

**From:** Bilkey, John <bilkeyj@msoe.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 12:41 AM  
**To:** Deacon, Alexa <deaconar@msoe.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Alexa,

Thank you for looking into Dr. Brook and supporting our group as we try to plan cool and insightful events for the students on our campus. I was not aware of the comments that Dr. Brook made regarding people of the Islamic faith. While the comments are unrelated to the subject of our event, we recognize that Dr. Brook would be representing us and our beliefs at an event, and the specific comments he made do not align with our values.

I did a lot of research, asked our members for their opinions, and went to Kip to discuss hosting Dr. Brook. It was quite the dilemma. Most of the members of MSOE Libertarians support having Dr. Brook speak on our campus while asking him not to comment on the middle east / Islam. They continued to see great value in hearing what he has to say. Still, if we were to host Dr. Brook as a club-only event that would not be in line with the expectations we gave Dr. Brook as far as his audience and would not do much to support the goals of our group - political discussion within the greater MSOE community.

With all circumstances and input from all parties considered we have decided to not move forward with hosting Dr. Brook in any capacity and will let his assistant know that we have not gained official approval for our event and will not pursue it moving forward due to his comments. The email will be written with oversight from our staff advisor.

Regards,

John

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**John Bilkey**  
*Electrical Engineering Class of 2023*  
Resident Assistant, MLH Floor 7  
President and Founder, MSOE Libertarians  
Media Manager, W9HHX Amateur Radio Club  
Media Manager, MSOE SAE Supermileage Vehicle Team  
MSOE Bingo Man

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**From:** Deacon, Alexa <deaconar@msoe.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2022 1:43 PM  
**To:** Bilkey, John <bilkeyj@msoe.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Hi John,

Thanks for the information. I also read your email you just sent. I talked to an HSC professor about Dr. Brook and they mentioned that Dr. Brook has said some incendiary stuff on religion – particularly Islam. I reached out to this professor because even though I can read about Dr. Brook I am uncertain what it is that he would be discussing and what type of crowd he would pull. I am asking that you keep this an event for your org rather than an event that is open to the MSOE or Milwaukee community. I still think it is important to have Professor Olsson in the loop.

Let me know what questions you have.  
Thanks,

**From:** Bilkey, John <bilkeyj@msoe.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 1:09 PM  
**To:** Deacon, Alexa <deaconar@msoe.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Sure, Alexa. These are fair questions.

**1. What is the purpose of Dr. Brooks session? What will he specifically be discussing?  
How does this align/support MSOE's values?**

The purpose of the session is to share the vision of the world and philosophies held by Dr. Brook with the MSOE community.

Dr. Brook is a strong proponent of the philosophies of Ayn Rand. These specifically speak to the merit of capitalism, individualism and self-interest, and the importance of our self-evident rights. He is willing to speak on topics we choose, so we can steer the commentary in a direction that makes sense for us and MSOE. One specific topic I had in mind was the role of government in a global pandemic. Dr. Brook is an advocate of small government with limited control over citizens and little in terms of social programs, however in these extreme times it is interesting to make cases to defend Libertarian viewpoints. How would a Libertarian government respond to the needs of its citizens? I don't have all the answers here and I'm not sure what he will have to say on that topic, but I think it will be insightful to hear.

I believe Dr. Brook speaking at MSOE aligns with the values of MSOE, as MSOE seeks to produce graduates who have an *entrepreneurial mindset*, and *demonstrate curiosity about our changing world*. MSOE Libertarians believes that entrepreneurship, innovation, and the unrestricted exchange of scientific ideas is a direct result of a free and capitalist society. This is a viewpoint that Dr. Brook frequently speaks about.

For students who do not share the opinions of Dr. Brook, the event would give them an opportunity to *explore a contrarian view of accepted solutions*. One with the MSOE Mindset would *integrate information from many sources to gain insight*. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending MSOE YDSA meetings to hear their beliefs and why they hold them. I don't believe my viewpoints or the viewpoints of the Libertarian Party are correct in every situation, but Dr. Brook makes his claims with evidence and reasoning and presents them in a respectful fashion.

He does not carry a bad reputation and is not an extremist. I think it would be a good thing for him to speak on our campus. The floor would certainly be open to questions after he presents. What I am not looking to do with my organization is radicalize or indoctrinate students at MSOE.

**2. What is the role of your org advisor in this? I would like them to be part of the planning or be part of the session.**

Dr. Reid, being off campus, is not able to do too much to assist us. Since this is happening in the Spring our new advisor, Dr. Olsson, would be more involved. I would think Dr. Olsson would greet Dr. Brook with us and be present during the whole event. Dr. Olsson has lectured at events and could advise us on what we will need and how everything could be structured. We will have to meet with Dr. Olsson to get him acquainted with the group and discuss the event in more detail.

**3. What are the expectations from them? It's uncommon for someone like Dr. Brook to be willing to speak at a small school, with an unknown audience, and a small crowd.**

He has not asked for money or anything in return for speaking at MSOE. I have worked with public safety to secure complimentary parking for Dr. Brook and will offer that if we are approved to move forward. I made the size of MSOE clear to Dr. Brook in my response to the first email. His assistant asked what size crowd we can expect. I would estimate we could get 30 people to show up, maybe more if we advertise it well. I will state that in my reply to Dr. Brook - we will have the same expectations and will not be misleading them. The event would be videotaped and uploaded by us to the Internet to reach a larger audience, as well.

