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Meeting Agenda

Fall 2021 | Noon - 1 PM

Monday, October 25, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

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I. Call to Order: 12:04 PM

II. Executive Officer Reports

a. President: Janina Deisenrieder

Announcements:

- Student Symposium presentation
 - Questions should be answered in the FAQ section of the Student Symposium
- Grant discussion (taxes)

b. Vice President: Komala Shivanna

- Committees are formed.
- Senators assigned to respective committees.

c. Secretary: Hannah Holbrook

- If anyone hasn't sent me their senator profile yet, please do!
- If anyone knows any points of contact or social media links for any of these Clubs and Organizations:

<https://umaine.edu/gsg/clubs-organizations/>

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- COVID-19/Sustainability Committee Meetings: Every Thursday at 8 AM. Message me if you'd like to join.

d. Treasurer: Isuru Waduge

- No new updates

e. OPD Officer: Danielle Gabrielli

- No new updates
- Everything going well with DEI committee

f. Board of Trustees Rep: Ameya Karapurkar - Had a meeting today

g. Grants Officer: Meetha James

- We're having a grants review session - shout to the grant committee and volunteers!
- First grant reading session on Wednesday

h. Deputy Grants Officer: Robert Jarrett

- Nothing to add to Meetha's updates

III. Old Business

- Student symposium - Calvin presentation (FAQ), #2
 - a. Email calvin.johnson@maine.edu if you want any of the Student Symposium materials resized for any social media or anything!
 - b. Check <https://umaine.edu/umss/umss22/> for information about the Student Symposium!

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- c. It's an in person event, but judging can be done virtually.
- d. If any dates on the website change, students will be notified via email.
- e. um.symposium@maine.edu can also answer your questions!

IV. New Business

- Potential budget increase discussion, #2
 - Question someone had: Is there a place where we can see a budget breakdown (item by item info)? It was sent out via email.
 - The budget will be uploaded onto the GSG website soon
 - We will send out a voting form this week about whether you want to increase the budget or not, along with the budget!
- Isuru and Robert: Grant awarding process and Tax discussion lead
 - Grant awarding process changed, - received a letter on the 19th of May from an accountant. We implemented changes based on recommendations in the letter. We are writing one collective check to the Graduate School, and the grants will be distributed through the Graduate school to UMaine departments. There are two grants: Travel to Present Grants and Degree Related Grants. Students won't be liable for taxes on these grants. Students will have to file 1099 or 1042S.
 - Kathleen noted in the Zoom chat regarding taxes that:
 - The Graduate School cannot offer tax advice - however, if you have a tax professional, they would be the best source of

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information. I would also encourage international students to reach out to Brian Berger in OIP

- Keep in mind - depending on your financial situation, there may or may not be tax implications - but, the University is required by Federal tax law to track the awards - and as award recipients - there is a federal requirement to report it - just as you would income.
- There will be a note included in the grant award letters letting students know they will need to be in contact with the Financial Aid office.
- New language will be put on award letters and on the GSG website so there is more clarification and transparency about Grants.
- How students will report grants to departments and how departments communicate with the UMaine Graduate School is TBD.
- GSG will look into potentially hiring a tax expert to assist people receiving grants in the spring
- There is Free Tax Help available to Mainers making less than \$57,000 a year here: <https://www.cashmaine.org/free-tax-prep/>
- Organization and Club grants system is not changing - will be the same as before.
- We will give follow up information at the next GSG Senate Meeting.

V. Senator Updates & General Announcements

- a. No new updates

VI. Adjournment @ 12:45 PM

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