



Student Government

Senate Agenda

November 10, 2015

- I. Present: Ben, Halle, Reena, Peter, Laura, Danielle, Valentin, Zach, Deeksha, Launa
- II. Announcements/Organization:
 - A. Meetings with Gilberto and Ewuar: Open atmosphere for dialogue. Combatting sex, race, experience privilege.
 1. Invitation to talk 1-on-1 about meeting facilitation with Ben
 2. Laura: PC meeting in the morning--comfortability
 3. Zach: did a lot of talking at that meeting, didn't feel great about that, then talked a lot at the meeting that night. And Achieng said something at the meeting with Gilberto Wednesday.
 4. Deeksha: What happened at the meeting with Gilberto?
 5. Laura: A good update is in the minutes posted on FB.
 6. Launa: Trying to be conscious of how process happens with decision making and discussion. If people don't feel comfortable within that group--need to have a better process and take individual effort to try to make it work.
 7. Ben: Going forward, if people have ideas, please bring it up and we will continue to talk.
 8. Zach: One idea, let two people speak before you speak again.
 - B. Creating structure: Senate expectations
 1. Ben: make meetings less long, more efficient
 2. **Facebook**: How it has worked in past years--
 3. Check daily
 4. Respond asap (within the day) to posts asking for a response (Ex: asking for votes, checking schedules/times, adding to the document for ideas or roles, etc.)

5. Read and comment within ½ week for proposals. If posted early in the day on Sunday or before, expected to have opinions and be ready to vote by Tuesday's meeting. And if you are posting proposals after Sunday, don't expect to have people discuss it that Tuesday.
6. Halle: The thing that gets tricky is when people are posting things through different methods--messages, emails, pages--use specific mediums for things. If there is a way to minimize how much posting happens.
7. Deeksha: Make another page just for proposals? To have it organized.
8. Halle: Also google docs
9. Deeksha: Can we have a page within a page--a specific section?
10. Peter: Minimizing info on page--for minutes and proposals, you no longer post a link to things?
11. Deeksha: Hard for me because sometimes the drive doesn't quite work.
12. Danielle: Helpful to separate announcements from proposals so that we know what is time-sensitive.
13. Ben: We also have a facebook chat to say--I can or can't make this meeting. Is that good? And then have everything else on the two separate pages.
14. Halle: Have a section that is distinctly proposals.
15. Zach: You can also see time-stamps to know what's going on. How do we want to do comments--on facebook or on the google doc?
16. Peter: For me it's easier to do it on the google doc.
17. Zach: Also another clarifying question: Is half a week 3.5 days?
18. Ben: Senate happens on a Tuesday, then you're busy doing stuff for school, and the weekend goes by but by then there's not enough time to comment. How do others feel about some of these first things? Do these expectations feel good in general?
19. Zach: Maybe just say 3 days. Are we going to be passing proposals on facebook unless it's controversial and then we can talk about it?
20. Halle: Try out this new method and it might be easier to vote.
21. Valentin: If you have a proposal idea, post it on Friday so that everyone has the whole weekend so that people have enough time.
22. Deeksha: Have two days when people can post the proposals so that we all know to check.
23. Ben: Just to clarify--do you mean proposals or Senate business in

general?

24. Deeksha: No just the proposals so that it's more organized.
25. Danielle: I like Friday.
26. Peter: For me, if we could do Saturday, that would be helpful for me because I have a lot of work during the week.
27. Ben: So should we say proposals should be posted on Fridays and Saturdays?
28. Deeksha: Bigger gap than that.
29. Peter: Are you saying, "You're only expected to know what is on this page up to Saturday?"
30. Deeksha: Yeah that would be good too.
31. Ben: Do we want to make clearer expectations about commenting? Should it just be that the person who wrote it has full autonomy on the proposal?
32. Peter: I would like to say that we can open it up to free editing. Maybe say, "I changed things" so that people know.
33. Deeksha: There's a thing where you can vote "Yes" "No" or "Needs more editing."
34. Reena: Try whatever we decided.

