

SGA 2005-2006 Overview

Vision:

As a result of SGA's advocacy, programs and services, UMBC undergraduates will feel a tremendous sense of belonging and connection to the University, be inspired to get involved in campus life, and believe that students working together can make a difference and improve UMBC.

Overarching Themes:

In *all* of our work, we will:

- reach out to students, and connect them with SGA and each other;
- create more opportunities for students to participate in UMBC processes;
- spread a spirit of excitement and pride on campus;
- let all students know what we are doing and why; and
- lay the groundwork for future successes.

Goals and Projects (to benefit all undergraduates):				
GOAL: Improve and reallocate campus space for students' use	GOAL: Make UMBC's environment more attractive and visually inspiring	GOAL: Ensure that students' fees are used in ways most beneficial to students	GOAL: Enhance the undergraduate academic experience	GOAL: Supplement and improve student services
PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:
1. Turn the Harbor Hall Café into a coffee house/restaurant.	1. Create community gardens on campus.	1. Create an audit board or fee council that includes students, for the purpose of reviewing the uses of student fees.	1. Develop a way for students to obtain the ISBN numbers of books needed for their classes, so they can buy the books somewhere other than the campus bookstore.	1. Get more interesting programming, including UMBC sports, on Channel 3.
2. Centralize the student media organizations.	2. Plant flowers along the "academic corridor."	2. Research the amounts and uses of all current fees, including detailed departmental budgets.	2. Establish the Stress-Free Zone as a campus tradition	2. Play SGA advertisements on WMBC.
3. Catalogue all of the unused space on campus and use the catalogue as a basis for developing future projects.	3. Put colorful UMBC banners on the light posts around campus.	3. Identify ways to "green" buildings like The Commons to reduce energy inefficiency and lower costs.	3. Create a two-week course "shopping period" at the beginning of each semester, so students don't have to commit to specific courses without having the chance to experience them.	3. Create an improved, expanded discount card program with Catonsville and Arbutus businesses.
4. Extend hours that The Commons, RAC and Library are open, and review snow closure policies.	4. Research the restoration and preservation of the Hillcrest building.	4. Specific projects and advocacy will flow from the results of student fee research (see #2, above).	4. Improve academic advising: more training for the advisors?	4. Create and launch the Student Resource Web Site conceived in 2004-2005.

5. Turn the UC into space students can use—commuter lockers, nap room, etc.	5. Restore and preserve the silo.	5. Enhance the student orgs area with student art, new name, clear connection with Commons' 1 st floor	5. Bring speakers to campus (Mikhail Gorbachev, Bill Clinton?)	5. Make academic, transit and parking services more student-friendly (including better signage, streamlined processes).
Other possibilities: •Build a skateboard park on campus; •relocate the bookstore to the UC and devote the current bookstore space to SGA and student organizations; •review Commons and campus posting policies; •continue to improve the Student Orgs Area and Commons 318; •expand SGA's role in campus decision-making regarding space.	Other possibilities: •Get rid of campus eyesores like the Quad, Erickson Field, the "pond" in front of PUP (and other drainage issues); •place archways or other impressive markers at campus entrances; •create a mural in the Biology breezeway; •put more attractive signage everywhere; •recycling; •tree planting; •generally more colors on campus, through ads, etc.		Other possibilities: •Change faculty hiring and promotion criteria to emphasize teaching and involvement; •SGA organizes study groups for students	Other possibilities: •Develop and promote student advocacy function in SGA to represent and assist individual students; •seek changes in Financial Aid Office in response to student complaints; •examine Student Judicial Programs practices and policies.
Initial SGA participants: Dan Sager (Coordinator), Ross Dixon, Amanda Rosenbush, Ray Remesch, Brian Bailey, Fran Cirincione, Hima Raviprakash	Initial SGA participants: Alex Macrae (Coordinator), Christina Ralls, Jenn Hudson, Jon Pavlis, Dustin Carroll	Initial SGA participants: Chett Miller (Coordinator), Jeff Kaufman, Mike Elm	Initial SGA participants: Carrie Mann (Coordinator), James Grant, Jessica Mellon, Ray Remesch	Initial SGA participants: Jordan Eberlein (Coordinator), Alex Bardakh, Brian Bailey

Internal Goals and Projects (to improve SGA):				
GOAL: Improve orientation and training for new SGA members	GOAL: Create an orientation, training and accountability – support structure for student reps to UMBC committees	GOAL: Improve SGA’s communication with the students it serves	GOAL: Improve SGA’s performance in project planning and follow-through	GOAL: Maintain SGA momentum throughout the year
PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:	PROJECTS:
1. Set up a mentoring program matching new SGA members with experienced members.	1. Publicize a roster of committee members.	1. House members will attend a meeting of each organization they represent once each month.	1. The Assistant Speakers and the Chief of Staff will work together to compile quarterly reports of all SGA progress on projects.	1. Publicize SGA accomplishments to keep morale high.
2. Involve friendly members of the UMBC administration in the training.	2. Create a list of projects and the responsible SGA members, and place the list prominently in the Student Orgs. Area.	2. Publish SGA meeting agendas in The Retriever Weekly.	2. Hold SGA members to higher standards when it comes to submitting weekly reports; penalties for failing to submit.	2. .Create opportunities for SGA members to hang out together (outside of meetings).
3. Create training resources, such as a video, that can be used again and again.	3. Publicize SGA committee reports.	3. Utilize the student media to invite students to participate in SGA activities and projects.	3. Focus on projects that the different SGA branches can develop and implement together.	3. Feature SGA on Channel 3.
4. Strongly suggest that people aspiring to join the SGA attend several meetings prior to running or applying.	4. Invite members of the UMBC administration to SGA meetings.	4. House members will help the organizations in each SGA category form councils of organization presidents.	4. Publish reports to the student body so students can hold SGA accountable.	4. Dining hall meetings every other week; open to all students, flexible format for brainstorming.

<p>5. Having a pre-Retreat meeting of officers new to SGA.</p>	<p>5. Get more SGA members involved in planning Homecoming.</p>	<p>5. Have “meet the SGA” dinners in the Dining Hall, at which SGA members would spread out among the tables and invite students to sit with them.</p>		
	<p>Other possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Create a form for committee reps to report to SGA on their activities and goals; •invite committee reps to SGA meetings. </p>	<p>Other possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SGA members volunteer as UMBC Student Ambassadors to do high school recruitment; •town hall meetings; •hold SGA meetings in the Student Orgs area and invite students, faculty, staff; •create a “help wanted” bulletin board with events and service projects; •create a listproc for each category of student organizations </p>		
<p>Initial SGA participants: Carrie Mann, Jon Pavlis</p>	<p>Initial SGA participants: James Grant, Brian Bailey, Jeff Kaufman, Alex Macrae</p>	<p>Initial SGA participants: Jenn Hudson, Mike Elm, Ray Remesch, Christina Ralls</p>	<p>Initial SGA participants: Dan Sager, Alex Bardakh</p>	<p>Initial SGA participants: Dustin Carroll</p>