Eastern Michigan University

Senate Meeting

March 7th, 2017

Agenda

A meeting held in open session at 6:30 p.m., 310A Student Center

1. Opening Roll Call
2. Meeting called to order at 6:41pm.
3. Approval of the Agenda
   1. Agenda approved.
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Minutes approved.
6. Guest Speaker (limited to 30 minutes each, may be extended at the Chair’s discretion)
   1. Steve Kwasny, LeAngela Runels, Tytiana Steele - Unity Project: Working to design mural in McKenney Hall; theme of mural will center around campus unity, embracing diversity, and combating racism. Seeking partnership with and support from EMU SG as the project continues to develop.
7. Constituent’s Forum (Open to currently enrolled students: 1 hour/total)\*\*
   1. No speakers.
8. Special Order Speeches (Open to all people sitting w/Senate, scheduled: 3 minute limit/person)
   1. No special order speeches.
9. Executive Reports
   1. Student Body President Morton: sat on Provost Search Committee; sat on WCDP panel; coordinated and attended EmpowHER to Run panel; reminded SG that non-elected members of SG cannot formally endorse candidates.
   2. President of the Senate Starr: VP Starr’s report is forthcoming.
   3. Speaker of the Senate Corace: chaired last week’s IA meeting; coordinated and attended most recent senate retreat; in the process of planning SG Ball; processed Senator Westfall’s resignation; created SG compliment cup.
   4. Judicial Sergeant Richardson: Assisted Speaker Corace with last week’s IA meeting.
   5. Director of Communications: Please contact Director Kindred directly if you’d like a copy of her report.
   6. Director of Business and Finance Snyder: processed funding requests; awarded funds to several organizations at past two B&F meetings. Remaining budget for student orgs = $12,535.05.
   7. Director of Political Action Koli: coordinating Day in Lansing; hired Henna artist for Bollywood Night; met w/Leigh Greden to discuss concerns regarding international students who may be affected by President Trump’s recent executive order(s); in the process of reaching out to immigration lawyers.
   8. Director of Student Services Moore: still in the middle of planning Desegregate EMU; finalized date for Campus Walk (3/21 @ 7:20pm); attended 2nd Annual Spelling Bee put on by Phi Beta Sigma; attended I Am P.I.N.K. pageant.
   9. Director of Sustainability VanLandingham: met w/Leigh about various projects/initiatives (specifically-- campus recycling); Green Week will be finalized tomorrow (Wednesday 3/8/17)-- two events are already planned.
   10. Election Commissioner Pyle: passed out “Authorization for Judicial and Academic Background Check” consent form to all members of Senate seeking reelection; recruiting volunteers to help oversee campus polling stations; presidential candidate debate is scheduled for 3/23.
10. Old Business
    1. No old business.
11. New Business (Each item of Business: 45 minute default\*\*; amend restricted from 10-90)
    1. Discussion of Athletics’ Proposal: Without objection, VP Starr allowed Judicial Sergeant Richardson to chair this portion of the meeting while he (VP Starr) and President Morton held the floor.
       1. Reiterated SG’s opposition to using university dollars to fund a proposed $35 million athletic facilities renovation plan. SG supports smaller renovations that will be funded by (1) student opt-out fees and (2) outside donors.
       2. Senator Dorce expressed concern that the university seemed to be more concerned with funding athletic facilities/programs than reinstating the library’s extended hours.
       3. Senator Leapheart asked how students can reach out to Regents to voice their opinions. President Morton told her that writing letters seems to work best.
       4. Senator Kisell noted that the university’s rationale for such an enormous proposed budget (for athletic facilities) might be related to long-term recruitment efforts.
       5. Dr. Francis noted that schools in the MAC (such as Eastern) do not make money off of athletics. “If we can afford to send the football team to the Bahamas Bowl, why do we struggle with sending the debate team somewhere a few hours away?”
       6. Director Snyder noted that, over the course of the academic year, B&F has received a plethora of requests from academic organizations who have suffered numerous funding cuts from the university.
    2. Res. 103-21 (Library Hours): Via taking money from SG’s reserve account, allow university to reinstate extended hours (24hrs) to Halle Library on Sundays-Wednesdays for next school year.
       1. Senator Al-Jarba questioned how many students would actually utilize the library’s extended hours.
       2. Director Koli noted that, based on her experience working in the library, students do express frustration when they are asked to leave at 2 a.m.
       3. VP Starr noted that President Smith has a history of strong fundraising capabilities; expressed optimism that, in the future, the library will be able to operate with extended hours without financial assistance from SG.
       4. Senator Leapheart and Delegate Peeler expressed support for the resolution.
       5. Director VanLandingham noted that, in the past, homeless students have, at times, used the library as a place to sleep and/or escape cold temperatures.
       6. Senator J-D proposed amendment to resolution: “...any further funding from SG to extend the library hours shall require the unanimous vote of the entire Senate.”
       7. Justification: Senator J-D expressed concern that the university seemed to be relying too heavily on SG to provide funds to keep library open.
       8. President Morton voiced her strong opposition to the amendment.
       9. Vote 1-17-0. Amendment fails.
       10. Senator Al-Jarba made motion to call the question. Senator J-D objected. Vote on appeal: 1-17-0.
       11. Motion to call question. Vote 16-0-0. Resolution passes.
12. Gallery Comments (Open to all people sitting in the gallery)
13. Open Discussion (Open to all people sitting w/ Senate)
    1. Senator J-D: “For the first time in my time with the Senate, I walked out during a vote in protest. I would like to make this reflected in the minutes.”
14. Closing Roll Call
15. Adjournment
    1. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

\*\* Majority vote may change the limit, see SG Bylaws