

- I. Opening Prayer, Matthew Bisner, Student Body Vice President
- II. Roll Call
  - A. Roll Call Question: Are you spring, summer, fall, or winter? Why?
- III. Approval of Minutes - [15 April 2021](#)
  - A. All Student Union Board Executive Board Directors were nominated and confirmed. Six senators self-nominated and were confirmed to the Committee on the Constitution. Resolutions were passed bestowing emeritus status on Rachel Ingal, Sarah Galbenski, and Aaron Benevidas.
- IV. Executive Announcements
  - A. Welcome Newly Elected Off-Campus Council Officers
    1. Matthew Bisner: Thomas and Nicole will join us next week. Welcome James, our new off-campus senator.
  - B. Updates from the Student Advisory Group for Campus Reopening
    1. Matthew Bisner: We joined in with the past administration this week on this meeting. The name of the game is commencement and senior week. There was some concern between the university commencement and arts and letters conferral ceremony, but there will be enough time in between. There is a lot of talk about events for our graduating seniors, the condition for those happening is 90% senior vaccination for the second dose. The new regulations came out this Wednesday. Be on the lookout for more information as those develop and as we close out this semester. Masks do not need to be worn between class periods and that was included in Erin Hoffman Harding's email. You still have to wear your mask and social

distance in tents. If you do not feel well after shot two, but feel well enough to attend class, do not indicate symptoms on your daily health check, but email your professor.

2. Abraham Figueroa: Pfizer has announced that you may need a third dose of their vaccine. Has the administration discussed whether students will take that third dose?
3. Matthew Bisner: We will bring that up with Erin and our adviser at our next meeting.

#### C. Statement on the Conclusion of the Chauvin Trial

1. Allan Njomo: Yesterday, with the guilty verdict for Derek Chauvin, we can take a breath of relief that the murder of George Floyd will not go unpunished. At the same time, this verdict is not the end of the fight. While it is a step forward in accountability, no amount of punitive justice will bring back George Floyd or the countless victims of police violence. Systemic racism and police brutality continue to affect Black and Brown communities throughout the United States as we've seen emphasized these last couple of weeks with the unjust killings of Daunte Wright and Adam Toledo and Ma'khia Bryant. We cannot rest until we have a system that uplifts communities, instead of killing them. Today, let us hold in our hearts the family and loved ones of George Floyd. His life mattered. In the cloth of the Gospel, we know that we are called to uphold truth, justice, and the dignity of all human beings. As your Student Government, we commit ourselves to serve this Common Good. In the coming weeks, we

will work with students to initiate regular conversations with NDPD on student concerns pertaining to police operations and their use of force policy. We can only hope that this past year's events will drive us forward in the pursuit of true justice, where no life is lost to violence.

## V. General Orders

### A. Discussion on Welcome Weekend Changes

1. Matthew Bisner: There has been a number of changes to Welcome Weekend. Thank you Maclane for bringing this to the senate.
2. Ben Erhardt: Is there a presentation or a general discussion?
3. Matthew Bisner: You can talk with an eye toward specific solutions.
4. Maclane Farrel: This was brought to my attention by one of my constituents. About 2 weeks ago the admin announced they were limiting welcome weekend commissioners to 5. This change would force a reverse on what welcome weekend is supposed to mean. Smaller dorms will get less numbers of ambassadors. Those ambassadors are helpful in moving into your dorm. Secondly, the upperclassmen presence at welcome weekend is unrivaled. This policy would knock the ambassadors per floor to 1. The hall communities that have suffered so much this year would be continually damaged this year by this policy. Alix and I reached out to two university officials about this. I'm hoping for a response from the university, hoping to reverse this policy or adding a few ambassadors.
5. Alix Basden: I have served on the Moreau Student Advisory Council the past few years and I have been in touch with them and they are aware we

are looking at this. We are hoping to have a meeting with them and talk over these changes and why this affects us. I'm not sure the degree of change that can be made for this year's committee. My impression is that not a lot of student feedback went into this decision so hopefully we can be a body to reform that.

6. Abraham Figueroa: What was the reasoning of administration?
7. Alix Basden: I do not know.
8. Ava Downey: Walsh Hall only has 4. My rector created a lift, loft, love group. Any grade has an opportunity to move in early and help the process, even though we're not part of this welcome weekend committee.
9. Faith Woods: I think we have 6 ambassadors. I think we need to keep that number up rather than take it down.
10. Jake Lowry: Why did they decide to change it to something more formal and university run?
11. Alix Basden: That's one question we can bring to them.
12. Paul Stoller: Do we think we could maybe try and find a loophole instead of trying to change the rules?
13. Michael Jekot: Could we get more clarification for the smaller dorms?
14. Alix Basden: You get one welcome weekend ambassador per RA.
15. Abraham Figueroa: Would pseudo ambassadors be sufficient to address these concerns?

