

Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

October 14, 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
 - 3 Absent
 - i. Quorum
- 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. Please stay local over Fall Break
 1. Helps keep the pandemic from spreading
 2. Know that many already have plans set but please keep this in mind this weekend!
 - ii. [Questions for CFO](#)
 1. Fill out by October 21st
 2. CFO will be at an upcoming meeting to educate us on finance-related questions that you have or you feel would be good to address for your constituents
 - iii. Educational resources weekly (optional but strongly recommended)
 1. Learning about minority experiences, what hate speech is, etc.
 2. Will be included on the agenda in the upcoming weeks
 3. Optional but strongly recommended
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. Fall Break office hours are excused
 - ii. Committee Chairs- please continue to fill out [Weekly Committee Form](#)
 1. Reminder to fill out the form please! Would like to get it started back up again
 - iii. [Missed Office Hours sheet](#)
 1. Reach out with any questions or if you feel a mistake was made
 - iv. Meet Your Org
 1. Earlier this week, sent out an email to all RSO E-Board members. Reaching out to introduce USG, mention our Instagram spotlights, and ask what they need from us
 - a. Point of Clarification: For new members, the point is to create a direct

line of communication between USG and the RSOs. We used to have each member assigned to six RSOs to reach out to but this year is different to see if this way will work better

2. Mushing Club Responded
 - a. Invited to join their weekly Zoom link
 3. Remember to reach out to RSOs that you are interested in/close to
 - a. Introduce yourself to their E-Board at the very least. Inform them that you're a member on USG so you can answer questions and/or provide help with concerns over items like planning virtual events
 - b. If you don't have any RSOs like this, reach out to ones you may know about/want to know about
 - i. Lauren: Does anyone have any questions?
 1. Harley: When do Mushing Club meet?
 - a. Lauren: 6PM on Tuesdays. If anyone has any interest in this RSO, reach out to Lauren so she can forward the meeting information
 4. Lauren: Does anyone have any other questions about Meet Your Org, or any comments?
 - a. Sydney: This method is great! The previous method was fine but this one will work better!
 - b. Zack: Previously discussed adding a question to the email that they'd be more inclined to answer -- is this still the plan?
 - i. Lauren: Do you mean posting on our social media to allow orgs to reach out there? Or what platform do you mean?
 1. Zack: Unsure, didn't come up with ideas
 2. Bryce: His idea that came up while discussing voter reg/the town hall. Zack mentioned that certain orgs may be interested in coming to the events. Goal was if the orgs asked about upcoming USG events that the members would be able provide a list to them
 5. Lauren: Meet Your Org could also potentially be shared during the Representative Reports section of meeting
- Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No report
 1. Small presentation later on the agenda to discuss an item for WaM
 - Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. Tap/Printer Access
 1. Everyone should have access to the office/printer. Please let Natalie know if you still can't get in so we can figure it out
 - ii. USG Google Calendar!
 1. Made a calendar for USG-related items and shared it with everyone. Everyone should also have edit access! Please join, it'll be a great spot to share information over USG events or even fun team bonding events across campus. Not required but highly encouraged

VIII. Advisor Reports

- Beka Horsch
 - i. Fall Break
 1. This weekend is intended to provide a little bit of a break to check in with

yourself and/or others. There are also some fun events planned!

- a. Game Show Night
 - i. Thursday, October 15 from 7-9 PM [online](#)
 - ii. Could potentially win a cash prize!
- b. Comedian Maggie Maye
 - i. Friday, October 16 at 10 PM on [Zoom](#)
 - ii. If you're looking for laughs she'll be very funny to watch!
- ii. Make a Difference Day
 1. Deadline to [Register](#): October 19 at 5 PM
 2. Event: Saturday, October 24 at 9 AM
 - a. All participants need to meet at Lot 24, by the football field, to get their assignment and t-shirt
- Stefani Vargas Krause
 - i. Senate
 1. Harley & Zack should have an update over results from Senate later on in the meeting
- Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Fall break
 1. Previously discussed staying in town but another discussion mentioned was over behavior. Make sure to keep on top of the social distancing/mask/etc no matter where you are
 2. Make sure to take time for yourself! Main reason why the break was implemented
 - a. This has been a pressing request in the past. If you think it's valuable and should be added to the calendar for upcoming years, bring this recommendation to the Senate!
 3. Have fun and stay safe!

