

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

April 6th, 2023 Minutes

Zoom via <https://msu.zoom.us/j/91252884043>

I. Call to Order *7:01 pm*

A. Land Acknowledgment

- a. “Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi peoples. The university resides on land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.”

B. Roll Call

- a. Quorum has been met

C. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion to suspend the rules to add two bill to the agenda
- b. Rep Konesky: suggested that the bills should be pushed to next session
- c. Rep Masud: yielded time to Rep Pandya
- d. Rep Pandya: explained why bills were introduced now
- e. Rep Mandwee: explained that bills are non-controversial
- f. Rep Le: expressed hesitation about the bills’ lack of committee approval
- g. President Kovach: discussed code of operations
- h. Rep Pandya: emphasized the importance of the bills
- i. Rep Le: asked why bills were introduced on the floor
- j. Rules are suspended
- k. Motion to add two bills to the agenda
- l. So moved
- m. Agenda is approved

D. Approval of Minutes

- a. [03.23.2023 GA Minutes](#)
- b. Motion to approve
- c. So moved

II. Public Comment

- A. “All ASMSU employees are Responsible Employees. This means we are required to report all incidents of sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual misconduct, stalking, and relationship violence that are observed or learned about in this meeting to the Office of Institutional Equity. You can learn more at OIE’s website. This statement is meant to provide the public with the information needed to make an informed decision about their stories.”

III. Presentations

IV. Reports

- A. Assembly Members

- a. Rep Masud: made announcement on Take Back The Night
 - b. Rep Le: made an announcement on an APASO event
 - c. Rep Lochrie: made an announcement about RHA's twilight movie screening
 - d. Rep Dorcely: made an announcement
 - e. Rep Mandwee: asked question about access to ballots
 - f. Advisor: announced that ballot issue has been corrected
- B. Committees
 - C. [Office of the President](#)
 - D. [Chief Officers](#)
 - E. [Advisor](#)

V. Action Items

- A. Consent Business
- B. New Business
 - a. [59-67: Advocate for More Inclusive Bathroom Infrastructure for International Students at MSU through the Installation of Bidets](#)
 - i. Rep Barash: explained why bill was created, and why bidets are useful
 - ii. Rep Pandya: discussed feasibility of the infrastructure
 - iii. Rep Lochrie: spoke on their own experiences with restroom infrastructure, and talked about the budget for ResLife and IPF
 - iv. Rep Mahira: discussed the feasibility of the bill
 - v. Rep Turner: expanded more on the points that Rep Pandya mentioned
 - vi. Rep Kapale: pointed out that this idea is more of a preference than a need
 - vii. Rep Barash: discussed conversations with IPF
 - viii. Rep Presley: asked about what has changed with the bill
 - ix. Rep Pandya: clarified that this is now an advocacy bill
 - x. Rep Tocco: expressed concerns
 - xi. Rep Masud: motioned to call to question
 - xii. Bill fails
 - b. [59-79: Create inclusive in-person RVSM and SARV training](#)
 - i. Rep Krishnan: discussed why RVSM and SARV trainings need to change to be more inclusive of disabled students, LGBTQ students, etc.
 - ii. Rep Pandya: spoke on the drawbacks of online RVSM trainings
 - iii. Rep Krishnan: motion to amend
 - iv. Seconded
 - v. Bill is amended
 - vi. Rep Diskin: spoke on own experience, and emphasized bills importance
 - vii. Rep Kapale: expressed the importance of the bill's inclusivity for international students.
 - viii. VP Iturralde: spoke on the work done by Director Chahal on this bill's subject matter.
 - ix. Director Chahal: discussed bill's importance

