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

1. Call to Order – 6:03
2. Roll Call
   b. Absent – J. Dawdy, M. Meheidli, R. Ukavwe
3. Approval of the Agenda – moved, Shon; second, Marwan
4. Approval of the Minutes – moved, Rohit; second, Ashraf
5. Business
   a. James Sears – Associate VP for Facilities Planning and Management
      i. We know that there are temperature problems all over campus; it’s been a very tough winter.
      ii. There were 38 water main breaks during the first cold spell.
      iii. On FPM website, there’s a place to submit work orders or call 7-4315. Building coordinators generally take care of those; the office doesn’t get many complaints. Also let us know through Twitter.
      iv. In State Hall, we installed new windows along Cass recently; please let us know if there’s a problem.
      v. We’re not aware of specific problems in areas like Old Main (it was renovated in 1997, so there shouldn’t be many issues), but we do have staff in the buildings at all times who can respond.
      vi. In terms of wheelchair accessibility, the Engineering Development Center is fully accessible.
         1. Brandon: Once it was finished, there was a sign that said “ADA ramp, use other entrance.”
         2. Jim Sears: During the construction, that was an issue; the ramp was built too steep, and we made the contractor tear it out and redo it.
      vii. The Art Building is a problem in terms of ADA accessibility; multiple engineers have investigated changing a stairwell or transitioning the freight elevator. The only way to do it would be to compromise and eliminate some of the art studio space. The Art department has been told that they would have to move a program to the first floor if a student were interested.
      viii. Madhu: There was an issue with a student who couldn’t get in to State Hall during the last snowstorm because it wasn’t plowed.
         1. Jim Sears: We heard about that; this was a really bad storm, and we’ve been doing our best. We’ll do better next time.
      ix. Last year we spent $44,000 on hand sanitizers. Custodians are trying to be attentive to that, but if there’s a specific location, we’ll be happy to fix it if you let us know.
   x. FPM pays for chalk and whiteboard markers. We’re having a problem with people using regular magic markers on the whiteboards. Using regular chalk erasers is also a problem.
   xi. With regard to smoking, FPM would rather not add more signage to campus; the 20-foot rule needs to be enforced. If the students want to be more proactive about that, we’d be happy to listen.
1. Rob Kohrman: We discussed the smoke free campus initiative at the President’s Cabinet last week; the President is definitely interested in it.

xii. Raj: In the law school, there’s been an asbestos removal sign up near the food areas for a long time, and students are concerned the building is not safe.
1. Jim Sears: Many of our buildings have asbestos-containing materials, even in the Student Center. We have an aggressive management plan for keeping it from becoming airborne and an issue. If it was constructed before 1985, there’s a good chance there’s asbestos-containing materials somewhere there. We have a very comprehensive record system about asbestos materials and lead paint in our buildings, so we can take appropriate precautions. All of our capital projects include abatement plan.

xiii. Daniel: There’s a major water problem in the men’s bathroom in CFPCA, and a couple of workers have checked it out, but there are still sparks coming out of the light.
1. Jim Sears: I haven’t heard about this; I’ll have it checked out.

xiv. Shon: What’s the website?
1. Jim Sears: facilities.wayne.edu

xv. Adham: In the Art Building, there are leaks happening around Mac computers with expensive equipment, and there are also classrooms where there is a common banging noise.
1. Jim Sears: It’s steam heat, so that’s likely with the pipes expanding and contracting, and I’ll have my staff check out the leaks.

xvi. Brandon: Is there a way you can talk to Joe Sawasky about adding the “see an FRM problem” link to the Wayne State app?

xvii. Brandon: Can you update us on the second floor Manoogian renovation?
1. Jim Sears: We’re going to be gut-renovating the second floor this summer like we did to the first floor a few years ago; it’s still in the design phase, but it’s quite impressive. There will be benches and tables in the hallways. Updated technology will be available, and there will be new wiring, etc. We’re doing a lot of classroom renovation this summer to hopefully give you guys a better teaching and learning space.

xviii. Ahmad: Are there any plans to do anything else like the fourth floor of State Hall?
1. Jim Sears: It has been talked about, but I’m not sure where they’re at. In Macomb, we are opening up a new ATEC center. Technology-rich is the direction we’re heading.

