

**SGA Meeting Minutes**  
**11/6/19**

**Attending:** Co-President Leah Wenger, Co-President Seth Weaver, Vice-President Emma Yoder, Treasurer Hannah Nichols, Secretary Anisa Leonard, VP of Marketing Theodore Yoder, Administration Rep. Amy Springer, Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatzky, Faculty Rep. Matt Siderhurst, Justice Allen, Isaac Andreas, Ariel Barbosa, Alyssa Breidigan, Tahj'ae Coleman, Elizabeth Dagliano, Emma Hoover, Donald Lleshi, Rhonda Obaugh, Ruth-Reimer-Berg, Fibi Souleymane, Katie Zuercher,

**Absent:** Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Chelsea Brubaker

1. Call to Order at 8:03
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 10/30: Minutes approved.
4. Announcements
5. Old Business
  - a. SGA Constitutional Revision
    - i. This is the second step in the approval process for SGA constitution. This revision adds the EMU non-discriminatory clause.

Motion (Justice): To approve the SGA constitutional revision to include the non-discriminatory clause.

Ruth seconds.

Approve: 16

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion passes.

6. New Business
  - a. Financial Status Update
    - i. EMU was able to fund the entire \$700 requested by BSA, ISO and Destiny's Daughters by dipping into the Roll-Over fund.
    - ii. The official USO account is now has negative \$375 for this year, however there is a substantial amount in Roll-Over.
    - iii. At the end of the semester, Hannah will talk to Rachel and the business office to balance the account.
7. Open Floor
  - a. Right now SGA has five meetings left in the semester, Leah and Seth are encouraging if in light of budget cuts, there are other ways for SGA to support and encourage the student body in ways beyond monetary means. How can SGA do the best it can, with the resources it has.
    - i. Hannah said that while the conversation is necessary, we should consult the various clubs first. Perhaps SGA should invite the club leaders to SGA meetings to share, or could send out some sort of survey.

- ii. Ariel suggest that maybe each SGA member could attend a club meeting or an event. Senate members could partner up if they wanted.
  - iii. Emma H. talked about how the political clubs can't accept outside money, and was wondering if that applied to every club. Matt confirmed that it only applied to the political clubs. Rachel shared that advancement wants to know when clubs receive money. All clubs are allowed to participate in fundraisers.
  - iv. Ruth asked if political clubs are allowed to receive non-monetary donations. Matt confirmed.
  - v. Anisa asked if there were stipulations on what political clubs can do with money given by SGA. Rachel answered that they will look into that.
  - vi. Emma suggested that SGA could aid in various fundraisers which various clubs do.
  - vii. Leah and Seth will ask clubs what they need at the USO meeting next Thursday. They will also ask clubs when their meetings are so SGA members can visit them.
- b. What are the priorities with the monetary resources SGA does have?
- i. Justice asked if SGA should decide for next semesters if SGA is willing to fund t-shirts and other material items. Isaac affirmed this.
  - ii. Emma said that there should be a written notice stating SGA's new priorities and guidelines.
  - iii. Theo asked if we want to limit material items because some things, like food or items are essential to the club's success.
  - iv. Donaldo said that we should prioritize money for t-shirts, because clubs already have money for events put into their budget.
  - v. Ruth said that her issue was that the funds come from the activity fee that all students pay into, and it doesn't seem fair that money goes to t-shirts which only a few get to wear. However there is a danger in drawing absolute lines. Justice affirmed that he didn't want to draw lines.
  - vi. Taj'ae suggested that SGA set a maximum sum they will spend on t-shirts.
  - vii. Isaac stated that there is identity building that comes from fundraising for t-shirts. Theo affirmed this saying SGA could encourage.
  - viii. Ruth suggested SGA make a statement of encouragement or discouragement regarding t-shirts rather than banning something.
  - ix. Ariel suggested SGA come up with a list of fundraising ideas.
  - x. Every member will come with a fundraising idea to SGA next week.

## 8. Open Floor

- a. Katie went to convocation committee on Oct 23rd. Convocation committee wants feedback about break out groups, student development, and ways to connect with students.
  - i. Isaac shared that he appreciates when outside speakers come in, especially when they talk about diverse views.
  - ii. Alyssa said she liked when people from nearby churches came, this is beneficial to first years attempting to get plugged in.
  - iii. Emma said one of her concerns is that there is not a lot of variety in break out groups. Perhaps some one time groups.

- iv. Ariel mentioned she enjoyed a group she attended led by Melody Pannell on womanist theology.
- v. Leah suggested break out groups which cross more than one discipline.
- vi. Emma asked if Rowdy Royals games, count for convocation points, why do some not, like for instance choir concerts. This could be because some events do not request convocation credit.
- vii. Katie mentioned that a lot of athletes and nursing majors were not on track for convocation points. Ruth added saying that education majors are also had a disadvantage.
- viii. Anisa shared there are a lot of mixed messages surrounding convocation points. Convocation points were created to surround the community around its shared values, yet what is and isn't counted is confusing.
- ix. Theo shared current plan for students who don't have enough convocation points to graduate is to attend community service.
- x. Emma H. mentioned there isn't a set procedure to receive points at some of the events which students attend.
- xi. Anisa shared that some Hesston students are frustrated because they attend a lot of chapels at Hesston and that doesn't count for anything here at EMU. Rachel replied by informing SGA that transfers receive convocation credit based on the number of credits they have when they arrive at EMU.

Meeting ended at 9:06 pm

Recorded by Anisa Leonard