



Graduate Student Association

GSA Meeting Agenda

Date: November 3, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/95332633899>

1. Welcome/Call to order:

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!

2. Review minutes of previous meeting

a. Motion to approve minutes

3. Reports

a. **President** - Sydney Ashton (umb.gsa.president@gmail.com)

i. Welcome, Kirby Gaddy from the Community Engagement Center's Office of Philanthropy!

ii. Please complete the campus safety survey if you have not already! Only ~75 students had participated as of 10/25

1. <https://bit.ly/umbpdsurvey2021>

iii. Some great campus events coming up in case you don't get their newsletters (not an exhaustive list)!

1. Nov. 8th: [First-gen at UMB panel](#) featuring students, faculty and staff

2. Nov. 10th: [The Table Dialogue: Unpacking Featurism](#)

3. Nov. 17th: [A Guide to Indigenous Baltimore](#)

4. Nov. [18th](#) or [30th](#): The Anti-Racist Leader

5. Nov. 18th: [Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience Vigil](#)

6. Nov. 19th: [Trans* Community Social Hour](#)

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

i. USGA update

1. Have not had another meeting yet - next one is on November 10th, so will have another update for December!

- 2. Keep an eye out for any events. I think there are going to be a few more before the end of the semester.
 - ii. Winter social! Committee members expect an email from me soon!
- c. **Treasurer** - Gillian Mbambo (umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com)
 - i. Checking account Balance is \$5873.31
 - 1. Venmo - \$485.32 (will be transferred to the bank)
 - 2. Cashbox: \$2473
 - ii. Finance Committee
 - 1. Thank you for scoring the 2nd quarter travel awards
 - 2. Congratulations to Lamia Mokeem, Danielle Phillips, Sanjana Rao, and Jernelle Miller
 - iii. Pending Disbursements/reimbursements
 - 1. Travel Awards - student accounts
 - 2. NOVA - check (waiting for receipts and attendance sheet)
 - iv. Completed Disbursement - BankMobile
 - 1. Award Disbursement: Outstanding Rep Awards (\$100)
 - 2. Orientation Grad 101 panel and Ethics perceptors (\$650)
- 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.
- e. **Grad Council Rep** - Nikita Aggarwal (umb.gsa.gcrep@gmail.com)
 - i. Professional development award announcements will be going out by the end of the week
- f. **Public Relations** - Jenn Kirk (umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com)
 - i. The Grad Gazette web page is getting a makeover!
 - 1. Submit any stories or commentary for the grad gazette, by 5:00 pm the 3rd Friday of each month (i.e. ~10 days before the issue comes out):

<https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/gsa/gazette/submit/>

- ii. Volunteer/Outreach subcommittee
 - 1. [Link to subcommittee sign-up sheet](#)
 - 2. Next meeting on zoom next week
 - 3. Survey for potential events
- iii. Communications subcommittee
 - 1. Still GSA Rep support to join.
 - 2. [Link to subcommittee sign-up sheet](#)

g. Meyerhoff

- i. Still working on finding a new representative

h. NOVA

- i. NOVA had our first movie night last month -- look out for more movie nights in future! We will also be holding our Fall Lab Tours event this month on November 19!

i. Graduate School DEI Committee - Nikki Aggarwal

- i.

j. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns

- i. Updates on Cost of Attendance Issues & Graduate Student Unsubsidized Loan limits?
 - 1. Clarification on the use of the average stipend for loan offer calculation:
 - a. Average is only used in the absence of an official GRA appointment letter just so that an offer can be extended to the student ASAP. Adjusted once GRA letter received. Normally the program directors/coordinators are pretty quick about getting these in! Requested for the website language to be updated to reflect this process.

4. Old Business:

- a. Old announcements
 - i. SafeRide and SafeWalk are ongoing; can request through the new "Mobile UMB" app. New signage posted throughout buildings.
 - ii. UM Urgent Care (Downtown campus) now accepts our Student Health
- b. Campus parking expenses

- i. Discussed ways to reduce parking costs for students. Exploring two potential solutions:
 - 1. Whether the Graduate School can cover (or at least subsidize) parking costs
 - 2. Whether parking can be charged to the PI's grant directly (parking for staff/employees is removed from their paycheck automatically)
 - 3. Still waiting on an update for this--hopefully will hear soon!
 - c. UMB Police Department taking over the policing services of the University of Baltimore
 - i. They are paying us for this; we'll hire new officers for their campus (first priority will be given to UB's current officers)
 - ii. This will NOT divert any policing resources away from UMB's campus
 - iii. Regarding last month's question about Safe Ride/Walk on UB's campus:
 - 1. "At this time we are not providing safe ride services at UBalt. The agreement that we are working on is for the police patrolling their campus. We are hoping to streamline the supervision and administrative components of both departments to be more effective and efficient. The campuses should not see any difference in current services offered"

