

## SGA Meeting Minutes

**10/21/2020**

**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. Rachel Roth Sawatsky, Administrative Rep. Amy Springer Hartsell, Faculty Rep. Matthew Siderhurst, 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:** Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus

1. Call to Order at 8:01
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 10/13/2020: Minutes approved.
4. Announcements
  - a. Asynchronous proposal election day update
    - i. Administration has decided to grant an asynchronous day on election day and is contacting professors
  - b. Secretary elections
    - i. Only one candidate has submitted a platform, so the election is being postponed to allow more students time to submit their platforms
    - ii. Senate was in favor of first years to submit their name for secretary

Motion (Ani): To allow first years to run for secretary position during their first semester

Philip Seconds

Approve: 13

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1

- c. Constitution Amendment
  - i. The rule not allowing executive team members to have another executive role on campus is being added to the constitution
5. Old Business
  - a. BSA Funding Request
    - i. BSA has sent in all receipts for supplies used for the BLM mural.
    - ii. Adam mentioned that he has heard from students that they wanted a greater understanding of the meaning behind the mural and that he is against approving the mural because it may be political.
    - iii. Ruth mentioned that BSA has done a lot for this campus and we should be backing them up with the fee students are paying.
    - iv. Coleman mentioned that SGA should write a statement explaining why we approved or not approved
    - v. Discussion continued to talk about how this was a large amount of money and the senate is not sure if we should approve this.

- vi. Cindi mentioned that BSA is trying to make sure that they have all the credit for making this mural, but is SGA paying for the mural taking that away from them.
- vii. Philip mentioned it would be courteous for SGA to provide funds because it applies to everyone on campus
- viii. Ruth said that this is SGA's way of supporting BSA
- ix. Shannon mention that BSA is doing a lot on campus so we should fund this
- x. Molly added that she is a part of BSA and helped with the mural and they gave up the barbershop.

Motion (Isaac): To grant the funds to BSA in full amount for the supplies used for the mural.

Liz seconds

Approve: 7

Against: 1

Abstaining: 7

Motion passes.

- xi. SGA exec team is going to work on drafting a statement about the funding request. \*see bottom of document

## 6. New Business

### a. Eastern Mennonite Women's Student Association

- i. Molly shared that EMSWA is a new club on campus and they are working on planning events
- ii. They are trying to get more awareness of different areas such as feminism and where woman's standing are. They are looking at partnering up with different minority clubs to do more collaborations in the future.
- iii. They are participating in a women's march that is rescheduled for this coming Saturday.
- iv. Shannon shared that she was raised in a conservative household where feminism was not celebrated, so in college she is seizing that opportunity
- v. They meet at 8 pm on Thursday
- vi. SGA can best support them by spreading the word and awareness
- vii. Molly shared that women supported women can be seen where a lot of women can be turned against one another. She likes the idea that all women need to be together and they cannot be separated.

### b. Internal SGA Subcommittee time

- i. Marketing committee is still working on the photos to post to the website

and working on posters for the race matters session.

- ii. The Inclusion Committee processed the discussion around the BSA funding request and debriefed Indigenous Peoples' day.
- iii. The Outreach committee is talking about partnering with clubs and holding events that have to do with the holidays.
- iv. Finance committee talked about how clubs can intersect and intermingle with each other. Also, taking a couple minutes to go over finances every meeting.

c. Board Report

- i. Co-presidents have the opportunity to submit one page written report to the board of trustees as well as meet with. The co presidents would like to hear senate's input
- ii. Isaac mentioned he is working towards making alcohol consumption legal on campus.
- iii. Shannon mentioned a possible dance to be held before break

7. Open Floor

- a. Intellectual Life Committee (Sophia Sherrill)
  - i. They are currently planning the ACE festival. They talked about the reward ceremony and logistics. How can they make it less stressful and something that is fun is a question they are considering.
- b. Writing Committee (Allison Shelly)
  - i. Vi Dutcher does a lot for our writing program, and they discussed the CORE writing classes curriculum.
- c. Justice Allen announced that he is able to attend all SGA meetings despite being in a class that meets during the time of SGA meetings.
- d. Philip shared that SFI was wondering if they could send out one mass email a week as a reminder that their market happens on Thursday.
- e. Shannon Cooper affirmed the rule discussed in the past few meetings.
- f. Anisa reminded people to fill out survey for Pioneer Foods

## 8. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9: 28 pm

Recorded by Theo Yoder

### \*SGA Statement on the BSA Mural

One of the purposes of the Student Government Association, as outlined in its constitution, “is to oppose and challenge any forms of discrimination, prejudice and violence against students or student groups on campus.” Those words, written by EMU students long before us, could not ring more true today. As EMU students in 2020, we recognize the systemic racism on which our nation was built, and name the impact which pervasive anti-Blackness has on our Black students. As we find ourselves in a pivotal moment of history, we resolve to actively live into our shared value of social justice.

Therefore SGA affirms the Black Lives Matter Mural in front of University Commons. We affirm, specifically Black students, faculty and staff that make up our EMU community. Furthermore we realize that EMU, particularly as a predominantly white institution, has a way to go in living into the statement “Black Lives Matter”. The mural serves as both a reminder of our institutional shortcomings, and as BSA president JD Richardson said during the unveiling, “represents a promise that EMU will do their part toward the struggle of our people.” Thank you BSA for this call to action.

While we commend BSA for their dedication to bettering our EMU community, we also realize that it is not the job of the oppressed to continually provide educational opportunities and programs about racism and anti-racism. If you have any questions about why SGA affirms the mural wholeheartedly, please reach out to [sga@emu.edu](mailto:sga@emu.edu) or to senators that do not identify as the aforementioned groups.