

SGA Meeting Minutes

9/23/2020

Attending: Co-President Anisa Leonard, Co-President Allison Shelly, Co-President Justice Allen, Vice President Theo Yoder, VP of Marketing Asha Beck, Treasurer Hannah Nichols Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatsky, Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Faculty Rep. Matthew Siderhurst, Administrative Rep. Amy Springer Hartsell, Isaac Andreas Akiel Baker, Ani Beitzel, Alyssa Breidigan, Cindi Boyer, Shannon Cooper, Elizabeth Hoffman, Phillip Krabill, Coleman Maxwell, Adam Peachey, Molly Piwonka, Ruth Reimer-Berg, Sophia Sherrill

Absent:

1. Call to Order at 8:01
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 10/21/20
 - a. Isaac motioned to approve the minutes and Sophia seconded.

Approved: Everyone

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion passes and minutes approved

4. Old Business
 - a. [Board Report](#)
 - b. Senators should bring thoughts and concerns to the next meeting that they would like the co-presidents to share with the board of trustees and president's cabinet.
5. New Business
 - a. Guest Speaker: Jon Swartz, Director of Residence Life
 - i. ResLife is trying to balance safe and health and community building and acknowledges that a lot of students are struggling
 - ii. All staff is very high on empathy
 - iii. Jon read examples of trauma exposure responses which he believes many of us are doing throughout campus. Example include:
 1. Feeling helpless and hopeless
 2. Can't do enough
 3. Hypervigilance
 4. Lack of Creativity
 5. Exhaustion
 6. Inability to listen
 7. Dissociated moments
 8. Sense of puresection
 9. Guilt
 10. Fear
 11. Anger
 12. Inability to empathize
 13. Addictions
 14. Grandiosity
 - iv. These responses have been prevalent among students, CA's and professional resLife staff.
 - v. Senate Q & A time

1. Sophia mentioned that she sees that people pretend like the virus is not real and does not know how to respond to that.
 2. Jon rephrased that this is the main challenge of the semester and intentional conversations and exploration is the solution.
 3. Allison asked where they get their information from.
 4. Jon said that CDC is the source, and they work on translating that information into rules on campus and a big challenge is trying to communicate rules or changes to policies. He wonders how students' relationships are being impacted in the long term due to COVID-19.
 5. Cindi asked about what we should do if we notice some of the trauma responses in ourselves.
 6. Jon mentioned that the book mentions different ways to approach those emotions:
 - a. Creating space of inquiry
 - b. Finding place to Focus
 - c. Building compassion and community
 - d. Finding balance
 - e. Finding daily practice in centering ourselves.
 7. Isaac asked about reality has compared to Jon's predictions
 8. Jon said that he predicted there would be more cases on campus by now and quarantine space more filled. We are also here longer than he anticipated which has actually caused more work because we are here longer.
 9. Justice asked if there are any rules that resLife is considering implementing next semester, including alcohol consumption.
 10. Jon said that conversation about alcohol is happening, and that during stressful times, people will turn to different coping mechanisms. He would rather see students socially drink than drink by themselves (but does not encourage either).
 11. Asha mentioned that the trauma responses are being addressed at an individual level and would like to see it more broadly implemented.
 12. Ruth asked about how we can promote trauma informed practice by professors.
 13. Shannon Dycus said that faculty are equipped and not equipped to do that. We all live in trauma like never before and there needs to be a learning curve. She will bring Ruth's question to the dean team meeting.
- b. Guest Speaker: Phillip Krabill and Jake Myers, EMU Earthkeepers
- i. Earthkeepers has various projects and collaborations with other clubs on campus such as recycling counter in common grounds and SFI
 - ii. They had Nicholas Betts and Laura Dent and Charles Hendriks on a panel this past fall and it was a great chance to talk to real politicians.

- iii. They are working on a mini-grant, and they have gotten some money from the Center of Sustainable Climate Solutions. The total money for the program is \$1200 that they will use for all the projects so far.
- iv. They would like SGA to help with advertising and social media.
- v. Hannah asked if they are involved with the rainwater collection system that engineering is conducting. Both Jake and Philip did not know about that.

6. Open Floor

- a. Academic Council: Allison Shelly
 - i. They discussed what the system should be for a professor to move a class fully online. They want student feedback on whether they like being online or not.
 - ii. Asha mentioned that she heard when things are online, homework assignments are sent out later and there is a less of a barrier to what is “in class” and “out of class”
 - iii. Alyssa said that online has been really successful for her. She also mentioned a survey would be a good way to hear from the student body.
 - iv. Allison mentioned that Zach Yoder has a pretty good relationship with the student body.
- b. EMU CORE: Cindi Boyer
 - i. It was mostly a set up meeting.
- c. Justice mentioned thanking the senators that participated in convocation.
- d. Theo asked Isaac to share his platform regarding alcohol education and allowing it to be consumed on campus if older than 21.
- e. Issaac shared his platform
- f. Shannon Cooper mentioned sexual assault rates go up because of alcohol on campus
- g. Coleman mentioned that it can be triggering to some because of family experience
- h. Akiel asked if RD's are allowed to have alcohol
- i. Shannon Dycus said that RD's are allowed to have alcohol
- j. Sophia mentioned that underage students will have more access if alcohol is allowed on campus
- k. Justice mentioned that he could see the benefits of this policy
- l. Theo mentioned that he does not think this is the time to push for this policy
- m. Hannah mentioned reaching out to neighbor college SGA's to see their policy when it comes to this topic
- n. Alyssa said she affirms Isaac's motivation for contributing to the platform

Meeting ended at 9:18__
 Recorded by Theo Yoder

