



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, January 9th, 2020 — 4:30 pm
Promotions Office — Kirkhof Center 0008

President: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Executive Vice President: Kelly Dowker

-
- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm
 - A. Student Senate Creed
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Moment of Silence
 - i. Native Land Recognition
 - ii. Respectful Observation of our Diverse Laker Community
 - D. Roll Call
 - II. Public Comment – Part I
 - III. Guest Speakers
 - A. Bobby Springer, Director, Pathways to College Office; Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Events
 - Offers thanks in the opportunity to speak as well as emphasizes and encourages the use of “Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”, as the title is usually dropped
 - Key pieces to MLK peace, brotherhood, encourages the understanding of several perspectives, giving back to the community
 - Announces two keynote speakers //5 - how his story relates to the MLK message; doc on Flint (ongoing crisis), talk about doc as well as do a workshop on how to make one’s own documentary —asks that senate helps to share both of these speakers
 - Throughout the day: Monday - upcycling, panel and discussion, lunch, Silent march (challenges Senate to participate), Keynote speaker (Yusef Salaam) // Wednesday: workshop (Cedric Taylor) and presentation // Saturday: day of service
 - Hopeful that Senate can spread the message on the importance of this week; as well as that Monday (no classes) is a “Day On” - encourages students to participate in activities on campus
 - Questions:
 - Paquet - what is upcycling - sustainability, take recyclable items and produce things which can be used community-wide
 - Siegrist - How do we connect/engage with students who would see the day as a long weekend? - starts with individuals/organizations, be the example and spread the message
 - Murarescu - share with Senators the work that is done through Pathways to College
 - Work with high- and middle- school students in west Michigan to inform/share how to be prepared for college; and looking for volunteers to sit on a panel, visit schools and answer questions, what would you do differently? What are key opportunities? How are you challenged/how were those challenges overcome? What does Grand Valley have to offer?
 - Houtman - how do we get connected to be on one of those panels? How many are there usually per semester? - usually has between 15 to 20 campus visits (2 or 3 a week), aims to work with student schedule; can visit office or email

- Closes with a quote from Coretta Scott King about MLK “drum major for peace”

IV. President’s Report

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Dowker motions and Fritz seconds; motion passes unanimously

B. Pass the Papers

- SAAC - trying to determine meeting times (Hicks)
- Murarescu - Saturday, feb. 22nd there will be an interfaith conference downtown GV is hosting; those interested in attending
- Dates to keep in mind: Friday January 24th: office of president still looking for people to join the GVNext meeting to discuss the direction of Grand Valley (Szczepaniak will be attending)
- Meeting with Provost with Thayer and Mueller - for March 10th presidential primary, two big emails will be sent out (a month out and before spring break) informing students on how to register, how to fill out an absentee ballot, etc.; Discussed OERs, office of provost is looking into how to create an OER grant (looking at different models and how to incentivize faculty members to build an OER; asked about Fall Break, would it be a worthy discussion to have a fall break that can be used for civic engagement? Provost explained why it wouldn’t be appropriate to implement; merger between McGraw Hill and Cengage (textbook companies), talked about implications of this, Dean Belange and Provost are working on generating a response to this merging; talked about possibility of other ways to get students to stay on Campus over the summer
- Met with Rullman and Stoll (today) to discuss issues above and envisioning what this semester will look like; made a calendar: would like senators to be invested, engaged
- Mueller and Szczepaniak spoke with Senators from Wayne State to talk about their efforts with OER grant creation and development

V. Executive Vice President’s Report

A. Approval of the Minutes

- Stand approved
- Worked over break on Cabinet’s internal operation, transition reports, SOSB this week; will inform new senators for makeup date for composites - hopefully by spring break; biggest ambition will be Constitutional task force; please keep up with emails and dates

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Last Lecture Nominations (February 26th)

- Mueller - submissions for professors who have been good teacher, mentor or had a profound impact on life and will be picking four nominees which will be picked by next wednesday
- Thompson, Dorian - nominates Professor Erica King of Political Science ; provides rationale (
- Murarescu - Professor Quincey Williams; provides rationale
- McMahan - Stephanie Bender of biomedical science
- Samuels - Mark Richards of Political Science
- Thompson, Jenia - Professor Alivia Meyers
- Holcomb, Patrinick
- DeBerry - Laura Jean of Hospitality department
- Dailey - Amy Norquis ?? writing department
- Houtman - Darren Walhoff - political science
- Thayer - Freegen ????

