The University of Southern Mississippi

Student Government Association Cabinet

9.17.18 | 4:45 PM | Union Room B

1. Call to Order
   1. Congrats to a great Eaglepalooza team and Varsity team for their first event!
2. Guest Speaker – Dr. Campbell: Heartwalk
   1. USM sponsors on an annual basis, Forrest/Lamar County Heartwalk
   2. Do you have an immediate family member who has some kind of heart disease, hospitalized for some kind of heart issues? The American Red Cross Association raises money to help this. Dr. Campbell’s parents are her inspiration for organizing this event.
   3. November 10th at Spirit Park. Last year, USM was not in the top fundraising, so we need everyone to offer help for the Heartwalk. $1000 per team donation, if every member of SGA pledged $5, we would have more than enough for the donation, accepted online.
   4. Questions/comments/concerns, contact Shannon.campbell@usm.edu for team contact.
   5. LSI has a team set up, doing a fundraiser known as “penny wars” for SGA to donate money. The overall winner will receive a pizza party.
3. Old Business: N/A
4. New Business: Reports
   1. Lauren Parker, Executive Director of Student Initiatives
      1. EagleCARES is a new program/app that is launching soon. It's an online support/counseling app that you can use anytime, free of charge. It connects you to an online peer listener.
         1. SGA is a part of the soft launch for this app, so we will have access to the app. Give feedback for the app.
      2. Health & Wellness: Mental Health Awareness Week is this week! Here is the schedule of events:
         1. Monday, September 17th: Documentary Screening and Betterness Board, Union Lobby, 11 AM-1 PM
         2. Tuesday, September 18th: Backpack Display, Centennial Lawn; Puppy Day, Shoemaker Square, 11 AM-1 PM
            1. Share graphic and PR when it is posted.
         3. Wednesday, September 19th: Wellness Fair and Mental Health Screening, Union Lobby, 11 AM-1 PM; Yoga Night, Centennial Lawn, 6:30 PM
         4. Thursday, September 20th: Mental Wellness Panel, Union B, 6:30 PM
            1. Please attend if you are able to since it will be a great event!
         5. Friday, September 21st: Throw Away Negativity with Department of Mental Health Representatives, Shoemaker Square, 10:45 AM-12:45 PM
         6. Varsity volunteers are helping this week, so if you see someone helping out, say hi!
      3. It's On Us: Domestic Violence Awareness Game is November 3rd. Week will be October 29th-November 3rd. More details on that soon!
      4. Diversity: International Education & Diversity Week is November 5th-9th. SGA is in charge of Friday's event on the 9th. Nick is planning an international student get-together at the Payne with some sharing of ideas & initiatives.
      5. Academic Affairs: hosting two GEWW reviews in conjunction with OTP: October 3rd (Metacognition) and November 8th (Study Skills). We'll need help getting the word out for these events!
      6. Outreach: planning an event for finals
      7. Athletics: Planning a current & alumni SGA tailgate for 11/22 game!
   2. McKenna Bryant, Executive Director of Events
      1. Thanked everyone for coming out to Eaglepalooza and for helping out during the event.
      2. Miss USM- Destiny Chaffin
         1. Will table in Shoemaker Square on Wednesday from 12-2pm or interest meetings in LSI for the next two Wednesdays at 6:30pm.
         2. If someone asked, Miss USM will still involve the swimsuit competition.
      3. Homecoming- Asia Montgomery
         1. Goal is to make it more inclusive for the whole student body. You will see a change to some of the events during the week.
         2. Be on the lookout for information about teams for Homecoming.
   3. Michael Matrick, Executive Director of Communications
      1. Stay posted on social media, and be on the lookout for new items.
      2. Also, make sure to like and share things posted on SGA.
   4. Joanna Scott, Executive Director of Freshman Associates
      1. Group interviews start tonight.
      2. If anyone is available on Wednesday, please come help out. We had over 130 applicants, and only about 40% of the applicants will have a spot on FA. This is to make sure that the quality of FA is great for this year.
      3. Overnight Retreat on October 5th and 6th, will communicate if needed over this retreat.
      4. Also, encourage any freshmen friends who do not make FA to work with Varsity.
   5. Tony Reimonenq and Kaylie McGinley, Varsity
      1. Thank you for everyone helping out at Eaglepalooza since it was our first event.
      2. If you need Varsity members, please send times and dates of events, as well as members needed. Send as soon as possible to make it the most efficient.
      3. Will get with Michael and McKenna soon to order gear.
   6. Madison Crimm, Secretary
      1. Office Hours begin this week.
      2. Agenda items are due Thursday at midnight!
   7. Angel Lovett, Chief of Staff
      1. Black and Gold Day sign-ups will be coming out soon since there will be a student involvement fair. Will send out sign ups with minutes. If you are able to help out, please come. This is parent and family weekend, so it’s very important that SGA is represented.
      2. LSI- Leadership Development Seminar on October 6 from 9am-4pm. Will send out sign up for that with the minutes.
   8. McKenna Stone, President
      1. External perspective and university perspective- Homecoming is coming up quickly. Campaigning for Homecoming begins on Wednesday. We have had almost 100 people apply for the Court.
         1. Please help with Election Commission since we will be online voting for the first time. Elections are next week: September 25 and 27. If you have any questions, talk to McKenna
      2. Constitutional Convention- Hopefully, this will be the last week to meet. Senate will vote on the changed documents on Thursday, and the Senate meeting will be live-streamed. Documents will be voted on by the student body during Homecoming elections, and then approved by Dr. Bennett. All governing documents should be approved within the next few weeks.
      3. Latin Distinction- This resolution passed nearly a year ago, and since then, we have been collecting feedback. We are ready to move forward with support from Dr. Anderson and Dr. Miller. The proposal is that all students will be eligible for Latin Distinction based solely on GPA. If a student has at least a 3.5 GPA, then they would be eligible for Latin Distinction. Honors College students who write their thesis will be distinguished further. McKenna Stone will be working with Cam Cloud and others on the committee to draft a letter to the Office of the Provost on behalf of the student body.
      4. McKenna Stone sits on the University Calendar Committee, and the way that the dates fall for next year, there are 2 options for the schedule: take finals the day after Thanksgiving Break, or take finals before Thanksgiving Break and school is out of session until January. Thoughts?
         1. Caleb Plott- Seniors are having trouble adjusting to the new schedule, and many students are already feeling behind because of exams. McKenna- Those concerns cannot be addressed on this vote. The committee will only vote on start and end date.
         2. Jonathan Brent- How is this new schedule going to work? We would start either in beginning of August or middle of August if school got out before Thanksgiving.
         3. It is important to note that intersession courses are one of the main purposes for this. USM would be able to add more classes so students can graduate on time.
         4. These proposals would keep the same 15-week academic schedule.
5. Adjourn