- x. Rep Kapale: expressed support for bill
 - Rep Tocco: expressed support for bill
 - xi. Rep Pandya: apologized for oversight
 - xii. Bill 59-79 passes
- c. [59-85: Advocate to Michigan State University to limit deals with sports gambling vendors.](#)
 - i. Rep Pandya: discussed the deal MSU has with sports gambling vendors, and how underage students have been exposed to sports gambling content
 - ii. Rep Tocco: reiterated what Rep Pandya said, and explained why they are seconding the bill.
 - iii. Rep Presley: asked a clarifying question
 - Rep Pandya: explained the difference between this deal and having alcohol in stadiums
 - iv. Rep Poppins: explained the differences in harm reduction
 - v. VPAA Iturralde: provided further explanation about what admin is doing regarding this deal.
 - vi. Bill 59-85 passes
- d. [59-86: Donate \\$5,000 from the ASMSU General Fund to the Gender and Sexuality Campus Center](#)
 - i. Rep Lochrie: explained the necessity of donations, and motioned to vote these bills as a package
 - ii. So moved
 - iii. Rep Dorcely: reiterated what Rep Lochrie said
 - iv. Rep Tocco: asked question about specific bills in package
 - v. Bills 59-86, 59-87, and 59-89 pass with 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abs
- e. [59-87: Donate \\$5,000 from the ASMSU General Fund to Women*s Student Services](#)
- f. [59-88: Allocate \\$5,000 to Continue Scholarship for Engineering and Science Success Academy Participants](#)
 - i. Rep Lochrie: gave background on the scholarship, and emphasized its importance
 - ii. Rep Barash: Loves it
 - iii. Motion for unanimous consent
 - iv. So moved
 - v. Bill 59-88 passes
- g. [59-89: Donate \\$5,000 from the ASMSU General Fund to the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions](#)
- h. [59-90: Recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Provide Resources for Survivors on ASMSU Social Media](#)
 - i. Rep Konesky: spoke on personal experience, and discussed the importance of the bill
 - ii. Rep Diskin: discussed the importance of awareness, and spoke on personal experience.
 - iii. Rep Le: expressed support for bill, and motioned to accept comments on the bill
 - iv. So moved

- v. Bill 59-90 passes
- i. [59-91: Advocate for current and past course information to be more accessible to students](#)
 - i. Rep Diskin: yielded time to Rep Presley
 - ii. Rep Presley: motioned to switch introducers for 59-91 through 94
 - iii. So moved
 - iv. Rep Presley: explained what the bill does, and emphasized the importance of students receiving information early on
 - v. Rep Le: expressed full support for bill, and spoke on experience
 - vi. Rep Masud: asked question about concerns with academic freedom
 - vii. VPAA Iturralde: explained the concerns about who owns the syllabi
 - viii. Rep Tocco: spoke on experience with syllabi
 - ix. Bill 59-91 has passed
- j. [59-92: Advocate for the creation of a Spartan Experience Fund through Student Life and Engagement](#)
 - i. Rep Presley: spoke on other universities that have similar programs
 - ii. Rep Diskin: reiterated statements made by Rep Presley
 - iii. Rep Barash: motion to accept all suggestions
 - iv. So moved
 - v. Rep Tocco: spoke on conditions for disabled students
 - vi. Bill 59-92 passes
- k. [59-93: Advocate for more permanent trash and recycling receptacles to be installed by Infrastructure and Planning Facilities next to sidewalks on campus](#)
 - i. Rep Presley: discussed the necessity of permanent trash cans on campus
 - ii. Rep Le: Reiterated statements made by Rep Presley
 - iii. Rep Tocco: expressed concern about costs
 - iv. Rep Le: addressed concerns raised by Rep Tocco
 - v. Rep Tocco: discussed living wage, and yielded to VPFO
 - vi. VPFO Adusumilli: discussed wages
 - vii. Rep Barash: expressed support for the bill and asked question about why trash cans are only available during football games.
 - viii. Rep Presley: discussed work done with Director of Sustainability
 - ix. Rep Diskin: explained that this bill is a stepping stone.
 - x. Rep Jalan: expressed support for this bill
 - xi. Rep Turner: discussed involvement with sustainability, and expressed support for bill.
 - xii. Rep Pandya: asked question about feasibility
 - xiii. Rep Presley: explained that this is a starting leverage point for the next sustainability director
 - xiv. Rep Khoshnam: voiced support for bill
 - xv. Rep Masud: motion to call to question
 - xvi. Bill 59-93 passes
- l. [59-94: Advocate for the expansion of rules regarding Final Exams](#)

