

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Morris Campus Student Association

Campus Governance

9-30-2024

MCSA Forum minutes 09/30/2024

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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 09.30.24

Join in the Turtle Mountain Cafe at 6PM 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](#).

Called to order at 6:02pm

I. Vote to Approve Agenda

Motion to approve by VP Harteneck

Day

Huebsch

II. Vote to Approve [Minutes](#)

Motion to approve by **Tollefsrud**

Seconded by **Varney**

Discussion on last meetings minutes: Hietpas: The name of my organization wasn't added to the last minutes. It is COPAL

III. Presidents remarks

President Tollefsrud: "I've given you all a post-it note, and I want us all to recognize where we're at this semester, and pick one thing that you always go back to when you're really in a rough spot. I want you to put this post-it note up somewhere you see it all the time."

Varney: What are we writing?

Tollefsrud: One thing that gets you through a tough time.

IV. Old Business

A. Campus Assembly Representative Vacancy(1) (non-first year)

Harteneck: You can nominate yourself, are there any nominations for this position?

V. New Business

A. Parliamentarian Forum Approval

Harteneck: We have a new parliamentarian. The way that the parliamentarian is selected is through a majority forum vote. I nominate Vae Day for Parliamentarian.

Day: I am very excited to accept this position, I have been in this position and involved in student government for a long time. I hope you will vote for me and accept me.

Vae Day is unanimously voted in as Parliamentary

B. Online vs. in person Campus Assembly feedback

VP Harteneck: Raise your hand if you went to campus assembly this year (*some raise their hands.*) The in person model was something the steering committee wanted to try to see how it influenced engagement. We along with McPhee wanted to get your feedback for this last meeting.

Frost: I feel like it's nice when the discussion is in person, online can feel very separated.

Dimayuga: I also really liked the in-person format. If we had someone who was monitoring the zoom call for comments then we could make sure that online participation counted, too.

McPhee: So having a space for people online to share things anonymously to them be shared with the rest of the group?

Dimayuga: Yes.

Harrison: I think that having both online and in-person is best to make sure that people who can't attend still have a way to be there.

McPhee: Right. Last week you could watch online, but you couldn't add questions and speak to the room in the Zoom meeting. We're going to gather data from assembly members to see how they think the assembly should be held, between hybrid, completely in-person, or completely online.

Harteneck: Were there any other thoughts from other students?

Maher: I think that meetings should be recorded and uploaded so that people can go back and watch it.

McPhee: Do you think the minutes would be sufficient for that purpose? Or should there be a recording. There might be things in the recording that would be missed in the minutes.

Maher: Would questions be recorded in the minutes?

Hietpas: I wanted to say that while the minutes are helpful, it seems like an easy extra step to just record the zoom meeting to have an extra layer of documentation.

McPhee: We can do audio or video with audio. The recording is used to help the secretary with their notes. By default, zoom only holds something like that for roughly 180 days, we'd need a downloading mechanism.

Olson: I wanted to say that the town hall meetings for Morris are recorded and uploaded to youtube in full. When it comes to

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questions of accessibility, I don't see any reason for why we should not be doing this.

McPhee: That's a possibility, there is definitely precedent for this kind of thing.

Olson: Is there a reason it hasn't been done before?

McPhee: It just hasn't been tried yet.

Clement: I think there's an element of our IT hating everything that's non-proprietary.

McPhee: Right. One reason they're anxious about this is contracting and student data. Assembly is a public meeting, so it's hard to filter and protect.

Tollefsrud: One note on the conversation of in-person vs. online, I think there are a lot of benefits to being in person, one being that it weeds out unnecessary disrespect. It makes people think more about their questions and arguments. Though there is an accessibility issue.

McPhee: That's why we try to get people to use the microphone.

Tollefsrud: Another concern was that the meetings fell precisely on community hour, which is some people's only time to eat lunch. Though a risk of the hybrid model is that people might end up migrating towards online.

McPhee: Yeah, the meeting ends up eating a lot of staff break time. The only issue is figuring out where it should go if not community hour. I also share your worry that going online means that a great number of people will shift to online with few in the auditorium. During covid we were having an attendance problem, and we were talking about having assembly in the Cow Palace just because of how bad the attendance was.

Tollefsrud: One last thing, Josh had thrown out the possibility of creating a slack channel for discussing voting items.

Chitwood: What program is that?

Tollefsrud: It's like professional discord.

Loo: Yeah, and we have a professional contract with Slack so we can use that.

Lor: And IT uses slack so I think that would be in line.

McPhee: I think Slack is a really interesting idea, though we've had a consistent problem with online communication. We have a general fear that not that many faculty would sign up. But I will bring it to Steering to see if it fits.

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Harteneck: Any thoughts on using Slack?

Chitwood: Could be cool.

Frost: Would there be anyone to mediate the discussion? It could get out of hand without set rules.

McPhee: That's the issue, now you have to have somebody who is the moderator. Then somebody will get an earful of having allegedly abused their position. We've also encountered issues like allergies, childcare, hearing, and public health like COVID concerns with the space we're using now.

Harteneck: Would you guys still rather have in-person meetings or online?

Hietpas: I'd like them in person. Plus, seeing all of the faculty there assures us that we're working in a university system. "Badass Hietpas quote."

Tollefsrud: Yeah, and like when Matt Johnson talked about recruitment, that round of applause he got is not something that you can get over zoom.

