

SGA Meeting Minutes

1/29/2020

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. Shannon Dycus, Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatzky, Faculty Rep. Matt Siderhurst, Isaac Andreas, Rodrigo Barahona, Ariel Barbosa, Alyssa Breidigan, Chelsea Brubaker, Elizabeth Dagliano, Philip Krabill, Donald Lleshi, Adam Peachey, Ruth-Reimer-Berg, Fibi Souleymane, Avery Trinh, Katie Zuercher

Absent: Rhonda Obaugh

1. Call to Order at 8:03
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 1/22/2020: Minutes approved.
4. Announcements
 - a. Letter to BSA
 - i. Chelsea proposed that SGA write a letter to voice support to BSA in the aftermath of their panel. Seth is wondering if the senate is in support of SGA writing a letter voicing appreciation for transparency and the facilitation of that space.
 - ii. Leah and Seth will draft a letter and bring it to the senate for approval next week.
 - iii. Ariel mentioned that the forum committee is planning a forum on race.
 - iv. Anisa mentioned that BSA will be having their annual Town Hall on Race on Feb 20th.
 - v. Ariel asked if the letter was going to BSA or to the entire student body.
 - b. Safety and Sex
 - i. Anna Paetkau, the club leader is looking for people to get involved.
 - ii. The club is bystander training, how to be supportive to victims of sexual assault. Additionally they are working on creating knowledge about the resources in place here on campus.
5. Old Business
 - a. Fred Kniss
 - i. Fred Kniss is the current provost of EMU. The co-presidents previously set Fred a list of questions beforehand.
 1. Provide insight into the duties of the provost
 - a. The provost is someone who is almost like a mayor, but of a university. He is chief academic officer, and is responsible for anything involving the student experience except for finance and facilities.
 2. How does EMU prioritize budget decisions?
 - a. The provost works closely with the CFO in ensuring that all budget decisions are prioritized around students. EMU depends on tuition, thus when enrollment decreases budget cuts are often made.
 3. How does EMU address programs with low enrollment?

- a. EMU examines trends over extended periods of time, how central the program is the University's mission, or how much the programs serve other programs. One example is the theater program, EMU cut the major and kept the minor and productions to ensure students still could have a liberal arts experience.
 - b. EMU also eliminates some courses and replaces them with interdisciplinary courses.
 - c. EMU has cut some costs by hiring more adjuncts. EMU uses fewer adjuncts than most small liberal arts colleges. Qualifications for adjuncts are the same as for other faculty.
 - i. EMU is attempting to achieve a 14:1 student to faculty ratio.
4. Fred was asked about the student panel on race which he attended.
- a. Fred mentioned that it was hard to listen to, as it was made clear that EMU was not living up to its ideals. There are several things which EMU is planning on doing as an immediate followup to that panel.
 - i. National Science Foundation Grant to train science faculty in diversity responsive pedagogy.
 - ii. Fac/Staff conference will devote time to training for faculty and staff.
 - iii. CODI (Committee on Diversity and Inclusion) has a presence on campus.
 - iv. Fred wants to better communicate concerns and actions which administration has or takes in a way which doesn't violate confidentiality. How does EMU rebuild trust with students?

ii. Q&A

1. Hannah asked what happened to having a position of a Dean dealing specifically with diversity. Hannah was also curious about the path that was created outlining where EMU wants to be in the future.
 - a. Fred thinks that CODI could play a more significant role on campus.
 - b. There is interest and creating a position like that, currently Celeste is the assistant to the president on diversity. They are trying to get said position into the budget for the next year.
2. Seth asked what Fred thought about the climate action plan.
 - a. Fred shared that EMU has been working at climate sustainability for a while, thus the remaining steps are of significant cost. It is hard to justify spending that money in the aftermath of laying off 20 faculty members. EMU will likely not get to carbon neutral by 2030.

3. Emma wondered if administration has been having conversations on ways to support students (beyond money) for things they feel passionate about.

- a. Fred said he would hope that sustainability would be implemented more into the curriculum. Additionally he is open to conversations with students.

6. New Business

a. Amy Springer on the Undergraduate Catalog

- i. Every year the undergraduate catalog needs to be updated. Marketing is wondering how EMU students use the undergraduate catalog.
 1. Most students use the online catalog.
 2. Most students would benefit from a searchable online catalog.
 3. It would be helpful to search what CORE requirements are.
 4. The print copies quickly become obsolete
 5. Senate recommended putting CL and WI designates in the listing of courses for majors
 6. Adam expressed frustration at having to look at separate docs for course descriptions and times. *this has been fixed on the website.
 7. The Senate wondered if there was a way to know when courses will be offered a few years in advance. Amy recommended talking to department heads.
 8. Marketing wants three students to meet with them regarding the catalog.

b. Peace Fellowship Funding Request

- i. SGA met with Elena the president of Peace Fellowship. They are hosting the annual Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship on campus. They will be celebrating a variety of different anniversaries. The theme is “nothing about us without us”.
- ii. They are requesting \$450 dollars to help pay for the speakers, and housing for speakers. Attendees also pay some portion for the conference. The event will be Feb 7-9th. Everyone on campus is welcome to attend. The speaker is Erica Littlewolf.
- iii. SGA currently has \$ 3912 for the remainder of the semester

Motion (Ariel): To give Peace Fellowship \$450.

Phillip seconds

Discussion:

1. Adam was curious where the money was going.
 - a. The money will go to help fund the event.
2. Seth was wondering if it would be possible to get 2-3 sponsored spots to attend the conference. Hannah noted that Peace Fellowship is also looking for people to assist in planning the event.

Approve: 12

Against: 0

Abstaining: 2

Motion passes.

7. Open Floor

- a. Dave King will be visiting SGA next week, discussing athletics and use of facilities. Who does the tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts belong to? Should they be open to the public?

Meeting ended at 9: 13 pm
Recorded by Anisa Leonard