

GSA Meeting Agenda
Date: March 3, 2021



1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:05PM

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

Sarah Tanveer	Madeline Castagna	Saba Shahzad	Amanda Boyer
Kasey Knopp	Sanjana Rao	Debra Card	Joy Schucker
Bern Monari	Karndeeep Singh	Alexander Malyshev	Danté Johnson
David Annis	Eposi Elonge	McKayla Mickle	Sol Baik
Ashley Marquardt	Rashed Alsaafi	Gila Fridkis	Chrissy Carney

2. Review minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Ashley and Karndeeep
3. Reports
 - a. **President**
 - i. Announcements:
 1. Happy Women's History Month!
 2. COVID-19 vaccination at UMB is ongoing.
 - a. Check out the [UMMC COVID-19 Vaccine Phase Distribution Plan](#).
The state of Maryland is vaccinating individuals in phases 1A, 1B, and 1C.
 - b. **UMB's Vaccine Prioritization Form Link** is on this page:
<https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/content/communications/vaccine-doses-now-available-for-umb.php>
 - c. You can still try to schedule vaccination appointments outside of UMB as well within Baltimore City (Baltimore Convention Center, M&T Bank Stadium, pharmacies, health department, etc) and the UMMS system
 - d. There is discussion that vaccine supply will continue to increase, especially with the newly EUA-approved [Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#)
 3. UMB is offering a university wide book club discussion about the book "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
 - a. [Use this link to register and find out more!](#)

4. The SafeRides program returns to service on Monday, March 1st!
 - a. [Click here for more details](#)
 - b. Service is from 7AM - 1AM (outside of those hours, UMB Police will provide rides).
 - c. Be patient with the new system and anticipate longer wait times due to COVID-19 safety guidelines!
5. Register for the Graduate Research Conference (GRC) by this Friday, March 5th. Encourage your colleagues to do so too! The event will be held virtually on March 26th.

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. USGA officially added the new Equity/DEI Officer position to the e-board. This is a position that will be open to *all UMB students* who have been at school for at least six months. Keep an eye out for an announcement for applications if you are interested!
 - b. Results from UMB-wide COVID-19 Student Survey and Student Campus Climate Survey will both be released in March.

c. Treasurer

1. Current Balance in GSA checking account: \$8111.85
 - a. Celeste will deposit if we go below \$5000
2. Pending Award Disbursement
 - a. Research Award: Working with Celeste to deposit award into student account
3. Finance Committee:
 - a. COVID WFH Award due in 2 weeks

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. Mental Health Initiatives
 - Expanding Red Folder Training to peer training?

3. If you are graduating or can no longer be a rep next semester, please recruit a new rep for your program!

e. Grad Council rep

- i. Announcements:
 1. Professional Development Awards are open for the spring semester! Applications are due April 15th. This award provides funding for opportunities such as workshops, professional networking events, or trainings.
 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. We will be working with UMBC to include something in our GRC booklet to honor Alex Rittle, UMBC's past GSA President that passed away this past winter.

f. PR

- i. Announcements:
 1. March issue just released (Monday 03/01) - check it out!
 - a. Please send me any news, events, announcements, personal pieces, etc!
 - b. Newest column highlights a different volunteer organization around Baltimore each month. Let me know if you are aware of an organization you'd like to see in the spotlight!
-Bern suggested [Baltimore Safe Haven](#)
 2. Consider signing up for one of my subcommittees!
 - 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. Have you (or someone you know) participated in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial at UMB? The committee is putting together a story about what that experience has been like. Email me if you'd like to be included (or know someone who might)!
- iii. Volunteer Committee:
 1. No updates

- g. Meyerhoff: No updates.
- h. NOVA: NOVA's virtual Brain Awareness Week will be taking place on Thursday, March 18th from 4:30-5:30! 9th-11th grade Scholars from the UMB CURE program will be virtually "touring" various neuroscience-/neuroscience-associated labs where they will hear about cool research being done and even see some demonstrations to help promote awareness of and excitement about brain research.

i. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns:

- i. Wondering if there have been any updates in regards to our school gmail accounts (the @umaryland.edu email addresses)--if they are moving forward with canceling these gmail addresses/accounts or if we can keep them? Thank you! -Chrissy, MMED rep
-No updates so far!
- ii. Wanted to bring up an issue with the HealthiestYou system - is there any way we can get a different telehealth system for mental health? HealthiestYou is poorly suited to desktop use, the filtering functions for specialities doesn't work, and a therapist I've worked with previously told me that she's had issues getting accredited on the system. Thanks! - Bern, MMED grad student
-Bern sent an email to Patty Alvarez, we'll keep you updated!

