

Agenda, USG General Body Meeting

October 7, 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
 - Quorum met
- V. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - Lauren: Entertain a motion to approve last week's minutes and this week's agenda
 - i. So moved & Second
 1. No Discussion
 2. Vote of Consensus
 - a. No Opposition
 - i. Motion Passes
- VI. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- VII. Officer Reports
 - President (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. [Winter carnival input form](#)
 1. From Blue Key
 2. Fill out by Friday, October 9th at noon
 - ii. [Open liaison positions](#)
 1. GSG
 2. IRHC
 3. Friends of the Library
 4. JED Campus
 5. Tech Forward Initiative on Health and Quality of Life
 6. Diversity
 7. If interested in any of the above positions, add your name to the spreadsheet & send email to Larkin to notify her
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. Thanks for coming to retreat!
 1. Hoping to have the recording posted in the next few days
 - ii. Check out [Committee Membership](#)
 1. New members were added to committees
 - a. Political Affairs & Public Relations are the committees with new members
 - iii. [Missed Office Hours](#)
 1. Up-to-date
 - Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Make sure you check the [Ticketing Portal](#) during office hours
 1. If a request has a white highlight/no highlight feel free to check it out :)

2. Highlighted with a different color, it's for WaM or Harley to review
- Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. Discord Recess (5 minutes)
 1. <https://discord.gg/pCK4r9>
 2. Natalie: Motion to take a five minute recess for joining the USG Discord
 - a. Second
 - i. No Discussion
 - ii. Vote of Consensus
 1. No Opposition
 - a. Motion Passes
 - b. Five minute recess from 7:00-7:15 PM

VIII. Advisor Reports

- Beka Horsch
 - i. Homecoming
 1. Shirt Swap still happening; Please consider donating from the [list](#) or a \$5 minimum donation.
 - a. Homecoming shirt is pistachio green shirt with a homecoming print
 - b. Donations go to Husky FAN
 - c. Available while supplies last
 - i. Current sizes available are M - XXL
 - ii. Social Justice Lecture Series: Toxic Masculinity with Byron Hurt
 1. Tuesday, October 13 at 6PM on Zoom
 2. Link will be shared soon
 - iii. FallFest
 1. During fall break
 2. Fun events are in the works and more details will be provided next week
- Stefani Vargas Krause
 - i. RSO Re-Registration
 1. Thank you to everyone who did register! If you didn't, Stefani will be emailing those individuals soon
- Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Encourage everyone to fill out the Winter Carnival form. The committee is working really hard to plan for Winter Carnival!
 - ii. Encourage students to stay in Houghton during Fall Break to help keep the pandemic spread limited
 1. Board game event that Thursday
 2. Comedian that Friday
 3. Movie on the football field that Saturday
 - a. Movie will be Hocus Pocus!

IX. Representative Reports

- Residential/IRHC
- College of Engineering (*Bryce Walbrun & Justin Mentik & Tej Bergin & Brendan Osentoski*)
 - i. No Report
- College of Science and Arts (*Karina Madigan & Mia Fairchild*)
 - i. Karina: Sent out email to students in the College of Science & Arts
 1. Introduced self and let them know that they can come to her as a resource for any concerns
- College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science

- College of Business (*Ethan Gerds*)
 - i. No Report
 - College of Computing (*Darren Hutchinson*)
 - i. No Report
 - At-Large (*Sydney Dankert & Jake McDowell*)
 - i. No Report
 - Fourth Year (*Zbigniew Bell & Tristan Duelge & Joe Barbercheck*)
 - i. No Report
 - Third Year (*Zofia Freiberg & Zachary Olson*)
 - i. No report
 - Second Year (*Jordan Craven, Conny Yang, Bianca Schuck*)
 - i. No Report
 - First Year (*Nadia Stauffer, Allie Moffit, Ian Clark*)
 - i. No report
- X. Standing Committee Reports
- Events (*Darren Hutchinson*)
 - i. Listening Event planning
 1. Reached out to by Larkin to potentially organize an event to hear the concerns/voices of minority groups on campus
 2. Have contacted four groups on campus to see if they plan on hosting an event like this too
 - a. Have heard back from three so far
 - b. Will bring all information back to the committee to start planning
 - Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Finalizing Constitution Revisions
 1. If you see something that needs to be changed, let Sydney know soon!
 - a. Will need to be brought to the body as soon as possible to get the process rolling
 - ii. Board of Trustees Policy Review
 1. Committee has been helping with double-checking changes made. Will hopefully be done in two weeks
 - iii. Bylaw Review
 1. Anything you'd like to change, let Sydney know
 2. Have currently gotten through two sections so far
 - Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. No Report
 - Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Bianca:
 1. PLEASE FILL OUT [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#) and send your professional photo to Bianca (bmschuck@mtu.edu)
 - a. Motion for a five minute recess to fill out this Google form
 - i. Second
 1. No Discussion
 2. Vote of Consensus
 - a. No Opposition
 - i. Motion Passes
 - ii. Recess from 7:23-7:28 PM
 2. Go follow the USG social media accounts!!

