

SGA Meeting Minutes

4/14/2021

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. Rachel Roth Sawatsky, Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Administrative Rep. Amy Springer Hartsell, Faculty Rep. Kevin Seidel, Akiel Baker, Ani Beitzel, Cindi Boyer, Shannon Cooper, Phillip Krabill, Coleman Maxwell, Brad Mullet, Molly Piwonka, Sophia Sherrill, Fatimah Subhi, Avery Trinh

Absent: Isaac Andreas, Zander France

1. Call to Order at 8:01 pm
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 4/7/2021
 - a. Philip motioned to approve the minutes, and Sophia seconded.

Approved: Everyone

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion passes and minutes approved.

4. Announcements
 - a. Election positions are this Friday! Make sure to check your emails, vote for next year's executive positions, and encourage others to vote!
 - b. Jackie Font-Guzman, the new Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, will be joining us in next week's meeting; start thinking of questions to ask her!
5. Old Business
 - a. CODI and Luke's LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Language proposal has been receiving a lot of support from clubs on campus
6. New Business
 - a. Guest speaker: Susan Huxman
 - i. Susan started off saying student leadership is extremely hard to juggle during normal times, but wanted to say thank you to everyone for their courage and sticking through it through this hard time.
 - ii. Susan then asked if SGA starts these sessions by checking in with each other.
 - iii. Justice responded saying we have done small breakout rooms to check in with each other, but not every meeting.
 - iv. Susan said with the course she is teaching this semester she always starts off asking how her students are doing because mental health should be a first priority
 - v. Susan asked the group three questions: If you were an animal what would you be today? What color best describes your mood this week? Are you looking forward to at least one end of year event on campus?

- vi. Susan said a high point this year was keeping Covid cases quite low, which shows that everyone is thinking of each other. She also said another high point was retention from Fall to Spring semester. Our retention point was 92% which means we must be doing something right. Her number 3 high point was the SACSCOC. She explained that the school was basically graded, and we got a good grade. She then said her number 4 high point was that finances have been going well. She added that fundraising has also been going super well. The amount raised on lovEMU day was an all time high. She added that the BLM mural was also a high point.
- vii. Susan said a low point was the delay of move-in day back in the Fall. Another low point was the surge of cases in February.
- viii. Susan also shared EMU had to fight hard for funding because it looked like we would not get any from the new administration, but were eventually able to get it.
- ix. Susan said enrollment has been hard as well because people are unable to visit campus. She added that the vaccine availability levels have been disappointing, but is glad to see them more recently available.
- x. Asha said that it was helpful to get an honest high and low points of the year.
- xi. Allison asked what are the possibilities of a vaccine being required next year.
- xii. Susan said EMU intends to open as close to normal as possible, and are looking at a study; however, she said it is more than likely they will require it depending if they're allowed to or not.
- xiii. Fatimah said she thinks it would be great to share the highs and lows to other students, so they can see everyone has highs and lows.
- xiv. Susan said it is important to have a strong sense of community, and sometimes a pandemic can bring people closer together.
- xv. Justice asked Susan what has been the most challenging thing for her.
- xvi. Susan said there is not one particular moment, but being unable to interact with each other in person.
- xvii. Sophia asked what's been nice or something she will carry with her after the pandemic.
- xviii. Susan said she has had to be more intentional to gather with people with no agenda to thank them or just chat. She also said they have created new committees that have brought together new people.
- xix. Justice asked what are some significant changes in plan for next year
- xx. Susan said they need to up their game on what belongingness means at EMU. There are some exciting things happening in Student Life, and she is looking forward to it.
- xxi. Justice asked what is the status of a funding for a brand new track.
- xxii. Susan said they are about a fourth of the way there, but the pandemic has put their focus on other things, but they have not forgotten it. She said they have been focusing on student scholarships, but they have not abandoned that project.

7. Open Floor

- a. Hannah said in regards to commencement on Sunday, April 18th there will be a Q&A session. She added that she plans on meeting with the Financial Council to come up with the budget for next year
- b. Allison said this year for SGA has been very different; usually meetings are all in person, someone brings a snack each week, and it's in the Student Life Suite
- c. Justice said don't forget to vote on Friday!

Meeting ended at 9:46 pm

Recorded by Liz Hoffman