

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



Minutes

1. **Call To Order at 5:28**

- a. Native Land Recognition
- b. Roll Call - Part 1
 - i. Proctor: Yields to Palumbo
- c. Public Comment - Part 1
- d. Passing of the Papers
 - i. Guzman passes paper about new GVSU portal.
- e. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda is Adopted
- f. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes are Approved

2. **President's Report**

- a. Proctor: I do have a few housekeeping items. I did want to remind you all that our next General Assembly meeting is on February 29th and that will be downtown! We will not be meeting in this room. Instead, GA will be in Room 138E in the DeVos Center. Information for all meetings can be found on the schedule in the Google Drive. Presidents' Ball Committee met one last time after the event to reflect and provide feedback. Overall, Presidents' Ball went very well. It was noted that the sensory rooms were a good addition this year. Back on February 2nd, I attended the President's Council meeting where we discussed the University's efforts to grow its adult and non-traditional student populations. I think the University is generally moving in the right direction on this topic. Last week, I met with Provost Mili where we discussed issues with the admissions and retention here at GVSU, class attendance by students, as well as our recent work with the libraries. I am attending UAS tomorrow to further discuss the admissions/retention issue in particular. At UAS last week, we discussed the DEI strategic framework that was also presented to Cabinet before last week's bonding event, and we also talked about the faculty perspective on the University's plans to grow its adult and non-traditional student population as discussed at President's Council. Last week, I also met with Dr. Kyle Boone, the Housing Director here at GVSU. I brought up concerns regarding housing availability for next year, especially with higher admission rates. Housing is working on a plan of attack, noting that the freshman residency requirement forces their hand to some extent. The temporary solution is to continue renting off-campus apartments for use by students. To continue this partnership, I will now be meeting with Dr. Boone on a monthly basis

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



for the rest of the semester, so I will bring you guys updates when I have them. If you have any questions for housing, let me know, I can bring them with me. We will discuss housing more at the next GA, which is the downtown meeting. Tomorrow, I will be meeting with Jesse Bernal, who serves as President Mantella's Chief of Staff as well as the University's Vice President for Inclusion and Equity. I plan to discuss the current status of DEI at Grand Valley, and plans for supporting the social justice centers like the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the LGBTQ Resource Center among others as we continue to bring in larger and more diverse freshman classes. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns that you want me to bring to the meeting! Now that it's election season for Student Senate, it's time to start thinking about your plans for next year, specifically regarding Cabinet! I did want to remind everyone that we will have different Cabinet positions going forward. Those will include three executive positions, President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff. Pres and VP do have to run on a ticket and be elected by the student body, and Chief of Staff will be selected by the newly elected President and VP. The remaining Cabinet positions will all be elected by the new Student Senate on April 11th! These include the Chairs for Allocations, Public Relations, DEI+B, Policy, and Events. If you are interested in any Cabinet position at all, including President, please let me know. I would love to meet with any of you to discuss what being on Cabinet looks like, as well as details regarding those new positions!

3. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Hallead: Happy Thursday Everyone! Some things to update you on
 - i. Thank you all for a smooth headshot session! I hope to get these back to you by end of this week, early next week depending on the Promotions Office!
 - ii. Asynchronous EVP/President 2-on-1s are now available. If you miss or cannot make your time, no big deal! Just fill out the asynchronous form. It is an expectation that you all fill out this form to get credit for completing the 2-on-1s
 - iii. If you have any potential legislation, please let me know and I can help you through the process. These are due February 29th in cabinet if you want to potentially present for this semester.
 - iv. If you are interested in helping and working with the University Counseling Center, please reach out to Richard or fill out the forms I sent in the slack and weekly email.
 - v. Any interest in a Cabinet position for next year? Set up a meeting with me! Slack me anytime! Just some further information, I have technically been in every position on Student Senate besides President, so I feel fully equipped to prepare you all for the revised chair positions for next year. I have put together a document in the slack with my

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



availability during business hours. I am more than happy to find us a time to meet with you outside of business hours, but that document only shares business hours.