5. New Business:

a. 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 Oct. 21
- ii. Stipend levels
 - 1. They stated they were meeting later that day regarding raising GERO stipends to the same level as the other GPILS programs
 - 2. Official stipend review committee roster is set and first meeting should occur this month (thank you to those of you serving on that committee!)
- iii. COVID-19 boosters
 - 1. No plans to make them mandatory at this time
 - 2. Some programs received emails stating that *all* students are eligible for boosters, but this is not true. Eligibility is based on the CDC guidelines--but providers cannot ask you and/or verify your eligibility. Since this meeting the language on the website to sign up for appointments has been clarified to describe the CDC guidelines

- iv. UMB's Strategic Plan
 1. We asked how this new plan/Core Values would be implemented across campus and in courses and...basically there are no clear plans right now. Working with the staff senate to discuss possibilities for holding faculty accountable
 2. New Core Values Implementation committee (includes GSA & USGA representation) will be meeting soon that will hopefully address this. Let me know if you have any ideas or concerns you'd like represented in that process!
 3. Graduate School also has a Steering Committee to implement the Strategic Plan
- v. "UMB Believes Black Lives Matter Banners"
 1. These were moved around campus without notice. Leadership confirmed that they were also not aware of this; apparently campus banners are just regularly rotated. We asserted why we didn't think it was appropriate to move them without discussing with students/faculty/staff
- vi. Next meeting will be Nov. 18 at 8 am (virtual)
 1. Still looking for new members to attend these meetings! Contact Sydney if interested
- b. 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 Oct. 10th
 1. Chancellor Perman attended to hear about issues across the System. We talked *a lot* about graduate students' inadequate access to mental health care and he was very receptive. This is definitely a System-wide issue
 2. Talked a lot about climate change and carbon neutrality offsets
 - ii. Next meeting is Nov. 14th
- c. Campus Safety
 - i. Last Citizens Advisory Board meeting occurred 10/25
 - ii. Lights on campus have been replaced with brighter LEDs over the past month
 1. UMBPD has to work with the City to replace the remaining ones
 - iii. New cameras and surveillance software
 1. Previously the UMBPD had no way to search footage from campus cameras without literally watching film from all of them
 2. New system allows them to search for instances like "red van" on campus, but does NOT have any facial recognition technology
 - a. It can also highlight "suspicious" (defined by the vendor") activity, ie if a person's gait indicates they could be armed

- iv. Safe Rides
 - 1. Averaging about 130 rides per day; individuals on average have a 9 minute wait and the average ride duration is 5 minutes
 - a. Nearly 8000 rides since the beginning of the year
 - 2. If you haven't used the new app before, it shows you the van's location on a map as well as its license plate number and notifies you when it has arrived, so you can be confident it's legit
 - a. Apparently some students still unaware of the app? Share with your friends/labs/programs!
 - v. Community Outreach & Support Team
 - 1. Social Work internship program has officially begun. As of 10/25, had been going on 2 weeks and had already been able to place some folks in long-term housing and get them started in drug programs
 - vi. Preliminary results from campus safety survey
 - 1. A lot of people responded that they felt somewhat or very unsafe on campus after 7PM (~40% of respondents as of 10/25) and a good many people said they feel unsafe on campus weekly or daily (60 people; 60 others said never and 106 people said only a few times a year)
 - 2. Please fill out the survey if you have not already! Will share the full report once it is official
 - vii. Blue lights
 - 1. Many people in the survey indicated they don't really understand how the blue light system works so FYI: the systems are analog and thus cannot automatically report your location if you press the button. The dispatcher will ask where you are (a number is painted on each one); if you cannot not answer (ie if you pressed it and immediately moved), they can figure out your location it just takes more time. Once they have the location of the button press, camera in that area are monitored until an officer arrives
 - viii. Next meeting Nov. 15th
- d. UMB Shuttle
- i. Last meeting occurred on Oct. 20th
 - 1. They've received many requests from students to have midday service and have reached out to Reston (the contractors that operate our shuttles) to explore this possibility
 - a. It would cost about \$117k and would thus likely increase student shuttle fees by about \$40 per year. There has not been an increase in 3-4 years
 - i. This would have to go through many approval processes, including the student fee committee which includes

student representation

- b. Charm City Circulator does run approximately the same routes (misses some parts of Canton) all day every 15-20 minutes
 - 2. A lot of students want to opt out since they don't use the shuttle, but this would likely raise the fee for those who do to unreasonable numbers
 - 3. They're planning a panel discussion soon through the USGA, so look out for more information on how to submit questions! The panel discussion will be recorded if you are unable to attend
 - 4. No guests can ride the shuttle at this time as you need a One Card to swipe. Exploring options for guest cards
 - 5. Reston moving towards a vaccine mandate; now are "expected" to follow UM's mandate, but the oversight for this is run by their company and not UMB
- ii. Next meeting Nov. 10th
- e. 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: December 1, 2021

Motion to adjourn: