

# MUSG Senate Minutes

Thursday, April 30, 2009

7:30 PM - AMU 227

1. **Call to Order and Invocation**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Forum for Concerned Students**
4. **Presentations**
5. A. Senators William Doerrler and Thaddeus McGuire's presentation: "A Study of Student Issues Relating to the Academics Appeals Process."
  1. Ask students different questions in regard to the Academic Appeals Process
  2. surveyed 156 freshman students: mainly focused on freshman as did not know what it was
    1. Asked: do you know what the academics process is for?
      1. 11% students knew what process was used for
    2. found that there are more academic issues to know how to make a complaint to the appeal process
    3. Asked: if students have used the appeals process?
      1. Only 4.8% knew what the academic appeals process is used for
    4. 90% did not use the process, more than 95% did not know what this process is used for
  3. surveyed 133 sophomores
    1. Did you use the academic appeals process during the two years in campus?
      1. none of the students have not used it
  4. surveyed 119 juniors
    1. once have been in school longer, then know the academic appeals process
    2. mature education level of the academic appeals process
    3. 35% didn't know how to use it
    4. there have been improvement but still lots of work to be done
  5. surveyed 45 seniors
    1. there is a jump in the number of students that understand the process
    2. 11 percent knew what the academic process was for
    3. for the people that needed to use the process, 50% knew where to find it and how to get the information
  6. 45% of students thought that the instructor was the person to go to; found students might seek other people to address the appeal process (Chair or Dean)
  7. campus as a whole:
    1. 82% didn't know what process is for
    2. 84% didn't know where to find information
    3. 90% didn't use the process
  8. Deans and assistant deans might be teachers of courses, so this could be a conflict of interest. So asked students if this was fair or not?
    1. students could use one of their appeals election by this
  9. Solutions:
    1. want to put academic appeals process in old syllabus so they can know who to go to
    2. want to create office of the Ombuds in order to centralize the process so students will know what the academic appeal process
  10. Questions:
    1. Senator Wirtz: You want to increase the Ombuds?

1. Senator Doerrer: Want to create office of ombuds as a tool for the students to find out who they are supposed to talk to. There is ombuds for faculty but not for students.

## 6. Officer Reports

- President Henry Thomas
- A. met with lot of administrators last week
  - B. DOGS meeting
    - a. Issue: tobacco coalition
    - b. Enforcing rules in residence halls
    - c. Bringing ideas and will come to Senate next year
  - C. Safety meeting
  - D. Computers in AMU: talking about feasibility and the funding of this
- Executive Vice President Stephanie Stopka
- A. Looking for elections coordinator
  - B. Safety ride discussion: will comply list of dangerous areas
  - C. SOA met last Tuesday: hockey
- Communication Vice President Lauren Lakomek
- A. new staff
- Financial Vice President Jonathan Giel
- A. hired two financial office assistants
  - B. adding new assistants next year
  - C. will be using power point presentation for student allocations
- Program Vice President Erin Shawgo
- A. Guster
  - B. After Dark Breakfast
- Advisor Dr. Dooley
- Parliamentarian James Schott
- A. Item A: majority vote of present senate
  - B. Item B,C, D: 15 votes are needed
- Legislative Vice President Adam Michael V. Tandez

## 7. Committee Reports

- Academics Committee William Doerrer
- A. met last night
  - B. approved recommendation #7
- Business and Government Thaddeus McGuire
- A. met Monday with Todd Vicker
  - B. questions for plans of the future
- Student Life Committee Meghan Ladwig
- A. met tonight
  - B. Senator Yohn: looking to find plastic organs
- Student Organizations Katie Simoncic
- A. approved the Native American Student Association

## 8. Outreach, Council, and All-University Committee Reports

1. Senator Barreras: Safety Ride
  1. talked about cameras around campus and how crime has decreased
  2. Invited to have meeting with Todd Vicker in bringing Wings into the annex and bringing the Café Italiano in Schroeder Hall
2. Senator Ciccone
  1. had meeting regarding coin machines
    1. coin machines will be added to all residence halls
  2. print-wise: refilling print-wise in residence halls
  3. bike racks: suggestions please email me

4. Safety Ride: emailed organizations to see what they believe about safety and expected to hear soon and meet up

**9. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Approval of Legislative Minutes from April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009
- B. Minutes approved as they stand

