

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



Minutes

1. **Call To Order**

- 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 Stand Approved

2. **President's Report**

- a. Proctor: If you are planning on returning to Student Senate next year, remember to keep your Thursdays at 4:30 and later open! Keep voting in the elections, and encourage your friends to vote as well. Even if you're not running, it is part of your job as a current Senator to promote the vote. I'd love to see as high of a turnout as possible! If you are interested in running for Cabinet for next year, please reach out to me! I'd love to meet with you about this. Back over Spring Break, I did meet with Dr. Boone regarding housing and the concerns you all raised at that downtown meeting. He said that off-campus apartments being rented by GVSU would be comparable in price to on-campus housing, and that Housing itself would eat any extra costs. With the demolition and reconstruction of Kistler, Robinson, and Copeland, the BOT approved the master plan, but it isn't funded yet. He wouldn't be surprised if this is discussed as the next BOT meeting. Both him and President Mantella have both strongly emphasized affordability, and he does not foresee significant increases in housing or dining costs because of this. This likely will not be ready before 2027. They will be building new housing where D1 currently is, also near the South campus gateway near the Connection, and tearing down and rebuilding GVA, costs should remain comparable here as well. There will be a total increase from 6,000 beds to 7,000 beds on campus, and he believes this will address long-term housing concerns, but not necessarily the short-term ones. Last week, I met with Stacie Behler, the University Vice President and Chief Communications Officer where we discussed the University's plans regarding the 2024 Presidential election and potential for hateful speech on campus. Also last week, I met with Cathy Buyarski and several other staff and faculty members to discuss the MiLEAP grants which will be used to provide significant funds to new or existing resources on campus that will be used to

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



support students. This was a preliminary conversation and they will now be meeting every other week to discuss this further.

3. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Hallead: Happy Thursday! A few things from me today, if you are interested in Cabinet, please reach out ASAP as my role as EVP ends in exactly one week. I would love to go out and get dinner/coffee and discuss plans for next year. In cabinet tonight, we will be writing Thank You notes to on-campus partners. If you are interested in helping or have any suggestions, please let me know or attend cabinet! Transition's Reports are done and were in my weekly email this week. If you have any questions about them, please do not hesitate to reach out. If you are planning on running for Cabinet, it is an expectation that you read through your intended role's Transition Report. Other than that, I am tying up some loose ends to prepare for the end of my term. It has been a great year with you all and I am looking forward to what comes next. Yield.

4. Business

- a. W-24-02: Create a Student Legal Services Department
 - i. Bates discusses her legislation.
 - ii. Hallead: Motion to charge legislation directly to Jenny Hall Jones
 - iii. Palumbo: Second
 - iv. 28 yays - 0 nays - 0 abstentions
- b. W-24-03: Create an Online Map for Gender Neutral Bathrooms
 - i. Johnson discusses his legislation.
 - ii. Hallead: Motion to charge legislation directly to Jenny Hall Jones
 - iii. Palumbo: Second
 - iv. 28 yays - 0 nays - 0 abstentions
- c. Discussion on Total Membership
 - i. Gessler: I think that this is a very good number for where we are at right now.
 - ii. Bashore: I think that our number is good for us right now. We do not need more at this moment.
 - iii. Hallead: The reason we have 40 seats is because we want increased competition and a sense of community that is necessary here.
 - iv. Bennett: I think if the large interest continues growing, then we should look back at it in the future.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



- v. Palumbo: I think that it is one thing to say that you want to do it but to actually do it is another thing. I think that next year will be a time of experience for us and we can see how well it goes.
- vi. Eshleman: I think that limiting the number of seats will help us to see who actually wants to participate. I think it is important to stay here because more things might be affected.
- vii. Stang: I think this is a good time to address what we do with interest. As we went through restructuring, we should be seeing what it looks like for us next year.
- viii. Bates: Write in candidates who can win if they are very motivated. I think that the new body can make changes once you get to know what the interest actually is. We will know much more after the election is finished.
- ix. Proctor: I think that the general consensus is to stay at 40 for now. I think that in the future we could adjust it. I think we might need to consider the amount of freshmen that are coming in as well.

5. Five Minute Recess

6. New Business

a. W-24-04: Support Students with Invisible Communication Barriers

- i. Martell: The idea for this legislation came about after attending the Fall semester teach-in on the topic. Invisible communication challenges are barriers such as stuttering and/or language disorders that students may face that look different for every person. Some struggle with these more than others. Some of those individuals and their communication challenges may go unnoticed since it is not always actively affecting them to the point that others around them will be able to notice. With that said, Invisible communication challenges, like stuttering and language disorders, can often go undetected by faculty in the absence of self-disclosure by the student. When faculty do suspect that students may have these challenges, they may be unsure about what to do. After the teach-in, I talked to one of the main presenters, Dr. Karasinski, who specializes in speech-language pathology. She had stated that the university did not have invisible communication challenges as an educational requirement for faculty. This motivated me to make the change at the university through legislation, encouraging the university to create a sort of learning module for faculty, so that they can better support students with invisible communication challenges.
- ii. Discussion

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



1. Lawson: I think it would be beneficial to define what invisible communication challenges are.
2. Bashore: Have you looked into other universities that have looked into this as well?
3. Martell: There is no other university that has this, so we would most likely be the first to do so.

