

Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

April 8, 2020



Undergraduate
Student Government
At Michigan Tech

- I. Roll Call
 - 3 absent
 - Quorum met
- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - Motion & Second
 - Vote of consensus
 - i. Motion passes
- III. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
 - Thank you for coming!
 - Add your name into the chat to be added to the speaker’s list if you would like to speak
- IV. Officer Reports
 - President (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. Welcome New Members!
 - ii. Open Positions
 1. Second Year Reps (2)
 2. College of Engineering Reps (2)
 3. College of Forest Resources & Environmental Sciences Rep (1)
 4. College of Science and Arts Rep (1)
 5. If you have any ideas for possible candidates, send Larkin an email!
 - iii. Committees
 1. Short Description
 - a. WAM
 - i. Handles all financial distributions to orgs as well as opportunity/reserve fund requests
 - ii. Meet with an org then make a recommendation to be brought to the body for voting
 - iii. Budget hearings for all orgs
 - b. Events
 - i. Put on USG-sponsored events (ex. Snowman Left Behind, Winter Carnival Chilli Van, and tailgates)
 - ii. Organize the break busses
 - iii. Organize USG volunteer activities (ex. K-Day, Winter Carnival Crosswalk, and Spring Fling)
 - c. Judiciary
 - i. Oversee the USG Constitution and Bylaws to ensure that they are being followed
 - ii. Ad-hoc committee will be looking to make Constitution and Bylaw revisions
 - d. Political Affairs
 - i. Increase political awareness for students on campus
 1. Put on events like Dumb Debate Night
 2. Organize Informational meetings
 3. Help students with the voting process
 - e. Public Relations

- i. Way to communicate with the student body
 - ii. Runs the website and social media (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter)
 - iii. Create branding materials (i.e. apparel, stickers, banners, etc.)
 - f. Student Affairs
 - i. Seek out and solve problems that affect the student body to help improve life here at MTU
 - ii. Take on concerns brought up by the student body
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. SCHEF Leadership
 1. "Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding"
 2. Representation from each public university in Michigan
 3. Purpose is to fight for better funding for these universities
 4. Searching for a Chair, Vice Chair, and a Clerk
 - a. Elections on May 10th
 - i. Video submission
 - b. Reach out to Lauren if you would like more info
 - Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. Body info Google Form
 1. Will be sent out with the weekly email
 - a. Info needed for administrative purposes & for PR
 - b. Please fill out ASAP!
 - ii. Agenda
 1. Please fill out the agenda before meeting or let me know of anything you want added!
 - a. Helps me take minutes, helps meeting run smoother, and helps to better prepare what needs to be shared
 2. Any other suggestions to handle the agenda, let Natalie know

V. Advisor Reports

- Beka Horsch
 - i. Trivia Night
 1. Wednesdays at 8 PM Eastern Time
 2. [Zoom Link](#)
 - ii. Virtual Magician - Trent James
 1. Friday, April 10 at 9 PM Eastern Time
 2. [Zoom Link](#)
 - iii. HuskeyLead: Getting into the Nitty GRITty"
 1. Thursday, April 16 at 4 PM Eastern Time
 2. [Zoom Link](#)
 - iv. Virtual Caricatures
 1. Thursday, April 16 at 7PM-10PM Eastern Time
 2. [Link](#) - Click on it at any time to register in advance
 - v. Maintaining Virtual Well Being - Episode 1
 1. [Podcast](#)
 - vi. [Husky Spirit Week](#)
 1. Throwback Thursday

- 2. Flannel Friday
 - 3. Husky Pride Saturday
 - vii. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month
 - viii. HuskiesFit Classes offered on Zoom and open to the Public
 - 1. [Go to Facebook for more information](#)
 - Stefani Vargas Krause
 - i. Thank you outgoing members for all of your hard work!
 - ii. USG Apparel
 - 1. If you ordered some and haven't picked it up yet talk to Stefani to figure out a way to get that to you
 - Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Thank you to the new and old members for all you've done!
 - ii. Encourage everyone to get involved/participate in the events mentioned by Beka to help with the isolation!
- VI. Standing Committee Reports
 - Events (*River Leverage*)
 - i. No report
 - Judiciary Committee (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Working to form the Constitution/Bylaw Revisions ad-hoc committee. Let Sydney know if interested in joining
 - Political Affairs (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Can no longer hold position
 - Public Relations (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. Will still be utilizing social media/website for filling USG's open positions
 - ii. Can no longer can hold position
 - Student Affairs (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No report
 - Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Request by Film Board under Old Business
- VII. USG Liaison Reports
 - Graduate Student Government
 - Interfraternity Council (*Leif Olson*)
 - i. Mandate that all fraternity houses are to be closed
 - 1. Houses are only open to those that live there
 - 2. There will be consequences if caught breaking the Stay-at-Home order
 - Panhellenic Council (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. No official decision yet to the closed-houses order
 - Inter Residence Housing Council (*Tej Bergin and Ellie Sempek*)
 - i. 2021 Winter Carnival logo contest is open!
 - 1. Due April 18th at midnight
 - 2. Theme: "Favorite Cartoons for Snowy Afternoons"
 - Houghton City Council
 - Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. Delta Epsilon had one request in three parts
 - 1. Trip
 - 2. Canopy
 - a. Intend to fund as the committee felt that this was the only part beneficial to all on & off campus students

- 3. Updating office space
 - Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Fall Break
 - 1. Class would start on Day 0 (two days early) and would get those two days back later on, potentially as a four-day weekend
 - 2. Will bring more info. about discussion/decision next meeting
 - ii. Textbook Funding
 - 1. Will bring more info. about discussion/decision next meeting
 - iii. Teacher Evaluations
 - 1. Will be opt-in for Spring 2020 semester only
 - Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No report
 - Student Commission (*Melanie Thomas*)
 - i. Meeting 4/9 at 2 PM
 - ii. Potentially may not meet, will let Melanie know
 - Friends of the Library (*Zofia Freiberg and Emily Mattson*)
 - i. No report
 - JED Campus (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Meeting will be this Friday (4/10) morning
 - ii. Will bring more info. next meeting
 - H-Stem (*Colleen Toorongian*)
 - i. No report
 - HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. No report
 - Non-Motorized Transportation Committee
 - i. Will be moving all further activities to summer or fall
 - ii. Emails will go to the USG President email
 - Experience Tech Fee
 - i. No report
 - Other Liaisons
- VIII. Unfinished Business
- Film Board: Reserve fund Request
 - i. Requested \$4,784.73
 - 1. Includes losses from COVID-19 and negative account balance, to zero-out bank account.
 - ii. Recommend \$3,500.00
 - 1. WAM's recommendation is an amount that is estimated to be strictly lost due to COVID-19 without prior negative account balance.
 - iii. Motion & second
 - 1. No discussion
 - 2. 17 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 - a. Motion passess
 - Retaking Courses Proposal
 - i. Didn't get onto this week's meeting agenda but hopefully will for next week's meeting
 - ii. Motion to approve the resolution & Second
 - 1. Harley: Question of how effective will the proposal be
 - a. John: Hoping for it to be very effective but the conversation needs to be started first

2. Bonnie: In order for the proposal to move forward it needs to be approved by USG or Senate will not look at it
3. Zach: Motion to change phrasing to “adopt” instead of “approve”
 - a. So Moved & Second
 - b. Vote of consensus
 - i. Motion passes
4. 18 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 - a. Motion passes

IX. New Business

- Membership
 - i. Swearing in New Members
 1. Caleb Glenn, Colin Schaefer, Darren Hutchinson, Zachary Olson, and Tristan Deluge are sworn in
 - ii. Approval of Write-in Candidate
 1. Larkin entertains a motion to approve her appointment of Karina Madigan for the College of Sciences and Arts Representative position
 - a. So Moved & Second
 - i. No discussion
 - ii. 19 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 1. Motion passes
 - iii. Appointment of Fourth Year Rep
 1. Larkin entertains a motion to approve her appointment of Joe Barbercheck for Fourth Year Representative
 - a. So Moved & Second
 - i. No discussion
 - ii. 21 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 1. Motion passes
- Appoint of College of Engineering Reps
 - i. Larkin entertains a motion to approve her appointments of Bryce Walbrun and Justin Mentik as College of Engineering Representatives
 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. No discussion
 - b. Vote for Bryce Walbrun
 - i. 19 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain
 1. Motion passes
 - c. Vote for Justin Mentik
 - i. 19 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain
 1. Motion passes
- Swearing in New Members
 - i. Jake McDowell, Sydney Dankert, Bryce Walbrun, Justin Mentink, Joe Barbercheck, and Karina Madigan are sworn in
- Election of WAM members
 - i. Nominations
 1. Ziggy
 - a. Nomination accepted
 - b. Speech given
 2. Caleb
 - a. Nomination accepted

- a. 8 out of 27 responded “yes”
 - b. Some have gotten info. but it wasn’t very detailed
 - c. Some heard info. through student communication instead
 - d. Suggestion that it’d be better to be reached out to by Bonnie or Koubek themselves instead of the advisors
 - i. Some advisors haven’t communicated proper info.
 - 1. The Pre-Health advisor did a really great job
 - ii. Students have been getting lots of emails so some emails from less noticeable individuals get lost
 - e. Larkin plans to include the info. in her email that will be sent to the student body
- Commencement for Spring 2020
 - i. Preference was to have the ceremony be held in August 2020
 - 1. As time continues, social distancing may still prevent an in-person commencement
 - 2. A virtual ceremony isn’t of interest to students
 - a. Want the students to get their well-deserved recognition
 - b. Celebration on a different platform
 - i. Live or recorded?
 - 1. Live would be more engaging but recorded could be better for some students and/or more manageable
 - 3. Hold a separate commencement during Spring 2021
 - a. Would need to be far enough from that year’s commencement ceremony to avoid overcrowding

XI. Closed Session

XII. Announcements/“Remarks for the Good”

- Jack: Thank you for the great three years!
- Zach: Requested that Sydney could send a list of current Political Affairs members to him and if anyone is interested in joining to reach out to him
- John: Thank you for the pleasure to be on the body for the past four years!
- Jordan: Requested if Natalie could send a list of current Public Relations members to her
- Larkin: Student Affairs will be meeting after this meeting
- Connor: Thank you again for the awesome year on USG!
- Lauren: Next meeting will have a password setup for Zoom. Natalie will send it out in the weekly email so that everyone has it
 - i. Zach: Having a password is good but they are supposed to be open meetings so we need to have a way for people to request the password to join
 - ii. Jordan: Senate was using the Zoom Webinar extension and it seemed to work well
 - 1. Zoom Webinar may not be free
 - 2. On E-Board’s list of items to look into next

XIII. Adjournment

- Motion & second
- Vote of consensus
 - i. Motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Wohlgemuth

Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government