

SGA Meeting Minutes
4/8/2020

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, Faculty Rep. Matt Siderhurst, Isaac Andreas, Ariel Barbosa, Chelsea Brubaker, Elizabeth Dagliano, Philip Krabill, Donaldo Lleshi, Adam Peachey, Ruth-Reimer-Berg, Fibi Souleymane, Avery Trinh, Katie Zuercher

Absent: Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatzky, Rodrigo Barhona, Alyssa Breidigan, Rhonda Obaugh

1. Call to Order at 8:03
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 4/1/2020: Minutes approved.
4. Old Business
 - a. Preliminary vote on Budget
 - i. Clubs have requested the amount of money they would like for next semester. Some clubs have not submitted requests yet, they currently have zeros listed for their budget for 2020-2021. However what is listed now is not final, and thus clubs will have a chance to appeal.
 - ii. Some questions to consider is what should happen when clubs request more money than they received last year, but still have money left over. Additionally, the ledger is only updated every month. Hannah has talked with Traci and they have decided that left over funds will no longer go into roll over. Left over funds will remain in the clubs personal budgets.

Discussion

 1. Common Grounds is requesting more money than what they previously received. Common Grounds usually breaks about even every year. Hannah will follow up with Common Grounds.
 2. Weathervane is also requesting more money then they have previously. Weathervane currently has a surplus of money given that they have not been printing physical copies.
 3. Usually there is an estimate given about how much money SGA has to give out. This estimate is based on projected enrollment. Hannah has not yet received an estimate for next year.
 4. Astral society is requesting more money because they plan on going to an observatory.

Motion (Phillip):To approve the current budget plan moving into the appealing period.

Isaac seconds

Approve: 7

Against: 0

Abstaining: 8

Motion passes.

5. New Business

a. Updates from Shannon

- i. Today is love EMUday! Currently over \$100,000 have been given. The two main funds are to provide relief and resilience for both the university and students during Covid-19.
- ii. Last Thursday and Friday the Board of Trustees met. They talked about what Covid-19 means for EMU. There are many strong economic impacts (refunds and offering new courses). Additionally the absence of summer programs (which often brings in an extra \$300,000) is sobering. There is no way to know how Covid-19 will impact enrollment in the fall.
- iii. President Huxman is inviting us to look at fall semester three possible ways. Best scenario students are able to return completely as normal in the fall. Worst scenario there is a lingering danger and students will have to be online completely in the fall. Lastly, fall could look like a mix between the two.
- iv. Shannon, Amy and some others have pulled together a group of staff who have made contact with students. Shannon had about forty students that she reached out to. With each student there was a deep gratitude. Shannon encourages SGA to continue to reach out to their peers.
- v. Student Life is working on an FAQ. This can be found on the EMU website under the student life section.
- vi. Discussion
 1. Seth asked if there was a centralized platform to let everyone know what is going on. Shannon shared that there has been discussion to expand how long graduating seniors will have access to their emails. Additionally as decisions are made regarding Covid-19 emails will be sent out to current students, alumni and parents.
 2. Hannah asked about the implications of the economic situation and how it will affect students who are coming back. Shannon shared that in the past week there were about 35 staff members who were temporarily released from their jobs until mid summer. If closures drag on, one reality is that greater changes in staff will be made.
 3. Isaac asked how it will impact class registration. Shannon shared that she recommends doing summer classes. If classes are online in the fall, some classes which don't translate well to online might be pushed until the spring.
 4. Anisa asked about an increase in tuition. Shannon shared that tuition will not increase beyond the normal amount.
 5. Isaac asked about turning dorms into overflow for hospitals. This is not feasible as student's things are still in the dorms.
 6. Leah asked when students will be able to get their things. There is not a clear answer to this yet. If students drastically need something, RDs can go into the dorms and mail it to the students. Plans will likely be made later in May.

7. Adam asked about refunds. There is currently not a timetable as to when refunds will be given.
8. Hannah asked what was done with leftover food in the caf. Food was donated to a local shelter in Harrisonburg.

6. Open Floor

- a. Katie met with the Convocation Committee. Students will be given Convocation points to ensure that all on track with points. More details are on the FAQ. The committee is curious if students who have already met the requirements will feel cheated and welcome feedback. Convocation is also considering renaming Opening Convocation to "Opening Convocation & Worship." This would let students know what to expect, and wouldn't catch people off guard
- b. Fibi asked about biomedicine students who needed to take certain classes this summer in order to take the MCAT. EMU is currently urging students to take those classes next summer. Matt will look into this.
- c. Next week is April 15th, when SGA was supposed to go to Susan's house for dinner. Susan wants to come to our zoom meeting. Leah is encouraging everyone to bring their favorite hot beverage, for a time of reflection to talk about experiences (pre and post Co-vid 19) at EMU in candid ways. Students can submit questions by Friday at 5pm.

Meeting ended at 9:10 pm

Recorded by Anisa Leonard