- vi. Make sure to register for Elect Her. This event is next Thursday and I would really like to see you all there!
- vii. Finally, I would like to note that President Proctor and I discussed the elections for this year, and speaking for the both of us, we want this election to be as friendly and positive as possible. Please follow the election rules, have fun, and most importantly, take care of yourselves throughout this high stress time.

4. Inservice

- a. Robert's Rules Training
 - i. Proctor and Hallead discuss Robert's Rules of Order.

5. Business

- a. W-24-01: Extending Library Hours before Final Exams
 - i. Hallead presents her legislation.
- b. Discussion
 - i. Bates: Does it specify which library?
 - ii. Hallead: After the pilot I am hoping they will extend it.
 - iii. Bartlett: I am very excited about this.
 - iv. Eschelman: I would like to use the study rooms, would those be open too.
 - v. Hallead: Yes, the rooms reflect the schedule of the libraries.

6. Workshop

- a. Admissions/Retention
 - i. Small group discussions on Admissions/Retention
 - 1. Proctor: I have heard a lot of freshmen specifically would like to either transfer or leave campus because of various reasons. I have also been hearing of the expense that college is and we would like the correct systems in place.
 - 2. Hallead: Motion to suspend Robert's Rules for the rest of the small group discussion
 - a. Gessler: Second
 - 3. Passes with unanimous consent.
 - ii. Large Group Discussion
 - 1. Bates: We lowered the GPA and overall standard here at GVSU. With many students with very low GPAs coming in we have many that are not going to

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



class or not trying in class. They come to college to do other things. I believe the numbers will be higher when it comes to dropouts due to the students that do not have good academic habits. There might be a way to interview these students to show that they have the drive to complete the college curriculum. The first week is crucial when it comes to freshmen coming in. MSU does something where each college has events. This helps many people find their friends, peers, and professors that they will spend time with throughout their academic years. This is a way to grow excitement and community within groups.

2. Johnson: When I was a freshman we had mentors and large groups that we did activities with. As of now, they do not do that and I think that would be more helpful to create communities. Also, having a more generalized block party for freshmen might be helpful. It also might be helpful to have professors help with class advising as well.
3. Gessler: Different advisors plan different careers in different ways. I think that starting at least some of your major classes might help with creating interest in the major that you have chosen.
4. Hallead: As an honors student I got a lot more opportunities that should be extended to the general population. This included things like staying at the dorms and doing events that helped me to meet my people even before the school year started.
5. Krause: I went to the career fair for a summer internship. I am now going to take this internship. You can also tell with college applicants how much effort they really will put in. It might be helpful to have a specialized prompt for why they had a low GPA in the first place.
6. Bartlett: GVSU is a place where many people leave on the weekends. The events that have been put on are full within minutes. I think that we need to find a way to create events on the weekend for students.
7. Vanlerberghe: A resource day or week might be helpful. The university can get a representative from each resource center to table for a day to create helpful plans. Also, because of a GPA in high school we know someone that went through an advising class due to his GPA. A one credit advising class might be helpful. This can get you help if you need them. There are a lot of students that

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



want help and there are few people on staff so they can not get this help. It might be helpful to get pay raises for the workers in the tutoring and writing centers.

8. Bohr: The GPA lowering is nice for some students, but it is hard for the students that worked really hard in high school.
9. Bennett: They took away the essay on the application. The essay should be required so that the students that have low GPAs have to explain.
10. Hoogwerf: SAT and ACT scores are not required. This review process is used to not use this against the students. They looked at the students' lives and where they came from.
11. Martell: I understand the more holistic approach, but it is necessary to have a requirement for something in place. I think that peer mentorship would be really helpful within each college. People who are more involved are more likely to stay.
12. Lawson: We need to have more safety precautions so that people can have fun without being unsafe.
13. Bates: We should look at other universities and what they are doing to see what we can do better.
14. Bartlett: There needs to be a way to hold students accountable. Our mental health center does not have the resources to expand. Some classes do not have tutors as well and that is frustrating.
15. Johnstone: We need to look into the nontraditional students. How can we best help them?
16. Hallead: I think it would be good to look into a bridge program. If you go to a community college and uphold a certain standard then they can get into a university. But, if they get denied then they should be able to attend GRCC or another community college.
17. Specter: Grand Valley could offer a practice college class. This would be 2 weeks of course work and if they do not believe that they can do this, then they can get the money back on their application (if they pay in the first place).

