

**GSA Meeting Agenda**  
**Date: January 13, 2021**



1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:04PM

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

Sol Baik	David Annis	Debra Card	Jennifer Kirk
Kasey Knopp	Sarah Tanveer	Gila Fridkis	Amanda Boyer
Kristen Montgomery	Madeline Castagna	Joy Schucker	McKayla Mickle
Ashley Marquardt	Saba Shahzad	Christen Durante	Danté Johnson
Chrissy Carney			

- 2.
3. Review minutes of previous meeting
  - a. Motion to approve minutes: Ashley and Chrissy
4. Reports
  - a. **President**
    - i. Announcements:
      1. Happy Black History Month!
        - a. Let's talk about Black scientists!
          - i. Dr. Nadine Burke Harris
            1. Pediatrician and Surgeon General of CA
            2. Linked childhood trauma to lifelong health effects (TED talk linked [here](#))
          - ii. Dr. Jedidah Isler
            1. First Black woman to get a PhD in astrophysics from Yale University
            2. TED Talk linked [here](#) about her experiences as a Black physicist and diversity in STEM
          - iii. Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett
            1. Immunologist who is the scientific lead of the Vaccine Research Center's coronavirus team and helped create the Moderna COVID-19

vaccine!

2. CBS news article linked [here](#) to learn more about her life and her work as a scientist!
- b. Resources to engage in BHM:
  - i. The National Museum of African American History and Culture in D.C. has organized virtual events for BHM linked [here](#).
  - ii. Sign up for “28 Days of Black History” linked [here](#). Each evening in February, you will receive an email with information about a work that celebrates Black history in the U.S. with an introduction, discussion questions, and actions items!
2. COVID-19 vaccination is underway at UMB. Check out the [UMMC COVID-19 Vaccine Phase Distribution Plan](#). The state of Maryland is vaccinating individuals in phases 1A, 1B, and 1C.
  - a. If you are an essential researcher working on campus doing animal work or working with human samples, you are in phase 1C and may be able to be vaccinated by UMMC.
    - i. If you haven’t already, fill out the vaccine registration form that President Jarrell sent out!
  - b. You can also sign up to get vaccinated outside of the university within the city.
  - c. The Baltimore Convention Center is also offering vaccinations starting this week.
  - d. If you have been seen at UM Immediate Care, you are in the UMMS as a patient and can register through UMMS.
3. Lyft Discount Program Updates as of February 1st:
  - a. The Lyft On-Demand Shuttle program will offer up to \$10 off per ride at a maximum of 24 rides per month. This program offers rides from UM shuttle stop to UM shuttle stop.
  - b. The Lyft Ride Smart program will now operate 24/7 and offer up to \$5 off per ride at a maximum of 3 rides per month.

**b. Vice President**

- i. Announcements
  1. Social Activities Committee: No new announcement. Committee members, look out for a meeting email soon!
  2. USGA Announcements:

- a. WE NEED SENATORS! One of our senators has dropped. We need a full slot of senators or we will lose USGA representation. Please consider taking on this role, or serving as an alternate! Reach out to me for details.
- b. USGA is sending a letter to President Jarrell to incorporate sustainability content into all curricula across UMB. No change yet - the letter just informs the President that this is an issue students care about. Here's a link to a [FAQ document](#)
- c. SSW is reviewing curricula for equity. Offered to meet with other schools/programs to discuss this process if there is interest.
- d. New Equity Committee to become a part of USGA. This started as an external organization committed to organizing student equity efforts across campus, but will now be a permanent part of USGA. There will be a DEI Officer position on the USGA e-board that is open to ALL STUDENTS. Only requirement is that you be a UMB student for six months. If interested in this or the Equity Committee, reach out and I will get you hooked up with Niv so you can receive informational emails!
- e. SafeRide resuming soon!

**c. Treasurer**

1. Current Balance in GSA checking account: \$8111.85
  - a. Celeste will deposit if we go below \$5000
2. Moving forward, all awards above \$100 will be deposited to student account
3. Spring 2021 budget
  - a. Propose:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ep-Wye13Lau3YsmW3EpG5t4mslNB4zKSeDFLxwZQmFc/edit#gid=0>
  - b. Motion
4. Finance Committee:
  - a. NA

**d. Secretary**

- i. Announcements:
  1. GRC will be held virtually March 26th. The call for abstracts/[registration](#) was sent out earlier this week. Registration for the Advancement to Candidacy Ceremony, held on the same day, can also be found [here](#).

2. Will meet with Dr. Lilly, Dr. Alvarez, and others from UMB/UMD to talk about how to move forward with [Mental Health First Aid Training](#) Initiative this Thursday.
3. I am no longer asking you to sign up for subcommittees. If you are on the stipend subcommittee, you may receive an email asking you to switch subcommittees!

**e. Grad Council rep**

- i. Announcements:
  1. Congratulations to our Spring 2021 Research Award winner, Katherine Endy!
  2. 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. First meeting of 2021 will be tomorrow, February 4.

**f. PR**

- i. Announcements:
    1. February issue lost in space--be on the lookout for it! It has a lot of great info
      - 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 for today.
- h. NOVA: NOVA is currently planning events for a virtual Brain Awareness Week in mid-March so look out for further info on that!

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

- i. Student awareness of the various advocates other than program coordinators (Sharron Graves: sgraves@som.umaryland.edu)
- ii. (Hadley on behalf of a student) Another student has had the same problem with the telehealth services offered, had an appt cancelled while in distress.