- i. Rep Presley: discussed a similar program at Penn State, and explained why rules are necessary.
 - ii. Rep Diskin: spoke on past experiences, and emphasized the importance of not overloading students.
 - iii. Rep Lochrie: friendly amendment
 - iv. Accepted
 - v. Rep Barash: expressed support for bill
Seconded
 - vi. Bill 59-94 passes
- m. [59-95: Advocate for Redesigning of the MSU Union for Purposes of Affordable Non-Programming-Based Student Recreation](#)
 - i. Rep Tocco: discussed the importance of building community amongst students
 - ii. Rep Pandya: discussed the lack of dry activities for students on campus
 - iii. Rep Presley: asked why everything was shut down in the union
 - iv. Rep Zivian: discussed the importance of having spaces to do things in the union
 - v. President Kovach: gave history of the union
 - vi. Rep Tocco: emphasized the importance of free activities
 - vii. Rep Haitaian: expressed support for spaces where students can hang out
 - viii. Bill 59-95 passes
- n. [59-96: Advocate for Dedicated Disability Studies Program at Michigan State University](#)
 - i. Rep Tocco: discussed the lack of a disability studies program in the area, and emphasized the need for such a program.
 - ii. Rep Pandya: spoke on common misunderstandings of disability
 - iii. Rep Barash: thanked representatives for the bill, and called to question
 - iv. Bill 59-96
- o. [59-97: Advocate for Campus Wayfinding Infrastructure](#)
 - i. Rep Tocco: discussed the importance of increasing accessibility
 - ii. Rep Konesky: reiterated points made by Rep Tocco
 - iii. Bill 59-97 passes
- p. [59-98: Allocate \\$14,000 from the Readership Fund to Restricted to Purchase a New Copier for the ASMSU Engagement Office](#)
 - i. Rep Lochrie: explained what the bill would do
 - ii. Rep Kapale: reiterated what Rep Lochrie said
 - iii. Rep Masud: asked about the financial aspect of the bill
 - iv. VPFO: explained why it is the price it is
 - v. 59-98 passes
- q. [59-99: Allocate \\$10,000 to sponsor catering at the welcome event organized by OISS for new international students](#)
 - i. Rep Kapale: explained what this bill does, and why this allocation is so important
 - ii. Rep Mendoza: seconded everything that Rep Kapale said
 - iii. Rep Dorcely: asked about how much will be in the general fund
 - iv. Rep Tocco: asked about a break after this bill

