Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Meeting Agenda
Monday, September 17, 2018
CC 165-169
12pm-1:45pm

Lunch -- 12:00PM
Call to Order
Welcome
Canan started the meeting at 12:18pm
Read through the agenda
Present - last years senators, GSS, undergrad representatives

1. Introductions -- 12:15PM
❖ Canan Cevik, President
Introduction - studies and work with GSS
• Organize/Mobilization of the formation of Student committee
• Food security - the greatest issue the GSS engages in, food is becoming expensive and unaffordable for most students
• Different initiatives on campus through GSS and collaboration with different bodies on campus to ensure that students have access
• Senate elections coming up - participate/spread the word
• Currently, there haven’t been a lot of people who have shown interest

Molly (On Food Security)
• Still needs members to join the group
• A proposal currently available -- a model that might provide ways to ensure that students have access to food
❖ Beyza Alpaydin, *Vice President*

First Elected last February
Chair election and childcare committee
In charge of the Senate elections
Encourage people to participate in the elections

❖ Bianki Torres, *Treasurer*

Works with GSO coordinator - a clear system that outlines what is expected of GSO
Funds - talked about important of funds
Chair of the finance committee - looking for people interested to take part in the committee
Disbursing funds

Talked about funding - GSO asking for money
-Funding can’t exceed $500
-Reps usually available to talk about funding
Q. How much more funding has been asked for? Usually 5 or 6 requests in a semester
-Why do they need the whole amount? (senator question)
-treasurer thought the GSO asking for money had a detailed breakdown of why they needed the money
-Can funding issues be tabled in the next meeting
Can the applications be seen through the meeting? - Finance meeting does/has done the filter in the past
-No reason to make them wait - (however can this body release the fund bearing in mind that this body has not been elected yet)?
-Can they run their meeting if they don't have the funding?
---general rule - officers try not to make any funding decisions except maybe in the summer
Voting - Passed, 4 four, 1 against, 0 abstain
Amount $ 500 for the GSO - 7 approve, 1 object, 1 abstain
❖ Nadia Al-Ahmed, *International Student Coordinator*
Introduced herself -
Met with IPO last week
Reach out to IPO - there is someone on call 24/7 if you have any issues
IGS advisory board
❖ Mariam Rashid, *Gender and Racial Equity Access Coordinator*
❖ Justin Burch, *Graduate Student Organization Coordinator*
Introduction - help current GSO to not navigate financial issues but also work with the GSOs to take up issues and work collaboratively
Reach out if you have any questions - out details on the website
❖ Olivia Laramie, *Graduate Student Senate Coordinator* - absent
❖ Alyssa Goldstein, *GEO Co-Chair*
Voting: co-chair voting tomorrow

❖ Timmy Sullivan and Nathalie Amazan, *SGA President and Vice President*
Nathalie expresses their wish that the SGA and GSS work in concert this year.
Working on marginalization on campus. Today 5:30 food insecurity meeting.
Timmy expresses desire to work with the GSS as well. Ask for systemic change on combined issues of students on campus.
  ● Natalie - Emphasizing relationships between undergrad body SGA and GSS
  ● Addressing issues affecting students - UMPD about last weeks issues, beyond sending email
  ● Food insecurity (affects both grad and undergrad Students)- 5:30pm (how do we get involved)?
  ● Getting involved in different projects--including political issues, please reach out
  ● Email students about food insecurity meeting taking place at 5:30pm - GSS
(Canan to reach out to the grad students) and forward the proceedings/resolutions of the meeting

- Collaborate
- Address problems collaboratively - GSS and SGA

❖ Jiya Nair, Student Trustee
Representative of UMass Amherst at the board of trustees for the UMass system.
Represents both undergrad and grad students.
- Rep UMass on the board of trustees - undergrad, grad and employees
- Issues - access to student spaces, (Student Union under renovation), funding, visibility - able to work with student government
- jiyanair@umass.edu - reach out if there are any issues you want to talk about (Jiya Nair, Student Trustee)

2. Presentation 12:45PM

- Campus Reaccreditation Self-study by Nancy Cohen, Professor of Nutrition & Senior Planning Officer, Chancellor’s Office: [http://www.umass.edu/planning/neasc](http://www.umass.edu/planning/neasc)
  - Universities must be accredited in order to get funds by NEA (in the future NECHE)
  - How do universities meet standards - understanding your mission, are you planning and evaluating and making changes that you learn from, organization and governance, academic programs, students, institutional resources, effectiveness, integrity--
  - Have specific standards - 184 e.g are faculty responsible for carrying out their roles?
  - Compliance - are we compliant?
  - Student success - obtained from strategic plans
  - A site visit on October - how is UMass doing?
  - GSS meeting on the 22, will also be open meeting
  - Campus planning resource committee will also be meeting -
  - Web - umass.edu/neas - check all the info from the web page (on the website you can find research about the university - lots of data on different departments/issues etc.

3. Getting Involved in the Graduate Student Senate -- 13:05
• **Become a Senator**
  ❖ What does it mean to be a GSS senator?
  ❖ Overview and Elections
  ❖ Q&A

• **Getting Involved beyond the Senate**
  ❖ **Committees and Councils**

  Graduate Students have a seat at the table for every committee/council that reviews issues pertinent to graduate students. Most of these committees and councils operate through the faculty senate and meet on a monthly basis. We want to ensure that we have diverse representation on these committee/councils so we have created a system to help get senators involved. For information on faculty senate committees please visit their [website](#). If you are interested in serving on a committee for the current academic year please complete this [application](#).

4. **Setting the Senate Agenda for the academic year ahead -- 13:20**

  • A survey about the most salient issues graduate students are facing.
  • The most desirable programming/events grad students want GSS to pursue

  Please fill out the [survey](#). We would appreciate your collaboration as we would like to serve the best interests of our graduate student body.

  • Open discussion

5. **Reminders/Events -- 13:40**

  • **GSS Senator Elections**

  Being a senator provides a great opportunity to get involved in serving the graduate student community. These are important dates to keep in mind:

    ● *Nominations* - Sep 11th to 24th
    ● *Campaigning* - Sep 25th to Oct 1st
    ● *Online elections* - Oct 2nd to Oct 4th

  • **Prospective Senators Social**

    Thursday, September 20th, 2-3 PM - Hadley Room, 10th floor, Campus Center
Come enjoy refreshments and meet senators from the past year and potential new senators, learn more about the senate!

- **Childcare Application**
  
  The application for the Fall 2018 Childcare Assistance Program is now open and will stay open until Wednesday, October 3rd 2018. Late applications will not be accepted. The application form will be online on Campus Pulse. Please review the distribution policy before completing the application. You must sign in using your UMass NETID and password to submit an application.

Issues
- Food insecurity
- Funding is becoming an issues
- Housing
- Open communication with people in different departments (cabinet to physically reach out to departments - change tactic? How do we get about it)
- Nadia - talked about Thursday’s event (informal) to meet with student leaders and prospective senators.
- Have GSS slotted in the orientation programs to reach out to new students
- What benefits are there for the departments?