

**GSA Meeting Agenda**  
**Date: January 5, 2022**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/95332633899>**



1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:01PM

**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!***

Alexander Malyshev	Amanda Boyer	Andrea Cottingham	Ashley Marquardt
Chen Yan	Corinne English	David Annis	Disha Arora
Emily Smith	Ioana Ghita	Jean Reagan	Jessica Cornell
Kasey Knopp	Kristen Montgomery	Makenzy Mull	Mashhood Wani
McKayla Mickle	Megan Stemberger	Rashed Alsaafi	Sanjana Rao
Sarah Tanveer	Zakiya Carter		

2. Review minutes of previous meeting

a. Motion to approve minutes - Sarah Clem and Kasey Knopp

3. Reports

a. **President** - Sydney Ashton ([umb.gsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.president@gmail.com))

i. New GRID space is open in the HS/HSL Library 3rd floor! Stop by to say hi and check out their cool new meeting spaces

b. **Vice President** - Rainer Butler ([umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com))

i. Winter social!

1. Plan is to set up drinks (coffee, hot water for tea and hot chocolate, and cider along with some individually wrapped snacks, and maybe some bailey's) on lawn of HSF3.

2. Date set for January 21st 1- 2:30pm

- c. **Treasurer** - Gillian Mbambo (umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com)
  - i. Checking account Balance is \$6058.63
    - 1. Venmo - \$0 (transferred to the bank)
    - 2. Cashbox: \$2473
  - ii. Pending Disbursements/reimbursements
    - 1. Travel Awards -one student
    - 2. NOVA - check (waiting for receipts and attendance sheet)
  - iii. Travel Award Deadline extended to Friday January 7, 2022
- 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 tentatively planned for Friday, April 8th in person
  - iii. Some issues with Safe Ride drivers not wearing masks
- e. **Grad Council Rep** - Nikita Aggarwal (umb.gsa.gcrep@gmail.com)
  - i. No new updates
- f. **Public Relations** - Jenn Kirk (umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com)
  - i. Volunteer Subcommittee:
  - 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's Fall Lab Tours event will be taking place on Friday, December 3rd! We will be hosting students from the Vivien T Thomas Medical Arts Academy and showing them various demos of research being done here at UMB. Sign up [here](#)

if you are interested in serving as a chaperone for either the morning or afternoon session!

- 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](https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zrMbFm2yJGJtzg)

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

i.

4. Old Business:

a. Old announcements

- i. UMB Food Pantry is officially open! [Click here](#) to place an order for pickup in the SMC Campus Center

5. New Business:

a. Two of the main student concerns the Graduate School Steering Committee has heard regarding their new strategic plan (including from you all last month!):

- i. Inequities between programs, in addition to stipend level. Thoughts on this?
  1. Last month we talked about cost/affordability, scholarships, networking/internship opportunities, career mentorship. Anything else?
- ii. Sense of belonging in the Graduate School. Do you feel more affiliated with the GS or the School your lab is located in? Which would you ideally \*want\* to be more affiliated with? [poll]
- iii. → if these topics are interesting to you (or someone you know), the different teams on this committee will be recruiting students representatives soon so be on the lookout for an email about that!

b. 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
- ii. GERO stipend levels
  1. UMBC is working on how to handle the equity issue of raising GERO stipends to UMB GPILS levels without raising their UMBC-only program stipends. Should get an update by our next meeting about this
- iii. Grammarly discounted subscriptions for students
  1. The Writing Center actually opposes the use of Grammarly for equity

reasons? We're going to meet with them soon to learn more about this!

- iv. Discussed removing the required GRE for applying to programs UMB-wide
  - 1. Some programs have already done this on their own
  - 2. Essentially, the leadership was very against this idea saying that programs "feel" like the GRE helps them "compare" students from diverse backgrounds, that the GRE is not weighted super heavily so it's not an issue and that the GRE actually \*is\* predictive of success in graduate school
    - a. We're preparing a presentation with data to refute these points. If you're aware of anything that might be helpful (ie the number of applications pre- vs post-removal of GRE requirements; correlation of GRE scores with family wealth; etc. etc. please feel free to email me!)

v. COVID

- 1. We stressed that testing should be available on campus, which is now even more of a concern in light of the extreme positivity rates in Baltimore and Maryland. The leadership emphasized "personal responsibility", and stated that the University has had a difficult time securing (and funding) enough tests to make available to everyone.
  - a. Have you experienced any difficulties accessing COVID testing?
  - b. Do you have any concerns about being on campus at this time when the University did not require or recommend any sort of testing following the holidays? What about attending in-person events like lab meetings and seminars?
  - c. Have you had any difficulties getting KN95 masks and/or any issues reusing them for long periods of time?
  - d. Any other thoughts about COVID?

vi. Next meeting will be Jan. 20th at 8 am (virtual)

- 1. Still looking for new members to attend these meetings! Contact Sydney if interested

c. 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

- 1. Selected three candidates for the Student Regent position to recommend to Chancellor Perman, who will interview them and send his recommendation to Governor Perman. The Student Regent will serve a two-year term as the student voice on the USM Board of Regents (one year non-voting and second year with full voting rights)

- ii. Next meeting is Jan. 16th
    - d. Campus Safety
      - i. Last Citizens Advisory Board meeting occurred Dec, 13th
      - ii. New cameras and surveillance software
        - 1. Still looking at different vendors, so no details yet
          - a. Next project after this will be updating the blue light system
        - 2. Talked a lot about grief counseling—if something were to happen on campus, are there systems in place to support students?
          - a. Short answer is no
          - b. Doubly true for individual events (ie a community member experiences violence on/near campus)
          - c. Working with Patty Alvarez and the Student Counseling Center to identify areas of improvement
      - iii. Campus walk-through
        - 1. Discussed holding a walk-through after-dark (especially focusing on the Lexington Rooftop area) so that students can point out unsafe areas/concerns that they have
          - a. Meet & Confer committee members (thank you!) pointed out that uniformed police officers leading groups through these areas could be really unethical and uncomfortable in practice. Going to meet with Chief Leone to discuss
      - iv. Next meeting TBD? (sometime this month!)
    - e. UMB Shuttle
      - i. Last meeting occurred on Dec. 8th
        - 1. Still waiting for ridership data and information about the impending rate increase. Fingers crossed for the next meeting!
        - 2. 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)
      - ii. Next meeting Dec. 12th
    - f. 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: February 2, 2022**

**Motion to adjourn:** Sarah Clem and Ashley Marquardt