



Academic Senate

Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes

February 21, 2024

The Academic Senate Student Advisory Committee (SAC) met via Webex on February 21, 2024 at 12:10 pm in GB 3246 and on [WebEx](#)

Members present: Louise Rabidoux (Counseling), Chris Richards (eLearning), Elizabeth Clifford- Chair (Tutoring Services in Learning Commons), Alex Azima (Physics Professor), Joann Silsby (CIT professor), Ashlee Podelski (Adult Resource Center), Tracy Nothnagel (Senate President)

Students: Aral Gribble, Keshava Demerath-Shanti, Anya Robinson Dennis

Unable to attend: Ronda Miller (Dean Student Affairs), Fran Krempasky (Library faculty), Greg Lattig (Athletic Director), other student members

The 2/21/24 SAC Committee highlights are as follows. Minutes provided by Elizabeth Clifford

Upcoming Meeting Dates all at 12:10 both in person in **GB 3246** and online.

- March 20, April 3, April 17, May 1

Updates from Students:

- Anya – Disability club asks people to be aware of automatic doors that are closing too quickly because the doors bruise the legs of people in wheelchairs. In the parking ramp, some floors are better than others. Not all doors have automatic buttons.
- Keshava – These concerns are being followed up by the Disability Club advisor and maintenance has been contacted.

Discussion:

- How to get more students involved?
 - Keshava- Consider making a flier about Student Advisory Committee. Students can ask instructors to bring it up.
 - Chris Richards can also put an announcement on D2L.
 - Aral – put in announcement the names of student senators to reach out for information.
- Discussion of get to know your senators.
 - Louise – recommended that we invite someone from the Lookout to visit a meeting.

- Ashlee – student senators can reserve tables in the Gannon highway, this can be done through the Student Life Office. Keshava suggested 11-12 on Wednesdays.
- Alex- what happened to the Student Senate idea? There is a difference between SAC and a Student Senate.
- Keshava – first step to a Student Senate could be more involvement in SAC.
- Alex – we could advertise in the Outlook and in a more formal way.
- Louise – maybe April 10th event would be a place to do this.
- Discussion of April 10th event with Tracy. It is a priority of Senate to get perspective. Face to face groups and forums give us much better feedback than surveys. The Student Forum will be April 10th in Gannon 2214. We will have breakfast snacks in the morning and pizza in the afternoon. The times will be 8am to 7pm with tables and stations. Some stations will ask students to rate the importance of various items, whiteboards to leave ideas. We need volunteers and would like to have some students there.
 - Anya – what about the Tuesday/Thursday students? Some students come to campus MW or TTh.
 - Tracy – discussion of a “man on the street” type interviews. Spot for student to student. Idea is for open ended. West Campus should be okay, have other volunteers there.
 - Aral – have a sign-up sheet for SAC and Student Senate. He suggested a student in the DMAC program who has a man on the street type podcast.
 - Louise – sign up sheet.
 - Aral – maybe an edited video.
 - Anya recommended having beverages with the food at the forum.

Area Updates:

- Office of Diversity and Inclusion: We will have someone joining us from Office of Diversity and Inclusion soon. However, Elizabeth also works at ODI.
- Adult Resource Center: Ashlee Podleski. There is an event Feb 28th from 11:30 -1:00 with community resources from Michigan Works and DHS in the Adult Resource/Student Life area.
- Textbook Affordability: Alex Azima. CTE Workshop coming up. Asking the issue be addressed at the student forum, what are student views on textbook affordability. Would like to increase the number of books available in the library.
- Aral – Biggest barrier for students is finances. Orientation is so much information.
- Keshava – Students should know how much the textbook will cost when they are registering for a class. Cost and time is a barrier.
- Elizabeth – the information is available through the Bookstore online but is challenging to find before registering.
- Louise – students don’t know what they don’t know. There is a new committee with the President and Provost working on taking down barriers to success and enrollment. That group should have student representation.