

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 8

DATE:
February 8, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for February 8, 2024 and the Minutes of December 7, 2023 be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

The February 8, 2024 agenda includes a Student Government presentation, and a presentation on the EMU Registration Blitz: An Application of the Principles of Caring & Belonging

In addition, several announcements will be made.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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



University Executive Officer
Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.

1/22/24
Date

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee

February 8, 2024

10:30 - 11:15 AM, 201 Welch Hall

AGENDA

- (10:30 AM) Section 8: Agenda and Minutes from December 7, 2023 (*Regent Sidhu*)
- (10:35 AM) Presentation: Student Government (*Syed Wasiuddin, Student Body President*
Ameera Salman, Student Body Vice President)
- (10:45 AM) Presentation: EMU Registration Blitz: An Application of the Principles of Caring & Belonging (*C. McFarland*)
- (11:05 AM) Announcements
- (11:15 AM) Conclusion

Eastern Michigan University
Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee
201 Welch
Minutes of December 7, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Regents: Nathan Ford, Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Administration: Ellen Gold, Lucas Langdon

GUESTS

Administration: Katie Condon, Doris Fields, Chris Finch, Don Gillette, Julia Heck, Justin Jett, Lisa Lauterbach, Kevin Lawson, Lauren London, Calvin McFarland, Alea Naber, Vicki Reaume, President James Smith, Melissa Thrasher, Mike Valdes, Ron Woody, Sean Woolf, Jeanette Zalba. In addition, nine other people attended the meeting but were not signed in.

Students: Rylee Clairday, Josh Cordonero, Claire Dombrowski, Ameera Salman, Stefanie St. Pierre, Je’Naiya Tims

Regent Ford opened the meeting at 10:30am. Committee members introduced themselves. The minutes from October 19, 2023 and the agenda for the meeting were approved.

Student House of Representatives Presentation

Dean Ellen Gold introduced the Student House of Representatives presentation. Rylee Clairday shared the three main goals of the Student House of Representatives. These goals include improving two-way communication between the university and EMU students, fostering greater collaboration between and among student organizations, and providing a common platform for dissemination of resources, information and policies.

Stefanie St. Pierre stated that student organizations benefit from the increased opportunities for collaboration between student organizations, amplifying the message and work of their organizations, tapping into a network of student leaders, building lifelong connections, and having direct access to university decision makers, including EMU Regents.

Regent Ford asked how the House of Representatives is communicating with student organizations. Rylee replied that GoogleSpace is being used, and organizations are encouraged to promote events here. Regent Ford asked Rylee and Stefanie if they feel that the Board of Regents are accessible. Rylee replied that Regents have been accessible. She thanked Lucas Langdon for helping students make connections with administration. Regent Ford added that students are the reason they are here, and they have an open door policy. Regent Sidhu asked if GoogleSpace is the platform for dissemination of resources. Rylee said yes, and that the committee meets every two weeks. Je’Naiya Tims added that there is a trickle-down effect. House of Representatives members attend the Student Affairs Committee meetings, share this with other students, and they may attend future meetings. There is much peer-to-peer interaction.

Dean Gold asked Lucas Langdon how many student organizations are currently active. Lucas replied that the number has been growing and is now close to 200. Representatives from 35-40 organizations typically attend the House of Representatives meetings. There are 80-90 organizations on the books.

Regent Ford asked when the House of Representative meetings take place. Rylee replied that the meetings are at 5:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Regent Ford stated that he may attend an upcoming meeting.

Student Mental Wellness Initiatives @ EMU Presentation

Ellen Gold, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, introduced the presentation. She stated that it is imperative that we promote wellness and foster inclusion on campus. A survey done in March 2023 indicates that mental illness is the second most common reason that students drop out of school. There is a 0.4% average drop in GPA for students with anxiety and mild to severe depression.

Calvin McFarland, Associate Vice President for Success and Academic Support Services, shared details about Creating a Culture of Care and Belonging. This steps being taken to create this culture include sharing the message, leading by example, embracing inclusivity, championing wellness, empowering students, demonstrating care and compassion and a commitment to learning.

Doris Fields, Interim Associate Provost and Vice President of Academic Programs and Initiatives, shared information about how we are addressing some of the 8 Dimensions of Wellness. These eight dimensions include physical, social, environmental, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, occupational and financial. The EMU University Writing Center partners with Washtenaw County Health Department for mental wellness through writing workshops, which included journaling, meditation and gratitude activities. The Faculty Development Center offered mini-grants to support student wellness. The Athletic Department offers annual mental health training for all coaches and internal support staff. Staff participated in an eight hour training, made available through a grant from the Washtenaw County YMCA. All student-athletes completed the PHQ-9 mental health screening during their annual athletic pre-participation exam.

