

SGA Meeting Minutes

11/18/2020

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

Absent: Alyssa Breidigan

1. Call to Order at 8:01 pm
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 11/4/2020
 - a. Philip motioned to approve the minutes, and Sophia seconded.

Approved: Everyone

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion passes and minutes approved.

4. Old Business
 - a. Philip will be SGA's representative for the city council
5. New Business
 - a. Guest Speaker: Susan Huxman
 - i. Susan explained what she does here at EMU
 1. Sets tone for health, safety, and success of EMU's students with her executive team
 2. Academic support- making sure students are surrounded with the best faculty and staff
 3. Operation and finances- enrollment and financial management
 4. Managing multiple conspituaties
 - ii. Senate Q&A Time
 1. What is something that has brought you joy this week or this semester?
 - a. Susan responded that she loved seeing Justice, Anisa, and Allison at the town hall meeting, as well as an email from a parent saying how great they think EMU is doing.
 2. What will the precautions for coming back next semester be? Will we be getting tested?
 - a. Susan said they have a team planning out the logistics for next semester. They would like to test every faculty and student when we come back at least once.
 3. Will those tests be funded by the school?
 - a. Susan said they would like to cover all the tests, and they have been getting funds together that could make this possible.

4. How much power does the president of EMU have, and what is the hardest part?
 - a. Susan said she does not issue executive orders or pardons, but she does carry some power. She can make things happen quicker, and empowers others. She said the hardest part of her job currently is managing isolation and keeping lines of communication open right now.
5. How is EMU planning on keeping their students' moods up through winter break?
 - a. Susan responded saying that she plans on taking feedback about what's working and what's not working. She also said she is jazzed about having all the sports being played next semester
6. What is the status of the hiring of the new director of equity and inclusion?
 - a. Susan said they have a great search committee looking through the files. They had around 40 applications, and plan on bringing 2 of the candidates to EMU where students can interact with them.
7. What does the campus wide climate policy look like right now?
 - a. Susan said they haven't had that much engagement recently because the Vice President who is in charge of that area has been more focused on COVID related things.
8. What are some ways you have been supporting faculty and staff through this time?
 - a. Susan said she's been trying to keep an eye on the ball by visiting a different unit of the university by zoom each week and connecting with them. She said she also does coffee and conversation with different groups where they get coffee and chat.
9. EMU works with a lot of donors, if EMU allowed alcohol on campus is there a possibility of losing those donors?
 - a. Susan said she does not think it is an exact cause and effect situation; however, it is a delicate process. She also said that if it was allowed, more upperclassmen would probably stay on campus, and allowed for that leadership EMU loses when they go off campus.
10. Can you tell us about spring break, and what the status of it is?
 - a. Susan said at this point they don't plan on having a normal spring break due to the pandemic.
11. There has been talk about a potential for a vaccine, but is there an expectation of getting it?
 - a. Susan said she does not see it being accessible anytime next semester. They hope there is one by next year, and if there is one they do plan on making it accessible for students who cannot get it.

12. Are you aware of any changes related to COVID rules going into next semester?
 - a. Susain responded saying that things that needed changed were caught early, like dining, but there are no plans for any drastic changes next semester.
 13. Susan was asked if she has any questions for the senate
 - a. She asked if anybody has any family members who got COVID, and how they dealt with that.
 14. What are some thoughts behind athletes getting tested regularly compared to other students, and how that will work?
 - a. Susan said they are working on it, and since the athletes are traveling and playing with other teams it is important for them. They also want testing to be accessible to other students as well; she does not want non-athletes to feel like their health is less important
 - iii. Susan is teaching VACA 387 next semester, Monday evenings if anybody needs another elective
- b. Guest Speaker: Ben Bontrager-Singer, sustainable car project
- i. Ben is the team manager for the sustainable car project for a competition.
 - ii. His group is in the gasoline category, and they plan on focusing on building an aerodynamic shelf and making things as light as possible in the car.
 - iii. They have been trying to recruit more people; they have 12 people currently, as well as finding a bigger space
 - iv. They hope to go to a competition soon, but due to COVID it is up in the air
 - v. Justice asked how the project has changed from last year, since the competition then was canceled
 - vi. Ben responded saying they have more time to work on the car, and their goal is to finish a bit earlier, so they can have more testing time, and to add any improvements if needed
 - vii. Asha asked what the future of this project is
 - viii. Ben said it'll change year to year, and he hopes each year the project will improve
 - ix. Allison asked how fast is he talking
 - x. Ben said the point isn't to race, just to get high efficiency
 - xi. Hannah said she is interested in watching the group in action
 - xii. Ben then shared some photos of the group as well as their car
 - xiii. Justice asked if there are any complications with COVID
 - xiv. Ben said they cannot have many members in their shop at once, so they have been working in a hallway so there is less close proximity
 - xv. Anisa asked if they have a faculty advisor
 - xvi. Ben said they don't currently have that much faculty support currently
 - xvii. Anisa asked how SGA can support the group
 - xviii. Ben said they appreciate the money they have received, and he will probably come back next semester with a funding request

6. Open Floor

- a. Philip said in his office hours this week he talked to a student interesting in coming to a meeting, and he was wondering if students were still welcome
- b. Allison said at the end of SGA weekly emails, she always tries to add a link. Asha said it is also on our website
- c. Justice said he had a student come up to him with frustration with the abrupt end to in-person classes
- d. Shannon D said the intention was not to be abrupt, but because of the change in VA rules they thought it would be best
- e. Justice also asked with the new guidelines for VA, will it change anything for next semester
- f. Shannon D said there is an exemption for churches and school, but she does not know if they will stay in tact
- g. Shannon C said for students in PA, are they planning on reaching out to them for testing since it is only available Friday and Monday
- h. Shannon D said testing will happen Friday, Monday, and Tuesday. They have increased the time, and they have sent out emails for people to schedule
- i. Ani said some students don't have health insurance, and asked what they would do
- j. Shannon D said it is possible for the test to be covered, just set up the appointment with health services
- k. Sophia asked if there is room for non PA students to get tested as well
- l. Shannon D said if you want to get tested you can
- m. Hannah asked about the online waivers for next semester, and if it assumed the students will be online again or not
- n. Shannon D said she does not have answer quite yet, but she is going to a meeting tomorrow where they plan to talk about it
- o. Hannah said that they there is a new shelter for homeless people down the street, and is happy to see this area do this

Meeting ended at 9:13 pm

Recorded by Liz Hoffman