

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Morris Campus Student Association

Campus Governance

11-20-2023

MCSA Forum minutes 11/20/2023

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*Morris Campus Student Association
University of Minnesota - Morris
Morris, Minnesota 56267*

Memo to: Members of MCSA Forum
From: MCSA Executive Committee
Subject: MCSA Forum Meeting 11.20.23

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](#).

I. Vote to Approve Agenda and Previous Minutes

A. [Minutes link](#)

- 1) Gabby Holboy
- 2) Bethanie Belilse
- 3) This motion passes

Motion to pass the agenda

- 1) Gabby Holboy
- 2) Bethanie Belilse
- 3) This motion passes

II. Presidents Remarks

Gabby Holboy: We are missing quite a bit of people, this is happening in a lot of student organizations. Thank you all for being here, it means a lot. We have some vacancies to fill. I'm proud of the work the external affairs committee and Kianna have done writing a letter about the Native American Promise program. Kianna, Henry, and Lane have also been doing a great job leading and planning for the Sustainability forum.

III. Old Business

A. **For Action-** *Student Senator Nomination and Vote*

Senators shall serve as a member of Forum; Attend all meetings of the Student Senate and University Senate; Attend all meetings of the All-University Representatives Committee; Report the proceedings of the University Senate to Forum; Represent the business and concerns of the Morris Student Body to the Senate; Coordinate with the Student Senate Consultative Committee Representative to fulfill the initiatives of the SSCC.

Nominations for Student Senate:

Nomination Margot

- 1) Gabby Holboy
- 2) Bethanie B
- 3) Margot accepts the nomination

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The motion passes unanimously, Margot is a Student Senator

B. For Action- Nomination and voting of three Campus Assembly Representatives

Shall serve as a member of Forum; To attend all meetings of the Campus Assembly; To sit on at least one Campus Assembly or Adjunct Committee; To report to the Forum on the proceedings of their assigned Standing Committee.

Nomination for Bri

- 1) Gabby Holboy
- 2) Bella
- 3) Briana accepts

Nomination for Bella Sieling

- 1) Gabby
- 2) Alija
- 3) Bella accepts

Nomination for Alija

- 1) Gabby
- 2) Bella
- 3) Alisa accepts

Motion to suspend the rules and vote in the three as a slate

- 1) Gabby Holboy
- 2) Alija
- 3) This motion passes

Voting the three candidates in as a slate

This motion passes

C. For Action- Nomination and voting of one at-large Campus Assembly Representative

This representative shall represent forum within the MCSA Executive Committee. This member will be a voting member of the executive committee.

Nomination for Ella Menke

- 1) Gabby Holboy
- 2) Bethanie Belisle
- 3) Ella accepts

This motion passes

D. For Information- Food Odyssey

1. Information from Secretary of Student Services Wosti

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2. Saturday, December 2nd

Alija: We take students to a more diverse and affordable place to take food. This time we also visited mosques for students who couldn't drive. It seems to be a very successful program. We are going to discuss if we are going to have those be two separate programs next semester. On Saturday December 2nd at 10am we are going to an Asian grocery market, Walmart, and Target, and mosques for students who want to go there. We'll be back in Morris at 4pm. The trip will be sent out over email, do whatever you can to promote it.

IV. **New Business**

A. Proposed Academic Calendar change- Presentation from Director of Student Activities David Israels-Swenson

Dave: There is a proposed change to the academic calendar in 2026-2027. We have to submit calendars to the system, and we are proposing a change. I wanted to share the ramifications of the change with everyone. Over the last few years we've heard that students want more free time during welcome week. We're proposing a change that would make Welcome week be from Wednesday through Sunday, which would be a 5 day welcome week instead of a 3 day welcome week. Half of the student body is also already moved in by the time move in starts. When we originally moved to the Saturday move-in, we did that to allow parents to help with move in, but it doesn't seem that there is a need to have move in be on weekends for that to happen. With the new calendar, classes would start on a Monday instead of a Wednesday, and then the Wednesday before Thanksgiving would be a no class day. It only adds one day of additional class instruction compared to the Spring semester. It will give us more time for welcome week, and this would make first years move in on Wednesday and returning students move in on Saturday/Sunday. We would also have the Saturday of welcome week be a community welcome day where we would have more events with the community. Welcome week would still end with the activities fair. This new schedule would give new students more time on campus before everyone got here, and create more connections with the community.

