



Committee Name: Diversity and Multicultural Affairs

Chair: Natalia Kanos

Vice-Chair: Dominique Dowling

Minutes: Dominique Dowling

Date: February 18th, 2019

Name: (Senate)	Attendance	Name: (Exec)	Attendance
Natalia Kanos	P	Adia McLaughlin	P
Dominique Dowling	P	Kenyah Ruffin	P
Shelby Adams	P	Roshni Rehman	EX
Malik Anwar	P		
McKenna Bates	P		
Madison Essig	P		
Sami Gibbs	P		
Maria Hernandez	P		
Max Kim	P		
Asha McLendon	P		
Dawson Weinhold	P		
Total	11 Present 0 Absent		

Also in Attendance: Cedric Price, Cassidy Whitehurst, Phillip Williams, Taylor Moore, Camden Layton, Elizabeth Gillette, Elijah Nichols

I. Meeting Commenced

A. 5:02 pm

II. In Attendance:

A. 11 Present, 0 Absent

III. Chair Report:

A. Hey guys! I decided to start something which is like a version of Cedric's High, Lows, and Buffalos just to have that ice breaker and to get to know everybody and how everyone's week went. I'm calling it throwback and throw forth so basically, since our meetings are on Monday we're going to "throw back" and reflect on last week and then "throw forth" on what we're looking forward to this week.

B. Thanks to everyone for coming out to Chili Cuz' it's Chilly, it was a nice time. I wish we had a better turnout, but it was in the middle of the day. I'm still happy about how that went.

C. Dominique will mention about her and Shelby's outreach to the Muslim Student Alliance. We're looking at helping them with basically their prayer room. There isn't really a divider between the guys and the women so making sure they have a divider.

D. This weekend I also went to the roundtable for the Collegiate Black Men. Their conversation was very insightful on issues facing Black men on campus. I'll gauge everyone's opinion on possibly partnering with Mason P.D. because an initiative was brought up about profiling Black men on campus. So maybe doing a partnership with Mason P.D. informing people of their rights and what could happen in different situations. Many of them said they were unaware of what they can and can't do if they're stopped. So, doing something like that to inform people of their rights and what they can and can't do as a potential event in the future.

IV. Vice-Chair Report:

A. Hey guys, hope y'all are having a good week. On Tuesday, Shelby and I went to the Muslim Writers Collective event called 1001 Tales of Hijabi. It was really cool, we made a hijabi doll for SG and I'll bring it into OSI this week. Basically, they brought up how on the 3rd floor of the JC, where they pray, a bookshelf they used to place their scarves and holy texts has been removed. Since it's no longer accessible to them this is a big problem because they can't pray with someone facing towards them, so the bookshelf is really important to them. Considering they pray 5 times a day, this is crucial for them. Other issues that were brought up were to get more tables and chairs in the JC, which is more of a Services issue. The Mason Ministry Association website has the MSA is up but when you click on their name it doesn't take you to their official website, but other campus ministries are. This is a problem because the website is a source of information. I plan on reaching out and working on this issue. My last announcement is that I went to the Disability Services Awareness and Inclusion workshop on

Wednesday. They're going to reschedule it considering I was the only person who went. While I was there I had a good conversation with two women who work in the Office of Disability Services. They wanted to know how we felt about them coming in to talk to the committee specifically on how to make events more inclusive for people with disabilities, different cultures, and multiple cultures. Depending on how we feel about that, I'll send them an email setting up a day for them to come in and talk to us.

V. Secretary Report

- A. Thanks to those who came out to Chili Cuz' it's Chilly. I'll be sending out a thank you email to the organizations who participated.
 - 1. We had 60 people come through to the event.
 - 2. Feedback: Pick a better time for the event next time we throw it. Time seemed to be a big issue with getting the chili here.
- B. ODIME "Tough Talk" training at 5:00 pm next Monday. Please be there if you can make it.
- C. If you have any WDYWW draft questions, please email them to me.

