

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 25, 2021**

**Called to order: 8:05 p.m.**

**1) Preliminary Items**

- a) Roll Call

**2) Auxiliary Reports**

- a) Speaker of the Student Senate

- i) E. Smith:

- (1) Rules revision is going well; got a lot of language figured out, addressed organizational representatives and decided to leave it as is with an application form on our website; will be looking more closely at the name change for the Diversity Committee
- (2) Updated elections document, have general draft completed
- (3) We have another organizational rep up on Sunday, for College Republicans; we cannot vote no on this -- they don't gain any voting rights, but it would give us an opportunity to build a relationship and have discussions; please do not object to this appointment

- ii) Kershaw: I will be looking through the Environmental Committee changes for rules revision

- b) Academic Affairs Committee Chair

- i) Purinton:

- (1) Met with Dr. Gooch on Tuesday; there have been reports that students are not wearing masks on the weekends inside of academic buildings/when faculty and staff are not present on campus; would like our help to make sure students are keeping on top of safety guidelines
- (2) Advising committee:
  - (a) Thinking of designing new campaign about what questions advisors can help with -- posters with QR codes/social media
  - (b) Transition from freshman advisors to faculty advisors has been rough; thinking about moving to co-advising for future years
- (3) Chose Dr. Candy Young for the Dunn Award

- ii) Alexander: Are you working on a commencement speaker?

- (1) Purinton: Yes, will be sending out forms next week

- c) Diversity Committee Chair

- i) Cooper:

- (1) Events this week went well, had good discussions
- (2) Have some potential projects to look into for the future:
  - (a) Discussions with faculty and staff about diversity efforts
  - (b) Having another discussion that we can promote more so we can have a wider discussion

- d) Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

- i) Kershaw:

- (1) Earth Week planning has begun and I plan on bringing a few virtual speakers to campus from various Missouri environmental groups (Including Renew Missouri, The Nature Conservancy, and Great Rivers

Environmental Law Center) to discuss their work and how students can be involved.

(2) I also plan to show a documentary (Human Flow) in collaboration with the CIS.

(3) Blaine has begun working on expanding the ENVIS program so as to protect the minor and possibly introduce some ENVIS classes as options for fulfilling some of the dialogues requirements.

e) External Affairs Committee Chair

i) MacLeod:

(1) Focusing on crystalizing end-of-semester projects:

(a) Want to work with student affairs on at least laying groundwork for election day off -- plan of action for developing this further

(b) Working with county clerk on changing district lines

(2) Dan is wanting us to work with local businesses on some sort of clean-up initiative

ii) Alexander:

(1) The local elections are coming up in early April; will want to promote this so students can know what's on the ballot

(2) With other universities passing our vaccine resolution, we could look into some kind of extended lobbying effort; can you think about how we can best go about outreach to legislators?

f) Health, Wellness, and Safety Co-Chairs

i) Barker:

(1) Met with founder of Unmasked app (peer support app with chat group) -- impressed by the meeting, seems to be a successful resources at other schools

(a) Main concern was liability issues; discussed extensively, there are a lot of protections built into the app, including moderator systems and liability insurance

(b) Student-run, with extensive training process and guidelines

(c) German: Who would take over this?

(i) Barker: Would probably continue to be in the HWS Committee, along with other organizations on campus. It's not a terrible amount of work, but need to make sure it is running smoothly and safely. We/the moderators would be doing most of the advertising

(d) Alexander: What kinds of scenarios would students be using the app?

(i) Barker: If someone is stressed or needs someone to talk to, they can reach out; there are community guidelines and the moderators are trained to respond to students in certain situations

(2) Will be working with Dr. Donahue to give away RX safety goodie bags to off-campus students

(3) After spring break, will be meeting to read essays for semi-finalists for faculty wellness honoree

g) Purple Friday Committee Chair

i) Myers:

- (1) Decided to do three purple friday events before elections; will take place in front of the SUB or on the Quad; March 19, 26, April 16
      - (a) Themes: Spring, Run for StuGov, Vote in StuGov elections
- h) Student Affairs Committee Chair
  - i) Barge:
    - (1) Working on Director of Admissions project; it's pretty filled out, but we can try to find more testimonials
    - (2) Trying to find more information on other schools' dress codes for the rec center
    - (3) Spending \$99 from Student Affairs Budget towards appropriations
- i) Women's Leadership Committee Chair
  - i) Sprehe:
    - (1) Will be putting some money motions forward; buying a Snapchat filter for \$60
    - (2) Mural is going well, they are in the process of sketching; have one panel completed
    - (3) Alex and Alec are almost done making posters and stickers
    - (4) Will spearhead food soon
    - (5) Panelists are coming along; will be reaching out to contacts from Bertha Thomas
  - ii) E. Smith: What's the status of Nicole Gallaway?
    - (1) Sprehe: She is coming! I'll be notifying PR Director tomorrow
- j) PR Director:
  - i) Knight:
    - (1) Warren and Jesse both brought up appropriations promotion
    - (2) Women's Leadership stickers are done
    - (3) General weekly things: alumni post and giveaway tomorrow

