



◆ **GSA Meeting Agenda**
Date: March 4th, 2020

1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:06

Hadley Bryan	Ashley Boidock	Chintal Shah	Sarah Tanveer
Sol Baik	Alyssa Grogan	Ashley Marquardt	McKayla Mickle
Jenny Afkinich	Kelly Rock	Tim Mowry	Gillian Mbambo
Chrissy Carney	Talia Guardia	Rachel McPherson	Jennifer Kirk

2. Review minutes of previous meeting -

- a. Motioned to approve: Chrissy Carney, Ashley Marquardt

3. Reports

a. President

i. Announcements

1. Meeting tomorrow 5-7PM SMC Ballroom B- student perspective on the renovations for Lexington Market
2. Reps for next year- send template out with meeting minutes
3. Next meeting we will be taking nominations for the new executive board!
We will be voting during the May meeting. If you are interested in a position, email us! We can tell you more about it, what each position involves, etc.

a. Exec Board:

- i. PR Rep - not running again
- ii. GC Rep - maybe running again
- iii. Secretary - maybe running again
- iv. President - not running again
- v. VP - Running for president
- vi. Treasurer - Not running again

ii. Meet & Confer Committee

1. Next Meeting in early April

2. Agenda items for next meeting?:

- a. Student Stipend: Stipends are set by each Program. Some programs are considering increasing the GA stipend. Can we write a few thoughts on our position between now and April meeting?
 - i. PHSR
 - ii. Transparency - how often do they look at Baltimore City inflation? Cost of living expenses?
 - iii. Interviewees effects their decision, quality of programs impacted
- b. Campus Smoking Policy
- c. Pratt Street Garage - has a lot of blind turns, cars speed down ramps and there is no way to tell if there's a car coming. Can we get mirrors installed so that you can see if anyone is coming? (contact Chief Carey first)
- d. Summer and non-semester parking options?

b. Vice President

i. Announcements

1. Social Activities Committee:

- a. Spring social @ Pickles: Friday, March 20th at 6PM
 - i. St. Patrick's Day theme - wear green, drink specials
- b. Plant Swap Social with PDAC
 - i. Location: MSTF atrium
 - ii. Date & time: May 21st, 4:30 PM start
 - iii. Basic event structure: B. Willow will teach a short course & participants can pot their own plant. Participants can also bring their own plant clipping to swap with someone.
 - iv. Budget: \$300 from PDAC and \$600 from GSA (extra money for socials)

1. Will pay for food/drink for event (dry event)
 2. B. Willow proposal:
 - a. \$150 instructional fee: 1hr class + 30min questions
 - b. \$20/person: includes plant care booklet, repotting small plant (2 inch plants→ tropicals, cactus, succulents with terra cotta pots + saucers)
 - i. 30 people attend: \$600 for plant & booklet
 - ii. With instructional fee: \$750 total
 - c. This could work with basic pizza + delivery fee but we would use all \$900
 - v. Advanced registration to gauge plant supplies and food needed (may offer special prize for those that show up first)
 - vi. Need to get projector and tables/chairs for MSTF
2. USGA Announcements:
 - a. Shuttle updates:
 - i. Fee for post-docs, staff, faculty starting in April
 - ii. Be sure to share any and all concerns on the UMB shuttle page using this [online form](#) (they do read every single one)
 - b. Student Organization Events coming up this semester (keep an eye out for event details in The Elm or Campus Life Weekly)
 - i. FILL OUT THE [CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY](#) (deadline is March 15th)
 1. Results will be used to decide what student services are needed, what gaps are

- ii. Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee:
 - 1. Anticipate 4 meetings/year (2 per semester)
 - 2. Need a rep from GSA
- iii. Creating a food pantry as well as emergency fund for students funded by money raised in philanthropy department
- iv. Looking for student rep to sit on Strategic Revitalization Advisory Committee for Lexington market

c. Treasurer

- i. Account
 - 1. Current Balance: \$14,174.09
 - a. (That balance does not reflect today's food)
 - 2. Fall funds not yet available due to system switch, we are working on it but please just keep me informed if you feel you're owed checks
 - 3. Checks for travel awards are available - come pick them up!
- ii. Student Group Funding:
 - 1. Allocated: \$832.98
 - 2. Reimbursed to date: \$594.46
 - 3. Left: \$1,205.54
- iii. Allocate 1,500 per quarter to travel awards, and have not been allocating \$400 per quarter - want to make sure we are giving money to students. Ways to renegotiate the application: Options include to increasing the amount to \$500, more flexible language around how much money can be awarded - to be voted next time
 - 1. Think this is a good idea, conferences are often more than \$300
 - 2. Apply for funding before travel - tentative award and get reimbursed with receipts after attending (shift to accepted abstracts, pay for registration, etc) - similar to student group funding
 - 3. Proposed changes will be sent out with April agenda to be voted on

