

## ASNMU Minutes

April 8, 2019

Jamrich Hall, Room 1317

- I. **Call to Order**
  - a. Meeting called to order @ 9:00 PM
- II. **Roll Call**
  - a. All Present
- III. **Public Comment**
  - a. None
- IV. **Approval of Consent Items**
  - a. **Agenda – 04/08/2019**
    - i. *Sammi* motion to approve the agenda
      1. *Marissa* second; unanimous
  - b. **Minutes –**
    - i. **03/25/2019**
    - ii. **04/01/2019**
    - iii. *Sammi* motioned to table both sets of minutes
      1. *Lana* second; unanimous
- V. **Executive Reports**
  - a. **President – *Cody Mayer***
    - i. The only update I have is that I appointed Holly and myself to the Board of Trustees Student Achievement Awards Committee.
    - ii. I would like to thank you all for the past year. We have accomplished a lot and I am proud of the work we have done as a team. I would like to do a special farewell and express my gratitude to our members not returning.

Chad Cousino – 1 year of service to the students of NMU as a representative  
Emma Tervonen – 1 year of service to the students of NMU as a representative and Director of External Affairs  
Meghan Flynn – 1 year of service to the students of NMU as a representative  
Adel Isaacson – 1 year of service to the students of NMU as a representative  
Sherri Martinez – 2 years of service to the students of NMU as a representative  
Simon Moesch – 3 years of service to the students of NMU, one year as hall president, one year as Representative and Chair of Student Affairs, and 1 year as the Chair of Assembly.  
Holly Anderson- 4 years of service to the students of NMU, over 3 years as a member of the Student Finance Committee, and over half a year as Treasurer of ASNMU and Chair of SFC  
Connor Loftus – 3 years of service to the students of NMU, half a year as a representative and Chair of Student Affairs, and 2.5 years as Vice President.
    - iii. For those of you returning, thank you for making the decision to run again and serve the students of NMU for another year of your college career. I am very excited about the coming year and I would like us to put any issues we had this past year aside and start fresh

in the next chapter of this great organization. I am confident that we as ASNMU can be a powerhouse at this university.

**b. Vice President – Connor Loftus**

- i. I've said it on the record before and to many of you individually. ASNMU is a family to me. I have learned and grown so much as a person during my time serving on ASNMU. I spent my whole first year on campus just going to class then going home. Something was missing but I couldn't figure it out. I needed to find something that was bigger than myself much like when I was in the Navy. I stumbled on ASNMU by chance but the decision to join was one that I will forever be grateful I made. I chose to join ASNMU to be the voice of student veterans and non-traditional students like me. I spent my whole first semester on ASNMU trying to be everywhere so I could be that voice. As my role in ASNMU changed I represented all of campus. I have been extremely lucky the past three years to have been able to go to every corner of campus to meet with countless students and student groups to hear what Northern means to them. It's those stories that have kept me going.
- ii. Thank you:
  1. I'd like to start by thanking the students of NMU for electing me twice to serve as their Vice President. I am humbled every day by the support I have received by individual students, student groups, and friends on campus. The students truly are what makes NMU such a great place to be.
  2. I'd also like to thank Tristan Ruiz. The words thank you simply isn't enough to describe my gratitude for him. Tristan appointed me as Vice President halfway through my first year on ASNMU when I was the Chair of Student Affairs. He taught me a lot about diplomacy and how to get along with everyone I met. Tristan is someone whom I have shared a lot of ups and downs with both personally and professionally and he is always there to support me. I will never forget our time serving on ASNMU together and our friendship.
  3. I'd like to thank Cody for our time together over the past year and a half. I'll never forget that your second email to me ever was you brown nosing and trying to stroke my ego before you asked me for help on drafting legislation. I appreciate our friendship and it has helped make my last year on ASNMU go much smoother than I thought. My hope is that during our time working together I have shared what knowledge I have with you in a meaningful and impactful way.
  4. I'd like to thank Carter, Jim, and John Frick (the advisor before Jim) for the support and advice they offer ASNMU. We are fortunate to have such active advisors that attend our meetings and give words of advice when needed. The three of them have helped shape me as a leader in various ways and I am thankful for my time working with them.
  5. I'd like to thank Sarah S. and Holly for the work they have done as ASNMU Treasurers and I am grateful they dealt with the numbers and I didn't have to. They both brought a valuable voice to every E-Board meeting and helped to shape our organization for the better.
  6. I'd like to thank all of the Chairs of Assembly and Committees. The leadership you provide to the legislative branch is absolutely critical to the function of our organization. You are in the trenches and leading the projects that make NMU a better place.
  7. I'd like to thank Rebecca, Taylor, and Heather for the times we spent working together. I am thankful for the work they have helped ASNMU and SFC accomplish and we could not function without them. It is nice to walk into the office and always have a friend

there to work with. They are truly a foundational part of our organization and they don't hear thank you nearly enough. Thank you.

