



# Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

December 4, 2019

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
  - Roll taken
    - i. 3 Absences
- III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - Motion to approve
    - i. Motion passes
- IV. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- V. Zoe Kotela- Collegiate Student Advisory Task force update
  - Education about voting/civic engagement
  - Challenges of voting in a rural area
  - Online absentee ballot
  - Plain language about referendums
  - Adding permanent absentee ballot list
  - Online voter registration
  - Providing residency verification documents on campus
  - Absentee voting party
    - i. Education on how to vote in absentee ballots.
- VI. Kirsti Arko- Title IX Presentation
  - Title IX includes sex discrimination, harrassment, assault, etc.
    - i. On campus the focus is on preventing these from happening
  - New guidelines, waiting for federal approval
    - i. Cross-examinations/hearings for both parties.
    - ii. Due process protections for respondents.
  - Student Survey on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate
    - i. Spring 2020
    - ii. Designed to gauge sexual misconduct on campus and make improvements
- VII. Michael Meyer- Affordable Course Materials Discussion
  - Students are paying an average of \$800 to \$1200 on course materials
  - Textbook Selection Process
    - i. Professor is asked about required course materials 6 months in advance of the course.
    - ii. Request is sent to the bookstore.
    - iii. If the course has multiple sections, it the request also must go through a curriculum committee.
  - Options to decrease cost
    - i. Moving to open-source materials.
    - ii. Inclusive access to textbooks
    - iii. Moving to services that offer multiple textbooks at a discounted rate.
  - Further questions should be directed to [ctl@mtu.edu](mailto:ctl@mtu.edu)
  - Discussion
- VIII. Officer Reports
  - President (*Melanie Thomas*)
    - i. Non-Motorized Transportation Committee
      1. Survey to be sent out next January

- ii. Board of Trustees Presentation
      - 1. Topics
        - a. USG Priorities
        - b. Conferences
        - c. Resolutions accepted and passed
        - d. Break Bus Partnership
        - e. Committee achievements
        - f. Goals for Spring 2020
    - iii. SBG Timeline
    - iv. Holiday Gathering
    - v. Goals for Next Semester
      - 1. Tabled to next meeting
  - Vice President (*Zbigniew Bell*)
  - Treasurer (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
  - Secretary (*Zachary Olson*)
- IX. Advisor Reports
  - Beka Horsch
    - i. Hockey vs Alaska
    - ii. Keweenaw Wind Symphony
    - iii. Tuba Xmas
    - iv. Film Board
    - v. Tuesday 7pm snow globe
  - Jessie Stapleton
  - Stefani Vargas Krause
  - Bonnie Gorman
- X. Standing Committee Reports
  - Events (*Lauren Spahn*)
    - i. Winter break bus
    - ii. Body barn accessibility
  - Judiciary Committee (*Jack Mitchell*)
    - i. Passed out resolutions
      - 1. 2-7- Bylaws,
      - 2. 1-2 in Constitution
  - Political Affairs (*Anna Ellis*)
    - i. No report
  - Public Relations (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
    - i. Apparel!!
      - 1. Narrowed down options
        - a. Next week at meeting let Natlie know if want apparel
    - ii. New Logo
      - 1. In the works, will be shown after it is done!
    - iii. Next meeting
      - 1. Want to allocate money for the polos
    - iv. Individual Apparel Options
    - v. Crest for Logo is almost done
    - vi. Member of the Week
      - 1. Larkin Hooker-Moericke
      - 2. Zack Olson

- Student Affairs (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
  - i. No report
- Ways and Means (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
  - i. Did not meet with organizations this week, next week
    1. Fencing Club
    2. Huskies Pep Band

XI. USG Liaison Reports

- Graduate Student Government (*Anna Ellis*)
  - i. No report
- Interfraternity Council (*Colin Schaefer*)
  - i. No report
- Panhellenic Council (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
  - i. Giving Tree donations still open, end Friday.
    1. Drop off at Fisher
- Inter Residence Housing Council (*Lauren Spahn*)
  - i. Joe Cooper
    1. Room and Board Rates Progress Presentation
      - a. Adjustment in the Meal Plan
        - i. Offering next year Gold Plan- \$200, Silver- \$100 with 4 guest passes
      - b. Considering keeping Mcnair open for Sunday dinner or keep Wads open later (2.54% increase to do this)
    2. See Lauren for more details on the presentation
    3. This is a draft, need to be approved by the President's Council
  - ii. Stress Relief Event
    1. Dec 7-8, 11-2pm and 4-6pm
  - iii. Succulent Painting Event
    1. December 14th at 8pm in the Dining Hall
- Houghton City Council (*Political Affairs representative*)
  - i. No report
- Parent's Fund (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
  - i. No report
- Senate (*Leif Olson*)
  - i. No report
- Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
  - i. Meet next week
- Student Commission (*Bryce Walbrun, Justin Mentink*)
  - i. No report
- Friends of the Library (*Zofia Freiberg*)
  - i. No report
- JED Campus (*Garrett Green*)
  - i. No report
- Commencement 2.0 (*Connor Weber*)
  - i. Worked on final draft for final Report to submit to report to Provost's
- Other Liaisons

XII. Unfinished Business

- United Student Government Conference
  - i. Advocate for increased access to voting and voter turnout for students.

