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

● DH Shuttle safety awareness
  ○ ¾ 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

● 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

● Forward any receipts from Fall meet n greets to gsg-treasurer
Secretary’s Report
gsg-secretary@mtu.edu

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

Academic Chair’s Report
Jacob Blazejewski, 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

- 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

- 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