8. Lastly, I'd like to thank my daughter Chloe for putting up with all of this. Chloe has tagged along to more committee meetings, E-Board meetings, campus events, and presentations than some reps ever do. In my mind, she is without question an honorary ASNMU member. I am grateful for her willingness to understand why dad is so busy during the school year. Every meeting night, the last thing I do before I leave the house is give her a kiss, say goodbye, and thank her for understanding. Her smile has helped me pick my head up countless times after a hard or busy week of school, ASNMU, or even just life. I hope that when she grows up and looks back on this time in her life she will be proud of the work I've done during my time on ASNMU and as a student at NMU.
- iii. My last year at ASNMU was different from my first two. My first two I was very active in meeting with student org and going to every event I could fit into my calendar. I returned this year to serve as a more behind the scenes role and a mentor to anyone that asked. I spent a lot of this year listening and writing notes about things that people spoke with me about. We had several big bumps in the roads that I think served a lot of people as teaching/learning moments. While writing this report, I reviewed all of my notes from my meetings with representatives, E-Board members, and listening to you all at meetings. I pulled out a few common themes I want all returning members and new members in the public to think about as you all embark as a new ASNMU administration. The common themes I want you all to think about are collaboration, listening, communication, diplomacy, engaging students, and patients.

1. Theme 1: Collaboration

Very few projects this year came in front of the assembly with more than one or two names attached to it. This is a stark contrast to my first two years on ASNMU. Previous years had projects where almost every member was a part of the project. The 1UP conference was an entire ASNMU collaboration. I frequently had people meet with me that were frustrated that they couldn't get their project off the ground and that no one took it seriously. When I would ask whom all was working on it and if their committee had provided feedback the answer was often "It's just me and no, I haven't talked to my committee about it". I also had several people that told me they were afraid to let other people join their project because they were afraid that they wouldn't get the credit for it. Or they were afraid new ideas would stray from their original vision. To be blunt, these are toxic ideas that will sink any organization. We aren't here to serve ourselves, we are here to serve the students of Northern Michigan University. Don't forget that. Any time you are about to say I or me, replace it with us and we.

Additionally, collaboration is how we help each other succeed. In boot camp, they would talk about tearing us down so we could build each other back up. When a group of people rallies around someone or something, it will always have a better outcome no matter what. I had many reps come into my office and complain that committee chairs weren't doing enough. After listening even more the issue really was that chairs weren't doing what individuals perceived as their job. Stop setting unfair expectations for each other. If you see someone struggling, ask them how you can help. Don't let them fail just to prove a point.

2. Theme 2: Listening

In my opinion, one of the most defining characteristics of any person and especially a leader is their ability to actively listen. This is one of the skills I have worked the hardest at since joining ASNMU leadership. Many times people don't understand another person simply because they don't take the time to listen to them. People also try to help solve problems before they fully listen to what the problem is. You can't help solve something when you have only half the information. When someone approaches you to talk about something let them talk until they have said everything they intended to say. Once they are done, before you spring into action, ask them how you can help rather than just assuming you can do something. Better listening can increase collaboration and bring a group closer together.

### 3. Theme 3: Communication

Central to any good leader or healthy organization is the ability to communicate effectively with others. I think this is another area that needs some growth based on this year. For starters, don't be afraid to have a hard conversation with someone. The only thing you need to do when you have a hard conversation is to be respectful and be willing to listen to the other person's side. We all have our disagreements but it is how we handle those disagreements that can define us as people. Cody and I didn't agree on everything and we had several hard conversations with each other and we both learned and grew from it. Having these hard conversations can make people aware of things they may not have thought about. The worst way to handle a situation is to sit in the office and complain to other people about someone rather than having a conversation about it. This is toxic and contagious. When people come to complain to me about someone I often times help them sort through it then tell them to share what we discussed with the person they have the problem with. It is a simple cure to a problem that can get out of hand fast.

