

## SGA Meeting Minutes 09-18-19

**Attending:** Co-President Leah Wenger, Co-President Seth Weaver, Vice-President Emma Yoder, Secretary Anisa Leonard, VP of Marketing Theodore Yoder, Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatzky, Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Faculty Rep. Matt Siderhurst

**Absent:** Treasurer Hannah Nichols, Administration Rep. Amy Springer,

1. Call to Order at 8:04
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 9/4/19: Minutes approved.
4. Old Business and Announcements
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Sustainable Food Initiative
    - i. Approval of a constitutional amendment next week.
  - c. SGA retreat
    - i. Sunday, September 22nd for only senator and executive committee from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
    - ii. Executive Committee members will bring snacks.
      1. Introductions
      2. Introducing senate to Robert's Rules
      3. Scott Barge will spend 45 minutes running a World Cafe where senate is split into four groups, where senators will answer a prompt regarding strategic planning goals and then rotate. There will be one SGA executive committee member at each table, each with a different focus..
        - a. **Engage**, in a way upholding life together statement (Hannah)
        - b. **Grow** in a way which enables students to find join and succeed in the community (Theo)
        - c. **Diversify**, and examine ways to retain various forms of diversity (Anisa)
        - d. **Celebrate**, various components to EMU, looking at what do we celebrate, and why? (Emma)
      4. Scott will present on EMU's current direction and strategic plan in addition to summarizing what happened at faculty summit.
      5. Signing up for SGA committees, campus committees and snacks.
      6. Pictures of senators
      7. Meeting in various internal SGA committees.
  - d. Internal SGA Committees
    - i. Outreach (Theo): TV and Bulletin Board
    - ii. Forums (Emma): Last year we had Fred Kniss speak on structural changes, Melody Pannell speak on Anti-Racism and Jim Smuker on rebranding.
    - iii. Finance (Hannah): Approving funding requests.
    - iv. Bruce Emerson suggested forming a food committee to see how student body is feeling about the cafeteria.

1. More clarification is needed
5. New Business
    - a. Spirit Week Brainstorm
      - i. Co-Presidents will brainstorm with Tyler Goss about a spirit week in the week leading up to homecoming.
      - ii. Possible days could include: pajama day, disney character day, tacky tourist day, dress where you're from day, warm and fuzzy day, or dress like your profession day.
      - iii. Spirit Week could be its own committee.
  6. Open Floor
    - a. Strategic Planning Committee update
      - i. The committee has met four times now, and is currently compiling ideas from faculty/staff conference and has identified nineteen things for the University. These things have been divided into five main categories.
      - ii. The committee has been examining the relationship between the university and stakeholders, the most important of which is students. The committee has also been examining and where does the Mennonite Church fits in as a stakeholder in the University.
    - b. Name Recognition Study Group update
      - i. The committee will meet four times over the semester d compile a report in November and explore the possibility of changing EMU's name. It is important to note that a name change does not equate to a values change.
        1. Seth will be talking to freshman and sophomore Mennonite students specifically from Mennonite high schools about what drew them to EMU. Rachel mentioned that it would be valuable to also talk to Mennonite students who didn't go to Mennonite highschools.
    - c. Anisa shared on Questions After Dark
      - i. BSA is also interested in doing a questions after dark type event. Questions After Dark is worth exploring with BSA and Bridgehouse.
    - d. Anisa shared about Weather Vane
      - i. The executive committee came to consensus in support of SGA continuing weekly Weather Vane updates.
    - e. Anisa shared about a space for students to bring up concerns to EMU
      - i. There are low level options for students voice, like office hours or grievance reports.
      - ii. There seems to be a gap between subcommittees and hearing student concerns.
    - f. Anisa shared about the importance of naming the fact that the executive committee doesn't demographically represent the student body which is largely not Mennonite and largely athletes.
      - i. Matt mentioned that EMU does have SAC composed of our athletes who represent EMU to the NCAA. Matt Siderhurst is the faculty athletic representative to the SAC. Communicating with SAC might be another great way to get involved with student needs.

- g. Emma shared about the climate Strike which will be Friday at 1:30 on Thomas Plaza. The strike itself is a national event. EMU Earthkeepers is also focusing on EMU's climate action which aims for climate neutrality by a certain date.
- h. For the Sunday retreat each SGA exec member will bring some snacks.
  - i. Co-Presidents will look into the possibility of having snack funds for senators to access.

7. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:02 pm  
Recorded by Anisa Leonard