* COVID booster mandate, but boosters will be highly encouraged!
- b. They are discussing the possibility of requiring some sort of annual booster (like the flu) or similar, but it just isn't clear yet if that will be necessary

5. We talking a lot about DEI-related issues including:

- a. Support for international students
- b. Mental health access
- c. Unconscious bias training requirements
- d. Universities' hesitancy to hire people specifically for DEI roles and courses

ii. Next meeting is Dec. 5th

d. Campus Safety

i. Last Citizens Advisory Board meeting occurred Nov. 15th

ii. New cameras and surveillance software

1. Camera upgrades have officially been approved

- a. They're still looking into the different "analytical packages", so don't know details of how "suspicious" people/situations will be flagged yet until they pick a vendor
- b. Both the dispatcher and the officer will have discretion on whether or not to engaged with a person flagged by the system
  - i. But they said some problematic things about how it might actually be "a good thing" if, for example, a disabled student is flagged every day because it could "protect" them as they may be a target for crime or may need help... they asserted that such a situation is very unlikely, though. Going to keep pressing them for details once they get more information from vendors

iii. Safe Walk

1. USGA proposed "community safe walk" idea for students who may not want to walk with police officers

- a. Said we can continue to brainstorm about this at future meetings, but that such a system is unlikely due to liability problems
- b. Currently only a few safe walks are requested each day, and almost all are ~3-4am from hospital workers

iv. Comfort K9s

1. Looking for a second dog, will launch another naming vote like we did for

- Archie when they get one
  - 2. We get our K9s from “Paws & Stripes” in Florida, which is a program that takes rescue dogs and works with inmates to train them. Discussed whether we could use a more local program (there used to be one in Hagerstown)
  - v. Next meeting Dec. 13th
  - e. UMB Shuttle
    - i. Last meeting occurred on Nov. 10th
      - 1. Talked about shuttle tracking delays when there is an accident/traffic/other slow down: they said there is a banner at the bottom of the UMB app that posts these announcements immediately? We discussed whether this can be changed to a more intuitive system
      - 2. Reston (runs our shuttles) proposed a rate increase that is still being finalized. Next meeting we’re supposed to get the details regarding how much the increase is and how they intend to pay for it
    - ii. Next meeting Dec. 8th
      - 1. Going to go over ridership and revenue data (ie proportion of students that ride the shuttle; how much money they’ve received from faculty/staff/postdocs since the fare was implemented)
  - f. This section has basically become a summary of meetings I have each month--do you all like that? Feel free to reach out if you would like to see more/less/different information in future GSA meetings!
6. Upcoming Events:

**Date of next meeting: January 5, 2022**

**Motion to adjourn:**