

◆ **GSA Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: September 2, 2020**



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

David Annis	Kristen Montgomery	Colin Robertson	Chintal Shah
Karndeeep Singh	Sanjana Roa	Eposi Elonge	Kelly Rock
Heather Mutchie	McKayla Mickle	Sarah Tanveer	Helga (Last name?)
Amanda Boyer	Raquel Shortt	Ioana Ghita	Dante Johnson
Gila Fridkis	Ashley Marquardt	Rainer Butler	Jennifer Kirk
Chrissy Carney			

2. Review minutes of previous meeting -
  - a. Motioned to approve: Chrissy and Kristen
3. Reports
  - a. President
    - i. Announcements
      1. Orientation was last week on August 26th and 27th!
        - a. Thank you to all who volunteered!
      2. UMB Welcome events going on for the remainder of this week!
      3. Fall semester began this past Monday, August 31st for graduate students!
  - b. Vice President
    - i. Announcements
      1. Social Activities Committee: Plan another trivia night for all students!
        - a.
      2. USGA Announcements:
        - a. Will be reaching out to current USGA senators to see if they want to continue, email me if you are interested in taking an open slot!

c. Treasurer

1. Pending Balance: \$11,012.67
  - a. 14,433.35 is the amount in checking pending distribution of checks
2. COVID WFH Support Award **VOTE: YES**
  - a. Award amount per recipient? Upto \$200?
  - b. Input from reps to describe what items should be included or excluded from the award (software you would normally have access to in your lab, webcam, wifi boosters,wifi hotspots etc)
  - c. Karndee mentioned that students most commonly are buying monitors for WFH
3. Finance Committee:
  1. Checks still to be distributed from 4th Q travel awards
  2. Orientation checks are still being distributed
  3. Will send out email about new travel award dates soon

d. Secretary

- i. Announcements:
  1. Updating Rep list for 2020/2021
  2. Potential move to Google Group/Microsoft Teams for communication/resource
    - a. Any other ideas for more efficient communication esp. during COVID?

e. Grad Council rep

- i. Announcements:
  1. Congratulations to our Research Award Winner, Hanover Matz!
- ii. U of M grad council:
  1. No updates, no meetings over summer

f. PR

- i. Announcements:
  - 1. Moving Grad Gazette release to the first Monday of the month! First Gazette of the year will be Monday, Sept. 7
- ii. Communications Committee
  - 1. No updates
- iii. Volunteer Committee:
  - 1. Garden Volunteer Day Saturday, Sept. 12 from 12-2 PM. They'll be composting, weeding & harvesting community gardens in Hampden
- g. Meyerhoff: Currently, the Meyerhoff Fellows program is a joint program between UMB and UMBC. It has been officially announced that the program will split into two separate programs - one at UMBC and one at UMB. This will likely take effect into 2022 or 2023 as 2021 will be used to determine the best way to split the program into two programs.
- h. NOVA: No updates.

**i. Program Rep Updates/Questions/Concerns:**

- i. Access to library and insurance over the summer
4. Old Business:
- a. Meet & Confer updates
    - i. Have appointed a graduate student (go Lauren McCarthy!) to represent the Graduate School voice on the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer selection committee
    - ii. Connected with the Parking & Transportation director to convey student suggested alternatives for the shuttle
    - iii. Working on a special edition of the Grad Gazette
    - iv. Proposed agenda items for September meeting:
      - 1. Anti-racist and implicit bias training for UMB campus (active vs. online training)
    - v. Suggested agenda items to include for our next meeting?
  - b. COVID-19
    - i. Held a Research Advisory Task Force town hall with Drs. Locascio and

McCarthy on August 14th

- ii. UMB has released guidelines in August for testing, SAFE on Campus symptom/travel reporting, etc.
- iii. All students already on campus or planning to come to campus must submit a COVID-19 negative test on Castle Branch ASAP

5. New Business:

- a. Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer selection committee wants to meet with students from all 7 schools in a one-hour meeting before September 17th to receive student feedback in the process
  - i. Emily will be attending but are any other reps interested in attending?
- b. Student gifts for incoming students
  - i. UMB Graduate School shirt & mask - [check them out!](#)
  - ii. Interest from reps in these items?
- c. COVID-19
  - i. Still in Phase 2
  - ii. SMC is now open with spaces to eat and study but library and gym have not reopened at this time (Plan to open library on Sept 14th and no plan for gym at this time)
  - iii. Specific concerns to address with Graduate School?
- d. Shuttle Alternatives
  - i. Email was sent out by Parking & Transportation on August 19th outlining the current alternatives (summary of those points below)
    - 1. **Parking on Campus:** If you are new to UMB's Parking Program, be sure to register with your OneCard by September 11th. Additional daily student parking garage options: Lexington Garage, Baltimore Grand Garage, & Penn Street Garage. Students can still pay to park monthly in the Lexington Market Garage.
    - 2. **Lyft Program:** Still being researched but currently making progress on this option! Updates to come.

3. **University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Shuttle:** Students can use this shuttle to get to and from the downtown and midtown campuses by showing their UMB OneCard (free).
4. **Bike Storage:** UMB has a safe & secure place to store your bikes in a bike cage in Pratt Street Garage for \$25/year.
5. **SafeWalk & SafeRides:** SafeWalks are currently offered to students within the campus boundaries. Discussions are going on currently to create a safe alternative to SafeRides.
6. **UMB Alerts:** Students can sign up for UMB Alerts and real-time Parking & Transportation alerts.

e. Student Stipend Subcommittee

- i. Issue: Large disparity in stipends within Graduate School and compared to other universities
  1. Data we have so far for [PHSR specifically](#) and for [greater university](#)
- ii. GOAL: Present to Graduate School (Erin) and to UMB admin (Drs. Jarrell & Ward) to advocate for stipend increases
- iii. Action: collect data on other university graduate school stipends and cost-of-living, etc.
  1. Headed by: Hadley Bryan
  2. Need reps to sit on this committee - **sign up [here!](#)**

f. Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee

- i. Subcommittee/partnership with PDAC and USGA for student concerns
  1. Concern that students don't have a clear resource for reporting problems. While the subcommittee would focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at UMB, it could ultimately become a forum for graduate students to feel comfortable asking questions and seeking resources that may not have one clear place to go.
- ii. Action: compile resources and connections AND advocate for anti-racist action items that affect UMB Graduate Students

iii. Headed by Lauren McCarthy

1. Sign up [here!](#)

6. Upcoming Events:

a. UMB Welcome Events:

i. UMB Trivia TONIGHT September 2nd from 6-7:30PM

ii. Fall Fest THIS Friday, September 4th from 11AM - 2PM

b. Suggestions for virtual events: trivia night again for sure!

7. Other Business/Announcements

a. Graduate Student Coalition questionnaire for Presidential Candidates:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18lu8KBKX6rEN5WCQTjMmpOz8HfR6IV3fLzuaqo3jyrl/edit?usp=sharing>

b. A collection of graduate student organizations have prepared this document and are asking programs across the country to sign on. Do we want to endorse these questions? They need to know by Monday, Sept. 7th.

**Date of next meeting: October 7, 2020**

**Motion to adjourn: 6:04PM by Chrissy and Karndeeep**