

Student Senate General Body Meeting

Student Center Hillberry D

Thursday, November 19, 2015

6:00 pm

Presiding: William Alexander, President

I. Call to Order

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:02PM on Thursday November 19,2015 in Hillberry D of the Student Center

II. Roll Call

A. Present- S. Ahmed, W. Alexander, T. Bawa, T. Bazzi, A. Bhagat, E. Diviney, A. Eid, S. Enaker, G. Freeman, V. Gonzales, C. Gregory, A. Harrison, M. Ibrahim, J. Kehoe, A. Martin, M. Mohan, A. Morton, E. Perry, Z. Rich, M. Salim, K. Sopko, A. Suleiman, A. Szpytman, K. Velazquez, K. Wright

B. Absent-

C. Early Departure- K. Donnelly

D. Late Arrival- C. Arnold

i. Early Departure and Late Arrival can count as an absence per the discretion of the Secretary.

III. Approval of the Agenda

A. Moved: Z. Rich

B. Second: M. Mohan

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A. Moved: A. Eid

B. Second: Z. Rich

V. Business

A. Dr. Monica Brockmeyer, Associate Provost for Student Success

- i. Could you provide us with a full report on the GEOC? What are some changes that you all have made? Where does the committee stand in terms of its overall goals? Could you explain the process to the Senate? What changes are you all thinking about making? What were the results from the survey that was sent to the student body regarding general education?
 - a. GLC: changes and goals
 - i. Two committees: GOC and gen Ed reform
 - 1. Undertakes overhaul of gen Ed programs
 - 2. Has not been changed in 25 years
 - ii. GOC has small changes
 - iii. Math placement exam is being looked at
 - iv. Elimination of computer literacy
 - v. Lowered score for critical thinking exam
 - vi. Joe Rankin is the guy for this
 - b. Gen Ed reform
 - i. Updates posted on the website
 - c. Passed out documents regarding these two committees
 - i. 4 phrases
 - 1. 1. How do students feel/data gathering
 - 2. 2. Values that guide general education
 - ii. Currently in the middle of phase 2
 - iii. Weaknesses: not a good job of explaining what gen Ed was
 - iv. Expect to wrap up this phase soon
 - v. 3. Learning outcomes
 - 1. What students should be able to do
 - vi. 4. Class choices
 - 1. Implement phase is after these 4 phases
 - 2. Have heard from students that more than half of the students understood the purpose of gen Ed
 - vii. While they understand it, it was never explained to students
 - viii. Nowhere on campus for why we have gen Ed in the first place
 - 1. Some of the students and faculty think gen Ed is too large
 - 2. Frustration with group requirements
 - 3. Barrier to graduation

Questions:

- d. K. Donnelly-I think there are some classes that don't fall into the categories and don't qualify for some GenEds that should, so I suggest you look into those.
- e. C. Gregory- I as part of two of the focus groups and found it very interesting and think that you guys are heading in the right direction in how to revamp it. I think it will be interesting on how it will be deployed.
 - i. We don't know how we are going to deploy it, and it may just qualify for all students after the year that it rolls out.
- f. G. Freeman- I think making the GenEds more flexible is something that should seriously be looked into so we can actually take some classes that they want that should be able to fill some of the requirements.
- g. T. Bazzi-I talked with Dr. Rankin earlier about reworking the Math Competency Exam, can you give us any updates?
 - i. This is a short-term GenEd reform and a group of us has gotten together to look over it, and I don't know exactly what will happen with it. The current exam does do a very accurate job with placing students in the correct class. While this is important, it is not enough, and there needs to be a feedback asset to it. Unfortunately, the exam does not reflect our curriculum accurately. We are working on it, but we have no finalized plan yet.
- h. Z. Rich- I was part of the General Education Focus Group, and during that time, we discovered that Wayne State has more GenEd requirements than most schools. While it may take a lot of time for change, it is interesting to note that many departments have to work together in order to make that change.
- i. K. Velazquez- As a transfer student, I can shed light on the difficulties I experienced with some classes transferring and others not.
 - i. Those decisions are under the control of the departments, and now I have learned a lot, so there is a

lot of communication with the different department heads on which classes are transferable or not.

