

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Morris Campus Student Association

Campus Governance

10-24-2022

MCSA Forum minutes 10/24/2022

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University of Minnesota - Morris
Morris, Minnesota 56267

Memo to: Members of MCSA Forum
From: MCSA Executive Committee
Subject: MCSA Forum Meeting 10.24.22

Join in Cow Palace at 6PM or on Zoom ([Zoom](#) passcode: Pounce22, please mute when not speaking or voting. All students are welcome and can join in discussion, but only voting members can make motions and vote. List of voting members can be found [here](#).

This meeting came to order at 6:03pm on Oct 24th, 2022

- I. For Action: Vote to Approve Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes
 - A. 9.26.22 Forum Minutes ([link](#))
 - B. Motion to approve agenda
 - C. Daleney Teske
 - D. Kendra
 - E. Motion to approve
 - F. Dylan
 - G. Daleney
 - H. This motion passes

II. President's Remarks – Discussion on Regent Sviggum's Comments

Dylan: On Monday Oct 17th I sent Steve Svigum a letter responding to his comments at the mission fulfillment meeting the following Thursday. In the letter I shared my experience as a Native student, invited Svigum to campus, and . Regent Svigum will be likely visiting on November 9th. I thank Svigum for having the character and humility to accept the invitation. I hope that after the visit he strengthens his commitment to diversity system wide. He has apologized and said he has a lot to learn about race and diversity. Recognizing that understandign diversity is a long and difficult journey. The exec committee discussed how we could help Svigum reach the understanding of diversity he wants and needs. One thing missing from these conversations is accountability; being held responsible for actions is the best way to learn. That is why we are sending a letter to ask Svigum to step down as the vice chair as the board. IN

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this position one of his responsibilities is to support a; diverse student body. I believe that until he is further in his diversity journey he should not be in this role. I don't think facing consequences is negative or unconstructive, it's life. This does not contradict our original message. Anyone non forum members can share their thoughts and questions on the situation.

Ana: After hearing Svigums comments and hearing Dylan, it hurts more. As a student and person of color. When you're supposed to include diversity as a part of the regents mission. It causes an unwelcome feeling and it makes me feel upset and sad.

Robert: Since Svigum has doubled down multiple times, I feel like his apology was insincere and it feels responsible for him to step down at this point

Student: The board of regents is made of majority white older folks, and a lot of times they don't get consequences or feel them in these situations. I think that Svigum probably doesn't feel like he needs those consequences. I think it's good that we're asking him to resign from his position but not from the board.

Noelle: We also are not the first or only ones to call for Svigum to step down as vice chair, a regent called for this as well.

III. For Action: Vote to Approve Resolutions ([link to vote](#))

A. Resolution Calling on Regent Sviggum's Removal from the Role of Board of Regents Vice Chair ([link](#))

Description: This resolution calls on Regent Sviggum to resign or be removed from the role of Board of Regents Vice Chair due to his failure to stand for the institutional values of diversity and equity.

Noelle:

Motion to vote to approve the resolution

- 1) Muthu
- 2) Daleney

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B. Resolution on Physical Campus Spaces Recognizing Indian Boarding School History and Current Day Native Students ([link](#))

Description: This resolution proposes the creation of a campus assembly committee that would create a 5-year plan to renovate and create physical spaces on campus to recognize our history as an Indian boarding school and celebrate our current day Native American students. It also proposes updating the student center display case, a mural in the Turtle Mountain Cafe created by a Native artist, and the renovation of other physical spaces.

Noelle: This resolution was written by secretary of academic affairs Kianna Big Crow.

Motion to vote to approve the resolution

- 1) Shelby
- 2) Kendra
- 3) This motion passes unanimously

Dylan: WE've talked to Dave and the chancellor about this. People are very receptive and it is likely that this will become a reality. Thank you Kianna.

C. Resolution for Increased Reproductive Health Access ([link](#))

Description: This resolution calls on the University to expand access to comprehensive and affordable reproductive healthcare products and services in light of the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade. It also proposes the installation of an emergency contraceptive vending machine in the 24 hour lounge.

Motion to vote to approve the resolution

- 1) Ana
- 2) Gabby
- 3) This motin passes

D. Resolution Supporting a Fair Contract for the Teamsters ([link](#))

Description: This resolution states that our student body is in favor of the University working to make agreements with Teamsters.

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There was a plan for a strike starting October 24th due to unfair hiring practices, low wages, cutting hours, and removing health insurance from contracts. After 36 hours of mediation, the University agreed to their terms and this resolution says that we are in favor of that decision and urge the University to continue to provide for their employees instead of finding ways to cut labor costs.

Motion to vote to approve this resolution

- 1) Kianna
- 2) Paisley
- 3) This motion passes unanimously

IV. For Information: Worker's Rights Update

A. Student Worker Survey Discussion (z.umn.edu/StudentWorkerSurvey)

Noelle:

Jay: For awhile the student affairs committee has been working on a survey we want to send to student workers asking about wages, work conditions, health benefits, etc to get an idea of where we want to focus our resolutions. We're asking about on and off campus work. We'll send this out later this week.

Noelle: We want to look over this draft and get opinions. The student services committee brainstormed different things they want to know, and Jay wrote questions about these topics.

Henry: does this include non U of Mn workers?

Noelle: Yes, all students with jobs, regardless of where they work

Jay: We are also considering recent alumni who still live in the area fill it out as well

Shelby: For off campus work would we just want people to consider their work in the morris area and not at home jobs?

Jay: Yes

Muthu: What is the rationale behind alumni working

Jay: Some of them choose to stick around and have work experiences that I would welcome to hearing

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Noelle: We could also have former student workers fill out the survey as well. We want to know students work conditions, their financial stress, and stress around their job.

Jay: This is the draft

Captain: The how many hours needed to work to pay for living expenses question should have an I don't know or someone else pays my living expenses that would be a good option

Clement: I would add a question about how these factors students' studies and broader experiences.

Muthu: The questions could include the definition of microaggressions in the questions where that's relevant

liz: does this relate to last year's advocacy around paid sick leave

Dylan: Yes. One of the first things we did when making the survey was look at our goals of advocating for better working conditions and advocating for paid sick leave.

Robert: I feel like all the questions are good, but it is long. To condense it we could maybe combine similar questions and have check boxes. Like "Have you experienced microaggressions, harassment, etc." could all be combined into one question.

Bonita: Does your employer offer and then list all the options

Adrienne: I'm curious is it mindful of students that have stipends, CAs, and students who don't have hourly wages.

Noelle: The only wage question is about if you make more than the minimum wage

Jay: We can add in a stipend option. We can also have a question that asks does your stipend cover your cost of living.

V. Announcements

A. Mayor and City Council Debate Footage is now on YouTube ([link](#))

B. Campus Assembly Tomorrow

Noelle: The city council debate is on youtube now. Campus assembly meets tomorrow, remember to join the zoom if you're a campus assembly representative.

Dylan: MCSA has voted to approve

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Cal: Hi

Noelle: Thurs 4-5 will be a presentation about food security issues, and MCSA Trio and Sodexo fold will be talking.

Captain: On Thursday during the same time as campus assembly there will be a meeting with the committee putting an elevator in the MRC, can anyone go? The meeting will be with the firm working on the elevator.

liz: This is about the 4th meeting, this has been developing a lot quicker than it has. This may be moving along.

VI. Adjournment

VII. Committee Time