

## Meet & Confer – November 18th, 2021 8AM

Dr. Bruce Jarrell  
Dr. Roger Ward  
Dr. Erin Golembewski  
Dr. Flavius Lilly  
Dr. Dawn Rhodes

### Graduate Student Reps:

Sydney Ashton: [umb.gsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.president@gmail.com); [sashton@umaryland.edu](mailto:sashton@umaryland.edu)  
Rainer Butler: [umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com); [Rainer.Butler@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Rainer.Butler@som.umaryland.edu)  
Hadley Bryan: [umb.gsa.sec@gmail.com](mailto:umb.gsa.sec@gmail.com); [hjbryan@umaryland.edu](mailto:hjbryan@umaryland.edu)  
Emily Smith: [emily\\_smith@umaryland.edu](mailto:emily_smith@umaryland.edu)  
Ashley Marquardt: [amarquardt@umaryland.edu](mailto:amarquardt@umaryland.edu)  
Lauren McCarthy: [lmccarthy@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:lmccarthy@ssw.umaryland.edu)

## Notes from the meeting

### Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Old Business
  - A. Request for update on the process of raising Gerontology stipends to the same level as the rest of the GPILS programs
    1. Apparently a difficult process; has to be a phased approach to work with PI's grants
    2. Dr. Lilly said UMBC is hesitant, but he's meeting with them early December and will update us at the next M&C
      - a) Tuition remission is different at UMBC; at UMB it's like an employee benefit (we're the only ones in the USM where it's structured this way), but at UMBC and other schools the PIs have to fund their students' tuition
  - B. Implementation of the new Core Values: graduate students are now represented on both the Core Values Implementation Committee as well as the Graduate School Steering Committee
  - C. Subsidized parking costs for graduate students (late-breaking; not on official agenda)
    1. "There is not a way to provide assistance with parking. Our systems currently do not allow us to provide any type of supplemental pay to GRA's."
      - a) Additional tidbit for you all: "I do understand that many GRA stipends were increased for this fiscal year and maybe that could assist with the shortfall." \*sigh\*
- III. New Business
  - A. UMB group discount for Grammarly
    1. Grammarly is a writing assistant tool that has been extremely helpful to students in the School of Social Work whose first language is not English (costs \$30/mo or \$144/year). Grammarly offers reduced pricing for groups

at educational institutions that could greatly lower the financial burden on these students. Would UMB consider participating in such a group plan?

2. Dr. Lilly is going to follow up; the Writing Center is under his purview; mentioned that Microsoft Teams has Grammarly built-in?

B. Tenure & Promotion criteria

1. Request for inclusion of mentorship and DEI contributions in the evaluation of tenure and promotion
  - a) Faculty are in charge of this process; would need to get the Deans on-board and even they can't "make" faculty do it
    - (1) Similar to curricula, the faculty have full power
    - (2) They said letters from students etc. (but unclear to me how many/which students are invited to have their voice included?)
  - b) Diane Forbes-Berthound working on this (wants to bring "metrics" to more robustly measure these things), Dr. Jarrel says this is something he's committed to
    - (1) DFB also working on collecting data regarding other equity concerns ie salary, time to tenure
  - c) Apparently tenure even more difficult than promotion
  - d) Dr. Rhodes said might be easier to influence hiring decisions; they have to write DEI statement
  - e) Dr. Lilly suggested we could talk with someone on the APT (advancement, promotion & tenure I think?) committee to help us better understand this process

IV. Updates (to be read ahead of time by all)

A. GSA Events & Announcements

1. Working to plan a session for GSA reps to provide their thoughts on the Graduate School's strategic objectives
2. The GSA and USGA are working with Chief Leone to acquire up-to-date student address data to reevaluate the boundaries of the Safe Ride and Safe Walk programs

B. First meeting of the GA Stipend Committee will be in December