

**SGA Meeting Minutes**  
**3/31/2021**

**Attending:** Co-President Allison Shelly, Co-President Justice Allen, Vice President Theo Yoder, Treasurer Hannah Nichols, VP of Marketing Asha Beck, Secretary Liz Hoffman, Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Administrative Rep. Amy Springer Hartsell, Faculty Rep. Kevin Seidel, Isaac Andreas, Akiel Baker, Ani Beitzel, Cindi Boyer, Shannon Cooper, Zander France, Phillip Krabill, Coleman Maxwell, Brad Mullet, Molly Piwonka, Sophia Sherrill, Avery Trinh

**Absent:** Rachel Roth Sawatsky, Zander France, Fatimah Subhi

1. Call to Order at 8:01
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 3/24/2021
  - a. Molly motioned to approve the minutes, and Ani seconded.

Approved: Everyone

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion passes and minutes approved.

4. Announcements
  - a. There's a USO meeting this Thursday; let Justice or Allison know if there's anything you would like them to bring to the meeting
  - b. Continue to tap people on the shoulder for executive positions next year!
  - c. Thursday - Women's Volleyball vs. Bridgewater @ 7:00pm
  - d. Friday - Track & Field hosts the EMU Legacy Meet | Field @ 1:00pm | Track @ 2:00 pm
5. Old Business
  - a. Dr. Jackie Font-Guzman starts her position as Executive Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion at EMU this Thursday!
6. New Business
  - a. Guest Speaker: Rachael Brenneman, Rebekah Amstutz, Jim Yoder, nitrogen tracking team
    - i. Rachael said she is a senior here at EMU, and for the past year she has been on the nitrogen tracking team
    - ii. Rachael explained that a nitrogen footprint is the amount of reactive nitrogen released to the environment as a result of an entity's resource consumption. She then said that there are natural processes and man-made processes to make reactive nitrogen, but the problem is the excess created (which is the nitrogen footprint)
    - iii. Rachael went on to say that this causes smog, haze, acidification, excessive algae growth, and climate change. She added that it's important to track nitrogen because it shows the broader picture for environmental impacts and creates a reduced data entry for both carbon and nitrogen
    - iv. Rachael said that at EMU, food was about 80% of our nitrogen footprint

- v. Rachael said the team's goal is to add nitrogen to to the EMU Climate Action Plan, explore food reduction scenarios, complete the 2020-21 data collection, and to create a greater community engagement
- vi. Rebekah said that they're looking to explore different scenarios to reduce the food footprint, some being a meat reduction of 10-30% or replacing beef with pork, chicken, and fish
- vii. Jim said on April 20, at 7:30pm, there will be a forum about EMU's "State of Sustainability. He said they're goal is to inform the EMU community of new sustainability initiatives, and to gather feedback on different priorities and interests. At the event
- viii. Coleman asked them to expand more about the food footprint reduction ideas
  - ix. Rebekah said they're just in the idea portion of things, and she is just creating different scenarios that could possibly lower the food footprint
  - x. Rachael added that food is EMU's biggest footprint, so if we want change it will most likely be reducing the food footprint
  - xi. Brad asked how SGA could support the team
  - xii. Rachael said definitely to spreading the word about the seminar, supporting the Climate Action Plan, and spreading the word in general about
- xiii. Jim said in terms of nitrogen, meat is always going to be a problem, so how could they get support for reducing it, as well as coming up with creative ways to promote these ideas
- xiv. Hannah said she thinks it would be helpful for there to be an interactive board to see where our food is coming from, and it could enhance questions about where food is coming
- xv. Rachael said she really likes the thought and definitely wants to look into it
- xvi. Allison asked how much it would change if it's local, and if it would decrease the footprint
- xvii. Rachael said she doesn't know the exact statistics, but it definitely decreases the footprint
- xviii. Jim said tracking food is the hardest part of this, and wants to give a shoutout to Bruce for cooperating as much as he can
- xix. Justice asked why does beef make such an impact on the nitrogen footprint
- xx. Rachael said a big part of that is feed for the cattle, and most of the feed has high amounts of fertilizer on it, and that is what adds to the footprint
- xxi. Jim added that cows are inefficient, and the amount of food and water it takes to feed them is a lot more than other animals
- xxii. Justice said SGA can definitely help get the word out about the event, but is there anything else needed to help
- xxiii. Rachael said the biggest thing right now is promotion for the event, but they'll talk about other ideas later
- xxiv. Coleman asked if they're trying to promote it to the student body because it impacts them the most

- xxv. Rachael said they do want to advertise it a lot to the student body. They had ideas to start it slowly with a meatless Monday on earth week or something like that, and then slowly integrating it into the year
- xxvi. Coleman said he appreciates their sensitive approach and encourages them to continue with it
- xxvii. Brad said a survey or questionnaire would definitely help to see where the campus is at about changes in food
- xxviii. Rachael said she really likes that idea to gauge where students are at with these ideas
- xxix. Kevin said for the event, it might be good to bring up ideas like meatless monday to stir up some ideas

- b. Breakout rooms to discuss first year orientations experiences
  - i. Justice said in his breakout room they talked a lot about advising, and how that experience went
  - ii. Coleman said his experience with orientation was quite strange, but it was mostly because it was completely online; he added that his group also talked about how professors have gone above and beyond this year
  - iii. Hannah said in her group they talked mostly about freshman orientation this year, and how someone said they had no recollection of orientation; she said her group also discussed what a resource would even look like to give to students

## 7. Open Floor

- a. Philip said he recently got a message from someone wondering what SGA or the administration could do to allow people with vaccinations to enter other buildings with their vaccination card
- b. Shannon C said the issue is herd immunity, and there has to be a certain number of people on campus for that to work
- c. Hannah added that making sure everyone on a hall is comfortable with that, and is wondering what that would even look like
- d. Shannon D said they have a small group paying attention to the number of vaccinated people on campus, but we should also think about people who don't have access to the vaccine
- e. Asha said as someone who's fully vaccinated she's definitely thought about the idea, but she would feel bad for the people unable to get vaccinated who couldn't interact with their friends
- f. Sophia said she assumed that the people asking are already hanging out regardless of safety
- g. Coleman asked who's running for positions if that's allowed
- h. Allison responded saying she is not sure if people are allowed to share that
- i. Coleman then asked Shannon D what's the plan for next year
- j. Shannon D responded saying they don't have a full answer to that, but right now they cannot currently require the vaccine

- k. Hannah said in regards of graduations, there has been a change in commencement, on May 1st there will be a walking ceremony, and seniors will be given 3 tickets to give to their family or friends, but there will also be a virtual graduation
- l. Justice asked if 3 tickets included your family, and what is the difference between the walk and the virtual commencement
- m. Hannah said the walk would just be the walk, but the virtual commencement would be the actual graduation
- n. Justice asked if these two events are set in stone, and if something could change it
- o. Hannah said as of right now they cannot 100% confirm this, but she cannot imagine a drastic change in plans
- p. Hannah added that May 1st is the walking, and the following weekend is the commencement
- q. Amy added that the number of tickets have not been determined, and diplomas won't be handed out at the walking ceremony because classes will not be completed at that point

Meeting ended at 9:21 pm

Recorded by Liz Hoffman