



Graduate Student Association

GSA Meeting Agenda

Date: September 1, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/95895751767>

1. Welcome/Call to order: 5:02 PM

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!

Kasey Knopp	Alexander Malyshev	Alexis Cirko	Amanda Boyer
Ashley Marquardt	David Annis	Madeline Castagna	Emily Smith
Ioana Ghita	Jernelle Miller	Kellie-Ann Kelly	Kristen Montgomery
Lauren McCarthy	Makenzy Mull	Mashhood Wani	McKayla Mickle
Megan Stemberger	Megha Jeelson	Sanjana Rao	Sarah Clem
Sarah Tanveer	Theeb Alquria	Zakiya Carter	Chen Yan

2. Review minutes of previous meeting

- a. Motion to approve minutes: Lauren McCarthy and Alex Malyshev

3. Reports

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

- i. Welcome, Professor Shani Fleming! The Graduate School's inaugural Chief Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

1. Belonging Initiatives

- a. Looking at current practices & climate surveys to find barriers to belonging on campus

2. Ethos of the Graduate School- Jenny Owens - and how this fits into the University's Strategic Plan

3. Graduate School DEI Committee Initiatives: Belonging, Policies,

Curriculum, & Recruitment and Retention

- ii. National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month begins September 15th!
 - 1. Sept. 15th is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico also celebrates their independence day Sept. 16 and Chile's is Sept. 18th. Read more [here](#)
 - 2. Many upcoming events from the Intercultural Center in honor of this: [Latinx Faculty/Staff Social Hour](#), [Latinas en Baltimore: A Digital Storytelling Project](#), [Inventing Latinos: Systemic Racism and the Origins of the Anti-Latino Racial Logic](#), [Latinx Professionals Panel](#), [Latinx Community Social Hour](#)
 - iii. Orientation was last week
 - 1. Thanks to all who volunteered!
 - iv. Fall semester began this past Monday 8/30 for graduate students
 - v. Mental Health First Aid training offered to graduate students by the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center. September 29th and 30th, either mornings (8 AM - noon) or afternoons (1-5 PM) both days at the Community Engagement Center
 - 1. Teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders
 - 2. Register [here](#)!
 - vi. UM Urgent Care (Downtown campus) now accepts our Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)!
- b. **Vice President** - Rainer Butler (umb.gsa.vp@gmail.com)
- i. Orientation social finished up and was a success! Thanks for everyone's help!
 - 1. Next one will be winter social!!
 - ii. USGA - Nothing yet. First meeting on September 8th at 5:30pm on zoom
 - 1. All meetings will be on zoom this semester - I can forward meetings dates/links/ensure you get on the email list when you sign up!
 - 2. Need three people to sign up for seats (have two that have)

3. Need two alternates

c. **Treasurer** - Gillian Mbambo (umb.gsa.treasurer@gmail.com)

- i. Account Balance is \$21228.65
 1. Deposited \$14K into checking account
 2. 2020-2021 rollover: \$7228.65
- ii. Orientation:
 1. Budgeted: \$17200
 2. Spent: \$18,558.65 (Had to pay \$1000 for 10-man staff for serving food due to COVID restrictions)
 3. Over budget: \$1358.65
- 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)
- iv. Budget Proposal: \$38,968.98

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. If you’d like to receive a Google Calendar invite for GSA meetings, please let me know.
- iv. 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.
- v. NAMI at UMB is looking for e-board members. If you are interested, please fill out the following Google Form by Sept. 10

