

GSA Meeting Agenda
Date: January 13, 2021



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

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

Sanjana Rao	Dante Johnson	Chrissy Carney	Jennifer Kirk
David Annis	Eposi Elonge	Sol Baik	Ioana Ghita
Gila Fridkis	Kristen Montgomery	Alexander Malyshev	Kelly Rock
Amanda Boyer	McKayla Mickle	Heba Mitwalli	Debra Card
Timothy Mowry	Karndeeep Singh	Rainer Butler	

- 2.
3. Review minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Chrissy Carney, Dante
4. Reports
 - a. **President**
 - i. Announcements:
 1. Welcome Back & Hello!
 2. As of Jan. 1, 2021, each student, faculty, and staff member approved to be on campus will be required to have a COVID-19 test that was taken within 14 days prior to their first day on campus. The negative COVID-19 test result must be uploaded into SAFE on Campus before arriving on campus.
 3. Tuition & student fees were determined and billed for the Spring 2021 semester. Email describing the fees was sent on December 17th by Flavius Lilly.
 4. COVID-19 vaccination is underway at UMB. Check out the [UMMC COVID-19 Vaccine Phase Distribution Plan](#). UMMC employees in the hospital and in the medical field (those that interact with patients directly) are prioritized for vaccination currently.
 - a. Fill out the vaccine registration form that President Jarrell sent out this week!
 5. Parking & Transportation sent out an update for the Spring 2021 semester today to all students! Be sure to check out relevant parking, Lyft, biking,

and safety information

- a. NOTE: Lexington Rooftop garage is only \$45 per month as compared to the other garages which are \$6 per day.
6. Calling for volunteers! Student Affairs at UMB is creating a student-focused COVID Mask/Safety video campaign titled "Together We've Got This Covered" and they would like to have students featured in the video!
 - a. More info: The campaign will feature video clips of a diverse body of students showing how to safely eat out, how to get in and out of rideshares safely, how to study in a pod, and more.
 - b. Time commitment: one planning session over Zoom, one in-person video interview
 - c. Cash prize: This video will be entered into the [USM Public Health Challenge](#) and participating students can win \$18,000 in cash prizes!
 - d. Interested? Email me at umb.gsa.president@gmail.com THIS WEEK! Planning Zoom meeting will be next week!
7. Every GSA rep must serve on a GSA committee! Sign up [here](#). Options include: Communications, Diversity & Inclusion, Finance, GRC Planning, Professional Development, Social, Stipend, & Volunteer/Outreach.

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

1. Social Activities Committee: We had a great Trivia Night! We are planning additional socials for the spring, so keep an eye out - if you're interested in getting involved, sign up for the Social Activities Committee!
2. USGA Announcements:
 - a. No updates since previous meeting
 - b. Still looking for one more alternate!

c. Treasurer

1. Current Balance in GSA checking account: \$8111.85
 - a. All checks have been disbursed and deposited
2. Spring 2021 budget
 - a. No update, haven't heard back from Jim or Erin about guidelines for Spring. Hope to propose next meeting
3. Finance Committee:
 - a. NA

d. Secretary

i. Announcements:

1. Still waiting to hear back about stipend review process- will ask at next M&C
2. Working on details of planning a virtual GRC - new ideas include UberEats vouchers/ local pick-up deals for participants, using additional platforms like VoiceThread to make poster presentations more accessible, allowing more of a "slide deck" in place of a static poster slide for day-of.
-let me know if you have any other suggestions from virtual events or conferences that you have enjoyed!
3. Are there any dates in March that we need to know about while planning GRC? - MolMed Seminar on Thursdays, NOVA, Brain Awareness Week mid-March
4. March 26th?

e. Grad Council rep

i. Announcements:

1. Research Award for the Spring Semester is due January 24, 2021. A reminder e-mail will be sent out this week but please let anyone that's interested in know.

<https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/gsa/Awards/Research-Awards/#:~:text=This%20%241%2C000%20research%20award%20allows,are%20in%20jeopardy%20or%20nonexistent.&text=The%20Graduate%20Student%20Association%20bases,composed%20of%20peers%20and%20faculty>.

