

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Morris Campus Student Association

Campus Governance

10-21-2024

MCSA Forum minutes 10/21/2024

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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 10.21.24

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](#).

Meeting called to order at 6:04 on 10/21/24 by Skylar Harteneck

Motion to approve Selig
Varney

I. **Vote to Approve Agenda**

II. **Vote to Approve [Minutes](#)**

Discussion: Dimayuga

I feel like if we're doing the minutes, then we should specify more vague statements that required in person context to understand.

Tollefsrud: It said Vae's first name, but we're only using last names.

Motion to approve, Huebsch
Maher

III. **Presidents remarks**

President Tollefsrud: Hi everyone, thank you for coming tonight, as always. We hope you had a great fall break, we all had fun at the retreat last week. Coming up, we are posting a debate for the city council candidates next Monday, everyone is encouraged to attend and help in any way you can. We're working on getting the event livestreamed and posted to YouTube. Also, that Wednesday, we will be having our sustainability forum, Henry will talk about that forum more later. We could use help. It's going to talk about how we can use sustainability regardless of what field you're going into. We're bringing in speakers to talk about that. And, of course, there will be food. This is kind of a big time to be helping out with MCSA. We're having trick-or-treat this year on Cougar Circle as well, so if you have time, please help out with everything you can. I also have one more thing to announce, Skylar and I met with Dylan Young, one of the former MCSA presidents. They are on the Board of Regents, and having someone on that board who supports us is very

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helpful. We will either invite them to a forum or MCSA town hall event so that we can voice what Morris students want to see changed or continued on campus. Thank you.

IV. **Old Business**

V. **New Business**

A. First Year Council Election update [Elaina Varney](#)

Currently five people on the ballot

1. First year and transfer students Oct. 21st - 23rd

Varney: Voting starts today, 13% of first years have already voted, around thirty people.

Harteneck: Make sure to get first years you know to vote. Also, even if those running don't get the first-year council position there will still be other positions that they can be elected into.

Tollefsrud: Are we sending out continuous emails to remind people to vote?

Varney: Yes.

B. [Course Work form for faculty](#)

Barber: There is a form respectively for students and professors, asking each whether courseworks has helped them in their classes. The professor one will be sent out to faculty and staff on campus, and the other one will be sent out specifically to students. If you can, please look over the questions and make sure they look good.

Harteneck: I think we're going to do that now to make sure people can give their feedback, Shai can write down any comments we have on this. The way we modify these questions specifically for professors, faculty, and students really impacts how this is filled out. I already scrolled through the faculty one

Selig: Hearing from my faculty, they really don't like using forms for official things. Can you use qualtrics for faculty surveys?

Barber: I have had varying responses on how to use qualtrics, but if anybody could help me with that I will transfer the survey to qualtrics.

Tollefsrud: From a data collection standpoint, I think we need checkboxes for faculties to use, as well as the blank space beneath for written responses. It will be the biggest pain in the ass to comb through all of those responses without having baseline answers. So adding a few questions with checkboxes above each of these would help us sort through the data. That way from our end a lot of the data is already available for us. And that way, professors who

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do want to write about their experiences can still do that. Adding checkboxes eases a lot of the burden on us.

Selig: Are we offering an incentive for people to fill out the form?

Barber: It being a fairly short form is helpful, and I'm currently reaching out to the dean so that professors could possibly provide extra credit for filling out the form.

Tollefsrud: Not that anyone else would know this, but we're already reaching out to professors to offer extra credit for attending sustainability forum, so we might want to be careful with how often we ask for that.

Dimayuga: We could also follow up question where we ask how accurate the information was about courseworks.

Lafferty: It might be beneficial to give students a checkbox to say what grade level they are.

Tollefsrud: Plus, sending out emails to students while addressing an issue with email communication might be challenging in regards to data collection.

Chitwood: The issue is also less so that students don't know how it works, but moreso that it feels unnecessary.

Selig: I also think another good question to ask returning students could be asking them if it was a better deal than what they had previously done.

Fielberg: Some professors have a list of optional books for courseworks, so we could add a question for the professor survey saying "Are you more inclined now to add required textbooks?"

Tollefsrud: I think we should also talk to librarians and see how this has affected how frequently students are checking out books on course-reserve from the library, as well as how it's affected the bookstore employees. I overheard a conversation where the library employees say that it affects them because they have to undo preorders when students opt out of Courseworks. We could also gather interview data from the

Lafferty: Do we have data from the other campuses?