- a. It'd be good for all members to be following our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter as well as share our posts!
 - 3. New body photo will be taken during New Business
 - Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg & Karina Madigan*)
 - i. Husky FAN
 - 1. Question to trade their stock of individually packaged liners for ours that aren't individually wrapped
 - a. Finalizing trade!
 - ii. Title IX Mock Report Submission
 - 1. Report finalized and sent in
 - a. Report was over suggestions of procedure improvements to consider
 - Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Budget Revisions
 - 1. Theme Park Engineering Group
 - 2. Cheer Team
 - 3. Both budget revisions were approved and have been updated in the funding spreadsheet
- XI. USG Liaison Reports
 - Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
 - i. GSG came up with a strong statement in regards to the rally, strongly condemning the actions taken
 - Interfraternity Council (*Bianca Schuck*)
 - i. No Report
 - 1. Waiting for an informational email from the council
 - Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. No Report
 - 1. Presented to the council on the Voter Registration Information
 - Houghton City Council (*Jake McDowell*)
 - i. No Report
 - 1. Next meeting on October 14th
 - Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. No Report
 - Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No Report
 - 1. Meeting is next week
 - Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No Report
 - Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke & Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. No Report
 - Fall Flex Academics (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. No Report
 - 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
- Student Insurance (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. No Report
- Tech Forward Initiative on Sustainability & Resilience (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. AASHE
 1. Rating system for sustainability and our rating is really not good. Disappointed in our rating which led to a discussion over the fact that MTU lacks an Office and Director of Sustainability
 - a. Potential plans to make this office a branch of Administration
 2. Zack: Noticed that campus is heated by a steam plant by the portage and that there's heating waste
 - a. Contacted the respective office on campus but have received no response so far
 - b. An example is that at times the heat is on when it's not entirely necessary. This would definitely be good to bring to the Office of Sustainability to address
- Inter Residence Housing Council
- Friends of the Library
 - i. Zofia: No Report
- JED Campus
- Tech Forward Initiative on Health & Quality of Life
- Other Liaisons

XII. Unfinished Business

- Election Day Resolution
 - i. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QKd33zt1Z1QtylqUITaQd7FRMkajVZ64E8Li3-Bnk8g/edit>
 - ii. Zack: Hope to vote on the resolution this week. Made some revisions based off of feedback from last week's meeting
 1. Noticed that since a recess could only be implemented two years later, there isn't a need to rush for this right now
 - a. Have a meeting with Mike Johnson coming up to discuss possible times that could be pulled from the calendar for the future recess
 2. Senate could however potentially make a "recess" that could go into effect this year
 - a. Could work more like a University holiday where classes and assignments would be forbidden on Election Day
 - i. Similar to how Career Fair has been handled in the past with exams, quizzes, and big projects being forbidden to occur on Career Fair Day
 - iii. Zack: Entertain a motion to adopt this Election Day Resolution
 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Bryce: Take a two minute recess to look through all of the edits?
 1. Sydney: Can't be done while already in a motion
 2. Zack: Could pull motion to allow for the recess?
 3. Lauren: Does anyone need time to read the changes?

- a. Harley: Don't necessarily need time to read to changes but would like time to think the resolution over
 - 2. Zack: Rescind Motion
 - iv. Zack: Motion to take a five minute recess to read over the Election Day Resolution
 - 1. Second
 - a. No Discussion
 - b. Vote of Consensus
 - i. No Opposition
 - 1. Motion Passes
 - 2. Recess from 7:41-7:46 PM
 - v. Lauren: Any further discussion on this resolution?
 - 1. Harley: Point of Information -- Would this still be considered a recess by not having class?
 - a. Bonnie: Unsure of the answer
 - i. Recess is when there's no class in general. For example, Career fair recess is two hours where there won't be any classes but the whole day isn't on a recess
 - b. Zack: It would act like a recess but it stops just short of being an official recess
 - i. In the past many professors actually took the initiative to cancel their own classes for the day to help the students get to Career Fair
 - ii. Senate would have the power to institute this cancellation of classes without an official recess being called
 - c. Bonnie: The policy right now for Career Fair makes exams, quizzes, and other big assignments forbidden fo the day but this would change once recess takes place
 - 2. Larkin: Overall, like the changes!
 - a. Concern over the phrase "all available means". It's too broad of a definition and needs to be more specific
 - i. Zack: Thank you for pointing that out! Used the pass/fail proposal as a guide to form this resolution so that phrase was carried over. Sydney, how would we be able to amend the resolution during the discussion?
 - 1. Sydney: It's frowned upon so the appropriate course of action would be to take the resolution away, make changes, and then bring it back to the next meeting
 - 2. Zack: Would like to get this resolution approved as soon as possible since November 3rd is coming up fast
 - 3. Larkin: Accept the resolution on the condition of specific changes?
 - a. Sydney: Possible solution!
 - b. Darren: Are we going to pull it for a recess and discuss after?
 - i. Sydney: Could table it for now to