McPhee: I agree. Plus, I think it feels like it would be different for students who do not know most of these names. It's different being in person when you can see precisely who is saying what. People online will only see names on their screens.

Harteneck: I definitely agree, as someone who had to sit through the online zoom meetings, somebody who did not know any of these people in that room, being able to sit with people I know made me more comfortable in listening, and feeling like my feedback would be valued. Over zoom, students did not talk, it was four very opinionated faculty members. I think that was what was great about the in-person meeting. Any other thoughts on campus assembly?

McPhee: Please send me an email with any other thoughts you have.

Harteneck: Nic's email is in the agenda as well.

McPhee leaves

C. First Year Council Election plan

1. Dates

- a) Sept. 29th - Oct. 5th: Advertising and educating students about first year election

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- b) Oct. 7th - Oct. 11th: First years filling out the form to put their name and statement of purpose on the ballot
 - c) Oct. 16th - 18th- Voting
2. Promotion ideas
- a) Tabling
 - (1) Please sign up [HERE](#)
 - Harteneck:** We are going to be tabling this year. There are only these two spots open. Landon really wants this position. *(L. Shaw's name is on the tabling signup sheet is there maybe twelve times.)*
 - Nikullin:** Can we have the guy who spins the sign around?
 - Harteneck:** So long as you are not slandering MCSA.
 - Day:** Is this the only week that we will be tabling?
 - Harteneck:** Yes, the form that we are going to create is going to be made the week after so students have time to sign up.
 - Varney:** So the 16th through the 18th is voting, I will share the results next monday.
 - Shaw:** Can we give handouts about the committees while we're tabling?
 - Harteneck:** Yes, make sure to push those so that students can see other MCSA opportunities. *(Shaw expresses extreme disinterest in running for student government.)*
 - b) Invite them to Oct. 7th forum
 - (1) Suggestions?
 - Harrison:** It could be fun for the committee to have tables where people could talk more in-depth about what their committees do.
 - Huebsch:** We should give Landon a redbull
 - Nikullin:** We could have prizes to incentivize people.
 - Shaw:** I think we should put a bunch of effort into fliers.
 - Chitwood:** We should lie on the posters to get more people to show up.
 - Harteneck:** Any other suggestions for forum items?
 - c) Social media
 - Harteneck:** We need to work on this because the time right before voting is fall break.
 - Tollefsrud:** How early can students start campaigning?

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Varney: I'm not sure.

Harteneck: Does Clement know?

Loo: Historically there haven't been rules about that.

Harteneck: We can also move the timeline, nothing about it is necessarily set in stone. First years do you have any feedback?

Shaw: I like the timeline we've been setting. I think it makes sense to be able to campaign as soon as they sign up.

Lafferty: Midterms are right after this, and that might deter a lot of first years from campaigning.

Tollefsrud: What if we add an extra week for campaigning, which will in practice be those extra three days after fall break. What if we just extend it to having the election done by the 25th 26th.

Varney: I think we should have it be the 21st-23rd.

Huebsch: Adding extra time to vote might let people forget about it more easily.

Day: Would they be able to start campaigning by the end of this week?

Varney: No, because the ballot will be opening this Monday.

Tollefsrud: Then that gives roughly two weeks for campaigning.

Shaw: I thought it would be cool if the official MCSA Instagram made posts displaying the new candidates.

Harrison: When people come to the table next week, will there be an opportunity for people to sign up for the ballot?

Harteneck: Yes.

Harrison: Also, instagram reels have a higher engagement rate than tiktoks, it'd be better to just use the instagram we have. And we could have mini-interviews for their campaigns.

Hietpas: I completely agree with Nona. It's a good opportunity for new candidates to be more creative. Though I think that asking first years to sign up at the table might run the risk of having first years who sign up without understanding the commitment.

Varney: In the form I also have a whole explanation section.

Harteneck: The ballot also requires having a little more prep and effort than just signing up.

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Lafferty: I think emailing them separately would be a good idea.

Harteneck: Thank you all for your thoughts, Elaina and I are very new at this.

d) Posters

D. MCSA Retreat

1. October 16th, 7pm-9pm

Harteneck: There are going to be icebreaker activities and maybe a dinner. We will also be doing this later in the year.

Day: I want to say one thing: The retreat, yes, is for establishing these goals, but it's also an opportunity for people in MCSA to get to know each other. In past years we've done a potluck for the MCSA retreat, possibly dipping into MCSA funds. All of us, yes, are very familiar with each other outside of MCSA, but this would be a good opportunity to build community.

2. TMC?

VI. **Organization Reports**

N/A

CNIA:

VII. **Committee Reports**

Office of external affairs: We know how to get access to the town hall meetings, we are working on getting an email list of morris students

Lovold: We are working on getting food shelves in areas that are more easy to access.

VIII. **Announcements**

A. [Join MCSA on Campus Groups](#) and [instagram](#)

B. [Fill out this map survey for the Campus Climate Action Plan](#)

Loo: We want to hear everything you hate about campus in this survey as well as everything you love.

1. **Henry Hietpas**

C. MCSA Hosting a public debate with locally running candidates

1. October 28th - cutting forward short that day, encouraging people to attend

2. Morris Legion

D. MCSA and Mock Trial hosting What's Up Wednesday October 9th

1. Voting trivia

2. Doing voting registration in between

3. 100 t-shirts ordered for attending

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IX. **Adjournment**

Committee time following adjournment