35. Ben will create the second page for proposals.

C. Update from Club forum

1. Reena: Reminding clubs how to do club stuff. Talked about bulletin boards, so if you want to put something on there they'll talk to us. Filling out extra money forms. It's each semester.
2. Zach: And we strongly suggested asking people for gender pronouns.
3. Ben: Was your impression that clubs had done that?
4. Deeksha: No, everyone looked confused.
5. Ben: Clarify for the spring.
6. Deeksha: How do we follow up with the proposals that we already submitted? Like the grocery bag proposal we haven't heard back.
7. Halle: I think I gave them your email [Deeksha]
8. Deeksha: Who do I email?
9. Halle: I gave them a hard copy. Adella I think. I never heard back from that.

10. Deeksha and Halle will figure out proposal

III. Continuing Business:

A. Bike racks proposal

1. Reena: Added part about sustainability and added the music center

to locations.

2. Ben: Do you want to send both the bike rack and water bottle proposals to Jim Hestand in space planning?

3. Reena will email those as a pdf

B. Water bottle proposal

C. Standing desks proposal

1. Zach: I didn't get a chance to read it until tonight, but I added a comment on it about it being hip and trend to show that Goshen is marketable.
2. Approved by consensus

D. Convo Credit proposal

1. Zach: You talked about streamlining the process but you didn't make a suggestion of how.
2. Laura: Who are we addressing this to?
3. Peter: Send to PC and Bev.
4. Launa: It would be given to Bev and then she would work with Ross and then a separate group for chapel. She is the point person for that and could pull in the people she needs to respond. Chapel would be Bob Yoder.
5. Deeksha: There is a committee, and if you send it to Bev, Bob is on that committee.
6. Laura: Also, we should stick to talking about getting more convo credit opportunities and cut the last two paragraphs.
7. Ben: Goes back to how comments are dealt with.
8. Peter: Put that on that proposal page, or the news page?
9. Deeksha: Proposal page
10. Zach: Agree with Laura that last two points should be scrapped
11. Deeksha: They have been talking about these things and it will take time--they don't know how they will expand it and do it. Sending this would show where we stand.
12. Peter: I can make some practical suggestions for implementation
13. Halle: Not enough ways of getting credit--can you make a suggestion about guidelines for what could count as a chapel or convo. What if you volunteered for a number of hours? Or doing another project? Understanding what the guidelines are.
14. Peter: If you want to write that up that would be great. I see that as being sort of separate--lots of other students have done that.

15. Peter will post online.

E. Implementing Corie's ideas

1. Deeksha: When do we get puppies?
2. Launa: Every meeting?
3. Ben: Is there anything we want to do this semester? Prioritize
4. Deeksha: What is “candy in classrooms”?
5. Zach: Walk in a classroom and throw in candy.
6. Deeksha: Who is labeling the bulletin board?
7. Reena: Achieng said she will decorate them.
8. Deeksha: President’s swap for next semester?
9. Deeksha: Have students come and talk to us to put names to “be president for the day”
10. Ben: Java sitting--make more sense for two senate members there?
11. Valentin: And it would be more helpful in case someone needs help answering a question.
12. Zach: Add them to the google doc.
13. Laura: School social once or twice a semester like what happened at the AI Roker event?
14. Halle: Hot chocolate and the goat broadened the masses. During winter, senate members can hand out hot chocolate. Also, heard from two students to have dorms that allow dogs or parrots--but we could at least have the animals at the end of the semester and have a pen where you could come play with puppies.
15. Launa: We’ve done something like that before at exams inviting people to bring pets. Not as much management, they have owners, everyone can play with them.
16. Ben: Delegate tasks to committees or individual students. President’s swap?
- 17. Deeksha and Ben on President’s swap**
- 18. Halle and Reena on puppies and animals**
19. Halle: Could get animals from the humane society.
20. Zach: Have them do an awareness day and bring in the animals.
21. Deeksha: Campus mail for candy.
22. Peter: People don’t check mail; also super expensive or else a very small piece of candy.
23. Think of ideas for next week

F. Bulletin Boards/Suggestion Box

1. Ben: Talk to Achieng about decorating

G. Quick vote: “Senate FIRSST RA proposal”

1. Zach: Doesn’t think that this is Senate’s business; should come

from FIRSST.

