**Student Government Association (SGA) General Body Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** April 7, 2025
**Time:** 5:00PM
**Location:** Room 2E29 and via Zoom (<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/98597285043?pwd=gNNF1Bm9aBuQYeX46rQcrHkSCsVqIE.1>

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by SGA leadership. A brief round of introductions followed. It was acknowledged that some students had conflicting 6:00 PM classes, and the meeting would proceed with that in mind.

**2. Dean Postmus' Remarks**

Dean Judy Postmus addressed the group and welcomed an open conversation about recent concerns. The primary issue discussed was the article published in *The Elm* that unintentionally included editorialized language about two student delegates. Dean Postmus clarified that while the university allowed the article to remain, the editorial content was removed. She emphasized the delicate balance between academic freedom and social responsibility, noting the school’s need to navigate controversial matters with caution given current national tensions.

She reiterated that silence does not mean inaction and encouraged students to spotlight their values through strategic, inclusive communication—such as highlighting diverse student stories around graduation. The administration is working on building a stronger, more deliberate communication process moving forward and remains open to feedback.

**3. SGA Business**

**Elections**

Vice President Trinity Cephas facilitated the SGA elections. Each candidate gave a brief speech expressing their interest and goals for the upcoming year. Results were unanimously in favor of all candidates. The 2025–2026 SGA Executive Board is as follows:

* **President:** Chloe Kastner
* **Vice President:** Emma Charles
* **Recording Secretary:** Thomas Northrup
* **Corresponding Secretary:** Madeline Bennett
* **Treasurer:** Margaret Boyle

Congratulations were extended to all incoming officers!

**4. Student Leader Updates**

* **Senator Updates:** Christa did not have updates at this time.
* **Macro Union:** Jamie announced an upcoming AP meeting and skills-building event on April 21st at 6 PM (90 minutes, food provided). All students are welcome.
* **Emma Burke:**
	+ Shared updates from the Field Committee:
		- The concern regarding international placements (lack of early communication with field instructors) has been addressed.
		- Sonia will not be adopted as a field management platform due to functionality concerns. Alternatives for integrating student feedback into the current EN system are being explored (via survey and/or panel).
		- The suggestion to create a “Rate My Placement” system was discussed, but it was deemed more appropriate as a student-led, peer-to-peer platform.
		- Clarified that UMB’s field hour requirement (1080 hours) exceeds the CSWE minimum (900 hours) by 180 hours. This difference is under review and may warrant further discussion.

**5. Student Opportunity – Campus Advocacy**

Students were encouraged to get involved in upcoming advocacy efforts, including working with the new E-Board to plan a field-focused event on April 21st at 12PM in the SSW auditorium. The event aims to foster connection between Foundation and Advanced students and create space for field discussion, with food and potential involvement from liaisons and coordinators.

**6. OSS Updates**

No official OSS updates were presented, but coordination with the office continues for end-of-year events.

**7. Student Concerns**

* The Lavender Graduation was announced and encouraged as a space to celebrate LGBTQ+ students and allies.
* Broader conversations on inclusion, free speech, and the importance of carefully crafted institutional messaging were revisited, building off of Dean Postmus' remarks.

**Adjournment**

The meeting concluded with a reminder of upcoming events and a thank you to all attendees. Meeting adjourned at about 6PM

**Attendance**

* Abigail Patschorke
* Adrian Hinderlie
* Brianne Hoyt
* Caroline Sprow
* Chloe Kastner
* Christa Gloster
* Courtney Fullwood
* Dawn Schafer
* Dylan Gugerty
* Elizabeth DeMarco
* Emma Berk
* Emma Burke
* Emma Charles
* Greta Michels
* Henriette Taylor
* Jamie Delaney Baggett
* Judy Postmus
* Khalia Scott
* Madeline Bennett
* Madeline Weisman
* Margaret Boyle
* Mars Tamara
* Neijma Celestine Donnor
* Pslams Thomas
* Theo Reinert
* Thomas Northrup
* Trinity Cephas
* Yakiraah Corley
* Zara Pollack
* Top of Form
* Bottom of Form