

GSA Meeting Agenda
Date: February 2, 2022
Join Zoom Meeting

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



1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:02PM

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!

Lauren McCarthy	McKayla Mickle	Shruti Dharmaraj	Jean Reagan
Megan Stemberger	Corinne English	Soad Elziny	Jernelle Miller
Makenzy Mull	Amanda Boyer	Darwin Argueta	Kristen Montgomery
Alexander Malyshev	Sanjana Rao	Jessica Cornell	Emily Smith
Ioana Ghita	Zakiya Carter	David Annis	Ashley Marquardt
Sarah Tanveer	Lola Chavez		

2. Review minutes of previous meeting

- a. Motion to approve minutes: Lauren McCarthy and Kristen Montgomery

3. Reports

- a. **President** - Sydney Ashton (umb.gsa.president@gmail.com)

- i. It's Black History Month! Some upcoming events:

1. [Afrocentric Dance Class](#) collaboration between URecFit and the Intercultural Center – every Friday until February 25th, noon-12:30 PM
 2. [UMB MLK & Black History Month Celebration](#) – February 8th, noon-1 PM
 3. [Black Diaspora Panel](#) hosted by the Intercultural Center – February 10th, 1-2 PM
 4. [The Table Dialogue: BLM is No Longer Trending?](#) hosted by the Intercultural Center – February 16th noon-1 PM
 5. [Social: Black Professionals on the Rise](#) hosted by the United Students of

African Descent and the Intercultural Center – February 23rd, 7-9 PM

6. [What is Anti-Blackness?](#) hosted by the Intercultural Center – February 24th, 1-2:30 PM
- ii. New quarantine guidelines for students who have received the booster (or received an original dose within the last 6 months or were COVID-positive in the last 90 days)
 1. <https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/hotline/guide/>
 2. No need to quarantine if testing is available
 3. If household exposure:
 - a. PCR test every 3-4 days for 17 days OR rapid antigen tests on days 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14
 - i. If no tests available, quarantine for 10 days
 - b. Self-monitor symptoms and temperature
 4. If non-household exposure (or the person in the house can isolate):
 - a. PCR test on day 3 or 4 and on day 6 or 7 OR rapid antigen tests on days 2, 3, 4 and 6
 - i. If no tests are available, quarantine for 5 days
- iii. New COVID-19 testing location opened up last week
 1. University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Modular Care Unit, atop the Paca-Pratt parking lot, at 110 S. Paca St.
 - a. Queue set up along Lombard and Greene Streets
 2. Open daily 9 am - 7 pm for free tests with no appointment needed
 3. Results should take 24-48 hours “in most cases”
 4. Has anyone visited this location yet and would like to share your experience?
- iv. URecFit is hosting two virtual Naloxone trainings led by the Baltimore City Health Department. Participants will be eligible to receive a NARCAN kit
 1. [February 16th, noon-1:30 PM](#)
 2. [February 22nd, 6-7:30 PM](#)

- v. UMB COVID Hotline, Report Form & Guidance Town Halls
 - 1. [February 2nd, 5-6 PM](#)
 - 2. [February 4th, 2-3 PM](#)
- vi. New travel award coming soon! Stay tuned!
- b. **Vice President** - Rainer Butler (umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com)
 - i. Winter social!
 - 1. Went well! Realize we need to have probably double the amount of food and drinks than we think we need. Hope to have another sort of similar one mid-way through the semester.
 - 2. Need a new third rep to join the social committee. One graduated last semester
- c. **Treasurer** - Gillian Mbambo (umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com)
 - i. GSA Balances:
 - 1. Checking account Balance is \$5089.61
 - a. I have requested a check from Celeste
 - 2. Venmo - \$0 (transferred to the bank)
 - 3. Cashbox: \$2473
 - a. Minus \$80 for NOVA
 - b. \$2383
 - ii. Third Quarter Travel Award
 - 1. Congratulations to Lamia Mokeem, Kelly Rock, Raziyeh Baghi, Nikita Aggarwal and Ally Smith on your awards
 - 2. All checks have been mailed except Ally Smith (waiting for receipt)
 - iii. Pending Disbursements/reimbursements
 - 1. Travel Awards all mailed except one student
 - 2. NOVA - check mailed to Zakiya
- 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. GRC is planned for Friday, March 4th in person! RSVP via UMBengaged [here](#) and complete the Wufoo form [here](#).
 - iii. That also means the Advancement to Candidacy Ceremony is the afternoon of March 4th. Links to [UMBengaged](#) and [Wufoo](#).
 - iv. Register for the MLK/Black History Month Event hosted by the DAC- Link to Elm with more info and registration [link](#).
 - v. [Register](#) for Critical Conversations Dialogue Program with the Intercultural Center
 - vi. NAMI is hosting SeizingPsych for their virtual Journey Through Schizophrenia workshop. You can register via UMBengaged [here](#).
 - vii. Fill out USGA Equity Committee's [Wufoo form](#) on EDI concerns.
- e. **Grad Council Rep** - Nikita Aggarwal (umb.gsa.gcrep@gmail.com)
- i. Research award applications close
- f. **Public Relations** - Jenn Kirk (umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com)
- i. Volunteer Subcommittee: [Link to doodle poll for next sub-committee meeting](#)
 - ii. Submit any stories or commentary for the grad gazette: <https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/gsa/gazette/submit/>
 - iii. 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 is planning a Virtual Brain Trivia event which will take place on Thursday, February 17th – look out for more info soon as all graduate students will be invited!
- 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

