



**General Assembly**

Thursday, March 4th, 2021 — 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

*Vice President: Grace McMahon*

*Parliamentarian: Eric Siegrist*

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm
  - A. Moment of Silence for Native Land Recognition
  - B. Student Senate Creed
  - C. Pledge of Allegiance
  - D. Roll Call Part I
- II. Public Comment Part I
  - A. McMahon reads some comments submitted by email
    - i. Natalie McCoy - as a student who has a couple classes with Ferreyra, supports her candidacy for VP of Senate Resources, citing how she is hard-working and always trying to help others, she is respectful and listens to peers even when she disagrees, she can be assertive yet understanding, she has the skills of a leader
    - ii. Alexandria Murarescu - a former VP of DAC, the committee that Ferreyra was on; she is respectful and determined, and would make a great addition to Cabinet. She leads with empathy and respect
  - B. Hugh Boyd - a student and former senator, endorses Krichevsky for VP of SRC, she has the skills required as a VP of SRC, she treats everyone with respect and fairness, and is committed to make Senate a happy and efficient environment. That being said, feels that either of the candidates would be well-suited to the position
    - i. Also voices disappointment that PRC has not made an announcement on social media appropriately addressing the break-up of Daft Punk
  - C. Baker-Boosamra is looking forward to a respectful discussion during today's election; also appreciates the work of the Elections Commission to prepare the body for upcoming elections, as well as all senators who are working with midterms coming up.
- III. Guest Speaker - Title IX Updates with Theresa Rowland and Michael Syzdlowski
  - A. Syzdlowski presents a powerpoint on the Regulatory Changes to Title IX. Both Syzdlowski and Rowland speak on these changes
  - B. Rowland explains what Title IX is - designed to prevent sex-based discrimination and provides legal protection
  - C. 2020 Title IX Regulations apply to everyone at the university, and the new regulations will be in effect on August 14th. Requires "offering clear, accessible reporting options"; the Title IX coordinator need to implement supportive measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to education, protect student and employee safety, or deter sexual harassment"; "provide 'rape shield' protection"

- D. Prohibited Conduct: sexual harassment definition has changed a bit, “unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person’s equal access to education program or activity”
- E. Reporting Requirements: used to be that every employee were mandatory reporters, but this is now defined thoroughly--the numbers of designated reporters has been revised, but the content and responsibility has not
- F. Jurisdiction of the Law: interpretation of the law is now interpreted to mean that Title IX is applicable to students in the United States. Study Abroad would not be applicable, but Rowland emphasizes that the university cares and will help to the extent of their power
- G. Evolution of Hearings: used to have a single-investigator model, now it has shifted to hearings and cross examinations - if it is behaviour that falls under Title IX, there must be a live hearing, the university must provide an advisor, without fee, to cross-examine parties, must create a recording of any live hearing, etc. This aims to reduce the adversarial nature of the hearing
- H. Expanded Retaliation: historically, there was no guidance that spoke directly to retaliation but now they do. It is legal protection that “prohibits intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination...” with no workarounds.
- I. Brief Pause for Questions
  - i. Siegrist: in the summer, Senate passed a resolution denouncing changes to Title IX, can you elaborate on the changes that affect GV that were implemented this year?
    - a) Rowland: the changes just discussed are what changed. What fell outside of Title IX law, the University is addressing. There is a process aligning with federal law, as well as a process that addresses all behaviour that falls outside of Title IX. The University wants to make sure everyone is safe and is given all the protections due to individuals
  - ii. Zdunczyk: we all know what happened at Eastern this year and a lot of the women reported that they did not report their case because they knew friends who had reported their cases and did not see any sort of action. How does GV prevent this from happening? (That: women reporting assault, and nothing happening)
    - a) Rowland: cannot speak to another school, it is difficult to do a comparison with another university, but can say that Rowland has not experienced the University sweeping anything under the rug. It would be, personally, impossible for Rowland to work at a university that does that. It’s tough to make a comparison to Eastern, however, can say on behalf of GV that they do everything possible to hold everyone accountable, and to complete an investigation that is thorough and neutral
    - b) Szydowski: our goal is to make sure the student is respected through the entire process, that they are comfortable, and that they do what the student wants
- J. Szydowski shows a slide on how the Title IX office can be used as a resource, including website links and a walk-through of how to get to the website and where one can report

sexual misconduct. Sydlowski is happy to walk through these resources with students who are looking for support on a more confidential basis

