

University Committee on Student Life & Engagement

Minutes

October 14th, 2022 | 8:30 AM



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Voting Members Present:

Students: Katrina Groeller, Carl Austin Miller Grondin, Hannah Jeffrey, Jo Kovach, Connor Le, Belle Letcher, Myles Overall, Stevie Quijas, Jairahel Price, Harshita Rathod, Claire Smith

Students Absent: Zoë Church

Faculty: Nicholas Gisholt, (Ms. J.) Jonglim Han, Jeffrey Tsang

Faculty Absent: Joyce Meier

Non-Voting Members: Shannon Burton, Ray Gasser, Genyne Royal, Allyn Shaw, Anthony T. Williams Jr.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Vennie Gore

Guests: Marlon Lynch, Mary Geller, Erin Carter

- I. Call to Order
 - a. A regular meeting of the University Committee on Student Life & Engagement was held on October 14th, at 9:01 AM via Zoom.
 - b. Chair Carl Austin Miller Grondin presided.
- II. The agenda was approved as distributed.
- III. The draft minutes of the September 23rd, 2022, meeting was approved as distributed.
- IV. Presentations:
 - a. Surveillance (Marlon Lynch)
 - i. Presented to UCSLE about surveillance on campus, specifically with a group named Social Sentinel and surveillance of social media.
 1. Does not use Social Sentinel
 2. Contracted with a company named Media Sonar, they use Media Sonar to see what types of social media is being posted by people who may pose a threat



3. Uses it during big events like football games and protests
 - a. Based off of active information and can only find information that is able to be pulled from simple Google searches
4. Has used it several times already when open threats were made on social media
- ii. Questions:
 1. Le: Where is this data stored?
 - a. Lynch: Ends up with student records and those working with the case
 2. Le: Is it used to stifle expression?
 - a. Lynch: No, shows how many people may be at the protest and can track those with bad intentions
 3. Le: Have these been found to target historically marginalized communities?
 - a. Lynch: Not based on the individual, based on the action, if someone posts that a bomb was put somewhere, it will be based on what they posted, not what race they are
 4. Kovach: Is there some way this information can be put more publicly? Also, ASMSU has standing policy that asks that we continue to not use technology that surveils students
 - a. Lynch: We can add that to an FAQ page, will also reinforce the fact that this is nothing that you couldn't do as a person on social media. There is no facial recognition within this nor do we have any software like that
 5. Ms. J: How would this have been helpful last night? (In regard to the Candance Owen protest)
 - i. Lynch: This is not to stifle anything; this is to track social media presence. If there was a group who had bad intentions, we



- would be able to monitor that and
evacuate the building/stop the action
6. Ms. J: What procedures are there when malicious intent is found and is this something that can be shared?
 - a. Lynch: If the software is utilized during an event and the individuals state they are going to force entry into the west side of a building, officers can be able to go directly to the west side and respond
 7. Jeffery: Is there any kind of law that protects what can or can't be done with information online or is the police following their moral compass? If so, is there any kind of training used to prevent people to do bad things with social media information?
 - a. Lynch: Our restrictions are the same as you. Whatever
 - i. Lynch: Our restrictions are the same as you. Whatever you were to find online, it would find online
 - b.
 - i. Lynch: Our restrictions are the same as you. Whatever you were to find online, it would find online
 8. Burton: Wanted to respond to this in terms of university policy. Pointed out Article 2.3.8 of the SRR, also covered under Article 3 of SRR
 9. Letcher: Personally wants police on campus to be purely reactive, what can be used on online to identify threats could be vague and we don't know how MSUPD may respond to it, feels very nervous about this being in MSUPD
 - a. Lynch: Gave examples of how it has been used in the past (Fee Hall bomb threat, helps people who needed mental health services, RVSM). Not opposed to do what the community wants,



but wants us to realize that this may impact future situations

10. Letcher: Repeated the heart of their comment, worried that once we set this precedent, this could lead to worse things

11. Ms. J: Would evidence collected from this be put into their academic records for people to see?

a. Burton: It would be put in SIS to some degree, does not believe that this would be passed on to other programs

i. Williams: The university has many types of records, the only way any records can be shared is with the students protection under a FERPA release