iii. 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

lii. DEI had finalised a Graduate school 5-year EDI strategic objectives

j. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns

- i. Financial aid office: 410-706-7347
Office was not responding, loans were not being dispersed, credits were not given properly so it looked like people will not enrolled

4. Old Business:

- a. Old announcements
 - i. UMB Food Pantry is up & running! [Click here](#) to place an order for pickup in the SMC Campus Center
 - ii. New GRID space is open in the HS/HSL library
- b. “Sense of belonging” and affiliation with the Graduate School
 - i. Brought your thoughts to the Graduate School Steering Committee and the company that is helping with this process, who is consulting with their research team. Updates to come on how this information is applied (thank you for sharing your thoughts!)
- c. Grammarly, the Writing Center and equity
 - i. Meeting with Isabell May and James Wright from the Writing Center this Friday to discuss their concerns with Grammarly and its potential usage at UMB

5. New Business:

- a. Issues with UnitedHealthcare
 - i. While coverage for the spring semester should have begun 02/01/22, some students logged in to see that their insurance was “voided”. It seems like it might be an issue with students who have both an @umaryland.edu and an @som.umaryland.edu email address—has anyone experienced this issue or are aware of any students in your program who did?
 1. You can log in to the new Gallagher dashboard to check your enrollment status here:
<https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/Login?item=%2funiversities%2funiversity-of-maryland-baltimore%2fhome%2fstudent%2fdashboard&user=extranet%5cAnonymous&site=GSH>
 2. Might be worth logging into your account (www.uhcsr.com/MyAccount) in the next few days to make sure you are covered! Email myself or any E-board member if you do encounter any issues
 3. If you have any problems with Gallagher or UHC you can contact Meghan

Bruce-Bojo mbojo@umaryland.edu

- b. Collective bargaining rights for graduate assistants in the University System of Maryland (USM)
 - i. Nearly every year for the past ~decade, a bill is brought to the Maryland Senate that would grant collective bargaining rights to USM graduate students
 - ii. This year it was SB0118. If it passes, it would allow each university to individually pursue collective bargaining if they want (ie the bill does not implement collective bargaining, nor would one university pursuing this force all USM students to join the union)
 - 1. You can find more information about the bill and follow its progress [here](#)
 - iii. This bill was heard in the Finance Committee last Thursday, 01/27. Some notes from discussion:
 - 1. Four USM administrators spoke in opposition of the bill
 - a. Patrick Hogan (Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the USM), Steven Fetter (Dean of the Graduate School at College Park), David Ownby (Interim Dean of Graduate Studies at Towson) and Jennifer King Rice (Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at College Park)
 - b. Their main arguments were:
 - i. Graduate students are students getting degrees, first and foremost; assistantships are “part of a student’s education. It’s not employment”
 - ii. Students work 20 hours/week (anything beyond 20 hours is “their own research”) for typically 9 months a year (so the “full-time” equivalent of College Park’s average stipend of \$23k is actually \$61k) and get benefits like health insurance, free tuition that is tax-exempt (worth \$22k annually) and stipends that are exempt from payroll taxes
 - iii. Have Meet & Confer process and other policies/processes (like formal grievance) to address concerns; these processes are “working” from the administrators’ perspective (cited received many different types of concerns frequently; gave example of recent stipend raises across USM as proof)
 - iv. Collective bargaining would “fundamentally change” the mentoring relationship between student and faculty to an employer-employee relationship
 - v. Stipend is not a salary or a compensation for work, but

rather is to “entice” students to seek education at a given institution; is just meant to cover the costs of education

2. One USM professor and one student representative were able to speak in favor of the bill

- a. Professor Karin Roseblatt at College Park and Simon Sheaff (representative from [Fearless Student Employees](#))
- b. Main arguments:
 - i. Simon brought up and disputed some of the arguments from the USM at last year’s hearing: said Meet & Confer is not universally “working” and the committee shouldn’t trust the System’s assertion that it is; collective bargaining is about more than just stipends; USM’s own data shows that stipends are below the cost of attendance
 - ii. Dr. Roseblatt said that if M&C were working, students wouldn’t be living in poverty
 - iii. She said she spends more time helping students respond to their faculty mentor’s unreasonable work demands than helping them with actual coursework/research
 - iv. Low stipends/unfair work demands make our institutions less competitive so we lose out on good candidates
 - v. Unions would not undermine the relationship between student and mentor and in fact could actually improve it since all parties would be fully aware of each other’s (and their own) rights and responsibilities

