

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Morris Campus Student Association

Campus Governance

3-23-2020

MCSA Forum minutes 03/23/2020

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Memo to: MCSA Forum Members
From: MCSA Executive Committee
Subject: Forum Agenda for Monday, March 23rd, 2020.

The Forum will meet on Monday at 6:00 pm on Zoom: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/195099183>.

Called to order at 6:01pm

I. Open Forum

II. For Action: Approve Agenda

- A. Johnson motions
- B. King seconds
- C. Motion passes

III. For Info: [Minutes from 3.9.2020](#)

- A. Johnson motions
- B. King seconds
- C. Motion passes

IV. Discussion on possible ideas for Commencement

Dave Israels-Swenson- The chancellor asked me to gather student feedback about the most important aspects of commencement since we are now online.

Black- I'm not graduating soon, but a suggestion from someone I know is having your name read to a large group of people.

Nelson- I would like to hear Peh say my name.

Swenson- What about the speakers?

Loechler- I was going to say before that I don't think anything online will come close to what it will be in person.

Swenson- There is always the chance that we might be able to do it in person but we have to see.

Johnson- Talking to my friends, some of my indigenous friends were upset that they won't be able to do the blanket ceremony and a lot of them are first generation students so it's the family aspect, they won't be able to see them graduate.

Liz Thomson- We are brainstorming and connecting with CNIA about the honoring ceremonies, if we could have people sent the star quilts and have some sort of online thing.

Black- Would it be possible instead of having some online commencement, postponing commencement until August or next year or whenever it will be possible. It will be difficult for it to have meaning if it is online.

Swenson- I think there is value to that.

Pittman- I think the difficulty with that will be people not being able to attend in the future.

Loechler- From other people I've talked to who are graduating also think that postponing it to the end of the summer or next semester, that's preferable.

Woodley- What if they did a facebook live where they read all the names of the people who wanted to attend could tune in. People could be commenting and I don't know about the speakers.

Swenson- And students could send in pictures to be shown of themselves, maybe with their families. And clearly this is not what any of us want, but if we don't have that opportunity, we have to figure something else.

Thomson- There could be something done online at the end of the semester and also something postponed that is an in person commencement. There are no bad ideas.

Swenson- If you have any other ideas please feel free to email me. Also, congratulations on your first MCSA online meeting.

V. President's Remarks

Rosemark- Hello, thanks for being on time. So obviously this is pretty strange, but I appreciate you all showing up virtually. Student government is going to be really crucial during this time and we need to advocate for students and listen to their concerns. Sometimes in student government people don't like to admit that they are going through things, so please reach out if you need to. Some updates that you probably already know, prairie gala is going to be cancelled because no one is going to be on campus. In exec we will talk about what we can do with the funds. Support the U Day is cancelled, there might be some virtual advocacy stuff that comes out. Do what you can to acclimate to this new stuff.

VI. Committee Reports

MCSA Committees

Academic Affairs

Barber- We met the week before spring break, I will get in touch with Julia, we are going to proceed with our foreign language things, but otherwise nothing to report.

Campus Relations

Loechler- Prairie gala is cancelled.

Resources and Operations

Happ- We are working on the kinks of tech fee. We are working on getting those proposals in the google drive, but we'll talk about it more later.

Student Services

Executive Committee

Rosemark- We are going to meet on Wednesday via zoom. Anyone can tune in to that if they want.

First-Year Council

Campus Assembly Committees

Consultative

Not meeting this week

Curriculum

Westfield- We are meeting this week.

Equity and Diversity

Finance

Membership

King- Meeting Thursday through zoom

Planning

Pittman- We talked about how the U is going to be completely sustainable by the end of 2020.

Scholastic

Novotny- We were emailing about the pass/fail grading stuff we're doing.

Marquette- Next week we'll meet via zoom hopefully.

Steering

Rosemark- Meeting tomorrow, probably mainly about how we're going to do campus assembly. In the bylaws for campus assembly, we can't meet online, and no committee can meet online, but we're trying to figure it out. And we'll talk about the other stuff we've been working on as well.

Student Affairs

Johnson- Meeting is cancelled tomorrow. The poster policy draft is in the last meeting's minutes. It looks like we won't be passing that until next year. If anyone wants to tune in let me know and I'll send you the link.

VII. Organization Reports

BSU

CNIA

Feather- Powwow is cancelled.

InterVarsity

KUMM

Woodley- We have been discussing a lot if we're going to allow people into the station. The student center is open because of the post office but we don't know if we can allow the DJs still on campus if they can do their shows, and we're also looking into if people will be able to do their shows from home.

Loechler- The FCC is allowing people to comply not so strictly with rules, so we won't get shut down.

