



◆ **GSA Meeting Agenda**  
**Date: February 6, 2019**

1. Welcome/Call to order at 5:05 PM

Emily Smith	Ashley Marquardt	Devin Snyder	Linda Senbanjo
Jenny Afkinich	Lauren McCarthy	Quinton Banks	Heather Mutchie
Julia Thayer	Basant Motawi	McKayla Mickle	Brian Johnson
Sara Daniel	Kyungwan Hong	Amy Defnet	Talia Guardia
Dante Johnson	Megan Lynch	Ramon Martinez	Susannah Shissler
Janelle Hauserman	Katie Gwilliam	Alyssa Grogan	

Review minutes of previous meeting - Motion: J. Thayer, A. Marquardt

2. Reports

a. President

i. Announcements

1. None

ii. Meet & Confer Committee- next meeting will be mid-March (probably March 11th @ 730)

1. Need to recruit one more person before our Spring meeting. Meet three times a year with President Perman and the deans. Talk about student needs and issues that have come up. They are receptive to us. Email Megan if interested.

2. UMB Shuttle- email regarding possibility that shuttle service will end this summer due to College Park withdrawing funding. Will add to agenda for next meeting.

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

ii. Social Activities Committee

1. GSA's Spring Social will be at Pickles Pub (Top Floor) on Friday, March 29th from 6:30-9:30. Invite your friends! Theme ideas: tropical theme?

hollywood theme?

iii. USGA Announcements

1. With grad school enrollment increase, GSA has been allotted another senator for the USGA. Discuss whether to add an additional senator or keep the number as is (five or six senators). Meetings are second Wednesday of every month.

a. Consensus was to add another senator. Email Ramon if interested- will be looking to fill two spots.

c. Treasurer

i. Account

1. Current Balance: \$14,985.23

ii. Finance Committee:

1. 2nd Quarter Travel Award Applications have been scored and awarded, totaling of \$1,179.00. Congratulations to Sarah, Caroline. Hamzah, and Yanfeng.

2. Next Due Date: April 15th

iii. Student Group Funding:

1. Budgeted for \$900/semester. Funding is on a reimbursement basis and all receipts must be handed over within one month of the date on the receipt.

a. Last semester \$760.77 was allocated to groups for funding. Only \$474.16 of this was spent. The new spring budget is \$1325.84.

2. Budget requests MUST be submitted 1 week prior to GSA meetings so they can be emailed out to the GSA body.

3. February Requests:

a. PGSA

i. Requested \$250 for PGSA Coffeehouse event (MTSF tentative date April 19th 5:30-7:30) (approved).

b. NOVA

- i. Requested \$300 to continue Spring Grove Bingo events and hold end of year party (approved).

d. Secretary

- i. Announcements

- 1. GRC registration is open! Deadline to submit an abstract is Feb 22. Please encourage your peers to present!
- 2. Competition for GRC abstract cover will be open until Feb 8.

e. Grad Council rep

- i. Announcements

- ii. U of M grad council - haven't had a meeting since November, but meeting tomorrow (Feb 7th)

- iii. Professional Development Committee

- 1. Congratulations to Yanfeng Xu - winner of Research Award

f. PR

- i. Announcements

- 1. Grad Gazette went out this Friday, February 1.

- ii. Volunteer

- 1. Children's Hospital Blanket Making was a success! Thank you to everyone who came and helped make blankets. We were able to make 13 to donate to the hospital here on campus.
- 2. Spring volunteer event is a work in progress. Email Katie with ideas

g. Meyerhoff

- i. No update

h. NOVA

- i. No update

3. Old Business:

- a. Status of Centennial Celebration

- i. Thank you for filling out survey!

- ii. Looking to hold event in the HSF 3 Atrium in April (tentative date April 25th), will begin at 5pm, exec is working on menu

4. New Business:

- a. **House Bill 270 (Graduate Assistant Collective Bargaining Fairness Act)** : bill for collective bargaining rights is back on the table.

- i. For the purpose of providing collective bargaining rights to certain graduate assistants at certain public institutions of higher education; altering certain exceptions to the applicability of provisions of law governing collective bargaining for State employees; establishing a separate collective bargaining unit for certain graduate assistants; and generally relating to collective bargaining for graduate assistants at public institutions of higher education.
- ii. Proposed January 29th, a hearing took place on 2/05
  - 1. At the hearing, student representatives from College Park testified for this bill to pass, they mentioned but did not go into detail about clarity of job expectations, salaries, and grievance policy. They stated that Eastern Shore, Bowie State, and Towson were also in favor of the bill. Their main argument is that their meet & confer does not assist them properly, shows them disrespect, etc.
  - 2. Important- 'Authorizes collective bargaining, does not mandate that a union be formed'
  - 3. Can also watch video of hearing: [Video of 2/05](#) HB270 starts around minute 21
- iii. If passed, would be effective July 1, 2019
- iv. More information/ check on status of bill: [MD State Legislature page](#).
- v. Should we make a statement?
  - 1. Examples from a GSA rep that has been on meet & confer for the past 6 years:
    - a. Dental insurance- confusing topic that hasn't yet to be resolved
    - b. Canton Shuttle

- c. Graduate Student Lounge- did not end up being what was initially envisioned (might be once it is moved) but was given to us in a timely manner, even though it has been moved around since
  - d. Listened to student complaints about the escort service being 'very rude' and now students have a much more positive experience with it and use it more often
  - e. Change language of student handbook to require PIs to give vacation days for students
  - f. Fixed sign on Pratt and MLK to include the graduate school, added graduate school t-shirts to the bookstore
- 2. Last time this came up at Meet & Confer we were told that we would only be able to meet with Dr. Perman with a lawyer present, even for small things (not sure if this means after the bill is passed or after we decide to unionize)
- 3. We ultimately need to get more information about how this will impact us before we decide on a stance.
  - a. Some questions we'd like answered: Will all schools in the UMaryland system have to unionize together? Will we be impacted if the bill passes and UMB chooses not to unionize?
  - b. Consensus is that if it is an opt-in policy, we have no reason to be against it.
- b. Motion to change the April meeting to April 10th.
- 5. Upcoming Events:
  - a. **USGA Valentine's social**: Friday, February 8th @7:00pm, Pickles. \$5 for students, \$10 for guests. You will need you STUDENT and GOVERNMENT ID!
- 6. Other Business/Announcements:
  - a. None

**Date of next meeting: March 6, 2019**

**Motion to adjourn: J. Thayer, Q. Banks**