

Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

September 16, 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-ziibing (St. Croix), and Zaka'aaganing (Sokaogon Mole Lake).*
- IV. Roll Call
 - 2 late
 - i. Quorum
- V. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - So Moved & Second
 - i. Motion of Consensus
 1. Motion passes
- VI. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- VII. Officer Reports
 - President (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. Board of Trustees USG Update
 1. Larkin went through her powerpoint for the BoT meeting
 2. Any changes? Let Larkin know!
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. [Committee Info Slides](#)
 1. For Committee Chairs
 - a. Write a little blurb about your committee
 - i. Initiatives/projects in the works
 - ii. Expectations
 - b. For new members when they join the body
 - ii. Office Hours
 1. Remember to update the [Office Hour Living Document](#) to help with data collection
 - a. Better count of who comes to our hours and when
 2. Fill out [Office Hour Checkout Form](#) after each office hour
 - a. Some people haven't filled this out
 - i. Can't record office hours if not filled out
 3. Check out the [Missed Office Hours](#) document
 - a. Compilation of missed hours from last week
 - b. Reach out if you have any questions
 - iii. If you are graduating this December, let Lauren know
 1. Will help Lauren keep on top of the committees
 - Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Make sure you check the [website](#) during your office hours
 1. See an unmarked request? Go ahead and review it!
 2. Not sure what to do? Contact Harley and he can tell you what to do/guide you

on what to do.

- ii. Requests that need review
 - 1. If a request is highlighted white/has no highlight, it needs to be reviewed by a body member
 - a. Check what they put
 - i. Indicate if all information is okay or if there's any questions/missing information
 - 2. Any questions? Let Harley know
- Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. Meeting Attendance
 - 1. Please give me a heads-up at least a day before the meeting if you know you can't make it
 - a. Emergencies will be excused
 - 2. Reminder that two unexcused absences results in a Personnel Committee review
 - a. Please be aware of this!

VIII. Advisor Reports

- Beka Horsch
 - i. Evolution of the Term Latinx
 - 1. Thursday, September 17 at 12 PM - 1:30 PM on [Zoom](#)
 - ii. Keweenaw Days
 - 1. Thursday, September 17; Monday, September 21; Tuesday, September 29 all from 1 PM - 3 PM.
 - iii. [Career Fair](#)
 - 1. Can start signing up for time slots starting today
 - 2. Career Fair will be in about a week
- Stefani Vargas Krause
 - i. USG members should become familiar with University [Policies and Procedures](#) in order to assist students
 - 1. Take a moment to read through them when you get free time
- Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Career Fair
 - 1. Goal of 175 companies to come to Career Fair which is roughly half of the typical amount
 - a. 250 have signed up already!
 - 2. Students must schedule a meeting with the companies
 - 3. Will be both on September 23rd & 24th
 - a. Conny: What time is it?
 - i. Bonnie: 10 AM -7 PM

IX. Standing Committee Reports

- Events (*Colin Schaefer*)
 - i. Thank you to those who helped with K-Day!
- Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Editing List/Information
 - 1. Change logo
 - 2. Update numbering system
 - 3. Met with advisors & E-Board
 - a. With Bonnie's approval, small edits are able to be made without a

vote

- i. I.e. spelling errors/etc that doesn't change the intended meaning of the original wording

- Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)

- i. Speaking Engagements for MI House District 110 Candidates
 1. Two candidates have accepted, awaiting a response from one
- ii. National Voter Registration Day (Sept. 22, 12-3 PM)
 1. Need as many volunteers as possible!
 2. Expenses
 - a. 250 Pens: \$123.71
 - i. Will be in MTU colors, imprinted with USG logo
 - ii. Giving them away due to hygiene concerns with COVID-19
 - iii. Possibility of splitting cost with the PR Committee due to branded pens' utility as a marketing tool
 1. Depends on the body's thoughts
 - iv. Three-day shipping so if ordered tonight it'd still arrive in time
 - b. Six Chairs: \$9.00
 - i. Facilities rental
 - c. Three Disinfectant Wipe containers from Chem Stores: \$64.59
 - i. Will need to go through E-Board as well
 - d. Funds to be requested in Open Floor
 3. Tables
 - a. Six tables being provided by SLI
 4. Laptops
 - a. Ordering two laptops from IT to help register students and check registration
 - i. City Clerk will have one of their own to use
 5. \$150.00 for postage/envelopes to mail voter registration forms
 - a. No longer needed due to change in focus from registration by mail to online registration because of COVID-19
 - b. The amount of guidance a new voter needs to fill the forms out makes doing this in the USG office unfeasible this semester

- Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)

- i. Shoot Jordan an email if you ever have any ideas, concerns, or updates you would like to see on the website
 1. PR wants the body to be happy with how everything looks/works
- ii. Following more orgs on social media
 1. Goal to gain a larger social media presence
 2. "Highlight Your Org" program (partnering with Meet Your Org)
 - a. Will be soon
- iii. MTU Snapchat takeover
 1. Orgs can take over the MTU Snapchat for a day
 2. A lot needs to be planned out still
 - a. May work with Zack to do this during Voter Registration Day
- iv. "Countdown to Elections" on Instagram and Facebook Stories
 1. Voting-themed posts every Tuesday
- v. [Member of the Week](#) and [Website Information](#)
 1. Please fill out the forms!

