

Meet & Confer Agenda

2021-12-17 | GAAC UMCP Chapter

1. GAAC Fall 2021 Survey Results (5 min)
 - a. Overview of GA concerns
 - b. Survey coverage/ representation
2. Cost of living deficit (*follow-up from Spring 2021 M&C*).
 - a. GAAC's evidence that even the *new* minimum stipends do not meet either the current cost-of-attendance estimate, nor third-party cost-of-living estimates for the PG County Area (and similar results for the median stipend). (10 min)
 - b. Cost-of-attendance estimate is not designed and should not be used for the purpose of setting stipends (discuss testimony from Office of Student Financial Aid). (5 min)
 - c. Ways to obtain information on distributions of stipends across the GA body. (5 min)
3. International GAs suffer from extraordinary financial burdens.
 - a. Summer internship course credit (5 min)
 - b. Additional international student fee (5 min)
 - c. Higher rents upon entry to the program due to comparison-pricing difficulty (5 min)
 - d. Cost of family visits
4. Lack of guaranteed summer funding causes
5. Remedy for working hours exceeding preset limits, unusual / unexpected task requests
 - a. Evidence collected by GAAC, comparison to alternative existing systems (5 min)
 - b. Ideal solution (contracts) vs. middle-ground. (10 min)
 - c. Discussion of how GAAC can help attain the middle-ground solution. (5 min)
6. 70% of GAs rank concern with collective bargaining rights as a 3 out of 5 or higher.
 - a. Will the administration continue to testify against collective bargaining legislation? (10 min)

7. Discuss how are GAs represented in the 10-year strategic plan (5 min)
 - a. Discuss how GAAC/GAs can become more involved in the plan.
8. Proposed solutions to known problems
 - a. We need a quick, one-stop website or online presentation about healthcare options and resources. Work with international students to make sure it is intelligible. (5 min)
 - i. Should include a clear table with costs for each option.
 - ii. Should provide much-needed clarity about mental health services, specifically as they relate to insured graduate students; information about copays, coordination of care through counseling center
 - b. Making SHIP payments not all upfront (5 min)
 - c. Dedicated prayer rooms in different quadrants of campus. (5 min)