5. Old Business:

- a. Meet & Confer updates
  - i. Meeting occurred on 1/22/21
  - ii. Discussed:
    - 1. Parking on campus
      - a. Working to have more accessible parking on campus
        - i. Parking on campus after 4PM
        - ii. Decreased parking cost at Lexington Rooftop garage (to be less than \$45)
        - iii. Increase safety and lighting around Lexington garages
      - b. Discussed designating parking as an “educational cost” for students
        - i. This would allow mentors or the Graduate School to support this
        - ii. Will follow-up
    - 2. GRA stipend review
      - a. HR has completed their stipend review and recommended increases, according to Erin Golembewski.
      - b. Other updates in New Business (below)
    - 3. COVID-19 vaccine distribution on campus
      - a. Currently UMMC is vaccinating faculty, staff, and students in phases 1A, 1B, and 1C
      - b. Be sure to fill out vaccine registration form that President Jarrell sent out
    - 4. Mental First Aider Training at UMB
      - a. Proposed this program for UMB faculty, staff, and students
      - b. Will discuss updates on this in the next section of Old Business (below)
  - iii. Planned next agenda items:
    - 1. GRA stipends
    - 2. Parking as “educational cost”
    - 3. Anything else that we should bring to their attention?
- b. Mental First Aider Training
  - i. Considerable interest by Dr. Lilly and Dr. Alvarez in this opportunity for UMB faculty, staff and students
    - 1. URECFit, the Student Counseling Center, and Human Resource Services have all explored this training for UMB (was planned for some trainings

last year but was cancelled due to COVID-19) but nothing has moved forward recently

- ii. Meeting this Thursday February 4th from 9-10AM to discuss initial thoughts and ideas
  - 1. To attend: Dr. Patricia Alvarez, Dr. Flavius Lilly, individuals from UMB Student Counseling Center, trainers from College Park, and students
  - 2. Open to all reps as well! Please email me if you'd like to attend this virtual meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. Dr. Patricia Alvarez is forming a UMB Student Affairs Advisory Board
  - i. Looking for a student to represent the Graduate School
  - ii. This advisory board will serve as the student voice in Student Affairs
  - iii. Time commitment: 1-2 hr meeting 4X per year. Serve as rep for 1 year.
  - iv. Please email me if you are interested!
    - 1. Need to know by this Friday February 5th!
- b. Getting to and from campus during the pandemic...
  - i. Lyft program updates
    - 1. The Lyft On-Demand Shuttle program will offer up to \$10 off per ride at a maximum of 24 rides per month. This program offers rides from UM shuttle stop to UM shuttle stop.
    - 2. The Lyft Ride Smart program will now operate 24/7 and offer up to \$5 off per ride at a maximum of 3 rides per month. This program offers rides within their designated SafeRides perimeter.
  - ii. SafeRides program
    - 1. Working to bring this program back this semester!!!
      - a. Chief Leone said in an email: "We are aggressively looking at how we can get UMB's Safe Ride back up and running."
  - iii. Safe Walks program
    - 1. Working to incorporate into UMB app for requests and visible wait times
  - iv. Working to increase the perimeter of these programs
    - 1. Can use geo-mapping with student local addresses to determine where current students live and will adjust based on that new assessment
    - 2. Meeting will be next week (week of 2/8/21)
- c. GRA Stipend Increases for all UMB Graduate students
  - i. Background:
    - 1. UMB HR conducted salary review, starting in the fall, for all UMB faculty and staff (including graduate students on graduate assistantships)
    - 2. Erin Golembewski mentioned that the recommendation to the Graduate

School was to increase stipends for graduate students on graduate assistantships

3. As of now, only GPILS students will receive stipend increases (increase by \$2K) starting in July 2021 for current students and September 2021 for new students
4. Stipend information:
  - a. FY 2020 - 2021 Graduate School program [stipends](#)
  - b. [Graduate School Handbook](#) (information on stipends via graduate assistantships on p.9)
  - c. NIH salary [recommendation](#) limit for FY 2021 (released 1/27/21)
    - i. Predoctoral: \$25,831
    - ii. Any stipend amount above this has to get approval from the Graduate School
- ii. The Issue: All other non-GPILS students within the Graduate School are not set to receive stipend increases
- iii. Initial ideas on how to move forward to advocate for stipend increases across **all** programs:
  1. Meet with Erin Golembewski to gain transparency on this issue
  2. Bring this to the Meet & Confer meeting this month to put pressure onto the Graduate School from top leadership
- iv. Let's discuss this together:
  1. What are your thoughts on the lack of stipend increases across the Graduate School?
  2. What information would you like to know about how these decisions were made?

How are these decisions made?

Does it matter how many campuses the program is on?

How does program funding alter changes in student stipend?

Is this disproportionately affecting programs that are a majority under-represented students?
  3. Have you contacted your program's leadership with questions about this yet?
  4. What is the best way that GSA can advocate for your program on this issue?

Petition- include alum

7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Anti-Oppression Work Group (partnership between USGA and SSW) had another meeting!
  - i. Tuesday, January 26th at 5:30PM
  - ii. Email me if you are interested to join future meetings!
- b. Mental Health First Aider Training Initiative Meeting
  - i. Thursday, February 4th from 9-10AM
  - ii. Email me if you'd like the virtual meeting link!
- c. Other Business/Announcements
  - i. Reach out to me if you are interested in representing the Graduate School on the Student Affairs Advisory Board!
  - ii. 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](#).
  - iii. 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: March 3, 2021**

**Motion to adjourn: 6:26PM Karndeeep and Ashley**