

Minutes 11/4

Meeting is called to order at 7:03pm

Attendance is taken by Director Concepción

Quorum is met

Approval of the Minutes:

- Mandii Braun spelt with two I's
- Amendment to Speaker Ellingson's previous charge, is a joint charge with Ethics

Community Comment

Emily Falk: Students of Reproductive Freedom, spoke on behalf of SRF at state capitol in relation to menstrual products available on campus.

- Reads speech presented at the University of Minnesota
- President of MN SRF spoke about the situation of free menstrual products in buildings on campus
- Government Bill: requiring schools to make free disposable menstrual products available to all students in all bathrooms, effective in 2019-2020 school year in public high schools
- Gustavus should have free menstrual products in all bathrooms in Jackson Campus Center

Questions:

- Senator Smerillo: we should figure out a plan for a structured charge. How would you feel about us talking to administration. Previous program were baskets of tampons on the sink. Would an ideal situation be a machine that dispenses one tampon per turn?
 - Falk: Yes, but transphobic language of "feminine products" needs to be removed
 - How would you feel about starting with women's bathroom and non-gendered bathrooms to start, but ask for both to be inclusive?
 - Falk: A good place to start in those two bathrooms until we can expand policy to include men's bathrooms
 - How would you feel about working with health services to produce menstrual cups for students who cannot continue to buy menstrual products?
 - Falk: I don't think they are a feasible option for everyone, not the best for everyone
 - Could we ask health services to provide products more openly as an option?
 - Falk: That is a feasible option
- Ombudsperson Doran: what specifically do you want our action to be. Has this bill been passed yet? Should senate be more supportive with this initiative and Bill?
 - Falk: Bill is currently going through the House to be passed, and yes, Senate should be openly support it

- What scope do you want Senate to be involved with? Public level or private to students of the college? Where do priorities most lie with where we should spend our time and energy?
 - Falk: Disposable menstrual products in the Campus Center for free, act as a reference for other MIAC schools.
- Senator Young: my questions were answered
- Senator King: Can we buy products as a senate body and put them in the campus center?
 - Doran: Yes, we can take it out of our contingency
- Senator Smerillo: would it be the best route for just Senate to take, or should we partner with Health Services and administration?
 - Falk: Best to start at the Senate level to show administration proof and evidence of success
- Ombudsperson Doran: on a logistical level, we are going to have to talk to administration, we can use the success of schools like Concordia as an example of why it does work and is necessary. Does need to be charged to a committee.
- Senator Schaaf: if we started with our current budget and getting products and prove administration that we are passionate it would be a good idea. How do we measure the success rate of it?
 - Falk: We would measure the success of it by the first time we stock it with a set amount and after two weeks and count and see how many are being used and need refilling.
- Senator King: with your group, would it be feasible for your organization (SRF) to be the main people to keep products stocked and filled in the bathrooms?
 - Falk: Yes, for sure.
- Senator Haney: We spend a lot of tuition, should not be Senate's burden to fund, should be administration's funding to take responsibility. SRF and Senate should be responsible for restocking
- Emily Falk: administration will need proof of success, good advertising for GAC to be progressive with the Bill and other MIAC schools are doing it too.
- Ombudsperson Doran: we've got a good starting place for this initiative, time is now best served getting to New Business to get this charged with a committee.
- Chair Menke: Do you have an idea about the cost of programs that we have done in the past or other schools have done?
 - Falk: No I don't know, but will be reaching out to Concordia for ideas.
- Senator McDonald: I agree, how would you word phrases instead of "feminine products"?
 - Falk: Replace with "menstrual products" to reduce the stigma surrounding it as well.
- Chair CarlsonSather: would be possible for us to do a trial run, what we see as success they administration would see as a greater financial cost, so how do we change this?

- Falk: Advertising in the MIAC
- Senator Smerillo: we should first gauge administrative response with a first email, gauge response, and then start the initiative.
 - Falk: I disagree, I think if we want to do something as a student government, we should just do it and not wait for permission if we have the resources.
- Senator King: as a Senate body, we have the opportunity that will make an effective change quickly. Best move would be to get a charge through and get it rolling.
 - Senator Smerillo: point of clarification, considering that we don't know the cost yet, if we have the opportunity to request funding from administration we should take it. I wasn't saying that we should ask for permission
 - Falk: period rally was sponsored by 7th generation, doing work to end period poverty where menstrual products are charged with a luxury tax. I could reach out to president of Period at University of Minnesota, and ask 7th Gen to sponsor this initiative. Our last sustainable bingo had a diva cup donated by the Co-Op; ability to partner with local businesses for potential discount
- Senator Young: cost is the main thing that matters, there is a clear desire, but the question is controlling costs and evaluating that at the beginning to go forward with a plan.
- Senator Schaaf: we should go to administration first and wouldn't hurt, worst they do is say no, best case is they are on board with helping us and would help create transparency and show that we do care about this issue. Trying to reach as many people as we can
- Chair Gupta: can you repeat your goal again? I joined this conversation halfway through. Student Senate's budget funds activities and organization for enhancing standards of living instead of necessities, so I think it is more of a
- Chair Johnson: we should not let cost cloud our judgement, we should go ahead and do it.