- j. M. Salim- Has there been any thought on implementing more flexibility on classes that fulfill requirements and make it based on case by case?
 - i. We have a Graduation Action Committee, and they track students who are noticing patterns where students are experiencing difficulties or blocks and addressing them from there.
- k. A. Suleiman- What direction will you take in making GenEds more Detroit focused?
 - i. Wayne State is known for its diversity, location and research, so we would like to look at those and go from there.
- l. A. Suleiman- Would you consider adding a research component to GenEds?
 - i. I don't think we can roll it out to the entire student body, but we can slowly implement it over time if that's a direction we take.
- m. C. Gregory- The Launch Date for the new GenEds is Fall 2016, is that accurate?
 - i. No, we are not on track for that.
- n. C. Gregory- Are you working with groups other than STEM to look into GenEds?
 - i. We have it on our agenda to meet with the wider GenEd committee, we are hoping to come out with a new GenEd, pedagogy matters.
- o. A. Morton- How close are faculties working with other universities to make transfer processes easier?
 - i. Some are working more closely with others, and each university offers different degrees and classes. Those conversations are definitely happening with colleges that we see a lot of transfer students from, such as Macomb Community College.

- p. K. Velazquez- Another barrier is the difference in class names.
 - i. What some schools have done is that it depends on how many credits you transfer in with, so at 30 credits you take all GenEds, at 60 you take half the amount and so on.
- i. Could you speak to how you plan to collaborate with the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement to seek improvement in retention and the student success of minority students?
- q. I'm very excited about that office, and we are currently looking at a cultural and multi-diversity training aspect. We hope that a position can be filled and can spend part-time in the Student Success Center and part-time in OMSE. This year for our incoming freshman we gathered a survey that would give us a better sense of that person as they enter college.
- r. Questions:
- s. A. Morton- Can you tell me more about the Black Male Conference, and I would like to bring a Black Male Initiative on campus.
 - i. I know that since they've come back, they have short term goals that they hope to get rolling come January, and based on research Black Male Initiative have been more successful when partnering with Black Female Initiative.
- t. A. Harrison- I want to go back to the surveys, are you going to be doing a follow-up survey?
 - i. We just rolled out a mid-year survey and it opened up a few days ago and will be open until January, so as to assess the first semester.
- ii. Could you provide us with some information on how the Med Direct program will work that was recently launched?
 - a. See handout.
 - b. I have had no personal interaction with this program so far, and it is a program that is still being implemented. New freshman can apply until January 15, 2016. It will pretty

much include a full ride from undergrad through med school.

- c. Questions:
- d. M. Salim- is this working with MedStart?
 - i. It has had problems and concerns and its replacing MedStart.
- e. K. Donnelly- How many students are they accepting?
 - i. 10 students.
- f. C. Gregory- I feel as if this is targeting the top 1%, rather than a program that can better the large group as a whole.
 - i. It will serve more as a recruiting function rather than an aid to the pre-med population
- g. M. Salim- Is there a caveat for the student who receives the scholarship?
 - i. Yes, if they receive it, they must see it through.
- h. T. Bawa- What is the incentive for students, or how will they stay competitive?
 - i. With the free tuition and many things being included, these students will obviously have the passion, and it's more of a recruiting tool.
- i. G. Freeman- Is there anything in place to aid those students who won't have the opportunities that are required to get into this program?
 - i. Unfortunately it is a recruiting tool, and I would love to see it expand, but the other programs we have in place can be used as tools to help these students reach their goals.

B. PR for BOG Town Hall

- i. We have a challenge for you all to complete for the BOG Town Hall.
- ii. This week's challenge is to post onto any social media platform and send me proof. The more posts you do, the more points you get.

- iii. Next week, I will send out a text that you can forward on to your friends, like a phone tree.
- iv. Throughout the next two weeks, everyone please invite your Facebook friends to the event page in order to get more points.
- v. A. Harrison created fliers and each person has to post them around campus.
- vi. Just be conscious where you park it, and make sure you follow all rules.

