

Students United

April System Priorities Agenda

Saturday, April 3rd – 9am-11am

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177779222>

- **Call to order: 9:05am**
- Land Recognition Statement:
 - *Our institutions reside on the land of the Oceti Sakowin and Anishinaabe Peoples*
- Introductions
 - **Present:** Steven Ranweiler, Hannah Harper, Caleb Travis, Emma Gabbert, Director Nico Arias (staff: Devin Smith, Abeer Syedah)
- Approval of February 2021 Minutes
 - **Moved:** no quorum, approved by consent of all present
- Agenda Review
 - *Call for new items*
 - *Approval of agenda*
 - **Moved:** No quorum, approved by consent of all present
- Old Business
 - *Absence Policies*
 - *Director of System Relations goes over absence policies.*
 - *Questions asked about religious absence accommodations and if there is one standard systemwide policy*
- Updates Since February
 - *MNTC Goal Area 7*
 - *Director of System Relations goes over current draft of revisions to MNTC Goal Area 7*
 - *Questions about inclusion of topics outside of race specifically, questions about how it would impact the addition of courses*
 - *Updates on the timeline of the effort*
 - *Feedback on the competencies drafted*

- *Key question about if those who fulfilled goal area 7 under the old standard would need to take another one under the new standard.*
 - *Group recommends telling the Board that goal area 7's new revisions should only apply to new incoming students*
 - *Feedback will be taken to the group.*
 - *Basic Needs Committee – Recommendations to Student Affairs Council*
 - *Discussion of Basic Needs Committees recommendations*
 - *Questions about the components of the recommended campus-level basic needs committees*
- *FY22 Planning*
 - *FY22 Events/Activities*
 - *Feedback about the value of conferences that are open to students, like in-person AdCon; keep AdCon in person; If AdCon can't be in person, open November and April conferences to everyone/anyone. Obviously in-person was superior to online.*
 - *If Students United representatives visited more student organizations, there would be more engagement and feedback*
 - *After the pitch about shifting Nov and April to open/less committee focused, group expresses interest in that idea*
 - *Staff pitches another idea about advocacy trainings being monthly, focused on a theme/set of themes? Some hesitation about ease of engagement when it's split up across months. Some express interest in something ongoing that anyone can attend*
 - *Question about what kind of stuff they'd want to have at our conferences? Discussion of key policies, community-building like discussion circles, ability to network and check in with other students from other campuses*
 - *Question about what kind of stuff they'd want outside of conferences? More state legislative lobbying, more digital connection opportunities for students to meet each other, increase engagement with SU more broadly, maybe monthly staff go and talk to clubs, get SU reps on the ground, on campuses with things like trainings and engagement ideas*
 - *Program Outcomes*
 - *What should we focus on and how to we measure movement, progress, and impact?*

- *Sustainability/environmental sustainability, specifically those being disseminated to campuses and there being accountability*
 - *More involvement of students outside of Poli Sci or outside of the traditional world of those who engage in advocacy and policy, get those nurses, teachers, STEM, business, and other students involved in our work*
 - *Accessibility resources and increasing accessibility*
 - *Policies or practices around exams/testing on weekends or outside of class time*
- Open Discussion
 - *Open Discussion on Evaluating Campus's Pandemic Year*
 - *Lots of feedback about faculty being ill prepared, too strict, or otherwise difficult during zoom courses*
 - *WSU: admin and faculty give out updates and forums consistently, it was helpful information, zoom webinar style*
 - *MSU: ResLife lack of competency, it was good that Mankato sent everyone masks; students want to be heard but they shouldn't be accountable for the covid decision making*
 - *MSUM: Housing did okay and responded to pressure, campus covid response committee did a lot of work and were stresses*
 - *Discussions about vaccine mandates moving into Fall 2021*
 - *Students United Commitments*
 - *Overview*
 - *Feedback*
 - *Commitments will be sent out to the group with requests for feedback/additions*
 - *Other Topics of Discussion*
 - *Any legislation or updates on higher education policies*
- Action Items
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- Announcements
 - *Senate Connections Next Friday 12-1:30pm*
 - *Officer Candidate Townhall and Questions*
 - *NSJ Scholarship*
- Adjournment: **11:01am**

