

ASNMU GA Agenda

March 17, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

I. Call To Order

a. Meeting is called to order at 2:41 PM (EST).

II. Roll Call

a. Janessa is absent and excused.

III. Public Comment

a. None.

IV. Approval of Consent Items

A. [Minutes 2/17/23](#)

B. [Minutes 3/3/23](#)

C. Minutes for 2/17/23 and 3/3/23 are approved by acclamation.

V. Presentations

A. NMU President - Dr. Brock Tessman

a. "This is the second full ASNMU meeting that I have been to. I attended one in the fall, and that was enjoyable. I have to say it is very exciting to see a fuller slate of representatives and officers here today. I have been talking with your leadership, Gwen and Zora. They have said there has been more traction in bringing more folks to the table with ASNMU. I commend them as well as Kylie, but certainly, for those who joined and engaged more recently, it is really exciting. I hope that as time goes on you'll lean on my office and the entire administrative team if you have ideas about how we can support you and listen more effectively. I will give you a quick update and tell you what I've been up to. In reality this role, this is the end of my seventh week in this role, in reality the role things kind of happens every single day and the role is reactive. Crisi pops up; bureaucratic things need to be addressed. Some things pop up, and a little bit of a reaction that I am part of every single day. I have been really intentional and successful thus far in carving out a ton of time for the learning process, which I think everyone knows is an important part of being a new president and a student of the institution. Learning has been a significant part of these first six / seven weeks. It has happened in a few different ways. I, of course, have learned a whole lot through the

interview process through extended visits. In the fall, I was welcomed by the board of Trustees to the December meeting, which was really valuable. We had a February work retreat with the board, so really good stuff. I also have met with 17 or 18 academic departments. There were about thirty, looking at Professor Wilson, Chair of the political science department and had the chance to meet with you and your faculty. Jim, I had the chance to meet with you and your advising team, not an academic department specifically, but certainly an important unit on campus. That takes a lot of time but it is so enlightening and energetic and not always positive but life isn't always positive and the institution has lots of strengths and also lots of challenges. This learning process has been very instructive for me. Then fairly recently, we have had two meetings now. I've also brought together what I call the Presidential Learning Network, which is an unfortunate title as I try to avoid all of the Jargon but that's literally what it is. It is a network of people helping me learn about the institution. I'm trying to find folk whom I don't necessarily meet with every day because they are a director of mine or there on the executive council, for example, but I also don't want folks on the learning network to be individuals who are really only focused on their office or their course load. These are University Citizens who have shown leadership and vision at the university level. So it's in that middle zone that I filled out the roster for this 24-member learning network. It will meet over the next five to six weeks, have them share their thoughts, go over the interim strategic plan, and on the other side receive key insights I wouldn't have received otherwise. I also am a couple of months into monthly meetings, they'll be every month with your leadership, Gwen and Zora and I have met a couple of times now. I'm meeting with the academic leader both on the academic side and the union side. And then Staff union leaders on the side as well. If you are interested, our city managers and the CEO of our hospital in town as they are important in our community. A lot of that learning is happening, and it will not go on forever. At some point in time, we have to get out of learning and

into the doing. I'll always be a student of this institution, as you all are. But at some point, I think as you come back in the fall, which someone, and if so, congratulations on graduating, come back in the Fall, we have some big things to discuss. There are four areas of my immediate attention. One is no surprise, and it's around student success. I would say that is related to new student recruitment and enrollment on that side, but more importantly, retention and completion and helping you get to the finish line you set out and joined us at Northern. The second big area around is campus wellness. This isn't just about students but looking at campus mental health, behavioral health, personal development, and professional development, and thinking about how we can look at leadership structures, filling the Chief diversity position, for example. Looking at the permanent well-being position, for example. I'm excited about the new wellness center. It approximately locates more counseling resources in the residence hall and dining halls. We just met a few days ago with the counseling center and talked to them directly, maybe more directly than what was pleasant about the need for us to expand the hours during the day and into the evening, in which you have access to counseling services and raising awareness of the available services. The third area is really around partnerships. You'll see me out and about in the community quite a bit. We are looking at a lot of business and inductive partnerships. Primarily so that we can get you out learning by doing through internships and other work-based opportunities. That's in the community and the larger region as well. The last area is Harden Hall, which I believe is the heart of campus. Between this building being the instructional hub of campus and the woods and residence halls right next to the science building and Weston, it will be renovated. There has been much debate about the nature of that renovation. We are not there to the finish line. In fact, it will not be until May when the board approves the final plan. It is a big project, and the board had oversight of this. We have some exciting ideas around the library's renovation and significantly enhancing student-facing services and support resources. In some cases, we may be able to move