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! We are currently trying to get shirts/masks out to the first years so if you know that your program director comes on campus also please let me know! Thanks for any help!
:)

ii. U of M grad council:

1. In sad news, Alex Rittle, the UMBC GSA President, passed away. We are looking into doing something to pay our respects when we hear more from Erin.
2. PhD in Palliative Care program was proposed. Something that it looks like members of the Grad Council will be helping to work with possibly starting (in the works)

f. **PR**

- i. Announcements:
 - 1. December Grad Gazette - check it out! February issue coming 02/01
 - 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: Happy New Year! No updates!
- h. NOVA: No updates!

i. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns:

- i. Idea for UMB Discord for virtual co-work from home & game nights
 - 1. Jennifer Gero rep's idea
 - 2. Link to join the phd balance discord: <https://discord.gg/GRMH46rG>
<https://www.phdbalance.com>

5. Old Business:

- a. Thank you for your feedback on mentor-mentee relationships during the pandemic!
 - i. Feedback was provided to UMB faculty in the Graduate School and served as a foundation for mentorship improvements
- b. Meet & Confer updates
 - i. Meeting occurred on 12/17/20
 - ii. Discussed:
 - 1. UMB Student Transportation Survey (new business)
 - 2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:
 - a. Flavius Lilly requested feedback and subsequently sent out an email to all faculty and staff about inclusion of personal pronouns on email signatures and university profiles in December!
 - 3. Inter-institutional agreements for courses in the USM system

- a. Students experienced enrollment issues and financial hardships with the current system
 - b. GSA rep Sarah Tanveer is working with the admin to prepare a document outlining how the process works and what to expect!
- iii. Anything else that we should bring to their attention?

6. New Business:

- a. UMB Student Transportation Survey Results
 - i. Results of the survey linked [here](#).
 - ii. Details:
 - 1. Compiled 264 student responses to address student transportation needs & concerns
 - 2. Students from all schools responded
 - 3. Addressed: UMB shuttle, Lyft programs, Safe Walk, parking, and biking
 - iii. Main points:
 - 1. Costs: Students are very concerned about the cost of parking and transportation alternatives offered by the school.
 - 2. Shuttle service: Students are angry about losing shuttle service. They view the offered alternatives as insufficient, costly, and unsafe.
 - 3. Perimeters: Students feel that services like SafeWalk do not meet their needs because the perimeters of the service are too small.
 - 4. Safety: All these concerns contribute to students feeling as though they need to make choices that put their safety in jeopardy.
 - iv. Moving forward:
 - 1. Does the data fully represent the student voice on campus? Need to determine the number of students coming to campus currently to see if 264 responses is "enough." The committee suggested that we may need to send out another survey.
 - a. UMB Police Chief Leone said that on the entire UMB campus there are 1800 ID swipes per day (includes campus and hospital)
 - 2. Present these findings to UMB Police Chief Leone and Robert Milner to work on solutions to these issues (meeting is this Friday, January 15th).
- b. Requested feedback on UMB Lyft program
 - i. Would like to modify Lyft discount program to 60% off 24 rides per month, up to \$6 off per ride
 - 1. Currently 40% off 16 rides per month, up to \$6 off per ride
 - ii. Thoughts?
- c. COVID-19

- i. As of Jan. 1, 2021, each student, faculty, and staff member approved to be on campus will be required to have a COVID-19 test that was taken within 14 days prior to their first day on campus. The negative COVID-19 test result must be uploaded into SAFE on Campus before arriving on campus.
 - ii. Fill out the vaccine registration form sent out by President Jarrell.
 - d. UMB Student Counseling Center updates
 - i. Thank you to those who attended the RED Folder Training!
 - ii. SCC is finalizing FAQ document for students on the counseling process and the subsequent referral process
 - iii. SCC promotes mental health apps on their website - most are discounted with student email address!
 - 1. Check it out [here](#).
 - iv. Look to work with the SCC to explore the “Mental First Aider Training” to supplement the RED Folder Training
 - 1. Thank you to GSA rep Jennifer Haddock for proposing this!
 - 2. More structured, longer, and more hands-on program to teach people how to support those going through mental health crisis.
 - 3. Information for this program is [here](#). UMD offers this program for the undergraduate students at a discounted rate ([press release](#) and their [sign-up information](#)).
 - e. USMSC discussed collective bargaining for University of Maryland system wide graduate students
 - i. History:
 - 1. USM has discussed collective bargaining for graduate students for many years, particularly because the needs and concerns of graduate students at other schools are not being met by the school’s administration. Collective bargaining allows graduate students to unionize and negotiate workers’ compensation and rights.
 - 2. The current bill has an “opt-in” collective bargaining system. This allows each school within USM to decide if they would like to participate in collective bargaining.
 - 3. For us as UMB students, we communicate our need and concerns to university administration through our Meet & Confer meetings. If we did choose to unionize, that meeting would no longer be legal. Instead, meetings would be a much more official process with a legal team.
 - ii. New bill will be introduced in 2021 that should still allow the optional collective bargaining, and USMSC plans to prepare a statement in support of that.
 - iii. The pandemic has shown us, more than ever, that the Meet & Confer system has its pros and cons. What are your thoughts on the system we have now?

Collective bargaining at UMB?

7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Anti-Oppression Work Group (partnership between USGA and SSW) had a meeting on Monday, January 11th at 5PM. Email me if you are interested to join future meetings!
- b. Other Business/Announcements
 - i. 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](#).
 - ii. 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: February 3, 2021

Motion to adjourn: Jenn Kirk