C. Business Meeting After? (BOG TH)

- i. A. Harrison-how long do they run?
 - a. They normally run 2 hours.
- ii. W. Alexander- Alicia from DegreeWorks wants to come in and speak to us. If we don't have business meeting afterwards, we will not have a business meeting for the month of December.
- iii. G. Freeman- Can we have the meeting in the same room right after?
 - a. Yes we can, we have the room until 10PM
- iv. S. Enaker- For the sake of our mental capacity, if she does come can we just make sure it's efficient.
- v. W. Alexander- We can make sure we limit it as much as possible to 30 minutes, but that is not a guarantee.
- vi. A. Eid- I think we should have a meeting, but no speaker that week.

D. Gallery Comments

VI. Reports

A. Reports are limited to 2.5 minutes unless extended to a vote.

B. Executive Board

- i. Z. Rich- we have another opening on Senate and will be sending out a university wide e-mail, encourage your friends who you think would be good assets.
- ii. T. Bazzi- I have received concerns about accessibility to the Students Services Disability Office within the UGL, I have a meeting, and if you would like to go, let me know.

- iii. T. Bazzi- If you have any difficulties getting in contact with certain administrators, let me know because Dr. Rankin is working with us to hold faculty more accountable.
- iv. T. Bazzi- I met with Election Reform Committee
- v. T. Bawa- The Governmental Affairs PG is meeting in Hillberry E from 6-7 on Tuesday November 24th.
- vi. C. Arnold- If you want accurate reports, try and get in the habit of sending me them ahead of time, please and thank you.

C. Projects Groups

- i. W. Alexander- Diversity and Inclusion PG has been working to address biases issues, and we want to address diversity within our curriculum, and expanding to include more works from people of different backgrounds.
- ii. C. Gregory- Economic Development Committee, we are meeting with corporate representatives from Cricket in order to allow students to use their OneCard to pay for more services. We are also looking into adding more bike racks, and show your OneCard and save, as well as the networking nights, which I need feedback for.
- iii. C. Arnold- Campus Safety
- iv. T. Bazzi- Green Initiatives has a meeting with Jim Sears and wants a proposal about the fume hoods, so we can get the ball rolling on that. We also want to look into educating the students about recycling on campus.
 - a. C. Gregroy-I've been talking with SashaFarms, rather than composting the food scraps, we are sending all edible food to them.

D. College Representatives

- i. A. Suleiman- CLAS- we are creating a survey and if you have any questions or feedback you would like to input, let us know. We are also working on making the website more user friendly.
 - a. Faculty Affairs Committee- we are asking to receive guidelines from every department and how they will address SET scores.
- ii. K. Wright- Business- I will be meeting with the department chairs to discuss SET scores.

- iii. S. Ahmed- Education- The college is working on gathering more resources to increase the amount of students who pass the GRE.
- iv. K. Sopko- I am meeting with my deans on December 9th to discuss funding over the spring/summer semester.

E. Senators-At-Large

- i. L. Diviney- The Student Center has a rule that if your group is bigger than 12, they can not only refuse your service but they can also not allow you to even sit in there.
- ii. C. Gregory- I have received complaints about the hours of the Student Disabilities Office, which are not always compatible with what their professors want because the office can't always accommodate what their professor demands.
 - a. K. Wright- I would like to work with you.

F. Advisor

G. Gallery Comments

VII. Announcements

- A. A. Harrison-is there any way we can address the call services process because it is not very helpful within the Welcome Center.
- B. T. Bawa- DEPsi is raising money for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation raising money.
- C. K. Sopko- we were able to raise 146 coats to donate!
- D. K. Velazquez- I'm waiting from Barnes and Noble for those shirts.
- E. E. Perry- Dodging for Diabetes, is on Sunday December 13th, if you guys want to participate, let me know.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM on Thursday November 19, 2015 in Hillberry D in the Student Center.