xix. Ryan Marchand: Has anyone looked at adding a basic grounds keeping/work order link on Pipeline?
1. Jim Sears: I thought that a portal had been created a couple years ago. I’ll talk to Megan Etue about it.

xx. Kristin: As far as Twitter goes, how does that work?
1. Jim Sears: Marketing and Communications monitors it regularly. Website complaints go directly to Megan.

xxi. Rob Kohrman: Jim and FPM do a great job; they really try to manage everything, and the campus looks great.

b. Robert Kohrman – Associate VP for Budget, Planning, and Analysis
i. U of M’s administration did not have a closure policy in early January, which is why they didn’t close on January 6 when everyone else did; they formed a committee the next week to figure it out.

   ii. The governor came out with his plan for the state yesterday.
      1. The correction budget is $2 billion, higher education gets $1.2 billion.
      2. Community colleges are looking at a 3% increase.
3. Higher education is looking at a 6% increase. But all of this money doesn’t go equally back to the institutions that had it: 3% is restoration; the rest is based on performance metrics.

4. Three years ago, he took 15% out of higher education, which is why there was a tuition increase.

5. 10 years ago, the state picked up 2/3 of higher ed, now students are responsible for that 2/3.

6. The legislature in Lansing has fiscal agencies that produced a report about state funding in higher education:
   a. State appropriation over the last 15 years has fallen 30%.
   b. Tuition has increased 150%.
   c. If you combine the two numbers, university costs have increased only about 0.5% above inflation.
   d. That means tuition is skyrocketing, but costs aren’t.
   e. Since 2001, 60% of tuition increases are attributable to state appropriation reductions.
   f. If we took all the financial aid out of the equation, nearly all 150% of the tuition increase would be attributable to state funding cuts.

7. Current metrics for allocating state funding do not favor Wayne State, and Detroit politicians are not strong; current power base is in the west of the state, and their schools are seeing the greatest funding increases.

8. The metrics are:
   a. Six-year graduations rates; it’s not just our rates – they put us in a peer group based on our research classification with schools like UNC-Chapel Hill, Berkeley, UM-Ann Arbor. We serve a different population; our rates aren’t going to look like that.
   b. Number of degrees awarded – our peers have 55,000 students in a class; we have 28,000. There’s no way we can compete on sheer numbers.
   c. Administrative costs as a % of expenditures: other schools have budgets five times the size of ours; we could have the same administrative costs, but the percent looks much larger.
   d. Students receiving a Pell grant: at Wayne State it’s 44%, and this is a new metric that we pushed to have added.

9. State allocation to Wayne State equates to about 1.3%, which doesn’t even cover inflation.

10. Tuition cap for this year for incremental funding is a 3.2% increase.

11. State funding levels are the same as they were 30 years ago.

12. Tomorrow we have a Board of Governors meeting; we’ll be talking about how Wayne State did this last fiscal year and about the metrics. March 21st BoG meeting will include housing rates. May meeting: School of Medicine takes their tuition rates to the BoG because they’re on a different academic year. June meeting: tuition and auxiliary budget to the board.

13. Karthik: Does 6-year graduation rate include full-time or part-time as well?
   a. Rob Kohrman: It includes only students who start as freshmen full time.

14. Raj: Do you think the tuition increase will be less than 3.2%?
   a. RK: Probably less than 3.2%, yes.

15. Erika: How was the graduation fee designed and where does it go?
   a. RK: It goes to pay for commencement, and we’re thinking about revising it so that there is no fee or at least a different structure. We
did not realize that students were being charged twice for a double degree; we’re eliminating that.

16. Madhu: What about a pre-payment for the graduation fee that you would be refunded when you graduate, kind of like an incentive?
   a. Rob Kohrman: That’s a good idea.

17. Brandon: We’ve heard from SAM that Wayne State is one of the only schools to have a graduation fee, and it’s the same no matter where graduation is held.
   a. Rob Kohrman: We’re working on eliminating it; it seems strange to have an exit fee.

18. If you have topics or questions that you want addressed in March, just let Adham know.

19. Brandon: Will the tuition rate proposal be ready in June?
   a. Rob Kohrman: Once we get the final proposal from the governor, we’ll be working on the tuition budget and presenting it to the Board of Governors in June.