- Jacobs - Matthew Dailey
- Vazquez - Louis Moore - History department

VII. New Business

A. Discussion on Resolution W-20-01: Student Perception Survey

- In summary: to publish a student perception survey about professor performance that is publicly available to students in order to better inform their decisions, referencing that surveys on feelings of faculty teachings are already collected but seen by only the professors; describes the model which would be a sliding scale (quality scale) at the end of the Lift surveys; would be collected for student use and should not be included in personnel documents or discussions revolving employment and tenure
- Discussion: (will not be considered for a vote until next GA)
- Houtman - supports resolution, but has a concern with the statement referencing discussions involving employment...” doesn’t know how this would operate if the questions in the survey are already used in interviews; Hicks responds does ask different questions and wants to establish to UAS that this information would be used only for students // Holcomb - occasionally, they have to experiment to see if a class works or not ...want to make this a learning source
- Siegrist - how will students access information? Would it be better to revamp Lift survey? Supports resolution, good step forward but concerned about implementation : Holcomb - separated from LIFT as it’s given to students for professors, so types of questions asked don’t necessarily have an impact for the students; gives example of a Florida University which has a list of professors with numbers describing how well they were rated based on a few questions; ((exact implementation will be discussed down the road
- Thompson, Dorian - last year passed a resolution about having uploaded the syllabus, would this be tied into that? Plans for that? Hicks : believe that resolution is being handled by another senator, but this is a separate resolution Holcomb : open to transparency, supports sharing syllabus - Szczepaniak and Mueller are involved with working towards implementing the previous years’ resolutions
- Fritz - who would come up with questions? HOlcomb: department of institutional analysis, but hopeful with student input // follow-up: have you considered the cons to something like this? HOlcomb: professors who are new might not be reflected well on something like this, (professors with few data), could respond to this by setting a time limit (having worked three years before)
- Russo - How would you differentiate between 100 level classes and 300 level class for professors that teach both? This would be posted on banner through course descriptions (published by class, not only professor) Hicks
- Gamage - Professors hesitant due to experiments trying in class - how long would these be available, how far back could one go? Holcomb - good point that hasn’t yet been considered. Something that could be workshopped.
- Placta - course specific or professor specific (clarification) - HOlcomb real life examples are both professor specific and course specific
- Marlowe - Perhaps showing most recent year and average of the last three years (suggestion) will speak afterwards

- Garten - is it possible that it would affect enrollment rates for the class? // Hicks - yes, but ratemyprofessor already does that in a very biased way, this would be a better alternative; could effect enrollment, but it is being written with the students in mind moreso than the faculty
 - Gamage - how long would it take to implement for students to be able to utilize? Hicks - personally prefers organization by class (averages); Holcomb - to make sure there is an average, would like for it to reflect at bare minimum three iterations of the course
 - Moine - by course - professors don't always teach same course every semester, so how would it work/look in these cases? Hicks - discussions had with IA, ideally there would also be a "last updated" date; Holcomb - designed for courses where there are a lot of options, but acknowledges
 - Siegrist - how to encourage participation in survey? - by attaching it to the end of the LYFT survey, which are already so encouraged; and once students know what it will be used for will hopefully encourage it (as well as professors incentivizing potentially)
 - Dowker clarifies that the resolution is for the idea (the central of the resolution) and that the logistics will be decided out of Senate hands, but hopefully with their input, Senate will not be in charge of severely detailed portions
- B. Discussion on 2020 U.S. Elections and Promotion of Civic Engagement
- Rullman - wants everyone's thoughts on what should be done proactively? How to appropriately get students engaged and when students provide feedback?
 - Two mass emails will be made prior to march - those who have ideas for what that should look like should contact Mueller and Szczepaniak
 - Murarescu - recommends talking about this often and early; around elections, conversations can become hard (discussed with DI), saw spike in bias incidents during the last election year; educate peers through programming, CSLC (Dem 101 events) and have the conversations, be respectful
 - Houtman - Was there anywhere on campus where there was literature on what the candidates running were and a bit about them? Feels that there are a large number of people who don't know the candidates or the offices that are up for election; so getting some sort of literature that could be placed in Kirkhof that people could pick up to have basic info for candidates would be helpful in educating
 - Thompson, Dorian - in reference to the above talking about just major offices or going through everything on the ballot? Houtman: anything that is on the ballot around here, many students are local, so covering local elections would be helpful, but if it's too much info, then start with the biggest ones
 - Szczepaniak - cannot promote any candidates, but will ask Legal if any kind of information can be placed together in a bipartisan way
 - Jacobs - talk about both elections and civic engagement often, work with CSLC, support what they do and work together to be on the same page; to Houtman - great idea, CEE puts out voter guides so one knows about the ballot, perhaps develop something similar
 - Fritz - focus on education, informed decision is good decision"
 - Thayer - educating on where and how to vote and what election is (special election for school districts vs. other) as opposed to compiling information on candidates; there are also other groups that offer the type of information as described above
 - Dailey - voting drives and info nights (encourages), referring students to this information/days

