



◆ **GSA Meeting Agenda**
Date: November 11, 2020

1. Welcome/Call to order:

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

David Annis	Debra Card	Amanda Boyer	Gila Fridkis
Karndeeep Singh	Eposi Elonge	Chrissy Carney	Sanjana Rao
Rainer Butler	Joy Schucker	Jennifer Kirk	Alexander Malyshev
McKayla Mickle	Ashey Marquardt	Kristen Montgomery	Nikita Aggarwal
Danté Johnson	Dale Spielman	Rashed AlSahafi	Sarah Tanveer
Saba Shahzad	Lauren Lewis	Ioana Ghita	

2. Review minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Ashley Marquardt and Joy Schucker
3. Reports
 - a. **President**
 - i. Announcements:
 1. Three Minute Thesis (3MT) event sponsored by the Graduate School and GSA will be on November 20th. Encourage your colleagues to register for the event by Wednesday, November 11th and to attend the event!
 2. RED Folder training for GSA reps held by UMB Student Counseling Center on Wednesday, December 9th from 5PM - 6PM! This is optional but all reps are encouraged to attend to learn how to help other students during mental health crises. Register [here!](#)
 3. UMB Graduate students will be represented at the University of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) starting this month! USMSC comprises 12 academic institutions in the Maryland system and we will be able to have a graduate student voice in this space. USMSC is looking for Student Regents as well. Reach out to me for more details!
 4. Still interested in signing up for a GSA committee? Check them out [here](#). Every GSA rep is asked to serve on one committee! Options include:

Communications, Diversity & Inclusion, Finance, GRC Planning, Professional Development, Social, Stipend, & Volunteer/Outreach.

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

1. Social Activities Committee: Plan another trivia night for all students before the end of the semester. Low on members, so if interested please sign up!
2. USGA Announcements:
 - a. Continuing to put together a campus-wide Anti-Oppression group. Current thinking is this will combine programming (ie, trainings) with policy advocacy to create structural change at UMB
 - b. Upcoming events: Pronouns workshop (Nov. 18), Cello Meditation (Also Nov. 18)
 - c. Still looking for one more alternate!
 - d. Meeting today at 5:30 - any concerns to bring?

c. Treasurer

1. Current Balance from our budget: \$9384.00 Total amount in account: \$11,015.67
 - a. Extra not budgeted: \$1631.67
 - b. Pending items: COVID-19 WFH
 - i. Budgeted: \$1500.00
 - ii. Amount Awarded: \$2268.17
 - c. Balance after pending item: \$7115.83**
2. COVID-19 WFH award: all checks have been distributed!
 - a. Awarded 14 graduate students!
 - b. Please encourage recipients to cash their checks
3. Finance Committee:
 - a. Thank you for your scoring for the COVID-19 WFH award.

d. Secretary

i. Announcements:

1. Via Erin Golembewski following meeting with Jim Reynolds- UMB Human Resources is taking on a survey of nationwide Graduate Assistant stipends, hoping to compare them to UMB with adjusting for cost of living. This means the stipend subcommittee won't necessarily need to do a large amount of research, but we will still be focusing on the establishment

of a transparent and recurrent process for stipend review for future years.

e. Grad Council rep

- i. Announcements:
 - 1. Thank you to everyone who submitted a Professional Development Award. We are scoring them and will notify the awardees in the next couple weeks
 - 2. We are organizing the distribution of tshirts and masks to both new 1st year students and older students that also ordered them. The plan is to have a couple of different times to swing by outside on campus and pick them up if you aren't a first year.
- ii. U of M grad council:
 - 1. UMBC is planning to adapt a COVID work from home award based off the one that our UMB GSA has organized!

f. PR

- i. Announcements:
 - 1. November Grad Gazette went out Monday, November 3
 - 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!
- h. NOVA: No updates!

i. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns:

- i.

4. Old Business:

- a. Meet & Confer updates

- i. No timeline update on anti-racism training for UMB community
 - ii. Campus shuttle concerns
 - iii. Spring 2021 virtual semester & student challenges
 - 1. Transparency in decision making
 - 2. Plans to improve next semester's virtual learning
 - a. Survey was sent to students by Graduate School but did not address students in non-didactic based learning
 - iv. Proposed agenda items for upcoming November meeting on 11/19/20:
 - 1. Update on shuttle alternative Lyft discount program
 - 2. Equality and equity in the Graduate School
 - a. Graduate School application fees and fee waivers
 - b. Preferred pronouns to be included on all personal profiles on UMB site
 - 3. Suggested agenda items to include for our next meeting?
 - 4. Campus safety- Blue lights and SafeWalk
 - b. Student gifts for incoming students:
 - i. Received! We are currently preparing the shirts and masks to be handed out. Look for our email about that soon!
5. New Business:
- a. Transportation Updates for Spring 2021 Semester
 - i. Likely to not have shuttle next semester
 - ii. Proceeding with Lyft discount program & other alternatives (parking on campus, using student discount for public transportation)
 - iii. We are putting together a transportation survey to send out to all UMB students to assess student accessibility to campus during the pandemic and feedback on shuttle alternatives
 - iv. We created a parking FAQ document that was sent out to the UMB community last week & this week in the Campus Life Weekly (shout out to GSA rep Ashley Marquardt for putting it together!)
 - v. Any feedback to bring to the committee?
 - b. COVID-19
 - i. New COVID-19 guidelines for Baltimore City linked [here](#). Encourage your fellow colleagues to adhere to these while in the city. There are also new guidelines mandated by the state linked [here](#).
 - ii. All reporting is required to go through UMB Hotline via EthicsPoint. You can call the hotline or fill out a form online (link at the top of the page). Please spread the word on this!
 - c. Meeting with UMB Student Counseling Center
 - i. We discussed:

1. Services offered by the counseling center & how the referral process works
2. How students were affected by the switch of virtual counseling platforms to HealthiestYou
3. Mental health apps like Calm & Headspace
 - a. Do students currently use it, or would they use it if it was free?
- ii. Their actions moving forward
 1. Plan to advocate for students in student health insurance plan (SHIP) meetings regarding virtual counseling platforms: ask about switch to HealthiestYou
 2. Create a FAQ document for students on the current counseling process from sign-up to referral
 3. Will hold a RED Folder Training for GSA reps
 - a. The program acts as a reference guide that contains safety tips and contact information for a wide variety of emergency campus resources to immediately help any student in distress AND provides guidance on responding to incidents in which a student might be self-danger or a threat to others.
 - b. Register [here!](#)
- d. Graduate student solidarity statement
 - i. GSA Executive board and M&C committee have continually observed that graduate student needs, particularly those doing research on campus, are not prioritized, and it has been increasingly evident during the pandemic
 1. Examples:
 - a. No safe alternative to shuttle but expecting researchers to come back to campus
 - b. Ignored for feedback on the upcoming spring semester in the most recent survey
 - c. All students - virtual counseling challenges
 - ii. We are considering preparing a statement to provide to the Graduate School/UMB to help facilitate and take action on graduate students' needs.
 1. Checking in with you all - how do you feel about UMB's response to your needs during the pandemic? Please take this quick [survey](#) so that we can gauge your thoughts. Thank you for your feedback.

6. Upcoming Events:

- a. Virtual three minute thesis (3MT) event sponsored by GSA and the Graduate School
 - i. Friday, November 20th
- b. RED Folder Training for GSA reps (optional but encouraged)

- i. Wednesday, December 9th from 5PM - 6PM
 - ii. Register [here!](#)
 - c. NAMI @UMB is hosting a coloring night on Monday, November 16th from 6-8PM. Check out the event [announcement](#) in the Elm to register!
7. Other Business/Announcements
- a.

Date of next meeting: December 2, 2020

Motion to adjourn: Ashley Marquardt and Karndeeep Singh