some direct student-facing organizations to Harden Hall in renovated space that is in a much more accessible state. I think that is an exciting development. There has been some talk of a student union on this campus I know for a long time. That is a major project building that from the ground up is a new building, it's not that it can't happen, but it may be a little ways off. It is a major investment. I think that this kind of renovation could create a lot of the benefits, maybe almost all of the benefits of a student union. Not just for residential students but commuter students coming in, all the way down to more lounge space, commuter lounge, restaurant, and sort of food service options. And then parked right next to that, some kind of interdisciplinary offerings. Whether it's SHINE, a growing effort through the College of Business around sustainability. Some space is not restricted from one department to another but actually invites cross-disciplinary across-campus opportunities. All of that would make Harden this real hub of activity, kind of on par with Jamrich or exceeding Jamrich. That would breathe much life into campus. So those are the four things I am working on. I am happy to answer questions.``

B. NMU Board of Trustees Members

- a. **Steven Limberg:** "I am one of the newest Board of Trustees members. I didn't come here to really present but to listen. That is what I have been trying to do. I grew up in this area and am a Northern graduate many years ago. I got my bachelor's and my masters here. I graduated in 1966 with a bachelor's degree. Things were a little different on campus at that time. Not the least of which, I was a first-generation student, who was able to go to school for four years, graduate, get a summer job, and a little bit of help from my parents and did not have any debt at the end of my college degree. I know that has changed tremendously and that is a concern that I have, and I know it's a concern that Dr. Tessman has, it's how do we make college affordable? What I am trying to do right now is, as a member of the Board and graduate of Northern, I was a teacher at Marquette Public Schools for a number of years, I got my masters here. I tell people the only advantage to getting older is that I get to take

northern classes for free, which Pre-COVID I did do. It was a tremendous experience. I enjoy the North as much as everyone else. This classroom enjoys Northern. One of the best things that happened is I got to talk with young people. What I am trying to do now is learn about campus. There is a huge community within the community. You vitalize our community when you come back in the fall. It's an important part of our community. However, within Northern's community, there is faculty, which is important. There's an administration which is important. There is the important staff. From my perception, the most important community here is you guys. You are the reason we're here. SO part of my job, as I see it, is to be able to work and enhance this institution, where you can come and get a great education and go out and change the world. And that's what I look forward to doing. When I wake up in the morning and turn on the news, sometimes I want to cry. And there is one thing that gives me hope, and that is the institution that's about a half mile down the road from where I live. You will have to solve many of the problems my generation left you, but I have great hope. I'm just happy to be here today as people talk about future leaders, but you aren't future leaders. You are leaders in the present. You are changing this institution, and I am sure you talk about things greater than this institution, but I'm sure you're looking at changing those things. Thank you."

b. Alexis Hart: "I looked at the agenda and saw the presentation, and so I feel ill-prepared, but I want to say a couple of words. First of all, my name is Alexis Hart; I've been on the board for 7 years. I was appointed to the board in 2017. I've had the pleasure of seeing ASNMU at work and working with past presidents in my time. I'm incredibly excited about the passion and engagement of all the students. I am going to point out a few things that I feel that should be pointed out. First, I am optimistic about our future; I think we have an awesome president put in place with Dr. Tessman. I was very excited in February when we had our first off-site retreat of the year to meet our new board members, and I am also excited about the perspectives and backgrounds they bring. This will allow for some

