Wayne State University  
Student Senate  
General Body Meeting  
Thursday, April 17, 2014  
6:00 p.m.  
Presiding: Adham Aljahmi, President

1. Call to Order – 7:39
2. Roll Call
   b. Absent – Y. Younan, R. Singh-Gill
3. Approval of the Agenda
   a. Moved – Rohit; second - Matt
4. Approval of the Minutes
   a. Moved – Kristin; second – Zach
5. Business
   a. Faculty Awards
      • Dr. Valerie Pardo (PT)
      • Prof. Timothy Morton
   b. Matt Wilton – Aramark – and Tim Michael
      • Should be able to link Campus Dish to WSU sites; still haven’t been able to get the nutrition info to link to mobile app
      • We did post hours over break to Housing and RAs; we’re doing focus groups to figure out how to best communicate it to students
      • It’s standard among universities and in the contract that meal plans don’t operate over breaks, but Warrior Dollars were active
      • Kelsey: as an RA, I didn’t get an email about the dining closures and there were a lot of complaints from students, particularly international students
      • We don’t design the meal plans to operate 24/7 the entire time that you’re a student here; we have to make an economical decision about what coverage to offer
      • Brandon: Warrior Dollars used to be used beyond Aramark institutions, and Grand Valley has a more extensive meal exchange program
      • GVSU is the outlier among MPUs, and their plan costs more
      • This was the only year we planned to expand the meal exchanges because of the Towers renovation, and they’ve transferred about $500,000 from the dining halls to the other dining institutions, which we did not anticipate that high of a number
      • Will: I know it’s a business, but I’m concerned about the international students and the lack of options
      • It’s not about the money; it’s about providing a service to students. The issue is whether people would pay $100 more per meal plan to have the dining halls open for a couple days during break.
• Adham: The problem is a lot of students can’t really go off campus, or a lot of the places off campus are closed as well.
• We are looking at expanding the hours in Towers next year on the weekends; we’ve been doing studies and mapping the campus to get a better idea of when and where students are on campus.
• Adham: there’s a high demand at Jets now that they allow Warrior Dollars, including the wait time being up to three hours.
• All of the food places in the Student Center will reopen after Thanksgiving, and we’ve designed the budget for the places to stay open later. We’ll have to map the patterns to see how that building is used, but we’re expecting that it will involve more traffic later at night.
• Naomi: I just wanted to emphasize that it is a big problem; multiple people a day will ask me what to do about food
• Marwan: Is there an option to operate the cafeteria at less than capacity?
• That’s part of what the redesign will enable us to do.
• We’ve talked a lot about whether we should move the late-night dining to Towers with the Student Center renovations, but for now we’re going to keep it in the Student Center.
• Adham: A lot of students don’t know about Towers or that it’s available to them. Is there a way to change the entrance around Keast Commons?
• That’s not an ideal entrance location.
• Maya: A lot of commuters have no idea where Towers is or that it offers food.
• Micky: Including the food options in orientation packets might help.
• We’ve actually already started that Admitted Student Days.
• Rohit: If there was a way to incentivize the private food places near campus to stay open later, that might help.
• We’re having an open conversation with Economic Development about that; the surveys were pretty clear that we need to do something about Warren. This is a good discussion because it shows that demand is increasing.
• Roberta: Maybe showing the change in Jets’ revenue to the other businesses would convince them that they could make money. The businesses in that area definitely benefit from student traffic, especially the Tim Hortons.
• Updates on the Student Center renovations will be included in the weekly DOSO emails.
• Brandon: I’ve been getting suggestions from students at UT to take out the vending machines and put a POD there instead.
• Adham: Maybe add a kiosk in Old Main.
• Madhu: on the mobile app, maybe you could add allergen warnings
• Kelsey: the most common deliveries that we get at DeRoy for students are Dominos, Jets, and D1, so they might be able to provide more feedback
• Brandon: Is Chick Fil A coming to campus or no? We’ve heard different things.
• In the initial Aramark proposal, we were trying to bring to campus the number one restaurant in each of the major categories. Chick Fil A has in recent years the complication of leadership positions on social issues, and we got feedback that people were concerned. The decision was made at the end of August not
to let them on campus. But it’s an evolving question: Chick Fil A has been changing their stances based on some of the responses. As of today, the answer is no.

• Brandon: Are the vendors for the Student Center confirmed?
• Taco Bell is in plan review, we’re still working through with Popeyes, and the original plan for Panda was changed.
• With Chick Fil A, the issue is that Popeyes is a distant second in that category. Will people go there?
• Brandon: People would. The other issues with Chick Fil A are that they’re not open on Sundays, they don’t serve halal or kosher or a lot of vegetarian options.
• Chick Fil A is actually trying to evolve its business and its offerings. We opened one at the last institution, even in middle of the controversy, and people can from a ridiculous distance to eat there.
• To be honest, we don’t really know what the actual reaction of the campus would be; the discussion kind of ended before it began.
• Adham: sometimes the meal exchanges are really uncooperative where they won’t let student substitute water instead of soda
• The issue might be how they were trained by Panda. I’ll look into that.
• We’re trying to eliminate waste, and by not using trays we’re saving about one ton a week.
• Brandon: I’m concerned about the amount of food that you get for the price, i.e. one cheese stick for $1. Also, students are concerned about whether Pepsi in Gold and Greens is kosher.
• Everything is certified by the rabbis, but we’re making sure.
• Brandon: What exactly is the policy for bringing in non-Aramark food?
• If it’s over $200, it doesn’t matter where the money comes from, it’s university policy that it has to come from the university. With donations, we’re particularly concerned about the source because of the liability.
• Dean Strauss: SABC will be evaluating the food money policy after the end of this year. The policy in the past has been no money for food; this year it was supposed to be for refreshments, but that’s not what happened, and it’s been too much trouble.
• Adham: a lot of students have been concerned recently about the quality of the food, and I know that Cionone has been overwhelmed with the variety of complaints. There have been bugs in the salad and pork in the halal soup. Displaying a certification would give students more confidence.

c. Senate Banquet
   • Be on time exactly at 6:00 p.m.
   • Dress up – cocktail dresses, suits, etc.

d. Appointments

6. Reports
   a. Executive Board
      • Brandon: Everyone received my email about changing the bylaws.
      • Ashraf: I move to postpone discussing these changes indefinitely.
• Vote: 15 in favor, 6 opposed. Motion passes.
• Rohit: Smoke-free survey is out; make sure you take it and get everyone to take it. Adham and Brandon, please send an email to everyone.
• Adham: We are still working with the SET committee and have proposed an amendment. I will be working on this committee even after I graduate.
  b. Committee Chairs
  c. College Representatives
  d. Members-at-Large
  e. Appointees
  f. Advisor

7. Announcements
8. Gallery Comments
  a. Ryan Marchand: at our last SAM conference, we met with the mayor of Marquette, and NMU is actually involved in the city’s politics and is involved in what happens at the city level. Making that happen in Detroit would be amazing.

9. Adjournment – 7:39