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

V. President's Report

- A. Adoption of the Agenda - stand approved
- B. Next week is the State of the Student Body. Each VP will be talking a little bit on what has been accomplished and what the future of the committee looks like. This will be on Zoom, and an invitation will be extended to many administrators on campus

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- A. Approval of the Minutes - stand approved
- B. Met with Daniels from University Counseling Center who was interested in getting a headstart with Student Senate in terms of programming
- C. Will be presenting the proposed changes to the Bylaws later this meeting

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Nominations and Elections for Vice President for Senate Resources

i. Nominations

- a) There are no further nominations

ii. Speech

- a) Krichevsky: virtual student senate environment has made it difficult to connect with each other, but these challenges come with opportunities to engage with nontraditional students or students who would not typically engage in on-campus activities. Was appointed last year to DAC where she learned about a lot of the internal conflicts and issues on Senate, which inspired her to become a member of SRC this year. Before student senators can be effective in their positions, the environment and effective communication must be conducive to a positive environment.

Krichevsky would implement an open-door policy in order to establish an environment where senators feel comfortable and productive. In order to retain senators, we must focus on talent recognition, as well as to provide resources for establishing a good work and school balance. Would love to bring more bonding and professional opportunities for senators. Also wants to continue restorative justice model. Has visited many committees and will continue to do so, as well as to have committee members rotate around committees. At this point in the semester, with upcoming elections, it is important that Senate reaches out to all students in order to plug applications. Krichevsky's knowledge, work ethic, and tangible goals make her an ideal candidate for VP of SRC

- b) Ferreyra: has expressed interest in being VP of SRC, stating in her first interview with senate that she was interested in a leadership position, which she has worked towards over her time on senate. Will be a VP that respects and recognizes multiple viewpoints; wants to be a resource that someone feels comfortable coming to with any concerns; believes it is the job of the SRC VP to reach out to any senator who feels

uncomfortable, wants to make these personal connections and ensure everyone feels valued; would make it a priority to take action quickly when senators are breaking conduct; Ferreyra is proud of the restorative justice approach that SRC has taken this year and will continue this - helping people learn from their mistakes is much more productive and compassionate than just doling out punishments. Ferreyra is a team player, confident in ability to lead and to work well with Cabinet, would be a VP that wants to hear concerns and suggestions that she will take to Cabinet. If elected, her goals include to help alleviate tensions between senators, continue to work to improve senate climate, and to work hard to ensure senators return for next year. Low turnout rate starts with having open and honest communication; has grown both personally and professionally, on senate and in other work environments, gaining skills that have prepared her for this position as a source of support for everyone on the body

iii. Questions

- a) VP Siegrist, to both: how will your experience on Senate guide you as VP?
  - (i) Krichevsky: have served on Senate for two years, was a member of DAC and SRC, was on Bylaw Review, Constitutional Taskforce, Allocations, CFB, and worked on Zoom etiquette video, inservice presentation, climate survey presentation
  - (ii) Ferreyra: also served on DAC this year which served as a great way to familiarize self with Senate and establish connections; this year allowed her to better familiarize herself with internal policies. Worked on winter inservice, zoom etiquette, climate survey, etc.
- b) VP Neal, to both: have both of you considered the greater time commitment that Cabinet requires, and are you willing to take on this change?
  - (i) Ferreyra: 110% ready to jump in, fully aware and fully prepared to make this transition
  - (ii) Krichevsky: knows she is ready for the time commitment, has been asking since the Fall what it means to make this commitment; as well as tries to attend as many Cabinet meetings and asking for as many jobs as possible within SRC
- c) VP Moine, to both: there is a challenge to joining a Cabinet that has been together all year, what are your thoughts on how you might overcome this challenge? Have you thought about how it is a much different process of goal setting for five weeks vs. an entire year?
  - (i) Krichevsky: yes, has thought about it; SRC would work closely with PRC to get as much outreach as possible for elections in order to set a good foundation for next year's body. In regards to the Cabinet concern, Krichevsky has been doing her best to

attend all Cabinet meetings in order to stay informed, which would make this a mostly seamless transition