20. Adham: At the next meeting, we want to hear about the different tuition structure options that the university might be looking at.
   a. Ahmad: Have you thought about surveying the students for a broader perspective?
      i. Rob Kohrman: I would be interested in doing a focus group or a survey.

   c. Devon Sterk – Coordinator of Student Life, Legacy, and Affinity Programs
      i. Petition packets available Monday at 8:30 a.m. for the Member-at-Large positions.
      ii. Dean Strauss: Are we putting those online?
         1. Devon: Yes.
      iii. Deadline to submit packets is Friday, February 28, at 4:00 p.m. Everyone has to do the candidate questionnaire, get 25 unique student signatures, and there’s also a form for students interested in running together.
      iv. Everyone needs a 2.33 GPA or higher. If it’s between 2.33 and 2.66, they need to submit a GPA improvement statement.
      v. Campaigning starts the Monday after Spring Break at 8:30 a.m.
      vi. Tuesday, April 1 through Thursday, April 3 – voting on Pipeline.
      vii. Student Senate election website: doso.wayne.edu/studentsenate
      viii. Brandon: Since only about 2,500 people vote, can we have a voting area set up in the Student Center?
          1. Adham: What if people start campaigning next to it?
          2. Dean Strauss: You would probably need to do several polling stations across campus; bring it up to the election commission.

   d. Appointments
      i. Karthik: I want to appoint Kevin Ridell to Governmental Affairs.

6. Reports
   a. Executive Board
      i. Madhu: Rohit and I spent a lot of time looking at other universities and smoking initiatives and revamped our survey; it’s a lot more clear and comprehensive. We’ll send it out to you and we’d appreciate if you could edit it for us by taking it.
         1. Brandon: There was a question that said Manoogian was a designated smoking area…can you clarify in the wording that it’s outside Manoogian?
      ii. Brandon: Ryan and I have put together a couple of SAM resolutions.
         1. Ryan: At the next conference, I’ll be presenting two resolutions. One of them is just clarifying something in the SAM bylaws. The big one is that
think SAM is lacking in how we’re handling our financials; it needs to be transparent. Our proposal is that we need to know not only the current figures but also itemized expenditures to be able to know if the money is being appropriately spent.

iii. Kristin: A lot of our profiles on the Student Senate website are not filled out or updated. I’ll be sending out a link so that you can update it yourself, and if you do have a professional picture, feel free to upload that, too.

iv. Karthik: Brandon emailed me yesterday about the mobile Secretary of State, and we’re thinking about doing it March 17 and 18. I’ll need help with marketing and promotion.

