



**General Assembly**  
Thursday, October 8th, 2020 — 4:30 pm  
Via Zoom  
*President: Kelly Dowker*  
*Executive Vice President: Grace McMahon*

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:33pm
    - A. Moment of Silence
      - i. For Native Land Recognition
    - B. Student Senate Creed
    - C. Pledge of Allegiance
    - D. Roll Call - Part I
  - II. Public Comment - Part I
    - A. Melissa Baker-Boosamra - greets Senate body, is grateful for President Mantella for speaking at today's GA; also provides some words of encouragement that in light of how there is much going on in the world, would like to impose the importance of acting with respect, civility, professionalism, particularly within their roles as senators.
  - III. Guest Speaker
    - A. President Mantella
      - i. Congratulates senators on their successful campaigns
      - ii. University Update
        - a) Approach to planning/work with the pandemic and the racial virus.  
- try to be guided by values: provide the best and safest student experience, and enable choice. Provide as much choice to students, to give them the opportunity to make the best choices for them.
        - b) Three areas to be conscious of going into this year (admin pov):  
Health and safety of community; preserve as much of the student experience; do not become a virus excelerator in the community-working on many initiatives that target the goals within each of these areas
      - iii. Open Discussion
        - a) Senator Stephens - what do you (Mantella) and GV have planned to continue to protect students of colour and prevent incidents that would make them uncomfortable.
          - (1) Plans are broad and holistic; create a network of action for racial justice; cannot be a moment, rather be a movement; work to do programmatically, Network for Racial Justice working on education and training for faculty and staff,

multicultural competency and sensitivity; also pragmatic conditions, “today, is our community safe? Are there things going on that require us to respond and react?” Model the behaviour we’d like to see in our nation.

(2) Hold ourselves to a generous spirit, don’t lose sight of recognizing and intending to understand differences and different point of views in order to move forward.

(3) There is space for people who are interested in being more directly involved.

b) Vice President Siegrist - what will the next couple months/next semester/etc look like? Is there any insight you can give us to what the coming months will look like? How will the pandemic impact our learning and learning styles?

(1) Confident in the plan in place; as long as we keep our energy focused, keep the pattern; hopeful for next semester to have hybrid classes, increases the level of activities allowed on campus, spring break has been removed

(2) Impacts (long term): will be able to enable more things online that people have wanted for a long time; will use the time we are physically together in a much better way; must also face the economic conditions, students have been hard-hit, university has received many hardship requests, feels GV needs to be in a good position to help students who have been hit hard by the virus

c) Senator Szymanski - spring break is cancelled in an effort to combat the amount of COVID-19 cases coming the university; feels that with winter break, new cases may be coming in - does GV have an action plan for after winter break conversations?

(1) Plan for winter semester is not finalized, but this is what it is leaning towards so far: given the selection of online/hybrid/face to face, those who will stay over break, testing levels and return rate makes clear that it is possible and sustainable to make a testing requirement. There will likely be some sort of testing requirement; Mantella has asked the Virus Action team to make an announcement soon

d) Senator Kidd - students don’t have access to all of the services, what type of plans do you have to make tuition or housing or food costs less for students? and/or, what type of refunds can we expect?

- (1) Financially, it's been a difficult year, costs of maintaining university are up; Gave a straight room/board/parking refund in the previous year, this will remain true for this year though it will put a strain on auxiliaries.
  - (2) It is not an equivalent experience for students, but are trying to be sure to provide an equivalent academic experience, the same value of a degree; does not anticipate a tuition refund or deduction.
  - (3) Covid did not impact everyone equally; trying to address students in most vulnerable positions
  - (4) Working with philanthropic side, talking about the importance of keeping robust students and making this a priority
- e) Vice President Thompson - regarding the plan of action, how will you be navigating an election year?
- (1) Want to be sure students have the space for free expression, that they're safe. The planning is holistic, Baker-Boosamra is making space for individuals, trying to put people in constructive lanes; as well as being prepared for things that we may not want to see
  - (2) Rullman - pre-election and post-election, there is a group meeting to discuss (thinking and planning); there are plans in place with public safety, facilities, legal team to protect students rights to speak and be heard as well as to protest
  - (3) Baker-Boosamra - people are pulling together supportive programs for students which will provide accurate information, working in partnership with other orgs on campus to put together a discussion to provide info on what has and is happening; providing space for dialogue to speak about the impacts of the election, as well as other Dem101 sessions throughout the month of november. Sessions for faculty and staff are also being organized; spaces for processing, particularly in social justice centers; 29th of october will facilitate a workshop on dialogue on inclusivity in free speech; also points to work done in the OSL; be thoughtful in how we approach change, be aware that what we say/do can help or hinder the causes we are interested in supporting

#### IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

- A. Dowker - volunteers for CAB trivia on Monday at 7pm, sign up to be sent in slack

- V. President's Report
  - A. Adoption of the Agenda
    - i. McMahon motions to add university academic committee report below officer reports; seconded by Siegrist. Motion is approved
    - ii. Moine motions to approve, Pagel seconds. Motion passes
  - B. University budget - down in enrollment of African American and Latinx students; launching NoVID app; we are 54% online, 36% hybrid, 8% face to face; Winter modality will be largely similar to this semester; look out for changes in schedule; UAS passed endorsement of parking changes to pregnant/parenting people - proposal is a 3-6 month permit; endorsed We Care packages, which will send personalized letters and donations to students in quarantine; University has increased testing
  - C. Meeting with provost next week, ecs meeting next week where Senator Raak's resolution will be discussed
- VI. Executive Vice President's Report
  - A. Approval of the Minutes
    - i. Stand approved
  - B. Assigning break-out rooms for senate buddies, make sure name has 'senator' in front of it
  - C. Subcommittees - cabinet will choose chairs on Sunday, has a list of people interested in sharing and will send email to them with transitions report from former chairs, if still interested, please reply to email with rationale for why you should be appointed to the position
  - D. Satellite voting location in Kirkhof will be opened next week and needs volunteers. Those interested should message McMahon
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Subcommittee Reinstatements - these meetings are optional to attend, count as office hours, and is a great way to get projects done
    - i. Mental Health Awareness (MHAC)
      - a) McMahon reads statements from former chairs - (DeBerry) strives to break stigma, to provide better opportunities for students to get what they need for their mental health; after this year, believes students will need mental health help more than ever.
    - ii. Sexual Assault Awareness (SAAC)
      - a) McMahon - (Hicks) partnerships with women and gender equity, lgbt justice centers, public safety etc are valuable and should be continually maintained
    - iii. Sustainability (SUS)

- a) McMahon - (Gamage) stopped dredging project on Grand River last year, important voice in building more community gardens throughout campus; valuable for students to be involved
  - iv. All subcommittees have been reinstated
- B. Zoom Inservice (presentations from Cabinet members)
  - i. Dowker and McMahon present on legislation - as most committees are project based, legislation is the end of life for a project though the goal is to not need to end in legislation. Projects can be completed without going to the body, UAS, or higher.
    - a) When legislation is necessary, it will come in the form of resolutions, bills, or amendments to the bylaws, and will go to faculty senate (UAS cabinet) to discuss - it may be given to one of their committees, it may be given to UAS
    - b) Utilize your VP
  - ii. Thompson
    - a) 1 office hour each week is mandatory; outside office hours can be requested through LakerLink. It is encouraged to do more than one office hour; office hours are utilized to brainstorm and work on projects, to send senate related emails, meet new senators, etc.
    - b) Professionalism - disagreements are bound to happen, but it is important to maintain respect; learn how to balance personal and professional relationships; recognize that you are a representative of Student Senate, recommends not tying senate to social media
    - c) General Assembly Etiquette - engage in productive conversations, adhere to Robert's Rules
  - iii. Siegrist
    - a) Student Life Fund & Funding Boards - Brief overview of what responsibilities are contained within SLF: RSO funding, programming, etc. as well as allocated budgets for Lanthorn, CAB, Senate; Cultural Funding Board and Allocations;
    - b) In order to have Voting Rights when budget requests come in, senators must attend either Cultural Funding Board or Allocations
  - iv. Moine
    - a) Speaking on Behalf of Senate - only VP of PRC and President can speak on official Senate stances; other members may make unofficial comments to the media, however the Senator must make clear that it is their personal opinion
  - v. Holcomb
    - a) Representing students on University committees - good way to advocate for student needs; committees are task forces focused on

one or two topics; during meetings, remain engaged, ask questions and take notes, voice concerns of students; report back to Senate body during GA with important updates

vi. Mueller

- a) Organization, Time commitments; Mueller recommends using a planner, creating boundaries for yourself, remember school work comes first; Senate is a time commitment, plan accordingly

vii. Neal

- a) Using your Privilege as a Student Senator - be aware of the privilege you hold, use it to cultivate change; it is a wonderful opportunity to fight for students who feels unheard or underrepresented, advocate for underrepresented communities and marginalized identities; “know when to be a leader, a follower, or both”

viii. Pagel

- a) Bipartisanship on Student Senate - be active in problem-solving, make the most of one’s time, be respectful, professional, and diligent; it’s beneficial to work with those who think like you and those who don’t; stand for what you believe in, do so in a productive and respectful manner

