

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, January 11th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



Minutes

1. **Call To Order**

- a. Roll Call - Part 1
- b. Public Comment - Part 1
- c. Passing of the Papers
 - i. Allocations Sign-Up.
 - ii. SAFE Award: If you have had a really good professor, whether they have super interesting ways of teaching classes, they go above and beyond to help out their students, or whatever it is, please nominate them for the Student Award for Faculty Excellence. We are presenting this award at Presidents' Ball. You guys are the only students that are nominating professors for this, and we will vote to select the winner next week. So if you have someone in mind, I am giving you permission to fill out that form right now. I just dropped the link in general business on Slack.
 - iii. Gessler: Please look in the Slack for the Library Google Form.
- d. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda Adopted
- e. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes Approved

2. **President's Report**

- a. Well first of all, it's so good to see all of you today. I'm super excited to continue working with you all
- b. Senator Resignations
 - i. I do have some unfortunate news. Senators Burns, James, Maiuri, Martinez, TerHorst, and Werner, and Vice President Johnson IV are not returning to Student Senate this semester for various reasons.
- c. Winter 2024 Schedule
 - i. The Winter 2024 Schedule is live in the Google Drive. There is also a tab at the bottom for the "Elections Timeline". This outlines everything that needs to be done for our general election later this semester. Everything highlighted in yellow is what you will need to do in order to run for re-election. The blue highlights are what you need to do if you are planning to run for Cabinet for next year. More on elections in a minute
- d. The Semester At A Glance
 - i. First up, in January, we will be focusing primarily on getting our new governing documents ratified. We will be tackling policy issues primarily in February. March is elections season, and April will be a transition period between this Senate body and the one for next year. The current Cabinet will be passing the torch down to the new Cabinet for next year.

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- e. The First Four Weeks
 - i. We are going to be sprinting through January with a lot of dense, but really important topics.
 - ii. Today, we will be discussing the governing docs, interviewing our applicants, and setting up the Elections Commission.
 - iii. Next week, we will be appointing all of our new members, ratifying the new Constitution and Bylaws, and discussing rules for the elections.
 - iv. We have our big State of the Student Senate address on January 25th where President Mantella will sign our new Constitution.
 - v. We will be holding our semesterly inservice on February 1st, just like the one you all attended when you got appointed last semester. We will approve the rules for the elections at this meeting, and it will also be the first time you may present legislation to the General Assembly. More on legislation in a bit.
- f. Policy Priorities
 - i. I have a few issues I want to prioritize for discussion, including admissions and retention, public safety, infrastructure, and mental health.
 - ii. Admissions and retention is priority number uno for me.
- g. Elections
 - i. If you are planning on running for re-election, here is your timeline:
 - ii. We will begin circulating petitions to get on the ballot on February 5th.
 - iii. These petitions will be due on February 29th.
 - iv. Voting will begin on March 18th, and we'll have the results for you on April 2nd.
 - v. From there, the newly elected General Assembly will meet on April 4th and April 11th to conduct Cabinet elections.
 - vi. So as you can see the election is right around the corner, so if you haven't already, it would be a good idea to start thinking about your plans for next year as far as Senate goes.
- h. Events
 - i. We've got several big events this semester including Campus Life Night which is tomorrow. We've also got State of the Student Senate, Presidents' Ball, Elect Her, Last Lecture, the General Election, and Exam Cram. We also have Student Senate Week to promote running for Student Senate to the student body. More on these events as we get closer.
- i. What's different this semester?
 - i. First off, Cabinet voted to strike the office hours requirement at our last Cabinet meeting. The expectation is that you all are still helping out, and we are reserving the right to reinstate office hours if we feel like it's not going well.
 - ii. We will still be giving out stipends for this semester. Just a reminder that the stipends are a temporary measure for just this year due to our restructuring process. General Senators will not be receiving stipends going forward. Cabinet's main concern with striking office hours was that we are still handing out stipends, so this semester, instead of meeting a minimum set of requirements to earn them, we will be expecting you to go above and beyond to receive these, so please keep that in mind throughout this semester.

