**Graduate Student Association Senate Meeting Minutes for 4/3/2017**

**University Committee Reports**

* Student Fee Advisory Board: Final Report
  + The Committee delivered a brief summary of the results from the Student Fee Survey. Full report can be found at <fees.umbc.edu/report>. Main recommendations included support for all fee increases except for the Athletic fee and opposition to the proposed Diversity Coordinator positon at the Commons
  + There was discussion about two focus groups. (1) For the propose community center in Arbutus and (2) for the new Columbia Transit line. Contact **Roy Prouty** at [gsa@umbc.edu](mailto:gsa@umbc.edu) if you are interested in serving on a focus group.
* Human Relation Committee:
  + Deanna gave a quick introduction about the committee. She also asked for ideas for what you want the committee to tackle and if anyone wanted to serve on the committee with her.
* Graduate Research Conference Committee:
  + Onimi (from the committee) opened the floor to questions and comments concerning GRC.

**GSA Committee Reports**

* Legislative Concerns Committee:
  + Committee Chair gave a brief description of the committee objectives for next semester. It mostly concerned what stepsare being taken to make sure that the committee is more prepared for lobbying activities
* Treasury Committee:
  + Adam talked about new resolution to require GSA Senate to discuss Graduate Program Fee prior to the semester where it needs to be voted on.

**Guest Speaker: Provost Philip, Ph.D.**(accompanied by Bruce Waltz, Chair of Planning Committee and Lisa Akchin, Associate VP)

**Speaking about next phase of Strategic Plan**(found at <planning.umbc.edu>)

* There are four focus areas

1. Innovation in Curriculum and Pedagogy
2. Community and Extended Connections
3. Student Experiences
4. Research, Scholarship, & Creative Achievement

* What are these focuses trying to achieve?
  + In short, **Inclusive Excellence**
  + Very specific, very broad goal.
    - Aiming to fulfil vision statement: (about.umbc.edu) “Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement. We will advance knowledge, economic prosperity, and social justice by welcoming and inspiring inquisitive minds from all backgrounds.”
* The Provost spoke on action items under one area: Impact in Research, Scholarship, & Creative Achievement
  + *Expanding Faculty and Diversity of Faculty*: Colleges and Schools have submitted hiring plans for the next 3-5 years
  + *Interdisciplinarity*: Added interdisciplinary requirements to the promoting and tenure process
  + *Core Facilities*: Investing in campus resources like the Library
  + *Analytics Infrastructure for University*: Using data to understand success of students
  + *PhD Completion Project Development*
  + *Cross cutting ideas to advance Strategic Plan*
  + Two Tools for Innovation

1. Infrastructure & Revenue
2. Culture & Thinking in Time
   1. Connecting past to the future
   2. What have we done well? Continue doing it
   3. What have we done poorly? Stop that.

Question for the Provost

*Scott: How are you communicating the Strategic Plan implementation to the student body?*

*Onimi: What do you need us to do? What is the plan for Graduate Students?*

*Felipe: How do you define excellence?*

*Trevor: Are students’ interests being overshadowed by larger entities’?*

**If you have any questions, please visit** [**http://planning.umbc.edu/contact-us/**](http://planning.umbc.edu/contact-us/) **and click on the contact us link.**

**New Business**

* Graduate Student Week
  + Graduate Student Week 2017 will take place from***April 10-13***! We will also be having a Grad Student Week kick-off event in conjunction with the Career Center on ***April 5th from 4-6 pm called Career Path for Graduate Students***!
* Awards Ceremony May 11th at 6pm on 7th Floor AOK