

ASNMU GA Agenda
September 22nd, 2023
- Jamrich Hall rm. 1315 -

- I. Call To Order
 - A. The meeting is called to order at 3:31 PM (EST).
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Caleb is absent and excused.
- III. Public Comment
 - A. None.
- IV. Executive Reports
 - A. President:
 - 1. Gwen Feamster: "Welcome back. I am so glad to have so many people here. Our full judiciary is here today: Mitchell, RJ, and Brooke. We also have a new advisor, Simon Moesh. He was in ASNMU during his time at NMU. He is a political science graduate with a master's in public administration. He was the RD in Meyland for a couple of years and is now a success specialist in art design, music theatre, and dance. He is our second advisor, and Jim Gadzinski will be retiring in December. We are very excited to have him. Thank you, Dr. Tessman, for being here today. Investiture is coming up. That is next Friday. It will have the trail run on Saturday. We have about 35 people signed up on the HUB. keep spreading the word around. I will get posters up this week as well. Next Tuesday, in the Northern Lights Dining Hall, dining is doing a feedback presentation at 8:30 PM. Please, if you have any thoughts, go there and speak your mind. The new wellness center dedication will be on Friday, I will be in the office stuffing the water bottles this weekend and into next week."
 - B. Vice President
 - 1. Micah: "We have two new students who sent in their applications and need to set up an interview. Today, we will be appointing one more person to the appointments committee to make sure the interviews have an unbiased ruling. I started a diversity series to gain more representation with faculty, staff, and really anyone who wants to present something. We just had Jeff Korpi talk

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about a journey through life experiences, reiterating understanding humility and seeing that people can be in professional settings but also vulnerable in areas they might not want to be vulnerable. It was super successful. Gwen and I created the Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging committee, and we will sit on the meeting. We hope to appoint one more person. Through that committee, the diversity series would lay into it but also remember diversity, equity, and inclusion are not just black and brown. Still, it radiates to those who have disabilities, making sure equity is given to individuals. I am still waiting to hear back from the Student Enrichment Center regarding Narcan training. I submitted a Narcan Training Skill Builder, reiterating the importance of education before someone goes through an opioid crisis and overdoses. I am doing one for the Multicultural Student Nurses Association and the school nursing, so that is happening next Tuesday. Still, hopefully, we can get the skill builder to provide the opportunity for all students. I am planning National Homeless Awareness Month, which is in November. Full disclosure is the reason I am planning stuff like this I work at the homeless shelter, and I am a part of the administration at the homeless shelter. It also helps to give rise to more increased representation through our school to have relations with this important month."

C. Treasurer

1. ELi: "The whole funding process is up in the air. Last year the faculty advisor for SFC was Kash Dhanapal in the Dean of Students office and his secretary. Kash is now somewhere else on campus, and everything is going through Nicole Shoup, who is the director of orientation, and her secretary, Karine Pratt. They are also taking care of ASNMU funding as well. SFC has had two meetings so far. SFC itself is very small. We

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only have four members and need three to meet the Corum. However, we have had two applications, and I have contacted both candidates. She will be on the agenda. We funded a culture shock film series. Alpha Si Omega is hosting a day of dance on September 24th. They are showcasing a lot of different dances. We funded two different events from the Found Space Theatre. They are a newer group on campus and were funded last year. They have already had four events which is great. The first one is a drama-thon which is a day seminar series where they bring in lecturers from Tech and LSSU and going to have a week-long day of drama starting 10/29 from 10 AM to 10 PM. They are also hosting a play called 'The Vagina Monologues,' which is about trans women and their experiences. The art therapy club reached out to us over the past two semesters for the upkeep of supplies. SFC is sitting at \$25,347. This is before ten-day numbers, so that amount should increase. I was invited to speak at the diversity organization on October 7th. It seems like it will be a gathering of leaders from student organizations, and they will be having an afternoon seminar. I will present on how to get funding for your group, which is super important in group organizations."

D. Chair of the Assembly

1. "Thank you, President Tessman, for coming in. I have not heard any official word from the emergency contraception vending machine yet, which I might follow up on because I have submitted all of the forms, but I believe, as far as I am concerned, the committee on it is growing, and that is getting a lot of traction and support."

