

SENATE MEETING

September 19, 2021, CST 5pm

UWM Union Fireside Lounge, 2200 E Kenwood Blvd

Milwaukee, WI 53211



I. Call to Order – 5:04PM

II. Roll Call (P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused)

- a. Mia Heredia (President) - P***
- b. Keyiona Johnson (VP of Student Affairs) - P***
- c. Daniel Dyer (VP of Academic Affairs) - P***
- d. Syd Vinyard (Secretary) - E***
- e. VACANT (CCED)***
- f. Kristin Popian (Treasurer) - P***
- g. Lilith Lenz (DID) - P***
- h. Bailey Kissack (MPD) - P***
- i. Wesley Hines (SOAD) - P***
- j. Sinyetta Hill - P***
- k. Sanjana Sunkara - A***
- l. Amanda Holzer - P***
- m. Reed Heintzkill - P***
- n. Sydney Pittner - P***
- o. Aidan Shank - P***

p. Grae O'Leary Hosmanek - P

q. Sarah Swartout - P

r. Monika Marripudi - P

s. Tanya Khazin - P

t. Afrah Yafai - P

III. Reports

Mia Heredia (President)

- Mia begins by mentioning the past week's incident with the video of the student using racial slurs. She says that for one the Exec board is here to support anyone, and she adds that she has had a meeting with the Dean of Students as well as other folks on campus to discuss next steps. Through that meeting Mia adds that there will be practices instilled as we move forward on into 2021 as well as the upcoming year. She says that we will continue to advocate on student's behalf. Outside of that she adds that for those who don't know, she Co-chairs the committee for UWMPD and they have a meeting coming up next week for the final interviews for Police Chief candidates.

Keyiona Johnson (VP of Student Affairs)

- Keyiona begins by saying that attendance is very important for Senate meetings as well as other things that people have obligations for. She also adds that she needs more of her Senators to reach out to her and lastly, that recruitment is crucial.

Daniel Dyer (VP of Academic Affairs)

- Daniel begins by stating that we had our Exec Retreat (part two) this past Friday, and it went well. Also, he adds that we are still hiring for the CCED and this is the last week to apply for it. There was also the involvement fair, and Daniel adds that it allowed him to talk with a lot of folks about SA and talk with students who may be interested. He then adds that they had the corn roast and if anyone was there, they would have seen him walking around in a corn costume (a great investment, which he adds, in his opinion) and then he says he has met with all but one of his Academic Senators. He also adds that a group from Exec will be heading to Madison to speak to the State Legislature about a piece of legislation that is being talked about. They are going to go and discuss some of its adverse effects as it is a bill that is about how the student segregated fee process works and it is problematic, and he can talk to anyone who wants more information.

Syd Vinyard (Secretary)

- *No report*

VACANT (CCED)

Kristin Popian (Treasurer)

- Kristin introduces herself, and adds that she just met with Sarah, her advisor to get some basic information and get folks excited for SFC, but other than that she doesn't have too much to report.

Lilith Lenz (DID)

- Lilith begins by saying hello and introducing herself quickly. She adds that the Spirit of Colors event went well and that they want to do it again in March when the Holi Festival is happening because the event was based on that. Also, she adds that she is working with a search and screen committee to find a new Vice President for Diversity Inclusion and Equity. She then makes a general statement to everyone that if they want to talk about an experience, have questions, or support minorities to reach out to her.

Bailey Kissack (MPD)

- Bailey quickly reminds everyone who she is and then she moves into her report. She says to the Senators to send her the Senator Spotlights if you haven't already. She also adds that the Spirit of Colors event went really well with 31 attendees who were nonmembers of SA. She is also working on things for recruitment and engagement. Lastly, she adds that there is a SWAG table in the back and she wants people to take what they would like. (Senator Reed asks a quick question in regard to social media as he isn't familiar with Instagram, Mia chimes in with disbelief, to which Reed makes a subtle joke about Myspace, but he really is asking if there is a way to put these Spotlights on the SA website), to which Bailey answers yes to, but she does add that they are also posted directly to Facebook. (Mia then assigns Reed homework—in good faith—to make an Instagram account)

Wesley Hines (SOAD)

- Wesley gives a quick hello and who he is. He then adds that he wasn't at the last meeting due to a medical emergency, but other than that he is ready for the grant training process which will begin during the first week of October. Main goals this week have been reaching out all the student organizations who were newly registered this semester.

