



Graduate Student Association

GSA Meeting Agenda

Date: October 6, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

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

- 1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:03PM

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!

Christen Durante	Lauren McCarthy	David Annis	Rachel McPherson
Megan Stemberger	Disha Arora	Andrea Cottingham	Sanjana Rao
Sarah Clem	Zakiya Carter	Colin Robertson	Jernelle Miller
Emily Smith	Shruti Dharmaraj	Alexander Malyshev	Alexis Cirko
McKayla Mickle	Ioana Ghita	Amanda Boyer	Darwin Argueta
Makenzy Mull	Chintal Shah	Ashley Marquardt	Sarah Tanveer
Mashhood Wani	Kellie-Ann Kelly	Garrett Bunce	

- 2. Review minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Alex and Lauren

- 3. Reports

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

- i. October is LGBTQ+ History Month!

- 1. Many great events hosted by the Intercultural Center:

- a. Safe Space training Part I ([Oct 15](#)) and II ([Oct 19](#))
 - b. [The Intersections of Spirituality and LGBTQ+ Identity](#)
 - c. [LGBTQ+ History and Education in Baltimore City](#)
 - d. [Best Practices for Developing LGBTQ+ Inclusive Healthcare Environments](#)

- e. [Revising the Gay and Trans Blood and Tissue Ban](#)
 - f. [Subscribe to their newsletter](#) to keep up with all of their events!
 - 2. Join the Queer Student Alliance on International Pronoun Day (Oct 15) for a lunchtime [pronoun workshop](#)
 - ii. This week is Mental Health Awareness Week!
 - 1. [Some great events](#) remaining this week and throughout the month hosted by the Student Counseling Center
 - iii. Mental Health First Aid training offered to graduate students by the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center--happened last week and was fantastic!
 - 1. Teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders
 - 2. They're planning on hosting more of these sessions in the future, so keep an eye out if you're interested
 - iv. UMB Police Department will be taking over the policing services of the University of Baltimore
 - 1. They are paying us for this; we'll hire new officers for their campus (first priority will be given to UB's current officers)
 - 2. This will NOT divert any policing resources away from UMB's campus
 - v. The [Library Genie](#) is collecting wishes for HS/HSL (regarding space, resources, programming, anything!) during the month of October. Please share!
 - vi. The [2021 Clery Campus Security and Fire Report](#) was just released (see [here](#) for reports dating back to 2013). Has a ton of information regarding campus safety and policies, including crime statistics on and around campus for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (see pages 44-50)
- b. **Vice President** - Rainer Butler (umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com)
- i. USGA Update
 - 1. USGA is working on holding a couple more events (a halloween one and one in early november). Keep an eye on email for updates.
 - 2. DEI officer is doing listening tours through all schools

- a. Aims to hold confidential meetings to listen to any DEI concerns and train people to maintain safe practices.
 - b. Have not heard from graduate school
 - 3. Student organizations can also apply for funding through USGA
 - a. Please encourage student Orgs to apply for funding by directly contacting John Morgan for OFR information
 - i. **Contact umb.usga.treasurer@gmail.com**
 - ii. **OFR presentation is required**
 - iii. **Second funding cycle ends Oct 6**
 - iv. **Third funding cycle ends Nov 10**
 - v. **Events must represent 4/7 UMB schools with no more than 80% attendees from one school**
 - vi. **If your event is public then you must meet COVID guidelines**
 - ii. Winter social! Prob start planning mid nov?
- c. **Treasurer** - Gillian Mbambo (umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com)
 - i. Account Balance is \$5873.31
 - ii. Budget Request:
 - 1. NOVA- approved w/ stipulation that the equipment may belong to GSA (pending approval from Celeste) and that the projector could be loaned out from NOVA
 - iii. Pending Disbursement will go directly to student accounts
 - 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. 2021/2022 Subcommittee Spreadsheet- The subcommittee spreadsheet is

linked here and in the chat. We need at the very least 3 representatives on each subcommittee in order for that subcommittee to “exist” according to the GSA Constitution.

- iii. The USGA Equity Committee is looking for more members. Please let me know if you are interested in joining. You do not have to be a USGA senator to be on the Equity Committee.
- iv. Mental Health First Aid Training went well!
- v. Student Fee Advisory Board needs Graduate School representation. If interested, please contact Charlene Tugwete (ctugwete@umaryland.edu) and include your school when emailing.

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 Oct. 12th on zoom

- iii. Communications subcommittee

- 1. Still need another GSA Rep to join. We will be doing “instagram takeovers” and writing articles for the revamped grad gazette!
- 2. [Link to subcommittee sign-up sheet](#)

g. **Meyerhoff**

- i.

h. **NOVA**

- i. Look out for more info on NOVA's rescheduled movie night event to be sent out

via email soon - all are welcome and encouraged to come!