v. Adham: The Board of Governors want to meet with us a forum outside of Senate; the available dates are March 3, 4, and 5.
   1. Dean Strauss: They want to do it as a town hall concept. Would students attend? What time of day? What will get students there?
   2. Adham: We need to pick a day; afternoon would probably be best because of the commuter students.
   3. Marwan: 3:00 p.m. on Monday.
      a. Adham: Who can’t be there? Several people.
      b. Adham: What about Tuesday at 3:00? Who can’t be there? Several people.
   4. Dean Strauss: What’s going to make people come?
      a. Everyone: Food.
   5. Raj: The location of the event matters; if you do it somewhere where students will normally be, they’ll probably come.
   6. Dean Strauss: Are they really going to come on Tuesday afternoon before spring break?
      a. Karthik: Maybe ask the student orgs to offer incentives with their point systems.
      b. Micky: They need to understand what it’s all about. If you really emphasize the opportunity, they’ll come.
      c. Raj: If we talk to the bigger classes and get in front of the students or incentivize them that might help.
      d. Rohit: What if we did it through social media instead? Have students submit questions and live tweet the answers.
         i. Adham: What if we did it as a Senate meeting with an open gallery?
         ii. Dean Strauss: We could do it with screens and live updates.
      e. Will: It’s important that our faculty members promote it and encourage students to get involved.
      f. Ahmad: I have questions about the dates; my classes usually all have tests the week before spring break.
         i. Adham: We can propose a different time.
      g. Erika: What if we moved it to a day where there’s already a Board of Governors meeting?
         i. Dean Strauss: Those days are pretty booked up, and Fridays aren’t great.
      h. Ryan Marchand: Why don’t we solicit questions and concerns from students and then just take those to the Board?
   7. Adham: I think this kind of forum is going to happen, so let’s decide when we want to do it. If everyone brings two people, that’s over 60 people. Do we want to do it before or after Spring Break? Should we do it as a Senate meeting?
a. Dean Strauss: You do have a meeting on March 20th. It’s important to weave in the social media aspect.
8. Will: Location is important – can we make this more in the community?
   a. Dean Strauss: Bernath Auditorium in the UGL. I see it as a dynamic town hall concept: there’s a moving microphone, Facebook, Twitter.
9. Ahmad: How are you going to get a diversity of questions? Every time I ask people what they want from Wayne State, they only say “lower tuition and free parking.”
   a. Adham: Just keep asking.
   b. Dean Strauss: Pull student concerns off the Wayne State Facebook page; they’re always voicing their concerns on there.
10. Adham: What about the ID issue at the UGL?
   a. Dean Strauss: They just have to show an ID and sign in; it’s fine.
11. Adham: The March 20th meeting in Bernath.
vi. Adham: The presidential inauguration is April 4th. The Thursday in the D on April 3rd is part of a two-day party: there are two scavenger hunts at the Historical Museum and DIA, along with a small event afterwards. We’d like all senators to be there. The president will also be coming to Senate on February 20th. Any issues that you would like to address, please email them to me before our next E-Board meeting next Thursday.
b. Committee Chairs
   i. Ashraf: The Athletics Committee met with the RFC director, Chris Nolan, and brought up Micky’s issue about non-university rates being charged to student orgs at the RFC.
   1. He said that organizations with a national chapter are not considered Wayne State organizations, and it’s an issue that would have to be taken to the general counsel, Bill Kemps.
   2. Dean Strauss: I’ll call Bill. Your role as a Wayne State student org trumps everything; your role as a Wayne State student trumps everything.
   3. They also started using an online registration for intramural teams and are updating their website to use Banner.
   ii. Ashraf: Kristin and I met with the email and collaboration committee; they’re looking to change to either Microsoft 365 or G-mail. They’ll be saving $280,000 with the switch; they’re leaning towards G-mail, but if you have feedback, let us know.
   1. Kristin: There’s a survey on Blackboard at the top, and they have been heavily weighting the response. If you have one of those types of email accounts and like any features, let us know.
   2. Ashraf: The platform is already up for Academica at academica.wayne.edu.
c. College Representatives
   i. Erika: As a follow up to our meeting with Corinne Webb, the double degree fees occur when you actually get degrees from two different colleges. One of the other issues I mentioned at our meeting was that once students sign their merit scholarship contracts, the requirements for maintaining their scholarships aren’t posted anywhere; she said they will be posted on the website soon. She did not have any updates on the coding issue where students who have been accepted to a graduate program are unable to apply for their bachelor’s degree. Also, the dean of the Honors College would like to come and speak at one of our meetings, possibly in April.
   ii. Daniel: CFPCA is doing a university-wide open house soon.
d. Members-at-Large
i. Ashraf: We found something called “Talk to the Manager” that will let students text a number and it will go right to the Student Senate e-mail. We can do a free 30-day trial and then it’s $30 per month. We also want to do suggestion boxes.
   1. Will: How would we advertise that?
      a. Ashraf: We’re working on a flier with a QR code and are working on other ideas too.
   2. Madhu: Do you think people would actively use it?
      a. Ashraf: That’s why we’re doing the free trial.
   3. Adham: We tried that a few years ago, so we would need a concrete plan for that – when they’re checked, who’s checking them, are they filled.

ii. Shon: We had a food advisory committee meeting last week with Aramark (Cionone and Matt), and we’re building a really good relationship.
   e. Appointees
   f. Advisor

7. Announcements
   a. Kristin: As far as social media, we have a huge school and not a lot of likes on Facebook. Promote our page, please!

8. Gallery Comments
   a. Micah: Winterfest is coming up at COBO Hall, and it’s free, promoting causes like adoption.
      i. Adham: Can you email me the details?

9. Adjournment – motion, Ashraf; second, Shon; 8:01