IX. Public Comment - Part II

X. Officer Reports

A. Senate Resources - Jenia Thompson

- i. SRC committee report sent in EVP McMahon’s email; roles were assigned
- ii. Senate Buddy Reveal
  - a) Senator Frappier shares that Senate buddies are encouraged to be used as a resource, to be friends
  - b) EVP McMahon sends buddies into break-out rooms

B. Allocations - Eric Siegrist

- i. Internal Operating Budget has been passed and is located in Allocations folder
- ii. Faculty Salary and Budget Committee met
- iii. Allocations committee has been filled; will inform when next allocations and Cultural Funding Board meeting is, as well as when first opportunity for Student Life Fund training to get voting rights

C. Public Relations - Lauren Moine

- i. Official Meeting time: Sundays at 4:30pm
- ii. Goal: redesigning bulletin board, is open to ideas
- iii. Promotions team has designed a new logo; it will go on official letterhead and will appear on Senate swag

- D. Campus Affairs - Kyle Holcomb
  - i. Meeting: Fridays at 12pm
  - ii. Food Committee have not set a date yet, but first meeting of the year will take place in late October
  - iii. CSLC's Group Dinner with Friends on October 22nd from 6pm-8pm - a good opportunity for senators to join and talk about heavier topics such as Covid and PWI in West Michigan, good way for senators to connect with students
- E. Educational Affairs - Autumn Mueller
  - i. Meeting: Fridays at 11am
  - ii. Office Hours are on Tuesdays/Wednesdays from 3pm-4pm
  - iii. Sitting on 4 academic committees, so if a senator has questions about those specific committees or what it is like to sit on an academic committee, she is open to talking about it
  - iv. Open Access information (among others) will be coming soon
- F. Diversity Affairs - Alexys Neal
  - i. 10/09 is the last day to submit Teach-In proposals
  - ii. 10/09 at 3pm is a Solidarity March for Justice (wear all black, bring signs and wear a mask)
  - iii. Meeting: Mondays at 6pm
  - iv. Blackboard Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1pm-2pm
- G. External Relations - Joel Pagel
  - i. ERC meeting time to come
  - ii. Working on philanthropy for President Dowker and Heather Rowan, want to get community service project started in Allendale and Grand Rapids
  - iii. Working with other student gov'ts, meeting with VP of Wayne State's student gov't this coming weekend; Western, U of M, MSU and SVSU in the following week
  - iv. Archive Day coming soon
  - v. Those interested in becoming a poll worker can reach out to Pagel
  - vi. Township and City commission meeting reports will be coming shortly
- XI. University Committee Reports
  - A. Faculty Salary and Budget Committee (Siegrist)
    - i. Meeting notes are in allocations drive
    - ii. Budget for this year is fine, but next year is when the decline in state funding occurs, there are many unfunded liabilities
    - iii. 9.7% change in amount of enrolled freshmen which will have an impact for the next 4-6 years
    - iv. Not reaching into reserves now, but it will be tricky to balance budget,
    - v. Budget cuts are to be expected

B. Academic Policies and Standards Committee (Mueller)

- i. Two major charges: evaluate pilot programs of prior learning credits for undergraduate programs
  - a) Pilot is currently running, so can't really look at data; trying to make content and systems to make sure that students can use prior learning credits as credits that GV will accept
  - b) Also talked about credits by exam
- ii. Charge: Student bereavement policy
  - a) Looking at policies from peer institutions; want to focus on separate policies from undergraduate and graduate, as many colleges have different policies for different schools
  - b) Note that was favoured among many was adding a point to attendance, though there were some advocates for creating a specific policy - all group members are working on finding information in their designated areas

C. Public Safety Liaison Committee (Moine)

- i. Chief DeHaan has put together/on a task force that produced a presentation on the Department of Public Safety and what they do; DeHaan is looking to present it to departments across campus as well as reach students - Moine would like to gauge if there is interest among senators to sit in on this presentation. Info will be posted in Slack

- XII. Roll Call - Part II
- XIII. Call for Announcements
- XIV. Adjournment: 6:28pm