

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 29th, 2024

DeVos Center 138E, 5:00pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



Minutes

1. **Call To Order at 5:06 pm**

- a. Native Land Recognition
- b. Roll Call - Part 1
- c. Public Comment - Part 1
- d. Passing of the Papers
- e. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda is Adopted
- f. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes approved

2. **President's Report**

- a. Proctor:
 - i. Housekeeping
 1. Class Schedules
 - a. You can begin viewing courses for the 2024-2025 school year tomorrow, and class registration will begin later in March. If you are planning on returning to Student Senate next year, remember to keep your Thursdays at 4:30 and later open!
 2. GA on 3/28
 - a. I also wanted to let you know that I am scheduling a General Assembly meeting on Thursday, March 28th so we can finish deliberating next year's budget. This will be a brief meeting, and we will still hold our end of the year party immediately following that meeting. This will all be located in the Pere Marquette room!
 3. Stipends
 - a. Just a reminder that the end of our terms is growing close. In order to receive your stipend for the semester, you do need to demonstrate to Cabinet that you are going above and beyond in some capacity in your work on Senate. New Senators that joined this semester, to get your stipends, you will need to file with the employment office on campus. To do this, you need a form of ID, such as a drivers license, and you will need a document to verify your employment eligibility, which can be a social security card or birth certificate. If you have a passport, this can cover both requirements. I would suggest that you bring your documents with you when you return from Spring break!
 4. Questions?
 - ii. Academic Affairs
 1. UAS / ECS

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- a. Over the past few weeks, I have attended both UAS and ECS where the discussion largely revolved around admissions and retention rates.
 2. Provost Mili
 - a. Yesterday, I met with the Provost where we discussed faculty governance's progress on admissions and retention, as well as ways we can expand support for the tutoring center, and the role of the college representatives in the new Senate.
 3. Questions?
 - iii. Inclusion & Equity
 1. Jesse Bernal
 - a. Almost two weeks ago now, I met with Jesse Bernal, the University's Chief of Staff and Vice President for Inclusion and Equity. We discussed ways to support students as our enrollment numbers grow, including support for the social justice centers and for Disability Support Resources. He ended up connecting me with Cathy Buyarski, who works in Academic Affairs, as she is working on similar topics.
 2. Cathy Buyarski
 - a. So yesterday, I brought VP Gessler and VP Lawson with me to meet with Cathy, and we discussed areas on campus that could use further support, and she provided details on what the University is currently working on with that. Advising and first year transitions were the largest focus of this meeting.
 - b. To continue the conversation, she invited me to a meeting on the Monday following Spring break which is focusing on student success initiatives.
 3. Questions?
 - iv. University Relations
 1. Stacie Behler
 - a. I have a meeting with Stacie Behler, the University's Vice President and the Chief Public Relations and Communications Officer, tomorrow. I am planning on discussing how GVSU is preparing for the 2024 Presidential election and how we plan to respond to divisive rhetoric on campus, as well as the University's external messaging and recruitment strategies. Please let me know if there is anything you'd like me to bring to that meeting.
 2. Questions?
 - v. Athletics
 1. Intercollegiate Athletic Advisors
 - a. On Monday, Aaron and I attended the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisors meeting to discuss the state of athletics at GVSU. We discussed the role of athletics in increasing student engagement at campus, and I am thinking of ways to partner with them and the Office of Student Life on

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moving towards a more vibrant campus environment, where students want to be here and be involved.

vi. Housing

1. Kyle Boone

- a. Next Monday, I have another meeting with Dr. Boone, the director of Housing and Residence Life. If you have anything you'd like to know regarding the state of housing at GVSU, let me know and I can bring it up at this meeting. We will be talking more about housing later in this meeting as well.

3. **Executive Vice President's Report**

a. Hallead: Happy leap day!

- i. I've been working hard with the Promotions Office to get the composite all pretty and printed. It should be in soon!
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. For the not so fun part of my report, as many of you know by now, I will no longer be running for Vice President in the upcoming election. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have gained through this organization, and I thank you all for your continuous support. Though it pains me to not be returning to Student Senate, I know this is the best decision for me and for me to be able to focus on my career and my mental health. If any of you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

4. **Business**

- a. W-24-01: Extending Library Hours before Final Exams
- b. Discussion
- i. Hoogwerf: Motion to charge W-24-01 directly to University Libraries.
1. Vanlerberghe: Second
2. Legislation passes unanimously.

5. **Workshop**

- a. Housing
- i. Proctor: The largest concern with housing lies with the amount of freshmen and the lack of housing for them. GVSU would like to give everyone an opportunity to live on

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campus, but there are some restrictions here. Another problem is the only room to build new housing is in parking lots, but parking is an issue as well. Right now the solution is to continue renting off campus housing. This might be disappointing to some but this is the current solution.