7. Officer Reports

a. Senate Resources - VP Palumbo

- i. Palumbo: Good evening guys, Happy second-to-last meeting! I don't have too much news for you all this week. First off, thanks to everyone who came to bowling last week. Our end-of-semester party will be next week (Thursday the 28th) right after our brief General Assembly. I hope to see all or most of you there! It will be at the meadows golf club on Campus Drive and 48th. We are gonna have mexican-style catering and our paper plate awards. Speaking of, please fill out the paper plate awards google doc that Senator Bates sent to the slack channel. This is one of the activities that we typically like to do at the end of each semester. Happy election week as well! I wish everybody luck and am excited to see what's to come. If you have any interesting legislation or issue areas that you want to dig into next year, reach out to me! I am really interested in seeing what we can work together on next year. Lastly, I want to give a final thank you to everyone in case I do not get to next week. Thank you all for making this another great semester. Senate has been a lot of fun this year, and a lot of that is due to all of you. For all of those who plan to stay next year, I am really looking forward to seeing you. For those who are not returning, it will be really sad to see you go, but don't be strangers in the future! Lastly, congrats to VP Martell and Senator Bates for their upcoming graduation. You guys will absolutely be missed by everyone. Everyone take care! I yield

b. Allocations - VP Hoogwerf

- i. Hallead: Greetings from Chicago! Last week's super-sized Allocations meeting with 8 funding requests went well. We are more than likely to have a request over \$10k coming to GA, so please make sure you have your funding board training so you can vote. If you were here for inservice or have been to an Allocations Meeting, you are all set. However, if you have done neither, please reach out so we can talk about allo and have some fun! We have cultural and funding boards tomorrow, four groups requesting in total. President Proctor will be chairing in my place. If you have any questions or are interested in

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



running for VP of Allocations next year, please reach out! I'd love to chat about all the very fun things that Allo does. Finally, please keep taking care of yourselves. The semester may be tough, but you are tougher! I appreciate you all!! See you next week!

c. **Public Relations** - VP Martell

- i. Martell: Hi everyone! The only update I have for you all is that Senate apparel is estimated to be here next week. I will update you all in Slack once it is here and it will be handed out at the end of the year party. Lastly, I want to announce that today is my last Senate meeting with you all since I will not be here next week and will be graduating this April. I want to say thank you to you all for making my senior year better than I could have imagined. Senate has made such a positive impact on my life and I'm glad I got to be a part of a great Senate body with you all! I yield.

d. **Campus Affairs** - VP Dolnik

- i. Dolnik: Hello everyone, happy spring! Mental Health Screening will be next week Thursday throughout the day at multiple locations, the volunteer link is in the Slack in case you're interested. The AOD is looking for volunteers for April 17th, I mentioned it last week and said I would send a sign up sheet. Since this will be happening with the new senate, I'll send the link after elections. I'm meeting with GV Parking again on Monday, if there's anything you want me to bring up, just let me know. Thank you!

e. **Educational Affairs** - VP Gessler

- i. Gessler: Hello everyone, happy Thursday! Don't forget Last Lecture is next Tuesday, please RSVP if you haven't already. Thank you to everyone who helped with tabling for women's history month, it was a success! The exam cram sign up sheet will be going up soon, so please sign up and slack me if you have any questions! I hope elections are going well for everyone!

f. **Diversity Affairs** - VP Lawson

- i. Lawson: Good afternoon, on Tuesday we held a tabling for women's history month which included a well thought out book display chosen by EAC. As we continue to celebrate women's history month DAC plans on hosting a campus movie night on April 1st at 5pm, in Kirkhof room 2263. I will put all this information in slack. We will be streaming Barbie and we will also have a popcorn machine. I hope to see you all there! Lastly, I had the opportunity to attend the United Student Governance Conference with a few of my fellow senators and cabinet members last weekend. I learned so much about

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm



other student governments around Michigan and I look forward to bringing new Ideas to you all and applying what I learned at the conference to my work on Senate.

8. **Advisor Reports**

9. **University Committee Reports**

- a. Bates: Within the student wages task force, we wanted to bring in a third party to see what the difference between on campus and equivalent jobs off campus. This will be starting soon, and we hope that this will bring what we have wanted, which is more equivalent wages.

10. **Adjournment at 5:38pm**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Proctor: Next week we will be going over VP Martell's legislation, the student life fund, and most likely a funding request that will be over \$10,000. It is important that you all keep campaigning due to the write in campaigns. If you do get reelected, you will know before April 2. You will be expected to attend the meeting where we will go over things for next year.