

RHA Senate Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2020

7:00PM (EDT)

Zoom Virtual Chat, Code: 529-085-747



Call to Order

Zachary Schlaich

Open Gallery

- Megan Berry: NRHH applications are still live and will be due this Sunday April 5th by 11:59 pm. I encourage you all to apply. You can find the application at ter.ps/nrhhapply.

Attendance

Michael Purdie

- 29 present

Approval of Minutes

- Jason: Approves
- Matt B: Seconds

Executive Team Reports

- Elections Chair- Erica
 - VP and President candidates: April 6th by noon--Deadline to submit platforms
 - ter.ps/rha2021rules--read these closely
 - Must still fill out exec board form: ter.ps/rha2021app
 - Platform presentations: April 7
 - Deadline to withdraw candidacy: April 12 by 11:59 PM
 - Elections: April 14
 - Executive board applicants: Application is due by April 15th at 5 pm

- Positions: ter.ps/rhaexec21
- REMINDER: No campaigning beyond what is exclusively designed by this process is permitted (AKA nothing outside of reading your platform and answering questions on Zoom)
- President- Emily
 - Meeting with SGA, GSG, and President Loh next Tuesday to discuss fee process concerns
 - Have been working with students to hear their housing concerns during this time
 - Hope you all are well, I miss seeing everyone in person!
- Vice President- Zach
 - Reminder regarding our virtual meetings:
 - These meetings are just as important as our in-person meetings earlier in the semester!
 - If you cannot make it, please make sure that you are able to find a proxy
 - Town Hall questions will be given to departments to format into a report
 - Link will be sent in the slack
- PCDC- Megan
 - Submit nominations for Year-End Awards by this Sunday 4/5
 - ter.ps/rhanom
 - Shout-out to those who have already written nominations!
 - Year-End reception video(!) in the works
 - Let me know how I can be a resource for you all during this time
- NCC- Dan

- NACURH Annual Conference has been canceled
 - They are looking into an online conference format, but nothing is confirmed as of now
- Award bids are still moving forward on schedule
 - School of the year
 - RHA President of the year
 - NRHH Member of the year
- SFC- Alec
 - The Student Fee Process is in its Final Stages, but things have been slowed by COVID-19
 - President Loh and his cabinet are collaborating on a fee schedule to recommend to the Board of Regents
 - Emily and SGA's President are meeting with President Loh next Tuesday to discuss fees
 - I'm planning to give a more formal fee presentation to share CRSF and end-of-year Admin decisions when we have more information
 - Currently working with SGA on a Student Fee Report
 - Will detail fee overviews, current/historical changes, BIG10 fee comparisons, and more
 - Will be released at the end of April, so be on the lookout (read and share please!)

Committee Reports

- DSAB- Sarah D.

- Meeting canceled this week but looking to hold one or two meetings virtually to discuss moving forward
- ReLATE- Neal R.
 - Looking to host a few Zoom meetings to finish out the rest of the semester once he gets comfortable with Zoom.
- ReFAB- Matt L.
 - Having a meeting over zoom tomorrow to discuss what our options are moving forward this semester.
- SCOM- Matt B.
 - They are working on a transition document for next year's councils.
- TAC- Cameron H.
 - Talked to Valerie about potential meetings for the semester.
 - We are going to have a Zoom chat soon.

Resident Council Reports

- N/A

BKT001S: A Resolution Addressing South Campus Commons and University Courtyards

Response to COVID-19

Kenyatta Thomas

- Motion to table: Zach
- Second: Emily
- Motion passes: 95% Yes: 5% No

Free Debate

- Emily: This is a rather important bill that needs to be discussed. I fully support this as long as it reflects the updates from Dennis. People who represent Commons, I would love to hear your experiences. I would appreciate people providing their perspectives.
- Zach: I wanted to speak on this just because I was a resident in Commons so I saw the response first hand. Thankfully i was lucky enough to have a place to go to since I live in MD, but I will say that their response in the beginning was rushed in that there were a lot of rumours being spread around because emails were getting sent out at different times so people in Courtyards were getting information before people in Commons so I wish they had done that a bit better. Like Emily said, I would like to hear from other people who live in Commons or Courtyards. Please remember that all of the resolved clauses are what we are urging the university Commons and Courtyards to consider.
- Quintin: So I just wanted to talk about how difficult this situation has been on me as a Commons resident. I live in Mississippi, and I evacuated as soon as I initially received communications and now realize that there is not a guaranteed time for me to go back to receive me things so because of all of this I had to fly up to MD to move my things into a storage unit just to learn that we could have kept our belongings in our apartment. I am personally very frustrated to have to fly to MD to take care of something that would have been communicated better and I believe they are lacking in getting communication out to residents efficiently.
- Dan: I also spent most of Sunday moving my belongings into a storage locker before moving myself to Massachusetts. I feel like they are doing a poor job addressing and communicating to those who are staying in the same apartment next year. My roommate

moved all of his things out just to find out he could have kept his belongings there after renewing his lease and expecting to live there through the summer.

