

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order at 16:07

**Roll Call**

Present: President Khoshkepazi, Vice President McHugh, Treasurer Canner, Chief of Staff Bah, Senator Hall, Senator Dagenhart, Senator Hensgen, Senator Lucas, Senator Wells, Senator Bridglal, Senator Uche, Speaker Ha, Senator Godo

**Approval of Agenda**

Approved

**Approval of Minutes**

Approved

**Old Business**

* Task force findings
  + President Schmoke: Only system in the institution with a law school on the same campus
    - Used to be the states only upper division university
  + What is our new role as a 4-year university?
  + Regents came out with a set of 46 recommendations in 8 categories
    - Set up teams to implement these recommendations. Not a set of suggestions, we must implement it however possible.
    - Timetables for each category: Identity, Enrollment Management, Lower/upper division, Academic portfolio, Student experience, Marketing and Branding, Financial responsibility and Alignment, and Physical Environment committees
  + Will most likely be completely online in the Spring semester, maybe a few outdoor events in the warmer months depending on the health situation
  + Senator Dagenhart: What are the descriptions of each committee and duties to be performed
    - Academic Portfolio: Eliminate low enrollment courses to save money
  + Vice President McHugh: Could UB go in the direction of hybrid classes and creating partnerships with local businesses?
    - UB will never go fully online and become like UMGC. UB looking at more transfer students in the coming years and continuing education with certificates.
  + Senator Lucas: Will recruitment and retention be a part of Enrollment Management?
    - Yes, we will continue to focus on recruiting the best students and keeping the best students
  + President Schmoke: The 2005 decision to start admitting freshman was not a good decision, we lost a part of our identity. We were suddenly competing with community colleges that we had a partnership with. But now we know how to market to new freshman and I’m glad I made that decision.
* Task force committee discussion
  + Identity Committee: Daniel Khoshkepazi and Joseph Hensgen
  + Enrollment Management: John Lucas, Randy Wells, and Ashlyn Woods
  + Lower/upper division: April King
  + Academic Portfolio: Jason Dagenhart, Damilola Godo and John Lucas
  + Student Experience: Randy Wells, Sandra Uche, and Joseph Hensgen
  + Marketing and Branding: Amadou Bah and Daniel Khoshkepazi
  + Financial Responsibility: Camilla Canner, Kevin McHugh, and Joseph Ha
  + Physical Environment: Camilla Canner, Ashlyn Woods, and Carla Hall

**New Business**

* Plastic Straw resolution
  + Advocate to ban plastic straws in the city starting with the University
  + Speaker Ha motions to vote, Senator Dagenhart seconds
    - Passes 7-0
* White House resolution
  + Advocates to take a stance on the ban on government funded mandatory diversity training
  + Senator Wells motions to vote, Senator Hensgen seconds
    - Passes 7-0
* Calm app discussion
  + Tabled

