



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, August 29th, 2019 — 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette Room — Kirkhof Center 2204

President: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Executive Vice President: Andrew Nurmi

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:31pm**
 - A. Moment of Silence
 - B. Roll Call
 - II. Public Comment - Part I**
 - III. Guest Speaker**
 - A. President Philomena V. Mantella swears in the Senate
 - B. President Mantella speaks on her new role as president and its relation to Student Senate. She encourages the use of listen-engage-enact and will focus on the quality of the student experience. She looks forward to working with Student Senate
 - C. President Mantella answers several questions from Senators
 - i. President Mantella expects Student Senate maintain an environment of representation, not of individual views. She also hopes to limit the amount of time spent on “rebooting” due to her transition. She advises everyone to “presume positive intent”
 - ii. Intends to make her role as president one of action, not only symbolic
 - iii. Believes there is a balance to find in terms of bringing in revenue opportunities and enriching the student experience.
 - iv. Is looking forward to having a conversation with Student Senate in regards to creating opportunities to design what the future of the university looks like
 - IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass Papers**
 - V. President’s Report**
 - A. Adoption of the Agenda - Motioned by Vice President Nurmi and seconded by Senator Nitzkin. Motion passes.
 - B. Approval of Executive Appointments for acting Senators Sanchez-Castillo and LaPlatt
 - i. Motioned by Vice President Nurmi and seconded by Vice President Murarescu
 - ii. No points of discussion, motion passes
 - C. Updates
 - i. Recap: Due to the limitations of the Board of Trustees allowance of public comment, the previous session of Student Senate approved a motion (W1975) which asks the Board of Trustees to abide by the Opening Meetings Act
 - ii. Since then, the times when committees meet has been made public and President Mantella has instructed trustees to add a button on websites which explains how to make a public comment, but did not change the Board’s original policy.
 - iii. President Szczepaniak filed a police report in order to ensure the Board of Trustees is not acting against current law. It is now up to the Ottawa County Prosecutor if they

want to move forward. Administrators are aware that Senate has taken this route and Senate is still maintaining positive connections with them

iv. Responses to Questions:

- a. There is some support from administrators and some who still need to be met with
 - b. In regards to exposure to the student body: the current focus is on faculty governance (there will be a small faculty governance meeting on September 6th and another with the full body on September 27th.) In mid-October, Senate will work with the Lanthorn, GVTV and the Whale to bring attention to the students.
 - c. The goal is to give everyone the opportunity to speak - it is not to empower Student Senate, but to empower everyone
 - d. Before filing the police report, President Szczepaniak spoke with former Student President Jenkins and with a prosecutor in Kent County. It was the prosecutor's recommendation that he file early in order to start the legal process so addressing this issue would not be delayed. The police report was filed under President Szczepaniak's own name.
 - e. The Board of Trustees meeting is at 11am and their committee meeting is at 8am, both on November 1st
- D. Reminder for Senate:** utilize the Google Drive for projects throughout the year. If someone does not have access, please contact their VP

VI. Vice President's Report

- A. Approval of Minutes**
 - i. Motioned by Vice President Mueller and seconded by Senator Nitzkin
- B. Introduction of new Office Assistant and thanks the Lanthorn for being present**
- C. Please inform President Nurmi if anyone is not updated on Slack**
- D. Has been working on presenting an award to off-campus housing complexes. The submission deadline for complexes is September 12th. Vice President Nurmi is looking for volunteers to check out the housing sites**

VII. Officer Reports

A. Senate Resources - Hanna Benoit

- i. Reminds everyone to dress appropriately and adhere to the phone and laptop policy.
- ii. Office hours begin this week and are due next week before GA. Senators must log 2 office hours a week (or more) and each missed hour results in half of an unexcused absence
- iii. Saturday, September 21st is the date for Inservice and the date for makeup has yet to be determined

iv. Responses to questions:

- a. The time is approximately 10 to 4 and may be subject to change. Location has not yet been determined
 - b. Any conflicts with the time may be communicated with Senator Benoit
- B. Finance - Maddie Samuels**

- i. Appropriations is not yet in session, the first session will likely be in late/mid-September and will be on Fridays at 1:30pm.

C. Campus Affairs - Grace McMahon

- i. CAP meets at 4:30 on Tuesdays (this may change)
- ii. Has emailed Dev about Food Committee and is expecting a response soon
- iii. Will reach out in regards to the lack of gym facilities downtown
- iv. Thanks Senator Nitzkin for getting a prayer room downtown

D. Educational Affairs - Autumn Mueller

- i. Current project is Open Access Week. Vice President Mueller is working with the Lanthorn to create a story and survey which will be out shortly
- ii. Is also working on an Open Access Network Visit which will occur during Fall Break and will have representatives from other colleges which use open access. It will feature speakers including Vice President Mueller and possibly President Szczepaniak

E. Diversity Affairs - Alex Murarescu

- i. Climate Survey comes out late November. Vice President Murarescu asks for everyone to be advocates and get people to fill it out

F. External Relations - Joel Pagel

- i. September 24th is National Voter Registration Day. Vice President Pagel is working to get a voting booth on campus

G. Public Relations - Ryan Fritz

- i. Campus Life Night was a success, thanks to all those who volunteered
- ii. Is in the process of planning Senate info night
- iii. Is pushing the social media presence
- iv. Is hoping to do two rounds of Senate Swag, will be discussed in the near future

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports

- A. Senator Hicks has started Slack for sexual health awareness and will meet with members from Title IX office. A weekly meeting time has not yet been planned

IX. University Committee Reports

- A. Vice President McMahon has met with representatives for the Teach-In to discuss how Student Senate can become involved. More details to come

X. Unfinished Business

- A. Report on Downtown Prayer Room - Senator Nitzkin
 - i. Obtained a classroom (309 E DeVos) from 12am-5pm reserved as a prayer center. Over the years, it will be developed (along with the prayer room in Kirkhof)
 - ii. In the event of seeing or experiencing a bias incident, one may speak to Nitzkin or another senator who will take it to Multicultural Affairs. If uncomfortable speaking face to face, there is an anonymous online reporting site.

XI. New Business

- A. Senator Russo voices concerns about a group picketing and voicing views that did not coincide with the university's. Vice President Murarescu and Senate Advisor Bob Stoll respond with the recommendation that one does not engage; that they may organize a protest of their own through the appropriate mediums; and that there are alternative walking routes available to avoid such protests.

XII. Public Comment - Part II

- A. Senate Advisor Bob Stoll offers himself and his office as a resource for the Senate and introduces Associate Vice President of Provost Aboufadel

XIII. Call for Announcements

- A. Senator Hicks' sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau, has a fundraiser on Friday September 6th with all proceeds going to the sorority's philanthropy.
- B. Senator Nitzkin invites anyone who is interested to join Hillel for their events
- C. Senator Sanchez-Castillo invites anyone interested in law society to speak with him
- D. Senator Bainard invites senators to attend the Kirkhof Bookfair on August 30th
- E. Senator Fritz encourages incoming candidates to maintain regular communication with their Vice Presidents
- F. Senator Jenia Thompson informs the Senate that there open positions on Food Committee for anyone who is interested

XIV. Adjournment: 6:09pm

- A. Motioned by Vice President Murarescu and seconded by Senator Nitzkin. Motion passes

*The following General Assembly meeting will take place on
September 5th in the Pere Marquette room*

Note: Section X: Unfinished Business has been amended to reflect the appropriate Room Number information