16. Maclane Farrel: I don't know if that's something every rector would be comfortable with. I think that in future years taking action now would reverse it.
17. Lizzie Martin: How will these changes affect transfer welcome weekend?
18. Matthew Bisner: Right now we don't know.
19. Jake Lowry: I like the idea of these temporary loopholes, but I think if we get in the vibe of doing that, it won't change. It also creates some sort of hierarchy. It doesn't feel right, the sooner we take action would be a lot better. They're not too far into the process.
20. Zach Cortez: It's not very specific what this is. Would this be an association with hall president and vice president or an association on a university wide scale?
21. Matthew Bisner: I am not sure.
22. Danny Schermerhorn: I think we need more information on why the university made this decision. I would definitely support a resolution on this.
23. Nolan Lyon: Everybody wants more people to help, whether their official title is St. Andre Committee member or lift, loft, love group. During Welcome Weekend, I didn't know who was in each role, but after that week, everybody is a student again.
24. Christian Quilon: I think we need to take collective action, instead of just taking loopholes, which should be our plan B. Pangborn will be a whole new community and how are they gonna bring energy and community to

the freshman? I think any community needs to have energy for the freshman. I think more is better.

25. Mary Devoe: I think it's great to have a more formal decision because otherwise you're going to have freshman dorms with very different experiences.
26. Ben Erhardt: I want to echo what the Fisher senator brought up. I do agree that there is a concern about the unique aspect of welcome weekend - that we will not have that. What strikes me about this is that this decision was made very quietly. I think the university is trying to normalize the Welcome Weekend experience. This decision was made without seemingly taking into consideration student input. We as student leaders have to be reactive instead of being proactive and offering insight. I think collective action in the senate is a great step. I think we should speak to the advisers and administrators to improve this for the future. We don't know if this is for better or worse, which is why we should take into account our own experiences and the actual experience of freshmen when it does come to pass.
27. Meenu Selvan: Two years ago, I was part of informal conversations. I can probably conjecture what their reasoning is. One of the possible concerns for the university is hazing. It was also relevant to exec cab two years ago. The welcome weekend system needs to be reformed, but limiting the number of ambassadors, I don't understand that correlation. I think the training that the ambassadors receive is also a concern.

28. Matthew Bisner: In the preliminary discussions we've had with administration, hazing and disorientation is a concern that has come up.
29. Connor Delaney: I think there's a lot of logistics that go into this, you need volunteers to help. Second, it's a miserable feeling to cut people from welcome weekend ambassadors. A month ago, Ben had a resolution calling the CLC to action. I wonder if that's a space for this discussion to take place.
30. Abraham Figueroa: I think it'd be prudent to wait and hear from the university, especially when it comes to making a resolution. I think that this conversation and solutions would be more effective if we think about questions to figure out what the university's problem is to better tailor resolutions.
31. Maclane Farrel: I think Meenu had a great point about hazing. If your problem is with hazing, let's train students, in an actual meeting where there are steps to address those fears. To Ben's point, there is a student advice committee for welcome weekend and they were not consulted for this. This is just another example of non transparency.
32. Emma Eckstein: We could always push for all welcome weekend ambassadors to be GreeNDot and MSPS trained to weed out people with bad intentions going into it. I would fully support taking action with a resolution as swiftly as possible.

33. Zach Cortez: I understand the need for training, but now there definitely is training. My fear is that there will be a section without a member there. If it's a COVID issue, the training could be done over Zoom.
34. Ben Erhardt: There are multiple training dates. I agree that this becomes a logistics issue. Maybe just talking about that logistics question could be tackling the not enough people issue for a more seamless transition. I am on CLC. We can extend invitations to directors of this program to come speak and address concerns. I would be able to help push through a resolution to CLC.
35. Paul Stoller: Question for Meenu, besides the lack of training, what was the specific reform you felt needed to be made?
36. Meenu Selvan: The reason I was informally involved in those conversations was because I was director of faith and service at the time, and some students had voiced that they felt excluded during Welcome Weekend, maybe because of their faith identity. Kenzie and I would have these conversations. Kenzie Isaac was director of diversity and inclusion, which is why she was included in that conversation. There were a variety of issues being addressed. I don't know if the solution presented will have a sustainable effect.
37. Jake Lowry: From my experience, hazing and disorientation is mostly off-campus. They try and dissociate people who are actual Welcome Weekend representatives. I think a resolution would take awhile, and

maybe talking with administrators would be better. In Keenan, we are having a meeting with Fr. Jenkins tonight in an undisclosed location.