2. Peter: Need to tell res-life to make these changes, probably won't.
3. Ben: I don't think people are super familiar with it and I think we should not vote on it. Did you delete my comments?
4. Peter: In the future will leave comments on.
5. Halle: Also not comfortable with it
6. Valentin: Vote on it once RAs and FIRSST has spoken.
7. Peter: Withdraw it from voting, will speak with FIRSST

H. Internal clarification of the institutionalization of the alcohol does not lead to violations in situations of violence proposal (is it somewhere else already?)

1. Laura and Launa are talking about this.

IV. New Business:

A. Feedback for Ewuare's visit

1. Launa: We had Ewuare's visit Sunday--What did you hear from that? Given our time-frame, I'll send out a survey to give your thoughts.

B. PC response for alcohol proposal

1. Verbal, not written. Summary of proposal (Proposal to review current stand on alcohol, have more ownership for current standard. Talk through potential changes.) Went to PC. There are institutional levels to this but more in my area of Student Life. A number of different levels to address here. There's the broader constituents, faculty, students, employee, community all impacted. We would want to do a broader survey and inventory and then do some focus groups with that to tease out some of the nuance with that type of thing. Through that process get clarification and ownership. It's good to have those conversations about alcohol policy. Include substance on that as well. All to say, thank you for raising it. My question is timing--when we do this, and I see Senate being pretty involved in this, and I want to do this really well. To do it halfway would not be worth our time. As I think of the number of initiatives, I wonder what is best for our time here. Can I keep this as a priority but have the time flexibility with this? It's not that I think this is a bad idea--just timing. I don't have the time right now. That's my feedback. I think it's a good one. Have a strategy plan for doing that.

2. Zach: This is going to sound...I have four years here. I'm impatient inherently because of that. Interesting thing to put out surveys or

data collection around this topic at the end of this year, then have info going into the summer. Which then could go into making a policy. Process: Design data, collect, then form that into some sort of policy.

3. Launa: And focus groups.
4. Zach: Survey in the spring, focus groups in the spring. My perfect world scenario would be student/administration working on a policy change by spring of 2017.
5. Launa: Developing the instrument this spring and then administer that at the beginning of the fall. Want enough time to get machine running. Doing it all by the end of the semester isn't possible.
6. Zach: And schools do this over the course of years.
7. Ben: So when proposals become multi-year initiatives, then it might change how it's done--move it into the res-life office.
8. Launa: Would tell next year's senate to let them know this is an important initiative. And we did have that one proposal folder. Have a place for this senate to leave documentation for next year's senate. Understand it could be a different group, but some kind of continuity.
9. Deeksha: Could we have the survey this spring? Freshmen won't know about it and seniors will leave. When would we implement it?
10. Launa: If we wanted the surveys done at the end of the semester, that would mean giving it in March, and that only would give us 8 weeks to develop it.
11. Deeksha: We could form a team to help you draft it.
12. Launa: Test construction is not easy. You have to evaluate a number of things.
13. Zach: Is this something members of senate could work on with you? Profs who can help us with this. David and Julie.
14. Halle: I took a class last fall-Methods of Social Research.
15. Launa: I'm open to thinking about that--how to work at that well. If there are times profs could help us with it. Also, is this the best use of senate time? And maybe we say, "yes." I have some other ideas of things I want senate help on, but we can talk about what our priorities are.
16. Ben: Move on to next agenda item, keep this in mind.

C. PC response for coed apartments

1. Launa: We received the proposal that included data from co-ed floor. PC asked if Res-life and I would review that to see how that

would fit. More receptivity for juniors and seniors. We have the coed small group housing piece and those are 10-12 person houses. With the co-ed apartment--meeting specific needs of students, particularly LGBTQ students and work with particular living situations. They would get to sign up first to make sure their needs are met first.