Gabby: I think this would improve the experience of first years.

Ella: When I was a first year, I moved in the last possible slot. I was tired of activities and just wanted to start a routine, and I thought it was longer already.

Dave: I see where you're coming from, our hope was to create more time for people to settle in. We got feedback that students didn't have enough time to settle in. I understand your frustration and this would add another day.

Alija: Does the campus plan to have national Indigenous People's Day as something next year?

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Dave: Because it is not a federal holiday, we don't close the University that day. It doesn't mean the campus couldn't do more that day. To have a holiday that isn't a federal holiday we would have to use a floating holiday to cover that day. We would have to give up another Monday to add that as a holiday.

Margot: I think this plan could be very useful, I think it would be important to have resources for students who don't have parents who could take off work for move-in in the middle of the week. I think letting students letting in early if necessary would work.

Dave: We always have students who move in at different times than move in, and we always work with students to move in at a different time.

Hal: Would there still be a day without anything for students?

Dave: Thursday and Friday would be busier with activities, Saturday would be slightly less activities, and Sunday would only have the activities fair. We would add some affinity group opportunities on Saturday. The plan would include the NASS welcome a few hours before the whole student welcome. Then additional NASS welcome activities would happen on Saturday. We also discussed doing something to connect students with athletes more. If this passes the re-worked schedule would happen in 2026, but we would start doing smaller changes in the next couple years. We are going to encourage welcome group leaders let there students go and have more freedom and down time. We've gotten feedback that welcome week has been too high energy. This proposed plan will be added to the campus assembly agenda.

B. Town Hall is Wednesday, November 29th from 4:45 pm-6 pm in the TMC

1. Information from Secretary of Campus Relations Belisle

Bethanie: The Town Hall is for recruitment and for students to voice their suggestions and concerns about things that MCSA can do something about. We're looking for first years specifically to become more involved with MCSA as well as with some other positions we have open. It is at 4:45pm next Wednesday in the TMC. There will be free food.

C. Three first-year Campus Assembly Representative vacancies

Kianna: There are 3 first-year campus assembly representatives, we will work on filling those at the next forum.

D. [Town Hall and Sustainability Forum Tabling](#)

Kianna: Before the Town Hall and Sustainability Forum we'll table for both, after the Town Hall we'll just table for the Sustainability Forum. I was brainstorming how we could do interactive tabling, and I think I'll put up a sign that says "What are your WTFs about campus" and then everyone who writes one on a piece of paper gets entered in a drawing for a highbies gift card. Or we can do an interactive poll.

V. **Organization Reports**

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VI. Committee Reports

VII. Announcements

- A. Town Hall is Wednesday, November 29th from 4:45 pm-6 pm in the TMC
- B. Sustainability Forum on December 5th, 2023, in m Oyate and Edson.
- C. [Join MCSA on Campus Groups](#)

VIII. Adjournment

Committee time immediately following adjournment

Kianna: Hal and Ella have been working on a letter about the U Promise Native Tuition Waiver that is addressing the holes seen in the program. We found an American Indian Scholarship that is not affiliated with the U of M, it is a state scholarship, so we are still going to write the original letter.

Bella: Academic affairs is making a rough draft for a survey to gauge interest on a few different things. One of the things we want to double check on is how much one test can effect one grade. Some people like having one test determine a big portion of their grades, and if a majority of people want that we don't want that.

Alija: We are working on how to make students stay for 4 years in Morris, and addressing needs that students have.

Bethanie: We're working on the town hall. Make sure you come to the town hall and invite people.

Gabby: For Resources and Operations, Henry is focusing on the Sustainability Forum and Kianna has been helping a lot. Kianna reached out and the two truth researchers are presenting at the forum. Henry has been working with Tony Nemmers on how to have Indigenous foods made by students. He has also started thinking about tech fee next year.

Kianna: Town hall next Wednesday and the Sustainability Forum is on December 5th. We've found keynote speakers, there will be food. Join MCSA on campus groups.

Hal: KUMM is going to host a rave on December 2nd at 8pm and we're going to have Cal Mergendahl be one of the DJs. It'll be live mixing.

Motion to adjourn:

- 1) Gabby

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- 2) Bella
- 3) This motion passes