38. Will Kennedy: My issue is that if the administration's issue is possible hazing, and if dorms are to just bring in other people through a loophole, I think that just opens up the opportunity for the kids just around the hall with no obligations to do whatever they want with the freshmen and encourage them to go off campus. If there were 10 ambassadors, they could be going to sanctioned events with the freshmen and meeting with other dorms.
39. Brian Kerns: As a transfer student this fall, it felt like we didn't have enough ambassadors. If we cut that number, I think that would make it even harder for transfer students in that first week trying to meet people.
40. Ava Downey: To respond to Will, I had to sign a little thing that I wouldn't mess with the freshmen.
41. Faith Woods: The only thing I didn't like about welcome week is that even with all the people helping us, there was only one person of color. Being a minority on this campus is already hard, so when you cut that number down to 4 or 5, there would be a lot less chances that there would be a person of color. I think that is important to see, especially when you're first getting here and don't know about different resources. I don't see how narrowing those numbers would help this process in making freshmen feel welcome.

42. Miranda Colon: Do we have any idea if they are limiting the amount of guests that can help you move in?
43. Matthew Bisner: I think that depends on COVID-19 regulations.
44. Miranda Colon: This year, we had to move ourselves in and there were a lot of times when I was alone. Cutting that down is going to make it harder to move in and it cuts down the number of experiences and diversity. It's hard to find a spot for yourself when you can't even find a spot for yourself in your dorm.
45. Abraham Figueroa: I think having someone from administration coming in and speaking with and bringing in constituents who have been through Welcome Weekend to ask questions would be beneficial.
46. Maclane Farrel: There are two people separate from EHH, Lauren Donahue and Andrew Whittington, that could potentially be better discussions. It is her realm, but it is not her direct decision. Officially this fall, you weren't supposed to get help moving into your dorm. I think this decision could alienate you from people in your dorm.
47. Ben Erhardt: In terms of our next steps, Erin Hoffman Harding's schedule is very busy. Someone such as Lauren Donahue or Andrew Whittington are people we could invite. We could pass a resolution to CLC. If we pass a resolution in CLC to Erin Hoffman Harding, she has one week to write a response to it. That is a way for us to get insights from her.
48. Matthew Bisner: Our student life directors are continuing engagement with Lauren Donahue and Andrew Whittington. Do you think bringing

those people to this body or the department of student life would be a better use of their time and our time? That's about as close to even as I've seen.

49. Ben Erhardt: I don't see a problem with those administrators

communicating both with the senate and directors. I think it just boils down to which one they would bite at more quickly.

50. Alix Basden: I have offered a smaller sit down with Lauren and Andrew.

If we have a small sit down, I will invite her to come to senate and talk about reform with a larger body if that sounds good.

51. Abraham Figueroa: I think bringing our own constituency in would be vital to understanding their perspectives.

52. Matthew Bisner: Alix and our co-directors of student life are continuing to talk with these administrators. You can continue to send us questions.

53. Christian Quilon: I move to end discussion.

54. Motion carries.

## VI. New Business

### A. First State of the Student Union Address

## VII. Announcements

### A. Faith Woods: The MSPS Cultural Showcase on Library Lawn this Saturday

8:30-10:30. Also, Show Some Skin is tomorrow night at 8 and Saturday night at 8.

### B. Blake Johnson: Off-campus council is hosting an event, Ferris Bueller's Day Off at 8 PM on Walsh Family Architectural Lot.

- C. Nolan Lyon: Carrol is hosting a lakeside concert this Saturday.
- D. Maclane Farrel: Fisher Regatta is postponed until May 8th.
- E. Alix Basden: SUB has Bundt cakes on Ricci Fields.
- F. Paul Stoller: Lakeside is from 3-7:30 on Saturday on South Quad.
- G. Emma Eckstein: Suicide Mental Health Awareness is at 5 PM outside South Dining Hall next Thursday.
- H. Matthew Bisner: The deadline to sign up for the dance marathon is tomorrow.

VIII. Adjournment