

# Minutes, USG General Body Meeting

September 23, 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
  - 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 Blurbs
      1. For anyone that has/had a liaison position please write a blurb about the position on the form
        - a. Meeting time
          - i. If you don't know, ignore this
        - b. What the group expects from you
      2. Due next Wednesday (September 30, 2020) before meeting
  - Vice President (*Lauren Spahn*)
    - i. Body Retreat will be on October 3, 2020 from 10 AM-12 PM
      1. If you have a conflict, email Lauren or Natalie with a brief description of your reason
    - ii. Thank you for filling out the office hour checkout and living document forms!
      1. Will compile the visitor summaries
  - Treasurer (*Harley Merkaj*)
    - i. RSO Budget FAQs
      1. Compiling common questions, and their answers, for reference
        - a. Do you have questions?
        - b. What questions have you been asked?
      2. Email Harley any questions for the list to be put on our website
  - Secretary (*Natalie Wohlgemuth*)
    - i. First Year & IRHC Rep. Elections are open!
      1. Please help spread the word!
      2. Close at 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 27th
      3. Link is on the Involvement Link front page
    - ii. Open College Rep. [Interest Form](#) closes today, September 23rd, at 11:59 PM

1. College of Sciences and Arts, College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science, and College of Business
  - a. If you know anyone interested please encourage them to fill out the form! Especially looking for College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science interest

VIII. Advisor Reports

- Beka Horsch
  - i. Good Luck and good job with Career Fair!
    1. Have heard that a lot of students have signed up
  - ii. HuskyLead: Keep It Going
    1. Especially beneficial for student leaders
    2. Tuesday, September 29th at 6 PM in MUB Ballroom A2
  - iii. [Homecoming Registration](#) now open!
    1. Read the front page on Involvement Link as it details out a lot of important information
    2. Will have both in-person and virtual events
    3. Registration closes on September 30, 2020
  - iv. Keweenaw Day
    1. Tuesday, September 29th from 1-3 PM
    2. Will be held along the campus mall (i.e. main path from the MUB to Walker Lawn)
  - v. DIY Garden Globes
    1. Thursday, October 1st from 6-8 PM in the MUB Commons
    2. Will be a walk in style
      - a. All materials to make the globes will be grab & go
  - vi. RSO Re-Registration deadline is October 2nd at 5 PM
    1. Keep in mind! Especially if you're on the E-Board for other orgs!
- Stefani Vargas Krause
- Bonnie Gorman
  - i. Sent out an email to Seniors graduating this December in regards to commencement planning
    1. Please encourage people to fill it out!
    2. Additional Zoom meeting to discuss more details will be held on September 30th at 4 PM
      - a. More details are included in the original email from Bonnie

IX. Standing Committee Reports

- Events (*Darren Hutchinson*)
  - i. No report
    1. Have not been able to meet yet
- Judiciary (*Sydney Dankert*)
  - i. Updated Constitution
    1. Have been communicating with Bonnie over minor edits
      - a. Changes have been approved!
      - b. The changes are for non-substantial items (i.e. grammar/updated logo/etc.)
    2. Check it out and let Sydney know of any feedback!
- Political Affairs (*Zachary Olson*)
  - i. National Voter Registration Day

1. Overall it was a very successful event!
  2. Handed out around 190 voting stickers
    - a. Many students also checked out the provided QR codes, took fliers, or registered in person
    - b. Huge thank you to everyone involved!
      - i. Richelle Winkler, Kathryn Hannum, Kari Henquinet, Ann Vollrath, and the many student volunteers!
    - ii. Event for Michigan's District 110 Candidates to Speak to Students
      1. Two have accepted but one hasn't responded yet
      2. Will be held in person in Fisher 135
        - a. Executive Order 176 allows 88 people to physically be in attendance
      3. Encourage everyone to learn more to see how they can get involved!
- Public Relations (*Jordan Craven*)
    - i. Social Media Follower Counts
      1. Will start reports with this to help keep on top of our growth
      2. Instagram - 328
      3. Twitter - 112
      4. Facebook - 117
    - ii. Website Change to WIX
      1. No one has indicated that they don't want to switch over to Wix
      2. Cost and preview will be shown and voted on during next week's meeting
        - a. Hoping to cover cost by the USG general budget instead of PR's personal budget
    - iii. New USG Banner
      1. Current banner is very outdated
      2. In the process of creating a new one to buy
    - iv. PR always meets after general meeting
      1. If anyone is interested in joining or want to see what PR is up to they've welcome to come to a meeting!
    - v. Poster "program"
      1. Planning to put up posters around campus that are fun and interactive
  - Student Affairs (*Zofia Freiberg*)
    - i. Huge thank you again to Connie for continuing to work on the campus sustainability projects!
    - ii. Karina is looking into some Title IX Procedures
      1. Will have more to discuss for upcoming meetings
    - iii. Thank you to Jordan and PR for posting SDH materials on our social media!
  - Ways and Means (*Harley Merkaj*)
    - i. Approved 3 budget revisions and will update spreadsheet soon
      1. His House
      2. Keweenaw Pride
      3. Rowing Club
    - ii. In need of another WaM Member
      1. Will be discussed later in meeting during open floor
- X. USG Liaison Reports
- Graduate Student Government (*Shardul Tiwari*)
    - i. No Report
  - Panhellenic Council (*Zachary Olson*)