3. Other notes:

- a. Senator Ben Kramer, who introduced the bill, and Finance Committee Chair Delores Kelley were both clearly in favor of the bill and did call out these administrators for some of the things they said
- b. Of the 14 university systems in the Big 10, five currently have collective bargaining arrangements with their graduate assistants: Rutgers, Michigan, Michigan State, Iowa and Illinois
- c. Chair Kelley asked for additional documentation from the USM folks to support their claims (ie official offer letters, policies, etc.); stated that the committee is tired of hearing this come up every year and would like to reach a solution
- d. There were dozens of additional written testimonies (especially from students) as well as a petition that the committee has to

consider in addition to these oral testimonies

- e. As far as we're aware, UMB did not provide testimony. The GSA was also not given the opportunity to provide testimony. We have requested a copy of the USM's official response
- f. Next step is for the committee to vote on whether to pass the bill to the MD Senate floor for discussion and another vote. If passed there, it then goes to MD House of Delegates for discussion and a vote (can go back and forth between House & Senate if House wants to add amendments). After approval by both chambers it would be sent to the Governor. The Governor can veto within 6 days, and a veto can be overridden by three-fifths vote of the House/Senate membership

4. You can watch the full video of the hearing [here](#) (30:55 - 1:16:28)

- c. Student concerns panel with Dr. Flavius Lilly (instead of Dr. Roger Ward)
 - i. January 31st, 5:30-6:30 PM, but the video [should be posted here](#) soon if you missed it and would like to watch!
 - ii. Some topics discussed: reasoning behind mandatory in-person classes, accommodations if unable to attend classes in person, the process for student loan disbursement, textbook delays at the bookstore and library, places to eat safely on campus, in-person commencement
 - iii. **If you received home COVID test kits from your program that expire in February 2022, that expiration date has been extended to May 2022**
 - 1. Dr. Lilly said that, because these are under emergency use authorization, the FDA collects data on their shelf-life every three months and extends shelf-life when possible. These might actually have their expiration dates extended further beyond May. He did not comment on whether the University plans to distribute additional kits in the future
 - iv. The HS/HSL library will soon be extended its weekday hours and adding back weekend times to 8 am - 8 pm daily

d. 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 Dec. 16th; our January meeting was postponed until tomorrow, Thursday February 3rd at 8 AM
- ii. Planning to focus on COVID-19 concerns
 - 1. New student quarantine guidelines
 - 2. Mask & testing availability

- a. Has everyone received 2 KN95s and 2 rapid tests from your program? **Please let one of us know (or type in the chat!) if you or anyone you know did NOT receive new masks & rapid tests in January!** We will get them to you ASAP
 - 3. On-campus activities (classes, seminars, lab meetings, etc.)
 - 4. UMB COVID-19 Hotline—reporting of case numbers to the campus community and to the Health Department
- e. 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 Dec. 6th; January meeting was canceled
 - ii. Next meeting is Feb. 13th
- f. Campus Safety
 - i. Last Citizens Advisory Board meeting occurred Jan. 24th
 - ii. Safe Ride drivers and mask wearing
 - 1. UMPD plans to address this with progressive discipline
 - iii. Campus public safety survey
 - 1. Survey officially closed, only 10% response rate
 - 2. They're working through written responses now—will go over the results at our next meeting
 - 3. Some initial thoughts based on common responses: lighting, visibility, desire for a system like Hopkins with security booths
 - iv. New camera system
 - 1. Decided on the analytical software that College Park has been using for the past two years
 - 2. No facial recognition, can identify things like a certain type of car
 - a. Going to follow up on the “suspicious gait” concerns now that a software package has been chosen
 - v. Outdoor lighting on campus
 - 1. All of the campus-owned lights were replaced with brighter LEDs over the past few months
 - 2. Remaining lights had to go through the city, but the agreement has just been finalized and light placement will begin shortly
 - vi. Student address data to adjust Safe Ride/Walk perimeters
 - 1. Another delay because the University's “map person” has left UMB
 - vii. Next meeting TBD? (sometime this month!)
- g. UMB Shuttle
 - i. Last meeting should have been January 12th
 - 1. Was abruptly canceled without explanation; my emails have not been

returned

2. Still waiting for ridership data and information about the impending rate increase, rumors about route changes
 3. They would like additional student representation. If you (or someone you know) rides the shuttle and would like to be involved, please let me know!
Will likely send out an email to all graduate students soon
 - a. Monthly meetings at noon on a Wednesday (often finish in well under an hour)
 4. Next meeting is hopefully Feb. 9th
- h. 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: March 2, 2022

Motion to adjourn: Lauren McCarthy and Ashley Marquardt