

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

6:30 p.m.

President Faulkner called to order the General Assembly meeting of the Ferris State University Student Government Association on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 via Zoom Video Communications at 6:37 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Present: Allyson Faulkner, Tara Kremhelmer, Adam Michalski, Miranda Blaine, Dean Herioux, Brooke Cunningham, Lucas Orosco, Sophie Kubesh, Baylee Byrnes, Jade Quinn, Jonathan Ward, Stephen Bottke, Amanda Eslinger, Dale DesHarnais, Anna Sangster, Meredith Whitmer, Carley Dubbert, Sean Lausin, John Vary, Toni Botica, Zoie Willson, Paige Abromaitis, AshleyRose Watters, Dakota Gray, Alex Hand, Blake Patterson, Leanna Kwilos, Emily Hamner, and Sarah Fase.

Not in Attendance: Kiranjit Kaur, Daniel Buby, Monica Pittiglio, and La'Shai Watson.

Hearing of the Public I

1. There were no visitors who spoke during this time.

Approval of the Minutes

1. President Faulkner stated that

Messages from the Advisors

1. Nicholas Campau:
 - a. He stated that the advisors are here for the students during this time and encouraged students to reach out if they need anything.
2. Dean Joy Pulsifer:
 - a. She thanked everyone for working with them during this time.
 - b. She stated that Nick Smith sent out an email about virtual meetings, Torchbearer Awards, and how to conduct virtual elections for student organizations. She stated that the email would be sent out with the minutes.
 - c. She stated that she would like for students to voice any concerns they have about campus transitioning to online classes and operations during Hearing of the Public Part II.

Cabinet Reports

1. President Faulkner:

- a. She stated that this time will be an opportunity for all to grow their skills while transitioning to their online classes. She stated that anyone may reach out to her should they need help with anything.
 - b. She stated that her focus for the rest of the semester is to use social media to be the voice of the students through student government while in-person classes are suspended. She stated that the university must follow the government's guidelines with everything that is going on and as a result some students may be upset so she wants to make sure they all have their voices heard.
2. Vice President Orosco:
 - a. He stated that many of the external committee meetings may be being cancelled or operated online. He stated that he is working to get this figured out.
3. Administrative Assistant Kremhelmer:
 - a. She stated that she had no report.
4. Treasurer Michalski:
 - a. He stated that he had no report.
5. Parliamentarian Blaine:
 - a. She stated that her committee will still be going through the documents and she encouraged members to reach out if they are interested.
6. Director of Finance Herioux:
 - a. He stated that the Finance Division met virtually to discuss what will be going on for the rest of the semester.
 - b. He stated that there should be three large allocations at the end of the semester that will need approval from the General Assembly.
 - c. He stated that RSOs can still apply for funding for Fall events by emailing the Finance Division email (financedivisionsga@ferris.edu). He stated that he or Leanna Kwilos will handle the applications and set up Finance Division mentors virtually.
 - d. He stated that Finance Division will be operating on their normal meeting schedule.
 - i. President Faulkner stated that members should take this information back to their organizations so they can utilize Finance Division in the Fall.
 - e. He stated that any money in the Student Activity Fund that does not get spent rolls over to the next semester.
7. Director of Public Relations Cunningham (read by President Faulkner):
 - a. She stated that she would appreciate it if members could send her any ideas for social media challenges or tips and tricks for online classes.
8. Director of Operations Orosco:
 - a. He stated he will be creating Microsoft Teams for each internal committee so they can discuss what each committee is able to accomplish for the rest of the semester.
 - b. He stated that a virtual gala will still be taking place to announce the awards and recognize what the Student Government Association has accomplished over the past year.

- c. He stated that the magazine for the Diversity Committee is still being worked on.
9. Director of Philanthropy Byrnes:
- a. She stated that the Big Event for 2020 is cancelled and the committee will be making cancellation phone calls soon.
 - b. She stated that she has been looking into alternative ideas for a Spring philanthropy event and an idea that was mentioned was that individuals could do their own family's yardwork or a neighbor's yardwork that is in need of help while still following all of the rules of social distancing.
10. Director of Internal Assessment Kubesh:
- a. She stated that Amanda Eslinger will oversee handling the election process because she is running for President.
 - b. She stated that the election process will be made much more virtual and social media driven.
 - c. She asked that individuals who cannot attend the virtual student government meetings still send her an email stating that they cannot attend.
 - d. She stated that the new member process will still be happening virtually during this time.

