

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

MONTHLY REPORT & MINUTES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for June 21, 2016 and the Minutes of April 22, 2016 be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

The June 21, 2016 agenda for the Student Affairs Committee includes introduction of the 2016-17 Student Leader Group members, a presentation on Student Government Priorities for 2016-17, and a spotlight on the VISION (Volunteers in Service to Our Neighborhoods) Volunteer Center.

In addition, several announcements will be made.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer

Date

Eastern Michigan University
Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee

June 21, 2016
10:00-10:45 am

Room 201
Welch Hall

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda and April 22, 2016 minutes
Regent Stapleton
2. Introduction of 2016-17 Student Leader Group Members
3. Student Government Priorities for 2016-17
Tanasia Morton &
Joshua Starr
4. Spotlight on Student Affairs – VISION
Becca Timmermans
5. Announcements

Eastern Michigan University
Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee
Minutes of April 22, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Regents: Dennis Beagen, James Stapleton

Administration: Reggie Barnes, Ellen Gold, Lucas Langdon, Calvin Phillips

Students: Nakayla Clark, Steven Cole, Kathryn Giroux, Robert Holmes, Abdi Mohsenin, Muneez Patel, Bailee Raber, Connor Rivera, Evan Schrauben

GUESTS

Administration: (as signed in) Elise Buggs, Michelle Crumm, Leigh Greden, Julia Heck, Bob Heighes, Chiara Hensley, Jaren Johnson, Sarah Kersey-Otto, Geoff Larcom, Lisa Lauterbach, Winifred Martin, Calvin McFarland, Stacie McMullen, Joi Rencher, Steven Smith, Melody Werner, Jackie Wilson, Pam Young, Jeanette Zalba

Students: Abigail Allman, Sam Jones-Darling, Anjali Martin, Haley Moreniac, Tanasia Morton, Brialle Ringer, Joshua Starr, Shelby Taylor, Sean Wolfe

Other: Ron French

Regent Stapleton convened the meeting at 10:00 am. The minutes from February 5, 2016 were approved.

Student Government Priorities Update

Steven Cole and Anjali Martin shared a presentation regarding the progress that has occurred on the 2015-16 Student Government Priorities. Student Government completed the following objectives and projects: Sexual Assault Prevention Initiatives, Bystander Intervention Training, work to eliminate the stigma of mental health concerns, conversations regarding the Black Student 10-Point Plan, and the Athletic Commission report.

Campaign Promises focused on IT Printers and WiFi, a Tuition Rebate Program, and a Building Renovation Program. Student Government worked with the IT department to develop a "Printer Help Form", which allows students to log on to an IT site to report a problem with technology. Conversations were held with the Provost to work on the development of a tuition rebate program, which would serve as a financial incentive and potentially increase retention. Student Government donated \$30,000 for the renovation of the lounge in the Alexander Music Building.

Many events, serving to inform and entertain students, were planned and held. A few of these events included, Club Halle, a Professional Development Conference, Coffee with Student Government, a Drag Show, Don't Blame it on the Alcohol and The President's Grand Ball.

Regent Beagen asked Steven to share some data regarding the Counseling and Psychological Services Office on Campus. Steven stated that the number of requests for appointments with campus counselors has increased yearly for the past decade. Statistics show that one in ten college students has considered suicide in the last year. The wait for an appointment with an EMU counselor is generally two to three weeks.

Steven thanked faculty and professional staff for their help over the past year. He then introduced Tanasia Morton and Joshua Starr, incoming Student Government president and vice-president. Regents Beagen and Stapleton thanked Steven and Anjali for the work that they have done.

Student Leader Group Priorities Update

Kathryn Giroux shared a report about what the Student Leader Group has worked on this year. Meeting space for student organizations is hard to come by on campus. A Student Leader Group representative met with Jim Carroll to discuss the possible use of classroom spaces for meetings. Work will need to be done to develop a system to reserve classroom space for student meetings.

The campus map listing gender neutral restrooms was determined to be inaccurate. The LGBTRC student representative worked with others to locate and log all current campus gender neutral restrooms. The university has agreed that all new buildings, and all renovations, will include gender neutral restrooms.

The International Student representative met with several campus administrators to discuss the reasons why EMU accepts only one international transcript evaluation company for international students. He did some benchmarking of other universities in Michigan and drew up a white paper requesting that this practice be changed. Most peer institutions do in-house evaluations. This paper will be shared with Interim Provost Longworth. Regent Beagen believes that we should do all we can to increase international enrollment. Regent Stapleton stated that Dr. Smith, incoming president, is very interested in international enrollment.

Since the closing of the computer lab in the Student Center, students have had trouble printing while in the Student Center. A Student Leader Group representative worked with Student Center Administration and the IT Department to determine needs and come up with a plan for student printing. Student Center staff is now monitoring the printers and reporting problems.

The Disability Resource Center representative expressed concern over campus wheelchair access, and has been active identifying sidewalks and curb cuts that are difficult to navigate in a wheelchair.