- (ii) Ferreyra: is a team player, so knows that she would be able to get along with everyone on cabinet. Feels there are goals that are realistic for the short number of week which includes better the climate, increase number of returning senators, and establish an SRC that the entire body is comfortable with turning to for assistance and resources
- d) VP Pagel, to both: what is your plan to work with the other committees on student senate?
- (i) Ferreyra: has already started doing some outreach for elections in hopes of getting a competitive election this year. Working with PRC to spread the word; as for the other committees, wants SRC to be seen as a resource and supportive of all committees, including sub-committees. Even if there is no specific cross-committee collaboration, really wants SRC to work well with all committees
  - (ii) Krichevsky: if elected, would want to make sure that all SRC members do committee rotations over the last few weeks in order to provide support for senators who are wrapping up their projects. Goal is also to do as much work as possible in terms of outreach, which would be her main focus
- e) Senator Pearson, to both: you have a lot of similar experiences, what do you feel differentiates you from the other candidate?
- (i) Krichevsky: has a strong work ethic, try to go to as many committees and Cabinet meetings as possible, volunteers for allocations. Would be an almost seamless translation due to her trying to get to know all senators as well as her work on independent jobs within SRC. Confident in her ability to lead
  - (ii) Ferreyra: leadership style is unique, she is able to hear concerns and opinions of people she works with and take them into consideration while also making tough decisions; also her determination, as well as preparation for role with independent responsibilities within SRC; met with former VP Benoit as well as Benoit's tips from former President Jenkin to prepare. Feels she is well-prepared to jump in and get started

iv. Discussion

- a) VP Siegrist: these are two highly qualified candidates who have done their research, is happy for the option between these two. Has known both of these nominees since Siegrist was appointed, and knows they will both do a great job. Can speak to Krichevsky's work ethic, as she serves on the Allocations committee, continually asks if Siegrist needs help, and volunteered for this position both times--this speaks a lot about her

character. Also says a lot that she has attended Cabinet meetings - is happy to work with both candidates in the future

- b) Byers puts support behind Senator Ferreyra, she has been a great person to work with within SRC, she is very knowledgeable and motivated. When she talks about controversial issues, it's in a non-biased way which is deeply important to this role
- c) Raak: SRC is known as HR for Senator, the people who are supposed to make the internal environment great, Krichevsky made a point to introduce herself when he was appointed and this gesture stuck with him. Krichevsky has attended ever Cabinet meeting and gone out of her way on projects and to collaborate on projects, feels she is beyond qualified for this position
- d) VP Pagel: these individuals were both appointed at the same GA and they have paralleled experiences and qualifications. Supports both of them

- v. Voting - McMahon places a voting document in the chat. The body votes
  - a) Senator Krichevsky is elected to VP of Senate Resources