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- iii. I am allowing legislation this semester again as we no longer need to focus as heavily on restructuring during GA. If you have an idea for writing legislation, please reach out to EVP Hallead and she can help you with that.
 - iv. We are also going to be holding lots of discussions on legislation, policy issues, and more this semester. Now that all of you have some experience under your belt, I am expecting you to speak up more often on discussion points. Our job is to represent students, and it is very important that we are making our voices heard.
 - v. I also have this QR code for a quick survey about GAs and how we can improve them going forward. Please fill this out, as it will be very helpful for me as I am planning this semester. You guys will be the ones that end up benefiting from this the most.
 - j. The Elections Commission
 - i. The Elections Commission is made of members who are not running in the Spring elections.
 - ii. They are responsible for creating the rules and procedures for the elections, and they will meet on a few occasions outside of our regular meeting times in order to do this.
 - iii. The Chair will facilitate these meetings similar to how each VP chairs the committee meetings, and the Vice Chair will be responsible for taking minutes. The minutes can just be quick bullet points that capture the main points of the discussion, it's really not too difficult.
 - iv. Cabinet is responsible for appointing all members of the Elections Commission and we will be doing so tonight.
 - v. If you know you are not running for re-election to Student Senate this Spring, please consider signing up for the Elections Commission. I am passing around this sign-up sheet. If you are willing to do this, please right your name down, and then put a checkmark under the second column if you are willing to be the Chair or Vice Chair. Cabinet will be appointing members tonight, and we will direct the Chair to reach out to everyone to find a time to meet.
 - vi. Stang: Can you post the google form in the slack?
 - vii. Bates: Will create a rubric for the stipend?
3. **Executive Vice President's Report**
- a. Happy Thursday Everyone! I hope you all enjoyed your winter break!
 - b. Some things to update you on
 - i. I am incredibly busy this semester (more so than last), so if you need to set up a meeting with me, please do so in advance of when you need to. I am working over 30 hours a week, with a full class load, preparing for graduate school exams, as well as all of my EVP responsibilities, so please give me some grace in my response times.
 - ii. If you are interested in Elections Commission, please let me and Quinten know, as we will be ironing this out at Cabinet tonight.
 - iii. If you are interested in SRC, ALLO, or CAC Vice President, PLEASE, please, please let Quinten and I know so that we can meet up and discuss, as well as get the election on

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future agendas! Senate has some bright leaders, so if you are interested I'd love to meet with any of you.

- iv. Headshots are scheduled for February 15th from 4:00-5:00pm
 - 1. These are not required, but if you want a retake of your previous one this is the day!
 - 2. Mainly for new members
 - 3. Will do updated committee photos
 - 4. A google form will go out closer to the date and after all the new members are appointed
- v. Overall Reminders from me
 - 1. Make sure you are checking your slack and email
 - 2. Let me know if you need anything from me, my messages are always open!

4. Workshop

a. Constitution

- i. Adding "Belonging" to our Values.
- ii. Discussion on "Committee" Replacement names
 - 1. Johnson: Subcommittee and taskforce have the same vibe to them
 - 2. Stang: Wants to do something far away from committee, need a clear distinction.
 - 3. Bennett: I like panel or council. I like the intentionality behind this.
 - 4. VanDyke: I like focus group because it represents the idea of what the purpose is. I think council sounds too serious.
 - 5. Bashore: I feel like panel might be the easiest word to go with. It doesn't sound too official.
 - 6. Palumbo: I agree with Bashore and I think taskforce should be for temporary projects.
 - 7. Bashore: I think representatives could be a good alternative.
 - 8. Bennett: What about delegation or delegates?
 - 9. Johnson: I like representatives, but it doesn't really make sense. Council is the best name up there.
 - 10. Palumbo: Should we add "Belonging" to the DEI chair name?
 - 11. Price: I fully support council and panel.
 - 12. Lawson: I like council and panel.
 - 13. Vanlerberghe: I like panel, it sounds like a good group work title.

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14. Council: 7 Panel: 7
15. Bates: Please think about the acronym.
16. Dolnik: I think council is a good connotation for student government.
17. Bartlett: Panel feels like Comic Con.
18. Council: 9 Panel: 5
19. Using "council" in replacement of "taskforce"
- iii. DEIB discussion
 1. Stang: We should be consistent across the board.
 2. Bashore: I agree.
 3. DEIB: 14 DEI: 0
- b. Bylaws
 - i. Discussion a Graduate Student Seat
 1. Bashore: Would they make a seat for us?
 2. Proctor: No.
 3. Gessler: I think this is a good idea.
 4. Bennett: If they want it, they would already be here?
 5. Guzman: I had a meeting with the Dean of the graduate program. GSA's set up is entirely different than what we have here. What we are trying to do is to bring the gap between graduate students and undergraduate students.
 6. Palumbo: I agree with Valerie. At this point, we have a lot of graduate students and they could use some representation.
 7. Yes to adding: 13
 8. No to adding: 1
 9. Proctor: Where should we pull this seat from, number wise?
 10. Bashore: We should take it from the freshmen reserved seats.
 11. Bennett: I think we should take it from the freshmen due to the amount of resignations from freshmen.
 12. Bartlett: Freshmen have more of a chance to get on the body.
 13. Hallead: We should take it from the at-large seats.
 14. Price: The freshmen are our future leaders. We need to build our seat up.
 15. Bashore: Let's pull from the 20 at-large seats.
 16. Bennett: Take it from the at-large seats.
 17. Stang: We can always update it later.