good dialogue and good conversations and work with Brock and watch NMU go into the future in a positive way. One of the things I have noticed since COVID that I am really happy about is the focus that we have on the more holistic experience of our students. Steve said it very well. You are our customers, we are on the board to serve you. We are here because of you and please understand that and make your voices heard so we can address the needs you have as those customers. When we think of the holistic front, mental health and well being. In my other job as an HR director, and this is a huge topic for us all across the world, I have a meeting with Germany tomorrow. It is something we are talking about there with our employees, here in the United States, and also with the additional pressures of being a student, it is something that the university has had to put a lot of focus on, and the direction we are going there. Brock talked a little bit about affordability for students to come to universities and tuition vantage programs. Which I think is going to be really exciting for all of us. We have to lead with a long view, and make sure creating sustainability within the campus environment, and then that starts with hearing out, enrollment, and retention. But also enrollment moving forward. That is something Brock has talked about since he has gotten on board and I am really excited about that. Investments on campus, I have heard a lot about student housing. The market has changed in the last few years, I don't think any of them could have predicted what happened. I was fortunate enough to be here when the woods were built which was just a fantastic addition to the university. Some of the other projects with the northern center, not only serve the needs of our students but the needs of the community. Brock talked about Harden Hall and the renovations there. Those are also huge focuses for us, because number one we want to make sure we are bringing students into an environment that has good facilities and good equipment, etc. So obviously that's a topic that you'll hear a lot of foam board meetings. Last but not least, I really want to applaud all of you for being here today and the engagement that you have on the university campus. You can make a difference everyday. SO thank you

all. Thank you for the invitation.

c. **Greg Sappanen:** "I am a retired teacher just like Steve. Steve put it well as he and I looked at it. We like education, we like teaching because you guys are it. You are important, and are doing a great job here today. I am a graduate of northern, back in the day I had a rich uncle I am very grateful for, Uncle Sam. I liked campus, I liked northern so much. Northern was a great place for Veterans and still is. I stretched it out 7 years, I didn't want to leave and that's probably why I am here back now. I find the life on campus, the students just very invigorating. Some of the things that I am interested in, climate change, are active in the community and guides that. Jess Thompson and I in fact were at a meeting last night dealing with the issue and that's something I am really really glad that we have people on campus going in that direction. The other thing I am really interested in, is how we go about student engagement. You guys are the leaders and I am hoping that we, the board, will hear about the ideas that you have and how we can work together to work on student engagement. The more the students are involved, the better off we all are. The Harden Hall that Brock was talking about, I worked there as student help about fifty years ago. It was the center of campus and it had the potential to be that again. That is something I think we should work on. The more that everyone is interacting, the better off we all are. Relative to the board member job, we are here for real broad policy. This thing that we have done and probably will do in my term of 8 years. We hired a new president, trying to come up with the best president in the whole country, and I think we got a good one. Filling that position with Brock, who is young, energetic, and has many good ideas. We say here is where we think we need to go. This job is to figure out how to implement it. Also, he is an expert in the area and advises us on maybe 'maybe we want to look at this versus looking at that.' He is the main point of contact regarding how the board will interact. Steve and I are locals, and the board said, 'You guys, being local, be the student contacts we need.' Steve and I are always around campus and would love to have coffee with you. If something is coming up and you

want to touch base, I'm happy to do that. Other than that, I am glad to be here, glad to be on Northern's campus still, and I look forward to the next six years.``

VI. Executive Reports

A. President- Zora

- a. "Hi everyone, Happy election season. Remember the deadline for intent to run forms is coming up, and This is also a good time to help recruit. It's a little less stressful than having to do an application and interview to get appointed so some people might be more interested. This is a great time to build our recruitment to get more people. Brock, Gwen, and I met earlier this week and talked about dining. More discussion about grief absence policy, we talked about Harden Hall plans. We are looking at doing pancakes with the president again this year and bringing that back from pre-COVID. I have a meeting on Monday with the Governor's office and other student body presidents in the state to talk about more campus safety policies, and what we can do at the statewide legislative level to implement more concrete safety initiatives and not just at individual organizations. So there will be more baseline campus safety policies and the different universities can add whatever else they think would be beneficial to their own university."

B. Vice President- Gwen

- a. "Hello everyone, just some quick updates. There is a lot of buzz on campus about elections. This is really exciting as we haven't heard this much about elections since I have been here. This is an actual election and verifies that the campus voices are listened to and they can choose what they want to see. The leadership recognition banquet is coming up and they have opened it up to a lot of people. You are great leaders on campus and if you would like to go please let me know, preferably before next Friday so I can get the reservation for the CSE. That is April 13th. Information is on the HUB. Starting to get some feelers out for better student engagement, so when the Harden ideas get finalized, we have some student ideas and what they want from it. We need office printer ink. Doing a skill builder about elections and why student government is important hopefully to get recruitment and help them with

applications if they need. In addition, I am doing a full sail which is a housing presentation. It's an educational program for Birch Hall. They want to know about the programs we offer. Also look into to go to Birch Hall Gov and doing a presentation there.``

