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| MSU logo.jpg. | MEMO*From the…*Office of the MSU President |
| TO: | Student Representative Assembly |
| FROM: | Giancarlo Da-Ré, President |
| SUBJECT: | General Assembly Delivery Platform |
| DATE: | February 7th 2021 |

Dear Members of the SRA,

There has been a great deal of work to determine the best course of action forward in our planning of the MSU General Assembly, which is currently scheduled for March 15th. Obviously, due to the pandemic, we cannot host the event in a gym as we normally would. Having been forced to move the event to an online setting, we are restricted in our options for a platform to deliver the event on. The natural choice seemed to be Microsoft Teams. If we do this, we would be able to admit registered participants into the meeting, allow individuals to be added to a speaker’s list during the meeting, and live stream the event over Facebook as we would with SRA meetings.

In the Fall, there was an announcement from Microsoft regarding an update that would happen in late 2020, where the participant limit in a Teams meeting would increase from 300 to 1000. This would have been perfect, since quorum for a General Assembly meeting is 3% of our MSU membership, or roughly 750 people. (taking the rough estimate of 25 000 members) Unfortunately, the update hasn’t happened yet.

We wish we could wait until the update happens, but there is a real chance we could be waiting until the Summer. We need to choose a platform so that we can include that information in our communications to students in a couple weeks, and so that Avtek can prepare for the event. So, with MS Teams only allowing a maximum of 300 participants, we are currently planning to use Zoom.

Zoom allows for us to plan to hit quorum, while MS Teams does not. At this point, we have exhausted all other possible options, including MS Live, which does not allow for participants to be added to a speakers list. We also recognize that this SRA has adopted a statement against Zoom, and so we felt it would be most appropriate to bring this to a committee of the whole.

As mentioned previsouly, the current plan is to use Zoom. That said, if SRA would prefer for us to use MS Teams, we will respect that request. We can do a straw poll during the committee of the whole to determine whether or not the current plan should change. I look forward to the conversation, and thank you all for your participation in this planning step.

Warm regards,



Giancarlo Da-Ré

President & CEO