

## SGA Meeting Minutes 02-13-19

**Attending:** Treasurer Ben Zook, Co-President Nicole Litwiller, Co-President Mario Hernandez, Secretary Luke Mullet, VP of Marketing Abigail Shelly, Vice-President Paul Kayembe, Faculty Rep. Vi Dutcher, Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatzky, Leah Wenger, Emma Hoover, Theo Yoder, Hannah Nichols, Justice Allen, Donaldo Lleshi, Ariel Barbosa, Asha Beck, Sylvia Mast, Avery Trinh, Justin Odom, Seth Weaver, Administration Rep. Amy Springer

**Absent:** Xavier McCants, Austin Tomlin

1. Call to Order at 8:01pm
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 01/30/19: Minutes approved.
4. Old Business and Announcements
  - a. Welcome to our new senators, Avery Trinh and Justin Odom!
5. New Business
  - a. Black Box Funding Request
    - i. J.D. Richardson (BSU) and Freddie Monahan (Art Club) are requesting **\$350.00** for the Black Box Event taking place from 7:00pm-10:00pm on Thursday, 02/21/19.
    - ii. Cost breakdown: \$150 for snacks, \$100 for art supplies, \$100 for Meechy Jay.
    - iii. Important clarification: This request is just for this single event (not for any of the other similar monthly events).
    - iv. **Financial Committee Recommendation:** The committee is in consensus and recommends that the senate gives art club \$300.00 from USO funds with the recommendation that we include a stipulation that they return any excess funds back to SGA.
    - v. Discussion:
      1. There was some hesitation about the amount of money requested for snack/drinks.

Motion (Justice): Give Art Club **\$300.00** from the USO budget for the Black Box event with the stipulation that they return any rollover funds to us.  
Ariel seconds.

Approve: 14  
Against: 0  
Abstaining: 2  
Motion Passes.

- b. Scott Eyre and Matt Hunsberger shared about recent EMU housing updates.
  - i. Scott shared that the Theater of the Beat will be happening. He thanked us for the letter we sent to EMU's administration.

- ii. Scott noted that the switch from Eric Coddington to Jon Swartz changed the energy in the department.
- iii. They want to focus on student's sense of belonging and safety rather than just retention.
- iv. Cedarwood Living Communities
  - 1. Available to groups of 2<sup>nd</sup>-years or higher to reserve a block of housing in Cedarwood
  - 2. elect a group leader
    - a. Each group leads a hall program each semester
  - 3. Maplewood designated as a returner location that is less theme based.
- v. Northlawn and Elmwood are now 1<sup>st</sup>-year only residents halls
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup>s years tend to have different needs
- vi. Goals
  - 1. Increase retention
  - 2. Equality
  - 3. Meeting a diversity of student needs
- vii. Discussion
  - 1. What will be the opportunities for gap-year students?
    - a. Scott: We recommend that they enter housing with the class that they will be graduating with.
    - b. Matt: There are examples of gap-year students who have done either.
  - 2. Did you consider addressing complaints from students of color when rolling out these changes?
    - a. Scott: Equality is always a focus.
    - b. Matt: There has been segregation (especially between Mennonites and non-Mennonites) in EMU's housing. We have been trying to make the choice of living space more equitable.
    - c. Matt: The relationship between halls and CA's will be changing with the CLC program.
      - i. CA's roles will be a bit different. They will be doing more work facilitating community and administrating rather than strictly programming and enforcing.
  - 3. Do you see the possibility of CLCs leading to exclusion? What happens to 1<sup>st</sup> year students who have not found their social niche?
    - a. Scott: We hope that students do not experience exclusion in this way. The CLC program is not just advertised to "groups of friends," but also to students who share common interests (ex. bio majors all about to take O-Chem).
    - b. Matt: This kind of pod selection is already happening in a sloppy way with the current model.
  - 4. Will these be co-ed spaces?

- a. Matt: That is something we have talked about. But, we are not implementing it with this next year's change.
- b. Scott: We want to implement these initial changes well and then consider moving toward co-ed housing. We want to go to the co-ed model with a pre-established model.

#### 6. Open Floor

- a. Leah and Sylva shared about an Undergraduate Council meeting.
  - i. There have been two meetings this semester.
  - ii. Academic Department Convocations are happening next Wednesday (2/20/18)
  - iii. Two new majors to start next year
    - 1. Global Studies
      - a. 12 different tracks to take
      - b. There are questions about how advising works.
      - c. This is a result of a grant and a lot of work from a variety of current departments.
    - 2. Political Studies
      - a. There are already 10 students who have said they will declare this major if it is created.
      - b. Many already existing courses
      - c. Cultural Anthropology was cut but is being brought back.

#### 7. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:00pm  
Recorded by Luke Mullet