12. Kovach: Wants to echo the sentiments of Committee Member Letcher. ASMSU has voted last year that although we denounce the destruction of property, the act of couch burning did not need to be so pervasive. Is not comfortable with surveillance this way

b. SRR/GSR Updates (Anthony Williams)

i. Provided some updates regarding the Student Rights and Responsibilities and the General Student Regulations

1. Conducting a review and rewrite through the Huron Consulting Group

2. Projected to be complete by May of 2023

ii. Questions:

1. Groeller: Could you talk a little bit about your sampling for engagement

a. Williams: Will be through email. It's a voluntary process

2. Kovach: The confidence in following these documents is low. Wanted to state that landlords and business owners shouldn't have a say in the SRR/GSR. When is there going to be a time to put in suggestions for the SRR?



- a. Williams: Landlords and business owners do not have a say in decisions. Feedback will happen in Phase 3
 3. Jeffery: Agrees with their colleagues. Thinks that a lot of great process has been made so far. Hoping to see more of that
- V. Reports
- a. Steering Committee
 - a. Grondin: Met a couple of weeks ago. Agenda was focused on discussion of the Board of Trustees and President Stanley. The Letter of No Confidence discussion item is in response to that. Was elected to be a trustee of the Dryden School Board. Steering also voted to hold a Board of Trustee Town Hall.
 - b. Faculty Senate
 - a. Tsang: Met this Tuesday and discussed updates in Title IX and voted for a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Council of Graduate Students
 - a. Jeffery: Discussing the possibility of a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees. Also trying to get into contact with people who can advise the Board of Trustees. Participating in the Homecoming Parade. COGS meeting is next Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Has been in contact with the Sage Organization which advocates for graduate student rights.
 - d. ASMSU
 - a. Kovach: ASMSU has voted no confidence in the Board of Trustees on October 6th. Passed many bills. RCAH and CAL have elections this week and the VPGA elections are coming up. ASMSU stands with the MSU Swim and Dive Team.
 - e. FSL
 - a. N/A
 - f. RHA



- a. Letcher: Holding a special election for VP and CDEIO this Wednesday. E-Board met to prepare a statement about President Stanley's resignation. Nothing in the works for a vote of no confidence at the moment.
- g. BOT At-Large Student Rep
 - a. Quijas: In discussion with other student leaders about performative land acknowledgement. Sat in on a meeting with President Stanley earlier this week. Hopes to work with Jabbar Bennet to foster more trust for students.
- h. Student Life & Engagement
 - a. Shaw: Student Leaders Reception is next Thursday, if you do not have an invitation, please let Mary Geller know. Good job with work in ASMSU, COGS, RHA
 - i. Gasser: Updates on transitional housing
 - b. Shaw: With the Midterm Elections coming up, East Lansing has satellite offices on campus
 - i. Kovach: Representative Slotkin and Dingle have a competition going on to what campus can vote early the most

VI. Discussion

- a. Letter of No Confidence (Chair C.A.M.G.)
 - i. Grondin: Provided a letter of no confidence for the Board of Trustees to discuss and vote on
- b. Discussion:
 - i. Letcher: Does not think this a good idea. Does not know what this will accomplish. What they can see this doing is making it impossible to work with the Board of Trustees in the future
 - ii. Kovach: Disagrees with the previous comments. Sometimes what we need is bold and decisive action. Does not like the second paragraph, although they respect Stanley, the paragraph seems to brownnose Stanley. Believes that the Trustees will still work with us
 - iii. Ms. J: coREM is also putting out a statement. Under Stanley, we have had lots of progress with DEI like the



MCB. It's also to show the Board of Trustees that people are tired

- iv. Jeffery: Thinks that the main issue with this is that the Board of Trustees have violated part of their ethics contract. We should acknowledge that President Stanley hasn't done anything wrong. Thinks that the Board needs to be held accountable
 - v. Kovach: Wanted to say that it feels like we need to do something since this has been a problem since the Nassar Scandal.
 - vi. Quijas: As a student, they have the same frustrations. As the At-Large Liaison, would like to emphasize Committee Member Letcher's points.
 - vii. Letcher: Did like the thought about liking the sentiment and not the wording. Doing this may make it harder to work with the Trustees in the future
- c. UCSLE Atmosphere (Chair C.A.M.G.)
 - i. Waived for the next meeting

VII. Roundtable

- a. Waived

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Connor Le
Secretary

Approved: 11/18/22