C. Treasurer-Eli

- a. "Howdy everyone, not a whole not new to report from the SFC fund. We did have our meeting on Tuesday. We passed two budgets, we passed the Q&A Queer Prom and Mind Your Health Initiative. Both of those are going to be great events and both of them we have hosted before. Queer Prom they said last year was an absolute smash success and Mind Your Health is a start up, it is the second semester of them I believe. As for the financial side of things, the amount in the SFC account is pretty unclear right now, it largely depends on ticket revenue from Hippo Campus tonight. If yall have tickets go to it, i'm really looking forward to it, but the tickets are sold out. Cash and I should have a better idea with how much is in the account, by our estimation it's roughly \$13,000 to \$15,000, which is still plenty to do for events, I just have no specific answer. On the ASNMU front, we are sitting at \$10,994.13. The very exciting, SFC got an application as well."

D. Chair of the Assembly- Kylie

- a. "If you see, we have a graduation closet budget on the agenda. If this budget is approved, we would be supporting 100 undergraduate students with caps and gowns, and 12 or 13 graduate students with caps and gowns, assuming this is approved. That being said, we did have to deny students for the first time in years. We had so many applications, in fact the deadline is closed and I am still receiving applications. I believe we ended up turning down 20 students but did give them enough notice so they can still purchase at the grad fair this week at a discounted rate. That being said, we will also be purchasing from the grad fair and that is why it is on today's agenda. I also sat in on the SFC meeting this week so they can keep decorum. I have only sat in an EFG meeting before but never a SFC meeting. Eboard is going to have a meeting after this to discuss the ASNMU Rep of the year and solidify that."

VII. New Business

A. Budgets

1. Graduation Closet Budget - Kylie Lanser and Miya Ohashi Berg

- a. "This budget is to purchase caps and gowns. We will be purchasing the undergraduate bundle, because it is cheaper to purchase the bundle this week and we will be receiving tassels that we don't necessarily need because they have the year on them so we cannot use them in the future, but for those students that tend to forget, we will have backups for this year. In need of 23 new undergraduate gowns and caps. These are needed in order to meet the needs of student requests for the grad closet. This will also expand the grad closet so that this project can help more students in the future. Purchasing the bundle at the current Grad Fair price saves approximately \$200. In need of 1 new graduate gown. This is needed in order to meet the needs of student requests for the grad closet. This will also expand the grad closet so that this project can help more students in the future. We are hopefully going to push this more toward the grad students in the future. I am very happy we are able to support these graduate students. The total on this is \$1,395.51, and it needs a simple 3/4 majority vote."
- b. Olivia moves to approve the budget in full.
- c. Gavvin seconds.
- d. The budget is approved unanimously.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. None.

IX. Good Of the Order

- a. Olivia: "Okay, so first I have Janessa's update: Diversity and disability and ASNMU are officially hosting a disability services education session. This is going to be an event for students to learn how to receive accommodations as well as what kind of accommodations are available. They'll also be discussing how often to renew accommodations and how early you should request test accommodations prior to taking your test or exam. She is in the process of reserving a room so there is no official day yet, but it is going to be in April. On another note, Happy Elections season. We are

tabling after today's meeting. If you have any questions, come to me. I am the chair of elections and it is my second time doing it. I have a little bit of knowledge under my belt about the rules, understanding what you need to know, and any confusions."

- b. Anna: "Hi everyone, Condominium's time has moved from 9:00 PM to Midnight to Friday, April 14th, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. I noticed only one person could volunteer at the previous times, i hope this new time is better for you. As members of ASNMU and since it is being sponsored by ASNMU, I hope more people can volunteer. Please let me know you can volunteer., You'd be helping with names, setting up, and taking down, I hope you can come. It'll be fun.
- c. Gwen: "Greek council has some really cool events going on right now, April 8th, we have a 5K for Phi Sigma Sigma, that's my sorority. All of the proceeds are going to Sandy Knoll. Our philanthropy is college and school readiness, so this is kinda gonna help them out and get them any supplies they need. I believe it's \$19.13 to register. Secondly, the TKE is doing a fundraiser on April 15th that uses their philanthropy. I am not quite sure the details yet, but they are trying to raise money for a good organization."
- d. Micah: "There is also a united conference on Monday that starts at 8:00 AM and it is through the whole day, it'd be cool to come, it's regarding diversity. It'd be cool for you to come."

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting is adjourned at 3:30 PM EST.