Eastern Michigan University

Senate Meeting

September 20th, 2016

Agenda

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

1. Opening Roll Call
   1. Meeting called to session at 6:39 pm. All members of Senate present.
2. Approval of the Agenda
   1. Agenda unanimously approved.
3. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes unanimously approved.
4. Guest Speaker (limited to 30 minutes each, may be extended at the Chair’s discretion)
   1. Mary Larkin, Program Coordinator for the LGBTQ Resource Center
      1. Ms. Larkin briefly discussed the hardships faced and repercussions that will ensue as a result of the racial slur that was discovered on campus this morning. Discussed what qualifies a space on campus as a “safe space,” the preferred name initiative, etc. Engaged senators and audience in discussion about terms such as gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.
   2. Wes McCormick, Org Sync
      1. Mr. McCormick gave a brief overview about how student government can benefit from using Org Sync, an online club management tool coordinated through the university.
5. Constituent’s Forum (Open to currently enrolled students: 1 hour/total)\*\*
   1. No comments.
6. Special Order Speeches (Open to all people sitting w/Senate: 3 minute limit/person)
   1. Senator Johnson took the floor. Read a statement from the BSU about the racist graffiti.
   2. Senator J-D took the floor. Also discussed racial slur that was discovered on campus. Spoke in favor of keeping EMU a racially diverse and welcome, accepting community.
7. Executive Reports
   1. Student Body President
      1. President Morton: has had several meetings with Leigh Greden, Dar Mayweather; helped plan LIVE week; met with DCI about voter registration; met with commission for black student 10-point plan; served as site leader for community plunge; spoke at LIVE showcase and SOLAR; helped at Rock the Vote; worked with library and Rec/IM staff to extend hours; released scholarship application for alternative spring break. After a question from Vice President Starr, Ms. Morton expaned on the specifics of the black student 10-point plan.
   2. President of the Senate
      1. VP Starr: Met with administrators about sexaul assault awareness/prevention week; updated website; worked w/Snyder, Morton, and Lexi from campus life to design SG t-shirts; reviewed dining services resolution; designed confidentiality agreement (along w/Sen. J-D); met w/senators regarding disciplinary procedures; met w/RHA; worked student government booth during First Four events; met w/adviser Leigh Greden plus others regarding the corner health center, guest parking passes, parking at the convo, insurance options at snow, and awareness weeks; reviewed senator applications; worked w/Swoop food pantry and McNair scholars; attended meeting of code of conduct review committee; appointed Senator Garcia to Univ. Parking and Transportation Committee; met w/Chartwells oversight committee.
   3. Speaker of the Senate – Internal Affairs Committee
      1. Speaker Corace: assigned to senators to 1 of 4 committees; hosted a SG meet and greet; met w/senators over time scheduling conflicts; reached out to students interested in SG; processed resignations of Senator McKinney, Sandler, and Preston Johnson; processed 3 delegate applications; chaired and created an agenda for IA comm; co-authored senate resolutions 103-7 and 103-8; passed 3 delegate applications onto the senate in IA committee meeting.
   4. Judicial Sergeant
      1. JS Richardson: drafted senate disciplinary procedures; reviewed several resolutions for structural and grammatical errors; helped train new senators.
   5. Director of Communications
      1. Please contact Director Kindred directly at ekindred@emich.edu if you would like a copy of her executive report.
   6. Director of Business and Finance – Business & Finance Committee
      1. B&F Director Snyder: Attended orientation events; helped prepare SOLAR presentation; met w/RHA; talked w/e-board members about working with budgets; helped get T-shirt design finalized; processed funding requests from various organizations; granted funding to several organizations during last week’s B&F meeting. Remaining budget for student organizations is $49,358.62.
   7. Director of Governmental Affairs
      1. GA Director Somerville: met w/Russ Orwell; attended Rock the Vote and registered students to vote; learned how to use Turbo Vote; planned debate watch parties; met w/DPS to discuss security for higher-level events; manned a table in SC to register students to vote; attended PAC committee.