<https://forms.gle/puZSaYEkMPCNVao4A>

- vi. The MD Psychiatric Research Center is hosting Mental Health First Aid Training September 29-30 at the Community Engagement Center. The 8 hour training is free for graduate students and certification is good for 3 years. Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=xYkCqkvzBEWGoZ55PRzwrcEeKBSsUqNAm6GgfjJ84GFUOVZBSUQzSFZJVVRLWIZGMIIQVIFWVWNSS4u>
- e. **Grad Council Rep** - Nikita Aggarwal (umb.gsa.gcrep@gmail.com)
 - i. Outstanding mentor award recipient- Dr Jacques Ravel
 - ii. No Grad council meeting yet
- f. **Public Relations** - Jenn Kirk (umb.gsa.pro@gmail.com)
 - i. The Grad Gazette web page is getting a makeover!
 1. The first issue of the grad gazette will come out on Tuesday, Sept. 7th. Every issue thereafter will come out on the first Monday of the month.
 2. 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/>
 3. GSA Instagram/Twitter?
 - ii. Volunteer/Outreach subcommittee planning meeting TBD (2nd or 3rd week of Sept.)
 1. [Link to doodle poll if you want to join this subcommittee's meetings](#)
 2. [Link to subcommittee sign-up sheet](#)
 - 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](#)
 3. [Link to doodle poll for 1st committee meeting](#) (approx 30 minutes)
- g. **Meyerhoff**
 - i.
- h. **NOVA**

- i. NOVA's Movie Night event will be on September 10th from 6-10pm! We will be screening the movie Hidden Figures. Look out for a flyer and other info 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. Cost of Attendance Issues & Graduate Student Unsubsidized Loan limits (Kasey Knopp/Jenn Kirk)
 - 1. For individual's with less financial support from family and/or living with chronic conditions the process of petitioning for an increasing the cost of living calculation can be not only burdensome, but it is also not clear.
 - 2. Several students with such situations have reported that the amount of loans they were offered this year was reduced by nearly half! It is unclear how the school makes this determination and we would like to ask for the formula or justification for the cost of living/attendance supplied by financial aid to be clarified and/or increased due to serious cost of living increases in Baltimore area.
 - 3. Sydney will follow up with Patricia Scott about these questions
 - 4. Review of the "allowed loan" equation should be included in stipend review process

- 4. Old Business:

- a. Old announcements

- i. Do you live in campus housing? Interested in serving as the student voice for a UMB Police campaign around UMB housing? Please let me know!
 - ii. United Students of African Descent are looking for engaged UMB students to serve on their Executive Board (Secretary, Treasurer, USGA Liaison) and to sit as members of their newly formed PanAfrican Festival Committee. Reach out to President Alicia Jiggetts (umaryland.usad@gmail.com) for more information
 - iii. 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. They want to wait until we have the

official Fall 2021 student address data since the current data set is old

- iv. Blue lights will be revamped within a year or so
 - b. Meet & Confer updates
 - i. Meeting occurred on 08/19/2021
 - 1. Asked about classifying parking as an educational cost and how “cost of attendance” is determined. Meeting with Patricia Scott later this week for more information
 - 2. Annual stipend review: committee formation is ongoing. Let me know if you would be interested in serving on this committee. Will likely meet 2x/year once established (likely an extra initial meeting this Oct/Nov)
 - 3. We asked about COVID-19 as we move into the new academic year. It does not seem like there are any formal plans for things to change in the near future
 - a. We asked if there was any way to release data on transmission on campus so 1. People can feel more comfortable with what’s happening around them and 2. People don’t have to learn about cases near them through rumors
 - i. The short answer is “no”
 - ii. We’re recommending a more clear/easy-to-access system that might encourage people to report positive tests to the University
 - ii. Interested in serving on this committee? Let me know!
 - ii. Interested in serving on this committee? Let me know!
 - c. UMB Shuttle
 - i. Monthly meetings begin again next week; please let me know if you have any questions or concerns that should be brought up!
5. New Business:
 - a. Thoughts on returning to in-person GSA meetings - SMC didn’t have a room large enough and with AV for us to have an in person meeting this month
6. Upcoming Events:

Date of next meeting: October 6, 2021 (possibly hybrid meeting)

Motion to adjourn: Lauren and Kristen