

# Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

January 29, 2020



Undergraduate  
Student Government  
*At Michigan Tech*

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
  - Roll taken.
- III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - Agenda and Minutes approved
- IV. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- V. Mike Abbott- H-STEM Presentation
  - Restroom Design
    - i. Send feedback and comments to [h-stem@mtu.edu](mailto:h-stem@mtu.edu).
    - ii. Gender-neutral restrooms planned for H-Stem building.
      1. Gendered restrooms will still be accessible, but will not be built into H-Stem.
      2. Restrooms will have floor-length doors to toilets.
      3. Option 1
        - a. Community sink.
        - b. Toilets alone in private room.
        - c. ADA compliant restroom.
      4. Option 2
        - a. Sinks and toilets together in private room.
        - b. Lactation space.
        - c. Less space-efficient than Option 1.
        - d. Option 2-style bathrooms are present in residence halls, are popular with undergrads.
      5. Possibility of adding urinals.
        - a. Concerns raised of whether or not adding urinals limits the spaces that women can use.
      6. Meeting throughput.
- VI. Theresa Coleman-Kaiser- Mont Ripley Update
  - Mont Ripley is a deficit operation, University is trying to constrain budget and this includes Mont Ripley.
    - i. Budget constraints put in place to control usage of labor and energy.
  - Average opening date for 10 years is December 6, depending on ability to make snow.
    - i. Mont Ripley opened December 7 at 100% this year.
  - Reduction of hours on Saturday nights.
    - i. Choice made based on historically low number of skiers.
  - USG approved of 33% increase of budget through Experience Tech Fee.
    - i. Not yet approved by the Board of Trustees.
    - ii. When this is approved (and if enrollment increases), Mont Ripley will be able to break even.
  - Revenue from Experience Tech Fee has not increased in 15 years, due to enrollment staying the same.
    - i. Minimum wage and energy have driven up the cost of operating Mont Ripley.
  - Google Form, circulation of petition to “Save Mont Ripley”.
    - i. More transparency and communication with student body would help make students understand why certain operations are being scaled back.
      1. Unite with students with the goal of keeping Mont Ripley operational.

- ii. Cost-saving measures align with sustainability.
- iii. Concerns expressed of whether or not Mont Ripley is prioritized, and is recognized as an important part of the college experience at MTU.
- iv. Suggestions to send out blast emails or figure out some other way to communicate with the student body.
  - 1. Clarify that the budget has not been cut.
  - 2. Use MTU social media to get in touch with body.
    - a. Communicate with students, alumni network, and parents.
  - 3. Possibility of including Mont Ripley update in 4.6.2020 Budget Informational Session.
- No chance of Mont Ripley closing.
  - i. Rumors of Mont Ripley closing or drastically cutting back services are going around, and are not true.

## VII. Officer Reports

- President (*Melanie Thomas*)
  - i. Board of Trustees/Alumni Board of Directors Presentation
    - 1. Incomplete, rundown of topics.
      - a. USG Student Email Overview
      - b. RSO Budget Hearings
        - i. Overview of scale of project, 247 active student orgs.
      - c. SBG Review
      - d. Cycle-Project (Menstrual products)
        - i. Initiative to provide free menstrual hygiene products partnered with Kimberly Clark.
        - ii. 2 pallets of liners received, in body barn.
      - e. Campus-Wide Committee Work
        - i. Experience Tech Fee
        - ii. Non-Motorized Transportation
      - f. Projects to look forward to
        - i. Constitution and Bylaws revisions.
    - 2. Will be posted on USG Drive
    - 3. Alumni Board of Directors
      - a. Friday of Winter Carnival
        - i. Will go over break buses, encourage partnership for Christmas Break.
        - ii. Mostly recycling BOT presentation.
    - 4. Non-motorized transportation committee.
- Vice President (*Zbigniew Bell*)
  - i. Resignation of Members
    - 1. Anna Ellis
    - 2. Caleb Glenn
    - 3. Colleen Toorongian motions to accept the resignations of Anna Ellis and Caleb Glenn.
      - a. Second
        - i. 19 in favor.
        - ii. 0 opposed
        - iii. 1 abstention
      - b. Motion passes.