- Murarescu - campus can do better on informing students how to vote absentee, as well as doing research as institution for those students who are out of state (what are those states' initiatives, how can we inform them on how to vote and participate?)
- Moine - likes the idea of giving out info on how; keep in mind what does it mean to talk about it, what does engaging with students look like? How will this be implemented?
- Benet - supports Houtman's pamphlet idea; feels that senate should try to inform student body
- Siegrist - last election, a lot of ballot proposals were passed, so in order to keep civic engagement up, inform on that
- Hicks - there are still communities that we don't reach, so partnering with larger student orgs on campus and holding voter registration drives and info nights (such as Greek Life, Activities Board, Campus Ministries, etc.) that we're meeting students where they're at instead of expecting them to come to senate
- Marlowe - push absentee voter ballots a lot, maybe do tabling hours to show people how to do it
- Jacobs - with absentee, online voter registration has recently been updated; push this as an avenue to get registered
- Neil - professors give PowerPoint presentations about tutoring services and resources offered by the university; this could also be a way to disseminate information

C. Discussion on Spring/Summer Enrollment

- (Request of Provost during Thayer, Szczepaniak and Mueller meeting) ; have put together a team that studies how to improve spring/summer enrollment, asked senate to think about what it would take for someone to enroll in GV over these semesters
- Benoit - classes need to be released sooner (spring and summer, mostly summer) - McMahan
- Murarescu - more scholarship options for these semesters as well as either having more hybrid/online classes or expanding housing options for the summer
- Pagel - enjoyed summer classes, but they should be out earlier
- Siegrist - releasing schedules ahead of time would be huge improvement (other group perhaps putting it with fall registration)
- Dailey - make much cheaper (comparable to Community colleges, as many people go there during the summer instead)
- Dowker - tuition lowered, as the same amount of resources are not available
- Placta - when do summer classes start? If one is living on campus, do they have to leave?
Murarescu - there is only one housing community per campus that is available during the summer, every year it changes which means most likely people will have to move; summer classes start (week break in between); either twelve week courses or two six week courses that start a week after exam week; can stay in unit if already on campus, but as soon as exam week is over, dining is closed, transfer into incoming students, etc.
- McMahan - bussing and transportation to downtown campus
- Russo - writing center remains open, but has limited hours and limited staff
- Samuels - \$35 per day to stay for extra days (personal experience) / Murarescu - if living on campus planning to move somewhere else on campus, there is no fee; but if there are other circumstances, will be charged

- Houtman - moving between apartments (personal experience) - once getting email that unit is ready, one has 24 hours to move which is very stressful, especially with a work schedule. Recommends expanding the time limit
- Sparks/ Murarescu - 85 ran but with limited times
- Moine - campus dining is closed during the summer
- Paquet - campus should be treated like it's open during the summer if they want students during the summer; shouldn't be more of a challenge if they want more students, as they already have them during the other semesters
- Thayer/Szczepaniak on taskforce (SOS collegiate), some recommendations are coming to university (Jacobs, Pagel, Thayer, pres) working on putting together these recommendations // Mueller and Pres looked at tuition discount, (example of Wayne State) which was provided with the intention to help students graduate on time or faster than they would have been otherwise; this is a goal for GV as well

D. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

VIII. Public Comment – Part II

IX. Officer Reports

A. Senate Resources – Hannah Benoit

- Welcomes new senators and senate into the New Year, welcome to interviewees; many events are happening this month that Senate should be attending; campus life night (tomorrow 6-8pm sign up sheet will be put in the slack) SOSB is mandatory and next week at 4:30 in cook Dewitt center; Replenish week begins next friday; MLK day and week January 20th (begins); president's ball, tickets open on Monday;
- seats open on several committees
- Remember to check out google drive regularly, especially when events come up and resolutions appear
- Remember to log office hours, will be checked after GA every week
- Will be giving out a prize at the end of this semester to senator with most office hours
- February 6th inservice at GA - focused on professionalism, team building, strategic planning
- Ask VPs what senators can help with
- Remember to manage time wisely

B. Finance – Maddie Samuels

- Must have voting rights in order to vote in an upcoming request (from Native American student association for an annual event), Samuels will be presenting this and providing a handout; have two weeks to obtain voting rights at appropriations (1:30pm 2201) or CFB (1pm at 2201)
- Voting rights - when a request over \$10000 comes to GA; goes through either app or GA first and then will be voted upon if approved at GA
- Ignite - training for registered student orgs on campus, Samuels will give a presentation at that on January 20th at 5:30pm that ends 7:30pm; downtown and seidman business forum 6pm-8pm on January 22nd- it's about registering an org, being in good standing, funding requests, etc.