- Kenyatta: I completely understand everything Courtyards and Commons is doing during this bizarre time but I ultimately believe they have a responsibility to the health and safety of students and have not been communicating as well as they can. I am also from Mississippi so it is frustrating to spend money on a flight, storage unit, and UHAUL just to hear our stuff could have stayed there. The responsibility has been put on the students to inquire about this information instead of providing these answers outright. YES, this is a crazy time for everyone but they need to take the initiative of providing students with all the information that they have.
- Charlotte: I just wanted to clarify, for what I understand, they are still charging rent to those still living there?
 - Zach: They are charging a daily rate instead of a monthly rate. The daily rate is slightly above the set monthly rate that residents previously had to pay.
- Charlotte: I wanted to touch about that part of the resolution that urges Commons to not charge rent during this time. I think it is very unreasonable to expect students to pay rent during this time especially because of the stay at home order and minimal access to jobs during this weird time.
- Dan: This is food for thought. I would recommend discussing changing the title of the resolution to be a little more impactful and in line with the resolved clause rather than just saying we have addressed it. Give it the same kind of weight that the resolved phrases do.
- Quintin: It is not fair to charge students more than their normal fees when the same services in Commons and Courtyards are not running. One of the housing ordinances that

Larry Hogan gave was around people whose income is negatively impacted by COVID19 and the idea that they can not be evicted so this is applicable in this circumstance as well.

Motion to vote: Bayley L.

Second: Alexandra F.

Resolution passes: 100% Yes

LHM001S: A Resolution Supporting Hagerstown Hall's Period Poverty Program and Its Expansion

Erin Ellington

Q&A

- Emily: Have you talked about any of the financial implications of the program?
 - Erin: This program would cost about \$10,000 to spearhead as estimated by Kush.
- Emily: Erin, as a Hagerstown resident, how do you perceive this program/ how have your peers in the building responded to it?
 - Erin: People are appreciative of this program but she does not know anyone directly who has used the program.
- Mel: Did the products go in both women and men designated bathrooms?
 - Erin: Yes.
- Cameron: We had tampons and pads behind the CA desk when the project was originally starting up. Would products still be kept behind the CA desk for residents to ask for or mostly in the bathroom?

- Erin: RA's will most likely be restocking bathrooms with the products so they will be accessed in the bathrooms

Free Debate

- Neal: I would like to add some context to this resolution as we discussed this in ReLATE. It would require an increase in student fees, and working with Res Facilities to restock products in bathrooms. More than likely we would have a hard time convincing ResLife to increase the costs. This does not mean we cannot get this done, but we may have to accept a small increase in student fees. We also discussed polling a while back with this, and I know there is student support, but I would be curious how many signatures this petition has. Just keep in mind the questions that the departments would have to answer to make this come to fruition.
- Mel: I did bring this up at the last BCC meeting to ask residents if they would support these products in the bathrooms if it would increase student fees and students were still in support depending on what this increase would look like. How many students are on campus?
 - Emily: There are about 12,500 students living on campus.
 - Mel: So this would be a relatively small increase in student fees?
 - Emily: We also have to consider any salary increases or any other expenses that may come with this program. I don't anticipate it to be a huge increase in student fees.
- Neal: A few more details that I forgot, I do believe that Veronica is in support. At least from the perspective of Leonardtown students I spoke to, they were mostly in support as well but these products would be behind a desk which may create a privacy problem.

- Emily: SGA voted on this program and it passed with a very similar resolution. Some concerns to also think about is the student fees reimbursement this semester that may put a big dent in department fees and may create fee increases later on.
- Alec: I wanted to put the fee discussion in perspective. To generate a total amount of revenue of \$45,000, that would only create an increase in \$1.48 per person so relative to this program, it will most likely be a relatively small fee increase, but in my opinion this is an essential service needed by students.
- Motion to vote: Mel
- Second: Matt L

Resolution passes: 90% Yes: 5% No: 5% Abstain

Constitutional Question of the Day

Daniel Laffin

- Congrats to Matt L for getting the question correct!

Recognition

Cameron Hewitt

- Congrats to Erin E for getting the “leadership book” this week!

Adjournment

Zachary Schlaich