### 3) Executive Reports

- a) Treasurer
  - i) Wren:
    - (1) Met with SAB treasurer and wrote a resolution together; the SAB board is good with the resolution; will bring it for a first read this weekend
    - (2) Thanks to Owen for updating the website!
    - (3) Appropriations committee met today, approved a slate; the event takes place on Saturday, so it will be a reimbursement rather than a fund
    - (4) If you have any suggestions on the appropriations guidelines, we'd be willing to listen to those
- b) Secretary
  - i) Lesch:
    - (1) Please fill out the roster if you haven't already; remind your committee members to fill this out as well
- c) The President and Vice President of the Student Association
  - i) Alexander:
    - (1) Eboard met on Monday and we have an extensive plan for elections; will be sharing more in the next few weeks
      - (a) If you have any ideas for advertising elections, let us know
    - (2) Updates to questions from last week:

- (a) Currently, the university is not planning on building any new single-person apartments because the dorms are operating at 50% capacity
- (b) Considering building a dog park near Dobson
- (3) Discussed covid restrictions on campus with vaccinations:
  - (a) University is striving for herd immunity for the student population before the restrictions are lifted; would rather air on the side of longer restrictions than risk more people getting sick
- (4) Snow policy:
  - (a) Alternative course days: The university is no longer doing delayed starts, will instead move all classes online -- delayed starts can be confusing for staff
  - (b) Learned about snow removal process; physical staff plant are called in early on snowy days, prioritize certain sidewalk sections; some parts of Kirksville are never plowed/shoveled
  - (c) Because individual situations can vary, the policy wants students to be able to advocate for themselves; if the majority of students can get to campus, they will hold class, but the minority of students who cannot make it have the option to receive reasonable adjustments/accommodations
  - (d) Administration is open to critiques and suggestions -- we can also send out important information to students for the future

#### **4) Discussion: University Closure Policy/Snow Days**

- a) Alexander:
  - i) Warren, I think your committee might be able to work on this with the help of Health, Wellness, and Safety
  - ii) What do we think about the cancellation policy on the website/how it can be improved?
- b) E. Smith: There only appear to be two sentences suggesting to reach out to professors to advocate for yourself; I feel like this puts all the work on the student, and there could be more description on what specifically a student should do if they can't make it to campus
- c) Kershaw:
  - i) I am curious if we could somehow clarify the second paragraph on that web page, where it says:
    - (1) "In the event of a University Weather Advisory, students, faculty, and staff are expected to utilize individual judgment regarding their ability to arrive on campus safely. Faculty are asked to make reasonable adjustments for students unable to attend class based on unsafe conditions."
    - (2) I think it would be nice to make it clear to students that the university encourages them to make their own judgements on safety and that faculty are responsible for making "reasonable adjustments" for them. Of course what exactly is meant by reasonable adjustments needs to be clarified and it might be a good idea to provide a baseline for what could be conditions that would be judged as unsafe to travel.
- d) Sprehe: I agree with Emily; I think the fact that not all the sidewalks are plowed causes accessibility issues, and there should be a set standard for professors to follow

- e) Barker: The “unsafe conditions” could include some examples of what this might mean; I think for a lot of faculty “reasonable adjustments” might mean getting notes, but this also isn’t considerate of certain departments on campus (ex. Music rehearsals, lab classes) -- some classes might include hands-on work that would be difficult to make up on Zoom; “reasonable adjustments” needs to be fleshed out a little bit
- f) E. Smith: I also wonder if the phrasing could be more accommodating to professors who want to cancel class for the safety of their students
- g) Barker: Why can’t delayed start still be a thing? I think this would be really beneficial to give the university and the city more time to clear streets; maybe there could be another category for a “safety advisory” that explains the process of asking professors for accommodation?
  - i) German: They have a “University Weather Advisory,” but they only issued it once this semester when they cancelled classes
- h) Kershaw: This website is a bit confusing because it’s repetitive
- i) Cooper: I don’t think the majority of the student body is going to want to read this -- can we make it more concise/easier to read? Bullet points, infographics?
- j) Grandstaff: I don’t understand why, if they have an alternate course assignment day, they don’t explain the conditions that would cause this?
- k) Myers: I feel this is a symptom of a wider issue that could be solved by a Truman mobile app so that students could get updates/communication
- l) German: They talk a lot about emergency closure, but not about the alternative day (what happens with events?)
- m) Barker: I think it would be good to include students with disabilities in this, because this particularly affects them
- n) Kershaw: Is there any cohesive policy for student workers?
  - i) E. Smith: It is up to the department head/employer; for example, SUB workers need to come in because the building has to be open
- o) Sprehe: This kind of weather is not normal, and we need to accommodate students needs in relation to this; older practices need to change to meet new needs
- p) Alexander: Up until two years ago, there wasn’t a policy at all; this is a cool opportunity to improve this policy
- q) Barker: The university has improved in this regard even in the last few years
- r) Grandstaff: When did they stop the delayed start?
  - i) Alexander: Just this year; I feel like moving classes online for an entire day puts a disadvantage on experience-based classes
- s) Kershaw: What would the university do in the case of severe weather halfway through the day?
  - i) Alexander: I think that would fall under emergency closure
- t) Barker: I think the emergency closure would apply to something like a tornado since offices shut down too; I doubt they would use this for snow; for the science and music departments, a lot of hands-on classes are in the afternoon, so wouldn’t be impacted by delayed starts
- u) Alexander: We will work to ask Dr. Thomas for more clarification on Tuesday and bring some of our initial suggestions from this discussion; Warren, if you and your committee could work on communication with students about this

**Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.**