

Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

September 9, 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
 - So Moved & Second
 - i. No Discussion
 - ii. Vote of Consensus
 1. Motion Passes
- VI. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- VII. Officer Reports
 - President (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. [Liaison Position Signup](#)
 1. Details liaison positions that are currently open
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. Office Hours
 1. Remember to log out of Zoom after virtual office hours
 2. Office hour expectations
 - a. If you're unsure of what to do during office hours, information can be found in the USG binders and the office
 - b. USG-related work first
 - i. Committee work
 - ii. Advance/Reimbursement requests
 - ii. Body Retreat
 1. Fall Body Retreat is scheduled for October 3rd 10 AM-12 PM
 2. Location to be determined - hoping for in person!
 - a. Might change last minute
 - Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Please login to the [USG Ticketing Portal](#)
 1. Log in with your SSO login
 2. Harley will set permissions manually
 - ii. 2020/2021 Budget Allocations Spreadsheet is shared
 1. Place to find organization budget allocations for Advance/Reimbursement requests
 - iii. Questions?

1. Ask during open floor
 - Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. Discord
 1. In the works
 2. Any questions -- let me know!
- VIII. Advisor Reports
- Beka Horsch
 - i. [HuskyLead: Recruitment Basics: M.A.P. Your Way to Success](#)
 1. Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 PM in MUB Ballroom A2
 2. Will be posted on the Huskey Lead website going forward
 - ii. [Keweenaw Day](#)
 1. Virtual and In Person starting Friday, September 11 at 12 PM
 - a. Come and check things out!
 - Stefani Vargas Krause
 - i. Keep up to date with [Involvement Link](#)
 1. Great resource for events, organizations, service opportunities, and more!
 - ii. First issue of The Lode released tomorrow
 1. Will be released digitally
 - Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Endorses Jessie's Husky Lead program
 - ii. Announced retirement for the end of this Fall semester
 1. Will miss this family!
- IX. Standing Committee Reports
- Events (*Colin Schaefer*)
 - i. Please sign up for K-Day
 - ii. In Person & Virtual Dates
 1. Larkin: Has a Zoom meeting link made for the virtual date
 - a. Will put into the K-Day signup spreadsheet as soon as possible
 2. Larkin: New members, please don't be afraid to volunteer for K-Day if you don't know as much as you'd like about USG yet!
 - a. We'll have informational sheets available for students that would be helpful for our members to reference as well
 - b. Will also plug the student feedback form that can be found on our website
 - Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Updates to the Bylaws
 1. Articles V, XI, and XIII - Pages 5,16,17,18 and 19
 2. Please familiarize yourself with the updates the file on the USG drive is the most up to date version
 - ii. Additional Constitution revision ideas
 1. [Current List](#)
 - a. Any ideas for changes, please let Sydney know!
 - Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Space reserved for National Voter Registration Day, September 22nd
 1. Volunteer spreadsheet will be sent out
 - a. Clerks must work 3 hour shifts
 - b. Other tables to hand out informational sheets to students who can't register right then

- i. Limit of two people per table
 - Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Web-builder Application Form
 - 1. <https://forms.gle/gdoXs5hFWY3e1vC6A>
 - 2. Bianca put together a form to get information on who's made changes to the website and any opinions on updates
 - ii. Michigan Tech Snap Takeover
 - 1. When and Who
 - a. Would most likely have Larkin lead it but it isn't set as of now
 - iii. Website Information Form and Member of the Week Form
 - 1. Sent out a clarified email, please fill out the forms!
 - 2. Sending out an email after meeting to anyone who hasn't filled out the forms yet
 - Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. [Projects List](#)
 - 1. Brainstorming list of ideas
 - 2. Student feedback form on website
 - a. Please plug at K-Day!
 - b. If Jordan could also work with PR to make a post on social media
 - ii. [SAC Meeting after General](#)
 - 1. Zoom meeting link included above
 - Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No report
 - 1. First WaM meeting will be this Friday
- X. USG Liaison Reports
 - Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
 - i. No report
 - 1. Meeting next week
 - Interfraternity Council
 - Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Held a vote on the approval of exploring the idea of adding another sorority to MTU
 - 1. Results determined that the idea won't be explored
 - ii. President Koubek and Bonnie also met with Panhellenic Council and IFC Council to discuss COVID-19 concerns
 - Inter Residence Housing Council
 - Houghton City Council
 - Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. No report
 - 1. No requests received yet
 - Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Summer meetings highlights
 - 1. Laptop requirement
 - 2. 66-20: University Senate support for Black Lives Matter and Justice for All
 - 3. 67-20: Creation of Juneteenth day of service and learning
 - ii. Currently haven't met this semester
 - Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Work will most likely be put on pause until a new VP of Diversity is selected and starts
 - Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)

- i. No report
 - ii. Lauren will be attending the meeting tomorrow
- Friends of the Library
 - i. No report
 - ii. Zofia: Unsure if they'd need a liaison right now
 - 1. Will reach out and ask
- Fall Flex Academics (Zofia Freiberg)
 - i. Over the course of the Summer it was really amazing to see how hard everyone on campus has been working to make this year go as smoothly as possible
 - 1. Admin, professors, staff, facilities, etc
 - a. Huge thank you to all of their hard work!
 - ii. Potential last meeting on Thursday
- JED Campus (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. No report
 - 1. Unable to make meetings going forward
 - a. Had a really great experience working on mental health support on campus
 - 2. Meets on Tuesdays from 10-11 AM once a month
- H-Stem (*Karina Madigan*)
 - i. No report
- HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. No report
- 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