- ii. Body Retreat
          - 1. Dietary Restriction
            - a. Let Ziggy know about dietary restrictions before retreat.
          - 2. Google Invite and Google Form
            - a. RSVP and respond to form about Body retreat.
      - Treasurer (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
        - i. DOW 641 booked for CFO Financial Meeting 4.6.2020.
      - Secretary (*Zachary Olson*)
        - i. Give 3-day advance notice if you will miss a meeting! Attendance is important this time of year.
          - 1. Emergencies are always excused.
- VIII. Advisor Reports
  - Beka Horsch
    - i. Resume Update on Thursday, January 30 at 5:30 PM in the Library East Reading Room
    - ii. Husky Hour
      - 1. Tuesday, February 4 at 4:00 PM in Library East Reading Room on Stress Management.
      - 2. Wednesday, February 5 at 4:00 PM with Winter Carnival Giveaways.
      - 3. Tuesday, February 11 at 4:00 PM on Formula Based Studying
      - 4. Wednesday, February 12 at 4:00 PM on Debunking Myths of Counseling/Mental Health
    - iii. Winter Carnival - Stay Safe and Have Fun!
    - iv. Film Board playing Maleficent: Mistress of Evil
  - Jessie Stapleton
  - Stefani Vargas Krause
  - Bonnie Gorman
    - i. Have a fun, safe carnival!
- IX. Standing Committee Reports
  - Events (*River Leverage*)
    - i. Sign-up for Chili Van and crosswalk.
  - Judiciary Committee (*Jack Mitchell*)
    - i. Meet with potential Constitution/Bylaws task-force members after meeting.
  - Political Affairs (*Anna Ellis*)
  - Public Relations (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
    - i. Members of the Week
      - 1. Tej Bergin
      - 2. Melanie Thomas
    - ii. Apparel
      - 1. All items ordered - let PR know about other promotional/branding ideas
      - 2. Quarter-zips are \$24 & beanies are \$10
      - 3. Money goes to Leo & pickup will be with Stefani (MUB 112)
  - Student Affairs (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
    - i. SDC Fitness Center emailed
      - 1. Guest passes to SDC not a feasible option.
    - ii. Jack and Larkin met with Teacher Evaluation proposal to deal with harassing comments on evaluations.
      - 1. Final draft of the proposal will be brought to USG body by Audrey Mayer before sending to Senate.

- Ways and Means (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
    - i. 160 organizations have signed up for budget hearing timeslots.
    - ii. Secondary meeting will be set up for orgs that missed the budget meeting after WAM on Monday.
- X. USG Liaison Reports
- Graduate Student Government (*Anna Ellis*)
  - Interfraternity Council (*Leif Olson*)
  - Panhellenic Council
    - i. Need Liaison
    - ii. Kira Millhausen can provide information but will not be physically present at the meeting.
      1. Zoe Quinn attended National Panhellenic Academy.
      2. Houses have begun handing out bids, start of spring recruitment.
      3. VP of Recruitment Programming elected.
      4. Fraternity and Sorority Life Awards were last sunday.
  - Inter Residence Housing Council (*Tej Bergin*)
    - i. New treasurer appointed.
    - ii. Resident Advocate and Secretary are vacant.
    - iii. Free Cocoa will be handed out during All-Nighter.
    - iv. Bring own drink containers to reduce waste.
  - Houghton City Council
    - i. Need Liaison
  - Parent's Fund (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
  - Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
  - Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
  - Student Commission (*Melanie Thomas*)
    - i. Non-Motorized Transportation Committee
    - ii. Dan Liebau, Grounds
      1. Capital project proposal submitted in conjunction with US-41 work.
      2. Sidewalk between M&M and Commuter Lot will be completed next summer.
    - iii. Healthy on-campus food at night
      1. Possibility of bringing back the rotating sandwich machine next to Food Pantry.
    - iv. Women's Bathrooms in MEEM
      1. Capital project proposal submitted, not finalized.
    - v. Bathroom hooks in stalls.
    - vi. Baby-changing stations.
    - vii. Library will have no overnight access during All-Nighter.
  - Friends of the Library (*Zofia Freiberg and Emily Mattson*)
  - JED Campus (*Jordan Craven*)
    - i. Design Thinking Process
    - ii. Align with strategic planning on mental well-being initiatives.
  - Commencement 2.0 (*Connor Weber*)
  - H-Stem (*Colleen Toorongian*)
  - HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
    - i. HIDE wants to start over
    - ii. Collect body input about design direction in open floor.
  - Other Liaisons
- XI. Unfinished Business

- SBG Recommendation Vote (*Melanie Thomas*)
  - i. Film Board
    - 1. SBG recommends Film Board retain SBG Status contingent on fulfilling Action Plan developed jointly between SBG Review Committee and Film Board before SBG Budget Hearings.
      - a. Action Plan
        - i. Life-Cycle Plan
        - ii. Better Survey Methods
        - iii. Better transition
    - 2. John Nowosad motions to approve SBG Review Committee's recommendation.
      - a. Second
        - i. 18 in favor.
        - ii. 0 opposed
        - iii. 2 abstentions
      - b. Motion Passes
  - ii. Memorial Union Building Board
    - 1. SBG Review Committee recommends MUB Retain SBG Status
    - 2. John Nowosad motions to accept SBG Review Committee's recommendation.
      - a. Second
        - i. 18 in favor
        - ii. 0 opposed.
        - iii. 2 abstentions
      - b. Motion Passes
  - iii. Pep Band
    - 1. SBG Review Committee recommends to deny Pep Band application for SBG status.
      - a. Committee as a whole failed to see reason to grant SBG status, based on consistent purchases and lower frequency of instrument repair.
      - b. Pep Band Statement
        - i. SBG Status
          - 1. Title would give important recognition to Pep Band as University Institution.
          - 2. Help with consistent maintenance of equipment.
            - a. VPA only allows a certain amount of expenses on instrument repairs, if Pep Band received equal budget for instrument repairs it would have twice as much money.
          - 3. Unable to send members to July 4 Parade due to not having SBG Status.
            - a. Unable to authorize the spending to fund member attendance because line item was not on the budget.
    - 2. John Nowosad motions to accept SBG Review Committee's recommendation to deny SBG Status.
      - a. Second
        - i. 15 in favor
        - ii. 1 opposed
        - iii. 4 abstentions