#### B. Voting to approve the Elections Timeline

- i. VPs Moine and Neal present the proposed elections timeline. All of the information in regards to Election will be emailed to anyone who applies and is also available on the website.
- ii. None of the content has changed since the last conversation. As long as the document is approved, the form to file to run will open tomorrow morning, which would give individuals about 2 weeks to fill out the form, closing on March 25th
- iii. Moine presents proposed campaign rules - they are the same rules that have been used in the last years, including two rules that were placed on the website for last year's election
- iv. Moine presents the proposed Vote Threshold in which the Elections commission recommends that candidates on the ballot are not only on the top 44 slots, but they receive 60 votes if they have filed, 75 votes if they are a write-in candidate
- v. Moine presents proposed eligibility requirements, proposed expectations, and post election procedure, all of which are almost directly taken from previous years with some notes that some guidelines are subject to change depending on COVID regulations
- vi. Neal recommends that everyone who is planning to rerun fill the form out as soon as possible, and have a photo ready to be published by the Lanthorn as well
- vii. For all of the following voting segments, McMahon provides a document in chat for senators to cast their vote
- viii. Siegrist motions to suspend the Bylaws to make a vote on Threshold Voting, and is seconded by Moine
  - a) Motion passes unanimously with one abstention
- ix. Moine motions to approve the Elections Packet as presented, Siegrist seconds
  - a) Motion passes unanimously
- x. Siegrist motions to reinstate the bylaws, Moine seconds

a) Motion passes unanimously, and the bylaws are reinstated

VIII. New Business

A. Appointment of Aaron Rusch to the Educational Affairs Committee

- i. Mueller presents rationale: feels Rusch would be a wonderful addition to Student Senate and EAC, as she sat in on his second interview. Krichevsky also voices support
- ii. Mueller motions to appoint Rusch to EAC and is seconded by Siegrist
- iii. Motion passes

B. Climate Survey Presentation - presented by SRC

- i. Demographics information of those who filled out survey is shared, first showing the break up of committees. This year 37% of senators are majoring or minoring in Political Science, which is smaller than previous years; then sharing demographics on race, religion, gender, and sexuality.
  - a) This information shows that we are more diverse than the previous body, but still means that we are striving for further diversity
- ii. General Assembly: most individuals are comfortable in GA, but many senators are scattered in terms of speaking their mind during GA; several participants wish people chose to speak their mind more often, and many felt that GA meetings are too long
- iii. Over 97% feel comfortable in their committee meetings, and stated that they feel productive and can speak their mind in committee meetings
- iv. Cabinet: answers are scattered when it comes to action being taken after concern is expressed; not people feel they are able to talk to someone if they have senate-related questions
- v. Overall, most senators feel that Cabinet supports them
- vi. 28% of senators felt comfortable approaching all 10 Cabinet members
- vii. Levels of Respect: generally, there are high levels of respect for each other, but can always strive for me
- viii. Hard Work and Behavior: is hard work recognized? Scattered
- ix. Senator Goals (written in) : Be an active member of the community, listen to concerns of the student body, create a more inclusive and equitable environment on campus, etc. make a difference
- x. There are high ratings on accessibility and support, dependability, communication, helpfulness, and kindness from VPs
- xi. Overall improvements: increased transparency, better communication with student body, be more inclusive and encouraging to fellow senators, fill the body for next year

C. Review of the Bylaws

- i. McMahon presents some of the proposed changes to the Bylaws, including, but not limited to:
  - a) Wording which would account for unforeseen circumstances (such as COVID)
  - b) Word and grammar changes throughout the document

- c) A section dedicated to ensuring the Student Senate complies with Financial Policies and Procedures
    - d) Minimum of checking inventory for PRC
    - e) Rewording of DAC's statement of purpose; no content was changed
  - ii. Discussion
    - a) Moine: thanks McMahon's leadership as well as the committee's attentiveness and work on this
- D. Review of the Financial Policies and Procedures, presented by Siegrist
  - i. Siegrist provides a brief overview of each article, noting that many meetings with advisors and careful combing through internal documents led to the creation of this document
  - ii. This document includes, but is not limited to, funding guidelines, conflict of interest policy (which is new), the roles of allocations and cultural funding board, philanthropy, etc.
  - iii. Discussion
    - a) Pagel: this is very well put together and a very useful tool to guide student senate; Pagel thanks Siegrist
- E. Discussion on Resolution W-21-03: Further Standardize Online Learning Shells to Increase Understanding and Engagement presented by Senator Kidd
  - i. Kidd: The goal of the resolution is to recommend the standardization of the organization of online platforms, a problem that has arisen in greater quantity and quality in light of the pandemic. Kidd provides examples of suggested standardization while also emphasizing that these are not the only possible examples.
  - ii. Discussion:
    - a) Siegrist: appreciates Kidd's hard work, looks forward to reviewing it further
    - b) Cargill: extends praise as well, it is something that students need
    - c) Mueller: also praises Kidd and the resolution
    - d) Krichevsky: when it comes to some professors who strictly use google classrooms, would this be a recommendation or a demand?
      - (i) Kidd: is just trying to get this moving - it is more specific to Blackboard, but is hopeful that if this concept is introduced, it can become applicable in all online platforms.
    - e) Raak: appreciates work on this resolution. Have you been talking with anyone about what this might look like in a few years, as Blackboard contract expires?
      - (i) Kidd: this has not yet been discussed, but would personally promote a switch to a different platform
- F. Call for New Orders of the Day
- IX. Public Comment Part II
- X. Officer Reports
  - A. Senate Resources - Krichevsky



