

Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

October 21, 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
 - 1 Absent
 - i. Quorum Met
- V. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - Lauren:
 - i. So Moved & Second
 1. Vote of Consensus
 - a. No Opposition
 - i. Motion Passes
- VI. Recognition of Visitors – Thanks for coming!
- VII. Officer Reports
 - President (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
 - i. Update on supporting underrepresented students
 1. Report a Concern link to be added to Banweb - huge thanks to Bonnie!
 2. Makes it more accessible and it's a great resource for students
 3. Bonnie: Not added yet but will be soon!
 - ii. [Questions for CFO](#)
 1. Add any questions on university budget, tuition, fees, etc. by midnight
 - a. Bringing questions to Sue tomorrow!
 - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. [Office Hour Feedback Form](#)
 1. Appreciate feedback on office hours! Know that it's been different this semester so please take a few minutes to fill out the form to let Lauren know about any possible to changes to make
 - ii. Updated [Missed Office Hours Sheet](#)
 1. Any questions make sure to email Lauren
 - iii. Committee Chairs: [Weekly Committee Form](#)
 1. Reminder for committee chairs to fill this out!
 2. There's an additional question on the form this week
 - a. Please indicate your committee's meeting time
 - iv. Meet Your Org
 1. How many people have reached out to an organization and introduced yourself to be their point person?
 - a. Five say yes. How did it go?
 - i. Ziggy: Everyone already knew that he was a part of USG which is why they wanted him to be their treasurer

2. Intent is to make us more accessible to the RSOs. Those who haven't reached out yet please do so
 - a. If anyone has any questions/resources/statements, reach out so Lauren can help
 - Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. Make sure to fill out the CFO form Larkin has above!
 1. You don't need to ask the question during the meeting, we can ask it for you!
 - Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
 - i. No Report :)
- VIII. Advisor Reports
- Beka Horsch
 - i. Halloweekend
 1. Virtual Escape Rooms: Friday at 7 PM
 2. Cybersleuth Virtual Murder Mystery: Friday at 9 PM
 3. Summoning Spirits: Saturday at 10 PM
 - ii. [Walk a Mile in Her Shoes](#)
 1. Friday at 2-6 PM sidewalk outside the Rozsa Center
 2. Hosted by SAVE and SAAM to raise awareness of sexual and relationship violence and to give men the opportunity to put themselves in "her shoes"
 3. Encourage that people go to learn! They don't have to wear the heels to participate
 - iii. Make a Difference Day
 1. Really happy to see so many familiar names registered! Around 600 students are registered -- super excited to see what everyone can do
 - Stefani Vargas Krause
 - Bonnie Gorman
 - i. Flu Shots
 1. Information link is included in Announcements
 2. The clinic has a shortage of serum so the next two events have been postponed to the end of October/early November. More information will be updated on the website
- 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*)
 - 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 Report
 - Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
 - i. [Proposed USG Bylaw Amendments](#)
 1. Please read and review before next week's meeting!
 - a. If everyone takes the time to collect their thoughts beforehand, the meeting will be easier/more efficient
 - b. Don't believe that we'll get past the first ten at next meeting so it's also an option to read up to there if unable to read them all by then
 - c. Any questions, reach out to Sydney
 - d. If you haven't gone through the amendment process before, amendments 2.1 and 2.2 are two parts of the same one so they need to be passed together
 - Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Promotions
 1. Early in the voter registration process a rule was set stating that a ballot postmarked by Election Day will count. The rule was overturned this past Friday meaning that all ballots must be received by the Clerk by then to count
 2. Put together an initiative to provide students with free stamps in the library
 3. [Zack's connection cut out]
 - a. Bryce: Want to add that this morning he got a roll of 100 stamps for the library. The stamps will be available for Michigan students to use as their ballots aren't prepaid like how other states' are. Tell your friends to get their ballots in ASAP! Also, if the stamps run low PA can get more
 4. Zack: The event will go until the 27th. Thank you E-Board and Advisors for helping put together such a last-minute event
 - ii. Residence Halls Voting Awareness
 1. Literature and candy bars were provided to the Residence Halls. The items will be handed out to inform students that they can register and vote locally
 - iii. Grant
 1. Roughly \$500 left still available. Originally wanted to do a "Get Out to Vote" event though this may not work due to the weather/safety regulations. If anyone has any ideas for events, let Zack know
 - iv. Justin: Point of Clarification, Housing also provides stamps for absentee ballots at their front desks as well
 - Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)
 - i. Social Medias
 1. Instagram (+5)
 2. Twitter (--)
 3. Facebook (+3)
 4. Trying to post more and hope to see the numbers keep increasing
 - ii. Website set to release on October 31st