1. Motion to accept the proposal
    - a. Second
    - b. Motion passes
  - ii. Collaborative mental health resolution, exploring the possibility of Fall Break.
    1. Motion to accept Resolution 07-02
      - a. Second
      - b. Motion passes
  - iii. Food Pantry, increasing access.
    1. Motion to accept this resolution
      - a. Second
      - b. Motion passes
- Winter Break Bus
    - i. Motion to allocate funds to the Winter Break Bus
      1. Second
      2. Motion rescinded
    - ii. Point of information
      1. \$5,250
    - iii. Motion to allocated the mentioned amount of \$5,250
      1. Second
      2. Discussion
        - a. Rescinded
    - iv. Motion to approve allocation for the Winter Break Bus
      1. Second
      2. Discussion
        - a. Motion to amend the word allocations to funds
          - i. Second
          - ii. Motion passes
        - b. Motion passes
  - Affordable course Materials Resolution
    - i. Tristan Duelge
      1. Meeting with College of Sciences and Arts
      2. Don't think it is right to approve a resolution with set number for tuition material prior to review
        - a. Goal set by campus, a figure that was brought by the At Large Textbook Strategy Committee from Senate
      3. UW LaCrosse Model and Textbook Cache
        - a. Textbook Cache
          - i. Josh Marshall project
      4. Efforts have been there for a while
        - a. Could be valuable for USG on how they support their constituents financially
        - b. Could be a good
      5. May be premature to vote on this
        - a. May not be good to vote on incentives for professor's, not their textbook but their ability to teach
      6. Would like to see more comparison of the UW Lacrosse Model
      7. Addressing Concerns
        - a. Report done by the bookstore on this with figures and data that can

- be shared with the USG Body, if requested
- b. Incentive to professor's
  - i. Does not think it is a big deal, will revise wording
- c. UW Lacrosse Model
  - i. Not similar school to us
- d. Tenure should not be used to incentivize, tenure is completely separated from this
- e. Resolution may need more editing
  - i. Need better statement of sources of data and figures before voting on it
- f. Need to get the details edited and vote on it later
- g. Desktop/Laptops
  - i. Work can be done on computers
- h. Encourage and help Tristan
- 8. Motion to table the discussion regarding this till next week
  - a. Second
  - b. Motion passes

### XIII. New Business

- Bylaws and Constitution proposals
  - i. Read and go through the proposals by next week
    - 1. Change of Bonnie's title
    - 2. Cultural food
- Leadershape- Emily Mattson
  - i. Motion to cover Emily Mattson's Leadershape fee
    - 1. Second
    - 2. Discussion
      - a. Possibility of motion to pay fee on Thursday, December 5th is given to anyone who requests vs. just one individual
      - b. Possibility of reimbursement to an individual
      - c. Caleb Glenn was accepted to attend Leadershape as well
      - d. Motion to amend current motion to say split funds for Leadershape evenly among the accepted USG members going to Leadershape
        - i. Caleb told Beka he will go at the USG meeting
        - ii. Funds indicates the \$200 will be split
        - iii. Disagreement with that
          - 1. We should have people who are given money did explore other options before giving them money
          - 2. If they are coming to us, they don't have the funds currently
          - 3. Hall Associations don't want us sending people there as much.
          - 4. USG- because we are an SBG we could allocate
          - 5. Options that current people have looked at?
            - a. Jordan- Talked to Reece, athletic director about this
            - b. There will be a
          - 6. Option- could allocate \$300 and then request
          - 7. Second

- 8. Motion passes
      - iv. Motion passes
    - e. Motion to increase USG allocation for Leadershape from 200 to 300
      - i. Second
      - ii. Motion to amend to say up to 300
        - 1. Second
        - 2. Motion passes
      - iii. Motion to increase USG allocation for Leadershape from 200 to up to 300
        - 1. Second
        - 2. Discussion
          - a. Can find money but comes from somewhere
          - b. Motion gives protection to the Leadershape people
        - 3. Motion passes
  - Replacement for Events Chair, Body Barn Committee Chair
    - i. John is Events Vice-Chair
- XIV. Open Floor
  - Natalie
    - i. PR apparel
      - 1. Options displayed on TV
        - a. Polos
        - b. 1st choice \$11.52
          - i. 11 people
        - c. 2nd Choice \$13.98
          - i. 11 people
        - d. Beanie
          - i. 1st Choice
            - 1. 9 people
          - ii. 2nd Choice
            - 1. 8 people
        - e. ¼ zip
          - i. 1st choice
            - 1. 18 people
          - ii. 2nd choice
      - ii. Crest
        - 1. Font isn't ready but will be sent out once ready
        - 2. Leo
          - a. Consider black and white
- XV. Closed Session
- XVI. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"
- XVII. Adjournment
  - Motion to adjourn
    - i. Second
    - ii. Motion rescende
  - Motion to adjourn (9:16pm)
    - i. Second

ii. Feel free to tear apart resolution (Tristan)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Zachary Olson  
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government