Dean Gold explained how we work to support students holistically. The Dean of Students Office works directly with students, families, faculty and staff to enhance each student's academic and personal success. The office oversees attendance concerns, CARE Reports and the Student Intervention Team. Campus Life offers a Find Your Fit Program, which helps students connect and become engaged on campus. The Recreation and Intramurals Department recently hired an Assistant Director of Wellbeing and Programming, who will plan and implement wellness events on campus.

The Counseling and Psychological Services Department at EMU has seen an increase in students seeking mental health counseling. Historically, the department has served 2% to 4% of students annually. Over the last five years, that amount has increased to 6%.

Doris Fields explained the importance of the UNIV101, Introduction to Student Success course. This course is designed to help first year students understand college expectations, strategies for test taking, writing, improving communication skills, understanding cultural competency, and knowledge of university resources and facilities. Another campus program is the Teaching and Learning Together (TaLT) Project, which offers programming, as well as support offices.

Dean Gold stated that EMU participates in the National College Health Assessment, which is done every two years. The next assessment will take place in February 2024. We must make wellness part of the experience for every student. We know from the data that if we are intentional, students will not need to seek assistance.

Regent Ford thanked the presenters for the great information that was shared. Regent Sidhu stated that she appreciates the work being done on behalf of students. She asked if there is any additional investment or changes that need to be made on behalf of students. Doris Fields replied that an assessment of the UNIV101 class is planned, and data will be shared after that. Dean Gold added that there is a university-wide Programming Committee, which has increased collaboration on programs across campus. Since the CAPS clientele is growing, the CAPS staff must be increased.

Regent Sidhu asked for the data from the last two National College Health Association assessments. Dean Gold replied that this information will be made available. Regent Ford asked if it is possible to make UNIV101 a required course. Doris Fields replied that after the data is reviewed, if it looks like this would be beneficial for students, she will submit a proposal to make it a required course.

Regent Ford stated that he loves the concept of meeting students where they are, as well as junior and senior students volunteering to become mentors. Regent Ford asked if the students had any questions or comments. Rylee Clairday stated that she has worked in CAPS since August 2020. This office provides essential services to students, and it needs to grow and expand. Regent Ford said that they would like to hear if there are any things that they can do to assist. Regent Sidhu reminded people that the holidays can be difficult, and to reach out and help others.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Rich
Student Affairs Committee Recording Secretary



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**EMU Student Government
Presentation to the Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee**

February 8, 2024

Student Body President Syed Wasiuddin
Student Body Vice President Ameera Salman

Student Government's Main Focus: Promoting A Sense of Belonging for Students

Why?

Because studies have shown that students who feel a “sense of belonging” are more likely to persist: retention, graduation, etc.

A sense of belonging also helps improve mental health.



Three Ways To Promote A Sense of Belonging



Academic Success



Financial Stability



Social Engagement

Examples of Student Government Investments to Promote Student Belonging

	Academic Success	Financial Stability	Social Engagement
Free bus passes		✓	✓
Textbook affordability initiative	✓	✓	
Swoops Pantry	✓	✓	
Student Emergency Fund	✓	✓	
RAD self-defense courses	✓	✓	✓
Campuswide free access to New York <i>Times</i>	✓	✓	
Ozzi reusable food containers	✓	✓	
Grants to Student Orgs	✓		✓

Examples of Allocations by the Business and Finance Committee



Tote Bags - Sierra Club



Navratri - INDSA



Kaleidoscope - ISA

Upcoming Initiatives

- ❖ Voter registration
- ❖ Statewide Student Government conference hosted at EMU
- ❖ 2024 elections



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Registration Blitz

Creating a Culture of Caring & Belonging

Overview

October 2023

Defined the new student body
– **Gen Z** –
They are different

Notably, mental health and wellness stand out

December 2023

Campus role in promoting a Culture of Caring & Belonging.

Not only meeting the students needs, but also supporting retention

Application of Caring & Belonging



Creating a Culture of Care & Belonging

Share the Message

- Inform students of resources & services

Lead by Example

- Visible role models
- Demonstrate knowledge & compassion

Embrace Inclusivity

- Welcoming and inclusive language, actions, & processes

Champion Wellness

- Address 8 - dimensions of wellness

Empower Students

- Support students in building self-advocacy and agency

Demonstrate Care and Compassion

- Be authentic and interested in students as individuals

Commit to Learning

- Continuous improvement
- Keep learning and growing

This slide draws on the work of the Wolverine Support Network, 2023. www.umichwsn.org