b. Mental Health

- i. Small group discussions on Mental Health

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



1. Proctor: Overall, mental health is poor. In the winter, people feel trapped. The counseling center is overwhelmed. They do well at handling small problems, but they do not do well with the large problems.
2. Hallead: Motion to suspend Robert's Rules for the rest of the small group discussion
 - a. Gessler: Second
3. Passes with unanimous consent.
- ii. Large Group discussion
 1. Bates: We need to put more money towards mental health.
 2. Gessler: Therapy is really expensive and sometimes the counseling center can not do much at times.
 3. Bartlett: I think it is important to go to the departments where extenuating circumstances can be accommodated. We should know which professors will and will not accommodate.
 4. Bartlett: I have heard of people who have been turned down by the counseling center and were not given any outside resources.
 5. Price: We need to be better equipped with people that can help within campus.
 6. Johnstone: The counseling center is staffed by many social work professors. Due to insurance they are not allowed to take you in sometimes as well. They have a place on the website that can help you find outside resources.
 7. Bohr: They advertised using tuition money to do tutoring and mental health and I have not seen that.
 8. Johnstone: Is there a way to move the counseling center into another area?
 9. Palumbo: I think that it is hard to find all of the people and resources. We need to have a more inviting campus.
 10. Johnstone: Can we add the 988 number into the Guardian App?
 11. Bennett: We need to add more funds to the mental health program.
 12. Bartlett: Can we bridge other counselors in to do virtual meetings with these students that need help?
 13. Strand: We need to create a better community. Just to have friends and to be there with someone. Some sort of volunteering could help with this.
 14. Johnson: What if there is a 24 hour help line to have someone that they can just talk to.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



15. Johnstone: All of the RA's have someone that can help in emergencies.
16. Krause: The 10 times of going a year can be hard for students who have a greater amount of trauma, so many are turned down.
17. Proctor: Funding is important overall, leniency at the department level when issues are arising, making the campus communities inviting, advertising the counseling center as well as making sure they are equipped for more students, adding the 988 number to the Guardian app, and making people aware of that there is someone to talk to always.
18. Hallead: When talking about mental health we need to include title IX. They do not have the funding they need as well.

7. Five Minute Recess

- a. Hallead: Motion to strike the 5 minute recess from the agenda.
- b. Martell: Second
- c. 29 yays, 2 nays, 0 abstentions

8. Officer Reports

a. Senate Resources - VP Palumbo

- i. Palumbo: Good evening everyone, Happy post-Valentine's Day. Just a brief report this week. Thank you to everyone who attended last week's bonding event (and the hockey game), it was good to see a large crowd there! We were supposed to make Valentine's day cards, but unfortunately the funding request got mixed up, so apologies on that front. Be on the lookout for more possible events to attend in the future. Our Climate Survey will be shared with you all sometime next week. Make sure you take the time to fill it out when you get the opportunity. This is required in order to receive your stipend, and it allows us to gauge how you feel. Otherwise, continue to reach out to me if you have any questions.

b. Allocations - VP Hoogwerf

- i. Hoogwerf: Happy Thursday, Met with Greek Life last week. This week I had a meeting with Rec Well on Tuesday and I have a meeting with CAB on Friday. After all of these meetings conclude, I will begin planning the budget for next year! I am happy to announce that the Allo Board completed its first meeting with its permanent committee members AND one Student Representative!! Just wanted to give a shout out to my amazing board. Other than that, I have been working on legislation with EVP Hallead. And I am hoping to introduce that soon.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



