Undergraduate Government Preparing for the Election, Internal Changes

By Artemis Allison

HOUGHTON, Mich. – A weekly meeting force, the Undergraduate Student Government of Michigan Technological University often brings about both opportunities on campus for events to take place and for change to occur, and despite coronavirus precautions forcing the meetings to occur over a digital medium, the governmental body is still hard at work trying to bring about change – both for themselves, and in support of governmental change. A pressing subject for most voters who live inside of the United States, USG had been aiming to try and make voting as accessible as possible for Michigan Tech students in the weeks that were leading up to the elections; however, as discussed by Zachary Olson, who is the head of the USG committee for Political Affairs, “circumstances have slightly changed because it has come to my attention that another [student organization] has reserved the library main exhibition space.”

Due to this unforeseen interference by a still-unknown student organization, USG had put forth a motion to give the student organization there $300 in funding for things like snacks and gear; however, an issue was presented during a later section of the meeting, prior to voting. Due to USG’s desire to remain nonpartisan in their support of funding this organization, several members of USG’s government pointed out that it would be extremely difficult to completely verify the nonpartisanship of another student organization besides themselves, resulting in the table only receiving funds if it ends up being a USG-ran table; said motion to then fund the table passed through a vote of confidence.

With external politics out of the way, USG then set their gaze on votes for internal restructuring instead. These amendments, lead by Sydney Dankert, include amendments that would aim to make the USG Bylaws more easily readable by reformatting them so that they “will provide a more logical flow” in their ordering. Among these amendments were also changes to make their open positions more transparent and accessible to the general student body as well as aims to increase inclusivity to residents on campus and transfer students. Due to time limits, and, in Sydney’s own words, “to make sure our brains didn’t melt”, not all of the proposed amendments were visited at this time.