

Graduate Student Government of
Michigan Technological University
Meeting Minutes: January 23rd, 2017

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
- III. **Vote on 1/9 minutes next meeting due to an amendment to the minutes**

- IV. **New Business**
 - A. **Indigenous Peoples' Day Campaign (Valoree Gagnon, Gerald Jondreau): Bucky Beach (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Pastor, Scott Marratto):** They presented a resolution to GSG to commemorate and actively support indigenous peoples at MTU. The presenters provided three campaign objectives: 1) commemorate indigenous peoples every year moving forward; 2) actively support the recognition of indigenous peoples worldwide; 3) actively support the recognition of and education about the Ojibwe People's' presence and contributions to MTU and the larger community in the region. There was discussion about the campaign and diversity, immigration, conflict, and the changing political culture in the USA. There was discussion about rewording the resolution and reducing ambiguity in the wording to avoid potential financial commitments in the future. **Decision: Revise the language and bring up at the next meeting to vote on the resolution.**

 - B. **Chinese Students and Scholars Association Funding Request:** The event was held on January 21st and they used funding from USG and ticket sales to pay for the event. However, the dining service fee, gas costs for food transportation, and rehearsal food cost more than anticipated. They are requesting \$1800 from GSG to cover the costs they did not expect and the amount that wasn't covered by their funding from USG. There was concern about the amount that the organization receives from their embassy, which is roughly \$1500. It was estimated that 300 people attended the event, but roughly 150 tickets were sold and the rest were volunteers. They also, have requested more money from USG. Their budget for the year from USG is \$4200. The GSG treasurer, mentioned that the budget and presentation of the event numbers doesn't add up and his committee feels that they are requesting funds for other events in the future and not specifically this event. There has been a suggestion that they submit an updated version of their request. **The vote was tabled for a later meeting and CSSA will be required to submit a new request for funding with accurate event numbers.**

- V. **Officer Reports**
 - A. **President (Will Lytle)**
 1. **Merit awards-** Thank you to everyone that nominated individuals.
 2. **Transportation meeting-** The university is considering investing in a new vehicle to transport children or contract with the city.
 3. **International group meeting-** This group would like to setup a meeting for all the international groups e-boards to get together and discuss common problems they see arising with their constituents.
 4. **GSG Meeting Room change-** We will hold our General GSG Meeting on March 13 in Dow 641.
 5. **University Budget meeting:** It will be held on Thursday 1/25 from 1-4pm (DOW 642)

 - B. **Vice-President (Jiongxun (Justin) Zhang):**

1. **Student Commission Meeting**
 - a) Prince's point management was discussed
 - b) Textbook proposal- Josh Marshall submitted a proposal to provide an official way to select textbooks
 - c) Library Computer- Report any issues you have to staff or checkout a laptop if desktops are not available
 - d) Next meeting: 2-3:30pm Jan. 26 (Admin 404)
 2. **Health insurance**- Meeting was held on January 19th and there is a discussion for a new insurance plan. UHC plans to increase their rates by 50% and MTU cannot afford to pay 75% of a fully supported student. Another option is to add students to the university plan or not offer insurance.
 3. **GSG Feedback Survey**: 30 representatives have responded.
- C. Treasurer (Ulises Gracida-Alvarez)-**
1. **The reported budget numbers are listed below:**
 - Account balance: \$99,594.03
 - Budget standing : \$34,808.99 / \$85,255.00
 - Discretionary funding : \$1,200.00* / \$8,000.00
 - Surplus funding : \$8,751.01 / \$43,643.94
 2. **Travel Grants:**
 - a) GSG has received 15 applications so far and the deadline for applications is: February 24th at 5pm.
- D. Secretary (Jennifer Dunn)-**
1. **Meet and Greet Deadline:** February 17th at 5pm
 - a) The following departments haven't held a meet & greet and need to: Biological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Cognitive and Learning Sciences, Electrical and Computer Engineering, geology, humanities, mathematics, mechanical engineering, Material science and engineering, School of technology, Business
 - b) The following departments held a Meet & Greet and need to fill out a form: Civil and environmental engineering, computer science, kinesiology, physics.
 2. **GSG Rep. Elections:** The following departments can elect another GSG representative from their department: Chemical engineering, cognitive and learning sciences, electrical and computer engineering, kinesiology, material science and engineering, school of technology, and business.
 3. **Attendance Reminders**
 - a) Excused Absence- Any absence from a regularly scheduled General Meeting of the GSG in which you notify the secretary in writing prior to the meeting. You're only allowed 2 per semester
 - b) Unexcused Absence- Where you do not notify and don't have an alternate.
 - c) After (1st and 2nd) unexcused absences secretary will notify the representative. The 3rd violation leads to the e-board voting on whether to suspend the representative indefinitely. The Departmental Representative will have the right to make a formal verbal or written defense to the Executive Board before it makes its decision

