Graduate Student Government of
Michigan Technological University

Meeting Date: November 02, 2015

I. Call to Order
   A. Meeting starts at 5:16pm

II. Approval of Agenda
   A. Motion by Mayra, second by Karen
   B. Approved unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes from: October 19, 2015
   A. Two comments from Sudhir were added.
   B. Motion to approve amended minutes by Menon, second by Omkar
   C. Approved unanimously

IV. New Business
   A. Presentation by University Senate (Dr. Brian Barkdoll)
      1. The University Senate is made up of senators from each department that discuss different issues and vote on various issues. The senate acts as a liaison between faculty, staff, and the administration to deal with any academic concerns. All senate meetings are open for the public and are held every other Wednesday evening. An issue that they are currently working on is Career Fair and a proposal to prohibit having exams and large projects due that day.
      2. GSG Concerns
         a) Status of funding for students isn’t always clear
            (1) Professors need to get grant money in order to fund research and to fund graduate students.
            (2) If grant money runs out you can’t pay the student and the research can’t be completed.
            (3) Maybe get funding information up front before signing on with the advisor.
         b) Questions
            (1) Will: What can the senate do about transportation or housing?
               (a) Brian: We have authority over academics and not over those subjects, but I’ve given these topics to our committees to discuss.
            (2) Menon: What are the policies of funding transparency at other universities?
               (a) Brian: There doesn't seem to be one at other universities.
            (3) Mayra: What is the policy for students with issues with their advisors?
               (a) Brian: There are guidelines for grievances that would go through the Ombuds. The development of a document that advisors and students could agree to at the beginning
of a degree program would address a lot of issues that are seen though.

4) Sudhir: Why is Michigan Tech overhead so high for grants?
   (a) Brian: Email me your source of this information and I will take it to the senate.

5) Karen: Isn't there a tuition waiver in place?
   (a) Brian: They can be requested if a grant won’t let you write that into the budget.

6) Ida: Do all grants have a student attached to them?
   (a) Brian: No, in the grant you budget for the number of students that will be on the project.

7) Sudhir: Can you adjust the overhead?
   (a) Brian: It's very hard to change the overhead, but they may look into it.

B. Funding Request: I-Night, by International Club (Luyao Li)

1. International Club started in 2010 and attempts to promote the celebration of diversity through a variety of different events.

2. International night is an annual event and this year it will be held the 14th of November, 6-8 in the MUB Ballroom.
   a) 12 dishes, 9 performances and expect around 250 attendees
   b) Ticket prices are student: $10 and public: $15
   c) $1200 request from GSG
      (1) Budget is broken down to $800 food, $100 for posters/PR, $100 for servers and $200 Sound and Lighting Services
      (2) Total budget will be around $4510.00 with USG covering $2,950 and $360 from CDI
   d) Benefits for GSG
      (1) 10 min of stage time to promote GSG, talking to audience (50% audience are grad students), promo videos about GSG presented.

3. Questions
   a) Giovanna: How will the food be distributed?
      (1) People will make the dish beforehand then the food will be situated like a buffet from catering services.
   b) Mayra: How much money will you make from the tickets?
      (1) We don't know because we are going to have a large amount of volunteers (~100) with 150 tickets on sale. We suspect $500.
   c) Meng: Do you have info from last events ticket price?
      (1) Last time ticket sale student was $10 and public was $12, we made ~$1,000.

4. Voting
   a) Meng: This funding request is a surplus funding request because it is within 4 weeks from the event and can't be discretionary. I would like to suspend bylaw 6.E.ii.3 for this event so we can take it out of the discretionary funds because it is for these sorts of events.
      (1) Motion to suspend by Mayra, second by Menon
      (2) Passes unanimously
   b) Motion to vote by Will, second by Shelley
(1) Joe R. makes a clutch catch on an iClicker to let Tyler vote

c) Vote Passes (pass 30, fail 3, abstain 3)
d) Motion to unsuspend bylaw 6.E.ii.3 by Will, second by Beth
   (1) Passes unanimously

C. Film Board
   1. Film Board needs to use the money we awarded them to buy a portion of their speaker system now. They will purchase the other half when they have the funds. They would like us to lift the restriction that stated that they must have the remaining funds by the end of November so they can use the $3,000.
   2. The group has decided to request that a member of Film Board is in attendance at our next meeting to answer our questions before we vote.