- ii. Martell: Are the off campus rented housing prices different from the costs of the dorm?
- iii. Proctor: I will bring that to my next meeting.
- iv. Dolnik: Do we know when they will begin demolishing old buildings and building new ones?
- v. Proctor: They are probably going to take one down and then build another one and see how it goes overall.
- vi. Devries: The decrease in beds is a problem as well.
- vii. Proctor: I will bring that to the next meeting to see if they can get more beds in here somehow.
- viii. Eshleman: What about the dorms that have been ruined by water damage and other things?
- ix. Proctor: Housing is considering these factors as a reason to renovate in the first place.
- x. Stang: Although there are not a lot of places for upperclassmen, they should add options for people off campus. It is also important for some of them to know that financial aid can be used.
- xi. Theune: There is a rumor going around that they will be adding more beds to rooms in the oldest buildings. We should make sure that if the rumor is not true that it is shut down.
- xii. Gessler: I know people who have been kicked out of their rooms for freshman, and then they had nowhere to go.
- xiii. Proctor: I think this is something that we will bring up. It is hard though the requirement for freshmen to live on campus in the first place. GVSU should be willing to communicate more transparently to the students and find them another place to live.
- xiv. Dolnik: For the people not getting their housing requirements until very late, are they thinking about sending these out sooner?
- xv. Proctor: I think if there was significant pushback from the students, they will end up changing this and trying to do better with this next year. I will bring this to the next meeting as well.

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- xvi. Palumbo: The decrease in beds is going along with the decrease from 900 within the three traditional style buildings to the 650 in the new buildings that will be created. Along with what Senator Stang said, I think that they are providing recommendations to off campus housing to students to create less stress when trying to find a place to live around here.
- xvii. Eshleman: How will the new buildings change the price of housing? Will the decrease in beds affect that?
- xviii. Proctor: Housing is trying to have transparency when it comes to giving a dollar amount. GVSU has one of the lowest housing prices for schools in Michigan and they are committed to keeping these prices down.
- xix. Stang: We do need to make sure that we are keeping conversations going about Pew Campus.
- xx. Proctor: They are working on adding more food options and maybe adding more living downtown as well.
- xxi. Hallead: A conversation about temp housing needs to be had. It takes a long time to be able to get this and you have to be in a dire situation.
- xxii. Proctor: I will bring this with me and it will be a part of the long term discussion.
- xxiii. Bashore: I think we should have a set number of units because then there are places to go for people in these severe situations.
- xxiv. Proctor: I think it is understood about the problems with expanding housing. Are there any solutions?
- xxv. Bennett: Grand Valley does own the Ravines but there is a problem with erosion and it is very expensive to fill this in.
- xxvi. Hallead: With the legislation that we passed with parking it is important to make sure that housing is transparent and communicating with students. Maybe legislation isn't necessary but outlining what they should be doing.
- xxvii. Stang: We should have maps and other things so people can see what is available around.
- xxviii. Devries: We could build up, but we would have to take it up with the township.
- xxix. Palumbo: The question of what is green space is something that should be brought up to get more clarification.
- xxx. Bashore: Sometimes it is hard to have to pay for 2 parking passes for off campus housing as well as the housing itself. It seems like price gouging.

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- xxxi. Bennett: The parking spaces are expensive to deter students from buying them and riding the bus instead. Is there a way to revamp the three traditional buildings?
- xxxii. Bartlett: An expansion in the loop the buses take would be important to give people more interest in riding the bus.
- xxxiii. Hoogwerf: The price of revamping the buildings is more expensive than the cost of building new buildings.
- xxxiv. Guzman: These are really great questions, but it might be helpful to have people in the room with us so that we can all get the answers that we want. We should bring in a speaker to ask them the questions.
- xxxv. Strand: It would be helpful to have a vote on our most important topics and then we can schedule from there.
- xxxvi. Proctor: The agenda should be something that the whole group works to create as a whole.
- xxxvii. Proctor: We are 13/14 in housing and food rates in Michigan. This means we are the second lowest.

6. Five Minute Recess

7. Workshop

a. Parking

- i. Dolnik: Some key things are that D5 is expanding, they are making a survey for students to fill out. This is important to fill out. They are also changing eligibility for parking next year for different lots. Parking will be determined based on where you live. We are planning a ride the bus event. The problem with the bus begins prior to moving to campus. This is where students ride the bus to the other campus just for fun.
- ii. Eshleman: They are focusing on that part of the lot. The bus system is way down in capacity. They are trying to get more people to ride the bus.
- iii. Palumbo: Has there been talks about making a route to Allendale rather than just to Standale?
- iv. Dolnik: This is something I will bring up as they are looking to get more people to ride it.
- v. Bashore: I think there needs to be more information given about the bus system so it is less confusing.
- vi. Bartlett: For the people that opt to not get a parking pass, there could be an incentive like extra dining dollars or something additional for these students.