MoQSIE

Black- The drag show is cancelled as well as our other events for pride month that had not been announced. We are figuring out what we'll do for our weekly meetings and some online events. Seeing if people could send in videos for the drag show and there is also now a MoQSIE discord server.

Saddle Club

VIII. Old Business

For Information:

- 1) Congratulations to the winners of the elections

Westfield- Congrats to the winners! You know who you are.

- 2) Tech Fee

- a) Hearings on Saturday, March 28th

Happ- You should've all gotten an email with the link to the meeting.

- b) Deliberations will be handled via Google Docs

Happ- More info will be sent about that.

Rosemark- Yeah, that's the gist. We are doing it as planned, but it will be over zoom. So get your snacks and energy drinks and get ready to sit down in front of your computer all day. It is mandatory, but if there is a reason you can't attend, you will have to watch the full recorded video of the hearings at some point and add your thoughts to the deliberations. We'll go a little bit more in depth with the process on Saturday at the beginning.

For Action:

IX. New Business

For Information:

- 1) An update on [COVID-19](#)

Westfield- Hot topic.

Rosemark- The letter is linked. Please do look it over. That's the most updated stuff as of the 19th, the only new information is the pass/fail class stuff. You can pick which classes, if any, you want to change to pass/fail. We are looking to encourage professors to grade a bit more lenient than they would normally. Does anyone have any big concerns? We are pushing for reimbursements for housing and meal costs as well as student workers still being paid.

King- The people that are on academic probation, since this isn't affecting their GPA if they take pass/fail, their GPA will stay the same for two semesters which is the issue with academic probation.

Rosemark- This week admin will be looking at summer things, everything is pretty much online for the summer, but research opportunities need to be talked about.

Loechler- What about the student fees that we won't be utilizing?

Rosemark- I guess it depends on the fee, the RFC one I see the point with that since it's closed. I think that's a bit more iffy.

Swenson- That was discussed at a meeting this morning, the president wants everything to be dealt with in a system wide manner, so we are collecting information about how the fees are being used during this time.

Black- For some of the fees, but for the student activities fee for example, while it is frustrating that we paid these fees and we don't get to benefit from them, it would be a bit awful to take that money back from the student orgs that need those funds. I think we have to find a balance of getting reimbursed for things while also still keeping funds for the orgs on campus.

Rosemark- Yeah, also I saw Mariah's comments, and the university said that if students need a hot spot then the university will provide it.

Swenson- The decision has been made to pay students if they are working or not, and the amount will be decided by an average per week of how much they worked in the first half of the sem.

Woodley- There are people who pay for the student fees and don't even use the things that the fees pay for.

Swenson- MCSA is funded by student fees, so you need to think about whether you want to take those funds away from these orgs, as well as the staff that are paid from student fee funds.

Rosemark- Any other concerns about the virus?

Black- MCSA forum is supposed to be a thing where any student can come and contribute to discussions. That said, I don't know how zoom will be able to handle many more people than we already have. I think it is important to think about how forum will be available for the rest of campus.

Rosemark- Yes, that is crucial. We can have up to 300 people in here. Hopefully it doesn't get messy, but I think it would be fine, there is also a webinar option we could use.

Thomson- We need to also be aware of the hateful language that has been used, like the "Chinese virus", we need to look out for our asian american and international chinese students and be supported. EDI wants to know if anything hateful happens online or in virtual classrooms.

Rosemark- Yes that is very important.

Johnson- A lot of us who are unable to work because of COVID are eligible for unemployment, so I just wanted to make sure everyone knows that.

2) Apply for [MCSA Positions](#)

Westfield- Apply for positions for next year.

Rosemark- You are all more than qualified to apply, the more candidates the better. Please apply, we'd love to have you continue in MCSA. We would like you to have those in soon, I think by the 3rd.

For Action:

1) Formation of Emergency Funds Committee

Westfield- We've formed this before. We are forming this committee to help students that need emergency funds because of COVID.

Rosemark- I am not sure what the amount of funds is right now, but I think it's about \$2,000. Dave do you know?

Swenson- I can have that information by Wednesday.

Rosemark- We need 3 members that get approved by a majority vote. I would like people to meet by Wednesday. Dave, I'll send you an email about the request since you're listed in the process.

Johnson nominates herself

King seconds

Pittman nominates herself

King seconds

Novotny nominates herself

King seconds

Barber motions to approve Johnson, Pittman, and Novotny as members of the emergency funds committee.

King seconds

Motion passes

IX. Announcements

Rosemark- You can access UMM Campus Cinema from off campus. You just need to get a VPN on your device, the information is all included on an email that went out today.

Westfield- I'll be playing lots of animal crossing, so if you have a switch send me your codes.

X. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm