

UMCES Graduate Student Council Meeting
September 7, 2021
2-3:30pm

In attendance: Anna, Kia, Maddy, Sarah, JJ, Tan, Taylor, Amy, Larry (just for the beginning)

- 1) New secretary role
 - a) Anyone interested in replacing Claire's secretary role. Duties: taking minutes during GSC meetings.
 - b) Maddy is new secretary! Her notes in color(s).

- 2) USM Student Council (USMSC), Admin Council, COVID Communication Team Updates, DEIC Updates:
 - a) USMSC
 - i) UMCES has two voting seats on the USMSC- meet monthly (ZOOM, on Sundays)
 - ii) New President (Yvonne Harper) and VP of Graduate Affairs (Stephen Jenkins).
 - iii) Kia and Anna are meeting with VP of Graduate Affairs (Stephen Jenkins) on Friday, 9/10
 - (1) Onboard USMSC Meeting Sunday, 9/12
 - (2) Monthly USMSC meeting Sunday, 9/19
 - (a) GSC can always fill in for Anna or Kia if one or both of them are unable to attend meetings. USM council committee opportunities - good opportunity to meet people/students.
 - b) Admin Council Updates
 - i) Last met in July- not too much to report back on- updates from DEIC, Covid (see below),
 - ii) Anna reported about new GSC members, spoke about updating GSC bylaws/policy, SME (Statement of Mutual Expectations) forms.
 - c) COVID Communications Updates (Sporadic "pop-up" USM-wide meetings)
 - i) Anna and Kia attend these pop up meetings run by Dave Nemazie
 - ii) Had been planning for 100% back to campus, but with Delta variant, EC is not recommending everyone to come back in September
 - iii) Classrooms are open so some instructors are teaching hybrid
 - iv) Masks required on campus
 - v) Working on a teleworking policy to define telework vs remote work
 - vi) **If questions arise about vaccinations or any part of the Return to Campus plan, contact Anna and Kia so they can find out from Dave Nemazie et al.**
 - d) DEIC Updates (Open meetings every other month)
 - i) Climate assessment subcommittee (7 people from DEIC) were meeting weekly to move forward with climate assessments

- ii) Have been in communication with Kardia Group- seems like **Kardia Group listening sessions will occur end of October**, AGU (pilot study for American Geophysical Union) is still TBD
- iii) Drafted email for Peter to send out- he is on board, supportive and will email all UMCES before climate assessment groups reach out to all
- iv) Rescheduling Community Building Workshop with Dr. Carlton Green (ODI (Office of Diversity and Inclusion) at UMD)- would like to try during UMCES All student meeting (more below)

3) Planning UMCES Student Body Meeting

- a) Last year, we had first UMCES wide Student Body Meeting on 9/11.
- b) GSC + 20-25 students came
- c) Spoke about covid updates, MEES Colloquium, registering for units/credits, GSC updates, student Q&A, Nancy Shapiro talked about civil engagement
- d) When to schedule for this year? **Aim for sweet spot between later September and before Midterms/Mid-Oct.**
- e) What to include
 - i) Community Building Workshop - need to check Dr. Green's availability
 - (1) **Reach out to students to ask "What would you like to see in Agenda" before sending out Agenda to help student interest/involvement.**
 - (2) **Reminders to share at Student Body Meeting:**
 - (a) **PhD students advancing to candidacy must tell business office to get pay raise**

4) President's Monthly Meetings

- a) Peter and Lori Stepp approached Anna last year to help organize monthly President meetings where a handful of students can meet directly with Peter and members of Executive Council. Kind of modeled it off of meetings w/USM Chancellor Jay Perman - **Maddy will continue this.**
- b) First meeting in April had theme of Professional Development and Networking
 - i) Handful of students (Anna & others), Fredericka Moser, Eric Davidson, Peter Goodwin attended. No anonymous questions submitted beforehand, but was a productive conversation.
- c) Second meeting in May had theme of Outreach and Recruitment
 - i) Lora Harris, Alex Gibbs and Amber Fandel, Peter Goodwin attended
- d) GSC suggestions included:
 - i) posting calendar with topics (currently Lori usually decides the week of the meeting) - would facilitate involvement if students have an idea of subjects in advance - **Create/Post to UMCES/Lab Google Calendars**
 - ii) Allow students to suggest who they think should / could attend meetings (fellow students? admin?)
 - iii) Meeting minutes to disseminate thoughts, Qs, etc. after the meeting (follow-up)