XII. New Business

- Tech Traditions Committee
 - i. Committee that handles the planning for all of the University's traditions
 - 1. Looking for members that are passionate about the work
 - 2. Reach out to Rocco in the SLI or someone on E-Board for more information
- Concerns/Questions for President Koubek
 - i. E-Board will be meeting with President Koubek on Thursday
 - 1. Please reach out to E-Board with questions/concerns/improvement ideas
 - 2. Larkin: Had a discussion related to this during SA's last meeting, will bring the ideas up at the meeting
- Nominations/Elections
 - i. Natalie: I'd like to make a motion to close nominations for First Year and IRHC Reps on Sunday, September 13th at 11:59 PM
 - 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. No discussion
 - b. 16 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain
 - i. Motion passes
 - ii. Natalie: I'd like to make a motion to open elections for First Year and IRHC Reps on Monday, September 21st at 9 AM and close the elections on Sunday, September 27th at

11:59 PM

1. So Moved & second
 - a. No discussion
 - b. 18 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 - i. Motion passes
- iii. Natalie: I'd like to make a motion to open nominations for the College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science Rep. and College of Sciences and Arts Rep. on Thursday, September 10th after Larkin's "Welcome" email is sent out and close nominations on Wednesday, September 23rd at 11:59 PM
 1. So Moved & second
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Beka: There will be no formal elections so the body wouldn't need to approve these dates
 - ii. Larkin: Also wanted to note that E-Board will be phrasing it as an interest form
 - iii. Sydney: Don't need a motion to approve this
 - b. Motion rescinded

XIII. Open Floor

- Zofia's qualms with Office Hour Requirements in our Constitution
 - i. Had a meeting with Sydney and Harley over Constitution changes. Noticed that all USG members are required to hold three office hours a week. Would like to see a change to this requirement
 1. Our office isn't staffed consistently which isn't super helpful to students
 - a. Some hours also don't commonly meet with many students
 2. Our online office hours have had no students join so far
 3. Overall the three office hours aren't intended to help students but instead are actually just to fulfill the requirement
 4. Would like to have it change to be up to the VP's discretion
 - a. Zofia: Straw poll to see interest for removing the office hour requirement
 - i. Jordan: Would we take away the three hour requirement if replaced with a certain time frame that depends on the body size?
 1. Be able to consistently fill the time slots
 2. Zofia: If it was last year, we'd get rid of the three hour limit and change the times but that could get changed in the future. The power to the VP to decide office hours and how they're run would allow for easier requirement changes
 - ii. Zack: Agree with a lot of Zofia's point of having better time frames. We need to make them more intentional
 1. For virtual office hours we're trying to meet the Constitution requirements but no students have utilized it yet
 2. Want to ensure a one hour minimum to keep the office or we could lose it
 3. Important to note that a future VP could potentially decide to have no office hours which would be bad

- iii. Harley: We could leave the decision under the duties of the VP but still have the 1 hour minimum
 - iv. Ziggy: Usually the VP is still unsure of what is going on when they join and have a different understanding of what they think the students want
 - 1. We should perform a statistical analysis to see how many students actually stop by and when to help determine the hours of most activity
 - v. Stefani: Data collection is highly important!
 - 1. When should the office be staffed? The office is also prime real estate in the MUB which we could easily lose
 - 2. Though this semester is different, during typical semesters when we aren't open students would go to the SLI office for help
 - a. We actually do have consistent interactions with the students
 - vi. Tristan: Concerned over giving full power to the VP
 - 1. Checks and balances system where two thirds of the body will vote on the VP's recommendation
 - vii. Zack: Echo that we do get students in
 - 1. Whether it's for USG matters, directions, or to interact with the students it's a very important opportunity to work with the students
 - a. We shouldn't think too lightly of removing office hours
 - b. Best to plan out the hours to make the best use of office hours
 - i. In the past staffing for the office was also too packed so having the two person limit would help
 - ii. Can look into decreasing the amount of hours dependent on the body's size too
 - viii. Sydney: Ensure that the plan isn't to give the VP full power, the change will have a checks and balances system
 - ix. Ziggy: Echo that we do get students in
 - 1. Had the 8 AM shift last year and had a fair amount of traffic
 - a. Had a lot of important questions whether it was over USG items or something as simple as directions which is really helpful to the community
- b. Zofia: Completely agree to collecting data to determine our best working hours
- i. Important to not that we are the ones who don't always uphold office hours, not the students
 - 1. When students go to the SLI office when the USG

office isn't staffed it doesn't bode well for us and doesn't help the students

- Ticketing Portal Questions?
 - i. Harley: Instructional video available
 - 1. Any questions should go to Harley
- XIV. Closed Session
- Harley: Motion to enter closed session
 - i. No discussion
 - ii. Vote of consensus
 - 1. Motion passes
- XV. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"
- Sydney: Bonnie we'll miss you!! Thank you for all of your work!
 - Zack: Congrats on your retirement and we can't thank you enough for all you've done for MTU!
- XVI. Adjournment
- Lauren: Entertain a motion to adjourn
 - 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