Student Homelessness

Steven Cole, Ellen Gold, Haley Moreniac and Brialle Ringer shared a presentation about Student Homelessness. There are over 58,000 homeless college students nationwide. Many of these students are hiding their living situations, leading “double lives.” Some live out of cars, some spend the nights in school libraries, and some sleep on friends’ couches. According to the Huffington Post, “These students are uniquely motivated to succeed.”

A meeting of people from various departments/organizations was held in March 2016 to begin the discussion about homeless students on EMU’s campus. In April 2016, students interested in this issue met. The outcome of these meetings includes learning about challenges faced by students experiencing homelessness; understanding the invisible nature of homelessness; sharing current literature and practices across the country; and assessing services, resources and gaps impacting EMU students’ experiences.

The current goal is to create a plan to integrate existing services and supports, with identified best practices, to enhance EMU’s ability to support homeless and food-insecure students.

Regent Stapleton asked where a student can go if they are homeless. Elise Buggs replied that staff in the MAGIC program, which is funded to work with students who have been in foster care, works to help homeless students find resources. Seven homeless students have contacted the MAGIC staff this year. Fourteen students who have come to the food pantry for help have indicated that they are homeless.

Steven stressed the importance of a single point of contact for homeless students. He also believes that a Graduate Assistant and a website with links to resources would be very helpful. Regent Stapleton asked Calvin Phillips if this was an area that his staff can help with. Calvin replied that they will look into it. Regent Crumm and Joi Rencher are planning to attend a meeting about this topic on April 27.

The next step includes creating a plan to integrate services and supports, which will enhance EMU’s ability to support students. Brialle stated that emergency year-round housing would be very helpful.

A guest, who has been a homeless student, spoke up from the audience. She stated that she spent a period of time sleeping on couches. She said that this problem is bigger than people think. When she enrolled to attend classes at EMU, she did not know that the residence halls closed at certain times of the year.

Ombuds and Disability Resource Center Spotlight

Julia Heck and Chiara Hensley discussed key operational transitions for the Office of the Ombuds. These include providing neutral concern resolution services, moving to electronic operational processes/case management system, changing the name of the office to the Office of the Ombuds, and aligning data, pedagogy and theory driven practices with EMU needs, goals and strategic plan. A three year plan, which includes goals for growth has been written up.

Key operational transitions in the Disability Resource Center include providing accommodation, advocacy and programming services, moving to electronic operational processes/case management system, and aligning data, pedagogy, and theory driven practices with EMU needs, goals and strategic plan. A three year plan, which includes goals for growth has been written up.

Announcements

Nakayla Clark announced that the Multicultural Graduation will be held today, April 22, 4:00-6:00pm, in the Student Center Ballroom. All are welcome to attend.

Regent Stapleton thanked the 2015-16 Student Leader Group for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46am.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Rich
Student Affairs Committee Recording Secretary

Student Government Priorities 2016-2017

President Tanasia Morton
Vice-President Joshua Starr

Tanasia Morton, *President*

- ▶ Cleveland, Ohio
- ▶ Political Science, major Communications, minor
- ▶ Previous campus involvement:
 - ▶ The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I Am P.I.N.K., The SELF Project, Student Government, Student Assistant in the Office of Financial Aid, Peace Corps Student Ambassador
- ▶ Awards Received:
 - ▶ Gold Medallion Award for Outstanding Leadership, Women of Excellence, Certificate of Recognition for Leadership
- ▶ Fun Fact: My favorite movie is Finding Nemo.



Joshua Starr, *Vice-President*

- ▶ Ypsilanti, Michigan
- ▶ Criminal Justice, major Political Science, minor
- ▶ Previous campus involvement
 - ▶ Resident Hall Advisor, Board of Director of Eastern Michigan for the Student Association of Michigan, Office Assistant for Housing and Residence Life, various Student Government committees and commissions
- ▶ Fun Fact: Rebuilt first car
 - ▶ 1989 Jaguar v12



Printing

- Add three stations across campus
- Institute a Printing Dollar rollover from the Fall to Winter Semester
 - up to \$10 rolled over from Fall to Winter
 - Working with Carl Powell
- Printer location education
 - Continue advertising campaign to inform students of the locations of the Quick-Print Stations across campus

Athletic Funding

Continue the discussion on Athletic spending through forums open to students, faculty and staff.

- Gauge the campus and community climate on Athletics.

- Student Government will not take a position regarding Athletic spending until the interests of the student body have been thoroughly gauged.



Sustainability

Work on creating sustainable initiatives on campus.

Such as:

- Increased composting
- Take part in RecycleMania
- Research bike sharing program
- Host community collaboration events

Plan of action: Work with incoming President Smith, Student Government's Director of Sustainability, Office of Sustainability at WMU, student organizations, departments, Campus Life, and Housing & Residence Life.