1. Advisors asked PR to attend a WordPress Workshop to look into potentially continuing to use WordPress
 - a. Will use the information to establish a pros vs cons list between WordPress and Wix to know which direction to continue in
 2. If anyone hasn't filled out the Website form and/or provided a profile picture for the website, please stay after meeting so Jordan can collect this info
- iii. Poster Project
1. Designing posters to put up around campus
 - a. Highlighting kindness and inclusivity
- Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. Requirement to put due dates into Canvas
 1. Joe has done a great job putting this initiative together!
 2. The requirement aims to make sure that all due dates are put into Canvas even if it isn't the platform for the assignment itself during this time of hybrid learning
 - a. The proposal was discussed during a Fall Flex meeting and the Senate's President expressed interest in the proposal. A meeting has been set up to discuss the proposal further and the hope is to get it on the Senate's table this semester to be implemented for next semester
 - Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. \$30,000 allocated towards the Opportunity Fund
 1. Thank you to members of WaM for holding down the fort during last meeting as he was unable to be there
 2. The amount was discussed last year but wasn't official until now

XI. [USG Liaison](#) Reports

- Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
 - i. No Report
- Interfraternity Council (Bianca Schuck)
 - i. No Report
- Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)
 - i. Working to increase diversity in their membership/outreach
 - ii. Also discussed the stamps and ballot initiatives plus the related deadlines and details
- Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
 - i. Dean of Students Office request for \$10,000 for extra COVID-19 relief
 1. Parents fund typically spends around \$12,500 each semester but they haven't received any requests yet. This made them able to approve the request
 - a. The request also fit well into the initiative of safety, growth, and development for students
- Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No Report
- Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
 - i. No Report
- Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke & Lauren Spahn*)
 - i. No Report
 1. Meeting is tomorrow
- Fall Flex Academics (*Zofia Freiberg*)
 - i. "Students required to take an evening exam shall be excused from one scheduled class."
 1. Rule has become blurred with exam windows as the exam is taken outside of

class but not during a specific evening exam. Want to discuss what this means during a hybrid model and believe that it should still hold

- a. Bonnie: If the instructor isn't following this rule, let the instructor know about the policy. Jackie is looking into spreading out the info across campus as a lot of similar instances have been brought up

2. Ziggy: Personally haven't experienced this with his classes

- 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. No Report
- Ad-hoc Com on Textbook Affordability and Accessibility (*Tristan Duelle*)
 - i. No Report
- Inter Residence Housing Council
- Houghton City Council
- Friends of the Library
 - i. No Report
- Tech Forward Initiative on Health & Quality of Life
- Other Liaisons

XII. Unfinished Business

- WAM Member
 - i. Harley: Last week there was the presentation and time to think, are there any nominations?
 1. Ethan: I nominate myself
 - ii. Harey: What would make you a good WaM member?
 1. Ethan: It could be beneficial being a finance major plus he has leadership skills from being an Eagle Scout
 - iii. Larkin: Motion to approve Ethan's nomination
 1. Second
 - a. No Discussion
 - b. 18 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
 - i. Motion Passes
 1. Lauren: Congratulations Ethan! Thank you for joining WaM!
 - iv. Ziggy: Is Ethan aware of the meeting time?
 1. Ethan: Unsure but confident that it should work out
 - a. Harley: Sent Ethan an invite, let Harley know of any issues

XIII. New Business

XIV. Open Floor

- Resource of the Week: [The Power of Privilege](#)
 - i. Larkin: Was also sent out with the agenda this week. The video is of a TedTalk by Tiffany

Jana, can anyone who watched the video raise their hand? Remember that watching the video isn't a requirement but a good opportunity to better ourselves as USG members!

1. Larkin: Thank you Sydney and Bonnie! Do you have any comments on it?
 - a. Sydney: Have seen this video before and it's an excellent message! Was worried about how strong the message would be presented and it was excellent. Highly encourage everyone to watch it!
 - b. Larkin: Note, if watched at 1.5 speed the video takes around 10 minutes and the message of the video is to use your privilege, whatever it may look like, to help others

ii. Any future requests/suggestions for the resource of the week? Let Larkin know

- Sydney: Question for Bonnie, is there a policy for announcing exams and how far in advance they have to be announced?
 - i. Bonnie: No
- Zack: On the topic of privilege, he is reminded of the issue of voter suppression. See the recent absentee deadline overruling as an example of this. Encourage everyone to think about the ways that your voting rights are being affected. We have the knowledge and are in power to help others with the issue

XV. Closed Session

XVI. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"

- [Flu Shot Clinic](#)
 - i. Lauren: As discussed earlier, please make sure to check out the clinic's schedule!
- Natalie: Apologies for missing the question in the chat from earlier, the costume for my hedgehog is a bumble bee!
- Zack: Big thank you to all of the members of PA for working so hard in his absence due to quarantine. It's really helpful how quick they worked and really appreciate having the help!
- Zofia: Big thank you to Sydney for all of her work fixing our Constitution and Bylaws! In awe with how much passion she has for this and encourage everyone to read the changes before meeting. It'll really help to be prepared for meeting and it's also the least we can do for all of her hard work
 - i. Lauren: Agree, it definitely took some time to understand what things meant so it was very helpful to look through it ahead of time
- Sydney: Thank you to my committee, plus Beka and Stefani, for all of the help! Also please read the revisions before next week!
- Bryce: To reiterate for new members, please read them beforehand. In the past it's been an issue where people aren't prepared for meeting which slows the meeting down a lot

XVII. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Wohlgemuth
Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Government