Committee Updates

Inclusive Excellence, Joint charge with Ethics: presented by Ombudsperson Doran

- Last meeting charged with set of letters to administration and student body regarding transparency and action regarding inclusivity on campus.
- Letter to President's Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: read aloud for minutes.
- Would like to get a response from Senate
 - Good on first two paragraphs
 - Noted ADA accessibility, multicultural counselor, multicultural representation, and transparency of action
 - Last paragraph is a demand for response and partnership, call to accountability
- Going to send through Inclusive Excellence Committee to be double checked, sent out Wednesday
- Letter to Student Body: read aloud for minutes

- Thoughts:
 - Senator Smerillo: substitute “student body” for the use of community so many times
 - Don’t want to place a hierarchy between students and staff, made to be holistic
 - Senator Cella: point of information, are these emails sent out at the same time?
 - Yes
 - Senator Young: we are going to get an email of things that they are halfway through working on, just a general concern.
 - Doran: our goal is to create transparency and bringing light to even the ugly places. Need to know the accurate status and analyze flaws.
 - Senator Sermillo: I think it’s important that we know what’s going on. We know the specific initiatives and they are on our minds in the back, awareness is what matters
 - Chair Menke: I like the content, my concern is that it could be more direct, the wording reads like a constitution and our message should be direct
 - Senator Young: more of the letters are about addressing transparency, my concern is there won’t be enough action to move forward with specific initiatives.
 - Ombudsperson Doran: we thought about it as how direct we want to be. Think in relation to recent events of posters with bad activism for diversity. As more vague we make it something that stands on its own and not related to the posters, and asking transparency we have a basis for what we want
 - Senator Smerillo: first couple sentences of second paragraph reiterates the first paragraph. We could cut the introduction of second paragraph to reduce length
 - Doran: could lead to questions about students individually who feel their needs are met.
 - Chair Johnson: we need first few sentences to make mission clear to everybody
 - Chair Johnson: can we remove “even” from “even one student”?
 - Senator Cella: can we not do that and replace with “any”, it feels pointed.
 - Chair Johnson in favor
 - Senator McDonald: “even” talks about standards that are being met
 - Senator King: “one student” “any one student” “just one student” works well, we shouldn’t debate
 - Senator Schaaf: this is being sent out to the students, if I got this email I wouldn’t read all of it in the entirety, could be not beneficial for students. If we want to reach a larger student audience it would be better more concise

- Doran: hard to find a balance between concise and doing the statement justice, importantly that we are deeply thorough so it needs to be a little lengthy
- Senator Young: second paragraph better served by removing repetition, pulling out first and second sentences
 - I move to amend the letter to remove the first two sentences.
 - Doran Point of Order: we are in committee updates, this needs to be done in new business
- Chair Carlson Father: we should close this discussion.
- Senator Sermillo: in the future, we should not address emails, amendments, etc in a setting where we are just talking about it, need to be able to make change
 - we should remove repetition and consider bolding important points
- Chair Johnson: by bolding parts we place our own emphasis on what we think is important, not a good idea.

Health and Housing, Chair Carlson Father

- Counseling Center lack of funding to have multicultural counselor
 - Had half the amount of visits 5 years ago, funding has decreased, create multicultural resource and mental health accessible to marginalized students
- Campus Safety active shooter reforms
 - Met with CS, doing a widespread rewriting of what it would look with website, students, and faculty
 - Considering putting it into pre-first year education programs online

Technology Chair Menke, Chair Menke

- GTS Staff meeting
 - Key fobs for duo, available for purchase from GTS, \$25 or \$50, but the duo is accessible with any mobile device that receives text messages or fobs
 - Rental laptops for students: can't have entire cost on school, need liability to rent computers, what is a reasonable fee?, short term rentals for pilot program. Don't have infrastructure for long term rentals.
 - Grants that can supplement students without personal devices, based on financial aid data
 - Increased presence on campus during orientation, should be on the schedule for the wrist years

- Paperless in classrooms, tech should talk to president's sustainability council, worried that faculty is making printing more of a necessity to shift cost to students instead of department
- Calendar for student orgs