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18. At-Large: 10, Freshmen: 0, Add 2 Seats: 4
 - ii. President Emeritus GPA Requirement Discussion
 1. Leaving the requirement to a 3.20 GPA
5. **Five Minute Recess**
6. **Business**
 - a. Winter Code of Conduct
 - i. Motion to adopt the Code of Conduct immediately
 - ii. Lawson: So Moved
 - iii. Hallead: Second
 - iv. 14 yays, 0 nays, 0 absentions
7. **Elections**
 - a. Nominations and Elections for Vice President for Senate Resources
 - b. Nominations and Elections for Vice President for Allocations
 - c. Nominations and Elections for Vice President for Campus Affairs
8. **Officer Reports**
 - a. **Senate Resources** - EVP Hallead (interim)
 - i. Hallead: We had 33 Applications this cycle! 21 Interviews scheduled today! I've been cycling applications since December, so I would like to thank all those who are helping me in the last little bit through being on my interview team. A lot goes into preparing interview sessions, so I am grateful that I have had some support from you all! Awesome work to PRC and all of you for your recruitment efforts, this is amazing progress. SRC is starting to plan some bonding for the semester, so if you have any ideas- talk to any SRC members and/or me! A lot of the SRC work that we have done and the cool SRC stuff will be showcased at State of the Student Senate, so I can't wait to see you all there!
 - b. **Allocations** - EVP Hallead (interim)
 - i. Hallead: Yields to Proctor for Report
 - ii. Proctor: Not a whole lot of updates this time. Allocations will not be meeting tomorrow, and as of right now, there is a meeting scheduled for next Friday. Later this semester, we will be reviewing the budget for the Student Life Fund. We will also need to approve next year's budget before the end of our terms. This only really impacts Cabinet, but Student Senate now has its own form to use for funding requests from our internal operating budget, which was a really helpful change that Bri made for us.
 - c. **Public Relations** - VP Martell
 - i. Martell: Hi everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful break. To get right in, some updates for PRC are that I have updated the general Senators tab on the website over break so you all should see your pictures on there. Next, before break, I submitted a quote request for

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the Senate apparel and have a meeting with Bobby from promotions coming up to finalize the details of that. Lastly, I messaged you all over break about potentially tabling for your college. This will be around the week of February 5th which is Student Senate Week, so I will be reaching out to those who expressed interest to finalize those details. I yield.

d. **Campus Affairs** - EVP Hallead (interim)

- i. Hallead: If you are interested in this position, please reach out to me! Elect Her has been mostly offloaded to VP Martell and VP Lawson's committees, so if you have any questions please reach out to them. This is a super important and fun event that Student Senate puts on, so I hope you are all excited to participate! CAC committee has done a fantastic job with their liaisons thus far and I cannot wait to continue work with the Counseling center, Laker Food Co, Sustainability, and Parking services. With the amount of applicants, I expect our liaisons to broaden by adding Housing, working more with Replenish, and any other interests that my committee has going into the rest of the academic year. Again, if you are interested in CAC Vice President, feel free to contact me!

e. **Educational Affairs** - VP Gessler

- i. Gessler: Hello everyone, happy to see you all back! I'm excited for this semester. This semester one of my main goals is to get more books onto the GVSU Save program. I have been working with Matt Ruen (The main staff member for Open Access Resources) already and it has been going great. I have also worked with VP Lawson today on getting our book displays for the library together. For February we are doing Black History Month and for March we are doing Women's history month! I have gotten my speech together for the State of The Student Senate, which will be very good for us as you all know. I am hoping to increase attendance this semester for all schools, and will be brainstorming ideas so if you have any please reach out to me! I am super excited to get more committee members this semester considering I only have one. I appreciate all of you being patient with me and let's have a great semester!

f. **Diversity Affairs** - VP Lawson

- i. Lawson: Good afternoon everyone, I am so excited to be back and can not wait for this semester to get going. Since we last met I have been actively meeting with Valerie and Melissa to plan Elect-her. There is currently discussion about expanding this event and doing an exciting collaboration. We are hoping to collaborate with an organization called

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Politicking that has been newly introduced to GV. We are hoping to host two panels one for women in office and another for hip pop and politics. More information and details will be available next GA on this event. Next, DAC is planning to also focus on book displays and other forms of recognition for Black history month, women's history month and pride month. Lastly, DAC is always open to any committee or senators ideas regarding making our campus more inclusive, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with ideas and suggestions!

9. **Advisor Reports**

- a. Haight: Happy New Year!

10. **University Committee Reports**

11. **Adjournment**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
 - i. Gallery: Good evening, nice to see everyone here. I resign from my position as Allocations Vice President and from the body as a whole. I am sincerely grateful for the collaboration and help from the Student Senate as a whole. I have had the privilege of working with some of the brightest minds that GVSU has to offer. I have accepted a position with the VanAndel Institute for an accounting internship. Thank you for the guidance. This body is moving in the right direction and I believe the vision is correct. I hope to continue the positive relationships I have gained through my experiences here. Thank you.
 - ii. Gallery: My name is Kanyha Johnson. Thank you for the opportunity to see this meeting. Thank you for your work on Student Senate. It was great to watch.
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Proctor: Senator Bennett, Vice President Lawson, Senator Palumbo, and Senator Price please come see me and EVP Hallead up here after we adjourn. For our applicants in the gallery, please follow Senator Bates and Senator Vanlerberghe down to the Student Senate Office. We will begin your interviews in just a little bit. Senators Bates and Vanlerberghe, please wave! Cabinet will begin around **7:45pm** after interviews are complete for anyone interested in attending!