VI. Committee Chair Reports

- A. Academic (Tyler Capek)-** Kevin Sunderland filled in
1. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for merit awards. Please submit judges for GRC. This is due on Monday Jan. 30th.. Lunch and Learn will

be held on Feb. 7th (noon to 1pm). The banquet menu for the GRC will be penne pasta with a caesar salad and there are options for vegetarian, beef, and chicken. If you have a form for a GRC judge you can give it to Kevin Sunderland.

B. Social (Syed Fuad)

1. **GSG laser tag** will be on Feb. 4th and will be held at Dee Stadium. Tickets will sold for the event \$2/person or (teams of 2-4) or \$10/group of 5-8; children 8-15 years are free. All Proceeds will go to the graduate student emergency fund. The ways and means committee has been asked to take responsibility of the money and tickets, this will be discussed after the general GSG meeting.
2. **Movie Nite** will be held on Feb. 24th and the social committee is seeking suggestions for a movie.
3. **Social event with I-club**- this will held on either March 23, 24, or 25th and will be a board game night or bowling at the Mineshaft.
4. **End of Semester Picnic**- will be held on April 7th

C. Public Relations (Muraleekrishnan Menon)- nothing to report.

VII. Liaison Reports

- A. University Senate Travis Wakeham, Erin Pischke: Jay Meldrum, the director of sustainability gave a presentation about sustainability on campus and future projects. There was also a discussion about a new policy requiring all incoming USG engineering students to have a laptop. This policy is going into effect in Fall 2017, but there are concerns about funding. There is a discussion of reducing textbook costs to supplement that cost to laptops. They are also discussing providing financial aid scholarships for student who can't afford a laptop. This will affect graduate students because the computer labs will be reduced.
- B. Undergraduate Student Government (Josh Marshall): There were discussions about the laptop policy and elections for representatives that graduated.
- C. Research Advisory Council (Niranjan Miganakallu, Rupsa Basu): The next meeting is Feb. 15th. If there is anything you'd like to be discussed at the next meeting let Rupsa and Niranjan know.
- D. IT Governance Group (Leonid Surovitsky): The last meeting was about the current IT project and they need to restructure their organizational structure to identify priorities and time sensitive projects.
- E. IT Liaison (Kevin Sunderland, Gorkem Asilioglu): Email if you have concerns about IT so they can pass them along to IT.
- F. Library (Sia Sharath Gorthy, Binita Hona): On Feb. 11th the winter carnival book sale will be held and on April 1st will be the Spring Book Sale. There needs to better publicity of these events and GSG is willing to help publicize this. The library also wanted to know any ways that they could better support the graduate community. If you have suggestions let the committee know. The next meeting is on Feb. 2nd.
- G. Diversity Council (Divya Kamath, Stefan Hupperts): The Diversity Council on Institutional Equity and Inclusion is trying to publicize themselves so stickers and buttons were passed out at the meeting.
- H. Sustainability (Hossein Tavakoli): The next meeting is 1/24. There was also a discussion at the university senate about sustainability moving forward.
- I. Work Life (Aeshah Muqri): They updated their website and hired a student to fix the issues. They are trying to raise awareness to get donations for children. Also, there is a new daycare opening in Hancock.
- J. Husky Fan: This committee needs a new liaison

VIII. Old Business & Discussion Items

- A. Safety-** There was concern about safety on campus after two individuals have gone missing in the community in the last few months. This is something that GSG will pay attention to as new information is presented.
- B. Textbook proposal-** Joshua Marshall could use help in revising the proposal
- C. Time limit on presentations-** Gorkem made a suggestion that we propose a time limit (10 minutes) on budget proposals and information meetings.

IX. Adjournment

- A.** The next meeting is February 6th