



Senate Meeting

04/19/21

Virtual

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order:

II. Roll Call:

III. Approval of the Minutes

a) Sarah: I entertain a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes

- Sierra: So moved
- Sophia: Seconded

IV. Approval of the Agenda

a) Sarah: I entertain a motion to approve the agenda

- Sophia: So moved
- Cora: Seconded

V. Guest Speaker: Dr. Brian Merkel

a) Thank you so much for letting me be here. I am here to answer any questions or concerns you have regarding COVID-19 or vaccinations – I am here to help with any misconceptions. I have been doing this for 36 years now, and after all this time, I try to approach this as a conversation and to invite a conversation. I'm not here to judge anyone because it's a form of intolerance. Students accuse me of "Merkalisms", one of these is tolerance to intolerance. Intolerance shuts down conversations, and we need to be able to talk to each other. I would



imagine that all of you are familiar with everything that is out there, especially vaccine misconceptions. So, I would like to open up the floor to any questions you would have.

b) Questions:

- Assuming we move back to a normal schedule, do we have plans in place for a surge?
 1. That really gets back to where we want to be? We want to return to something we remember although you can make the case that we will never be able to return. Even just in the terms of course modality.
 2. As a result of that, you would expect, lets say cases were at 0, there were still going to be some differences
 3. I always come back to this team thing. It is more than just the individuals that it comes back to. One way to keep distance is that you are making the life of the virus more difficult. You as a younger person may not have severe symptoms but others might.
 4. Kind of coming full circle back to this when there was concerns about spring break and infection rates in unimmunized adults. If we dodged a bullet of a fourth surge, we aren't too sure yet, as immunization rates continue, the roll out has been great, you're talking about 3.5mil immunizations a day, we can feel very good given where we should be with immunization rates and thinking about what the fall should look like.
- Joy: I heard that fully vaccinated students in the system no longer have to take covid tests. When will that come?



1. The chancellor talked about that in his coffee talk session. President Tommy Thompson has initiated that policy, we are being a little more cautious now but we are going to wait and see.
 2. If we continue along a good path, we will see a gradual relaxation of some of the safety measures we have in place.
 3. Look at the number of infections in the whole country. If we get below the 10,000 infection threshold per day in the country, things are going to start changing in a positive way. The virus is more diluted in the environment in general. As the immunizations increase over time, a big threat will be diminished.
- Mark: This is a question for the senate: we have been trying to figure out more ways to get vaccinated or what they think the barriers are. We know that just sending the email out isn't going to do the trick.
 1. One of the ways we were hoping to help that way was me coming to ask you questions and answer your questions
 2. Ted: It would be pretty easy to get a booth in the union, and have people there to explain them and make sure students understand they are eligible.
 - a. I know some people would rather wait to get it for people who need it more but we have enough to get it for everyone.
 3. Emily: I have been working w Amy Henniges and she sent some info last week and I made up some posters that we are going to distribute to res life and in the union as well as social media



- a. It has why you should be vaccinated and quick info as well as QR codes to bring you to each website to get more information
 - b. They should be going out by the end of this week
4. Yer: Maybe they are unsure how to register, could we help them register?
- a. Sarah: Maybe get info out on how and where. There are a lot of students who aren't near campus but are still eligible. So outreach to students across Wisconsin and other states.
5. Harrison: I am from the Sheboygan campus, I guess taking classes w students from across all campuses, people are talking about vaccines, most people have no problem with it, it is more about finding the time to do it. There are some students who I think still have concerns about the vaccines so if that can be addressed.
- a. Just put out a bulletin about the common concerns that people might be worried about.
6. Brian: These are really great ideas. Please encourage anyone you talk to, to email me or call me.
- a. (920) 412-8298
 - b. I will give some background; I was diagnosed w AML and was given a 20% chance to live without a bone marrow transplant. And in 1994, there wasn't a lot of technology to do that.