Internal and External Committee Reports

1. Sustainability Committee:
- a. Stephen Bottke stated that a Microsoft Team was created and that the grant application is still in progress.

Senator and Representative Reports

1. Amanda Eslinger:
- a. She stated that the Presidential and Senatorial election processes will be completely virtual. She stated that general information about the Student Government Association and the elections will be posted on the Ferris Life Instagram page and Bulldog News. She stated that candidates will be doing takeovers on the social media pages where students may ask them questions.
 - b. She stated that at this time Allyson Faulkner and Sophie Kubesh are running for President and Meredith Whitmer, AshleyRose Watters, and Jade Quinn are running for Senators.
 - c. She stated that anyone looking to apply to become a Senator can email her their letter of intent. She stated that signatures for the election process will be bypassed at this time due to the extenuating circumstances.
2. Hospitality Student Management Association:
- a. Paige Abromaitis stated that they have been having Zoom meetings for their Executive Board meetings.
 - b. Paige Abromaitis stated that they are looking into having a few seminars from General Managers in the hospitality field to speak about how the coronavirus outbreak has affected the industry.

- c. Paige Abromaitis stated that they are holding elections for the organization via Zoom meetings and voting on google docs.
 - d. Paige Abromaitis stated that their Human Trafficking Conference on April 16th was cancelled.
3. Mixed Martial Arts Club:
 - a. Stephen Bottke stated that all their events have been cancelled for the rest of the semester including their meetings as everything requires the members to meet in person.
 - b. Stephen Bottke stated that their successors for their Executive Board positions have already been lined up and that Connor will be joining the Student Government Association as his replacement.
4. American Marketing Association:
 - a. Emily Hamner stated that they traveled to New Orleans for their annual International Collegiate Conference. She stated that they received 1st place in one of the virtual competitions, a Top 10 Chapter award out of 350 applicants, and two students received 2nd place in another competition.
5. Burt and Mullet:
 - a. John Vary stated that all their meetings and their allocation has been cancelled.
 - b. John Vary stated that they are trying to figure out how to still compete virtually using the poster they have created.
6. Zeta Tau Alpha:
 - a. Zoie Willson stated that their Best Man on Campus event is cancelled but they are still accepting donations via the link on social media. She stated that she will post the link on the Facebook page.

New Business

1. Approval of \$5,885.00 Allocation for Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge.
 - a. President Faulkner stated that the event that the allocation is for was supposed to be an in-person event held in April. She stated that the approval will need to be held off on as it has not been confirmed if the event will be transitioning to a virtual event.

Motion to Postpone the Approval of the Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge Allocation to March 31st.

Entertained by: President Faulkner

Motion by: Stephen Bottke

Supported by: Paige Abromaitis

Motion passes at 7:05 pm.

Hearing of the Public II

1. Allyson Faulkner: She encouraged individuals to reach out to her with any suggestions for the transition to virtual meetings and elections.
2. John Vary: He stated that a petition has been circulating pushing for pass/fail or credit/no credit classes and was wondering if this was possible.
 - a. Joy Pulsifer stated that the academic Deans and the Provost have been looking into that possibility, but they have not yet decided. She stated that the decision will be communicated once a decision is reached. She stated that the professors are being as accommodating as possible during this time and to communicate with them as much as possible.
3. Joy Pulsifer: She asked for any questions or concerns relating to the transition to online operations at the university.
4. Jonathan Ward: He asked what would be happening for mechanical engineering labs and other labs that require hands on training and participation.
5. Joy Pulsifer: She stated that certain courses and programs have figured out how to perform remote labs, but they are still looking into labs that require hands on participation.
6. Lucas Orosco: He asked when hands on programs like Dental Hygiene will be hearing about their hands-on requirement such as boards exams.
 - a. Joy Pulsifer stated that that is still being discussed but may come down to what the accrediting bodies for those programs decide.
7. Paige Abromaitis: She asked if refunds were being considered for room and board at the university.
 - a. Joy Pulsifer stated that there will be refunds for room and board, but they are unsure of how much students will be getting back. She stated that Ferris' CFO is currently looking into the amounts for housing and meal plans and some more information should be coming out soon.
8. Joy Pulsifer: She stated that alternative arrangements for commencement are being looked into and should be communicated sometime this week. She stated that there is a virtual grad fair.
9. Joy Pulsifer: She stated that students who are in need of a computer can contact the IT department and arrange a laptop to be shipped to them. She stated that there has also been information from the bookstore regarding frequently asked questions coming from students during this time. She also stated that a Hardship Fund has been created and more information will be coming out on how to apply for those grants.
10. John Vary: He asked if the university was considering refunding students for not receiving an in-person education.
 - a. Joy Pulsifer stated that she has not heard any information on that, but if they were to consider it it would most likely be on a case by case basis.
11. Dean Herioux: He asked if it was a possibility for some programs to adopt the credit/no credit policy.
 - a. Joy Pulsifer stated that is a possibility but ultimately depends on what the university decides. She stated that at this time she believes that it will be a possibility at Kendall college.