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. No Report
- 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. No Thanksgiving Break Bus due to COVID-19 safety restrictions
 - 1. Lauren: Was brought up that people have been getting questions about the bus during their office hours. For clarification, there won't be a Thanksgiving Break or a Winter Break bus. There could potentially be a Spring Break bus depending on how the COVID-19 safety restrictions progress by then
- Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. Week 8: Planning to Start Bylaw Amendments
 - 1. Week 9: We will start going over the amendments during meeting
 - a. There's 20 items so they definitely won't be addressed all in one day. They'll be divided into sections across a few meetings
 - ii. Any other amendment ideas? Let Sydney know
 - 1. Ex. During a discussion with Harley to go over our budgetary guidelines, there were a bunch of amendments made
 - iii. Zack: Will the proposed Bylaw revisions be available on Google Drive?
 - 1. Sydney: Plan to bring them to next meeting but are also already on the drive in the Judiciary Committee folder. If you'd like to read them before meeting they aren't completely finished yet with some still needing the rationelle portion
- Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Senate
 - 1. Didn't like the proposal and expressed that implementing it this year is too late of a notice. The emergency proposal failed so now we'll go through with a regular proposal that would need a body vote & some edits to meet the Senate's requirements
 - 2. Will talk with Stefani to learn more about how the process will go from here for the changes
 - ii. MDOS Voting Town Hall
 - 1. Oct. 15, 4-5 PM
 - 2. Discuss absentee ballot/late reg/etc.
 - 3. Zoom <https://michigantech.zoom.us/j/86813354551>
 - 4. Know that the event is late notice but the candidates have very packed schedules so it was difficult to work around. They still really want to go through with the Town Hall!
 - a. The deadline to register for the in-person seating for the event will be before it starts
 - b. Committee has done some outreach for the event. An email was sent out to all students and was also forwarded to USG
 - iii. MI House District 110, Meet the Candidates
 - 1. Unfortunately lost contact with third individual and wasn't able to get an answer
 - 2. Will be on Oct. 17 in Fisher 135
 - a. 12-1 PM (Janet Metsa, D)
 - b. 2-3 PM (Rick Sauermilch, G)
 - 3. Sign-in is at the door and is on a first-come-first serve basis
 - 4. Room capacity of 88 people
 - 5. Will record and distribute a film of the event afterwards
 - a. Need to discuss this with PR to have available on our social media

accounts

- Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Social Media Statistics
 1. Instagram- 349 followers (+10)
 2. Twitter- 261 followers(--)
 3. Facebook- 1,119 followers(-1)
 - ii. Website
 1. Goal to release the Wix website by Oct. 31st
 2. Really excited to get the website done!
 - iii. Poster Project
 1. Simple posters focusing on kindness and inclusion on campus as well as initiatives USG has passed that help the Undergraduate Student Body
 2. Post for next week will be about kindness
 3. Plan to include some initiatives from USG that closely apply
- Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. [Project Cycle](#)
 1. Link above opens to a photo of what the baskets will look like
 2. Was able to make the liners trade so the next step is working on the baskets
 - ii. Proposal for an Academic Policy regarding Canvas (Joe Barbercheck)
 1. Proposal that requires instructors to use Canvas
 2. A previous proposal failed in the Senate -- hoping to look at it to help guide our proposal
 - iii. Looking for clarification on Academic Policy around Evening Exams
 1. Policy where when a class has an evening exam the students should get a class period off to compensate for the time dedicated outside of class
 - a. Would this be against any academic policy or not?
- Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No Report
 1. Did not meet this week.
 2. WaM-related item in New Business

XI. USG Liaison Reports

- Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
 - i. Shuttle services to Daniell Heights
 1. Request from GSG to help with the initiative. Students are facing problems with the 10 person limit for the shuttles due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. Hope to potentially increase capacity?
 - a. The Department of Transportation has expressed a strained budget so GSG wants to help fund two to three weeks of the additional shuttle. The issue is that the cost for the bus is high at \$500/day. If USG would be interested in providing an extra shuttle and could help contribute, GSG will discuss more details going forward
 2. Lauren: Will discuss at the next E-Board meeting and will be brought to the body next meeting during New Business
- Interfraternity Council (Bianca Schuck)
 - i. Working on how to be more inclusive in greek organizations
 1. Will be sending out an email about diversity in greek life
- Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)