Share the Message

Post SOAR

Inform students of resources and services available to remove student barriers

Communication sent through Starfish and University Communication

Prepare for WI24 semester advising (mandatory), offering both in person and virtual services

Title IX communication sent as well

Continuous collaboration with on campus student support service offices to encourage students to seek academic support services

This drives student success, retention and graduation

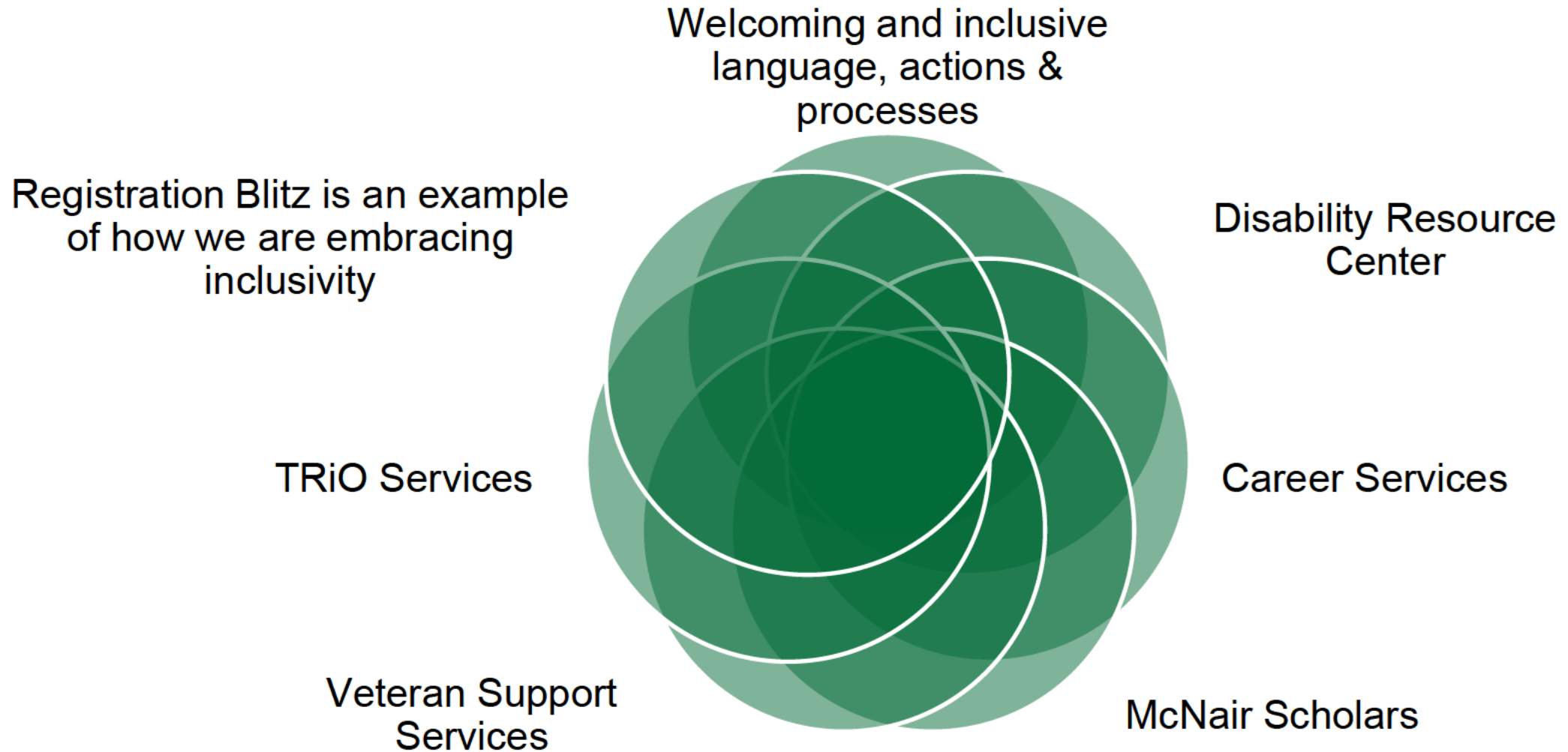
Lead by Example

- Staff Accessibility
- Staff available to assist students navigate My.Emich registration
- Ability to remove registration holds for:
 - Title IX
 - First Semester Freshmen hold
 - Billing hold



The banner features the text "Registration BLITZ" in large, bold, green letters on a background of horizontal blue lines. To the left of the text are three small, stylized star icons. Below the main text, there is a green vertical bar with a hexagonal pattern on the left side. On the right side, the text "U.ACHIEVE" is written in large, green, sans-serif font, followed by the tagline "Let us help you get your degree." in a smaller, black font. At the bottom right, the Eastern Michigan University logo is displayed, consisting of a small building icon and the text "EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Education First".