5) Accreditation Evaluation Team

- a) Amy Griffin - accreditation process, reaccreditation started two years ago - self-study document from faculty and students going over governance and education structures + goals submitted and next is the evaluation. Middle states send six evaluators (peers) to follow up, meet with different groups (faculty senate, GSC) and Amy is currently working on Agenda for said evaluation to set up interactions necessary for investigation (GSC will have this meeting).
- b) Larry Sanford - tentative schedule set up (subject to change), set up three concurrent break-out groups in afternoon - discuss how evaluation teams can help improve UMCES Student Services **(2-3pm Monday Oct. 4th). Private meetings with GSC Tuesday Oct. 5th 11am.** Need numbers - GSC please try to attend/really important. **Tuesday afternoon 3pm Diversity Equity and Inclusion Meeting.** Read submitted self study mentioned by Amy for preparation - chapters 3 & 4 Executive summary.
- c) **GSC REQUEST - email before meetings with solidified date/times and an understanding of role/expectations, what we can do to prepare (Self-Study chapter review or if what kind of topics are relevant for evaluation).**
 - i) **All GSC in private Tuesday, Oct. 5th GSC 11am. Goal is 2x2 for others (Student Services & DEIC)**

6) Updates on ongoing tasks, upcoming student opportunities

- a) Code of Conduct (CoC)
 - i) Draft CoC approved by EC (Executive Council) and was shared with all shared governance groups. Some comments from faculty about how it is not aligned with CoC from other schools and would be better called a "Code of Professional Behavior". More to come.. Amy hoping to encourage use of DEIC to help/keep these changes productive and meaningful. "Professional xxx *Guidelines*"?
- b) Updating GSC Bylaws/Policy
 - i) Kia and Anna meeting Friday to finalize these and then send them to get approved by EC
- c) SME
 - i) Anna and Kia meeting Friday to finalize these and send them to get approved by EC
- d) Ombuds - Supposed to get approved by EC, Student Ombuds at College Park (Steve, knowledgeable Grad Student ombudsperson) **PLEASE REMIND STUDENTS THAT THIS IS AN AVAILABLE RESOURCE - especially students w/ university health insurance questions.**
- e) Student opportunities:
 - i) Monthly meetings with President Goodwin and leadership team - sign up to attend
 - ii) Professional Development workshops

- (1) If you have ideas for PD workshops, please reach out to folks (ex. faculty at your lab) and think about organizing if you think it will be useful to multiple students

7) Other updates:

- a) Applied Env Science Course (Cont. from Meet and Confer)
 - i) Many complaints throughout the years, some recent ones from the course last Spring that were very concerning.
 - (1) Meet and Confer survey to students, two people wrote about course.
 - (2) Anna and Kia working with Meg Muncasky (President of MEES GSO) on drafting a letter summarizing the overall student attitude about this course. Will run this by GSC before we send to MEES and UMCES PCCs.
 - (3) Hoping to have some concerns met before course is offered in Spring 2022
 - ii) Amy mentioned that UMCES/MEES PCC (forget which one) was interested in having a Town Hall about this issue so might see more information about that in the future. **Please bring up ideas to Amy/Larry**
- b) Possibility of GSC Budget
 - i) Lynn wanted to bring this up with Unit Directors since they hold budget authority over most the unrestricted funding
 - ii) UMCES not authorized by USM Board of Regents to set or change student fees since we are admitted through other institutions. Thought there could be future prioritization for this- asked to follow up in October when we know more about budget and there could be "good news"
- c) Collecting information on collective bargaining
 - i) Suggestion from M&C is to have handout/organized information to deliver to UMCES students about Collective Bargaining so they can make more informed decision when it is brought up everywhere
 - ii) Anna, Kia, and Amber are meeting with student members of the Fearless Student Employees of UMD on Friday 9/10 to discuss
- d) Chancellor Meet-ups
 - i) Two students from every USM institution can attend - new GSC members are encouraged to attend!
 - ii) Need two names for September meetup (Sunday, Sep 26th, 10am-12pm)
 - (1) Theme: Campus Orientation/Back to School Student Leaders
 - (a) Thank you to Sarah for attending this month's meetup!

Other updates:

- Maddy working on UMCES Sweatshirt - more info to come soon hopefully

Action Items:

- Anna email Dr. Green to check availability for community building workshop
- Anna email Lori Stepp and cc Maddy to continue President Meetings
- Figure out students to attend first accreditation meeting on Student Services- 4 students
 - Should we do 2 from GSC, and then open it up to all students?
- Amy to send email about expectations on accreditation meetings
- Create draft email for reps to send out at beginning of semester with guidelines, reminders, etc