One question posed to us by Dr. Brook's assistant is if the event would be open to the public or only the MSOE community. I would be open to either situation and I believe he would be too - I will leave that up to you and higher up people at the University. I told Public Safety that we might want some presence at the event and it is possible we would look into making it open to the public. I can see how that would complicate matters.

Dr. Brook is looking to speak at MSOE on topics of our choosing, in an event format of our choosing. This would likely be 30-40 minutes of speaking followed by 20-30 minutes of open Q&A. He is specifically asking if there are COVID guidelines he should be aware of, and willing to abide by them. He seems to be very accommodating of what we want and not have particularly high expectations.

Hopefully these are satisfactory answers. I would gladly answer more of your questions, ask Dr. Brook questions, or take advice from you.

To quote the MSOE Mindset again, I believe I have *identified an unexpected opportunity to create extraordinary value* for the MSOE community. I'm going full steam ahead and appreciate taking a moment to slow down and question the situation we are in.

Thanks,

John

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**John Bilkey**

*Electrical Engineering Class of 2023*

Resident Assistant, MLH Floor 7

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Media Manager, W9HHX Amateur Radio Club

Media Manager, MSOE SAE Supermileage Vehicle Team

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**From:** Deacon, Alexa <[deaconar@msoe.edu](mailto:deaconar@msoe.edu)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2022 5:39 PM

**To:** Bilkey, John <[bilkeyj@msoe.edu](mailto:bilkeyj@msoe.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Hi John,

Before addressing your questions below can you answer these questions:

1. What is the purpose of Dr. Brooks session? What will he specifically be discussing? How does this align/support MSOE's values?
2. What is the role of your org advisor in this? I would like them to be part of the planning or be part of the session.
3. What are the expectations from them? It's uncommon for someone like Dr. Brook to be willing to speak at a small school, with an unknown audience, and a small crowd.

Thanks,

**From:** Bilkey, John <[bilkeyj@msoe.edu](mailto:bilkeyj@msoe.edu)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 6:51 PM

**To:** Deacon, Alexa <[deaconar@msoe.edu](mailto:deaconar@msoe.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Hi Alexa,

I replied back to Dr. Brook's assistant and it looks like he is happy to come to MSOE with no honorarium. I've arranged with Public Safety to provide free parking for the day.

Do you think we could open the event up to the public, or would it remain an MSOE community only event?

Would I 25Live the Diercks auditorium or is there a more involved process for that?

I've attached another screenshot of the latest email.

Thanks,

John

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**John Bilkey**

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**From:** Deacon, Alexa <[deaconar@msoe.edu](mailto:deaconar@msoe.edu)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 8:43 AM

**To:** Bilkey, John <[bilkeyj@msoe.edu](mailto:bilkeyj@msoe.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Hi John,

You can look more into this, but based on what I see online his speaking fees start at about \$10k. He has had some prestigious speaking gigs and based on this, I think they would require MSOE to have a venue large enough to host several hundreds/thousands of people.

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**From:** Bilkey, John <[bilkeyj@msoe.edu](mailto:bilkeyj@msoe.edu)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 2:56 PM

**To:** Deacon, Alexa <[deaconar@msoe.edu](mailto:deaconar@msoe.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Alexa,

Thank you for the info on the movie night. Good to know.

I recieved an email from Dr. Brook's assistant that seems to be an invitation for us to host Dr. Brook to speak to MSOE students. She says Dr. Brook is on a speaking tour and will be in Milwaukee April 21-22 (Thursday-Friday Week 7). It's possible she found us through the directory of campus groups on the Libertarian Party website or through our social media presence. The email address is coming from an official website related to Dr. Brook.

It looks like it would be possible to have him speak in person or online, and the structure and subject of an event is flexible.

I've attached a screenshot of the original email.

Thanks,

John  
Sent from my BlackBerry

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**From:** [deaconar@msoe.edu](mailto:deaconar@msoe.edu)  
**Sent:** January 27, 2022 2:41 PM  
**To:** [bilkeyj@msoe.edu](mailto:bilkeyj@msoe.edu)  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Hi John,

Why will Dr. Yaron Brook be in Milwaukee? And does he want to speak at MSOE or is he speaking elsewhere where students could attend?

As far as the movie- obtaining the rights to a movie is necessary if it is a public performance (and if you are marketing it to people). If you are just looking at having a movie night within your org and not advertising it, then you do not need to obtain the rights.

**From:** Bilkey, John <[bilkeyj@msoe.edu](mailto:bilkeyj@msoe.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Landaal, Kristen <[landaal@msoe.edu](mailto:landaal@msoe.edu)>; Deacon, Alexa <[deaconar@msoe.edu](mailto:deaconar@msoe.edu)>  
**Subject:** Possible Speaker for MSOE Libertarians

Hi Campus Life,

Dr. Yaron Brook, international speaker and Libertarian superstar, has offered to speak at MSOE. He will be in the Milwaukee Area April 21-22 (Thursday-Friday Week 7).

Do you think this is something MSOE would like to accommodate? I'm thinking we would try to reserve the Diercks Hall Auditorium and let him talk.

I'm not sure if he is looking to get paid to stop by, if MSOE would be willing to pay for that, and what budget we would be looking at. Ideally he comes for free and advertises a book or something.

Also, MSOE Libertarians has been considering hosting a movie night. How would we go about doing this while not paying for rights to the film?

Thanks,

John

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