   8. Director of Political Action – Political Action Committee
      1. PA Director Koli: attended Fajita Fest; worked on planning sexual assault prevention week; worked on planning mental health awareness week; met w/staff from Snow health center; helped plan guest speakers for both campaigns; passed two resolutions in PAC committee.
   9. Director of Student Services – Student Services Committee
      1. SS Director Moore: worked w/two students regarding grade grievances; attended Rock the Vote; met w/LIVE week committee; coordinated photo booth setup and catering for RTV; helped register students to vote at RTV; planned possible project regarding “campus beautification.”
   10. Director of Sustainability
       1. Sustainability Director VanLandingham: met w/committee about getting more recycle bins on campus, bike-sharing program, etc.; introduced Game Day Challenge; discussed addition of sustainability office on campus; been doing a lot of research about Eastern’s tentative plan to sell Fish Lake; working on plans for Sustainability Month (October); has been attending Vision Green meetings; working on Greeks Going Green program.
   11. Director of Philanthropy
       1. Director Atwater was not present, so President Morton gave a brief report on his behalf- a few highlights: worked w/Ypsilanti Middle School counselor; met w/Mark Kwan (sp?); working on finding United Way funding.
8. Old Business
   1. S. Res. 103-04 (Dining Services)
      1. This resolution was tabled at the Summer Summit meeting. Senator J-D highlighted all changes made to the resolution, including: detailing the events that led up to the decision to privatize EMU’s dining, emphasizing that students felt they should have had more advance notice, etc. Senator Westfall advocated for the importance of the resolution.
      2. Senator Thompson stated that he did not support the original resolution; said he is still hesitant to support the drafted version because it sends mixed messages to university administration
      3. Senator Tharp stated his disagreement with Senator Thompson’s statement.
      4. Senator Garcia asked how many students were given advance notice regarding privatization of dining services. Leigh Greden explained that administration sent out a survey in March regarding their opinions about the then-current dining services (but not explicitly stating that the university was considering privatizing the dining system). Survey results are still being used today, he said, to continue to make decisions about dining services on campus. Administration did not notify student employees about changes in dining services during the school year.
      5. Speaker Corace stated her support for the dining initiative.
      6. Senator Jones-Darling expressed his concern that students were not given enough advance notice about the privatization of dining services.
      7. According to Mr. Greden: 2,000 students responded to the initial survey, and the results were immediately posted online. Senator Lucas asked Mr. Greden to clarify why administration decided to hold off on notifying students about the change in dining services.
      8. President Morton clarified that VP Starr and herself were notified about the shift in dining services on May 9th.
      9. Move to call the question. Seconded.
      10. Vote of 4 yes; 7 no. Resolution fails to pass.
9. New Business (Each item of Business: 45 minute default\*\*; amend restricted from 10-90)
   1. S. Res. 103-05 (Re-appointment of a Regent)
      1. Senator J-D briefly described the resolution. Advocated for recommending the re-appointment of a regent- specifically Ms. Beth Fitzsimmons- to the governor. Spoke highly of Beth Fitzsimmons and his desire to continue to see her serve on the BoR.
      2. Motion to call to question. Seconded.
      3. Vote 10 in favor; 1 against. Resolution passes.
   2. S. Res. 103-06 (Appointment of a Regent)
      1. Senator Johnson briefly described the resolution. Spoke in high favor of David Rutledge and what makes him qualified to serve on the BoR. Senator J-D added additional comments in favor of David Rutledge’s appointment.
      2. President Morton added commentary in favor of Rutledge, as did Senator Thompson and Director Somerville.
      3. Motion to call to question. Seconded.
      4. Vote 10-0-0. Resolution passes.
   3. S. Res. 103-07 (Approval of Funds)
      1. Director Snyder gave brief description of the resolution. Speaker Corace spoke in favor of the resolution.
      2. Senator J-D added commentary in favor of the resolution.
