Graduate Student Government of
Michigan Technological University

Meeting Date: November 30, 2015

I. Call to Order
   A. Meeting called to order at 5:18pm

II. Approval of Agenda
   A. Motion to approve by Menon
      1. Second by Karen
      2. Passes unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes from: November 16th, 2015
    A. Motion to approve by Meng
       1. Second by Avinash
       2. Passes unanimously

IV. New Business
    A. No new business

V. Officer Reports
   A. President (Chelsea Nikula)
      1. Housing/Transportation committee meeting Dec. 4th 11-12pm at GSG offices, any graduate student may attend meeting. Covers problems with current transportation options on Daniel Heights and areas close to campus.
         a) Travis Pierce will hopefully be attending the next meeting.
      2. BOT Meeting on December 18th at 9am in MUB Ballroom B
         a) What are current concerns for students?
            (1) Karen- A current problem is that one student is being treated for cancer and lost their funding.
               (a) Will- This is one of the topics that we need to address, included with sick leave or visa issues.
            (2) Menon- The experience tech fee seems to be an issue for people who don’t make any use of it.
               (a) Chelsea -Next year the ETF will be up for review, the next E-Board will have to meet with the experience tech fee committee to address this. I have requested some numbers from the committee so that we can prepare.
               (b) Menon- I think there should be a graduate student opt-out
                  (i) Chelsea- It’s hard to do that because if they don’t get everyone to participate the program can’t operate.
            (3) Mayra- There should be some clearer policies about what to do with advisor conflicts.
(a) Chelsea- We should review the current policies and propose some changes.

b) I will highlight some graduate research during my presentation, would anyone like to volunteer?
   (1) Mayra and Renee have volunteered.

c) Diversity and Inclusion issues on campus, this will be the focus of the BOT Academic Affairs meeting. What are some ways to increase Diversity and Inclusion?
   (1) Promote high school visits and exposure to other cultures.
   (2) Support curriculum for first/second year undergrads for other culture exposure.
   (3) Provide free tickets to undergrads to go to grad school events (I-night, etc)
   (4) Diversity on K-day.
   (5) Starting a mentoring program with undergrad students.
      (a) Mayra- We should set down and pick several of these issues and work towards them next semester than trying to do all of them at once.

3. Pavlis Book Drive for college level books, donate by emailing ckdecram@mtu.edu

4. There will be a seminar about dealing with stress and relaxing during finals.

5. First Friday Social, attend if you can.

6. The campus discussion on Diversity and Inclusion will be December 2nd at 7:30pm in Fishter 135, encourage your departments to attend.

B. Vice-President (Will “Sustainability” Lytle)

1. Working with dining services to deal with overpriced MUB menu items.
   a) Menon- What exactly do they want from us?
      (1) Will- Student orgs can't buy food from the MUB due to increase in prices, so we want to work with them on food pricing deals.
   b) Menon- We should work with other student orgs to put pressure on the MUB. The MUB doesn't seem to be very responsive to the needs of student groups.
   c) Wesley- We might need to look into breaking the monopoly of the MUB on campus.

2. Freedom of speech forum is in the works but not fully developed yet.

3. Need a group of students interested in developing a sustainability coordinator job description, we can then present it at a dinner meeting.

C. Treasurer (Meng Tang)

1. Treasure report
   a) Account: $80,384.84
   b) Budget standing: $24,885.14/$85,413
   c) Discretionary funding: $1,200/$8,000
   d) Surplus: $4,912.99/$42,122.80

2. Interim Treasurer Discussion & Vote
   a) Joe Reath has agreed to take over treasurer for the beginning of the Spring semester while Meng is out of the country
b) We need to suspend bylaw III.C.vi.10 that requires the backup to be a member of the E-board.

c) Motion to suspend bylaw III.C.vi.10 and have Joe work as treasurer by Beth
(1) Second by Shelley
(2) 25 in favor, 2 abstain
(3) Motion passes

D. Secretary (Joe Fedie)
1. Nothing to report

VI. Committee Chair Reports
A. Academic (Shelley Jeltema)
1. We are accepting abstracts for the GRC until January 11th for oral and poster presentations.
2. Several Lunch ‘n’ Learns are in the works for the Spring, including stress and life changes.
   a) Ulisses- I think we should do something about taxes for international students.
      (1) Mayra- School of business helps international students with taxes.
      (2) Giovana- There are several tax firms that might be able to help.
3. Who can submit an abstract?
   a) Any grad student at Michigan Tech is welcome to present.
4. Menon- Is it possible to extend the abstract submission for GRC by a week?
   a) We are not planning on doing that at this time, we need time to start organizing sessions. If necessary we will consider it.

B. Social (Bethany Klemetsrud)
1. Events for Spring Semester
   a) IPS ski day is January 24th
   b) Nordic ski Feb. 13th
   c) Dance party on March 18th 7-10pm in MUB Ballroom B.
   d) PhD Movie sometime in March
   e) End of Semester Picnic on April 22nd 5-8:30pm
   f) GSG Member social in Jan, Potluck and Hockey game 4pm to 7pm

C. Public Relations (Avinash Subramanian)
1. New website needs to be transferred to the tech domain, still working on it.

VII. Ad Hoc Committees
A. Housing and Transportation
1. Working on developing a survey to give out early next semester.

VIII. Liaison Reports
A. University Senate (Gorkem Asilioglu)
1. Nothing really relevant concerning graduate students happened.
B. Undergraduate Student Government (Abby Senczyszyn)
   1. Daily Bull article was discussed and most students were not in favor of supporting the org after the article in questions.
      a) All funding was removed until Title IX training is done and a proofreading clause added to their bylaws.
   2. Taking steps to prevent issues like this happening again.
      a) This includes cultural competency training for all undergraduate student orgs.
      b) Major organizations contributed towards “We Are One” T-shirt campaign and distribution will begin Dec. 2nd.

C. Research Advisory Council (Muralee Menon)
   1. Nothing.

D. IT Governance Group (Shelley Jeltema)
   1. Will meet again in a couple of weeks.
   2. Karen- Is there a list of software packages that IT plans on getting?
      a) Shelley- I don't know what I can share right now, I will check with the committee and bring back more information.
   3. If you are having problems with the Wi-Fi in a classroom you can email them to fix it, but if it's a lab or a common space they can't really help unless there is a designated router paid for by the department/lab.

E. Friends of the Van Pelt Library (Kevin Waters)
   1. New name “Friends of the Michigan Tech Library.”
   2. Book sale will be next semester

F. Council of Philanthropy (Wesley McGowan)
   1. Giving Tuesday goes into a scholarship for the round up to the nearest dollar.
   2. Graduation tributes to thank people who have made a difference can be purchased starting tomorrow.

IX. Old Business & Discussion Items
A. Meet & Greet Reports
   1. Mayra- Nov 20th we had ours, and three main things came up: include in Global Issues a module about diversity and racism, curriculum should be discussed with minorities on campus, more clarification on the advanced research and conduct requirements, and finally introducing a cap on the number of representatives or limiting to two reps per department.
      a) Menon- If you go on MyMichiganTech it tells you if you need to take the ARCR course.
      b) Gorkem- If we are going to cap members we need to consider the size of the group we need to accomplish our activities to make sure we have enough members.

B. Other Concerns
   1. Will- The Yik Yak concern that happened here was paralleled across the US.
C. Announcements
   1. Chelsea- Keweenaw Alumni Association is having their holiday party Dec 16th at the alumni house from 5:30-7:30pm.

X. Adjournment
   A. Motion to adjourn at 6:41pm by Menon
      1. Second by Joe R.
      2. Passes unanimously