



Student Senate General Body Meeting

Student Center Hillberry D

Thursday, November 5, 2015

6:00 pm

Presiding: William Alexander, President

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Meeting was called to order at 6:04PM on Thursday November 5, 2015 in Hilberry D of the Student Center.
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Present- W. Alexander, C. Arnold, T. Bawa, T. Bazzi, A. Bhagat, E. Diviney, K. Donnelly, A. Eid, S. Enaker, V. Gonzales, C. Gregory, M. Ibrahim,
 - B. Absent-
 - C. Late- G. Freeman, M. Mohan,
 - D. Early Departure- S. Ahmed, A. Jaber
 - i. Late and Early Departure can be counted as an absence per the discretion of the Secretary.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved- A. Jaber
 - B. Second-S. Enaker
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Moved- A. Martin
 - B. Second- S. Enaker
- V. Business
 - A. WSU Board of Governors
 - i. Student Senate Initiatives
 - a. Under Diversity and Inclusion we are still looking forward to an LGBT coordinator, as well as preferred name.

- b. In regards to facilities we are looking to spreading Wayne State pride throughout campus and especially in the Student Center.
- c. We are always working towards addressing any and all concerns students have.

ii. Board of Governors

- a. We would like to address the LGBT coordinator, and we are very committed to making the steps in obtaining one.
- b. We are also working towards making Lansing more responsive to the metrics system, and we want to make sure you are using your voices on this matter.
- c. One of the questions you have is a 24 hour Student Center and we love the enthusiasm you have in creating a spirited campus. Wayne State has changed a lot, and is becoming a more lively campus, we would like to look into the costs and safety requirements we would need in order to make it happen.

iii. Student Senate

- a. Most of the initiatives we develop are based off of our interactions with the student body and problems that they bring to us, and the individual committees create goals that
- b. In regards to beautification of the Student Center, we have been in touch with Andrea Gerber and the idea that we proposed is utilizing student artwork to decorate the building. A budget would be created, and each year we would host a contest in order to make sure the artwork is always changing and being updated.

iv. Board of Governors

- a. Food is improving.

v. Open Questions

- a. A. Martin- last year when you visited you touched on the Pivotal Moments campaign, and would like to know how that is going and where the money will be going to.
 - i. A portion, one-third, of the money fundraised would be going to student scholarships, but unfortunately we are

a little behind in the campaigning process. We would love for you and all of our alumni to get more involved in making sure we reach our goal.

- b. Z. Rich- Our SAM representative could not be here tonight, but he wanted to make sure you were aware that they are working with other universities in lobbying for a change in the metrics system.
 - i. Does this representative correspond with our governmental affairs office?
 - 1. As of now no, he will most likely not be on the Board of Governors come the next SAM meeting.
- c. K. Wright- Ms. Thompson, last week you wanted more information
 - i. I wanted to look further into the agreement, and the information wasn't provided in a matter convenient for the Board of Governors. Before any decision is made, more information needs to be sent to us.
- d. A. Eid- Given that the three of you are elected officials, can you please highlight on your goals?
 - i. Ms. Thompson-The primary issues I ran on were access, and that the university will remain a place accessible to as many of the population of Michigan. I also wanted to address the retention numbers at Wayne State as well as making sure the university stays a diverse student body. Once on the Board, I want to continuously make the push in an entrepreneurial direction an promoting it on campus and in the city of Detroit.
 - ii. My main concern was on diversity, and my observation that as a whole the university is diverse, but within the individual colleges, some are not diverse at all. I also want to address the metrics system and how funding is allocated.
 - iii. Ms. Trent-The issue I thought was the most important was the dismal graduation rate of African-American students. As a whole we want to improve the entire

graduation rate, and we are very focused on creating programs and strategies as well as safety nets to improve the graduation rate, not only for African-American students, but the entire student body as a whole.

e. A. Martin- How do you plan on making sure the President's Plan of Action will be implemented?

i. I think the important thing is to make sure that it appears on our agenda regularly, so we never get distracted from certain parts of the plan.

ii. Making sure that we hear from different members of the administration at each board meeting so that we are clear on what the goal is and what is going to be accomplished.

iii. I think we have an excellent strategic plan, it's important in creating milestones and goals and making sure things are being done.

f. S. Ahmed- We talked about the 24-hour Student Center, and want to know how you feel and what can we do to make this happen?

i. It's very encouraging that it is a focal point of the university and it's exciting that it could be a possibility in the future, but I think it's important to address the safety issues and the implications of what is necessary to make it happen. It would be helpful to know what the benefits of it remaining open 24-hours, and how the building would be used at the late hours. We would love more information about the matter and how we would go about making sure students are safe during the late hours.

1. We will definitely look into it and see what other schools are doing, and get more information to you.

g. C. Gregory- In regards to graduation rates, I'm curious as to whether the faculty contracts are hindering the graduation rate,

and the quality of the classes isn't adequate due to the large amount of research expected from faculty?