Connecting Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti

- Create more programs and events to collaborate with the city in an effort to encourage students to become more involved in the community.
- Student Government's Director of Philanthropy will work as liaison with the Ypsilanti City Council and work on fundraising for and with local businesses.
 - Build strong ties between Eastern and YCS Schools.
 - Create a mentorship program between YCS and Eastern students

Plan of action: Meet with Mayor Amanda Edmonds, City Council members, Executive Director of Government and Community Relations, and the office of VISION to discuss future collaboration.

Voting

Register students to vote and encourage them to exercise their vote on November 8th, 2016.

Events

- Dorm Storm/Res Hall Crawl
- Lobby Tables
- Rock the Vote
- Result Watch Party
- Bring in candidates to speak
- And Many More...



Plan of action: Work with Student Government Public Affairs Committee and the Director of Governmental Affairs, Student Organizations, Center for Multicultural Affairs

Awareness weeks

Sexual Assault Prevention Week hosted in October.

- Bystander intervention
- No Strings Attached
- Consent Awareness
- Social Media Campaign
- Voting giveaways
- And Many more...

Mental Health Awareness week hosted
In November.

- Send Silence Packing event
- Panel discussions
- Stress relieving puppie rooms
- Stigma Buster events



Campus Awareness

Show EMU all that Student Government has to offer

Student organization event funding

Copy Codes

Free legal services

-Created a point person to
advertise/manage the services.

Green books

Scholarships

Commissions

Promotion

Giveaways



Represent the Students



VISION Volunteer Center Impact on EMU Students and the Community

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About VISION

Highlights- Our Work
2015-2016

Alternative Breaks
Program

Looking forward



Our Mission

VISION Volunteer Center aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage with communities through holistic service opportunities, mutually beneficial community partnerships, and immersion programs that coincide with and enhance students' academic and personal goals. VISION also aims to provide community based and active citizenship education, while fostering an inclusive space that helps students lead productive, socially conscious lives.

VISION Volunteer Center's mission aligns with the mission, vision, and themes of Eastern Michigan University and the university Strategic Plan.

Why is it Important?

- “Commitment to serving the community”
- Academic benefits
- Gain skills
- Gain understanding



Our Work

Mentoring and Friendship

Best Buddies

Pen Pals

Ongoing Service

One-Day Events

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Environmental Sustainability

Giving Garden

GREEN

Immersion Programs

Leadership

Alternative Breaks



Highlights 2015-2016

Community Plunge	156 Participating Students 12 Community Partners 468 Hours of Service
MLK Day of Service	101 Participating Students 12 Community Partners 303 Hours of Service
SOS Thanksgiving Food Drive	304 Food Items & \$166 Collected
Holiday Giving Trees	460 Items Collected
Pen Pals Program	53 Student Volunteers 144 Hours of Service
GLAB Conference	4 Student Attendees 3 Student Presenters
MLK Day of Service	\$500 Grant Received

Alternative Breaks Program

Vision- Creating a campus of active citizens.

Mission - Raise awareness and educate students about social issues by sending them on a quality Alternative Break that will inspire them to reach out and become a leader and/or helper in their own community.

History - Began here at EMU in 1991. Were a founding chapter of Break Away - national Alternative Breaks organization.



Alternative Breaks Program 2015-2016

	Number of Trips	Number of Student Participants	Number of Education/Immersion Hours	Number of Service Hours
Alternative Spring Break	10	78	836.50 Hours	1761 Hours
Alternative Weekends	2	19	241.50 Hours	152 Hours
International Alternative Break to Haiti	1	6	36 Hours (Pre-Trip Only)	TBD
<u>Total</u>	<u>13 Trips</u>	<u>103 Participants</u>	<u>1,114 Hours</u>	<u>1913 Hours</u>

Alternative Breaks Program - Research & Highlights

The Research Says

- Personalize social issues
- “Contextual border crossing”
- Intercultural experiences

Jones, Susan R., Heather T. Rowan-Kenyon, S. Mei-Yen Ireland, Elizabeth Niehaus, and Kristan Cilente Skendall. "The Meaning Students Make as Participants in Short-Term Immersion Programs" (2012). Journal of College Student Development, 53.2, 201-20.

Highlights

- Best Buddies trip
- Alternative Weekends Partnership with Campus Life
- Haiti Compact members
- Site Leader Retreat in Ypsilanti
- Impact Stories



AB Program- What We Hear From Students



AB Program- What We Hear From Our Community Partners



VISION - Looking Forward

Government and Nonprofit Career
and Volunteer Fair

Database with UW and UM

Connecting Students to
Opportunities



Citations

Sax, Linda, "The Benefits of Service: Evidence from Undergraduates" (1997). Higher Education. Paper 38. <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/slcehighered/38>

Jones, Susan R., Heather T. Rowan-Kenyon, S. Mei-Yen Ireland, Elizabeth Niehaus, and Kristan Cilente Skendall. "The Meaning Students Make as Participants in Short-Term Immersion Programs" (2012). *Journal of College Student Development*, 53.2, 201-20.