

❖ **GSA Meeting Agenda**

Date: March 02, 2016



1. Welcome/Call to order Called to order by A. Mueller at 5:05pm

Amber Mueller	Kendra Seckinger	Devin Snyder	Courtney Chandler
Brandy Garzel	Amanda Labuza	Morgan Bunting	Julia Peter
Eryn Dixon	Danielle Abraham	Sally Hageman	Janelle Geist
Alex San Nicolas	Laura Bozzi	Spencer Todd	Kim Filcek
Sarah Rudzinkas	Quinton Banks	Lain Hostelley	Ramon Martinez
Priyanka Gaitonde	Susan Klumpner	Titilola Akintola	Chieh-ling Yang
Ozell Sanders	Ben Wolfson	Elizabeth Weingartner	Shivani Kapoor

2. Review minutes of previous meeting – motion to approve by A. San Nicolas, second by K. Seckinger; minutes are approved.

3. Reports

a. President

i. Announcements

1. Vice President Dr. Roger Ward will discuss the middle states accreditation standards. We are in the final phases of our self-study process. Every 10 years we are reviewed by our regional accreditor; all of our professional schools have their own specialty accreditor. A school must be accredited in order to receive any kind of federal financial support (grants, financial aid, etc.). Middle States has 14 standards by which all institutions in this region are evaluated against – how we manage our finances, student learning, student support services, etc. We are preparing for a site visit – during which a team of peers show up to evaluate the campus based on these standards. This will occur April 3-6. Our team lead is Dr. Denise Rodgers, from Rutgers University. The team will determine if we are in compliance with all 14 standards in order to be reaccredited. When our next strategic plan session starts on July 01, one of the main goals will be to address how to make UMB more affordable for students. The address to the school will be on Wednesday April 6th, noon, School of Social Work Auditorium.
2. Student fee increase approval – student fee increase of 10% did go through the Board of Regents; one final approval needed; additional \$2400/year; upcoming poll will be sent out to see how we want to spend this!

3. GSA elections – June 1st; during our April meeting, we will be accepting nominations; there are two meetings before voting – April and May, so propose nominations and accept them then.
 - ii. Meet & Confer Committee – have not met nor conferred.
- b. Vice President
 - i. Announcements
 - ii. Social Activities Committee
 1. Candidacy Ceremony – Thursday, April 21st from 4-7pm in MSTF Auditorium; reception in MSTF Atrium; each candidate will be gifted a portfolio from the Graduate School. Guest list is limited to the candidates +1, mentors, labmates, and Deans of each school; currently working on menu; invites will be sent out this week; will honor those who reached candidacy in the CALENDAR year 2015
 2. Socials – we have \$3379 left in our budget for the Spring/Summer semesters, including funds allocated for a service project; can have a spring social & a summer social – have drink tickets to help keep the tab open longer & not penalize people who can't get to the social in the first 30 minutes
 3. Service project – any ideas?? Email Kendra! umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com
 - iii. USGA Announcements – last meeting was a funding meeting.
- c. Treasurer
 - i. Account – \$14,367.63 currently in the account
 - ii. Finance Committee
 1. Review of last quarter's travel awards – tentatively meeting March 22 to review travel awards score sheet changes.
- d. Secretary
 - i. Announcements
 - ii. Professional Development Committee – Research Award Winner = Elizabeth Woytowicz
 - iii. 3 Minute Thesis Feedback- filled out the online form; worded like a survey, not an actual sign-up sheet, so people were not aware of an actual commitment. Lack of communication and responses was a big issue.
 - iv. GRC- committee meeting after this meeting!!! Everyone is encouraged to come.
 1. Have you seen the registration emails?
 2. Sign up to volunteer!

3. Do you have any feedback from last year's event? Please let me know!
 4. Abstract book cover submissions
- 4.
- a. Grad Council rep
 - i. Announcements
 - ii. U of M grad council – UMBC's GRC is the same day as ours; they are actively recruiting PhD students to participate in their own 3 Minute Thesis competition. In order to maintain travel grants, they raised their student fees from \$14 to \$16. Approved a new course: GPILS 667 – Cellular and Molecular Basis of Autism.
 - b. PR
 - i. Announcements
 - ii. Communications Committee – looking for new writers for the Grad Gazette!
 - c. Meyerhoff - No reports
 - d. NOVA – Brain Awareness Week in 11 days; need about 2 more volunteers; they go to the high schools
 - i. Funding request: \$35/month for snacks for bingo night; also requesting funds for Brain Awareness Week, and supplies for science Saturdays; requesting \$250
5. Old Business:
- a. Project Jump Start budget/request for funds proposal; requested \$150 to buy socks & soap for those at-risk in the local community. S. Rudzinkas suggests initial funding of \$100, as they have never requested funding from us before. Vote for \$150: 4. Vote for \$100: more than 4. Now voting to fund Project Jump Start \$100: 17. Funding request passes for \$100.
6. New Business:
- a. Voter registration drive – School of Social Work, some students are going to be trained to register voters; trying to work with USGA and SSW to find out how to coordinate that for our students
 - b. Request for funding from SNAC – Spencer Todd, president of SNAC, requesting money for their Spring events: Professional Development Seminar, Social Hour, Bubble Ball. Requesting \$365.
 - c. Campus Life St. Patrick's Day sponsorship – all in favor of co-sponsoring this event. Majority supports the co-sponsoring, it passes.
7. Upcoming events
8. Other business/Announcements

Date of next meeting: April 20, 2016 – note date change!!!!

Motion to adjourn meeting by J. Peter; seconded by K. Seckinger. Meeting adjourned 6:14.