V. Officer Reports
A. President (Chelsea Nikula)
   1. Upcoming Committee Meetings
      a) Housing and Transportation Committee meets Nov. 3 from 1-2pm in the GSG Offices.
      b) GRC planning committee will meet Nov. 10 from 12-1pm in GSG offices/admin 404
         (1) GRC rubrics are available online, please go over them if you feel there may be bias towards certain programs
      c) 3MT planning committee will meet sometime in the next few weeks
   2. Other Events
      a) Formatting assistance for thesis/dissertation will be Nov 3. 1-3pm in Dillman 213
      b) First Friday Social Nov 6. 4-6pm at Lakeshore Center Community Room
      c) Free Husky FAN cooking class Nov 6. at 5pm at Hillside Kitchen.
      d) Elevator Pitch Competition Nov 12. 8:30-10pm Fisher 135.

B. Vice-President (Will Lytle)
   1. Survey link for Worklife will be sent out via emails and should be forwarded to departments and takes 10min to finish.
   2. Student commission met with Houghton and Hancock city managers about expanding biking lanes in Michigan Tech and downtown Houghton.
   3. GSG should send reps to the city planning committees.

C. Treasurer (Meng Tang)
   1. Budget information:
      Account Balance: $85,698.27
      Budget: $20,335.01/$85,413
      Discretionary: $0/$8,000
      Surplus funding: $1,891.99/$42,122.80

D. Secretary (Joe Fedie)
   1. Nothing to report.
VI. Committee Chair Reports
   A. Academic (Shelley Jeltema)
      1. Lunch ‘n’ Learn Nov 5. at 11:45 am at MUB ballroom A, the topic will be Stress Management.

   B. Social (Bethany Klemetsrud)

   C. Public Relations (Avinash Subramanian)
      1. Website needs documents transferred over and should be done by the end of next week.
      2. A launch event could be done Nov. 30th during the Town Hall meeting.
         a) Sudhir: I think the font should be bigger.

VII. Liaison Reports
   A. University Senate (Gorkem Asilioglu)
      1. Presented at the last senate meeting.
      2. There will be a vote on whether no exams, presentations, etc will be allowed on Career Fair day.
      3. Menon: How much representation do students have on the senate?
         a) Gorkem: Aside from myself and the USG rep there are no other students, and we don’t have voting privileges. If you want to get something done through that route you need to go through your department senator.
      4. There was discussion about not allowing departments without senators to bring issues to the senate.

   B. Undergraduate Student Government (Abbey Senczyszyn)
      1. Nov 5th they will be hosting a PR event to promote USG

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

   D. IT Governance Group (Shelley Jeltema)
      1. Software purchasing questionnaire is starting to be distributed in order to cut costs. New software will most likely hit students as fees.
         a) Sudhir: Software on public computers or personal?
            (1) Shelley: It is any software provided by the university that students can use.
         b) Menon: How will these fees be distributed?
            (1) Shelley: It is not clear yet, they haven’t even decided if there will be fees.

   E. Friends of the Van Pelt Library (Kevin Waters)
      1. Nothing to report.

   F. Council of Philanthropy (Wesley McGowan)
      1. Nothing to report.
VIII. **Old Business & Discussion Items**

A. Meet & Greet Reports
   1. None to report

B. Other Concerns
   1. Chelsea: Experience Tech Fee will be up for review next year and there will be a survey developed then.
      a) Joe R.: Do you know if they collect info on the proportion of grad and undergrad students that use ETF?
         (1) Chelsea: Yes they do collect that info, I’ve asked for the usage numbers as well as the allocation of the ETF over the various programs that get funding through it.
      b) Menon: We should develop a committee in preparation for this.

   2. Mayra: Only 10 students showed up to the Health Insurance Open Forum
      a) Will: The people who came had specific questions.
      b) Gorkem: Questions about health insurance are typically personal, so maybe something smaller like office hours on campus would be helpful.
      c) Sudhir: We should send out some handouts about our health insurance plans and have some department wide meeting.

C. Announcements
   1. African Dance Night is Nov 7th at 6pm.

IX. **Adjournment**

A. Motion to adjourn by Menon, second by Nithin
B. Passes unanimously.