- i. It really has forever, that experience, it was very traumatic, but in this way, I am a living testament to the value of science and medicine.
- ii. It has forever impacted what I do professionally. When it comes to public health, I take all of that for the reasons mentioned, incredible seriously.
 1. I was told I would be sterile at 18 so when it comes to reproductive health, as a scientist whose expertise is specifically in vaccines and immunology, I would never, I have no agenda other than keeping people safe.
 2. It is about paying the gift of science and medicine forward
- iii. I am very happy to share that with people. I was getting ready to give a lecture and it just came out. For the first time I volunteered this information.
 1. One of you might be able to save someone else's life down the road.
- c. I can tell you these vaccines are incredibly safe; they will not impact your reproductive health.
- d. I do everything I can to inform people, so they don't turn to the internet and get false information.



7. Harrison: I think just putting that info with the things about vaccines would help a lot. You overevaluate negative information and I think that is what is going on.
 - a. So much of it is providing context w risk and even then, I agree with you. Even sometimes the best forms of communication.
8. Pri: Maybe we could bring some fact sheets to said booth in the union.
9. Joy: Anyone who has an online class uses canvas, is there a way to send out a message on canvas about it?
10. Brian: Thanks for sharing and posting these points.
 - a. We know that the chancellor will love this.
11. Sarah: As always, if you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Merkel or G, Mark or I and we can forward that question.
 - a. If you do want to contact him, his cell phone number is also in the minutes.

VI. Reports

a) President:

- It has been quite the week
- I was pretty sick from the second shot but I am vibing now
- I will get into this more in Jared's report but there was a little bit of an issue with the voting stuff
 1. We will have the results in today
 2. Jared has them in his report



b) Vice President:

- I have been trying to work on a transition binder since things are starting to wrap up for the year.

c) Speaker of the Senate:

- We do have a student think tank meeting on Friday
- I am going to give my senators the option of having a 1:1 if they have any questions
 1. I am not going to require it though

d) RHAA:

- Sierra: the mystery location for res fest and it is at Bay Beach (which is also hiring if anyone is curious)

e) Student Court: (given by G)

- Essentially what happened last week was a bit of miscommunication regarding the election.
 1. There was a big issue with some students not able to vote
 2. It had to be fixed by IT
 3. The election results are in now.
 4. We got everything fixed and it is good now.
- Before I get to the election results, they are selecting the chief justice at the next meeting and he is working on his transition binder.
- I would like to congratulate Ted and Jasmine on their victory for the 2021 election.



1. Sophia and Jay also got the senate election
 2. There was a write in for Sarah and Jared for senator as well as a few more write-ins who I will contact.
- Thank you to everyone who ran!

f) Advisor:

- I wanted to take a moment as we prepare for pass the gavel, we try to share some of the highlights SGA had this year. I wondered if anyone wanted to shout some things out or pop things in the chat.
- Ted: I think Kyla's work for the committee of online learning should be at the top of the list. That was a massive thing she did.
- G: Childcare and finally getting it to campus.
- Sarah: Getting the student bill of rights should be a high light as well
- Sierra: I think that the wok that Spock and Sophia did on the arts and performance chair is absolutely amazing.
- G: Dare to Divest is in the chat.
- Mark: This might seem basic but learning to do senate meetings online. We didn't exactly start off running but we have gotten better at it.
- Sierra: Working with the branch campuses more
- Mark: I will share one win as we prepare, there are going to be cake pops.
- Mark: Great now I gotta do a cookout with Grant?

VII. New Business



a) Election Update – Election Winner Speaks

- Ted: I am very excited. Thank you all who voted for me. Thank you to Harrison for running, I think you will be a great addition as you transition to campus.
 1. I don't have a lot right now but the main priority is going to be filling committee positions
 2. So senators, if you are interested in positions, applications will go out for those since our entire exec board will be new next year.
 - a. Tell your friends
 3. We also need senators as well.
 4. Basically, tell your friends
- Jasmine: I would also like to say thank you. I would also like to thank Ted for asking me to be his running mate and I am very excited to see what the future holds.

