



Student Government Association

Senate

Minutes- 2/9

- I. Call to Order: 5:03 PM**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda** 1st by Ash, 2nd by Nour
- IV. Approval of Minutes** 1st by Julianne, 2nd by Huda
- V. Makayla Abraham, VP of AA**
 - A. Joshua Powers, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - i. The Provost introduced himself to the Senate. He attended with the Dean of Arts and Communication, Loretta Mc Loughlin and the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Wartyna Davis. He explained that state funding has decreased significantly in the past 40 years. The number of traditional aged students attending university after high school has decreased over the years as well. Unfortunately to meet budget decreases, professors will be laid off January 1st, 2022, but those individuals will be notified by June 15th, 2021. Professors are also being encouraged to retire early if eligible to. Many programs are being reevaluated and some will potentially be cut. There are currently over 300 undergraduate programs offered to the students. If some programs are closed or on hiatus, students already in those programs will be able to continue and graduate with those degrees but no new students will be admitted into the programs if it is cut.
 - ii. Regarding the merging of the two colleges (Art/Comm and HSS), the issue came out when both colleges struggled to fill their open Dean positions during the pandemic. Both Deans introduced themselves and explained that students have more to benefit from the merge rather than fear. Students will have more access to faculty members from different disciplines to assist with studying, exploring majors/minors, career advice, etc. Both Deans are open to hearing any suggestions and questions from students throughout the process of the colleges merging.
 - iii. Senators and students asked questions regarding all the academic based changes coming up. One particular challenge is documenting on how

students have adjusted to the change after they have been put into place, i.e. the faculty layoff, closing some programs and the two colleges merging. Another issue is that committees are still deciding all the factors on which a program is being cut and ensuring that the decolonization of academic courses continue. No particular faculty member or academic program has been officially let go or cut. Dean Davis advised students if there is a program they truly support, ensure student peers are registering for as many courses as possible. The decolonization of the curriculum is still a priority among the Academic Affairs division. The restructuring of advisement is to help students more with building a relationship with their advisor first and have an advisor later who can help with career goals. Students' jobs will not be affected by this. The overall goal is to layoff the least amount of professors as possible. The university is looking to diversify their student demographics to reach more individuals with families to take courses online or at night. International students ideally will not be affected by these changes as well. If they are, there is an Office for International Students that can assist with their issues.

iv. If any students have additional questions, please let Makayla know. She meets with the Provost every three weeks and she can ask him in person.

B. Senator Appointment: Emma Dodson introduced herself and mentioned that she wants to join SGA to make an impact on campus. Motion to make Emma a senator, 1st by Makayla, 2nd by Kendall, approved 36-0-0.

VI. Kaydyn Rivera, EVP

A. Club Council

i. Dante spoke on behalf of the club council reps and informed everyone how the last meeting went. He also mentioned that a lot of clubs are still learning to adapt to a virtual learning/ interacting module.

B. Retreat

i. Retreat is Friday, February 12th, at 10:30 AM.

VII. Aashish Andrew, VP of Allocations

A. Pesce Mentoring Institute

i. Ash informed the senate of the mentoring opportunity available through this institute.

VIII. Nour Muhajer, VP of SL

A. Senator Appointment: Jaser introduced himself and shared that he was a senator in the past and would like to join again in his last semester. Nour motioned to appoint Jaser as a senator, 2nd by Kendall, approved 36-0-0.

IX. Advisor's Comments

A. Please inform new senators that meetings run from 5-7 PM the latest. Those who are not here when the meeting adjourn will be given a half absent.

B. Great job asking the Provost your questions. The session was very interactive and informative and don't forget to share what you learned today with your fellow peers.

X. Old Business

A. Please attend the retreat, it accounts for 25% of your stipend.

B. Please make sure your cameras are all on during the meeting.

C. Nour will be meeting with Alexa from Dining Services weekly during Common hour. If you are interested in attending a meeting with her, let her know.

XI. New Business: N/A

XII. Announcements

A. MSU will be hosting an event on cultural appropriation tonight at 7:30 PM.

B. Please respect boundaries when other senators are speaking.

XIII. Adjournment: 6:19 PM