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. The cost of attendance “formula” was changed for the 2020 fiscal year, which resulted in many students needing to request budget extensions. It returned to the 2019 calculations for this year:

a. Parking (at home): \$150/month

b. Rent: \$1500/month

i. This is based on where you say you live on your FAFSA (either on campus, off campus, or with parents)

c. Utilities: \$250/month

d. Food: \$500/month

e. Personal expenses: \$250/month

f. Health insurance (even if waived): \$4000/year

g. Transportation (since we are a “commuter” university): \$2000/year

h. *You can view your cost of attendance on SURFS

2. Additionally, the amount offered in loans is based on the *average* of UMB graduate stipends. Because several programs received stipend increases recently, loan offers might have been lower this year

3. If you receive financial aid (or might be interested), you can schedule a meeting with the Financial Aid Office’s dedicated financial aid counselor by emailing ms-phd@umaryland.edu

a. You can request a budget review and/or a budget increase

b. Helpful if your stipend is different than the average and if your actual expenses are different than the ones used in the “formula” (for example if your apartment’s parking is more than \$150/mo, you travel a long ways to campus and spend more than ~\$166/mo on gas or train tickets, you have “unusual” healthcare expenses, need to pay for daycare, etc)

c. Patricia Scott (Assistant Vice President of Student Financial Assistant) assured me that this process is very easy so please let me know if that is not true!

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.
 - 1. Boundaries are the same for now. Working on collected up-to-date student address data to inform some changes
 - 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)
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 Sept. 16
 - 1. New mask guidance: KN95s required in classroom settings for unvaccinated AND vaccinated people
 - a. Check here for a KN95 FAQ:
<https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/content/testing-hygiene-and-health/kn95-mask-instructions.php>
 - 2. Only required for environments in which you are stationary near others for a sustained period of time (classes, seminars, meetings) and NOT universally on campus
 - 3. This is a *proactive* step that should prevent any potential outbreaks; reduces the quarantine requirements for people in a classroom setting with someone who tests positive
 - ii. Booster shots
 - 1. No current plans to reopen SMC as a mass vaccination site, but they are doing flu and booster shots there now
 - 2. Students who received Pfizer and are at least 6 months out from their second vaccine dose are eligible to receive a booster shot
 - a. Schedule appointments here:
<https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/testing-hygiene-and-health/flu/> (this is also where you can schedule a flu shot appointment!)

- b. Be sure to take your ID, vaccination record card, and insurance card
 - iii. COVID cases and vaccination rate on campus
 - 1. New dashboard! <https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/>
 - 2. Vaccination rates
 - a. 95.57% of on-campus employees (7,556 people)
 - b. 98.81% of on-campus students (6,561 people)
 - 3. Positivity between Sept. 5-25 (based on who called the UMB COVID-19 Hotline)
 - a. 22 employees
 - b. 21 students
 - iv. Next meeting will be Oct. 21 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 Sept. 9
 - 1. The Council was really excited to hear about our small successes so far in advocating for stipend increases. I've shared our resources with the other representatives--hoping we can work together to potentially make changes across the whole UM system!
 - 2. Talked a lot about climate change and carbon neutrality offsets
 - ii. Next meeting is this Sunday (Oct. 10) and will be attended by Chancellor Perman
- c. Campus Safety
 - i. Be on the lookout for a survey from the UMB Police Department soon! Will ask about your experiences on campus to better areas for improvement
- d. UMB Shuttle
 - i. Last meeting occurred on Sept. 8
 - 1. Most card swipe issues for students have been resolved
 - a. But students should *not* be denied service if their card doesn't swipe!
 - 2. Changed signage from UM to UMB
 - 3. Contractors (ie the drivers) are currently *not* required to be vaccinated, but they are working on that
 - 4. August total ridership: 2,401
 - a. Down 35% compared to August 2019 (3,724)
 - b. Will have affiliation data (ie student vs staff vs faculty) in a few

months

- ii. Next meeting Oct. 13
- e. Student fees
 - i. Fees for this semester returned to those from pre-COVID, so were higher than last year's reduced rates
 - ii. Fee breakdown:
 1. **Student Activities** (*not charged Spring 2021*) 25.50
Supports the GSA; only charged to students in the Graduate School
 2. **Student Government** (*not charged Spring 2021*) 11.00
Supports the USGA and its operations and programming
 3. **Campus Center Infrastructure Fee (CCIF)** 606.00
Supports URecFit, Event Services, Campus Life, OneCard, and the operations of the SMC Campus Center
 4. **Shuttle Fee** (*not charged Spring 2021*) 94.50
 5. **Technology Fee** 10.00
Graduate School-specific (part-time per credit, not to exceed \$60.00)
 6. **Student Services Fee** (*not charged Spring 2021*) 17.00
Supports the Writing Center, Wellness Center, Disability Services, international student support (part-time per credit, not to exceed \$150.00)
- f. Labor-based grading
 - i. Idea from the Graduate School DEI Committee for a new way of grading writing-based courses
 1. Ways to implement in non-writing courses?
 - ii. General premise is to encourage instructors to build in steps to their assessments including drafts, revise & resubmit phases, journals, reflections, etc
 1. There would still be "traditional" forms of assessment like quizzes/tests/presentations/etc.
 - iii. Think about pros/cons of this method, especially if you have experiences with it or where it might have helped you
 1. Let me or another exec member know if you have thoughts! If you're a member of our DEI subcommittee, feel free to take your thoughts to that group to discuss further
 2. Would like to collect student perspectives on this (especially how it would/wouldn't work in the sort of classes you've taken at UMB) to provide to the Graduate School Committee so they can assess whether and how to begin advocating for implementation at UMB
- g. Ultimate Mileage Battle is coming up! Anyone have name ideas for another Graduate School team?

- i. October 11-November 5. The Graduate School is the reigning champion! More details here: <https://www.umaryland.edu/launch-your-life/step/>
- 6. Upcoming Events:

Date of next meeting: November 3, 2021

Motion to adjourn: