

**GSA Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: May 5, 2021**



1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:03PM

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

Jenn Kirk	Sarah Tanveer	Rainer Butler	Debra Card
Makenzy Mull	Theeb Alquria	Sol Baik	Ioana Ghita
Madeline Castagna	Chrissy Carney	Nikita Aggarwal	Karndeeep Singh
David Annis	Mashhood Wani	Kristen Montgomery	Sanjana Rao
Jernelle Miller			

2. Review minutes of previous meeting
  - a. Chrissy Carney and Jenn

3. Reports

- a. **President**

- i. Announcements:

1. Nominations for E-board positions or outstanding GSA rep have now closed!
2. UMB has announced their "Return to Campus" Framework, linked [here](#)
  - a. Number of people on campus:
    - i. By June 1st: no more than 50%
    - ii. By the fall: work to have most students in-person
3. COVID-19 vaccination at UMB and in Maryland is ongoing.
  - a. COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the SMC has received approval to vaccinate *anyone 16 or older* regardless of whether they live, work, or learn in the city of Baltimore. This includes all students, faculty, and staff of UMB, as well as alumni, family members, friends, and neighbors!
    - i. Vaccination locations: UMB's campus center, Baltimore Convention Center, M&T Bank Stadium, pharmacies, health department, etc
      1. [Article](#) that discusses various vaccination locations

- ii. Use this [form](#) to indicate to sign up to be vaccinated at UMB
  - b. Want to volunteer at a mass vaccination site with other Maryland students? Register at this [link](#).
  - c. UMB's campus center is still looking for Spanish speaking people to volunteer at the vaccination site as UMB will be vaccinating the Latinx population.
    - i. Reach out to me if you or someone you know is able to help!
- 4. Please fill out the GSA Rep Climate Survey linked [here](#)! The E-board wants to hear from you all on how the last year went and what you would like to see in the future! It is anonymous.
- 5. GSA's work against discrimination of marginalized communities:
  - a. Created a living document of resources in support of this work (articles, books, podcasts, movies, etc) linked [here](#)
    - i. Working to organize this!
  - b. If you would like to have a resource added to this list, fill out this [form](#)
  - c. Created a living document of GSA's ongoing work linked [here](#)

**b. Vice President**

- i. Announcements
  - 1. Social Activities Committee: Will be holding two end-of-semester events
    - a. Trivia May 21: Email me if you have an idea for a theme! Current idea: Disney Media Conglomerate (Disney, Star Wars, Marvel)
    - b. TedTalk discussion May 26: Imposter syndrome
    - c. Exploring bringing a Hollaback! bystander intervention training
  - 2. USGA Announcements:
    - a. Equity Committee will be reviewing applications for the new Equity/DEI Officer position to the e-board. Voting will be held next week!
    - b. New e-board elected
    - c. If you are a current senator, expect an email me re: continuing in this role soon. We will likely need new reps for next year!
    - d. Meeting is next week, so if you have any concerns you'd like me to bring, let me know!

**c. Treasurer**

1. Current Balance in GSA checking account: \$5989.99
  - a. Celeste will deposit if we go below \$5000

d. **Secretary**

- i. Announcements:
  1. If you are graduating or can no longer be a rep next semester, please recruit a new rep for your program. I have a sample email if you would like a place to start!

e. **Grad Council rep**

- i. Announcements:
  1. Outstanding Mentor Award Applications are open!  
<https://graduate.umaryland.edu/gsa/Awards/Outstanding-Mentor/>
  2. Thank you for all applicants of the Professional Development Award. We are scoring applications and will get back to you in the next couple of weeks. If you are on my committee and didn't receive the applications to score, please message me in case it went to your spam!
  3. If you ordered a shirt or mask and have not picked it up or somehow didn't get the email (some have been going to SPAM) please contact me so we can get you your shirt and/or mask! If you are interested in purchasing a shirt or mask please email me or type in the chat to ask more questions!
- ii. U of M grad council:
  1. Next meeting is tomorrow, May 6.

f. **PR**

- i. Announcements:
  1. May issue just released (Monday 05/03) - check it out!
    - a. Examples of events this month found in the DEI-related events column: "Tackling Social Isolation for Marginalized Communities: Learning from the World" and "Leading a Diverse and Inclusive Lab"
- ii. Communications Committee
  - 1.
- iii. Volunteer Committee:
  1. Upcoming service event! We're holding a donation drop-off event on **Saturday, May 15**. Donations will benefit NEMAC (looking for \*gently used\* clothing, shoes, jewelry and reusable household items) and Baltimore Safe Haven (check [this website](#) for items they need)
  2. Still working on getting the books to Martha's Place for their book club

- g. Meyerhoff: No updates.
- h. NOVA: No updates.

**i. Graduate School DEI committee (Nikita Aggarwal):**

i.

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

i.

4. Old Business:

a. Meet & Confer updates

- i. Meeting occurred on 04/15/21
- ii. Discussed:
  - 1. Mental Health
    - a. National Public Health Week held many events
    - b. Red Folder training for faculty occurred last month
  - 2. GRA Stipends - Presentation
    - a. Thank you to all of the students that provided their personal budgets for this presentation!
    - b. Presented student-specific perspective on stipends: historical/current program stipends vs. cost of living in Baltimore City, real life monthly budgets, personal experience, etc.
    - c. Well received by the committee - they invited us to present this to Deans and VPs across all seven schools
      - i. Meeting will hopefully be in the next month
- iii. Planned next agenda items:
  - 1. University System of Maryland vaccine mandate for all students
  - 2. Clarification of COVID-19 compliance on campus
  - 3. Planning to also present on "what it means to be a graduate student" to the Deans and VPs this fall
  - 4. Anything else that we should bring to their attention?

b. SafeRides and SafeWalk perimeter

- i. Meeting in early April screenshared the local address data results but was not able to actually share the data with the safety committee
  - 1. They plan to give the committee access to this program within the month
- ii. In the meantime, the committee could visually identify a section of Pigtown that had many students living there but was not included in the perimeter
  - 1. We hope to update this again by our next GSA meeting!

5. New Business:

- a. Parking & Transportation
  - i. Email to campus community on 5/3/2021
  - ii. UM Shuttle resumes on August 2nd
  - iii. Starting on August 1st, students need to return to parking in Lexington Garage
  - iv. Anticipate that the Lyft programs will cease when shuttle begins (same pot of money for the shuttle)
  - v. SafeRides and SafeWalk will continue!
- b. UMB Police & Safety
  - i. Maryland passed many police reform bills last month and UMB PD is working to be in compliance with all of the new legislation
    - 1. Link to an article about the [legislation](#)
  - ii. Internship opportunities for SSW students in collaboration with UMB Police
    - 1. Fall 2021 program start
    - 2. Most likely will work with people in the community experiencing homelessness OR those with misdemeanor charges
  - iii. Discussed the variety of stress-induced safety training that UMB Police are planning and organizing
  - iv. Look out for a Safety Survey from UMB Public Safety this month!
- c. GRA Stipend
  - i. Current updates:
    - 1. GPILS is moving forward with their stipend increases starting on July 1, 2021
    - 2. School of Pharmacy sent out an email to their students about a phased stipend increase over two years
      - a. Start date: September 1st, 2021
      - b. Increase \$2500 first year, additional \$2500 increase the second year
    - 3. Gerontology program unofficially proposed to increase to \$25K by September 1st, 2022
      - a. This would be less than the NIH minimum at that time
    - 4. Efforts for increases in other programs are ongoing
      - a. Erin Golembewski has continued to meet with program directors and coordinators to determine how programs can increase their stipend
  - ii. We are STILL pushing for a transparent, annual stipend assessment for all programs
    - 1. Roger Ward is working on this. Will update on this soon!
  - iii. We do want your feedback!
    - 1. We have been posed a question about *fees being included in stipends vs.*

*an increase without fees included.* Let us know your thoughts [here](#)

- iv. We will be meeting with the deans and VPs in the next month about stipends. Thoughts on what we should include outside of what has been discussed?
  - 1. Dental School programs w/out stipends
- v. ICYMI: UMB HR conducted salary reviews which include the assessment of graduate student assistantships. HR shared their recommendations with all programs in the Graduate School the week of February 15th, and Erin Golembewski was scheduled to meet with program directors the week of February 22nd
  - 1. GPILS conducted their own assessment and notified GPILS students of their \$2K stipend increase prior to the results of the HR review. However, even after the HR recommendations have been sent out, there have been very minimal updates announced for non-GPILS students
  - 2. Current GRA stipends are not sufficient for living in Baltimore City in 2021 and are not equitable across programs
- d. GSA Executive Board Elections
  - i. Reps Nominated for each E-board Position:
    - 1. President - Sydney Ashton- confirmed
    - 2. Vice President - Rainer Butler- confirmed
    - 3. Treasurer - Gillian Mbambo- confirmed
    - 4. Secretary - Hadley Bryan- confirmed
    - 5. Public Relations - Jenn Kirk- confirmed
    - 6. Grad Council Rep - Nikki Aggarwal- confirmed
  - ii. Voting Procedure:
    - 1. Starting with the president position, each nominated person is able to say a few words (completely optional)
    - 2. GSA Reps will then vote for that position via polling in Zoom
    - 3. Will continue this process from President - Grad Council Rep
- e. Outstanding GSA Rep Voting
  - i. Reps Nominated for Outstanding GSA Rep Award:
    - 1. Jenn Kirk- confirmed
    - 2. Sol Baik
    - 3. Sarah Tanveer- confirmed
    - 4. Karndeeep Singh
  - ii. GSA Reps will then vote for two outstanding reps via polling in Zoom
- 6. Upcoming Events:
  - a. Thank you from the 2020 -2021 E-board!
  - b. Other Business/Announcements

- i. GSA Rep Climate Survey linked [here](#)
- ii. FREE online trainings on bystander intervention and conflict de-escalation, particularly focused on anti-AAAPI harassment and hate by Hollaback linked [here](#)
- iii. All reporting, including COVID-19 compliance, is still required to go through UMB Hotline via EthicsPoint. You can call the hotline or fill out a form online linked [here](#).
- iv. COVID-19 testing locations:
  1. Baltimore Convention Center: Link to find available appointment times [here](#) from Monday - Friday. Can also walk-in.
  2. UM Immediate Care: Register [here](#) (just select 'Covid testing only')

**Date of next meeting: June 2, 2021**

**Motion to adjourn:** Chrissy and Rainer