

Senate Meeting: Tuesday April 7, 2020

Checking In with everyone: mental health, productivity, time is strange

Election Results & Introductions:

- Ian: addressed the meeting, thrilled by the prospects for next year and the people that are going to be within the cabinet.
- Keelia: addressed the uncertainty of the next year, excited to be in this position, prioritize well-being, and always committed to the students
- Sophia: Epi MPH, excited to join board next year
- Susana: introduction, excited for opportunity, structural changes, improving student experience, diversity matters

Career Services Leadership Exercise (15 Minutes):

- What does it mean to be a leader in crisis? Is there a difference from what it means to be a leader?
- Breakout rooms
- Discussion
 - o Be honest with what you know and what you don't know
 - o Give direct action items that are within people's controls
 - o Capacity
 - o Feeling the need to be lead while being a leader
 - o Operating without a roadmap – vulnerability, different types of leadership
 - o Navigating ourselves and this situation now and moving forward in time

Committee updates:

Virtual Engagement & Distant Socializing:

- New online opportunities for students (see promotion 4/7/20)
- Key elements: social connection, wellbeing, mental health, physical health, academic and career support structures,
- Meeting weekly to determine core needs and use needs assessment
- Hosts needed! Tomorrow and moving forward
- Ian signed up to host for April 15th
- Job searching challenges and strategies
- Process of scheduling the yoga instructor currently
- Trivia night – alumni panel
- **Attend and promote to your networks!**
- Resources on the UMN student senate website with general resources that has one hub source of information for communities to have access too
- Want to acknowledge that we are not trying to add to the “too much”, people have the flexibility and freedom to choose to be a part of it or not depending on individual needs

- Student senate calendar is public! If you subscribe to the senate calendar you should be able to see all the events and invites – Ian would like to put a calendar on website (future aspirations)
- Being a host: to dos you have, things that will make you feel better, and goals you have for today
- Most of events will be paid (Teale estimates about 4 grand)

Alumni Committee Updates:

- None, all has been postponed until further notice

CHIP:

- Every Thursday in April will be hosting an event to get professional students together

PSG:

- COVID testing for students – do not know how Boynton is handling the situation
- Discussion about international students going home
- Food insecurity
- What they were going to do with remaining funds – may disperse amongst councils
- Student service reimbursements

Budget:

- \$12388.38
- Doesn't roll over to next year
- Will allow us to put some of this money into an account for the student groups – pass through funding
- Most of events will be paid (Teale estimates about 4 grand)

Grants (~5 minutes)

Subcommittee updates:

SPHere beautification:

- No updates, have not sent out survey because sphere is closed

Pass through funding:

- Will leave on task list for next year's student senate

Commencement:

- Meeting soon, try to do a virtual commencement
- Nomination for speakers to record 2-3 minute message to put together in a package for commencement

Needs Assessment:

- Sent out last Friday

- No elaboration on responses of what specific needs were
- A lot of what Teale has set up has covered the needs within the survey
- Use this information to inform events and actions even with a small sample size
- Wish it captured more specifics of what students need
- Asked about how much money people had lost – limited response (idea was to refund)
- A number of resources and people do not know about them – place where the information is out there (a hub), a place to say who you can reach out to for information

Ideas and Future Aspirations:

- Orientation funding (Teale)
- Hit the ground running during the first month of school (we did not meet until the second month of school)
- Maybe need to change the website!!! Because there needs to be easier accessibility (future aspirations)
- Talking to professors – accommodations? How should people be reaching out? How should professors be responding? Advocate and support the student body with academic concerns, how do we as a student senate alleviate this?
 - o Zack talk to about concerns – give as much specificity as you can to Zack to better address this issue
 - o Important to recognize that these teachers are human too and that they are struggling and may not have the capacity to make changes

Open discussion:

- APEX options: Vic and Mercedes are aware and are putting information together for students
- Printing access: ideas? Or push to give the printing fees back to students
 - o Matt: students have asked about reimbursement
- How to utilize money:
 - o Trivia night: give away gift cards and resource money
 - o Keelia: travel expenses paid for? Help take care of people who are sick.
- Care packages
- Provide food in some way, concern around food
 - o Have to set an amount and how to apply equity?
 - o First come first serve, or lottery?
- Put out a student senate email out there that has everything in there
- Student senate Facebook page or slack page
- Drug take back program: has moved to the fall – Jacqueline and Zack are on the committee (graduating) will need a person or two to join the drug takeback program– need senate person because senate is co-branding it – NEXT MEETING IS IN JULY – think about if you want to be the alumni rep
- If not in shelter in place in May – would love to get together will all of senate for a gathering – end of year dinner
 - o Puleng: \$20 delivery from grub hub if cannot make it happen

- Diversity Matters: student groups are non-existent at the moment; how do we get people to know what we need? How do we communicate strategic planning?
 - o Survey being sent out, takes about 15 minutes
 - o Access through email, Facebook, social media
 - o Money goes to a lottery. For people who have filled it out
 - o Set upper limit and allocate it out (\$1000)
 - o Food (grocery store), think of what is open during the pandemic, visa gift card, digital giftcards****
 - o Prompted in a focus group to discuss these findings
 - o Go to this form to sign up for the raffle?
 - o Need email and address and name
- Senate hangout April 21st @ 6:30PM
- Last senate meeting April 7th @ 6:30
- Meet in May TBD
- Puleng: how do we pass over responsibilities to next years senate?