**Executive Reports (Tabled)**

* President Khoshkepazi
  + Since our last meeting, I have continued working with USMSC on starting a draft letter addressing the recent changes related to White House Anti-Diversity regulations. We had a conversation about it at this Sunday’s USMSC executive team meeting. I had the opportunity to help Senator Wells on drafting a resolution on this matter as well which later found sponsorships with Senator Uche and Senator Jenkins who shared feedback and helped strengthen the document. Huge thank you to the chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Senator Wells as well as Senator Uche and Senator Jenkins for helping make this happen.
  + Since our last meeting, I have met with Treasurer Camila Canner to discuss initiatives they were interested in seeing SGA take on as we work on our Spring 2021 platform, we met with Ad-Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to discuss plans for resolutions to raise Pronoun recognition on campus and a resolution asking UB to implement at minimum one gender-neutral bathroom per building. The goal is to have these resolutions done by the end of this semester and work on advocating for these causes during the Spring semester.
  + I similarly met with Vice President Kevin McHugh to discuss plans on future expenditures and start the conversation about our Spring 2021 Platform. The Inclusion Alley development will be one of the central goals and legacies we create as part of this legislation. We also discussed bringing back the constitutional rewrite group soon so this group can start looking into growing SGA by implementing new positions such as Executive Vice President (in place of regular VP), Vice President for Academics, Vice-President for Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Vice President for Finance (Replacing treasurer), Vice-President for Public Relations (replacing Chief of Staff), Vice-President for Operations (Replacing Secretary) with the goal to make the organization more optimal and efficient in its operations and allow student leaders to have more opportunities to connect with school administrators. Vice President McHugh and I since early this week have been working hard on trying to staff the student representative positions on the Task Force implementation working groups. While the deadline is rigid, we are going to make sure students are represented in these working groups.
  + I also met with Chief of Staff Amadou Bah to discuss the need for more comprehensive social media plans as well as starting the building of the SGA website on SquareSpace. Hopefully, by the end of 2020, we will be able to launch our professional website! Developing a website takes a lot of talent, effort, and time, and I command Chief of Staff Amadou Bah for taking on this hard but very rewarding task.
  + Secretary April King and I had a meeting with AllTogether (App) to talk about possible future collaborations. While we did not find the AllTogether app helpful for our campus, we found some good ideas that we shared with Student Support. We have since followed up with Calm app, and Campus Life Chair Senator Joseph Hensgen has been very helpful with their interest to take leadership on this project. We met with Calm representatives and they have given us a great price quote and together with Secretary King and Senator Hensgen, we think this would serve our students well. There was also a technical difficulty that Secretary King and I came across in CampusGroups, which delayed our ability to create an application for the senate position, but thanks to CSI we were able to work past that technical difficulty and work out an application that will be shared with students in our next all-campus email.
  + Due to overwhelming support for SGA to take on environmental advocacy initiatives in our survey, I connected Senator Jensgen and Senator Jenkins to start-up student-led advocacy efforts to ban single-use plastic straws and microplastics in the City of Baltimore. We collaborated on a resolution that focuses on single-use plastic straws for now, and in the future, we may follow up with a resolution regarding microplastics. Senator Hensgen and Senator Jenkins were of great help with their feedback along the way. This is a great opportunity for us to lead a student-led effort within our city that will have a good impact for years to come on our environment. Seeing the survey results regarding how our students wanted to see us advocate for the betterment of the environment felt very empowering because it shows that the Univeristy of Baltimore students as a community are committed to making this world a better place.
  + At our last executive board meeting, we had the opportunity to connect with Interim-Provost Catherine Anderson and Assistant Provost Candace Caraco to discuss pass or fail grades. It was an interesting conversation because there seemed to be a very clear disparity between viewpoints regarding how the pandemic is affecting students during these times of adversity and what type of academic relief students need. We tried to explain that currently students are struggling and withdrawing from classes due to the pandemic and providing a pass or fail grade options could help those struggling to cope with the adversities of the COVID-19 pandemic continue their academic path, to which we were told that it would be in the students best interest to pay for the class again and take the class twice. Executive board members who were present disagreed with this notion because we saw it as inhumane to not provide appropriate academic relief during the pandemic. We shared with them examples of other universities such as Umass Amherst, the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Michigan, who are providing students with exceptional academic relief support, to what we were told that because our degree held a lesser value than degrees from the schools shared, they would not support giving students pass or fail grades. At that moment it felt disheartening for me to hear that our university provost and assistant provost do not believe that our degree has much value compared to other universities. We followed up on this conversation with an email asking for further consideration but from both parties, we were shut down. The only guest who understood the student perspective in this conversation was another guest Nicole Morano, who I want to personally thank for always being able to see things from the perspective of students. We will be following up with one more suggestion to allow students to petition for pass/fail grade where instead of opting out, the students would need to submit a written statement regarding their pandemic circumstances and why they need a pass or fail grade which would then be evaluated and possibly approved. We are excited to see how the Provost responds to this.
  + Lastly, I am excited for all the energy SGA has been putting into starting new initiatives in the past few weeks and I can’t wait to see them come into realization soon. If you have not yet, please take a moment and schedule a 1:1 meeting with me for the platform discussion, I would like to hear from every one of you before our next meeting, what you want to see SGA take on in the Spring, those ideas will be worked into the platform for Spring 2021 which is due at the end of this month. If we have learned anything this year it is that with hard work, commitment, and dedication we can accomplish anything, and I can’t wait to see everything else we do!
* Vice President McHugh
  + Reached out to Neb Sertsu regarding the status of the automatic doors in which SGA will possibly purchase 2 automatic doors. I also reached out about the development of the rainbow alley and developing the area by adding benches/tables and hooks for a potential tarp that will protect the paint of the alley.
  + Attended the USM Recommendation meeting in which UB Administrators discussed the implications or the USM recommendations. It seems that UB is focused on remaining a four-year university while enhancing the pathways program to increase enrollment.
  + I will be working on a resolution to ensure student representation is on the implementation committee of the USM recommendations.
  + I reached out to San Pablo's tacos and am waiting on a final confirmation from them.
* Treasurer Canner
  + SGAFC met to review supplemental funding requests, as well as looking ahead at how we want to receive the supplemental funding request from the SEB. Additionally, I met with Dan and Kevin to discuss the proposed SGA platform from a budgeting perspective. This included a proposal for a finals week care package for students, about which I am communicating with CSI.
  + Unrelated to my work as Treasurer, l am drafting a resolution concerning professor's use of students’ preferred pronouns (including pronouns in Sakai, gender diversity training, etc) that I am hoping to bring to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for Senate sponsorship
* Chief of Staff Bah
  + Social Management: I had a brief meeting with Treasurer Canner examining potential option(s) for our social media management; I acknowledged that we should go with what they had recommended, which is Hootsuite.
  + Student Voucher: I had a brief meeting with Vice President McHugh, reviewing the student voucher; I extended my support for what the Vice President has suggested, which is "Saint Pablos Taco." I am no longer considering we should cater to Kumari as I concluded this decision, the Vice President informed me that there is a conflict of interest with my connections with Kumari.
  + Committee Status: I've reached out to the Chair(s) for Committee status; only 1 Committee reported back. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusiveness Committee is working an LGBTQ History Month and Intersectionality and Identity Training. (This is excluding the projects that were mentioned in the email last week.)
  + Election Day Holiday Resolution: I had a brief meeting with Chairman Wells; I stated it's up to him and/or Senator Martinez if they're still interested in pushing for Election Day Holiday Res, no pressure on them; I am allowing them to have the freedom to decide.
  + Website Status: I've started working on the SGA website on SQUARESPACE; it'll look similar to the UMD Student Government website. I've created the tab a page containing; about, members, initiatives, news, and contact page. I didn't have a chance to speak with the President this weekend, unfortunately, but I am looking forward to sharing ideas and brainstorm for the rough layout draft; and as well as exploring and experimenting with other options. Thus far, the tabs and layout are completed. Stay tuned for a follow-up email requesting professional pictures from everyone; this will be published under the SGA members tab. The site isn’t public yet, but the domain name will be ubsga.org.
* Secretary King
  + USMSC: President Khoshkepazi has made me the chair of the Student Affairs committee for the USM Student Council. I have started thinking of ways to benefit every student in the USM community
  + Mental Health: President Khoshkepazi and myself talked with a representative from TogetherAll, a mental health forum for students and businesses. We decided not to do business with them, but it gave us some great ideas for our own Student Assistance Program. We met with Pavan and Tony to discuss these ideas, and met with a representative from the Calm app. Dan and myself will be presenting some information that she gave us.
  + President Khoshkepazi, Treasurer Canner, and I met with Candace Caraco and Catherine Andersen about the Pass/fail grading system as well as not requiring students to have their cameras on during zoom classes. To reiterate what Dan said, they were very uncooperative and condescending. Their reasoning (respectively) is that if we allow pass/fail grading, we wont be able to be on the same level of academic success as the Ivy league schools and it would make the degree mean less, and that teachers have the right to have an attendance rule which can include making students have their camera on.