allow Zack to make the changes

3. Zack: Motion to table this resolution until Open Floor
 - a. Second
 - i. No Discussion
 - ii. Vote of Consensus
 1. No Opposition
 - a. Motion Passes
- Question posed to Larkin from the Academic Affairs Committee of the BoT to address during their next meeting: “What one issue requires more attention from the Board from the perspective of your organization?”
 - i. Larkin: Thank you Jake for collecting student responses! Will read them later but would like body input now as well
 1. [Instagram Story Responses](#) (Jake)
 - a. Jake: There was actually only one response
 - ii. Zofia: When discussing dining hall sustainability during a Student Commission meeting it became apparent that sustainability isn't a priority on campus and it needs to be factored into everything on campus
 1. None of our mottos apply if we aren't making the changes necessary. We need to make an office for sustainability since sustainability initiatives on campus are currently only funded by outside grants but this should be internal too
 2. Other universities have treaties to approach sustainability that we could reference, plus a lot of students here are passionate about sustainability so they'd be a great resource too
 3. It's also frustrating when students bring sustainability concerns to administration and they aren't heard. Students shouldn't have to compromise on their own beliefs/the health of the planet. There needs to be higher level support for sustainability on campus
 - iii. Sydney: Concerns about the smaller fees students pay such as for lab, technology, textbooks, among others. Students are already concerned about tuition rising and are personally willing to fight on the smaller fees
 1. Haven't met someone that was able to fully back the reasoning to have the little fees, specifically online technology fee
 2. Conny: Was registered for PH2100 so the University automatically puts Mastering Physics on their student bill. Ended up dropping the class but wasn't able to get a refund, why did this happen?
 - a. Wasn't able to find a party to help address this either which is a concern
 3. Brendan: Specifically this semester there was disappointment on how the textbooks in the book store were handled
 - a. Barely any books were available and somehow online books were sold out. How does that happen?
 - b. Due to the restocking issues they still don't have some of their textbooks. This is an issue for a lot of other students as well
 - iv. Larkin: Thank you everyone for your input! It's all really helpful and good to have on our radar to make the academic affairs committee aware of the issues as well
- Supporting Minority Students
 - i. Email from Larkin
 1. Larkin: Many responses were received. There were both negative and positive,

XIV. Open Floor

- Tabled Election Day Resolution
 - i. Lauren: Does anyone have further questions/discussions about the resolution?
 1. Zack: The following change was made: “will be circulated to the student body by publication on the USG website and USG social media accounts”
 - a. Jordan: Sounds good from PR’s end!
 - ii. Zack: Entertain a motion to adopt resolution no. 2020-2021, #001 with the change indicated above
 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. No Discussion
 - b. 20 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain
 - i. Motion Passes
 - iii. Larkin: Point of clarification -- A proposal needs to be sponsored by a senator for it to be discussed by the Senate. Stefani would most likely be able to bring this forward for us!
 1. Zack: Will reach out to Stefani ASAP
 2. Harley: We’re very lucky that Stefani can bring it to the committee for us! Once the discussion portion starts that’s when Zack could take over to answer questions
 3. Beka: Make sure to provide Stefani with all of the information as she hasn’t been able to make meeting lately
 4. Bonnie: To bring this as a proposal it may need to be in a different format. Talk to Stefani about this as well
 - a. Zack: Working off of previous similar resolutions, hoping that what had been done last time could be applied again but would otherwise need a vote of confidence
 - iv. Zack: Entertain a motion for a vote of confidence for Zachary Olson to make necessary changes to the proposal
 1. So Moved & Second
 - a. No Discussion
 - b. Vote of Consensus
 - i. No Opposition
 1. Motion Passes
- Brendan: After Larkin’s email being sent out, a number of Republican friends would like to also see an email sent out in regards to harassment they’ve been receiving
 - i. There was also an instance where a death threat to the Republican students was written on a white board. Contacted some of the Republican groups on campus to learn that many of their members don’t feel safe on campus due to harassment from fellow students
 1. The students that were the target of the hate speech on the white board reported it to their RA who shot their concerns down quickly
 2. Know that the email was addressing hate speech directly but with knowledge of hate speech towards a specific group of students. Unsure of how to word this
 - a. Larkin: We can circle back if you’d like to take time to figure out your wording
 - ii. Larkin: Wasn’t aware of the disrespect coming specifically from the protesters to the people in the parade so it wasn’t addressed in the email as it wasn’t brought to USG directly. Acknowledge that this needs to be addressed as well

