# **Graduate Student Council**

## **GSC Assembly Meeting**

Held on Zoom Sunday, Febuary 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- I. Members in Attendance:
  - A. Nick Plummer, President
  - B. Tia Epps, Vice President
  - C. Sam Hicks, Chief of Staff
  - D. Cameron Heard, Treasurer
  - E. Dom Farrace, Coordinator of Public Affairs
  - F. Shelly Zaid- Kunz, Coordinator of Social Events and Outreach
  - G. AM, Assembly Member
  - H. NB, Assembly Member
  - I. Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost & Senior VP of Academic Affairs
  - J. Dr. Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies & Research

## II. Organization Updates

- A. General:
  - 1. Graduate Council-Graduate Boot Camp Interest Survey
    - a) Survey design nearing completion
    - b) Release expected soon
  - 2. USMSC-International Student Concerns
    - a) Resolution design in-progress
    - b) Nick presented progress to full-USMSC this morning
  - 3. USMSC-Hybrid Learning Concerns
  - 4. GSC Constitution Revisions
    - a) Position reclassifications (titles and descriptions) to be updated
    - b) Recruit protocols to be updated as needed
    - c) Revision process will adhere to the voting process, as detailed in Constitution
  - 5. USM Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarship
    - a) Aimed at recognizing exceptionally talented students who are making contributions in various ways to their campus and community.
    - b) Categories: Academics, Scholarship & Research,
      Outreach & Engagement, Leadership & Advocacy and Innovation & Creative Activity
    - c) Eligibility requirements:
      - (1) Current undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at a USM institution
      - (2) Be in good academic standing
      - (3) Be in good conduct/disciplinary standing
      - (4) Apply based on work/service that is not part of course or internship requirements or a job

- B. President Nick Plummer
  - 1. Will be leading the consitiustion revisions efforts. This will be a team efford and he will need full team support. There is a running draft in Teams.
  - 2. Looking ahead: Executive and Assembly recruitment for next year
  - 3. Will be attending SGA Forum to talk about grad school to undergraduate student leaders
- C. VP Tia Epps
- D. Chief of Staff Sam Hicks
  - 1. Powerful Connections happened the week before school started and was a huge sucess. ODI created some fun marketing materials that got over 3,000 views on instagram.
  - 2. Black History Month
    - a) Kick off
      - (1) 12/1/24, 7:30 pm, Hollaway
    - b) The Harriet Tubman Living History Preformance
      - (1) 2/3/24, 11am-1:30pm, Black Box Theater
    - c) Black History Month Trivia
      - (1) 2/4/24, 7pm, Wicomico Room
    - d) Black History Month Keynote Adress with Prof. Melanee Harvey
      - (1) 2/8/24, 6:30pm, Wicomico Room
    - e) Soul Food Dinner
      - (1) 2/9/24, 4:30pm-7:30pm, Bistro
    - f) Screening and Discussions: Summer of Soul- Directed by Quest Love
      - (1) 2/15/24, 6pm, Wicomico Room
    - g) Lecture with Prof. Sarah Rudewalker
      - (1) 2/19/24, 6:30pm, Great Hall
    - h) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Multicultural Gala- "Masquerade"
      - (1) 2/24/24, 7-10pm, Assembly Hall
    - i) Poetry Reading: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual African Read-in Dr. Ernie Bond
      - (1) 2/28/24, 6pm, CRC in TETC
    - j) Panel: "Celebrating and Saving Black History in Schools and Comminities"
      - (1) 2/29/24, 4pm, Wicomico Room
- E. Treasurer Cameron Heard
  - 1. Work on getting grad students in the box for a mens lacross game
    - a) Get Robby to be Sammy
- F. Public Relations Domanique Farrace
  - 1. She will continue to do takeovers on the instagram
- G. Social Events and Outreach- Shelly Zaid- Kunz
- H. Assembly/Campus Reports- AM
  - 1. Woking with Fulton Abssiatiors to do pop up advising.
- I. Assembly/Campus Reports- NB
  - 1. Will be working with Cam to do events in the box
  - 2. He is in charge of scheduling Sammy
- J. Dr. Laurie Couch and Dr. Clifton Griffin

- 1. How can we recruit more graduate students?
  - a) If we look into the retention from undergraduate to graduate school there might be a trend from the graduate assistants.
  - b) There are open house programs for general graduate school and specific programs—we need to increase awareness amongst students of these informational sessions.
  - c) How to contact people that might be intrested: social media, emails, signs and posters on campus, pannels
  - d) Big things that impact decisions: cost, benift, purpose, students do not see themselves in grad school
  - e) Clarity on what a graduate assistanship is
- 2. There was intrest in Social Work doctorate programs or Education
- 3. If there are specific development workshops that would be benificial, let Dr. Griffin know

## III. Upcoming Events:

- A. Posters on the Bay—2/6, 6-7:30PM @Governor Calvert House, Annapolis, MD
- B. Grad Nights @ Sea Gull Stadium Spring Semester
- C. Grad Gala/Spring Social
  - 1. What kind of event do we want this to be? What will it look like? More planning to come
- D. Spring Graduate Commencement Ceremony—May 22nd @6PM

#### IV. Concerns

### V. Questions

- A. How can we recruit more students?
- B. Are there any specific workshops that can benifit graduate students?

#### VI. Action Items:

- A. Nick &Sam:Get some flyers created for executive board
- B. Sam: reach out to Linsdsey to partner with Career Services
- C. Create an event that graduate students can get in the stadium box