- v. Rep Jalan: discussed how important being introduced to the international community is for international students
- vi. Motion to use unanimous consent
- vii. So moved
- viii. Bill 59-99 passes
- r. [59-100: Allocate \\$10,000 For Purchasing A Commemorative Bench For The Victims Of 2/13](#)
 - i. VPFO Adusumilli: yielded to president Jo Kovach.
 - ii. President Kovach: spoke on discussions about memorializing the students that were lost on 2/13
 - iii. VPFO Adusumilli: spoke on conversations with IPF
 - iv. VPIA CAMG: spoke on the importance of community, and commemorating the students that were lost.
 - v. Rep Le: spoke on his experience writing the bill, and the importance of remembering the victims as the Spartans they were.
 - vi. Rep Presley: asked question about the benches and whether writing can be replaced
 - vii. Rep Haitaian: asked question about the decision to make this piece of remembrance a bench.
 - viii. President Kovach: explained the reasoning behind creating a space where students can mourn and grieve.
 - ix. Rep Tocco: suggested changes to make the bench more of a memorial and distinguish it.
 - x. Rep Zivian: spoke about personal experiences, as well as seeking assurances from the university that the bench will have significance.
 - xi. Rep Barash: motion to accept the suggestions on bill 59-100
 - xii. Seconded
 - xiii. VPGA Strach: spoke on the process of memorialization
 - xiv. Rep Presley: made a friendly amendment to the amendment
 - xv. Rep Diskin: expressed support for change in verbage
 - xvi. Bill is amended
 - xvii. Rep Masud: yielded to VPFO
 - xviii. Rep Masud: called to question
 - xix. Motion for unanimous consent
 - xx. Bill 59-100 passes with unanimous consent
- s. [59-101: Advocate for the installation of an emergency contraceptive vending machine](#)
 - i. Rep Krishnan: motion to change seconder to Rep Mandwee
 - ii. So moved
 - iii. Rep Krishnan: yielded to Director Chahal to discuss the bill
 - iv. Director Chahal: discussed inclusivity and accessibility to contraception. Talked about other campuses that have adopted similar initiatives
 - v. Rep Mandwee: discussed the importance of this idea.
 - vi. Rep Jalan: asked clarifying question about the price of the contraception

- vii. Rep Tocco: motion to call to question
- viii. Question has been called
- ix. Bill 59-101 passes
- t. [59-102: Amendments to the Academic Affairs Code](#)
 - i. VPAA Iturralde: discussed background of the bill
 - ii. Rep Le: reiterated what VPAA Iturralde said
 - iii. Motion to use unanimous consent
 - iv. So moved
 - v. 59-102 passes
 - vi. Rep Masud: motion to vote on 59-103 through 107 as a package
 - vii. Seconded
 - viii. So moved
 - ix. Bills have been packaged
- u. [59-103: Amend Title I of the Student Allocations Board Code of Operations](#)
 - i. VPSA Omar: explained that the code of operations has not been reviewed in years, and these amendments are the result of revisions
 - ii. Rep Jaberu: reiterated what VPSA Omar said.
 - iii. Motion to vote via unanimous consent
 - iv. So moved
 - v. Bills 59-103 through 107 pass via unanimous consent
- v. [59-104: Amend Title II of the Student Allocations Board Code of Operations](#)
- w. [59-105: Amend Title III of the Student Allocations Board Code of Operations](#)
- x. [59-106: Amend Title V of the Student Allocations Board Code of Operations](#)
- y. [59-107: Add Title VI to the Student Allocations Board Code of Operations](#)
- z. [59-108: Advocate for \\$15 minimum wage for on-campus jobs](#)
 - i. Rep Le: discussed necessity of a \$15 minimum wage for students
 - ii. Rep Presley: talked about how people are being paid unfairly on campus, and how a four dollar change could help students
 - iii. VPFO: clarified that international students have a different hour limit than domestic students
 - iv. Rep Masud: asked clarifying question about whether this is an advocacy point
 - v. VPFO: discussed plans for \$15 minimum wage regardless of tax
 - vi. Rep Pandya: discussed discomfort with voting yes without knowing the election results
 - vii. President Kovach: discussed the importance of the advocacy, regardless of the tax increase
 - viii. Rep Tocco: yielded time to their replacement
 - ix. Julia Robbins: asked about undergraduate research
 - x. VPFO Adusumilli: clarified that it would be all on-campus jobs
 - xi. Rep Tocco: discussed that \$15 is not enough money and even \$20 is not enough. Suggested raising the numbers
 - xii. VPFO: clarified that some jobs can still pay more than 15 dollars
 - xiii. President Kovach: spoke on state legislation that is currently pending

