



Central Student Government 14th Assembly

MINUTES

Location: East Room (Pierpont Commons), [Zoom](#)

1. Call to Order & Convening Matters
 - a. Mario Thaqi calls the meeting to order at 7:37 PM
 - b. Eric Veal calls the opening roll → Quorum is met
 - c. Mario Thaqi reads the Land Acknowledgment
 - d. Mario Thaqi: There is a motion to move business after community concerns with unanimous consent. Are there any objections? Seeing and hearing none business is moved after community concerns.
 - e. Curtis Engstrom: Point of person privilege. According to Pierpoint rules, we have to end this meeting at 9:50pm
 - f. Erin Neely: I move to place the executive and speaker reports immediately before business with unanimous consent.
 - g. Mario Thaqi: Are there any objections? Seeing and hearing none, that motion has passed.
2. Recalls
 - a. Mario Thaqi: There are no recalls
3. Elections
 - a. Mario Thaqi: There are no elections
4. [Community Concerns](#)
 - a. Ala Alazzeah: Good evening. I'm a professor of anthropology. I'm going to speak on behalf of the rebuilding hope initiative. It supports higher education in Gaza universities for students. As you all know, since one year, people are still subject to an ethnic cleansing and genocide taking place in Gaza. There is an accusation of genocide for the state of Israel meanwhile education is the place is being targeted by the Israeli army. There are 7 universities and 11 colleges that are destroyed. Around 88 thousand students are without education. THousands of them also were killed during the raids and bombardment of Gaza. The Rebuilding Hope initiative is providing online education for students in Gaza. Currently we finished our first program that enabled 3 thousand students to attend our program. As a Palestinian scholar and on behalf of my university and students in palestine, there's an ethical responsibility and obligation from our side and international scholars and students to support higher education in Gaza and give rights to students in Gaza as an ethical stance to an unjust war that is subjecting Palestinians for the last 100 years. I urge all of you to support the initiatives that enable higher education and direct education for Palestinians.
 - i. Motion to extend time → Motion passes



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1. For: 19
 2. Against: 5
- b. Cameron Kaufman: Right now in our classes and daily routines, no one in Gaza can operate as normal. No one there is safe. Our university repeatedly sends funds to universities. Schools in Gaza have been destroyed by Israel due to this genocide. The schools there now act as a refugee camp. These camps have been bombed mercilessly. As a Jewish person, I was taught that every person is a world and every death is a world extinguished. I refuse to look away from the Palestinians being destroyed by this University.
- i. Motion to extend time → Motion fails
 1. For: 11
 2. Against: 15
- c. Erek Mirque: There is a current genocide going on in the west bank and is extending to Lebanon is not something that should be in history. This genocide is destroying schools and infrastructure that allows for students to have access to education. This is not new. In the 1960 to 90s, the government targeted Maya groups by Israeli groups. They burned schools and villages down. They killed the possibility of Maya children getting an education. This is not something new, but the position you all have is something new. The position you have to allow this university to support Palestinian education is new. You have an obligation and responsibility to support this change.
- d. Farah Huq: I'm here to support the Support Education in Gaza act. I'm able to attend this university and work in the school of social work intern. 100 percent of Gaza universities and 90 percent of Gaza schools have been bombed with our tax dollar money. 1.9 million have been displaced. Many have lost family members. Despite this genocide, the students in Gaza have tried to fight as they always have. Many temporary areas have created temporary tents for schools. My parents are grandparents are survivors of a genocide by Israeli government as well. We can't continue as usual as our university supports this genocide.
- e. Ava: You are safe. People in Gaza cannot say the same. This is a luxury you shouldn't take for granted. This last year, the university has been one of the most divisive for Arab and Muslim students. I haven't felt so unsafe in my own town because of this university's action and how they handle certain things.
- f. Noah Rotroff: The budget process itself is a legislative process. The executive doesn't play a part but it is in the executive process. You can do what you want. You can keep to the status quo. I'm sure you came to CSG just to look at last year's budget. You do have a chance to actually do something. I could provide legal analysis all day but I won't. Your constitution was made up of six years, so you don't have any real case. Do what you want.