4. Old Business:

- a. Meet & Confer updates
 - i. Meeting occurred on 02/18/21
 - ii. Discussed:
 - 1. Parking & Transportation
 - a. Still working to have more accessible parking on campus for students - Erin will follow up on making parking an "educational cost"
 - b. SafeRides is back after a thorough safety assessment!
 - 2. GRA stipend review
 - a. HR has completed their stipend review and recommended increases to the programs in the Graduate School
 - b. We pushed for transparency in the stipend assessment in the Graduate School as an annual process
 - c. Other updates in New Business (below)
 - 3. COVID-19 vaccine distribution on campus
 - a. Temporary vaccine shortage but vaccination has resumed on campus since our meeting!
 - 4. Mental First Aider Training at UMB

- a. Moving to form a Mental Health coalition under Student Affairs to centralize efforts
 - iii. Planned next agenda items:
 - 1. GRA Stipend Updates
 - 2. Discuss what it means to be a graduate student at UMB and how to communicate that to UMB leadership/to educate for more inclusive decision making
 - 3. Anything else that we should bring to their attention?
 - b. SafeRides and SafeWalk perimeter
 - i. Working to expand the perimeter based on the geo-mapping of local student addresses
 - ii. Still waiting for the data provided for this assessment but we hope to update soon!
5. New Business:
- a. GSA E-board met with UMB VP Dawn Rhodes to meet and share graduate student concerns
 - i. Plan to include Ms. Rhodes (soon to be Dr. Rhodes!) in our monthly M&C meetings!
 - b. Creation of the *Citizens Advisory Board* between UMB Police and the UMB community
 - i. Monthly meeting between Police Chief and others, including USGA president, GSA president, Staff Senate rep, and Faculty Senate rep. Others are welcome to attend!
 - ii. Purpose of this board is to have a space to communicate needs and concerns of those in the UMB community with UMB Police
 - iii. Some items we discussed:
 - 1. Updating Blue Lights on campus
 - 2. The Lyft programs & SafeRide program
 - 3. Chief Leone also shared what UMB Police is doing to address and confront the issues surrounding equitable and just policing:
 - a. Create case manager roles within their department and will work with the SOSW to create internship opportunities
 - b. Engage in implicit bias training with real-time scenarios
 - c. Facilitate more community engagement with new programs
 - c. GRA Stipend Increases for all UMB Graduate students
 - i. 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 has not been any 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
 - ii. Current updates:
 1. Most recent updates from Erin:
 - a. "There is a lot of support for stipend increases in most programs."
 - b. "I am meeting with them individually to discuss implementation schemes and schemes."
 - c. She anticipates that implementation will be after GPILS (after 07/01/2021) because "there is a large budget impact."
 2. Erin met with GERO program directors separately to discuss some of the GERO-specific challenges with stipend increases
 3. We are pushing for a transparent, annual stipend assessment for all programs:
 - a. Systematic review that the Graduate School would maintain and students would not bear the responsibility it takes to advocate for this (informed by cost of living, NIH mandated minimums, etc)
 - b. We'd like to be able to know:
 - i. How are these decisions made? What factors are considered?
 - ii. How does program funding alter changes in student stipend?
 - iii. How does the Graduate School push for equity across programs for stipends?
 - c. Will still create a public statement about this issue and send to all
 - iii. What do you think? What do you want to know more about?
6. Upcoming Events:
 - a. GSA Exec Elections (Nominations at April meeting, voting at May meeting)
Officers interested in serving on e-board again (please put your name by any position you'd be interested in):
 - i. President : Sydney
 - ii. Vice President :
 - iii. Treasurer :
 - iv. Secretary : Hadley
 - v. Public Relations :

- vi. Grad Council Rep :
- 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: April 7, 2021

Motion to adjourn: Karndeeep and Bern