b) Think Tank Discussion

- Mark: At the think tank, they had been discussion ideas about how they want administrations to come together.
 1. We decided it would be best to try and do some outlines. I had taken what the group had been talking about and created kind of an org chart.
 2. See Combined SGA's v. 1 Document
 - a. The concept was that each campus was going to have a chair person, an exec board, and a senate.
 - i. These three things are going to still happen



- b. From these orgs, we will create a leadership council (name tbd) but there would be three reps from each campus coming together
 - i. Probably on a monthly basis about issues and how they could work on those
 - ii. It would be coordinated by the SGA president
 - c. Each campus was asked to take this back to their senates and get ideas to bring to the meeting on Friday.
- Discussion:
 - 1. Reese: I hate to start us off a tiny bit off topic, has there been any consideration about how the SUFAC;s are going to behave like this?
 - a. Mark: I think the general consensus is that SUFACS don't behave
 - i. But in all seriousness, we haven't discussed it, we wanted to get through this first and then tackle SUFACS
 - 2. Cora: With this, would there be a lot more projects between the campuses or are we still going to do more individual stuffs and than cross over every once in a while.
 - a. Mark: This is my interpretation, I think this will be an opportunity to touch base on a regular basis and that might give us ideas on things to chare with other campuses
 - i. It will get us to a point where we can share more w the other locations and make sure we address the needs of students at all campuses



- b. G: I did want to bring up a point of discussion for vice president instead of chair person for campus.
 - i. I would want to keep things uniform.
 - ii. I know the main campus usually has a lot more in regards to policy making and changes for the campus
 - iii. I would like to see some uniformity there and they all have equal representation
 - iv. I personally would like to see the term chair person used for everyone and as far as vice president, I think vice chair would suffice
- c. Cora: Overall I think this is a good idea. My only suggestion is that it might be worthwhile to have collaborative constitutional review meetings between all campuses when the time comes.

4. Roll Call Vote:

- a. 6-0-2
- b. Approved

c) Approval of SUFAC Chair

- G: I would like to formally nominate Tristan as the next SUFAC chair
 - 1. Tristan: I accept the nomination
- Introduction:
 - 1. I am currently the Vice Chair from SUFAC
 - 2. I have learned a lot from Reese



3. I have several plans in mind, I am pretty ambitious about the whole thing
 - a. I think since we are going to have a whole lot of new execs I think someone with experience in this role is important
- Questions:
 1. G: Hi Tristan. What is your greatest strength and weakness?
 - a. Strength: Willingness to learn new things. I was really quick to join SUFAC and I very quickly made it my priority to learn the ins and outs
 - b. Weakness: I am not good at delegating tasks to other people. I feel like it is my responsibility to direct tasks and I think I have been working on that a lot.
 2. Jasmine: What skill that you learned through Vice Chair do you plan on using as Chair?
 - a. I would say communication. That has been key throughout the entire year. We communicate with every single student org. We also work closely with heads of departments. So really learning how to communicate formally and informally is really important.
 3. Mark: This is often a hard and thankless job, why do you want to take this role on?
 - a. I don't mind that it is thankless job. I see the worth in the actions taken and that it directly benefits others. So if people don't know that it is SUFAC behind the scenes, I don't mind it. The benefit is



apparent to me and I get satisfaction out of that.

- Discussion:
 1. I just think that since he has been in SUFAC this year, I think he automatically has the experience so he would be good for the chair position.
 2. I would like to say as a matter of fact that there are two other people eligible for this position and nobody else wants it.
 3. I think that Tristan from his experience so far also his friendliness and openness and ability to communicate will help him a lot. I think that when he brought up communication, it brought up his experience in SUFAC. As well as being in SUFAC, he has seen the inner workings of SUFAC and SGA so that will be helpful for a completely new exec board.

- Roll Call Vote
 1. 6-0-2
 2. Approved
 3. G: The GOAT

Reese: So SUFAC was originally planning on having the last meeting and chair transition on the 6th but that is now on pass the Gavel and so due to that, our last meeting is going to be next week on the 29th

- d) In order to have everything ready to go, I am asking the senate to consider a motion for Tristan to be nominated and confirmed tonight for next year's SUFAC chair
- e) Sarah: Essentially what we would need to do, is to make an amendment to the agenda and put essentially SUFAC chair approval under new business.