- i. Right after GA, Krichevsky would love to see everyone at the Just Dance Bonding event in Kirkhof
- B. Allocations - Siegrist
  - i. Meeting with organizations with preset budgets, will hopefully have something to present on March 18th
  - ii. Transitions report is available in Allocations folder
- C. Public Relations - Moine
  - i. PRC had first hybrid committee meeting
  - ii. Social Media Giveaway will take place next week
  - iii. Freshmen-focused round table will take place in the next week, promotions for this event will start soon. Those interested in moderating may reach out to Senator Noble
  - iv. Promotions for elections are in the works and many of these will be posted over the course of the next few weeks
  - v. Met with Lanthorn this morning about elections
- D. Campus Affairs - Frappier
  - i. Elect Her planning is going well, link out soon; make sure to nominate and be aware that other schools may be invited
- E. Educational Affairs - Mueller
  - i. Attended University Library Advisory Committee last friday when they talked about their new strategic planning process, as their old plan is expiring. Library is interested in finding sources of improvement for learning sources, as well potential barriers
  - ii. ULAC will meet again this month, EAC meeting with the library for a strategic planning session on next Tuesday from 1-2pm
  - iii. Class registration is coming up in March - Don't forget!
  - iv. Make sure to nominate people for I Am GV awards
- F. Diversity Affairs - Neal
  - i. Happy Woman's History month!
  - ii. DAC is collaborating with PRC, making additions to the bulletin board
  - iii. Spoke at SFS town hall last Sunday on the topic of Aramark, food sovereignty, food insecurity, etc. - this event was recorded and can be made available by Neal
  - iv. DAC will be working with LGBT Center on pronoun education, putting together a townhall and a panel
- G. External Relations - Pagel
  - i. Met with Wayne State and U of M Flint, along with upcoming meetings with other Michigan Public Universities
  - ii. Meeting on Friday with Steve Carey went well, there is another one in March for those interested
  - iii. Meeting with students from Allendale high school soon, time and date to come
  - iv. Working with Township on civic engagement, and the Chamber on community relations
  - v. BoV preparation for the Fall is ongoing, working on history, videos, etc. with SVSU

- vi. Higher Education Funding: there will be a SCHEF summit
- vii. Expect more updates on the Housing Resolution and Spin Scooter project at next GA

XI. Subcommittee Reports

XII. University Committee Reports

- A. Siegrist, Faculty Salary and Budget: discussed unit stability reviews and what that will look like for this year
- B. Siegrist, Steering Committee for Reach Higher 2025: are dissatisfied with where mission, vision, and values are right now so they're going back to the drawing board. There are huddles coming up that senators can participate in, as well as a feedback form with a giveaway incentive
- C. Mueller, General Education Committee: discussing the charge on addressing systemic racism in general education courses and how this can be applicable to U.S. Diversity and Education courses (a requirement for graduation)

XIII. Roll Call Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements

- A. McMahon: Bonding is right now
- B. Siegrist: thanks everyone for being attentive and participating in today's GA

XV. Adjournment: 7:05pm