V. Presentations/Discussions

A. President Brock Tessman

1. Dr. Tessman: "Thank you for having me. I want to thank Carter for returning and welcoming Simon to

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the advisor position. Congrats to Gwen and Micah I think organizations like ASNMU go through a little bit of transitions from time to time, and in my opinion, it's a good thing with so much opportunity. I was at the committee for Gender and Sexuality meeting where the emergency contraception vending machine was discussed, and there was widespread support. It's important to handle everything like that methodically and in terms of where it is and the education surrounding it. Investiture ceremony: I wouldn't have gone to it if I were a student, but in hindsight, it might be work checking out and maybe interesting, and hopefully, you will not have to live through another one during your time at Northern. The Fun Run is an event surrounding investiture. Thursday morning at nine, there is a panel on well-being, and the Okanagan Charter will play out at Northern. We have panelists coming from Grand Valley, Ferris, and the University of Michigan, and they will be discussing how the Okanagan charter played out on their campus. Afterward, we will be dedicating the Well-Being Center. Enrollment looks very good, which shouldn't matter to you all that much other than it creating stability in our budget and less about where we will be cutting staff or programming budgets. Instead, we can think about where we want to invest. We are not driving Ferraris to work next week. We are not being reckless with our funds, but it is a bit of a shift, and the university has earned that shift. It is exciting to contemplate things. At the very end of the spring, I sent out an email that mentioned administrative alignment, which sounds detached from day-to-day tasks, but it really matters. The University had two big administration pillars that every university has. Finance and Administration and Academic Affairs. Academic affairs is our heart, it is our mission.

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You all get great learning experiences in the classroom and working with faculty, which is why I think our students are here. Finance and administration are there to support everything in academic affairs. And those two things are still there in the heart of northern. Alongside those two preexisting pillars, we built these three additional pillars that align with that. All three are related to the students. Academic experience is the student affairs and success pillar. We are redesigning the diving process, and if you are a first-year, you will definitely be experiencing the change because ACAC does not exist anymore, which is a little unfair. ACAC people are doing the advising work much the same as they have been, but the organizational structure of advising has changed. The statistics do not show enough graduation rates with the old system, so this is to help the new classes come in and be put on the right path toward graduation. The second pillar involves Jeff Korpi, who wakes up every day and puts himself in the shoes of a student, and approaches problems and topics with solutions that benefit the students. A ton of our students do not live on campus, yet we gear things around students who do live on campus. We have to redesign our experience into something that includes our commuter and off-campus students as well. Jeff is meant to fulfill that function and create a seamless experience for you all. I am really happy he is connected to ASNMU. The third pillar isn't directly related to students and faculty as well, but its people, culture, and well-being. It's really about building the type of campus that we all take pride in, where we all feel a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose, and a sense of support. That pillar has a couple of different kinds of components. That's our old HR. We had a lot of great people in HR, but it was in

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a box where it was hiring and firing and traditional HR. Those are important traditional things that are going to continue, but HR is now elevated to have development in people. That goes down to things like childcare. We are investing a quarter million dollars every single year to bring in a new childcare resource to the campus and add to childcare opportunities. Students have kids, staff and faculty have kids, and it is a huge quality of life issue. So, HR has taken on a different role. Then, we have well-being. It is priority one. The new center is a new step, but it's really not about buildings, we have built out counseling hours, and we are hiring more counselors and a well-being promotions director or someone who can think proactively about supporting students' well-being and employees. We have a new care team, which is a case management team. This is not just mental health, but if a student runs into a challenge, like financial struggles, this team sits down and looks at the complexities of that case and figures out how to solve that problem for students if we can. Many times in the past, things that were conduct issues would land in the dean of students world, so they were treated as conduct issues even if it wasn't about that. The last piece of that pillar is diversity and inclusion. We are hiring an assistant vice president for diversity and inclusion, and their job is not to be the savior of diversity and inclusion on our campus. One person can't do that. The burden does not fall on their shoulder, but we are building a team around them. These were administrative changes, and I hope you, ASNMU members, can appreciate the changes and goals we are working for. I want to be open with everything, especially discussing dining being front and center and looking at mental health as front and center. Talk about retention and enrollment that matters.

