

Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

September 2, 2020



Undergraduate
Student Government
At Michigan Tech

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Ojibwa Land Acknowledgement
 - *Michigan Technological University is located within Ojibwa (Chippewa) homelands and ceded-territory established by the [Treaty of 1842](#), the territory of Native American nations in Gakiwe'onaning (Keweenaw Bay), Gete-gitgaaning (Lac Vieux Desert), Mashkii-ziibing (Bad River), Odaawaa-zaaga'iganing (Lac Courte Oreilles), Waaswaaganing (Lac Du Flambeau), Miskwaabikong (Red Cliff), Wezaawaagami-ziibiing (St. Croix), and Zaka'aaganing (Sokaogon Mole Lake).*
- IV. Roll Call
 - 3 absent
 - i. Quorum met
- V. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - Lauren: Entertain a motion to approve the 04.22.2020 Meeting Minutes
 - i. So Moved & Second
 1. Larkin: Also need to approve the 07.09.2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes
 - a. Sydney: Must be done in separate motions
 2. Vote of consensus to approve the 04.22.2020 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion passes
 - Lauren: Entertain a motion to approve the 07.09.2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes
 - i. So moved & Second
 1. No discussion
 2. Vote of consensus
 - a. Motion passes
- VI. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- VII. Officer Reports
 - President (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. Welcome!
 1. Welcome back! Super excited for this year! Even though things will be different this is a good opportunity to make changes to what we do and make the most of it!
 - ii. Liaison Positions
 1. A lot of open positions, contact a member of E-Board if interested in one
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. Office Hours
 1. [Fall 2020 Office Hour Sign Up](#)
 - a. Accommodates for both online and in-person office hours
 - b. Please sign up for three office hours by Friday, September 4th
 - i. Sign up for the same three slots for all 14 weeks in the semester
 - c. Social distancing two person cap for the in-person office hours
 - d. This week is highly encouraged, starting next week is mandatory
 2. [Office Hour Checkout Form](#)

- a. Fill out at the end of your office hours
 - b. Used to track attendance
 - c. Any questions? Email Lauren
 - d. Fill out form once for consecutive office hours
 - 3. For virtual office hours, use: <https://michigantech.zoom.us/>
 - a. Use the USG SSO login instead of trying to go through the USG email
 - ii. Committees
 - 1. [Weekly Committee Chair Form](#)
 - a. For all Committee Chairs to complete weekly
 - i. First form due Monday, September 7th
 - b. Used by Lauren to know what she, or the rest of E-Board, can do to help the committee
 - iii. [Meeting Guide](#)
 - 1. It is highly encouraged that you have your video on during the meeting!
 - a. Helps with getting to know everyone's faces
 - 2. Dress professionally & no alcohol can be visible
 - iv. Binders & Mailboxes Setup
 - 1. Go check it out!
- Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. [USG Ticketing Portal](#)
 - 1. New format for processing the Advance & Reimbursement tickets
 - 2. If any bugs are spotted/any questions come up, let Harley know
 - 3. LMake sure to login so that proper permissions can be set
 - 4. [Tutorial](#)
 - ii. Logging into USG account issues
 - 1. Zoom
 - a. Press "Sign in with SSO", the company domain is "michigantech"
 - b. Username is "usg" and the password can be found in the shared drive
 - i. Reach out if you can't find it or need help
 - 2. Gmail
 - a. Google gets suspicious that a lot of people are trying to log in on different devices, Harley is working on a way to mitigate this
- Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. [Body Membership Info. Form](#)
 - 1. Same as from last semester, please fill it out if you haven't done so already!
 - 2. The information is important as it's for administrative purposes
 - ii. Meeting Reminder
 - 1. When giving your report please talk slower!
 - a. Taking minutes while having virtual meetings is difficult so any help would be greatly appreciated
 - 2. If there are any specific dates/times/links/etc. please send them to me in the chat or over some other platform!
 - a. Would also help me keep up with the minutes
 - iii. Discord or Slack?
 - 1. Looking into changing over from Slack to Discord, opinions?
 - a. Vote of confidence
 - i. Sounds good!
 - iv. First Year and IRHC Nominations Open!

