

# Agenda, USG General Body Meeting

March 18, 2020



Undergraduate  
Student Government  
*At Michigan Tech*

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
  - 3 Absences
  - Roll taken
- III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - Zachary Olson moves to approve agenda and minutes
    - i. Second
    - ii. Motion passes
- IV. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- V. Officer Reports
  - President (*Melanie Thomas*)
    - i. Monthly Experience Tech Fee
    - ii. Discussed SBG Action plan digital meetings
  - Vice President (*Zbigniew Bell*)
    - i. Office Hours
      1. Office hours have been made optional for the rest of the semester
      2. Switching to online forms for orgs.
      3. Remaining physical forms being taken care of by E-Board.
    - ii. Zoom Meetings
      1. Body will meet on Zoom for the rest of the semester.
  - Treasurer (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
    - i. Communication to students must go through several layers, this includes student organizations.
  - Secretary (*Zachary Olson*)
    - i. Elections scheduled to open March 25 at 9 AM.
- VI. Advisor Reports
  - Beka Horsch
    - i. Information about COVID-19 will be continuously delivered to email.
    - ii. Stay up to date with information and classes.
  - Stefani Vargas Krause
  - Bonnie Gorman
    - i. Thank you to all of USG members for continuing commitments to the body.
    - ii. Finding a way to publicize the fact that USG is still meeting and conducting business.
    - iii. Communications
      1. Must be approved by the university to prevent any hysteria and remain consistent.
    - iv. Stay healthy and safe! Make sure to maintain a buddy system and stay connected to friends and family.
    - v. Need for student financial resources.
      1. Emergency Funds available to all students have had application requirements relaxed.
        - a. Funds for rent, food, essentials, other ways students are impacted by virus.
      2. Food Bank is available to help students.
- VII. Standing Committee Reports

- Events (*River Leverage*)
  - i. Planning for next semester
  - ii. More structured inventory checklist.
  - iii. Spring Break Bus
    1. Went smoothly.
    2. Everyone showed up for the trip down, about half returned.
- Judiciary Committee (*Sydney Dankert*)
  - i. Body will receive stipend survey, please fill out after meeting.
  - ii. Elections
    1. Bylaws Article II Section 4 disputed
      - a. If the Secretary is a candidate in an election, they are allowed to run the election up until the time when voting starts. While voting takes place, the Secretary must appoint a non-biased alternate.
- Political Affairs (*Sydney Dankert*)
- Public Relations (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
  - i. Member of the week suspended for semester.
  - ii. Elections will be on social media.
  - iii. Website will be updated with meeting.
  - iv. Stickers for next year.
- Student Affairs (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
  - i. Library Office Hours
    1. Was a project before spring break, due to closure of library this must be revisited.
  - ii. Teacher Evaluation proposal
    1. Will present in open floor
  - iii. Cycle Project
    1. Plan in Events folder in USG drive.
- Ways and Means (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
  - i. Moving to online submission of forms from orgs.
  - ii. Deadline for Opportunity and Reserve Funds set at April 8.
  - iii. Exploring solutions to get org funds delivered.

#### VIII. USG Liaison Reports

- Graduate Student Government (*Leo Stelmaszek*)
  - i. Passed resolution to reallocate funding to university COVID-19 response efforts.
  - ii. Discussed making funds available through reserve.
- Interfraternity Council (*Leif Olson*)
  - i. Meeting with Greek E-Boards
    1. Pushing for Greeks to log service hours.
    2. Setting requirements to move forward for chapters, will likely be relaxed.
- Panhellenic Council (*Sydney Dankert*)
- Inter Residence Housing Council (*Tej Bergin and Ellie Sempek*)
  - i. Met on Monday, will be holding meetings on Google Hangouts every Monday.
  - ii. Will meet new housing director at next meeting.
  - iii. Opened nominations for E-Board.
- Houghton City Council
  - i. Need liaison
- Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
  - i. Request from Mushing Club will be voted on tomorrow.

- Senate (*Zbigniew Bell*)
  - Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
    - i. Search for Diversity and Inclusion President has been postponed.
  - Student Commission (*Melanie Thomas*)
    - i. Meeting next week.
  - Friends of the Library (*Zofia Freiberg*)
    - i. Annual book sale cancelled and related events cancelled for the remainder of the semester.
  - JED Campus (*Jordan Craven*)
  - H-Stem (*Colleen Toorongian*)
  - HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
  - Non-Motorized Transportation Committee (*Melanie Thomas*)
  - Experience Tech Fee (*Zbigniew Bell*)
  - Other Liaisons
- IX. Unfinished Business
- X. New Business
- Jack Mitchell moves to close Class and College Representative nominations on Wednesday, March 18 at 11 PM.
    - i. Second
      1. 24 in favor.
      2. 0 opposed
      3. 1 abstention
      4. Motion passes
  - Harley Merkaj moves to open Class and College Representative Elections on Wednesday, March 25 at 9 AM.
    - i. Second
    - ii. Consensus
    - iii. Motion passes
  - Colleen Toorongian moves to close Class and College Representative Elections on Wednesday, April 1st at 11PM
    - i. Second
    - ii. Consensus
    - iii. Motion passes
- XI. Open Floor
- A Resolution on Final Course Grades the During COVID-19 Pandemic
    - i. GVSU Academic Reaction to COVID-19 Pandemic (See #5)[Temporary Academic Policies for Winter 2020, Due to COVID-19 - Office of the Provost](#)
    - ii. GVSU allowed the CR/NC option to be chosen on a course-by-course basis, USG resolution could be edited to follow this plan more closely
    - iii. Policy is based on a provision already in place at GVSU that does not exist at MTU, so work would need to be done to implement it.
    - iv. Possibility of students taking advantage of the CR/NC policy was discussed.
    - v. Professors are currently trying their best to make sure this does not adversely affect GPAs.
    - vi. Discussion of undermining the integrity of MTUs degrees.
    - vii. Improving clarity
      1. Change the phrase “not yet completed” to “not yet been completed”.
      2. Use proper MTU language for pass/fail (S, E grades).

- viii. Will this affect ABET accreditation? Should be investigated.
- ix. Concern about the petition, it was open to everyone.
- x. Does this set up an “Us vs. Them” narrative between students and professors at MTU?
- xi. One accomodation that should be considered is to allow students to retake courses even if they did not get the grade of C or below.
- President Kobek called Melanie Discussion
  - i. Melanie will speak more on this next week.
  - ii. Opinions/thoughts on way to make the transition easier for students.
- Teacher Evaluations proposal
  - i. Additional personal testimonials were added.
- Idea to refund lab fees and PE course fees
  - i. Has not come up in higher-level administrative matters yet.
  - ii. FAQs on PE course fees available at MTU website under COVID-19.
- Idea to send out survey on making classes pass/fail to undergraduate student body.
- Commencement
  - i. Commencement has been cancelled.
  - ii. Group on campus is trying to identify an alternative solution.
  - iii. Email [bbgorman@mtu.edu](mailto:bbgorman@mtu.edu) if you have suggestions.
  - iv. Suggestions from graduating students
    1. Idea to hold “departmental graduation” to keep under group gathering limits.
    2. Reschedule commencement in August.
    3. Include in Fall 2020 commencement
    4. “Only way to make it meaningful is to hold commencement in person”.

XII. Closed Session

XIII. Announcements/”Remarks for the Good

XIV. Adjournment

- Jack Mitchell moves to adjourn.
  - i. Second
  - ii. Motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Zachary Olson  
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government