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2. Micah: "Are they still redoing the library?"
3. Dr. Tessman: "Absolutely. January 1st, they will start moving books out of Harden Hall and into Gries Hall for the next year or so. It will start inside, and by the time next spring rolls around, there one being work on the outside. The front side of Harden Hall will be added onto the three floors there. The top floor will be academic departments, philosophy, economics, political science, and history. It should be terrific. The two floors down from that would be interdisciplinary, so office space would not be restricted to one department. SISU, SHINE, faculty lounge, and honors program will have an outpost and a lot of flexible learning space for students. The library will be totally redone and updated. The ground level of Harden, where Fieras and all of that is, will now be a student union space. There will be more food options and student organization space down there. Jeff Korpi suggested leaving the space open but then working with the student body to create an ideal space over time."
4. Gwen: "I would recommend taking to the NorthWind and getting those students a space in there as well and have them become centralized on campus."
5. Micah: "Has there been talk of the sustainability plan or something about being carbon neutral by 2050?"
6. Dr. Tessman: "That is a thing, but I do not want us to discuss 2050. A committee put together a draft plan they had to present to the board of trustees because they wanted to be good citizens. they polished up the plan, and it looks great, but to me, this looks like a final plan with the watermark 'draft' on it. This has to be co-authored with the rest of the campus. We are dismantling it for now, but we are doing small group sessions. I've asked to have the document broken down into sections, and let's get it

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online so some virtual attendants can be involved. It will not be successful unless everyone thinks they can weigh in and be listened to; this is our plan. It will require sacrifices. We have to all buy into the plan. I am working very hard with and on the board, so I can present to them what I would say is a pretty meaningful step that you get them. I am not motivated by 2050; we might be burning by 2050. As the CEO of this organization, I think it is a fantastic bet on the bottom-line benefit to bring in more students. Amazingly, this is one of them."

7. Darcy: "Just adding on, with that, I feel like there is a lot of opportunity to involve students in the conversation. I believe DIVEST at NMU is a club and even conservation crew, or even sustainability majors, emailing all of these people to have a support group or focus group or discussion forum, the student may have a lot of great ideas."
8. Dr. Tessman: "Thank you for that suggestion. Thank you everyone for having me."

B. Appointments

1. [Appointments Committee - Micah Benjamin](#)
 - a) Miya motions to vote.
 - b) Alec seconds.
 - c) The vote is approved unanimously.
2. [Technology Resources and Policy University](#)
 - a) Miya motions to vote.
 - b) Alec seconds.
 - c) The vote is approved unanimously.
3. [Committee - Micah Benjamin](#)
 - a) Miya motions to vote.
 - b) Alec seconds.
 - c) The vote is approved unanimously.
4. [Presidents Round Table - Micah Benjamin](#)
 - a) Miya motions to vote.
 - b) Alec seconds.
 - c) The vote is approved unanimously.
5. [DE&I - Micah Benjamin](#)

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- a) Miya motions to vote.
- b) Alec seconds.
- c) The vote is approved unanimously.

VI. Public Comment

A. None.

VII. Good Of the Order

A. Alana: "Just to give you an update on what is happening in the office: I have been restocking promo about once a week, sometimes more if truly needed, and it has been going fast. Hockey pucks, straws, and pens have been going like wildfire, and I hope the amount of promo that has been taken reflects interest and applications to ASNMU. Grad coset is almost done. I just need to finish the inventory for master gowns. We are only missing two undergraduate gowns, but they were last in possession of PD, so we're doing well. A career closet is still something that needs love. We need to hang everything up and go through donations, and what we already have and donate items that are outdated or are clear most people would not wear while also getting it ready to be moved over to Hedgecock and Career Services. We have been super busy with nearly ten appointments already, which is unheard of since last semester. I have received most of your responses to the Heashsots email regarding availability; I am only missing a few. If you could get those responses to me by Monday morning so I can try to schedule an appointment by Monday afternoon, that would be great. We can only do one schedule for ASNMU, so we are trying to get as many people as possible. Thank you."

B. Miya: "Gwen and I talked earlier this week about the career closet and trying to get a time to get everyone together so that it's easier with more people to sort and hang up the clothes and prepare them to transition. We were thinking of a Thursday evening and moving the clothes into the building next Friday Morning. Is that something you would be interested in wanting to do? Is there a good week for you guys?"

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C. Gwen: "Reminder we will not have a meeting next week due to investiture.

VIII. Adjournment

A. The meeting is adjourned at 4:35 PM (EST.)