



# GSG General Body Meeting Minutes

Start Time: 5:18 pm

Approved Agenda & Minutes from 10.16.18

Minutes Legend
★ Action Item
★ Action Item for All Representatives
Important dates

## Vote

Previous minutes approved.

## President Koubek - University President

- Tech Forward: Effort to identify key issues to focus on. Goal to get 5-8 initiatives identified by the end of this semester. Next semester we will work on how to accomplish these goals.

## Concerns of Graduate Constituency

- Academic Success
  - Scholarship/stipend/support
  - Support of professional development & Networking at conferences
- Essential Work-Life Needs for Success
  - Housing - Transportation
    - Have begun early discussions with the city to let them know we are partners.
    - Hiring new CFO who will explore more contemporary models of funding student housing.
    - Have not worked on transportation yet. Will try to include the idea that the two issues are connected and should not be siloed.
  - Health Insurance
    - Continuing issue for all graduate students. Would like to make it into a real asset for MTU.

- Current MTU healthcare rates are lower
- Sustainability
  - There was a period of time where campus leadership for sustainability was shifted. It has since been realigned.

Questions from General Body (questions and answers paraphrased)

Q: Is it worthwhile to consider the idea of zero landfill? Could the university strive toward this goal.

A: Strategic plan has a lot of numbers, but not so many aspirational goals included. Will work to continue including in future strategic plans.

Q: Need to cover social and economic aspect of sustainability. Have there been any thoughts to creating an office to specifically work on broader aspects of sustainability?

A: Have not had a chance to talk with Deands about it. A concern is we need to be careful about taking funds from academic side of the institution and injecting them into administration. Current trend has been to increase administration costs. I would like to attack it slightly differently than with bureaucracy. There does need to be a champion focused full time on sustainability. Also need to ensure other higher-ups all take ownership of sustainability.

Q: At the conversation early today the focus was on Engineering and Computer Science departments. Where do you see the other departments on campus going in this plan forward.

A: We will be a technologically anchored university. We also need to remember engineering can intersect with humanities and other sciences for unique pathways to explore.

Q: Where do students go when you cannot get a parking spot? There are a lot of no parking signs in town. Could there be some shift to making parking on side streets more commonplace?

A: One thing that would help me is to have a more in depth meeting with 2-3 reps on issues such as sustainability and parking.

Q: Do you have a plan to increase the number of domestic underrepresented graduate students at Tech.

A: I do not have a plan to show you at this time. That does not imply we do not need a plan. We have formed a taskforce to address this point and develop strategies to be implemented in future years.

Q: There is a hardship about getting MTU on the map. Do you have any ideas about how to get MTU recognized on a larger scale? The reputation of Tech often goes unnoticed

A: I completely agree with this comment. I recently increased budget to marketing and communication group. One marketing initiative is to push MTU research at surrounding areas of conferences.

Q: Concern about ESL. There is no clearly defined rule for accepting students. Students do not know to go to Admin building

A: I have heard ESL is an issue, but have not had a chance to make it to the top of the list. I am motivated to do it since it was brought up.

### **Secretary Election:**

Christina Welch elected as secretary 32 votes cast garnered 27 majority.

### **President's Report**

Apurva Baruah, [gsgpresident@mtu.edu](mailto:gsgpresident@mtu.edu)

- DH Shuttle safety awareness
  - $\frac{2}{3}$  instances over the entire week
  - No major complaints since then
- Publicize Superior Ideas
  - Faculty
  - Alumni
  - And their connections
- GRCI Deadline is this FRIDAY, October 19

### **Vice President's Report**

Prathamesh Deshpande, [gsgvp@mtu.edu](mailto:gsgvp@mtu.edu)

- Student Health Insurance committee
  - Meeting on Oct 22nd at 5:00 pm
  - Feedback is live, please continue to submit responses
- Student Commission
  - Stop by inside of library tomorrow (10/17/18) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm to hear more about it
- IRHC
  - Next academic year's residential and dining rates will be finalized in the next two weeks
  - Please go through the document and share your feedback before Friday

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sharath Ankathi, [gsg-treasurer@mtu.edu](mailto:gsg-treasurer@mtu.edu)

- Forward any receipts from Fall meet n greets to gsg-treasurer

## Secretary's Report

[gsg-secretary@mtu.edu](mailto:gsg-secretary@mtu.edu)

- Sign attendance sheet
- Conduct Fall Meet & Greet and report back!
- Also cc [gsg-secretary@mtu.edu](mailto:gsg-secretary@mtu.edu) on all emails you forward to your department

## Academic Chair's Report

Jacob Blazejewski, [gsg-academic@mtu.edu](mailto:gsg-academic@mtu.edu)

- Working with Matlab Academic Seminar POSTPONED until November 28
- 19 participants for 3MT from 9 different departments!

## Social Chair's Report

Ninad Mohale, [gsg-social@mtu.edu](mailto:gsg-social@mtu.edu)

- Fall colors trip this past weekend
- Upcoming events
  - Halloween Oct 27/28
  - Laser Tag (most likely Nov 10/11)

## Public Relations Chair's Report

Prasad Soman, [gsg-pr@mtu.edu](mailto:gsg-pr@mtu.edu)

- No Updates

## Extra Business

- Diversity Council Meeting
  - President was there. If you have any question about diversity please email Apurva or Ruby for them to bring the concerns up at the next meeting
  - Canvas course for faculty members to educate on diversity
- Cultural Events Meeting
  - Receiving some donations from departments, alumni and other university offices
  - One request has been made.
  - Policy for fund distribution is first come first serve. If you are in contact with a cultural organization encourage them to reach out to the fund as soon as possible
- St. Vincent de Paul volunteering

- Saturday GSG volunteers will be going to the store to help organize their donation.

Meeting Adjourned: **6:45 pm**