



GSS Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 18, 2017 | Meeting Time: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Room 333, Foster Administration Building

Adviser: Dr. David Milstone – Present

Guest(s): Alec Yonika - Present

Meeting Started: 5:05 PM

Meeting Ended: 6:15 PM

Executive Board

Office	Officer	Attendance
President	Hamza Malik (CCB)	Present
Vice President	Joy Smith (A&S)	Present
Treasurer	N/A	N/A
Secretary	Chioma Okafor (CCB)	Present

Senators

Officer	College	Attendance
Katyanne Shoemaker	SMAST	Present
Brendan Lyons	CVPA	Present
Jayashree Chakravaty	Engineering	Present
Aneeka	Education	Absent (Excused)
AJ Vincelli	Engineering	Present
Shelly Sousa	Education	Absent
Alicia Blanchars	Law	Present
Babar Ali	CCB	Absent (Excused)
Karima Ortolano	Law	Present

Committee	Discussions
Finance	<p>We decided to postpone the Treasurer position elections till next GSS meeting on October 10th, 2017.</p> <p>Hamza Mailk's Funding request – Presented by Joy & Hamza</p>



	<p>Katy motioned to fund Hamza \$750.00, Brendan seconded, 8 people were in favor, 0 opposed and there were 0 abstentions. Hamza was granted \$750</p>
<p>Social/Events</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know Your Senator Campaign – Presented by Hamza & Chioma In order to promote GSS, we will be having a campaign titled “Know Your Senator”. We will create profiles of all senators, including their pictures, advertise them by having weekly posts on our social media pages. We will work towards sending out questions to senators to give us info about themselves, and gathering their bios. 2. YMCA Volunteer Event Re-send email to all graduate students. Majority of students did not get the email although Karima mentioned that the law students received them. 3. Chioma will look into including a message to students, on the Eventbrite registrations, when events are fully booked.
<p>Policy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AJ read out the duties/description of the Finance, Social and Policy committee from the By-laws. • Finance committee is headed by the Treasurer; Social committee is headed by the Secretary and the Policy Committee is headed by the Vice President. • We will finalize the senators joining each committee in our next general meeting. 2. We will consider sending out emails to students about the open seat in Nursing and Arts & Science department. Send out email to students notifying them when there’ll be elections for these open positions.
<p>Other</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guest Issues presented by Alec Alec presented some issues concerning graduate students’ employment problems at UMassD. The two major issues raised were:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health insurance: There's currently no health insurance for employees who have assistantships. As a point of reference, he noted few other schools which offers health insurance, offers sick leave and tuition waivers for all graduate assistants.• Work Load: He usually works more than 20 hours while maintaining a full-time status. <p>Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alec's suggestion was to unionize the graduate student assistantships.• Dr. Milstone suggested involving the associate provost, Dr. Tesfay Meressi or the chancellor to address this situation, specifically Dr. Meressi. If we have to invite him to any of our meetings to address this situation, be sure to inform him of the issues upfront and ahead of time. This would allow him to explore other departments at UMassD to provide better solutions.• Invite Dr. Meressi and Kim for a special meeting on this situation.• Send out emails to graduate students to gather information on those facing same challenges.• AJ suggests including in message to the provost; Academic Bullying. <p>2. Chancellor's Hate Speech – Presented by Hamza GSS should talk to students in a more respectful and friendly way. Everyone should take initiative and take ownership as an organization. He'll go into more detail in our next meeting.</p>
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Katy motioned the meeting to a close.
Meeting ended: 6:15 PM.