Barber: I think we're the only campus to have Courseworks.

Tollefsrud: No, we're just the "guinea pig" because we were the *first* to implement courseworks.

Huebsch: From what I hear from the TC campus, they do not like courseworks.

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Day: I was wondering how many people would benefit if there should be an audio option for textbooks, like audio reads of course textbooks.

Lor: Courseworks is essentially just the keeper of the book-codes for course texts.

Dimayuga: Disability services also provides audiobooks for class texts.

Chitwood: When you go to the courseworks page, I can't access the book from courseworks. I have to go to my individual class page.

Lor: That's just kind of how it is, since the books are tied to your student account, you have to access the professor's link to find your texts.

Nikulin: We could ask when students received a list of their books to show how quickly courseworks took effect.

Harteneck: Is there a way to go back and see when people go that information?

Lafferty: Through your emails.

Tollefsrud: That's a good point, we should touch on if people felt they had enough time to make the right decision in regard to courseworks.

Lafferty: I was getting emails in late July about courseworks, but the issue is I didn't know what it was.

Hietpas: Going back to the audio thing, in courseworks if you highlight a segment of the page, there is an audio option for textbooks.

Varney: It's only for some of the books.

Harteneck: I'm going to add Josie's email so that you guys can contact her directly, and we're going to come back next week and do this again to go over this survey again. Thank you Josie for putting that together, this is a really good thing to do.

C. [Course Work form for students](#)

VI. **Organization Reports**

Ultimate frisbee: Had their first practice this past saturday, working on finding another location for next saturday (10/21/24)

Sustainability club: Having their first meeting on saturday night (10/21/24) We are watching Madagascar in Louie's Lower Level

ASA: Wednesday we are watching Joyride from 6:00 to 7:00pm

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Pre Health Program Club: We are attending an event at the twin cities campus on November 16th. We'll get to interact with health professionals, experts in pet medicine etc. We're leaving in the morning on Saturday, we've sent out a form to anybody that's interested in going.

ASG: ASG requests for next month are due this Thursday

Big Friend Little Friend: In need of four 'Big Friends'

Shaw: What is Big Friend Little Friend

Chitwood: It's a little kid mentorship and support program

Huebsch: What are the age ranges?

Chitwood: Kindergarten through 8th grade

VII. **Committee Reports**

Campus Relations, Selig: I have a meeting scheduled with the coordinator of the Sage grant. And we have a meeting almost scheduled with the SACK leaders

Academic Affairs, Barber: I'm working on getting weekly meetings scheduled with

External Affairs, Dimayuga: We have successfully infiltrated the Morris Facebook pages.

Harteneck: We also might be using the Facebook page to do some kind of Facebook live.

VIII. **Announcements**

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

B. MCSA Hosting a public debate with locally running candidates

1. October 28th - cutting forum short that day, encouraging people to attend
2. Morris Legion, 7pm
3. Please promote this, and attend!

C. Sustainability Forum

1. October 30th
2. Henry Hietpas

D. **We need a volunteer to hang posters around town**

Shaw says he will handle the posters

Tollefsrud: Also a lot of our secretaries were added to a meeting with Calvin, the vice president of academic affairs at the twin cities campus.

Personal Announcements

Hietpas: Please get people to come to sustainability forum next Wednesday at 6:00pm, this is a very important event. We have lots of interesting speakers, there will be a bunch of tables, this week we're

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getting advertising out for that through professor emails and fliers and such.

Tollefsrud: I just wanted to emphasize, this is a really big MCSA event, it would be great for us if you showed up.

Hietpas: Also if you remember, I brought up the campus climate action plan with the map survey. People involved with the campus climate action plan will be sorting through the responses, looking for patterns in student feedback. I've spoken to somebody about maybe getting a forum discussion together about the results of the survey and the climate action plan.

Olson: What was the name of the person you spoke to again?

Hietpas: Amanda Kohn. Is this something we'd want to talk about during forum, or is this something that should be separate from forum?

Dimayuga: Maybe it could be after forum takes place?

Hietpas: Maybe, yes.

Harteneck: Campus assembly is tomorrow (10/21/24)

Maher: Do we need to email you if we're attending through zoom?

Harteneck: Riley's birthday is also tomorrow, he's turning 22, so make sure to wish him a happy birthday.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Tollefsrud

Committee time following adjournment