- i. As a board, we have made research a high priority, and if professors choose to leave because the research requirements are too high, then as a community we need to decide how important research is for our university. The amount of research that Wayne State does is extremely beneficial for the region. It's possible to give very meaningful lectures and still do research, it's all about finding that balance. There are a lot of things that can be addressed to improve the quality, whether it's the training of TA's, but cutting research I don't believe is the answer.
- h. E. Perry- Have you determined the causes of the low graduation rates, and what are you doing or have been doing to address the problem?
 - i. We are very focused on studying other universities low graduation rates and the programs they have used. We are taking a more intrusive approach, in addressing when flags in students' academic struggles and having counselors reach out to these students quicker. We would like to put financial incentives in place to encourage students to graduate. It's important to make sure the leadership makes it a priority and
- i. M. Salim- Within the school of medicine, the students who struggle are sought out early on and made a priority, and meet with professors. It would be hard to implement on a large scale, but if we hold the professors or TAs reliable where they have to meet with students who fail on the first exam will hopefully begin to address the graduation rate problem.
 - i. Changing the overall culture of college is crucial, it doesn't have to be a sink or swim situation anymore, and there is a culture of shaming those who are barely getting by and those are the people who are afraid to ask for help, but the students who get 4.0s are more likely to ask for help in order to protect their good grades.

j. A. Eid- Specific reasons on why the graduation rate is so low can be attributed to preparedness, financial aid, and support.

i. It's important to note that when we admit to students to our university, it's our obligation to help them graduate.

B. Five Minute Recess starting at 7:14PM and ending at 7:19PM

C. Installments

i. Senators Abdul Suleiman and Aaron Morton were installed.

D. Bylaw Updates & Changes

i. The first proposed bylaw change

Article and Title: *Article V, Section 7 "Office Hours"*

Proposed Amendment: *Add Section 7 to Article V stating:*

OFFICE HOURS

A. Each member of the Student Senate is expected to contribute one hour a week towards Student Senate Office Hours.

B. All Senate Members are expected to host open office hours to all Students, Faculty, and Administration to maintain constituent relations.

a. Senators will decide open time intervals that best suit their schedule every semester and are held accountable to be present in the Student Senate Office at their respected ties.

C. Student Senate Office Hours will take place from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM unless further requested by a Student Senator.

ii. Questions:

1. E. Diviney-How will this be upheld?

a. An honor system

2. K. Sopko-Is there an alternative time available for those whose schedules don't work with these hours?

a. Yes, we can work something out.

3. M. Ibrahim-How will this work for college representatives and can we arrange for them to serve their hours within those colleges?

a. I think that we can look into that, and there is no restriction for that.

4. A. Harrison-What days of the week will these be?

a. I'd like to have a uniformed schedule so there is a sense of consistency for the student body.

5. S. Enaker-Once this is voted on, it becomes a law and I think that it is still raw and needs to be amended further to be more specific.
 - a. There are no repercussions; rather this is just the first step in the direction, and I'd like to treat it as a pilot.
6. K. Wright- I love this, I would just like to see it done within respective schools.
7. C. Gregory- I feel this is a very rough proposal and without
8. K. Donnelly- I think that we all agree that this is a great idea, it just needs to be amended, which we can do at a later date. I think it's something we should do, just be flexible with.
9. E. Diviney- Is there a way we can do this without voting yes on it?
 - a. We have to vote either yes or no on it.
 - iii. Bylaw not approved.
 - iv. Proposed : Add the following to the end of the current bylaw – “Failure to attend 2 executive board meetings by an executive board member will result in one absence.”
 - v. Questions:
 1. E. Perry- What is the current rule for missing an e-board meeting?
 - a. There is not one.
 2. E. Diviney-What is the rationale behind picking 2?
 - a. The rationale is that the executive board members meet every week and that if we change it to 1, it would lead to quicker reinstatements.
 3. S. Enaker- is it two absences per term or semester?
 - a. In accordance with the other bylaw it is per semester.
 - vi. Bylaw amendment approved.
 - vii. Proposed: Insert an addition to the bylaw – “Attendance to Senate meetings must be taken seriously. Failure to remain present for 2/3 of a regularly scheduled meeting or attend a meeting at the stated start time two times will result in an absence. Any member with 2 absences (excused and/or unexcused) will be automatically removed. Those members will be entitled to reinstatement only once per academic year (excluding the Spring/Summer semester). For reinstatement procedures refer to Article IX, Section 4.”
 - viii. Questions:
 1. A. Harrison-how is tardiness determined?
 - a. If you are not present during roll call, you are tardy.
 2. G. Freeman- How is 2/3 determined?
 - a. 2/3 will always change depending on the length of the meeting.
 3. S. Enaker- I think that it should be 2/3 of business.
 4. E. Perry- Will it go into effect today?
 - a. Yes.