1. Make sure to get the word out there! Share social media posts, talk to constituents, etc.!

VIII. Advisor Reports

- Beka Horsch
 - i. HuskyLead: How to Market Your College Experiences to Employers
 1. Thursday, September 3 at 6PM in MUB Ballroom A2
 2. Max. of 39 seats, room for extra on Zoom
 - ii. IFC Discord Game Night
 1. Thursday, September 3 at 6 PM - [Virtual](#)
 - iii. Plant-A-Palooza
 1. Friday, September 4, 2PM-4PM at the Hamar House
 - a. Already potted and ready to go for anyone walking by
- Stefani Vargas Krause
 - i. Student Organization Re-Registration and Training
 1. Extended advisor/president training to all student org. officers
 2. We will get a lot of questions about the process. If you don't know the answer to a question refer to a member of E-Board, or email rso@mtu.edu, for help
- Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Welcome Back!
 1. Really good to have some students back on campus
 2. Thank you to everyone who attended meetings over the summer to help plan for students coming back to campus!
 - a. Specific shout-out to Zofia for sitting on multiple committees/meetings!
 - b. Thank you to E-Board for all of the summer meetings and work as well!
 3. Hopefully everyone was able to get a care kit, they did run out
 - ii. Thank you for helping keep everyone safe and healthy!
 - iii. Any questions?
 1. Bonnie is a resource for any questions, feel free to email her anytime!

IX. Standing Committee Reports

- Events (*Colin Schaefer*)
 - i. Body Barn
 1. Look-over to see what needs to be cleaned up
 2. Working with MUB Board to fix the mini golf set
 - ii. Anyone in Events, please message me!
- Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Updated Bylaws
 1. Working with Lauren to ensure that it'll be available to everyone soon
 - ii. Anyone interested in joining the committee, let Sydney know!
- Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Super excited to see everyone again!
 - ii. Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) Fellowship
 1. Was offered and accepted the fellowship. Is a non-partisan org. that has the goals to get more college students registered/more involved in voting and help provide better access to voting
 2. Disclaimer: Is a paid position
 - iii. National Voter Registration Day (September 22nd)

1. Event is in the works
 - a. Cary Anquinette & Rochelle Spencer have been helping
 - b. In intermediate stages, hope to have a location reserved in the next few weeks
2. Once ready there will be a volunteer sheet for the body
- iv. Residence Hall Digital Signage
 1. Allowed to use postings in res. halls to share info
- v. Debate Watch Parties
 1. First is Sept. 29 and will be virtual
- vi. MI District 110 Candidate Speaking Opportunities
 1. Janet Metsa, candidate for 110th district, asked to speak at MTU
 - a. Would also invite other candidates from different parties
 - i. Working to ensure that the event will be non-partisan
 - b. Hoping to be planned for October
 2. A professor on campus reached out about forming a College Democrats org.
 - a. Email him at "wjkeith@mtu.edu" or reach out to Zack to get in contact with him
- vii. Working with Greek Life over Voter Registration Planning
 1. Hoping to work with Greek Life to help get more outreach to students
- Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Summer meeting minutes are under the PR "Meeting Minutes" folder in drive
 1. Go check everything out if interested!
 - ii. [Milestone Chart](#)
 1. Plans for this semester/year
 - iii. [Printing and Posting Rules](#)
 1. Helps PR with ensuring that any posts/prints have enough time to be made and distributed
 2. Includes reminders on how to approach this efficiently
 - iv. Website updates
 1. High priority!
 2. SAF Page
 - a. Natalie put together some pages in regards to student org. funding/the SAF Fund
 3. Voting Page
 - a. Will be a place for voter registration information as well as fun facts about voting
 4. May be switching web-building application from Wordpress
 - a. Will be internally discussed then brought to next meeting with PR's decision
 - v. Would anyone be interested in a polo checkout (for a semester)?
 1. Same as last year
 2. A more casual apparel form will also go out if there's interest
 - a. Stefani: Some leftover quarter zips and beanies from last year and we can also order more if interested!
 3. Zack: Due to the COVID situation he still has polo from last spring, when would PR like them back?
 - a. Jordan: Unsure as of now
 4. Due to COVID-19 PR will be planning how to best approach the polos/apparel

topic to ensure that everything is safe

vi. Meet Your Org coming soon!

- Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. [Meeting](#) will be after general meeting if adjourned before 8:30pm
 - 1. Stop on by to help brainstorm for project ideas!
- Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. First meeting will be next week on Friday