2. Ben: I think it sounds fine to give prioritization if students have particular needs/desires--but I don't want LGBTQ people to have to prove that they should have prioritization and meet that criteria.
3. Launa: You're saying can three guys and a girl live together if they aren't LGBTQ? --not quite there yet.
4. Ben: How does one go through the process for people who want to live in co-ed housing who don't want to go through that process.
5. Launa: Group of 10-12 feels different than a group of four. Not about if people are going to have sex or not. If people want to do an intentional community--Kenwood and Howell.
6. Peter: Was is the problem if it's not about sex?
7. Deeksha: Potential dangerous situations like rape, but that could happen in Kenwood and Howell, too.
8. Launa: They go through a different application process. They talk about conflict resolution. People who do more work at the beginning end up being more successful. Different than a smaller group where it's less intentional.
9. Ben: Disconnect for me because 4 men living in an apartment have to figure out how to clean dishes, cook, take out trash, etc. And having mixed genders won't change that.
10. Peter: A lot of the point of the proposal was to say there's a broader problem at Goshen with a gender divide because we are living in different places.
11. Halle: I think because how I've experienced small co-ed housing on Goshen's campus and off. The idea that we have this intentionality with a process and application--it was terrible. That was harder because it was a large group. This year I live co-ed with smaller group and it's so much better. Should be an application process regardless. Not just thrown together, needs to be talked about.
12. Ben: Those who haven't talked?
13. Deeksha: Would like to ask about the dorms as well. Could we not have the North male and the South female? That's not actually co-ed that's just sectioning it off.

14. Launa: Possibility for that in Coffman.
15. Deeksha: Underclassmen
16. Launa: Not going to address that because it wasn't part of the proposal. Focusing on the apartments. What would it take for an application process?
17. Ben: **Digital response to this proposal?**
18. Launa: Will try to write that up.

D. Recruitment of Diverse employees

1. Launa: {Shows paper} to help you know some of the different ways to recruit and focusing efforts to get more diverse faculty.
 - a) Diverse employee referral program
 - b) Foster relationships with African American churches, communities
 - c) Graduates
 - d) Alumni recommendations
 - e) Faculty and administrators going to conferences
 - f) Pool of candidate names people could check in with
 - g) Professionally develop people starting at entry-level positions
 - h) Hiring adjunct faculty
 - i) Develop partnerships with other institutions, attract post-doc candidates
2. Deeksha: International faculty?
3. Launa: Good if those relationships happen over time, but for quick hiring it's difficult because of visas.
4. Deeksha: For interim positions, we have a whole year or two where the person could get their visa.
5. Launa: Will feed this back to Norm.

E. Pay for shoveling snow

1. Will address next week

F. Addressing Israel/Palestine conflict

1. Ben: Went to the UN conference: UN has recognized that Gaza strip will run out of potable water by Jan 2016. Student Senate at EMU and our senate collaborating to write a statement. Divestment of all of the Mennonite schools from companies implicated in this conference.
2. Deeksha: I'd like to be involved in direct action. Generating fundraisers.
3. Peter: "Bread is great, but what we want most right now is justice."

Important to work on the divestment.

4. Zach: Interesting thing about that--EMU tried to divest from Israel a few years but was stopped by the State Department. Interesting to note.
5. Deeksha: Also look into the Syrian conflict. Divestment.

G. Funding for students to go to the TPP protest in DC

1. Zach: Some students are going to a protest about the trans-pacific partnership. Through Eco-PAX and SRC. Special request funding through Senate. Distance about the same as the Title 9 conference. Four people going to this protest. So my recommendation is \$200.
2. Deeksha: Have \$10,000
3. Zach: Checked today and we have \$1500 left the rest of the semester to allocate. Only 4 weeks left in the semester
4. Ben: One push-back was that there wasn't an official write-up. How is this benefitting the student body?
5. Zach: Learn about the deal--disproportionately affect people outside of the country.
6. Halle: If we give money to people, should there be a requirement that they give a presentation or talk-back session so that it is knowledge?
7. Deeksha: We could have them talk to us on Wednesday.
8. Zach: SOA protests? How was that justified?
9. Ben: Usually large percentage of population.
10. Zach: Just gas and food.
11. Deeksha: Are more going?
12. Danielle: I agree having them do a presentation to the student body.
13. Valentin: How much did they ask for?
14. Zach: About \$50/four people per day.
15. Valentin: Putting some of their money as well, not just relying on Senate
16. Zach: \$175 maybe

17. \$175 approved by consensus (Deeksha/Zach tell Shirley)

H. Funding for Common Ground to come to Goshen

1. \$60 per person, on economic justice. Consider supplementing fee.
2. **Move to next week.**
3. Deeksha: Lump sum amount; put on agenda for next week the \$2000 of our pay.
4. Ben: I think Shirley does that.

- I. Diversity conversation at Coffee Club
 - 1. Zach: Will tell Phil that's not a good time
- V. Open Floor:
- VI. Meeting Adjourned: 10:37