c. **Public Relations** - VP Martell

- i. Martell: Yields to Questions

d. **Campus Affairs** - VP Dolnik

- i. Dolnik: Happy Thursday everyone! I hope all is well and you're preparing well for your mid-terms! Things have been productive in the CAC-World since my last report. All of the CACsters now have their designated Liaisons and have been meeting with their different groups on campus. I also have started setting up meetings with different groups on campus, including branching out to newer groups to get a better understanding of the climate on campus. On Monday, I met with the Office of Student Life, I'm very happy with how it went. On Wednesday, Senator Bashore and I had the pleasure of meeting with GV Sustainability, all good things including the possibility of an event just around finals. I currently have a meeting setup with GV Parking for next Friday and a meeting being set up with the Alcohol and Other Drugs Department. If there is anything you want me to bring up at either, just let me know. Also, the University Counseling Center is still looking for volunteers for their mental health screening. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering to help or getting screen, slack me and I can send you the links. Thanks a bunch!

e. **Educational Affairs** - VP Gessler

- i. Gessler: Happy Thursday! Tomorrow I am going to the Laker store to film the GVSU Save promotional video. I also finished setting up everything with Last Lecture so that is good to go! Today we had the book display in Kirk and it went super well. Thank you to everyone for your help.

f. **Diversity Affairs** - VP Lawson

- i. Lawson: Good afternoon everyone, Today we started tableing for Black History Month. This is a great way to explore and discover new reads, and understand diverse perspectives from black individuals throughout history. We will be having one more day of tableing next wednesday! Next, as you all know I have been working really hard with Valerie and Mellisa to plan Elect-Her this year. I am so excited for this event and I hope to see you all there. It is coming up on Feb 22 so please make sure to RSVP if you plan to attend.

9. **Advisor Reports**

- a. Guzman: Thank you to those who signed up for Pathify. It is going to be something that all students will use eventually. It would be great if some of you can sign up for some of the

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



leadership programming coming up. There are many good workshops. I will put a link into slack so you can look at them. There are some staff awards that you can add a little statement of support for. I will also put this in slack. If you want to give anyone a shout out for their service. I will put this in the slack as well. These are due on March 4 as well.

- b. Hallead: I am reading this on behalf of Senator Bashore. "Hello everyone! I'm so sorry I could not be there today but V.P. Dolnik and I met with Dr. Jakobcic of Sustainability on Wednesday. This meeting went very well, we talked about possible Senate collaborations that we could do during this Spring semester including opportunities/ events we could do at the farm. Most people are not aware that we have a farm and I think it is really important that we start advocating for sustainability! I hope you guys have a great rest of your week and I will see you guys next week."

10. Adjournment at 7:35

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Martell: I am messaging you all individually to make sure that it is okay that I use the headshots that were taken today. Make sure you message me back so that I can for sure do it.
 - ii. Hallead: As many of you may know, VP Hoogwerf and I are running for President and Vice President. We would love to talk with you all about our plans for next year. Please reach out to either of us regarding the election!
 - iii. Proctor: Please continue circulating your petitions for re-election! Those are due at 5pm on February 29th! There are only 2 weeks left now.
 - iv. Proctor: I do have some exciting news! If you haven't heard already, I recently launched my re-election campaign for President! I know this decision may be surprising to many of you, especially as I had announced I was not seeking re-election back in November. I have been going back and forth on this since winter break. I have really enjoyed my time as President this year, and it doesn't feel like my job is done yet. After planning ahead for next year, I will be attending GVSU for the whole school year, and so ultimately I have decided to run for re-election. I know my decision sets up a contested election for President and Vice President, but I wanted to echo what EVP Hallead said earlier regarding keeping this election as friendly as possible. We'll all be a time next year too, and we've still got work to do this semester as well.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



-
- v. Proctor: Lastly, we would love to talk with you guys regarding our campaign and plans for Student Senate next year. If you have anything you'd like to discuss please let one of us know!
 - vi. Bates: We worked very hard to create a good culture this year. Let's not take it personally. Hurt feelings will not be good. We need to be friendly and nice and do not take things personally.
 - vii. Proctor: Cabinet will meet at **(45 minutes after)**.