

Meet & Confer – December 16th, 2021 8AM

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

Graduate Student Reps:

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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. UMBC working on how to handle the equity issue of raising GERO stipends but not those of other graduate students on their campus
 - a) Supposed to get back to Dr. Lilly about this by the end of the year
 - B. Request for update on the possibility of Grammarly group plans for students
 1. Writing Center opposes the use of Grammarly for equity reasons
 2. Dr. Lilly going to connect us with the appropriate Writing Center contacts to discuss
- III. New Business
 - A. Campus safety orientation
 1. Most schools don't have any structured orientation regarding campus safety resources available to students and the few that do vary widely on timing and content. Any thoughts for conducting a more uniform orientation for incoming students and/or refreshers for current students?
 - a) They said Student Affairs went to every School and asked to be included in their orientations, suggested UMBPD should do the same
 - b) Suggested the GSA host a "refresher" at the new "Commons" aka grad student lounge in the Lexington Building when that opens
 - c) Discussed the possibility of joint Town Hall w/UMBPD and the Community Engagement Center to talk about ethically engaging with the local community
 - B. COVID testing and boosters
 1. Any plans to offer COVID boosters on campus? Students could briefly get them at SMC along with flu shots but they are no longer available

- a) Much confusion about this. They thought boosters are in fact available to students on campus, but none of us were able to find links with info about this
 - (1) Jon Kucksar following up on this
 - (2) Via email after the meeting, Jon communicated that UMIC does offer boosters buy is over capacity and asked that their services not be publicized
 - b) They emphasized “personal responsibility”
 - 2. Any plans to offer COVID testing on campus again, especially in light of omicron? Some campuses have free vending machines filled with take-home tests that reduce the personnel/space needed, for example
 - a) Ashley presented idea of using the Lyft program and/or Safe Ride to help transport students to the State Center for boosters/testing. Sydney following up with Chief Leone and Robert Milner
 - b) There are no plans to require mandatory testing again
 - c) Dr. Jarrell said they’ve considered providing rapid tests on campus but:
 - (1) Expensive (because they’re not labeled for resale so would have to be provided free-of-cost to the UMB community)
 - (2) Difficult to access
- C. GRE requirement for applying to UMB graduate programs
 - 1. Many universities have begun removing the GRE requirement for applying to graduate programs in favor of a more equitable and holistic approach. Some programs at UMB have recently followed suit; has there been any discussion of getting rid of the GRE requirement across all programs at UMB?
 - a) Short answer is no
 - b) Dr. Lilly said that programs feel like the GRE helps them compare students from different backgrounds; the GRE is not weighed as heavily as other parts of the application so it shouldn’t be a concern; it *is* predictive of success in graduate school
 - c) We are collecting data to refute this in a future meeting

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

A. Campus safety

- 1. Working to schedule an after-dark campus walk-through with Chief Leone and students, with special interest to the more affordable student parking option at the Lexington Rooftop
 - a) Discussed this along with the campus safety orientation above; students brought up concerns of the “poverty tourism” aspect of this sort of thing if not done appropriately, especially if would be led by uniformed police officers. Sydney following up with Chief Leone