X. USG Liaison Reports

- Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
 - i. Recently had their first meeting so there was nothing to report currently
 - ii. Any questions, let Shardul know to bring to GSG!
- Interfraternity Council
- Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Zack was asked to be their liaison
 - ii. Meetings start next week
- Inter Residence Housing Council
- Houghton City Council
- Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. Unsure if they've met yet
 - 1. Stefani: No submissions yet for meetings
- Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Hasn't met yet this semester
 - ii. Had a few Summer meetings, will bring notes for next week's report
 - 1. Stefani is a Senator! We can ask her to bring items to the Senate now!
- Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No report
- Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. First meeting will be September 10th
- Friends of the Library (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. Hasn't been active this summer
 - ii. Looking to pass off as it no longer fits her schedule well
 - 1. Please consider taking up a liaison position! They're a great way to see a different perspective on campus so it's highly recommended!
 - a. Harley: Echos Zofia's point, they're really great to be a part of
- Fall Flex Academics (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. Any concerns about academic experience this fall, email Zofia
- JED Campus (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Met a few times this summer to strategize how to have a bigger mental health help presence and spaces on campus
 - 1. Was unable to attend the meetings
 - 2. Super important project!
- H-Stem (*Karina Madigan*)
 - i. No report
- HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Org, was wondering if USG was still interested in the voting booth program?
 - 1. Background: HIDE was making a voting booth station for us to run polls with the students
 - 2. Due to COVID-19 they'd have to do a "yes/no" tap system to keep everything

safe

- Non-Motorized Transportation Committee (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. No report
- Experience Tech Fee (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. No report
- Virtual Celebration
- Other Liaisons

XI. Unfinished Business

- Larkin: Working with E-Board to create a list of open liaison positions and their descriptions

XII. New Business

- Swearing In a New Member
 - i. Brendan Osentoski was sworn in at 7:52 PM on September 2nd, 2020
 - 1. College of Engineering Representative
- Judiciary Committee Member
 - i. Lauren: Is anyone interested in joining?
 - 1. Sydney: Judiciary committee goes over the Constitution and Bylaws and interprets rules to assess if USG is following them
 - a. Willing to work with the individual to catch-up on any questions
 - 2. Lauren: According to the Constitution we need to have another member
 - 3. Larkin: Super useful to learn the information and is also a lower commitment compared to the other committees
 - 4. Bianca: Can you be a part of two committees?
 - a. Sydney: Yes! There aren't regular meetings so there shouldn't be a conflict if in more than one committee

XIII. Open Floor

- Reactions to the Husky Emergency Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. Reading through emails that were responding to our suggestion for students to donate their money to other students in need, should we address the concerns?
 - 1. Notable negative responses
 - a. High tuition, could've come from someone else, etc
 - 2. Larkin: GSG president approached Larkin with the idea
 - a. Intended to an option if a student was financially stable and willing to donate their grant to the Husky Emergency Fund
 - i. Recommendation/suggestion if a student is interested, not a request
 - 3. Sydney: Low percentage of students responding with negative feedback
 - a. Almost expected that there will be friction when addressing a topic such as this
 - b. Plenty of positives to help balance out the negatives
 - 4. Zach: There will always be critics, even if one person was helped by this request then that outweighs any of the negative feedback received
 - 5. Ziggy: Understand the perspective but some students expressed that there was some confusion over clarification
 - a. Going forward we should try to be more transparent about issues like this to echo that this is students helping students, separate from the administration
 - 6. Joe: We should take the negative feedback into consideration going forward with addressing such topics

7. Stefani: E-Board has spent a lot of time this summer collecting information on topics such as the SAF. PR could use this opportunity to address any questions
 - a. Jordan: PR can definitely figure out a way to address this issue to help get more information out to the students
 8. Zack: Proud of what we did despite the negative feedback. We can do better going forward with addressing the communication of information to the students
 - a. Show what USG, or other parts of the University, are capable of to be more transparent over how things actually work
 9. Darren: Majority of the issues came from clarity to differentiate the difference between what the university was doing and what USG was doing
 - a. Echo that the most important part of all of this was the donations going to help other students
- K-Day
 - i. Online: Next Friday from 12-5 PM
 1. Will focus on USG and elections
 - ii. In-Person: September 15th from 1-3 PM
 1. Would discuss USG general info and voter registration information
 - COVID-19 Considerations
 - i. Larkin: As elected campus leaders we need to lead by example so we are being counted on to follow all guidelines to set a good example
 1. Wear masks, social distance, etc
 2. Get tested!
 - a. Starting surveillance testing soon
 - b. The test is a throat swab so don't worry about the nose swab if that's a concern
 - c. Schedule a test through the UGL Portal
 - ii. Bonnie: Recommend that students should go to the MTU Flex website instead of UGL for more COVID-19 information
 1. UGL's website has been having some issues but they can help with scheduling a test
 2. MTU Flex has more information available about COVID-19 otherwise
- XIV. Closed Session
- XV. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"
- Harley: Please test out the website!
 - i. Everyone needs to log in so Harley can make accounts and set permissions for everyone
 - Ziggy: Welcome back everyone!
- XVI. Adjournment
- Lauren: Entertain a motion to adjourn
 - i. So moved & Second
 1. No discussion
 2. Vote of consensus
 - a. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
 Natalie Wohlgemuth
 Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government