- b. Motion passes.
- iv. Sound and Lighting Services
  - 1. SBG Review Committee recommends SLS Retain SBG Status
  - 2. John Nowosad motions to approve SBG Review Committee's recommendation to retain SBG Status for SLS.
    - a. Second
      - i. 16 in favor
      - ii. 0 opposed
      - iii. 4 abstentions
    - b. Motion passes.
- v. The Lode
  - 1. SBG Review Committee recommends to deny SBG status for the Lode.
    - a. Committee failed to see reason to retain SBG status based on:
      - i. Not a lot of equipment
      - ii. Fixed costs every year, due to weekly printing.
        - 1. Well-known and in advance.
        - 2. There can be some variance in costs.
      - iii. The committee feels that SBG status is not merited, and can operate normally with an RSO budget.
      - iv. Opportunity and Reserve Fund requests could be used to cover unexpected costs.
    - b. Action plan available in notes, discussion if it is fair to deny SBG status at this point without any probationary period.
    - c. Current budget is \$13,000, soft cap for RSO budgets is \$6000 but this could be exceeded in theory.
    - d. Lode feels that it is an important part of the community by bringing communication to campus and being culturally relevant
      - i. Discussion of their service to campus.
    - e. Funding amount is not determined by SBG Status, SBG Status determines financial freedom.
      - i. Committee does not feel that they meet the requirements to need such financial freedom.
      - ii. One member feels idea of a probationary period is not necessarily practical, because budgetary freedom either exists or it doesn't.
        - 1. Probationary period could be implemented through SLI.
    - f. One member expressed that weekly costs could still be difficult to pay through RSO funding process.
      - i. Advance of Funds
        - 1. Many organizations have weekly/monthly costs
          - a. Could budget printing a month at a time using Advance Forms.
          - b. Organization claims that blanket ordering would be harder using Advance Forms, and would add more administrative steps.
          - c. Possibility of disrupting service.
    - g. Bias from accepting funds



3. Sydney Dankert motions to extend tabling until decision on Blue Key is made.
    - a. Second.
      - i. 19 in favor.
      - ii. 0 opposed.
      - iii. 1 abstention.
  4. Discussion on WAM Recommendation Continues
    - a. Blue Key traditionally pays for \$2000.00 of comedian cost.
      - i. Will be charging community members, and a profit is possible.
      - ii. Could reach out to Greek community for volunteer work on the event.
      - iii. Very likely that Blue Key will at least break even on comedian.
  5. Connor Weber motions to Fund \$850.00 for Winter Carnival Comedian
    - a. Second
    - b. Discussion of whether or not Opportunity Fund Request is appropriate in this case.
      - i. 14 in favor
      - ii. 4 opposed
      - iii. 1 abstention
    - c. Motion passes
- Tabling of SBG Discussion Ends
    - i. WMTU
      1. John Nowosad motions to accept the SBG Review Committee's recommendation that WMTU retain SBG Status contingent on fulfilling Action Plan developed jointly between SBG Review Committee and WMTU before SBG Budget Hearings.
      2. Second
        - a. 16 In favor
        - b. 0 opposed
        - c. 3 abstentions
    - ii. SBG Discussion Completed
      1. SBG Committee will meet with Film Board, The Lode, and WMTU before SBG Budget Hearings to develop Action Plans.
  - Opportunity Fund Requests
    - i. Boxing Club
      1. Safety Equipment
      2. WAM recommends \$880.00.
      3. Larkin motions to approve WAM's recommendation
        - a. Second
          - i. 18 in favor
          - ii. 0 opposed
          - iii. 1 abstention
        - b. Motion passes

## XII. New Business

- Zachary Olson motions to open USG E-Board Nominations on 9 AM on February 12.
  - i. Second
    1. 18 in favor.
    2. 0 opposed



3. 1 abstention
      - ii. Motion passes.
    - Zofia Freiburg motions to allocate up to \$200.00 from Student Affairs Committee budget for menstrual hygiene product distribution project with Women's Leadership Council.
      - i. Second
        1. 17 in favor
        2. 1 opposed
        3. 1 abstention
      - ii. Motion passes.
- XIII. Open Floor
- XIV. Closed Session
- XV. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"
- No meeting next Wednesday because of Winter Carnival
  - Hockey Game Thank You Card
  - Sign up for Chili Van and Crosswalk shifts
- XVI. Adjournment
- Motion to adjourn
    - i. Second
  - Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,  
Zachary Olson  
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government