- 2. Will be getting an email tonight if you haven't filled them out already
 - vi. Website Updates/Change
 - 1. Will be discussed during the PR meeting tonight!
 - 2. Intended for questions over the potential website change
 - Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. Dining Hall Sustainability Collab Meeting
 - 1. Kudos to Conny Yang for spearheading the meeting!
 - a. Ran the meeting extremely well
 - 2. Discussion was specific to single-use plastic
 - 3. Discussed social media posts to invoke behavioral change
 - 4. Revitalizing CPM's Mr. Lid Project
 - a. Already have 500 in storage but have had difficulty getting these put into use in the Dining Hall
 - i. Hope that USG can help!
 - 5. A student expressed that the meeting helped them feel that they weren't alone on trying to make a change to this on campus
 - 6. Potential social media takeover
 - a. Collaboration between USG and other organizations working on this sustainability project
 - b. Ex. 21 Day challenge to promote sustainability
 - ii. Project Cycle Update and Roadblock
 - 1. Initiative to get menstrual hygiene products in almost all of the bathrooms on campus
 - 2. Paused due to COVID-19
 - a. Zofia started to unpack and distribute the items recently but discovered an issue
 - i. None of the liners were individually wrapped
 - 1. Sanitary issue
 - 2. Unable to distribute them as planned
 - ii. Unsure of what to do with the liners going forward
 - 1. Would potentially donate the liners
 - Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Determined meeting time for the year is 6:30-7:30 on Tuesdays
 - 1. Any members looking to join must be able to make this time
 - ii. Have one pending budget revision and about five more awaiting on a revised budget
 - 1. These don't actually need to be approved by the body so WaM will take care of it
- X. USG Liaison Reports
 - Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
 - i. Originally planned to hold a social gathering event but decided to cancel it due to COVID-19 safety guidelines
 - Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. No report
 - 1. Unable to make the meeting
 - Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. No report
 - Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. [3-21](#) -- Career Fair Recess

1. Career Fair Recess (two hours) to begin Fall 2021 as opposed to Fall 2020
 - a. Change is due to the fact that everything will be online and meeting -based this semester so scheduling shouldn't be an issue
 - b. Resolution Passed
- Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No report
 1. Not meeting for the foreseeable future.
- Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke/Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. Lauren:
 1. Food access for students who have to isolate/quarantine
 - a. Students can volunteer to fill orders with HuskyFAN
 - i. Can add an option to volunteer to deliver to homes
 - ii. Would need to specify radius of delivery
 - b. Currently, Dining Services will put together a meal plan and deliver to a house that has to quarantine if requested
 - i. Not available for small groups or single students
 2. IRHC looking into improving recycling practices in the dorms
 - a. Dining reported that they are in the process of hiring students to help with recycling collection
 - b. Large effort is being put into delivering meals to students in isolation
 - i. Taking up a lot of their resources at this time
- Fall Flex Academics (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. Meetings held on Thursdays from 2-3 PM
 1. Can no longer make the meetings, email Zofia or Lauren if interested
 - a. Must feel comfortable to articulate points quickly as the meeting goes fast so being put on the spot is a common occurrence
 - ii. Bonnie: Thank you to Zofia for being on the committee and doing such a great job!
 1. Highly encourage for there to be students on the committee
- H-Stem (*Karina Madigan*)
 - i. No report
- HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. No report
 1. First meeting tomorrow
- Non-Motorized Transportation Committee (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. No report
- Experience Tech Fee (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. No report
- Student Insurance (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. University is in a transition to using a new insurance provider
 1. Found a few small issues to address but was successful overall
 - a. Waiver will be getting some changes
 - i. Graduate students and international students are required to have insurance. Option to go though the university but the form is currently not for this
 1. Undergraduate students can also request insurance through the University
- Interfraternity Council
- Inter Residence Housing Council

- Houghton City Council (Jake McDowell)
 - i. No report
 1. Meeting will be September 23rd
 - Friends of the Library
 - JED Campus
 - Other Liaisons
- XI. Unfinished Business
- XII. New Business
- Resignation
 - i. Natalie: Colin had sent in a letter of resignation
 1. Colin: No longer has the time to fulfill the duties of the position
 - a. A thank you to the body and wishes the best for everyone
 - b. Stay safe and healthy
 - ii. Lauren: Entertain a motion to approve Colin's resignation
 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Jordan: We'll miss you Colin!
 - b. Vote of Consensus
 - i. Motion passes
 - WAM Member Election (Harley)
 - i. No interest has been indicated yet
 1. Role is very important and needs to be filled!
 - ii. WaM meeting is set for 6:30pm-7:30pm on Tuesdays
 1. Basically the only time that works for all of E-Board
 2. Must be able to make the time
 - iii. Any nominations?
 1. Lauren: We really need this position filled!
 2. Harley: New members please feel welcome! Most of E-Board is also new so all could learn together
 3. Larkin: Harley, could you briefly explain WaM?
 - a. Harley: This year is a bit different than previous years as far as responsibilities
 - i. Currently the main focus is budget revisions
 - ii. Would also need to double check the requests on the website
 4. Lauren: Please reach out to Harley if interested
 - a. Will revisit this next week
 - Liaison Position Sign Up
 - i. Larkin: Last week's minutes has the link included
 1. Anyone who isn't currently a liaison or would like another liaison position, look through the spreadsheet and email Larkin if interested in any position
 - Committee Chair Appointment
 - i. Lauren: Due to Colin's resignation, the Events Committee Chair position is open
 1. Due to COVID-19 the main duty of the committee would be Body Barn organization
 2. Any nominations?
 - a. Darren: Do they already have to be on Events?
 - i. Lauren: No, but it does tend to work smoother. If not already on the committee E-Board will help teach the individual