- We would talk about it and vote right now.



Sarah: I entertain a motion to amend the agenda to add item C: SUFAC chair approval

- f) Cora: So moved
- g) Sophia: Seconded
- h) Discussion:
 - G: Once it comes time to the actual agenda item, I will have to nominate Tristan
- i) Roll Call Vote:
 - 4-0-4
 - No majority

Sarah: I entertain a motion to amend the agenda to add a third item under new business: approval of the SUFAC chair

- j) Sierra: So, moved
- k) Sophia: Seconded
- l) Discussion:
 - 6-0-2
 - Motion passes

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a) Academics and Governance:
 - I am going to the general ed council on Wednesday but that is about it
- b) Environmental Affairs:
 - It is Earth Week this week and Earth Day is on Thursday so if you are free it would be really cool if you could come to the Earth Day clean up on campus



1. It is starting at the university circle from 2-4
2. It would be really cool to see you all there since I haven't met any of you guys

c) Equity and Diversity:

- With my work with LIT we are on our spring break right now
 1. Last week we had lobby week
 - a. We met with different legislators around the state to talk about issues in education as well as some other things
 - b. I was supposed to meet with the chair of the education committee but she sent someone in her place
 - i. We talked about the changes we want to see in higher education
 - ii. Talked about dare to divest
- I have a committee meetings tomorrow and I think it might be the last but there might be one more

d) Health and Safety:

- I had a committee meeting today that went well
 1. I showed them the poster I created and went over that with them
- We are working on updating the wellness center website to make it more user friendly
 1. Also make sure students know vaccines are free
- The police advisory council got moved to next week so I will go to that then



e) Resources and Outreach:

- Recently mu liaison got back tome about tunnel signage and she knows who is involved with that
 1. I passed along Tristan's name since he brought up the issue to our attention and I also passed along Mark's name since I am graduation and won't be able to continue the conversation
- Once the official election results go out I have some graphics to post
 1. If you don't already please follow the SGA social medias

f) Rec and Athletics:

- I had a meeting with Jeff last week
- They are trying to find someone to run the golf course and they weren't going to have it open this season
 1. But they are struggling with finding people to run it
- I have a committee meeting this week

g) Union and Dining:

- First I have my meeting with Matt next Monday and then a committee meeting on Friday
- There is going to be a Chartwell's study, they need about ten people to hear what they have to say
 1. They are handing out free meals and coffee
 2. Please reach out to me or Matt



h) SUFAC:

- We have a new SUFAC chair for next year
 1. Thanks to everyone for helping the transition move smoothly
- Last week we finished approving and amending our guidelines and bylaws
- I will take a second to talk about one of the changes
 1. In years past, one thing nSUFAC always said no to was the purchase of banners but due to the unions ability to now print banners in house, the cost has come down significantly so now it is not that big of a deal to allow student orgs to purchase banners through the union
 - a. There is some new language in the guidelines
 - b. Effective October 1st, that is just to make sure it happens after Org SMorg because it would be a huge disaster otherwise
 - c. You can pre-order banners for Fall of 2022 org smorg

IX. Announcements:

- a) Joy: We have GB Nites this Friday
- It is no longer GB Nites lite, it is now a mini
 - You don't have to sign up, you can just come to the union and walk around within reason, don't just stand around for too long
 - It is more normal
 - Bingo, two stuffed animals, volunteer opportunity to make cards, pillow case decorating craft



b) Pri: Psychic fair is Wednesday

- The link is on the GTP facebook page
- You get a ten minute session with a psychic
 1. They do a variety of things (tarot, readings, etc)

c) Pri: GTP is hiring, three programmers and general manager

d) Mark: I would like to apologize for being in and out but everyone this is Roxy *holds up dog*

- G: Can you tell your dog I said “arhhhr”

X. Adjournment:

a) Sarah: Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting

- Cora: So moved
- Sierra: seconded
- Adjourned at 6:59pm