- d. Secretary
 - i. Announcements: Registration for the GRC is now closed. The GRC is this FRIDAY!
 - 1. Email link to students
 - ii. Volunteers for the GRC: We are still seeking volunteers for the GRC! [Please consider volunteering for this great event!](#)
 - e. Grad Council rep
 - i. Announcements:
 - 1. Scoring Research Awards! If you are on committee, look out for event
 - ii. U of M grad council: No major updates. Union bill was reintroduced, UMBC continues to be staunchly against the bill - may need to discuss coming up with a statement again depending on where it goes.
 - f. PR
 - i. Announcements: Grad Gazette comes out this Friday - stay tuned!
 - ii. Communications Committee
 - iii. Volunteer Committee:
 - 1. Volunteering Untapped - More labor intensive work this month (The Loading Dock 2 N. Kresson St., Baltimore, MD, 21224) there will be indoor and outdoor activities! Next Saturday, March 14th at 10:00am!
 - 2. Baltimore Free Farm is having a volunteering event - will be harvesting plants. On March 27th - stay tuned for more information!
 - g. Meyerhoff: No updates
 - h. NOVA: Brain awareness week in two weeks! We will be going out two local middle schools to teach them about science and the brain! This year we are also partnering with a similar organization at Hopkins to put on an event called BrainFest - March 21st at Frederick Douglass Middle/High School. Let us know if you are interested!
4. Old Business:
- a. Graduate Student Lounge Update
 - i. Administration is still moving to 1st floor Lexington by this April. We will

not move there because the new building will be completed within 1.5 years so it would be a waste of money

ii. Building details:

1. 1st floor coffee shop, food, meeting spaces (looks like the GRID)
2. 2nd floor biopark and graduate school will share. Biopark offices = incubator space for Biomed companies, promote interactions between grad students and startup companies
3. 3rd floor shared conference rooms that we would reserve for meetings, orientation, GRC

iii. Concerns:

1. Alter a pre-existing shuttle route by a couple blocks to create a stop outside the building
2. Relationship with coffee/first floor vendors (because we sometimes rely on SMC CulinArt for events, ice, etc.)
3. What about the next 1.5 years?? They offered to build a storage/lounge space but it would be done very inexpensively and I can explain in more detail but the feeling is that it won't be worth it because it would end up underutilized
 - a. Concern that they will not give us the new lounge because will have the temporary one

5. New Business:

- a. Collective Bargaining Bill HB 214/ SB 658: Approved in the House, discussion of bill in the Senate for next year
 - i. College Park, Bowie state, Eastern shore, support bill
 1. Wages, work hours of employees - large issue at College Park with Meet & Confer
 2. 'No instance where students suddenly become employees with regard to withholding status'- Del Kramer (sponsor of bill)
 - ii. Towson chooses to not take a position on the bill
 - iii. Opposing- Senior Vice Chancellor for academic and student affairs for USM, Dean of Graduate studies at UMCP, UMBC students

1. Wage increase without budget increase leads to less students funded, FICA taxes (social security and medicare) withheld as employees(?), tuition remission taxable, increased health care premiums(?)
 - a. Statement from Del. Kramer is that these concerns are being raised to scare students off of supporting the bill.
 - iv. Happy with our current Meet & Confer system. Bill passing means we CAN unionize, do not have to. We are okay with bill passing but wish to remain neutral. Will not make statement until further movement.
 - v. Keep the bill on our radar for next year, will almost certainly be brought up again.
6. Upcoming Events:
- a. GRC- This FRIDAY March 6th!
 - b. Pickles Social Friday, March 20th
 - c. Bake Your Thesis- April 16th (5PM??)
 - i. Food will be the same (but less) than last year. There isn't really a committee for this but let me know if you have interest in helping to organize decorations or food.
 - d. Plant Swap Social in May
7. Other Business/Announcements
- a.

Date of next meeting: April 1st, 2020: SMC 351

Motion to adjourn: Ashley Marquardt, Sol Baik