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- g. Alex Sepulveda: Student government was born to challenge the university but before the SID party student government was rolling over to the university to sign and endorse the war criminals. This has not been a place of change but a face of broken promises. People here only care about adding a new line to their resume and idolizing a fantasy of being change makers while being friends with the president. While SID was elected, everything changed. SID represented as a last resort. There's no honor in this restitution. We must not become complicit with the fact that the university is a neutral actor.
 - i. Motion to extend time → Motion fails
 - 1. For: 8
 - 2. Against: 17
- h. Sadia Haidari: I think that we all know that there is an attempt in Gaza to erase all access to Palestinian history. Education in Gaza is becoming a political and economic target. We are taking a normal day to day experience from them. This resolution should be passed unanimously.
- i. Hanin Alhubaishi: As students paying tuition to a university paying millions of dollars in part to Israeli genocide, we are at fault. Everything was going according to plan until October 7th. The bombing started in the morning, but I continued working. I left behind all my study stuff. I dreamt of going back to my university but not to study, but it was bombed by the Israeli army.
 - i. Motion to extend time → Motion fails
 - 1. For: 8
 - 2. Against: 11
- j. Aishah Al-Mohamedi: This is the testimony of a nine year old in the fourth grade. Our parents used to give us time to study. I used to do my homework with my mom so I could wake up early and take the exam. I wish the war would end so I can go to school. I used to dream of being a doctor, but the Israeli occupation has ruined my chances. Vote for the education in Gaza.
- k. Jenin Alameddin: I was going to talk about a testimony of a child that can't go to school but I'm disgusted with everyone here. It's hard to respect you guys as you silence the voices here at Michigan. We're asking you to send money for students that don't have schools or colleges or rights that we have here or rights to learn, eat, and live. I don't think if I read this testimony, any of you guys would receive it.
- l. Tarana Sharma: Standing here is embarrassing. Looking at all of you is embarrassing. You don't deserve to be here or have the right to sit here and laugh at the story of our martyrs. I'll still tell you a story of how the Israeli army murdered a five year old. Five year old called the emergency line in Gaza and begged to be rescued. For five days, she sat next to her family members. For 12



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days she sat next to the corpses of her dead family members. While she was on the line, this is what she said: [inaudible]. That is the voice of a five year old who doesn't deserve to die. She deserved to play and learn. She had the right to learn and grow.

- m. Tony DiMeglio: A vote against the Building Education in Gaza is not for student orgs. The student orgs understand the will of the student body. Put the voice back in the hands of the people and help choose on this important issue to help Rebuild Education in Gaza.
- n. Nora Hilgart-Griff: I'm going to use my time to hold a moment of silence for students in Gaza killed by the Israeli occupation. Every minute of this silence represents over 3200 people killed. Most of them are women and children. It is revolting that this is a debate. Do not be silent during genocide.
- o. Shamsalduha Sami: You don't get a job done unless you show the men you're not afraid. I'm calling on you to not be afraid. This call will scare those who know they can't ignore the genocide in Gaza. The University is trying to make sure you don't rise up against those in Gaza. They'll call this illegal though it is what's right. We keep on fighting because we can't stay silent in genocide. We do what we can. It doesn't matter what they throw against us. We will adapt and fight against it.
- p. Ali Allam: I was pepper sprayed by the university yesterday. In the hour we were in this room, people were murdered in Gaza. The speaker begins with a land acknowledgement claiming that we're going to do everything we can to support indigenous people, but if you vote no to this act, you are against supporting them. This genocide started a year ago, and when it happened, President Ono sent an email saying that we will continue working with five Zionist universities, claiming that we will support their educational institutions. Why should the oppressed have their education stripped from them? I urge you all to have some moral dignity and courage to vote for Rebuilding Education in Gaza.
- q. John Godfrey: I tell you how much I appreciate your passion for what's going on. I want to tell you all to vote for two proposals that are on the ballot this November that will give Michigan students the right to vote for the city they work and study in. Students are disenfranchised to vote in Ann Arbor because voting occurs in August. If you want to have your worries cut concerning policing and arrests, if you don't vote, you don't count. We want to also allow ordinary people who don't have access to money to run for city council.
- r. Salma Hamamy: What makes our university distinguished is our students. It was our peers who answered the calls during the civil rights movements and the demands of South Africa while our university was complicit. As students who are on the right side of history, our university is complicit in this genocide. Let us



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be the first university to show opposition to funding of bombs. Allow yourselves to be a source of relief for Gaza. This is the most documented genocide in history.