- i. No Report
- Houghton City Council (*Jake McDowell*)
 - i. No Report
- Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. No Report
- Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Senate Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding Committee
 - 1. Will back us on our Report a Concern/Equity page ideas
 - a. Gave USG the lead for this. Senate will back our ideas and what we choose to do
 - ii. Election Day Proposal
 - 1. Did not pass as an emergency proposal
 - a. ~35% approval due to concerns of labs, scheduling, among other things
 - 2. Being brought back in 2 weeks as a regular proposal
 - a. Predicting a lot of amendments to the proposal for it to be approved. Currently don't know how it'll go
- Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No Report
- Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke & Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. No Report
 - 1. Didn't meet this week
- Fall Flex Academics (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. A super quick, but super-duper helpful [survey](#)
 - 1. Survey to collect students' feelings over how the Fall Flex Academics has been handled so far
 - 2. Same survey that was previously sent out in email
 - 3. It'd be super helpful if students filled it out!
 - ii. [Link to Tech Today Article](#)
 - 1. Important info to be aware of!
- H-Stem (*Karina Madigan*)
 - i. No Report
- HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. On schedule for testing starting next semester
- 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. Met on Monday and had two main topics for discussion
 - 1. Initiative to provide 100% insurance coverage for dependents on a school-provided insurance plan. Proposal will be brought to the next level in the approval process
 - 2. Local healthcare providers have dedicated specific section(s) of their facilities for students
- Tech Forward Initiative on Sustainability & Resilience (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. No Report
- Inter Residence Housing Council

- Friends of the Library
 - i. Zofia: No Report
 - Tech Forward Initiative on Health & Quality of Life
 - Ad-hoc Com on Textbook Affordability and Accessibility (*Tristan Duelge*)
 - i. Regrouped on Monday to look at last year's proposal since a lot of the big ticket items aren't relevant anymore due to COVID-19
 - 1. USG's task is to revisit the textbook resolution from last year
 - a. Idea of a new proposal to allocate grant money to sponsor professors with making open education materials available for Summer classes
 - i. Plan to start with one department first to see how it'd work before implementation on a larger scale
 - 2. Committee really wants to know how students feel about the online/physical textbooks right now
 - a. Lauren: Thank you Tristan! Does anyone have any comments to mention now?
 - i. No comments indicated -- topic can be discussed later
- Other Liaisons
- XII. Unfinished Business
- XIII. New Business
- Resignation
 - i. Jake McDowell reached out to express his decision to resign
 - 1. Natalie read his letter of resignation to the body
 - 2. Harley: Motion to approve Jake's resignation
 - a. Second
 - i. No Discussion
 - ii. Vote of Consensus
 - 1. Opposition Expressed
 - 2. Move to a vote
 - a. 15 aye, 1 nay, 1 abstain
 - i. Motion Passes
 - ii. Zack: If anyone is wondering about his reasoning, Jake is currently going through the process to join Beta Sigma Phi. Zack is also a member and can back the issue of the time commitment to the process
- Open WAM Position (*Harley*)
 - i. Harley shared his presentation with the body
 - 1. Provided a summary on who/what WaM is and the duties/responsibilities that come with being a WaM member
 - ii. Everyone has a week to think about potentially taking up the position. Will be voted on next meeting
 - iii. Lauren: Are there any questions for Harley at the moment?
 - 1. No questions asked
- XIV. Open Floor
- [USG Calendar Invite](#)
 - i. Natalie: This is the link to the USG calendar invite, please join if you can!
- XV. Closed Session
- XVI. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"
- Zofia: [Systems Engineering Association](#) for Undergraduate and Graduate Students
 - i. Event on Tuesday, October 20th 7:00 PM

1. "How Systems Engineering is shifting automotive and aeronautical industries with [Dr. Wirthlin](#)"
 - ii. [Email List](#)
 - iii. Shardul, can you mention this organization to GSG? Could be very helpful to join!
 1. Shardul: Yes, will add this information to the GSG weekly email update
- Larkin: Chalk Talk
 - i. Put on by CDI Presidents' Council
 - ii. Saturday, October 17th 3pm
 - iii. Will be writing with sidewalk chalk around campus to "encourage and promote dialogue among organizations" and "bring a platform of visibility"
 1. Especially for minority students on campus
 - Zack:
 - i. Recently became a member of Beta Sigma Phi as well. If anyone has any questions about this frat or greek life in general, reach out to Zack
 - ii. Would like to meet with the rest of PA committee to discuss the next steps for the Election Day Proposal

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
 1. Meeting Adjourned
 2. Lauren: Have a great Fall Break everyone!

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Wohlgemuth
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government