- i. No Report
- Parent's Fund (*Zbigniew Bell*)
  - i. No Report
- Senate (*Harley Merkaj*)
  - i. No Report
- Diversity (*Harley Merkaj*)
  - i. No Report
- Student Commission (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke/Lauren Spahn*)
  - i. Lauren: Will be attending the meeting tomorrow
    1. Plan to bring up the Cycle Project's issue of non-individually wrapped liners for discussion
- Fall Flex Academics (*Zofia Freiberg*)
  - i. I don't need to be replaced anymore!
    1. Changed the times for the meeting
  - ii. The F2F attendance paradox
    1. Paradox that students are saying that they want more face-to-face classes but many often aren't attending their in-person lectures
    2. Informal survey made to collect thoughts to have more experiences to draw from
      - a. Responses will not be shared with anyone
      - b. Responses don't have to be super detailed
- H-Stem (*Karina Madigan*)
  - i. Project is on hold due to COVID. They are hoping to get more info from the state next month regarding the new timeline.
- HIDE Voting Booth (*Jordan Craven*)
  - i. Summary: HIDE has been working on a service project for us
    1. Have a system to survey the students. Will have students tap "yes" or "no" in response to the specified question on two respective RFI scanners to help compile data
  - ii. Have most of the project completed but are still working on some minor changes
    1. Pages will be finished by next month
  - iii. If you have any questions email them to Jordan!
- 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
- Houghton City Council (*Jake McDowell*)
  - i. No Report
- Interfraternity Council (*Bianca Schuck*)
  - i. No Report
- Inter Residence Housing Council
- Friends of the Library
- JED Campus
- Other Liaisons

XI. Unfinished Business

XII. New Business

### XIII. Open Floor

- Fossil Fuel Divestment Petition (*Zofia Freiberg*)
    - i. [www.tinyurl.com/MTU-divest](http://www.tinyurl.com/MTU-divest)
    - ii. [Daily Mining Gazette Article](#)
    - iii. Keweenaw Youth for Climate Action has put together a really well done divestment petition
      - 1. Encourage everyone to check it out -- it'd be good to be aware of!
  - USG Group Photo (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
    - i. Thank you everyone for taking the picture! Will send everyone the photo to ensure that everyone is good with how it turned out
  - University Budget Questions (*Larkin Hooker-Moericke*)
    - i. Jessie Stapleton brought to E-Board that the CFO of MTU, Sue Kerry, would like us to host/participate on a couple events
      - 1. Hoping to come to our meeting on November 4th to discuss common questions. Would help us with answering students' questions
        - a. Making a document to compile specific questions we have
          - i. What would you like to know?
          - ii. What have you been asked about by constituents?
            - 1. Ex. Questions about tuition and online classes
          - iii. If everyone could fill it out! Thank you!
      - 2. Would potentially host a town hall in the Spring
- WaM Member Needed (*Lauren Spahn*)
  - i. Last week there was no interest indicated. Would anyone like to nominate themselves for the position?
    - 1. Ziggy: There's a set meeting time, right?
      - a. Lauren: Yes, Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM
    - 2. Harley: Note that everyone can be on two committees at once
      - a. If there's no interest again please reach out to Harley if this changes
    - 3. Larkin: We will continue to bring this up so the sooner you'd want it off the agenda the sooner we need someone to volunteer!
    - 4. Ziggy: Does it have to be a current member or can they be an associate member?
      - a. Sydney: No, they must be a body member to be on WaM
    - 5. Bonie: Note that the spot could be filled by a future new member
    - 6. Zack: Would like to nominate Jake McDowell for the position on WaM
      - a. Jake accepted nomination
      - b. No other nominations
        - i. Sydney: Jake, can you explain why you want to join WaM? Then we can go to a vote.
          - 1. Jake: Recognizes that he is a new member but he's always looking for a new opportunity to help USG and to learn more about what USG does/the processes of it. Will give full dedication to WaM as well as he has been doing for PR Committee
        - ii. Ziggy: Can you make the meeting time?
          - 1. Jake: yes
        - iii. Jake: Am pledging for a fraternity, if unable to make a meeting would this be an issue?

1. Harley: Just let me know!
2. Sydney: Point of Information for everyone -- committee meeting attendance is very similar to general meeting attendance. If you miss too many committee meetings then Personnel Committee would have to hold a review

iv. Lauren: Would like to entertain a motion to accept Jake's appointment as a WaM member.

1. So Moved & Second
  - a. No further discussion
  - b. 14 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain
    - i. Motion passes

7. Lauren: Congratulations Jake!

- a. Jake: Thank you!

XIV. Closed Session

XV. Announcements/"Remarks for the Good"

- Zack: National Voter Registration Day got us a lot of good press
  - i. It was in the news -- check it out!
  - ii. May be possible to build a relationship with news sources going forward
    1. If anyone would like to get more news coverage for something, reach out to Tech Today. They were the ones able to get the info to the other news sources. They could be a really great resource to work with!

XVI. Adjournment

- Lauren: Would like to entertain a motion to adjourn the 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