**10. Old Business**

**11. New Business**

A. Recommendation #7 – “Encouraging Syllabi Posting on Departmental Websites”

- a. Motion: Senator Ciccone
- b. Second: Senator Ladwig
- c. Rational:
  - i. Senator Ovbiagele: It is important for students to have knowledge of what course provides in order for them to be prepared. Important to know that there was a resolution to provide students with their studies.
- d. Questions:
  - i. Senator Ciccone: Which Chair and Dean departments did you talk to?
    1. Talked to Arts and Sciences department because these are the majority of classes that students take and are similar.
  - ii. Do you feel it would be more effective to include other departments other than Arts and Sciences?
    1. Well all classes are similar within this department. If you take a history course, it falls under the College of Arts and Sciences.
  - iii. Should be looking at upper division classes, not just common course classes, such as English, because every class would have the same format.
  - iv. Senator Ciccone: In this piece of legislation, are you focusing of every teacher doing the same thing or providing diversity?
    1. Acknowledge the fact that should be diversified. But seek for professors to have similar interests.
  - v. Senator Pappalardo: when you say syllabi, do you encourage professors to include dates?
    1. It is easier to give a definite schedule of the course content. It may be hard to place definite schedule in some other courses, but should give an idea.
  - vi. Senator Kimes: when would you want the syllabi to be distributed to students?
    1. We want it to be there before students to taking classes to plan for the future. It would have the class and the teacher for that class.
  - vii. Senator Carlson: what is the difference from this recommendation from other recommendations passed?
    1. Other resolution passed asked for all professors to meet one week before school to make sure that knowledge made available for us.
  - viii. What happens if create a sample syllabi, will there be a problem if professor adds another assignment?
    1. it will create consistency of the course
  - ix. Senator Franklin: have you seek to find other schools who have implemented something like this?
    1. yes
  - x. Senator Ciccone: when will the syllabi be placed on websites?
    1. There was not a given date. The philosophy chair placed desire to place this during the summer
  - xi. Are you trying to place syllabi before students pick their classes?
    1. Yes. Want to have syllabi at all times.
  - xii. Can you explain the Whereas clause about the grading?

1. One class requires you to write 4 papers, another requires discussion questions, and test knowledge however.
- xiii. Senator Wirtz: isn't there a week long where you switch classes while attending?
  1. I believe the first week of classes will not give you the opportunity to know about the class and it provides greater transparency.
- xiv. Senator Praxmarer: will include the type of course?
  1. It will depend on the professor decide to present their ideas.
- e. Debate:
  - i. Senator McGuire seeks to amend the Therefore Clause: change the word mandate to encourage because it would be much more friendly way of doing it
  - ii. Questions?
    1. Do you believe that will encourage professors to do it throughout the year if it's not mandated?
      - a. Don't know
  - iii. Debate on amendment:
    1. Senator McGuire: Speaks in favor of the amendment
    2. Senator Ovbiagele: speaks in favor of the amendment
  - iv. Vote on amendment
    1. passed
- f. Debate:
  - i. Senator Doerrerr speaks in favor of recommendation
  - ii. Senator McGuire speaks in favor of recommendation
  - iii. Senator Neary speaks in favor of recommendation
  - iv. Senator Simoncic speaks in the negative of recommendation
  - v. Senator Barreras speaks in the negative of recommendation
  - vi. Senator Pappalardo speaks in the negative of recommendation
  - vii. Senator Doerrerr speaks in the favor of recommendation
  - viii. Senator Schott speaks in favor of recommendation
  - ix. Senator Franklin speaks against of recommendation
  - x. Senator Ciccone speaks in the negative of recommendation
  - xi. Senator McGuire: it's not supposed to enhance students' grades but enhance students learning. It will permit students to understand what is intended to learn. So this allows the University to target accurately.
  - xii. Senator Neary speaks in favor of recommendation
  - xiii. Senator Praxmarer speaks in the negative of recommendation
  - xiv. Senator Gilling speaks in favor of recommendation
  - xv. Senator Carlson speaks in the negative of recommendation
  - xvi. Senator Ciccone speaks in the negative
  - xvii. Senator Pappalardo speaks in the negative
- g. Vote on ending discussion
  - i. Motion passes 22-3
- h. Vote to approve
  - i. Amendment approved 15-10
- B. Approval of Student Organization Allocation for Period 1
  - a. Motion: Senator Barreras
  - b. Rational: Senator Barreras try to fund organizations as best as possible for club sports. Have funded hockey because of matter of necessity. Funded half of ice fee for practice and games. This is most expensive request for the team, so need assistance.
  - c. Questions:
    - i. None
  - d. Debate:
    - i. Senator Barreras: have worked hard and put a lot of thought on this
    - ii. Senator McGuire speaks in favor

- iii. Senator Peterson speaks in favor
  - e. Vote
    - i. Motion passes
- C. Approval of a new Legislative Clerk
  - a. Rational: LVP Tandez- recommends Katherine Ranft. He interviewed her 3 times throughout the process. She was the best candidate for this position
  - b. Katy: Political Science major. Very excited to be involved for MUSG
  - c. Questions
    - i. Senator Doerrerr:
      - 1. How do you think as your role of Legislative Clerk does to improve MUSG?
        - a. Don't know as of now
    - ii. Senator Doerrerr:
      - 1. Do you have any time commitments?
        - a. Involved, but can make time
    - iii. Senator Barreras
      - 1. What are your words per minute?
        - a. Don't know
  - d. Debate:
    - i. Senator Barreras speaks in favor
    - ii. Senator Doerrerr speaks in favor
  - e. Vote
    - i. Katherine Ranft new legislative clerk
- D. Approval of a new Parliamentarian
  - a. Rational: LVP Tandez recommends Stacey Barnum
    - i. She is a freshman. Chose her because showed most motivation involved with student government.
    - ii. Stacey: Looking to get more involved.
  - b. Questions:
    - i. Senator Doerrerr: what familiarity do you have with the rules?
      - 1. at the moment don't know, but will do this summer
  - c. Debate:
    - i. Senator Simoncic speaks in favor
    - ii. Senator Ovbiagele speaks in favor
    - iii. Senator Schott speaks in favor
  - d. Vote
    - i. Stacey Barnum new parliamentarian

## 12. Announcements

1. Senator Doerrerr it will be Senator McGuire and Franklin and James Schott last meeting
2. President Thomas: Thanked James Schott for being in MUSG

## 13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:39pm