- s. Elijah Kitchings: I helped write a lot of the things people said tonight but we need to settle what you guys said to do. You guys who ignored the votes for people in this room. It's 100 thousand dollars for writing yes or no. You, no one else, is accountable. No one is telling you what to do. You have to go home and go to sleep knowing no one is telling you what to do. I wish that the people who demonstrated what is going on had voted on this, but unfortunately it's you. Listen to the names of the martyrs and just vote.
- t. Melodie Wong: It's ridiculous how you don't know how to pronounce members in your assembly. Meghan Dodaballapur is an LSA rep and you haven't pronounced her name right. You mispronounced Alifa's name and she's literally the president. It was released that Ono should be doing more about islamophobia but is not because he's scared of losing money. He values profits over people. CSG has the opportunity to change this. Many of you joined CSG to make a change in people's lives, and you can now. Palestinians are being murdered everyday. Do you think you are more worthy of having education and having a normal life? Not voting for the Rebuilding Education in Gaza is following in the footsteps of our university.
- u. Simrun Bose: This is a picture and testimony of a little girl in Gaza. There's a common line, what will you say if your children asked you if you were on the side of genocide, urbicide, scholasticide, and the list goes on. Why wait forty years to wait for your kids to ask if you had a spine. Are you doing anything? You are elected members and have the ability to send actual money to people. Don't wait til you regret it in the future. Everyone in this room is implying you to do it. You can eject usb from this institution, but we are also rejecting you from this community if you fail to pass this act.
- v. Awmeo Azod: Before the war, I was appointed as class leader. I had friends who played with each other, but cannot do so anymore as we were displaced. One of my teachers would be absent. I used to buy things for trips and go to the park. We used to celebrate the summer. I wish I could go back to school. There is no amount of education I can provide to help you grow a spine, so support this act today.
- w. Brandon David: I ask that you look at this picture of this little boy in Gaza. I would look over the years and teachers who taught us. When I was in the sixth grade, we had new teachers. We used to play football with the teachers. I was my favorite sports teacher. We were displaced from the north to the south. I saw



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my teachers at the checkpoint but the school was bulldozed by the Israeli army. Don't be silent during a genocide. Vote for the Rebuilding Education in Gaza.

- x. Levi Pierpont: I'm an air force veteran, but after years in the military, I realized that if I don't have a direct role in killings, I was complicit in the state's agenda. As people who live in this country, we should not be able to live with ourselves if we are not standing against sibling oppression while people are dying in Gaza and Lebanon. In August, I was standing at the border in Gaza and heard the blast myself. I bet families of Palestinians are being tortured. It is our money, and missiles causing this destruction. You are not separate from that. Do something.
 - y. Mark Telleras: I'm an RA for international students. I'm supposed to be their shoulder to lean on after a stressful day, but so many of my conversations have been about the genocide in Gaza. Instead of giving them advice on exams, I'm having a conversation about the genocide in Gaza and how they feel unsafe on campus. Our inclusive community is funding a genocide in Gaza. Never again will you have an opportunity to change these lives.
 - z. Moe: I just read to you a verse in the Quran. Perhaps it would be of benefit. When it was said to them, do not cause corruption on earth. Unquestionably, it is they who are corruptors, but they do not receive it. This includes the university and student government who support this genocide. It isn't an issue of divisiveness, but about morals, ethics, and conscientiousness. I hope that's enough.
 - aa. Dylan Cohen: When SID initially began, we talked about how to progress our movements, and we won. If you support the alternative budget, there is a movement behind. Now that we are taking our power to CSG, we're still not good enough? This is the greatest thing I've heard the student government doing. To continue business as usual, is doing the same as our colonizer.
5. Reports I
- a. Executive
 - i. Alifa Chowdhury: I spoke to so many of you and you brought many concerns, but they seem so shallow to what this money could do. It could be sending 440 thousand dollars to rebuild infrastructure in Gaza. I don't know what we're debating. The other budget is sending money to student orgs that are already funded. If it's the legality of it that bothers you then we're supposed to break unjust rules. I don't know why we can't be a little braver and bolder and vote with our conscience. Who cares if the administration retaliates. We believe in ourselves and the cause. People here have been imploring you to vote for something bigger than yourself. I know people don't like to be called Zionist, but when you stand in the way of this amount of money going to something great, I



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don't know what people would call you. I don't know what we're debating. We're funding Gaza in schools, the professor came to beg you to fund this program, building infrastructure, and there's two to keep going as normal in the face of genocide. What are you doing? What are you furthering? This is your opportunity. Vote rightly. Vote with a conscience.

ii. Motion to move to community concerns → Motion fails

b. Speaker

i. Mario Thaqi: We have four vacancies, one is dentistry, one is Ross, and two in LSA. There's no meeting next week. We have 12 pieces of legislation in circulation, two of them are in resolution committees because they didn't consider them in the last meeting. We have two petitions and constitutional amendments.

ii. Alifa Chowdhury: Is there a reason why the list of people who were supposed to speak was not made public?

iii. Mario Thaqi: It was there. I don't have to tell you about my life. The names of community concerns were not posted the night before.

iv. Motion to move to closed session → Motion passes

1. For: 19

2. Against: 10

6. Business

a. [Minutes from the 13 th Meeting of the 14th Assembly on October 1st, 2024](#)

b. [F24-001](#): The Wolverine's Budget Act → Petition Passes

i. For: 21

ii. Against: 15

iii. Motion to adjourn → Motion Fails

c. [F24-002](#): The Gaza Reparations Act → Petition Fails

i. Motion to previous question → Motion passes

1. For: 16

2. Against: 22

7. Closing and Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned → 9:54pm