VI. Undersecretary of Cultural Affairs Report

- A. No report.

VII. Undersecretary of Identity Affairs Report

- A. Talked to Roshni about what was discussed last meeting and she's on board
 - 1. Going to talk to a couple of offices on campus interested in collaborating with us
 - a) Mason Dreamers put on a performance similar to it and we will be contacting them
- B. Looking into the Bistro for reservation for the Diversity Roundtable
 - 1. Kanos – Maybe pushing the date into the weekend would bring more people
 - 2. Adia – If we move it to the weekend would you all prefer it to be in the evening for more people to come? What time? 7-9 or 6-8
 - 3. Dowling – If we make it too late, then some people won't be able to come
 - 4. Kanos – Maybe 6:30?
 - 5. Adia – Okay
 - 6. Adams – Are we still combining the open mic idea with the roundtable?
 - 7. Adia – Yes, that's the plan.
 - 8. Kanos – Is everyone okay with moving the event in the evening on a weekend?

VIII. Business

- A. Resolution to Support the 400th Anniversary of the First Africans in English North America During Black History Month
 - 1. Discussion and Debate

- a) Kanos – I sent you all the resolution that Chairman Fernando sent, and he wanted our thoughts and feedback on the resolution.
- b) Essig – I would definitely co-sponsor the resolution.
- c) Adams – This is really late and by the time we vote on this, Black History Month will be over. There's nothing wrong with it it's just the timing.
- d) Price – It sounds very similar to the resolution that was passed through Shelby. I don't see a purpose in passing it because it's saying the same thing. If you want to pass it go for it, but it will be passed on the last day so what will really be happening?
- e) Adams – Adding onto that the wording, especially towards the end, is almost the exact same as the black History Month resolution.
- f) Kanos – Would we be looking to amend anything? He just wanted feedback.
- g) Weinhold – I agree with what they said. Why pass it on the last day of Black History Month and waste the Senate's time.
- h) Bates – It says SG will promote and encourage others to participate events during Black History Month. My concern is that it's too late and the timing is unfortunate.
- i) McLendon – Even if there were events on the 28th, wouldn't they have to wait for us to actually pass this resolution for them to promote it.
- j) Kanos – Even then, we have to wait two weeks before PR can release anything. Maybe take out the Black History Month and just promote the 400 Anniversary.
- k) Kim – Maybe he should reword it.
- l) Whitehurst – Even if there was an event going on Shelby already passed a resolution and informed PR about releasing a post. We still could promote anything dealing with Black History Month through the previous resolution.
- m) Williams – I feel like we don't need a resolution to post about Black History Month.
- n) Price – I agree, we don't need a resolution to have PR Post something. Just because we don't pass this resolution doesn't mean they aren't going to post something
- o) Anwar – What is the resolution that is being mentioned?
- p) Adams – The resolution was to support Black History Month and all the events going on.

- q) Kanos – What I’m hearing is that it’s kind of late, we could try rewording it but there isn’t a point because we don’t need the resolution to post.
- r) McLendon– I think it’s fine but it’s not for this year.
- s) Nichols – Would this resolution be binding or no?
- t) Dowling – I think the point was to honor this specific anniversary. So if we did it next year, it wouldn’t be the 400 year anniversary.
- u) Kanos – Okay, I’ll give that as feedback to Joseph.

