

**SGA Meeting Minutes**  
**2/16/2022**

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

**Absent:** Shannon Dycus, Cassidy Walker, Amy Springer-Hartsell, Isaac Alderfer

1. Call to Order at 8: 05
2. Roll Call and Check-In
3. Approval of minutes from 2/9/2021
  - a. Hannah motioned to approve the minutes, and Adesola seconded.

Approved: Everyone

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion passes and minutes approved.

4. Announcements
  - a.
    - i. Jackie announced that the DEI grants are available for students, and encouraged people to apply. She said that the process is simple for students, and it just requires filling out a google form. She stated that she is available to help out if students are unsure about how to go about applying for a grant.
    - ii. Jackie also said to let students and faculty know if they might be interested.
5. New Business
  - a. Guest speaker - Jackie Font Guzmán, Executive Director of DEI
    - i. Jackie said that there is a campus climate assessment coming soon where someone from outside EMU will come in to assess what the climate is. This is the first time the person that is doing the assessment is outside of EMU and that the assessment will evaluate students and faculty.
    - ii. Jackie is advocating for EMU to have a baseline assessment for where EMU is at to further push the agenda for EMU.
    - iii. Jackie says that the more funding that is put into this the more thorough and informative the assessment will be. This could be anywhere from \$20,000-100,000, and that at least \$50,000 would be helpful to get a comprehensive assessment.
    - iv. Jackie says that students from Earthkeepers and Creation Care Council are planning to create a mural in the science center highlighting women and BIPOC scientists.
    - v. Hannah asked if all the questions would come from the outside group performing the survey, and asked who the data would go to.

- vi. Jackie responded that all questions would come from this group, and said that during the survey administration would not know what is being said, they will only hear the overall assessment once everything has been said.
- vii. She stated that a very important piece of this is that everything must be made public once we have this information
- viii. Jackie said that maintaining trust in this process is crucial to ensuring that the results of the survey are as true as possible.
- ix. Meredith asks if that data is based on student experience.
- x. Jackie says that the proposal includes focus groups of faculty, staff and students as well as surveys. This combines individual experiences and collective experiences from conversations in these focus groups.
- xi. Aman asks what SGA can do to help support this process
- xii. Jackie says that student voices are important and she has sensed that SGA cares about things like this happening on campus. She says that SGA can continue to state that this is important and get students to engage in this
- xiii. Jackie says that people measure, assess, and pay for what they think is important, and putting money into this will show our commitment
- xiv. Jackie says the fear with this process is that EMU will need to hear what they do not want to hear in the areas that are not working at the moment and see things that will need to be readjusted in the future.
- xv. Faith asks if there could be an update on the cohort hiring
- xvi. Jackie says that there has been implicit bias training for all the faculty that will be training these new faculty and they advertised the positions outside of the anabaptist community.
- xvii. She said she worked with three deans to decide how they were going to advertise and interview these candidates through a DEI lens.
- xviii. This hiring process is still underway and Jackie says that she will be contacting all the candidates that have since dropped out to see why and work with EMU to restructure in order to improve the system. Jackie said people are coming onto campus next week and offers will be made soon after that.
- xix. Jackie is hoping to use this cohort as allies on campus to improve these areas where campus is struggling to create safe spaces for BIPOC and LGTBQ+ students.
- xx. Faith brings up that she and Aman are writing a report for the board of trustees about the tenured track policy for the tenured faculty to be christian.
- xxi. Jackie also states that she will be bringing this up in her report to the board of trustees. She said that she has been looking at what other mennonite and faith based universities are doing about this and she found that a lot of these institutions are going away from the requirement of faculty to be christians to be tenured. She said at the end of the day it is the board of trustees decision.
- xxii. Jackie also said that she has been looking at other universities that have Conflict Resolution programs in their requirements for tenured faculty and

found that they are also going away from requiring the faculty to be christian.