Another type of communication worth considering is face to face conversations. It is easy to hide behind a keyboard and send pointed emails to someone. It's another thing to consider having a conversation like I just described. We are all peers and deserve to be treated the same. A title attached to your name means nothing if you treat someone poorly. Be nice to each other and have conversations before things escalate to an argument. It's really that simple. Be proactive when you communicate.

### 4. Theme 4: Diplomacy

The knee jerk reaction to an important issue that we are passionate about is to go in guns blazing at the people we feel are creating a roadblock. This is a dangerous approach if you hope to get anywhere. Building a relationship with the people we need to work with is the first and most important step of anything we can do. Once there is a mutual ground established then you can start to have the hard conversations. If talks start to go south, circle back to the mutual ground. It doesn't matter how much you disagree with any administrator or Board of Trustee member, all of us want to make Northern a better place to be, we just have different ways of going about doing that. That is a great place to start with any conversation.

In my three years on ASNMU, I have had my fair share of disagreements with faculty and administrators. But no matter how intense the debate or conversation was, I never let it get the best of me. Almost every heated conversation I've ever had usually ends with us talking about friends and family or plans for the summer. This is the sign that there is mutual respect between two people and it keeps the door open for future conversations. Don't close the door on someone just because you disagree.

### 5. Theme 5: Engaging Students

This is the foundation of who we are as an organization. We can't sit around and talk about what the students want if we aren't directly engaging with them. We are elected to serve them, not just speak for them. This should not be the task of one person. Logan has spent all semester building an amazing network and it would be very wise of everyone from leadership to the newest member to use that network to get engaged with the students you serve. As someone who has spent a lot of time speaking to and working with student groups, I can tell you it is absolutely energizing to listen to these groups and the work they do. They provide you with direct feedback that can be used to find the next project or expand ones that we already have.

Be proactive about talking to students. Don't wait until a decision has already been made before we try to rally them around an issue. Let them know what is going on and how they can be a part of the conversation now rather than later. I have seen the student's voice work on several occasions. It is a powerful tool if it is used at the right time in a conversation. Meeting with groups should be your bread and butter skill to help get things done. The people you represent should know who you are and how you can help. This can start literally first thing tomorrow. I challenge you all to find a student org you represent and reach out to them tomorrow. Start that relationship now and carry it into next year. It will make you a better representative and better asset to your organization.

**6. Theme 6: Patience**

All good things take time. We have the tendency to be impatient and not wait for our projects to run their full course. Many of you jumped the gun on projects which ultimately cost you more time. This is a bureaucracy, things take time. Embrace that fact and be willing to work with it. There is nothing wrong with being persistent and following up with people semi-frequently. But there is a danger in trying to skip the very people you need support from to get something done. It is an unfair expectation to put on faculty and administrators to expect them to drop everything and help us. They are very busy people. Being understanding of that and being flexible is the best way to work with them. Meetings get canceled and bumped. Don't take it personally. Being patient and more understanding will get you much further than arguing and skipping people.

- iv. I will still be around next semester on campus. I have already told Cody that I would be more than happy to come and talk with ASNMU or any of its members as my schedule allows. I am just an email, text, or phone call away. Sometimes stepping outside of the organization to brainstorm can help generate new ideas or provide you with the confidence you need. I frequently meet with administrators to bounce ideas off of them or past ASNMU members so I can have a fresh set of eyes and ears looking at the problem or project.

I am more than willing to serve as a friend, mentor, or confidant if needed. I'm a resource and I encourage you all to use that. I also encourage you all to reach out to our advisors, they are here for us so don't be afraid to use them as a resource too.

- v. I want to thank you all again for being a part of such a meaningful time in my life. I will never forget the memories I have shared with you all and with past ASNMU members. For the last time, I yield the floor.

**c. Chair of Assembly – *Simon Moesch***

- i. Holy cow, my freshman year I had someone tell me "Simon, you have never been in student government before but you should run for ASNMU president". That was a scary thought, so I started out as a representative and made it to where I am now.