- b. Darren nominates himself
- c. No other nominations
 - i. Larkin: Would like to appoint Darren as the Events Committee Chair
 - 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. No discussion
 - i. 15 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 - ii. Motion passes

ii. Lauren: Congratulations Darren!

- Judiciary Committee Member

- i. Sydent: Nominate Bryce

- 1. Bryce accepts

- 2. Lauren: Would like to make a motion to appoint Bryce as a Judiciary Committee Member

- a. So Moved & Second

- i. No discussion

- ii. 17 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain

- 1. Motion passes

- ii. Lauren: Congratulations Bryce!

XIII. Open Floor

- Larkin: USG photo next week!

- i. Everyone must put their camera on for the photo

- 1. If anyone has no camera they must have a professional profile picture up instead

- ii. Please dress professionally and have an appropriate background!

- Zack: Entertain a motion to set aside up to \$130 to purchase USG-branded pens for National Voter Registration Day

- i. Harley: Why are you doing all the motions separately?

- 1. Zack: Was unsure if they could all be combined or not as PR may help cover some of the costs

- 2. Sydney: You can combine them all together unless the body asks you to split them up

- ii. So Moved & Second

- 1. Discussion

- a. Jordan: Did you still want PR to help with the cost?

- i. Zack: If PR is okay with it the cost could be split \$65 for each committee

- 1. Jordan; Would need to approve with committee first

- ii. Harley: Reminder that the money ultimately comes out of the same account. The budget is meant more for tracking purposes of spending

- 2. 14 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain

- a. Motion passes

- Zack: Would like to allocate up to \$10 to rent chairs from facilities for National Voter Registration Day

- i. So Moved & Second

- 1. No discussion

- 2. 16 aye, 0 nay, 3 abstain

- a. Motion passes
 - Zack: Would like to allocate up to \$70 for three containers of disinfectant wipes from Chem Stores for National Voter Registration Day
 - i. So Moved & Second
 - 1. Discussion:
 - a. Larkin: The cost has increased due to COVID-19 for cleaning products but \$70 is still expensive. Is there somewhere else to get them from?
 - i. Zack: University policy says that orgs have to go through Chem Stores for COVID-19 cleaning products
 - b. Ziggy: How many containers do we actually need?
 - i. Zack: There are the three separate booth locations so it'd be best for each to have their own as sharing is not a feasible option
 - c. Larkin: A couple alternative ideas
 - i. We get one container and separate the wipes into three different ziploc bags
 - 1. Unsure is this would also be a policy issue
 - ii. The USG office currently has a lot of cleaning products, could some be used to help cut down the cost?
 - iii. Zack: No issue with first option. There's 160 wipes per container which is \$18.66 as a whole
 - 1. Not allowed to using cleaning products that are in the office as this is another policy issue
 - d. Zack: Amend the motion to: Would like to allocate up to \$20 for one container of disinfectant wipes from Chem Stores for National Voter Registration Day.
 - i. So Moved & Second
 - 1. Discussion:
 - a. Joe: Would it be better to use disinfectant spray? But can see how splitting the one container could work as well
 - b. Larkin: Point of information for new members: this vote is to change the original motion
 - 2. 17 aye, 1 nay, 1 abstain
 - a. Motion passes
 - e. No further discussion
 - 2. 16 aye, 1 nay, 2 abstain
 - a. Motion passes

XIV. Closed Session

XV. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"

- Sydney: WaM is a really important committee. Highly encourage someone to go for it, even if they are new!
- Larkin:
 - i. Echo Sydney's point
 - ii. Thank you to Colin for all of your hard work on USG!
 - iii. Anyone who's already signed up for the Career Fair, good luck!
- Zack: Echo Sydney's point

- i. WaM does a lot which is a really good learning experience but it must also be kept in mind that it is a time commitment, especially during Budget Hearings
- Harley: Most of the members are new to WaM & we're all new to the ticketing website. We can all learn together!

XVI. Adjournment

- Lauren: Entertain a motion to adjourn meeting
 - i. So Moved & Second
 - 1. No discussion
 - 2. Vote of Consensus
 - a. Motion passes
 - i. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Wohlgemuth
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government