C. Campus Affairs – Grace McMahan

- Replenish weeks tarts next friday, one event in the kirkhof lobby next week; will need volunteers to help with these events; flyer and sign up sheet will be in slack as soon as it's available - this will

count as office hours - trivia night, game night, donate an item to come to event, partnered with CAB; McMahon will do interview with Lanthorn about partnership

- CAC doesn't have solid meeting time next, so meet after GA today;
- Succulents - January 24th - work with sustainability subcommittee
- Food committee is back still on Tuesdays, 21st January, Feb 18, March 17, April 7 questions about campus dining/food committee in general can be turned to McMahon
- Help Fritz with senate table at CLN and Jacobs with voters registration table
- Blood drive next Wednesday from 11:30 to 5:15 in 2263 KC; 15 minute time slots hosted by CSLC; link will be sent

D. Educational Affairs – Autumn Mueller

- Last Lecture - Feb 26th 5-8pm; 13 submissions total; tabling sign up sheet will be available at meeting after SOSB; catering has been set and pluggers are in the process of being made (soon)
- Provost conversation yesterday with Pres
- Mueller writing speech for SOSB
- Pres met with university communications as to what is expected with SOSB
- EAC meets at 7pm on Wednesdays
- Shout out to Holcomb with his sit with me project
- More info on meetings from this week will be in report
- Continue submitting last lecture nominations
- Jackson - is someone who retired last semester still eligible? Yes

E. Diversity Affairs – Alex Murarescu

- DAC - Wednesday's at 7:30 at 0042 KC
- MLK events throughout the week on campus as well as greater community; expects to see all senators at at least one or two events; Monday events: senate office at 1:15 to walk over to Zumb for march; wonderful keynote presentations; invite to presentation at Fountain street church (Yusef Salaam); welcoming Cedric Taylor
- Straw poll - how many have signed up through laker link for the day of service? - Saturday following MLK day is Make a Difference Day, transportation and lunch provided, day of service to reflect on the teachings and things that impacted the life of MLK - many DAC members are leading

F. External Relations – Joel Pagel

- Visited several schools working on SCHEF; march election is coming up, will be tabling and voter registration drive opportunities; try to get an archive day soon; will be folding flags and placed back in storage; ERC meeting right after GA

G. Public Relations – Ryan Fritz

- Student Senate Elections commission is underway; working on official timeline; only deadline available now is that packets will be out February 17th; if not coming back to senate next year, could use help with committee (thanks to those who have already reached out) ; working on logistics with Stoll and OSL, as soon as it's down, will be released
- Student senate week 24th of February, each committee will have a separate event each day; please speak to VPs on how to get involved;

- Campus Life night tomorrow from 6-8pm in Fieldhouse; only want four volunteers/representatives at any given time for tables, requests volunteers for set up and tear down and duration
- PRC now meets on Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30pm in senate office

X. Sub-Committee Reports

- SAAC- Monday's from 6-7, will be in senate office from 4:30-7:30 (likely, Hicks) on Monday; lots of planning to do considering valentines' day; will meet every Monday this semester in order to plan programming
- DeBerry - MHAC Monday's at 5pm starting next Monday; many things to plan, do not hand out any more surveys at the moment, hold off until DeBerry
- Hicks - will meet at a TBD time on MLK day; DeBerry no

XI. University Committee Reports

- Murarescu - Faculty Equity and Inclusión meeting - UAS decides charges on what to work on: gathering feedback from teach in; proposal for On Budsmen, search for someone to employ in this; guidance for conversations
- Planning begins for next fall's teach in; will review feedback; ideas on how to improve (advertisements, attendance) let her know
- Houtman - Dowker and he attended Public safety liaison committee which was utilized to meet each other and discuss statistics from the previous years; lower compliant numbers from previous years
- McMahon - Campus Life advisory committee begins (date?) McMahon can no longer chair - 2019/20 contact sheet - if there are spots that are still not filled, sign up; make sure to transfer if served last year and want to this year

XII. Call for Announcements

- Hicks - starting Monday (last monday) applications for campus activities board opened - many roles available, fun organization; interesting in learning more or applying, on website; meet every other friday fro 2-3
- Thompson, Jenia - Cook leadership academy nominations have opened and will remain so until February 17th; good opportunity to network and work on leadership skills; try to get nominations in; open to taking questions
- Jacobs - CLN will be running voter registration table, would love to have volunteers to help run
- Houtman - still working on expansion on alumni mentor ship program; meeting with Kyle barnhart on monday 20th; looking for a few senators to help out with project
- Hicks - thanks for those who helped spread the word on menstruation products project; thanks those who are refining those stations
- Dowker - thanks everyone for efficient GA; compliments professionalism

XIII. Adjournment: 6:45pm