Professional Staff

- Sarah: Sarah begins by saying that they still need more individuals for IEC, there is one person who is getting confirmed on the agenda tonight. It is important that we have enough students on this committee to confirm the first year and transfer elections. To be on this committee you can't do anything else involving SA, which also means that you can have a seat in the Senate. She adds that it is not a huge time commitment in the fall. Reach out to Sarah directly or fill out the form online. The other main item of business she has is that the nomination period for first year and transfer senator seats ends tomorrow morning.
- OAC: Zen states that OAC does not have much to report. They do add that they will be going over a SAC appeal soon. There is also a hearing for removal proceedings happening this Friday. They thank everyone for looking into that and with that Zen has nothing else to report.

Senators

- Amanda: She begins by stating that her report is written tonight. She begins by saying that throughout this last week she has seen hurt, fear, and pain from the students on campus regarding the video circulating with very racist and hateful, and homophobic language. With that she adds that the students

are hurt by the steps taken by the Chancellor's office and the Dean of Students office. She adds that this campus cannot say that they are diverse and inclusive when there are students here on campus who feel that they cannot be who they are—specifically students of color and students of the LGBTQ+ community. Amanda along with the other students at UWM expect more from the Dean of Students office and Chancellor Mone's office. Amanda advocates for an opportunity for these policies to be changed. She personally would like to see a task force to look into this, specifically how it effects students of color and those who are members of the LGBTQ+ community. She expects action on behalf of the students and those who need it, and with that she yields.

- Grae: She begins her time by saying that she would like to speak on the incident that occurred on Friday, the 17th of September, but first she draws on historical backgrounds from this country's history: the Virginia Tech Massacre to then bridge it into a conversation of the brutal power that a firearm wields, she then shares a personal instance in which she saw this happen. She adds that when she heard of the plans for Friday, September 17, the thoughts of what happened at Virginia Tech immediately crossed her mind. She is the daughter of an Iraqi war veteran and bronze star recipient; she is no stranger to firearms and the conversation that goes with it, and she is not opposed to those conversations what she is opposed to however, is encouraging students to bring such weapons to a school campus (she then cites and quotes the email directly). She believes in upholding both the first and second amendment rights but doing it in a way that disregards the safety of faculty, staff, and students cannot be tolerated. She then turns to Senator Adian Shank, and states that she believes he owes students an apology, and lastly, she would like to thank her fellow Senators and students and the officer who likely helped save the lives that could have been affected had this event transpired. She adds that for a student and a Senator organizing such an event is so deeply disheartening and appalling. She directs her attention towards Senator Shank and states: "I do sincerely hope that the events of Friday, September 17 are both a turning point for you and a grave reminder of the irrefutable value of human life." And with that, she yields.

Mia then pauses for a moment, and then takes a moment to say that she is proud of the students and the advocacy she sees happening before her.

I. Open Forum

Meria Meadows - Officer for Jewish Student Services on campus. She is here because they have a program that they're doing which is happening over winter break. Student leaders can go on a fully funded trip to Israel to have educated student leaders on Israeli education. This student wants there to be educated students in the crowd who can father advocate if need be. This opportunity would be an interfaith fellowship. It is completely free and would happen from the end of December through the beginning of January to anyone who is accepted into the fellowship. This trip is intended to create educated student leaders on campus about the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Susan from Norris Health Center is here on behalf of Carrie. She says that some students may know that Norris Health will be moving in a renovated space in the Northwest Quad. This is when the medical services will be under the same roof and physical wellness and mental health services, so they will all be under the same roof together sharing the seventh and eighth floors. They will be renamed as per this new development, and they will pass out a sheet so students can give their input on the names that they are trying to choose from to better reflect the students and the services they offer students on campus.