12. Linda Telfer: She asked if it were possible for the Student Government Association to use the Finance Division to pay for the caps and gowns of graduating seniors to compensate for some of the opportunities they have lost out on due to the circumstances we are facing.
 - a. Joy Pulsifer stated that current possibilities for alternative graduation ceremonies include moving commencement to later in the summer or allowing graduates to attend Fall 2020 commencement. She stated that the cost for the cap and gown is \$40 through the bookstore. She stated that the cost for the caps and gowns for all the graduating seniors would be around \$30,000.
 - b. Allyson Faulkner asked which budget this would be coming out of if members wanted to consider it.
 - c. Linda Telfer stated that with commencement being one of the largest on campus events she was thinking the Finance Division could use the Student Activity Fund.
 - d. Allyson Faulkner stated that the logistics would be looked into for further discussion.
 - e. John Vary stated that he believes that individual academic help or other uses of the budget would be more beneficial as we are only halfway through the semester.
 - f. Dean Herioux stated that when items are purchased using the Student Activity Fund the university must keep whatever is not thrown away after the event and raised concerns that that would be an issue in this situation.
 - g. Stephen Bottke stated that he agrees and believes that there are better uses for the budget.
 - h. Sarah Fase stated that \$30,000 is a large expense and suggested that we consider paying for half or only purchasing the tassel for graduates as that is more of a memento.
 - i. Sophie Kubesh stated that student government could place this as a proposal on the ballot for elections.
 - j. Lucas Orosco stated that he believes that there is merit to the idea because it is not something the university is focused on at the moment. He stated that this would be a good way for the Student Government Association to show that they are thinking about concerns students may have.
13. Dean Herioux: He asked what the budget was for the Student Government Association.
 - a. Linda Telfer stated that she can have the updated budget attached with the minutes.
14. Jade Quinn: She asked what would happen with all the Big Event applications at City Hall.
 - a. Baylee Byrnes stated that they were already picked up and everyone who signed up has been put on the list for the Big Event for 2021.
15. Jade Quinn: She stated that Educational Counseling and Disability Services center is still looking for readers and scribes for students who need help with their exams. She stated that this help would occur virtually during this time. She stated that she can help anyone interested get in contact with Ashley Hawley.

16. John Vary: He asked if moving the Big Event to the Fall was considered instead of cancelling it all together.
 - a. Allyson Faulkner stated that the Big Alleyway Cleanup is held in the Fall and is an event similar to the Big Event.
17. Miranda Blaine: She asked what the consensus was on purchasing the caps and gowns for graduating seniors.
 - a. Allyson Faulkner stated that the budgets and other logistics would be looked into and discussed further at a later meeting.
18. Carley Dubbert: She stated that the College of Pharmacy donated all their personal protective equipment that was stored for labs to the hospital in Big Rapids.
19. Lucas Orosco: He stated that Ferris has its own movie database and streaming service where students can watch movies and interesting documentaries.
20. Jade Quinn: She asked what was happening with the internal committees during this time.
 - a. Lucas Orosco stated that he does not want the committees to shut down completely so they will be working on possibilities for events for the rest of the semester.

Adjourn

To adjourn at 7:42 pm.

Minutes respectfully recorded by Administrative Assistant Tara Kremhelmer. Minutes were approved by the General Assembly and signed by President Allyson Faulkner.

Allyson Faulkner

President of FSUSGA

Tara Kremhelmer

FSUSGA Administrative Assistant