**Committee Chair Reports (Tabled)**

* Finance- Treasurer Canner
  + SGAFC will meet this Friday to review supplemental funding requests, as well as looking ahead at how we want to receive the supplemental funding request from the SEB. Additionally, I met with Dan and Kevin to discuss the proposed SGA platform from a budgeting perspective.
  + We are working to bring on a new committee member, and to designate a vice chair.
* Campus Life – Speaker Ha
  + During conversations with President Khoshkepazi, we discussed what language should be included with the resolution to make more of an impact in the importance of banning single-use straws. With the discussion regarding the CALM app, we are very excited to bring a digital platform where our students will have different ways to maintain selfcare. Both will provide a holistic approach to UB moving forward as a vital leader, where other’ can look towards to heal students and community.
* Senator Dagenhart- Academic
  + The Grammarly Project. The project is in its final phases. We are dotting the “I’s” and crossing the “t’s”.
  + Discussion and collaboration about and for the newly-created Academic Portfolio Committee that the UB Task Force created. It is mentioned in the UB Task Force Report.
  + The goals of the new committee will be discussed in length at the next Academic Committee meeting to see what ideas we can brainstorm and if the Academic Committee has any role to play in providing assistance to the Academic Portfolio Committee.
  + Finding ways to work with UB to properly support struggling students within an online environment.
  + Several previous SGA concerns have been brought up by Senator Martinez, such as the necessity for grade changes (going to a flat grading system instead of a plus or minus).
  + How to keep an eye on academic integrity concerns during online learning.
  + Look into further talks about student pregnancy, veteran leave, or other unplanned issues out of student control when it comes to refunded tuition, reimbursed tuition.
  + Discussions about the consistency of teachers updating grades. Does it need to happen more?
* Senator Wells – Diversity
  + To date the DEI has met a about four times and have worked on a number of things ranging from the following.
  + Gathering Information for both LGBTQ History Month and Indigenous People Day
  + Discussed ideas on how to make inclusion alley more useful (plans are in the works)
  + Worked on the Automatic Door Resolution
  + Worked on the White House Resolution
  + One issue that has come up is will this committee return next school year, Senator Wells stated that it’s possible we can draft up a resolution before the end of the Spring Semester and submit it for consideration
  + Drafting a Resolution for the DEI to continue as a committee next School Year.

**Open Forum**

* Tabled

**Advisor Comments**

* Mental Health has been a successful main focus the past few years for SGA
* Be careful with the implementation of this (i,e. Usage)

**Adjournment**

Adjourned at 17:54