      3. President Morton explained why this money would come from SG’s reserves (as opposed to the student org fund). Did not want pulling this money to negatively impact any of this year’s student organizations.
      4. VP Starr clarified that this money was meant to be spent last year; is still coming out of last year’s budget.
      5. Vote 10-0-0. Resolution passes.
   4. S. Res. 103-08 (Approval of Funds)
      1. Speaker Corace gave brief description of resolution. Resolution would add two additional hours to the operating hours of Halle Library, Sunday thru Wednesday.
      2. President Morton spoke in favor of the resolution and clarified what the $6,000 would pay for: just the cost of student employees. Wage would be slightly above minimum.
      3. Senator Garcia spoke in favor of the resolution. Expressed concern library employees were not getting enough hours and professors who teach night classes did not have adequate access to library resources.
      4. Senator Dorce pointed out the lack of computers and printers in the student center. President Morton clarified that there is one computer and one poorly-functioning printer in the student center.
      5. Senator J-D stated that at least 20 students have told him that they do not own computers. Spoke in high favor of the resolution.
      6. No further discussion. Vote 10-0-0. Resolution passes.
   5. LGBTCC Delegate Application
      1. Senator J-D spoke on behalf of LGBTCC. Briefly described delegate selection process for the organization.
      2. No further discussion on the matter.
      3. 9-0. Delegate seat awarded.
   6. BSU Delegate Application
      1. Senator Johnson spoke on behalf of BSU. (He serves as their President.)
      2. No further discussion.
      3. 9-0. Delegate seat awarded.
   7. RHA Delegate Application
      1. No representatives from RHA present. VP Starr entertains motion to table resolution.
      2. Senator J-D objects motion. Stated that he wanted vote to occur at present.
      3. 4 in favor of J-D’s objection; 5 opposed. Objection fails. Item is tabled until Oct. 4th Senate Meeting.
      4. Senator J-D requests roll call vote. Vote remains the same.
   8. Election of the Commission on Student Health & Safety Vice-Chair
      1. VP Starr gave brief description of the commission and its main purpose(s). Opened the floor to nominations of Vice Chair.
      2. Senator Garcia nominated Senator J-D. He accepted.
      3. Director VanLandingham asked when the commission meets.
      4. Senator J-D unanimously elected vice chair.
   9. Provisional Senator Leapheart
      1. Provisional Senator Leaphart made statement to the gallery and Senate regarding her desire to serve as a Student Government Senator.
      2. Speaker Corace asked which committee Ms. Leapheart would be interested in serving on. She is undecided between Student Services and PAC.
      3. Senator Al-Jarba asked what her campus involvement is like. She is an admin assistant for campus life; president of Tau Beta Alpha; participates in marching band; works w/leadership group for music organizations on campus.
      4. Ms. Leapheart left the room during discussion. Senator Garcia spoke in favor of her candidacy, as did Senator J-D.
      5. Motion to call to question. Seconded. Vote 8-0. Provisional senator Leapheart elected.
   10. Provisional Senator Deljevic
       1. Provisional Senator Deljevic made statement to the gallery and Senate regarding his desire to serve on the Senate.
       2. Senator Thompson asked Mr. Deljevic to clarify one of his comments about making EMU more “student-friendly.” Mr. Deljevic spoke specifically of bettering the campus dining system.
       3. Senator J-D asked if Mr. Deljevic could remain politically neutral in his work with SG.
       4. Senator Garcia asked why Mr. Deljevic brought up his political affiliations.
       5. Director Somerville spoke in favor of Mr. Deljevic’s candidacy, as did Senator J-D, Director Koli, President Morton, and Director VanLandingham.
       6. Vote 8-0. Provisional senator Deljevic elected.
10. Gallery Comments (Open to all people sitting in the gallery)
    1. President Morton thanked everyone for sitting through the lengthy meeting. Also reminded all E-board members and Senators to keep each meeting’s agenda in their binders.
    2. Director VanLandingham reminded everyone to recycle.
11. Open Discussion (open to all people sitting w/ Senate)
    1. Senator J-D spoke
12. Closing Roll Call
    1. All members present at close except Senators Dorce, Fofana, and Tharp.
13. Adjournment
    1. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

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