

## SGA Meeting Minutes

2/9/2022

**Attending:** Co-President Faith Manickam, Co-President Aman Seyoum, Treasurer Angelo Olayvar, VP of Marketing Mykenzie Davis, Secretary Lindsey White, Student Life Rep. Shannon Dycus, Administrative Rep. Amy Springer Hartsell, Ruth Abera, Isaac Alderfer, Hannah Beck, Cindi Boyer, Ella Brubaker,, Adesola Johnson, Evan Kauffman,, Molly Piwonka, Cassidy Walker, Christian Knight

**Absent:** Rachel Roth Sawatsky, Matthew Siderhurst, Sam Craig, Meredith Lehman

1. Call to Order at 8:05
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 2/2/2021
  - a. Evan motioned to approve the minutes, and Adesola seconded.

Approved: Everyone

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion passes and minutes approved.

4. Announcements
  - a. Faith announces that there will be guest speakers for the meetings
    - i.
5. Old Business
  - a. Guest speakers - Trauma informed Pedagogy group
    - i. Faith welcomes Kevin Sidel and introduces the Trauma informed pedagogy
    - ii. Kevin mentions the document that was put together with Matt Tibbes about resources and key ideas for Trauma Informed Spaces
    - iii. Kevin briefly overviews the document and it's contents
    - iv. Kevin names that EMU doesn't provide a space to talk about how their classes are going and solve problems together
    - v. Kevin also names that there are not spaces on campus for students and professors to talk about how their classes are going
    - vi. Hannah adds that often students are able to recognize that classes are hard but unsure what could be changed. Having the pedagogy available to students would be helpful in facilitating this conversation to have shared language and ideas for how to change the class in order to make it better.
    - vii. Molly mentions that she has noticed there is a barrier between students and professors to go and talk about getting extensions and they are challenging to have depending on the professor. Some professors just plow through the content and some professors are a lot better about creating a safe space for students to feel cared for. She also said that professors who ask students how they are doing makes the space feel more intentional, open, and safe.
    - viii. Hannah mentions that there is a divide between majors because some are more willing and open to this style of learning and education.

- ix. Kevin names that class size also makes a large difference in how professors are able to connect and create space. He hopes that faculty can hear these thoughts at some point.
- x. Adesola says that she feels like faculty need to do a better job of reaching out to students and supporting them rather than not reaching out to them.
- xi. Kevin mentions that these are good for any class but especially for students who have heavy things going on.
- xii. Hannah asks if there is a way for students to have more of a voice in the classroom and class spaces.
- xiii. Adesola names that having a note system would be a good opportunity for feedback instead of a survey through an email.
- xiv. Shannon mentions that an option for this would be to send a weekly text with three questions to respond to about how the week is going.
- xv. Cassidy offers the app Remind as an option for a system without exchange of phone numbers
- xvi. Aman says that something he has experienced is that in one of his classes he was interested in wanting to know how an exam went and how things felt since the content is moving fast. The professor continually asks for feedback and that makes the class feel a lot more open and comfortable because of their efforts.
- xvii. Aman says that if professors make space for students to know they can reach out, students will engage more and have deeper connections with their professors.
- xviii. Adesola, Cassidy, and Molly agree with Aman with similar experiences with their professors.
- xix. Kevin offers the idea of a student/faculty panel in Common Grounds to talk about this.
  - xx. Aman offers that the SGA day could include this panel.
  - xxi. Cassidy says that having a google form for the questions that the students in the crowd want the students on the panel to ask.
  - xxii. Faith says that when professors are open and vulnerable it makes class feel more comfortable and welcoming.
  - xxiii. Cassidy mentions that having faculty join for SGA day would be super beneficial and helpful in getting to know professors more.
  - xxiv. Aman mentions that faculty are also overworked and have a lot on their plates so it is hard for them to be intentional and do everything they are doing and teaching.
  - xxv. Kevin mentions that he is on the faculty senate and brings up that their conversations have revolved around restructuring the way EMU places expectations on their professors. He brings up the idea of taking on less classes and responsibilities campus-wide, for students and professors, to go deeper and so that everyone is not just trying to stay ahead of their work and classes.
  - xxvi. Kevin also names that classes are able to be changed and we can readjust this to connect different sides of campus, the teaching part and the student life part.

- xxvii. Faith thanks Kevin for being present in the meeting.
- xxviii. Aman names that these conversations are great and that it is super powerful to have these conversations and see change happening
- b. Funding request - Engineers for a sustainable world: Ben Bontrager-Singer and Noah Swartzentruber
  - i. Angelo talks about ESW's new funding request for \$2,057.37 for an event in Indianapolis for the Super Mileage Car
  - ii. Angelo relays that ESW wants this funding because this is a chance for them to represent EMU in this setting.
  - iii. Isaac asks what the total possible amount of funding is
  - iv. Angelo says \$27,000 is the total amount of possible funding

Motion (Isaac):

Ella seconds

Approve: 9

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0

- 6. Open Floor
  - a. Shuttle service
    - i. Faith states that EMU students are trying to setup a shuttle service on campus for students who are trying to get rides
    - ii. Time is given to fill out this form
  - b. Campus engagement
    - i. Faith states that there is a survey for campus engagement for SGA day
    - ii. Time is given to fill out this form about who to invite for this day
  - c. TBTN
    - i. Faith wanted to inform that she has been working with a Take Back the Night week of events in the last week of March and wanted to mention that there were spaces to help with that.
    - ii. Faith will keep SGA updated with what is happening with that
    - iii. Molly will also be helping with that and keep SGA updated
  - d. Construction
    - i. Adesola is wondering about the construction going on and what is happening with it.
    - ii. Adesola names that the DEI office has no space for them as well as CODI for meetings
    - iii. Shannon says that there is a group meeting to discuss what the new and old spaces are being used and will be used for in the future.
    - iv. Shannon named that Tim is a part of this conversation and that some of these ideas are to have spaces for advisors and folks who are giving academic support
    - v. Shannon names that CODI is probably meeting online because of COVID.
    - vi. Hannah asks if student input can be given on these decisions about space

- vii. Shannon says that when options are available, students will be given a chance to voice their opinions.
- e. SGA Day in the week without classes
  - i. Shannon asks what would happen if SGA day would be able to be in the middle of the week and classes are canceled.
  - ii. Room erupts with excitement.
  - iii. Faith asks how we do that.
  - iv. Faith is going to start a google doc and Shannon has agreed to take this to the Deans to get it approved.
  - v. Faith asks what would need to be included in this
  - vi. Shannon names what would be needed for this.
  - vii. Faith asks if the members would be willing to stay to work on this proposal for a bit
  - viii. Amy offers to go to the registrar to see which days have the least amount of classes. She also says that Tuesdays and Thursdays are hard to cancel because of labs.
  - ix. Faith offers the idea of canceling class for half a day rather than a full day.
  - x. Shannon names that we should check on gym availability before we decide on a date.
- f. Assorted Open Floor Thoughts
  - i. Hannah picked up the new signs for bathrooms to replace signs in bathrooms to now say “personal
  - ii. Molly ment with the office of faith and spiritual life to continue discussing new options for faith on campus and bible studies

Meeting ended at 9:15 pm  
Recorded by Lindsey White