Adam Jussel, Dean of Students then comes up to the stand to take a moment to address the recent racist and homophobic incident. Adam makes it clear that he tries to be as transparent and open to feedback

as possible. He adds that this Wednesday there will be an open forum at the fountain that he is coordinating with the Black Student Union, he and the Chancellor will be there to listen to student feedback. Secondly, he adds that he will be directly meeting with student groups that have been directly impacted by the recent events that happened. He also welcomes any discussion about policy and practice for students who want to discuss that with him to understand the systems that the University does have in place. He thanks Mia for the opportunity to talk, and then he takes any questions that students have.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mia entertains a motion for the approval of the Agenda. So moved by Sinyetta, seconded by Amanda. Reed asks if there is a way to add something into the Agenda for SA to make a statement on recent events, Mia says that it is something that we can get to in questions and concerns. Passes unanimously.

III. Special Orders

Grae and Amanda ask that the Committee Appointment Approvals on the Agenda be discussed separately.

Mia then turns to Aidan Shank who is first for appointment to the Student Leaders Committee and Mia asks that he explains why he wants to sit on that committee.

Mia entertains a motion to approve Aidan Shank to the Student Leaders Committee. So moved by Sinyetta, seconded by Sarah. Now in discussion:

Aidan begins by saying that he wants a lot of the different presidents of student organizations to be able to work more closely together as he thinks that it is important that they talk about areas where they may agree and areas where they may disagree and also working together when they can, and he thinks that it makes organizations stronger.

Mia asks if there are any questions.

Amanda takes the floor and has more of a statement and says: "Mr. Shank I cannot support your appointment to this committee because I cannot support someone who encouraged students to bring a weapon to campus. You did not take the leadership required of you to even read the policy for UWM and you encouraged a dangerous action." She yields.

The conversation is turned over to Reed who has a question for Aidan and asks:

"So from what I understand you're a leader for the Turning Point USA organization on campus?" (To which Aidan answers correct). Reed continues and adds: "It has been well documented that this organization specifically infiltrates college campuses, and he can't support having someone in that committee position who leads that organization."

Lilith then asks Aidan: "What was the intention behind sending the email that he did?" She just wants to try and understand more, as she is from a country (Germany) where such things are not even allowed.

Aidan begins by saying thank you and he appreciates it. He then states: "We did look into the policy and what we cited as justification for the legality of what we planned to do was that all UW System college campuses are public property. Thus, it would be federal and state law applies to the outdoor spaces of most campuses. We were wrong about two things. One: the

exception of that fact as outlined in a Wisconsin State Statue, and two: the exception to open and conceal carry laws well within 1,000 feet of a lower education school. We were misinformed about that. Obviously, no guns were brought on campus because we also planned to contact the campus police just to give them a heads up on what they were doing and so we could all be on the same page for sake of clarity. We had a strong plan to do what we were going to do safely, without ammunition, or clips. A gun can't do anything by itself, it needs ammo. I think it's also unfair to say directly that it was not right being within 1,000 feet of the school unless you thought I was going to shoot the school up. (Turns to Amanda and Grae for clarification, they stand by what they remarked initially).

Kristin then adds in that a lot of these questions are going to center around 9/17 as it was very fear inducing email that was sent out because many of our students do fear weapons because of the climate of school shootings that the student body has grown up in. She adds that it is very disheartening to see that a student leader is doing that, but she does have one question and asks:

"How would you have planned if someone had brought weapons that were loaded? Was there even a plan if someone were to start taking action? How and why did you think that it was safe enough to bring to our campus."

Adian adds that if that someone was to do that with their gun it would be considered irresponsible discharge which is illegal. He then also restates his point about contacting campus police to make them aware of it. He adds that by the nature of the way that the email was sent out, it closed the door for strangers to be able to show up with their own clips and ammunition. So, there were safeguards that way.

Keyiona then adds that she was expecting a statement from Aidan because she cannot support his appointment to the committee right now because as a person who has close personal proximity to a school shooting and because of UWM's proximity to an elementary school others could have been harmed, so she can't support the appointment.