- xiv. Rep Jalan: talked about how a 15 dollar minimum wage would benefit international students too.
- xv. Rep Presley: asked question about tips
- xvi. President Kovach: clarified that this will serve as a baseline wage
- xvii. Rep Barash: pointed out that while 15 dollars is not enough to live, it has been a rallying cry for years, and an important step. Motioned to add amendments to the bill.
- xviii. So moved
- xix. Amendments are added
- xx. Rep Mandwee: pointed out that even with the current tax, ASMSU should still pay 15 dollars
- xxi. Question has been called
- xxii. Bill 59-108 has been approved
- aa. [59-109: Reiterating ASMSU's independence from MSU](#)
 - i. Rep Le: yielded time to VPFO
 - ii. VPFO Adusumilli: discussed what this bill does
 - iii. Rep Le: yielded to President Kovach
 - iv. President Kovach: discussed history of ASMSU
 - v. Rep Presley: reiterated what speakers before said
 - vi. 59-109 passes
- bb. [59-110: Eating Disorder Literacy Workshops](#)
 - i. Rep Masud: discussed the lack of eating disorder literacy workshops, and talked about other campuses that have them.
 - ii. Rep Pandya: expressed support
 - iii. Rep Le: expressed support, and asked question about whether workshops would be mandatory
 - iv. Rep Masud: discussed thought behind bill
 - v. President Kovach: pointed out that there are options for those who may find it re-triggering, but those options are not well known
 - vi. Rep Turner: asked about whether it will be required
 - vii. Rep Masud: discussed examples of what other campuses have done.
 - viii. Rep Diskin: expressed concern over requirement
 - ix. VPAA Iturralde: discussed SARV and RVSM trainings as overarching trainings, and suggested making mental health workshops broader.
 - x. Rep Masud: expressed receptiveness to making it a workshop.
 - xi. Rep Tocco: discussed accommodating these workshops to neurodivergent students.
 - xii. Rep Presley: reiterated what other representatives and the VPAA said.
 - xiii. Rep Masud: motion to accept amendments made on document.
 - xiv. Rep Jalan: discussed toxicity around “the freshman 15”
 - xv. Rep Diskin: discussed safer options
 - xvi. Rep Mendoza: expressed dissent for making it mandatory
 - xvii. Amendment passes

- xviii. Rep Presley: discussed community partners working with MSU on this, and called to question
- xix. Bill 59-110 passes
- cc. [59-111: Advocate for Allocation of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion \(IDI\) Department's fund to CORES/COPS organizations](#)
 - i. Rep Masud: discussed personal experiences with CORES and COPS e-board, and discussed funding for CORES and COPS
 - ii. Rep Pandya: expressed support
 - iii. Rep Le: expressed confusion about the bill
 - iv. Rep Masud: discussed why the funding should come from IDI
 - v. Rep Tocco: talked about conversations had with CORES and COPS representative about funding
 - vi. Rep Masud: discussed part of the bill that does discuss transparency from SLE and IDI
 - vii. VPFO: discussed CORES and COPS funding work that has been done alongside President Kovach
 - viii. Rep Masud: discussed intentions behind the bill.
 - ix. Rep Barash: expressed support for this bill and called to question
 - x. Question has been called
 - xi. Bill 59-111 has passed
- C. Old Business
 - A. [59-18: Amend the ASMSU Code of Operations to add more General Assembly Input towards Standing Committee Placements.](#)
 - a. Rep Pandya: explained the bill
 - b. Rep Masud: discussed the bill, and why it was written
 - c. Rep Konesky: expressed concern with bill
 - d. Rep Pandya: motion to move old business until after the next bill
 - e. Rep Pandya: reiterated that this is something worked on with OOTP
 - f. Rep Masud: discussed the work done on this bill
 - g. Rep Turner: called to question
 - h. Question has been called
 - i. 59-18 passes
 - B. Motion to remove 59-84
 - C. So moved

VI. Discussion Items

VII. Announcements

VIII. Final Roll Call

Motion to use last roll call as final roll call

IX. Member's Privilege

Motion to waive

So moved

X. Adjournment *11:50 pm*