- xxiii. Jackie said that for EMU to really live into the values, she believes this requirement will need to be removed.
- xxiv. Aman says that he and Faith will send a document to SGA for any thoughts about what to include in the report for the board of trustees.
- b. Molly shares about the BSA Town hall about White privilege
  - i. Molly states that the attendance of the town hall was smaller than normal
  - ii. Molly names that the topic of the town hall was about white privilege but not just white privilege and contains an inclusive lens for different aspects of privilege
  - iii. She says there was a lot of good discussion and insight that came out of that.
  - iv. She said that there will be the Soul Food night in the caf as well as a poetry slam on zoom tomorrow night
  - v. Jackie says that she felt that the space was really powerful and well facilitated by BSA. She said she was disappointed that there was only one faculty present in the space. She says that faculty should be going to these events and wants to work at getting more faculty involved.
  - vi. Rachel says that the evenings are hard for faculty to come even though it is super important to be there. Rachel says that in the past there was a BSA town hall during convocation and there was a great turnout with lots of faculty present.
  - vii. Jackie says that it is hard to be present in the evenings but we must find ways for faculty to be there and wants to support these efforts to get faculty there.
  - viii. Molly asks if there is any way to send an email to just faculty and staff.
  - ix. Jackie says that it almost needs to come from different places so that it is more of a priority. This could mean deans or DEI making these things known. It could be helpful to know further in advance for faculty to plan ahead for.
  - x. Matthew says that for faculty and staff, the conversations pre COVID there was a lot of conversation during faculty/staff orientation where BSA came to do a presentation. Matthew says that the most powerful part of this was when BSA asked for a response and faculty had little to say to them which was very eye opening to the faculty. Matthew says the pandemic really killed this momentum unfortunately. Matthew says this is before the semester so hopefully engaging with the faculty before the semester, it could bring momentum going into the new school year.
  - xi. Jackie asks if there is a way to plan ahead in asking faculty to be present in certain spaces and be engaged in these spaces.
  - xii. Rachel asks how many student leaders were there in those spaces and names that it is important for student leaders to also be there.
  - xiii. Aman thanks Molly for being present and says that SGA should be better at showing up in these events.

## 6. Open Floor

### a. SGA Day

- i. Aman says that there will be a document sent out for feedback about SGA day.
- ii. Sam mentions the proposal that has been written to the deans for canceling classes for SGA day. He asks for feedback on this and invites revisions if seen.
- iii. Cassidy says that an idea to have more of a panel discussion for students and faculty in common grounds during SGA day.
- iv. Adesola says that she thinks it is a good idea to have faculty and staff together for this conversation and asks if there will be a form for questions to be asked.
- v. Cassidy and Aman say there will be a form sent out to faculty and students to ask each other during this meeting.
- vi. Aman says that the sooner this proposal can be completed the better. They are trying to propose this before the deans meet on monday.
- vii. Adesola asks if there is anything specific they are looking for or if it is just general feedback.
- viii. Aman says there are no final plans yet but once there are decisions made on the format, then there will be more detailed decisions made about other things.

### b. Excellence in Teaching Award Committee representative

- i. Aman says that Mark Sawin asked for an SGA representative for the committee in the decision of which faculty member will win this award. This will be by volunteering for SGA members.
- ii. Cindi asks what the time commitment is and agrees to take this position on the committee.

### c. Open conversation

- i. Christian names that the open conversation spaces held in order to inform campus about these updates for the student union. The next date is the 24th of February.

### d. Political Subcommittee

- i. Angelo asks if there is still a political subcommittee
- ii. Aman says not in the spring semester
- iii. Angelo says that there should be a political subcommittee for EMU to engage more with this topic for students on campus.
- iv. Adesola asks if we can bring this up later.
- v. Faith asks Angelo if he would be able to lead this.
- vi. Angelo says yes.
- vii. Meredith asks for clarification on what the subcommittee would do
- viii. Faith says they work with young democrats and college republicans during elevation season and helps register students to vote.
- ix. Meredith asks that since she is in leadership for young democrats if she would be able to assist in this.

- x. Rachel says that as long as a nonpartisan approach is taken, this will be okay.
- xi. Aman confirms that SGA wants to take time to think about this and then come back to it next week.
- e. College Republicans and Young Democrats Event on March 1st
  - i. Meredith says that on March 1st, young democrats and college republicans are putting on an event to practice civil discourse and the goal of the event is to listen and to learn how to fully hear opposing opinions.

Meeting ended at 9:23 pm  
Recorded by Lindsey White