5. C. Gregory- I was under the impression that we had to be here every Thursday, and we should hold ourselves accountable.
6. A. Martin- I agree with C. Gregory that these are issues that we already follow and it was never just written in the bylaws so we can refer to it later.
7. A. Harrison- I agree with C. Gregory that these meetings are mandatory, and you should attend no matter what. I think it is good to clarify, and note those who do come and don't stay for the entirety of the meeting.
8. C. Arnold- This proposal is to make the expectations even across the board.
9. D. Strauss- I think that we are spending more time talking about rules than we are talking about actual business.
- ix. Bylaw amendment not approved.

E. Winter Advance Planning Committee

- i. I would like to see a small committee plan our winter advance on the 14th of January.
 - a. C. Gregory, E. Diviney, and A. Morton will plan it.

F. Gallery Comments

VI. Reports

A. Executive Board

- i. W. Alexander- Dr. Brockmeyer was contacted regarding the general education requirements committee and she will be coming to our meeting on November 19th.
- ii. A. Martin- We had a place-making meeting with economic development and they sent out a survey and received good feedback on their initiatives of more seating around campus. They would love more ideas on how to create place-making.

B. Projects Groups

- i. A. Eid- I had a very productive meeting regarding the preferred name policy group and the logistics, and how students can change their preferred name once online, but will need administrative approval beyond that. Many systems will need to be reworked in order to work with preferred name. It should be ready by the start of the Fall 2016 semester.
- ii. K. Reeves- I met with Jodi Young today to create cheaper Wayne State apparel and they cannot make them cheaper than \$15. I also learned that you can use Barnes and Noble for fundraising for your student orgs.

- iii. S. Enaker- Housing and Parking funded the weekend shuttle and Student Senate will not be funding it.
- iv. C. Gregory- Economic Development is looking into the placement of more bike racks, and they want to build the number of businesses involved in the “Show Your OneCard and Save” initiative, as well as looking into more food trucks on campus, and lastly creating Warrior Networking Nights at locations close to campus.
- v. G. Freeman- the Diversity PG has a meeting on December 11th.
- vi. T. Bazzi- Green Initiatives will soon have a finalized strategic plan to propose to the Board of Governors. We are still working with the Chemistry Department and closing fume hoods at night.

C. College Representatives

- i. A. Harrison- I met with a few people about a promotional video for Student Senate and within the College Diversity Council wants to add more students to their council.
- ii. A. Martin- I met with Honors Council and we had the largest freshman class in history, and they are trying to enlist more professors to accommodate the large class sizes.
- iii. K. Wright- There will be 13-week accounting classes in the summer. We are getting a new school of business, and a new committee is being created from the new school, and I am trying to get on this committee.
- iv. M. Salim- the Med School has a large Senate and I would like to have a Pre-Medical student sitting in on the meetings for the Med School Senate and I would like your guys’ input on how I should go about this.
 - a. K. Donnelly- I work in the Pre Health Department and I can get you a list of those organizations.

D. Senators-At-Large

- i. E. Perry- I’ve had a lot of students approach me about the smoking policy and how it’s not being enforced, and I want to do something about it.
- ii. E. Diviney- There is a team in the works of evaluating the success of the new Student Center.
- iii. S. Enaker- I had an RA approach me about the weekend trash policy which is a problem, because the trash doesn’t get taken out until Monday mornings.

E. Advisor

F. Gallery Comments

i. What do Executive Board Meetings entail?

a. Our meetings consist of discussions left unfinished from General Body Meetings, we plan out future meetings and guest speakers, and we delegate tasks that need to be done. It is generally just a preparation for the General body Meetings.

b. We also create agendas and questions for our guest speakers.

VII. Announcements

A. A. Harrison- In regards to the initiative of using student artwork within the Student Center, I'm getting in touch with more people to make the next steps.

B. S. Enaker- We talked a lot about campus culture, and I want to create a Project Group focused solely on changing Campus Culture, so contact me if you're interested.

C. K. Reeves- I changed my name to Valezquez. I would also like to know how we handle accountability for Project Groups

i. Project Group chairs can be removed by the Vice President.

D. W. Alexander-Please send questions for speakers

E. W. Alexander-Gallery comments presented twice intentionally

F. C. Gregory- It's hard to ask questions, when we don't know the direction to head in.

G. S. Enaker- If you could please give us a quick briefing on who is coming and what their jurisdiction is, so we have an idea of what questions to formulate.

H. T. Bazzi- The next SWAG order is going through so let me know if you need anything let me know.

I. T. Bazzi- What are we doing to promote the BOG Town Hall, and I created a Facebook page, so please promote it and invite people to it.

VIII. Adjournment

A. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11PM on Thursday November 5, 2015 in Hilberry D of the Student Center.