- iii. Sydney: Speaking of hate speech on a political basis, we condemn hate speech but it is often specified to a specific group. Personally have experienced hate speech. Would like to remind everyone that we should work to be apolitical
 - 1. Unsure if another email would be the best decision to address this. We should go forward to further address hate speech and how it should be brought to Public Safety
- iv. Tej: As far as personally aware, no hate speech came directly from protestors to those in the parade. Do agree however that hate speech should be condemned regardless of the involved parties
- v. Zack: Understanding of why we spoke on this was due to specific harassment claims. Unsure if the whiteboard incident is on a comparative level of the direct threat of violence which is an event that specifically wouldn't be addressed by us typically
 - 1. Hate speech is hurtful speech to protected class based on characteristics like race, religion, and gender among others. From the previous statement it's important that we denounce hate speech broadly
- vi. Ethan: Based off of Zack's explanation of hate speech, also unsure of how another email should be sent out to avoid it undermining the previous email. Do want to address hate speech as a whole
- vii. Darren: Believe that Larkin's email was worded very well to the broad audience. No specific parties were targeted. Acknowledge that often when hate speech is thought of it tends to be on the most commonly targeted groups even though it actually applies to any and all instances regardless of the group
- viii. Brendan: Point of clarification -- Zack, the threat is still incredibly serious regardless of the fact that it was written and not spoken. The problem is that the target for the message was scared for their safety so the point is to address how this instance was glossed over. The group isn't specifically asking for another email to be sent, the focus is that it was a threat so it needs to be taken seriously and it needs to be addressed
- ix. Tej: Larkin, the way you worded your email was very well done and agree that any form of hate speech isn't okay. Wouldn't like to cause issues to arise but would encourage everyone to take a moment to assess the diversity across campus to keep in mind
- x. Sydney: Everyone should acknowledge the Report a Concern form and that if anyone does feel unsafe to report it to Public Safety. With PR's approval, we could share resources for students to address any hate they may be feeling. It doesn't need to be a targeted message either
- xi. Zack: Apologize that it came off as minimizing the whiteboard instance, it should be taken seriously. Also don't want to split hairs over the technical meaning of hate speech as the important part is the issue that no student should feel scared on campus. Potentially seek out the specific hall to address the vent?
- xii. Jordan: Stemming from both concerns brought to us, if we can get our liaisons to share the concerns to create a campus-wide way to further address this. Also agree that the resources need to be shared and that we should encourage a focus on creating positivity on campus plus acceptance through being able to live with our differences
- xiii. Larkin: Thank you for the support over the email! Tried as best as possible to be apolitical but understand that the meaning could've been misconstrued off of personal political lenses. Thank you Sydney for your points of action; we should make a statement but maybe not through an email though
- xiv. Bonnie: Thank you for bringing this up! Remember that hate speech is still protected under the first amendment, no matter how bad it is. Though, it's also different than a

threat which would need to be reported to Public Safety to address. Encourage all of us to improve the way we handle political differences, especially during the election. Really appreciate the conversation as this is extremely important with the upcoming election

xv. Brendan: Thank you Bonnie for mentioning those resources. Will let friend know the route to take

1. Bonnie: Also recommend bringing this up to Housing

XV. Closed Session

XVI. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"

- Beka: Reminder that if you complete your answers to the Robert's Rules questions from retreat and send them to Lauren/E-Board to get a prize!
 - i. To answer Bianca's question, MUB 112 has the shirts for the shirt swap
- Sydney: Encourage that if able and willing, make sure to get a flu shot
- Jordan: if anyone else is interested in PR let Jordan know!
- Lauren: Note that although the committees on the spreadsheet indicate primary committees, everyone is encouraged to be on more than one

XVII. Adjournment

- Lauren: Entertain a motion to adjourn meeting
 - i. So Moved & Second
 - 1. No Discussion
 - 2. Vote of Consensus
 - a. No Opposition
 - i. Motion Passes
 - ii. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Wohlgemuth
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government