

GSC minutes from Feb 5th, 2007 Meeting

- I. Call to order: 5:07 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda: Approved.
- III. Approval of minutes from Jan 22, 2007: Corrections by Nick N noted.
 - a. Nick N will not be able participate in the US 41 focus group meetings.
Raghav V and Muatala M volunteered to attend the meetings.
- IV. Officer Reports:
 - a. President - David Tobias
 - i. Request for bids to the health insurance companies will be sent out. Any issues with the current vendor can be addressed to Maryann Wilcox (mawilcox@mtu.edu).
 - b. Vice-President - Nick Nanninga
No report.
 - c. Treasurer - Emily McCarthy
No report (Excused absence).
 - d. Secretary - Rajalakshmi Krishna
 - i. Welcomes new GSC rep Rebecca Targove from Math department.
- V. Invited Presentation
 - USG - Associated Students of Michigan Tech University (ASMTU) by JD Hill.
ASMTU plans to restructure the current USG constitution to improve student governance and communication between the student organizations at Michigan Tech. The proposed structure mainly aims at effectively allocating the USG budget and attempts to recognize USG as the "Voice of Students". Under the proposed structure two seats in the student senate are reserved for Graduate students.
Muatala M - How does the proposed constitution ensure that the decision making process is fast ?
JD - Vice president will attend at least a board meeting each from all the student organizations with the intent to advise them.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Academic - (Open)
 - i. Volunteers for Academic chair are solicited.
 - i. Academic chair will work with Dr. Neil Hutzler, Chair Sigma Xi, to organize and publicize the annual Sigma Xi colloquium, jointly sponsored by GSC and Sigma Xi.
 - iii. Tentative date for colloquium is on Apr 14, 2007.
 - b. Social - Brian Ott
No report (absent).
 - c. Orientation
No Report.

- d. Lecture - Laura Walz
 - i. Library information sessions went well. A session on Endnote is being planned. Any ideas on mini sessions can be sent to llwalz@mtu.edu
 - ii. Presentation on preparing for the GRE by Dr. Joseph Brown is on Feb 12, 2007 at 6:30pm in Fisher 101. Dr. Brown is the director of student affairs for the school of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University.
- e. Public relations - (Open)
 - President Tobias requested a volunteer for Public relations officer .
- f. Student Issues - Casey Rudkin
 - No report (absent).

VII. Liaisons

- a. COE Dean search - David Tobias
 - i. Interview with Dr. Cerry Klien, final candidate for the post of dean of the College of Engineering, is scheduled on Feb 12 & 13, 2007. Time slot for GSC- Feb 13 9am. The search committee is entrusted with recommending three candidates to Provost Reed.
- b. Provost search - Emily McCarthy
 - No report.
- c. USG - Lisa Tomlinson
 - i. USG voted to expand current recycling program to include cardboard and plastic.
 - ii. Working with Dr. Bill Kennedy to get the teachers evaluations posted online.
- d. University Senate - Nick Nanninga
 - i. Proposal for a Minor in Diversity study got approved.
 - ii. Proposal for departmental name change from Department of Education to Department of Cognitive and Learning Sciences got approved.
- e. Graduate Tuition Reform Task Force - Dr. Huntoon
 - Responsibilities include:
 - i. Examining the current practices related to graduate tuition and stipend.
 - ii. Develop a comprehensive set of recommendations with well-defined financial [revenue neutral or positive] and appropriate behavioral implications that will facilitate growth of graduate programs and research at Michigan Tech.
 - Members - Jackie Huntoon, Richard Elenich, Jason Keith, Debbie Lassila, Pat Martin Nick Nanninga and David Tobias.
- f. US 41 Focus group - Raghav V & Muatala M

Michigan Department of Transportation is funding \$1.5 million to construct a safe pedestrian crossing for US-41 by the Wardsworth Hall. Representatives from residence halls, staff, student organizations and UPEA met to discuss the proposed plans and welcome any new ideas to improve the safety of the students crossing. Some initial proposed designs were - an enclosed walkway, skywalk from Fisher to Wadsworth hall. Any new ideas can be sent to rvanga@mtu.edu or mmuvitji@mtu.edu.

VIII. Old Business

a. Science & Arts Dean search committee.

Rebecca T and Kris N volunteered to serve on the committee .

b. Senate Calendar Issues

i. Thanksgiving break - GSC reps polled students from their departments and there was hardly any interests for the proposed short thanksgiving break .

ii. Final exam policy - President Tobias will draft a resolution supporting the USG views on the final exam policy.

IX. New Business

a. ASMTU - Council concerns

i. Effective representation may not be possible.

ii. Campus wide elections are held there may yield in no graduate student representation on the executive council.

iii. Budget allocation not clear.

Alternatives suggested were to drop GSC from senate or to add GSC as another house etc. The ASMTU by-laws will be sent out to the council once they are available.

X. Discussion Items

a. MTU Student Leaders group

Proposed with an intention to have an effective representation on campus.

This group may comprise of President / Vice-President from USG,GSC,Lode etc and will help successfully pass a resolution when it goes to the Board of Control.

XI. Adjournment: 6:18 pm

Attendance

Dr.Huntoon, Dean of the Graduate School

JD Hill, Sophomore representative on Judiciary committee, ASMTU

Lakshmi K, MSE

Nick N, MSE

Madhana S, MSE

Rebecca T, Math

Muatala M, GMES

Miriam R, GMES
Rohit G, MEEM
David T, CEE
Lisa T, CEE
Laura W, BME
Iman B, Business
Kris N, Biology
Haiying H, Phy
Partha P, Phy
Raghav V, Phy
Oystein T, CS
Tara E, SFRES
Senthil V, EE
Rohit I, EE

Excused
Jill Witt, SFRES
Emily M, GMES
Gaurav K, EE