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- vii. Johnson: Have numbers gone down since covid? We need to do something better about the app to see times.
 - viii. Eshleman: Since covid, bus rides have increased but we are still not to the pre pandemic levels.
 - ix. VanDyke: There are so many apps and it is hard to know what to use correctly. We should have something centralized.
 - x. Proctor: This might be something we can add into Pathify.
 - xi. Stang: For riding the bus, it might be helpful to talk about the sustainability of riding the bus. They are advertising on the buses about an app, but I am not sure about if it really exists.
 - xii. Theakston: The night ride to Meijer helped me understand the bus. This should be more advertised as this helps people understand the bus and when they run.
 - xiii. Martell: Instead of incentives, if you ride the bus incentive might be more helpful rather than saying do not get a parking pass.
 - xiv. Luitel: More buses on the weekends might be helpful. If we are waiting twenty minutes, this might cause people to not want to ride the bus in the first place.
 - xv. Bashore: The guardian app could pair well with this as it is already focusing on students safety.
 - xvi. Eshleman: The buses are better for the environment due to the new way that they are using natural gas to run. This might help us to get students to ride the bus too.
 - xvii. VanDyke: This could be too expensive but is there a way for us to have students create their routes for the week and set reminders.
 - xviii. Jimenez: It is hard to ride the bus because it is hard to know where we are going or where we are at.
 - xix. Palumbo: If we want to get people to ride the bus, we should make campus a more interesting place to visit. This could be positive to the bus as well as to make campus more interesting.
 - xx. Johnson: It could be helpful to add scanners to show who is really using the bus or to figure out the incentive.
 - xxi. Strand: We need to find a good way to communicate with the students. There could be guest speakers during 5 minutes in class to help out with understanding.
- b. Public Safety
 - c. A motion to strike public safety from the agenda is passed unanimously.

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8. Officer Reports

a. Senate Resources - VP Palumbo

- i. Palumbo: Good evening everyone, Happy Leap Day! A couple of reminders for you today: First of all, the climate survey is out now! I have already gotten a large number of responses, so thank you for responding quickly. For those of you who have not done it yet, please make sure to do so as soon as possible. This is required in order to receive your stipend. I am planning on adding an optional 1-on-1 meeting schedule if anyone would like to talk about any concerns they have. Additionally, I plan on hopefully having another bonding event for you all, once we get back from break. If you have any suggestions, you can always talk to me about it. Additionally, you can look forward to the end of the year party at the end of March. I hope you all did well on your exams and are looking forward to some time off. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let me know. Otherwise, have a good spring break everyone. I yield.

b. Allocations - VP Hoogwerf

- i. Hoogwerf: These past few weeks I have been working hard on the budget. Tomorrow we have a long and rather interesting board and cultural meeting at 1:30 in room 2263 in Kirkhof. I would love for anyone who is interested to join.

c. Public Relations - VP Martell

- i. Martell: Hi everyone! As for PRC, the Senate website is now updated with all Senator's pics. Additionally, please see me after GA before you leave today to make your Senate apparel payments if you are ordering anything.

d. Campus Affairs - VP Dolnik

- i. Dolnik: Hello guys! I hope all is well and that you aren't too drained from your midterms. Nothing but good things are coming from the CAC world, last week I met with GV Parking, an event to promote the Laker Line is in the works! I also met with the AOD to brainstorm new ways to engage with students. With that, they presented me with some good volunteer opportunities in case anyone is interested. The first one is Wednesday when we get back from 12-2 in the Kirkhof lobby. Let me know if you're interested.

e. Educational Affairs - VP Gessler

- i. Gessler: Hello everyone, happy Thursday! I hope everyone is super excited for spring break. Not much to report, finished filming the GVSU Save video. Senator Johnstone and I met with Disability Support Resources to discuss some issues and to figure out ways to

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get the student body to know more about what they offer and start a discussion about a Universal Testing Center. We also met with other liaisons to discuss being a part of the Student Senate to go onto transcripts and we have some stuff in the works for that. I hope everyone has a great spring break!

f. **Diversity Affairs** - VP Lawson

- i. Lawson: As Black History Month and Elect Her planning all come to an end, DAC is now shifting to planning events for women's history month. We plan to do a campus movie night and more tabling at some point in March so we will keep you all updated as planning progresses. Furthermore, DAC is continuing to look into mental health resources on campus and planning to work closer with all centers related to mental health.

9. **Advisor Reports**

10. **University Committee Reports**

- a. Bashore: VP Dolnik and I met with sustainability. The library is one of the buildings that is sustainable on campus. I think it is important to make sure they are sustainable. Laker Food Co. is adding a new restaurant and I think it is important to stand with Laker Food Co. within this decision. We do not have the capacity of student workers to open the downstairs of Fresh.

11. **Adjournment at 6:45 pm**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Martell: It would be great if you can take a look at the survey I put in the slack. It is voting for organizations so make sure you read it through to look at what you are voting for.