Amanda then comments on a few things that Aidan has just previously said. Ultimately, Aidan did open the door for anyone to bring a weapon under the guise of his organization.

Mia then calls this to a vote and asks those in favor of appointing Aidan Shank to the Student Leaders Committee say Aye, all opposed same sign. By the ear of the chair that fails.

Reed then makes a motion to approve the remaining committee appointments ii. through xiv. Seconded by Amanda. No discussion. Mia asks those in favor to say aye, all opposed same sign. Passes unanimously.

I. Old Business

Mia entertains a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes of 09/12/2021. So moved by Sinyetta. Sarah mentions a mistake in the minutes. Sinyetta motions to amend the previous meeting minutes to reflect Sydney's abstention. Seconded by Aidan. Passes unanimously.

II. New Business

- a. SA Committee Presentations
 - i. SFC Committee Presentation

Usually the Treasurer leads this presentation, but as Kristin is still adjusting to her new role, Daniel will be doing it as he used to be on SFC. Highlights of the presentation is as followed:

The Senate Finance Committee (SFC) exists primarily to oversee how 35 million dollars in student segregated fees are allocated to entities of campus. This process allows students to be a critical component in deciding how their own dollars are spent. The committee consists of the SA Treasurer, who is also the chair, then there are 6 Senator spots. Two for Academic, two for At-large, and two for advocacy. There is one academic senator seat filled currently. And then three at large students. Three members of UWM administration, and then the President and VP/SA are ex-officio. Each part consists of three rounds. It is divided between allocable and non-allocable funds. This process gives you valuable insight, and it teaches you a lot about how the different entities of the University work. Daniel urges people to apply because this is something that University needs to have happen.

ii. SAC Committee Presentation

Wesley then comes up for this presentation and the highlights of the presentation are as followed:

The Student Appropriations Committee is one of the subsets of the previous committee mentioned that helps allocate funds. The main goal is to help train registered student organizations and how to use their grant funds, so they are able to do more activities on campus and encourage student involvement. Right now, they work from \$300,000 to \$400,000. They also vote on what student organizations are allowed to do. They offer 4 types of grants. A lot of research shows that students involved are more likely to come back and enjoy their time, and it's something that makes a difference in the lives of students. There are 5 seats for senators for this committee and then 4 seats for anyone who is a part of a registered student organization, but you can't have two members from the same one.

b. Opening the floor for committee nominations

Mia entertains a motion to open the floor for committee nominations. So moved by Sinyetta, seconded by Amanda.

Sarah then says that you are allowed to nominate yourself on the committee and then follows with an example of the language you would use.

Sydney Pittner nominates herself for the Senate Finance Committee. Seconded by Amanda. Mia moves to a vote and asks those in favor to say aye, those opposed same sign. Passes unanimously.

Mia then reads off the other committees that people can sit on.

Sinyetta nominates herself for the Student of Color Committee. Seconded by Reed. Mia moves to a vote and asks those in favor to say aye, those opposed same sign. Passes unanimously.

Daniel gives a plug for a few committees.

Sydney nominates herself to the Student Voting Rights Committee. Seconded by Aidan. So moved by Amanda. Mia moves to a vote and asks those in favor to say aye, those opposed same sign. Passes unanimously.

Sinyetta nominates herself for the health and wellbeing committee. Seconded by Reed. No discussion. Mia moves to a vote and asks those in favor to say aye, those opposed same sign. Passes unanimously.

No other self-nominations and Mia closes the floor.

c. Parliamentary Procedure Training

Mia then turns it over to Sarah who then leads the senate through parliamentary procedure training and how the meeting rules work. It is to respect the rights of the minority while ruling by the majority. She adds that there are experienced members who can keep track of where we are in motions and amendments, and if you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out. (A note from the Secretary: there is a small cheat sheet on the back of your nametags, yay, use it!)

III. Questions and Concerns

Keyiona mentions that she is the VPSA, and her door is always open.

Daniel reminds anyone if they are interested in going to Madison, or the legislature being discussed, see him after the meeting.

Zen says if you don't join SAC you need to make one of your other friends join SAC, and SFC.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:09PM