**SGA General Body Meeting Minutes**
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024
**Time:** 5:00 - 6:00 PM
**Location:** Room 2E29 and via Zoom
**Zoom Link:** <https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/98597285043?pwd=gNNF1Bm9aBuQYeX46rQcrHkSCsVqIE.1>

**Call to Order**

Attendees were welcomed to the food and drink bar—the meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by SGA President Courtney Fullwood.

**Agenda Items**

**Dean Lehning - Student Feedback**

* **New Field Practicum Technology Fee:**
	+ Proposed changes to tuition and fees to keep programs running smoothly.
	+ Student Activity Fee increase: Currently $51 (down from $63). Proposal to raise it again to support events like SGA, orientation, and lavender ceremonies.
	+ Online students will continue to have an additional technology fee due to platform differences.
	+ A new $100 field technology fee for incoming students starting Fall 2025 (one-time fee). The new system will replace EFN and affect only incoming students' first semester.
* **Tuition Changes:**
	+ Recommendations not yet approved; pending board review.
	+ Grandparented full-time students (pre-FY2023) remain the same.
	+ Tuition increases proposed for Fall 2025:
		- Per credit resident: +7.8%
	+ Per credit non-resident: +5.0%
	+ Online resident MSW: $676 to $729 (+7.8%)
	+ Online non-resident MSW: $1,307 to $1,372 (+5%).
* **Clarification on Per-Credit Tuition:**
	+ Dean Taylor emphasized that the move to per-credit tuition was in response to student concerns about equity and fairness.
	+ This remains an important point of transparency when addressing tuition changes.
* **Financial Aid and Scholarships:**
	+ Dean Diaz noted efforts to expand scholarships and secure additional private funding to support students.

**Group Leaders**

* No major updates were shared during this session.

**Committees**

* **Field Committee:**
	+ Discussed trends in student experiences:
		- Increased switching from dual Clinical/Macro to a single concentration after the school year begins.
		- Rising requests for weekend field options to accommodate unique student circumstances.
		- Students switching from extended to traditional field schedules during the year, causing logistical challenges.
	+ New Field Platform to replace EFN:
		- A demo was presented. Implementation for Advanced Field and Introductory Field applications begins soon.
		- Beta testing status is TBD; follow-up will occur with the Field Office.
		- IT support and collaboration are in place to ensure a smooth rollout.
	+ Upcoming Virtual Town Hall:
		- Planned for January to address field-related concerns for rising Advanced Year students.
		- Will include Shady Grove campus participants.
		- An interest form will be sent to gauge attendance.
* **Field Macro Cohort:**
	+ A policy-focused cohort model is planned for Fall 2026.
	+ Key components:
		- Policy, community, and organizational management focus.
		- Two-year fellowship beginning in Foundation Year.
		- First-year placements will include 75% macro-related activities.
	+ Funding Challenges:
		- State funding unlikely due to Maryland’s budget crisis.
		- Focus on securing private funders and foundations.
	+ High School Visit:
		- Scheduled for January 24, 9 AM - 12:30 PM.
* **Macro Student Union:**
	+ Successfully launched with 9 attendees.
	+ Committees formed:
		- Macro alumni event.
		- Outreach to Shady Grove and UMBC BMW programs.
		- Community-building initiatives (e.g., attending events as a group).
	+ Newsletter Initiative:
		- Working on a monthly newsletter titled "The Disrupter."
		- Expected release: January.
	+ Next Meeting:
		- Will be virtual and held before classes resume.

**USGA Senators**

* **Middle States Accreditation Cycle:**
	+ Student leaders are needed for the evaluation team chair meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 3:30 - 4:15 PM (Saratoga Building).
	+ Courtney and Chloe volunteered to attend.
* **Campus Safety Feedback:**
	+ Information shared with Dean Lehning to address concerns raised by the student body.

**LMSW Licensure Prep Reminder**

* A recorded session from today will be released soon.
* **Dr. Boon's Course:**
	+ Available online and can be completed anytime.
* **Live Study Sessions:**
	+ Dates to be announced via email.

**Q&A and Student Concerns**

* **Child Welfare Scholarships:**
	+ Applications are due January 15 (early deadline) and March 31.
	+ OSS sent out details via email.
* **Budgeting Concerns:**
	+ OSS funding must be allocated before semester’s end to prevent funds from being absorbed.
	+ Placeholder ideas (e.g., Spring Fling, guest speakers) are required.
* **Additional Student Feedback:**
	+ Concerns about tuition increases, field placement options, and communication from the Field Office were noted.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. The next General Body Meeting is scheduled for February 3, 5:00 PM.

**Attendance**

Courtney Fullwood (President)

Trinity Cephas (Vice President)

Christa Gloster (Corresponding Secretary)

Chloe Kastner (Treasurer)

Emma Charles (Recording Secretary)

Dean Lehning

Emma Burk

Kate Supan

Dean Wanda Diaz

Danielle White