I've learned a lot from being involved in ASNMU and I've learned a lot from all of you. You have done some really cool projects and this is a really cool organization. Bring people in and grow this organization. Be a leader. We learn stuff each and every day in and out of the office. It is crazy how one organization can open so many doors for you and sometimes you take that for granted until you look back and see what you've accomplished. Even if you have a project that's the biggest project in the world, go for it. You don't know what you can accomplish until you try. All you need is an idea. Even if it's just a little one at first. You just need to be persistent - call people, send another email, or go to their office. Collaborate with your peers, faculty, and the administration and you will be able to push things through.

I will be here for another year so if you need any help, let me know. I'm more than willing to come into the office and help. I'm willing to meet with people with you or give you direction if you need it. I want to see you succeed and we have a great avenue to do so. Thank you all for everything you have done, and without you I wouldn't be where I'm at right now. Thank you for helping me and working with me at the beginning of the year with my schedule. You all didn't have to do that, and you did and that means a lot to me. So thank you.

**d. Treasurer – *Holly Anderson***

- i. I still don't have a number for ASNMU. Dawn has been really busy preparing meetings for the Board of Trustees and as of Friday hasn't touched our financial statements. I am really hoping she has some time this week to go through them.
- ii. SFC currently has \$19,239.80
- iii. We have four interviews scheduled on Thursday for potential new members and I'm expecting a few more interviews before the end of the semester.

**e. ASNMUJ – *Ashley Mayer***

- i. Unfortunately, the student that was interested in joining ASNMUJ has not returned any of my emails. Therefore, at this time I have no potential ASNMUJ members.
- ii. For those of you that have sent inquiries to ASNMUJ, we have reviewed most of them and I am working on sending out emails with our responses.
- iii. I am glad that I was able to join ASNMU when I was needed. I had a great time working with all of you this semester! For those of you that are graduating or have decided not to come back to ASNMU, I wish you all luck with your future endeavors.

**VI. Committee Updates**

**a. LISAC – *Samantha Metcalf***

- i. The link to the new webpage for the library was sent in the email with the agenda. It would be really helpful to hear your feedback since they've been working on this website for the past year. Whether you have good or bad things to say about it, your comments will help them either way. The links may not all work, but keep in mind it's still a demo site.

**VII. New Business**

**a. LRC Paint Project Murals**

**i. Marquette Aquamen Underwater Hockey/Rugby Club – *Simon Moesch***

1. It will be hand sketched, but if there is access to a projector they'd be willing to use that. The student doing this is an art major and there are two other art majors in the club. They promised, via email that it will be great either way. With having three members who are comfortable with drawing and painting, I think it would turn out well.

- a. *Sammi: Sari, Simons* contact, is incredible and easily at the top of my class
  - 2. *Sam* motioned to approve the mural design
    - a. *Marissa* second; unanimous
- ii. **Mortar Board – *Simon Moesch***
  - 1. According to their current president, the hand drawn copy is what would be on the wall and the digital drawing shows the color scheme for it. If they have access to a projector, then they will use that. Black and yellow are the colors of the national honors society.
  - 2. *Lana* motioned to approve the mural design
    - a. *Marissa* second; unanimous
- iii. **Superior Edge Volunteer Center – *Samantha Metcalf***
  - 1. I worked with *Maggie* on this design. They want to keep the volunteer center green and superior edge is usually blue. They do have a spot in the tunnel currently, but it's only for the volunteer center. This design would be putting the two offices together and they would just update their current spot. Both are listed as student organizations.
  - 2. *Lana* motioned to approve
    - a. *Adel* second; unanimous
- b. **R.A.D. Poster Design – *Meghan Flynn***
  - i. There's no time on it currently, but we will fix that up. We will be putting this in a handful of areas, not all over campus. I wanted general feedback from the assembly before having ASNMU's name on it.
    - 1. *Sam*: I designed it so that it would have minimal ink usage since they will be printed out of the office.

**VIII. Good of the Order**

- a. *Connor*: good job on your solo this weekend Rebecca. Chloe enjoyed it.
- b. *Ashley*: we are going to half off appetizers at Applebee's after the meeting and everyone is welcome.

**IX. Public Comment**

- a. None

**X. Dissolving of 2018-2019 Governing Board**

- a. *Lana* motioned to dissolve the 2018-2019 governing board
  - i. *Marissa* second; unanimous
- b. 2018-2019 Governing Board dissolved @ 9:45 PM