Old Business

None

New Business

Poster Response, Co-President Villarreal

1. Point of Privilege, Senator King: make projected poster bigger to see text
2. Co-President Villarreal: Clear that there is a need for communication between students and admin, Cabinet brainstormed having a forum to ask questions with dean of students. We would like your ideas on how to promote dialogue on campus. Reminder that we are here on behalf of our own constituents and not ourselves
3. Discussion:
 - a. Senator Young: what was the idea with the forum? To discuss the idea of equity
 - i. I charge inclusive excellence with hosting a forum about diversity, equity, and inclusion within the next month
 1. Second goes to Senator Patterson
 - ii. Discussion: seems like an effective way to express how people feel
 1. Senator Cella: I think this forum along with what we previously discussed would be an effective way to discuss.
 2. Parliamentarian Boyden: having conversations on campus people are upset and confused with a lack of accountability, this will be a way of holding them accountable without calling them out
 3. Senator King: I understand where Senate is coming from, I think having a forum is a place where you can foster a dangerous atmosphere where there is no one to mediate discussion where there are no real answers. We don't have the answers, a response from SS would be premature
 4. Parliamentarian Boyden: would it be better if someone was mediating?
 - a. Senator King: yes, but I don't know what they would be mediating
 5. Chair Johnson: point of information, can my committee reject a charge? I don't think it would be the correct environment to place my committee members in or the people that we represent.

6. Doran: given the enlightening comments, I think we should consider how we can most effectively respond that are most impactful.
7. Senator Young: question for Inclusive Excellence Chair, is your concern for your committee in establishing a forum or being able to host one?
 - a. Johnson: The wellbeing of my committee members after hosting this. I don't think there is a safe space where they can go afterwards.
 - b. Young I think that Student Senate would not mediate it, we would provide the space and have a different organization mediate.
8. Senator Young: I withdraw my charge
 - a. Second: Senator King

Senator King: I charge a joint committee with Students for Reproductive Freedom to get free menstrual products in the Jackson Campus Center

1. Second to Senator Croonquist
2. Discussion
 - a. Chair CarlsonSather: fully support
 - b. Senator Young: the women's bathroom have menstrual products you can pay for?
 - i. Senator Haney: we should be clear about changing language
 - ii. Focus on looking at cost and coming to Student Senate with a proposal and a possible way to estimate volume, or if there was any documentation when they were made available
 - c. Parliamentarian Boyden: recommend that H&H get in contact with Women's Action Coalition and PA's, to get feedback and other ideas on how to go forth
 - d. Senator King: encourage entire SRF group in the action and make them aware, spread word, and encourage them to tell others.
 - e. Senator Johnson: I don't know if we have the capabilities to finance or if it should come from administrative because it isn't a student org
 - f. Chair CarlsonSather: my job is to look at costs, although we typically do fund student orgs, our duty is to fund enhancing the lives of students.
 - g. Senator Schaaf: would love to work on this, it's important that we don't incite conflict and keep transparency

- h. Senator Cella: I'd like to request that emphasis is placed on quality of menstrual products and a usable standard. I advocate for the research into brands and products that people would use
- i. Parliamentarian Boyden: we have the power to go through with the initiative, we should do now
- j. Chair Menke: want to avoid a scenario where we do it without informing the administration and they are taken away. That is a valid risk and potential for conflict.
 - i. We will have to communicate
- k. Senator Johnson: call to question
 - i. Second to Senator Cella
 - ii. Vote Passes, H&H is charged

Senator Young: I move to discuss the language of the letter previously discussed to the student body

- 1. Second, Senator Schaaf
- 2. Discussion
 - a. Ombudsperson Doran: presents amended language, cut the first part of the second paragraph, include "Equity" in the council title
 - b. Senator Young: I move to amend to the proposed amendments
 - i. Second Senator Johnson
 - ii. Discussion: none
 - iii. Call to Question Senator Zaun
 - 1. Vote, ayes have it
 - 2. Motion passes, amendments made

Announcements

Administrative Director Concepcion: Senators who need to see me:

- King, Jorgenson, Smerillo, Zara, Haney, Abegglen, Zaun, McDonald, Lim
- Tabling: comment forms go to Hailey,
- reminder to send emails to constituents about tabling

CoPresident Villareal: Becky Bergman coming to meeting on November 25

Ombudsperson Doran: GWO concert on Saturday at 1:30pm

Chair CarlsonSather: committee should meet me after

Senator Young: my talk about studying abroad for political science this Friday

Chair Menke: if you have ideas for fee about laptop rentals, etc. see me.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38pm