B. Chili Cause Chilly Feedback / Discussion

1. McLendon –We need more chili because we ran out fast
 - a) Kanos – I feel like if we build connections with more orgs it’s going to be easier to get more people to come out. But again, it was in the middle of the week.
2. Essig – Paper flyers may work better than social media posts. I know social media is more cost effective, just some members of the student body prefer paper copies.
 - a) Price –Didn’t we have flyers printed out? What happened to those?
 - b) Kanos – Yes, we passed them out at the winter RSO Fair. I took them to the off-campus student lounge. I put them OSI and handed them out while walking around
 - c) Kim – Did we give any to the RA’s
 - d) Adia – They were printed too late to give to RA’s and were also passed out in the JC.
3. Anwar – I came towards the end of the event. First, I thought it was going to be inside. Secondly, I felt like there needed to be more decorations to advertise and bring people in to the event. Maybe balloons or a bigger sign that draws people in. Also have it in a more heavily populated area because where it was at was in the corner on the side.
 - a) Bates – I know you signed up for a later shift, but if you came earlier we had signs and people were standing out to get people’s attention. With the way that it was planned last semester, all circumstances looked at, I think we did a really good job in comparison to last year. We should imitate how this ran when planning Dippin’ with Diversity.
4. Kim – A problem with the event was that there wasn’t any representation from the RSO’s. Felt kind of hollow to not have them there to talk with students while they were trying the chili. We should make it known that if you can’t have representative from your RSO there then don’t bring a chili. We need to have more people there to build relationships.

- a) Kanos – Reaching out to people was hard because they had class during that time, so they could only drop off the chili.
- 5. Essig – Piggy backing off of Speaker Pro Temp’s point, it was just Mason life population that didn’t know about the event prior to the date. The Mason Life Representative should’ve given them flyers, but she didn’t come to the event which was a disappointment. It would’ve made things easier for the Mason Life population.
- 6. McLendon – To add to that point but from the other side, there are a lot of events that I have gone to that I didn’t hear about from social media. I’ve seen the box cardboard stand outside or the flyers in the dorm are most likely to get my attention because I see it more often. On social media my timeline gets flooded so it’s harder. Chili Cuz’ it’s Chilly was good that we had the free play inside, but I didn’t see many people utilizing it.
 - a) Kanos – So working on publicity and having some type of interaction to keep people there.
 - b) Price – Was it supposed to be inside because of free play or was it supposed to be outside?
 - c) Kanos: Yes, it was supposed to be inside. We changed it because we thought we weren’t going to get as much foot traffic and the weather wasn’t too bad, so we moved it outside.
- 7. Anwar – We need to target a location that has a higher volume of people walking by and bigger signs with different colors to catch their eye.
 - a) Bates – If we wanted bigger signs we would’ve either had to make them or allocate funds to buy them and the resolution already allocated the money for the event. We could’ve used the emergency fund, but I wouldn’t consider that an emergency.
 - b) Anwar – These are things to think about next year. We should probably do this in the planning for next year.

IX. Announcements:

A. Bates

- 1. Shabbat was fun. There were a lot of people there which was nice. Come out to them.

B. Whitehurst

- 1. Maria and I met with a police officer. Our initiative is to make students more aware if an active shooting happens. Mason P.D. is on the same page as us, we just have to meet with Health and Safety since they’d be the ones in charge of putting them in dorms and buildings.

C. Nichols

1. This Wednesday in VIP Room 2 Students in Action Meeting. There will be food and speakers. The title is Black Lives within the Gun Violence Prevention Movement. Please come out.

D. Hernandez

1. Piggy back off Cassidy. It was a productive meeting and thankfully we're on the same page. Trying to figure out how we can move forward and how to create the flyers. We might try to include that during freshman orientation.

E. Essig

1. The ODIME training this weekend was fun. There were only 3 students there and 2 facilitators which was the only issue. I know we were getting a training next week in committee. It was disappointing that SG members weren't there. They asked why you all weren't there because they saw some us in Starbucks. It wasn't just us that didn't show up either though. Please try and come and help a little bit because we talked about ongoing initiatives. I shouldn't have been the only one speaking on behalf of our organization. It was really disappointing for me.

F. Kanos

1. It's homecoming week so please go out to events and have fun. SG will have a tent this weekend. I have a meeting on Thursday about my initiative from 2:00 to 2:30 if anyone wants to tag along. Try to interact with orgs this week and see what SG could do for them. Build connections.

G. Layton

1. The Slack account is up and running so if you haven't been added to that please let me know.

X. Adjournment

A. 5:41 pm