

## SGA Meeting Minutes

**9/30 /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, Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Administrative Rep. Amy Springer Hartsell, Faculty Rep. Matthew Siderhurst, Isaac Andreas, Akiel Baker, Ani Beitzel, Cindi Boyer, Shannon Cooper, Elizabeth Hoffman, Phillip Krabill, Coleman Maxwell, Adam Peachey, Molly Piwonka, Ruth Reimer-Berg, Sophia Sherrill

**Absent:** Student Life Rep. Rachel Roth Sawatsky, Secretary Tahj'e Coleman, Alyssa Breidigan

1. Call to Order at 8:02
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 9/23/2020: Minutes approved.
4. Announcements
  - a. Introduction of Amy Springer Hartsell since she was not here the first week
5. Old Business
  - a. Discussion on Guest Speakers
    - i. Speakers will be coming to SGA every other week
6. New Business
  - a. Proposal for Asynchronous Instruction on Election Day
    - i. Hannah Nichols introduced the proposal, this is the first chance for many first-years to vote, and given the circumstances (COVID-19) we wanted to make it as accessible as possible for students to vote. It is our responsibility to make voter turnout high on campus.
    - ii. Ruth thanked Hannah and other executive team members for their work
    - iii. Akiel agreed that it was extremely important to encourage students to vote.
    - iv. Hannah mentioned the possibility of students being poll workers
    - v. Shannon Cooper mentioned that students could bring back the virus to families back home if they return home to vote.
    - vi. Sophia mentioned that people may take advantage of this opportunity and use it as a “day off” and not be careful. We should keep it local.
    - vii. Coleman mentioned that people may not go home because it is on a Tuesday, and that it is not possible to have a voting station on campus. There is no way we can stop people leaving campus, but we should encourage safe travel and that this is not an opportunity to do other things besides vote.
    - viii. Akiel agreed with Coleman and that we should encourage students to register to vote here.
    - ix. Ruth mentioned that we should not frame it as a day off
    - x. Shannon Cooper mentioned that people are going to go home no matter what so this could provide a safety net.
    - xi. Molly mentioned that we should be encouraging absentee ballots or mail in ballots
    - xii. Anisa mentioned that people will be under lots of stress during election day so asynchronous classes could allow students to breath

- xiii. Cindi asked if it would be possible to contain information about local poll stations so commuters could be informed.
- xiv. Hannah agreed

Motion: Issaac motioned to pass the proposal for asynchronous instruction on election day onto administration.

Phillip seconds

Approve: 18

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0

Motion passes.

Shannon Dycus commented that we should be registering students in Virginia for this to have the most impact so we might want to think about pushing the timeline to sooner rather than later.

- b. Break into internal SGA Committees
  - i. Financial Committee is trying to find new ways to spend money since not a lot of clubs are looking for funds
  - ii. Community Engagement Committee is going to sponsor future events with the two political clubs on campus
  - iii. Inclusion Committee is working to promote indigenous day and putting up race matters posters in the dorm
  - iv. Marketing Committee is working with editing the SGA staff photos and is working on posting once a day featuring a senator

## 7. Open Floor

- a. EMU CORE Curriculum Committee
  - i. What do the students want to be exposed to in this curriculum?
    - 1. Sophia agreed that a public speaking class would be beneficial
    - 2. Hannah said that she would have appreciated more finance or business courses
    - 3. Isaac mentioned investment club
  - ii. What can we do to make these classes that are not necessarily part of someone's major interesting and fun to take?
- b. EMU Cross-Cultural Committee
  - i. There is currently a proposal to implement distance limits on future cross cultures. Distance limits would correspond to the duration of the trip (ie you can't go to Europe for 6 weeks). This proposal was created in an effort to be more sustainable.
    - 1. Shannon said that there might be more pushback than they expect
    - 2. Isaac said that a lot of options will still be available.
    - 3. Ani said she needs to travel to a specific place for her major.
    - 4. Sophia mentioned that people can design their own cross cultural
  - ii. How do students feel about the proposed distance restrictions?

- c. CODI Committee Meeting
  - i. Executive Director of Inclusive Excellence update
    - 1. Amy mentioned that the name is changed to Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - d. Shannon Cooper shared that students are upset that there is no spring break, and students need a break because of mental health reasons.
  - e. Sophia said that student's away from home cannot go home during the weekend and others students that live in VA can go home and that is frustrating
  - f. Coleman said the stress is also due to the political climate right now
  - g. Shannon Dycus responded that there are break days that are being created throughout the semester and that administration has talked about mental health but she is aware that it is not the same. Faculty have been notified that they should be aware of workloads and schoolwork.
  - h. Cindi asked if there were specific ways students can go up and talk to professors
  - i. Amy said that the student's engagement with the professor could help and that Zach Yoder is a helpful resource as well
  - j. Matthew said that it shows professors that the student is taking the material seriously
  - k. Coleman mentioned mental health ally stickers that professors could wear
  - l. Molly mentioned that we could have meditation or yoga events or an online board where people could post quotes or pieces of art
  - m. Sophia said that she appreciates days where she can just do nothing
  - n. Shannon Dycus said that she hears everyone and she is taking notes
- 8. Justice mentioned that Tahje will be resigning because she can only be an executive member of one club and mentioned all the hard work she did over the summer
  - a. Phillip brought up that Emma Yoder was VP last year and a Co-president of Earthkeepers and asked why that was the case

Meeting ended at 9:40 pm  
Recorded by Theo Yoder