Embrace Inclusivity



Champion Wellness: Registration 'One Stop Shop'

Address
8
dimensions
of wellness

Remove barriers and
reduce anxiety related
to the registration
process

What courses to register for

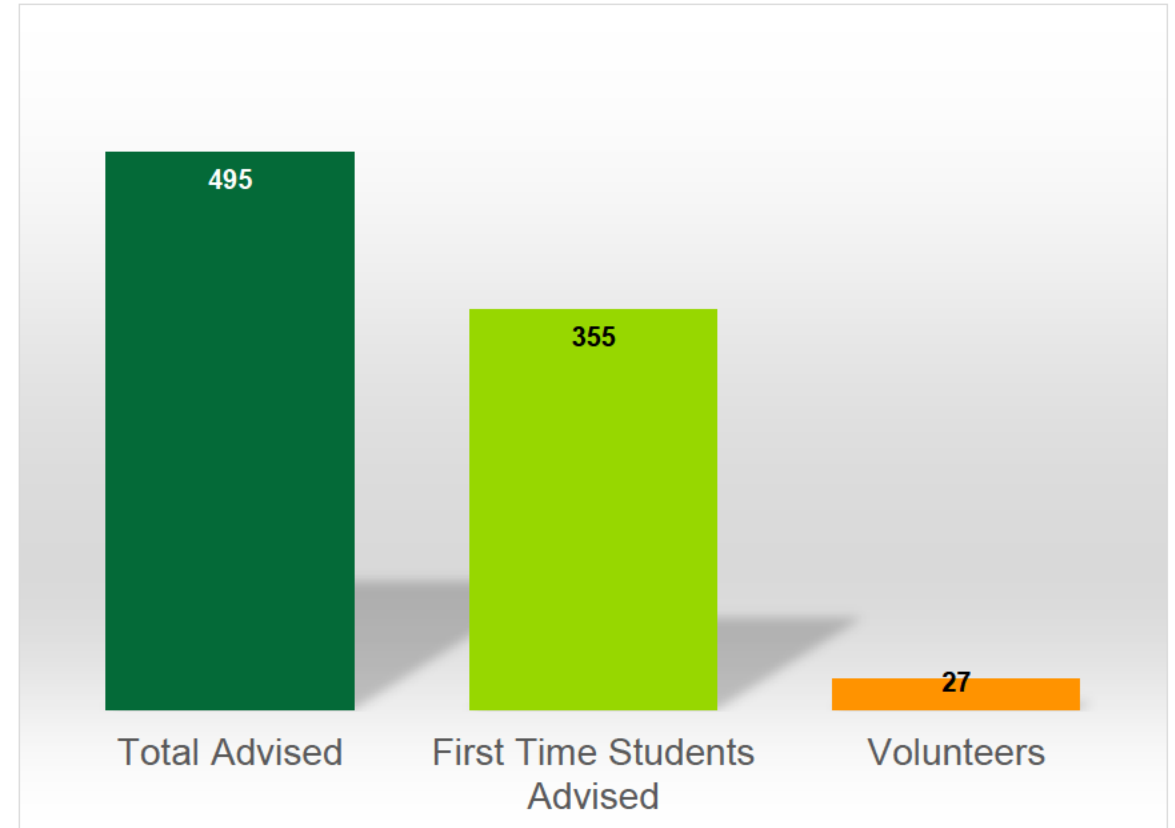
How to walk through the
registration process

Who to speak with regarding
any remaining holds
preventing registration

Opportunities to speak with
department faculty

Champion Wellness - Con't

Registration Blitz Stats:



Empower Students: Financial Empowerment Center

- Support students in building self-advocacy and agency
- Free Financial Consulting Services to EMU and the surrounding community
- Funded through Washtenaw County
- Provides:
 - Counseling Services
 - Credit Report Analysis
 - 1:1 Financial Counseling

Empower Students - Con't

Helpful Video Tutorials

- [How to Register for Classes](#)
- [Understanding MTA and Articulation Agreements at EMU](#)
- [How to schedule an Advising Appointment in Starfish](#)
- [How to Apply and Reapply for Graduation](#)
- [How to Read an Academic Transcript](#)
- [Navigating Online Classes](#)

Demonstrate Care and Compassion

Be authentic and interested in students as individuals

Student Business Services financial holds temporarily removed to allow students to register on time

Berman Scholarship

- Applicants must be a HS Graduate located in City of Detroit and/or resident of City of Detroit
- Must have senior status (minimum of 95 credits)
- Graduating minimum of two semesters

14 Student Support Services Offices available to answer questions

26 Academic Departments represented to assist students with program and registration questions

