

# Grand Valley State University Student Senate

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 19th, 2023

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



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### *Agenda*

#### 1. **Call To Order at 4:32pm**

- a. Roll Call - Part 1
- b. Public Comment - Part 1
- c. Passing of the Papers
  - i. Condensed university committees list. I'm going to go ahead and pass them around.  
Serving on one of these committees counts as office hours.
- d. Adoption of the Agenda
  - i. Hazari: Motion to adopt the agenda
    1. Quist: Second
    2. Passes unanimously
- e. Approval of the Minutes
  - i. Hazari: Motion to approve the minutes
    1. Quist: Second
    2. Passes unanimously

#### 2. **President's Report**

- a. Proctor:
  - i. I attended the ECS meetings on 10/6 and 10/13. I brought the statement with me to ECS, and faculty governance is aware we will be collecting student feedback regarding a locked classroom policy and the requirement of an active shooter training video.
  - ii. Cabinet put together guidelines to follow to ensure you receive your stipends at the end of the semester. I'm going to hit the big topics, but you all have a copy with you for your reference.
  - iii. The Campus Activities Board has publicized this years' Homecoming Court. I wanted to take a quick second to congratulate Senator Bates for her selection. Voting is now open for Homecoming Royalty, and it would be really exciting to see a Student Senator win, so consider voting for Senator Bates!
    1. Bates: Do we know the amount of the stipends?
    2. Proctor: Not quite yet.

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

- a. Hallead: Happy Thursday Everyone! Some EVP things to update you on:
  - i. Headshots are scheduled for November 30th from 4:00pm- 5:00pm
  - ii. Senate office is all decorated, hopefully getting more string lights.

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- iii. 2-on-1s are happening. This is an opportunity for both President Proctor and I to be able to chat with you directly about all things Senate.
- iv. Figured out everything with Promotions for the 2022-2023 Composite, it is hanging up in the office right now.
- v. I have placed binders in each of your individual cubbies for you to store any senate items, whether that be agendas, committee work, etc. These are meant to always be returned to your cubbies.
- vi. Next GA is casual dress due to the bonding.
- vii. Make sure you are checking your slack and email
- viii. Let me know if you need anything from me, my messages are always open!
- ix. I hope you all have a restful Fall Break!

#### 4. Workshop

##### a. Purpose

- i. Proctor: Last time we touched on this topic, we all collected ideas on why we exist. The Cabinet took these ideas and made a vision and mission statement.
  - 1. Vision Statement: Through building meaningful relationships within the GVSU community, Student Senate will cultivate an environment that elevates student voices and leaves a lasting impact.
  - 2. Mission Statement: As a representative and partner of the student body, Student Senate advocates for the diverse needs of the GVSU community.
- ii. Proctor: Any changes objections? Before we vote on it, we are missing our values. I would like to create a list of our values together. Please submit some values, as many as you would like and we will talk about them when we are done.
  - 1. Values Word Cloud: Transparency, inclusion of all individuals, innovative, inspire, empathy, clarity, community, diversity, togetherness, safety, approachable, bold, compassion, safety, representation, supporter, change, advocacy, collaboration, passion, context, helping, equality, student-centered, solution oriented, helping hand, unbiased, communication, tradition, partnership, adaptive, ally, respect
    - a. Our top values:
      - i. Transparency
      - ii. Integrity

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- iii. Accountability
  - iv. Initiative
  - v. Adaptability
  - vi. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
  - vii. Collaboration
  - viii. Empathy
- iii. Proctor: Motion to advance the purpose proposal to the final restructuring bill
    1. Hallead: Second
    2. 25 yays, 0 nays, 2 absentions
- b. Structure- Executive Branch
    - i. Hallead: I like the idea of having three different but equal positions, and if we had an extra assistant, we would have a hierarchy. A Chief of Staff would be a great bridge between President and Executive Vice President.
    - ii. Proctor: I have been going to ECS and UAS by myself and I don't feel I have any backup.
    - iii. Quist: A third person can create a good checks and balances system.
    - iv. Vanlerberghe: I agree, since you guys need it, we trust that you are being honest in needing a third person. I have to agree with you, especially since I see you guys doing so much.
    - v. Bartlett: You guys were kind of thrown in, this person could be a potential EVP or President in the future.
    - vi. Gessler: This would be helpful since there was no President before you guys.
    - vii. Martell: Maybe getting into the weeds, if we had a Chief of Staff I think it should be someone moving up rather than a whole new person.
    - viii. Proctor: The goal is for them to have experience, because for me it was a lot.
    - ix. Bates: What will that look like with a Chief of Staff? This would be someone to go to for internal stuff and legislation. It will be better when senate starts doing more stuff.
    - x. Vanlerberghe: Then you would have a clear line of succession. We would know who would be next to take up EVP and President.
    - xi. Quist: Only thing I could think of is that it would mess up stipends.
    - xii. Rienas: What would be the difference between VP of SRC and Chief of Staff?
    - xiii. Bates: Chief of Staff is who we would go to for legislation.
    - xiv. Hazari: There will be overlaps.
    - xv. Proctor: We don't have to call it Chief of Staff.

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- xvi. Hallead: I think we are getting in the weeds and we can figure out the Division of Labor at the next meeting.
  - xvii. Proctor: Would we like to talk about the assistant as well? It seems we are more on board with another executive position.
  - c. Structure- Judicial Branch
    - i. Proctor: When personnel and climate issues come up in the past it does not work out well with our policies and creating neutrality. If we are going to talk about it, we should create neutrality in interpreting policy, as well as create neutrality when discussing personnel topics.
    - ii. Vanlerberghe: We could have a committee for the Conduct Review board.
    - iii. Hallead: We actually have a Conduct Review Board. I am the chair.
    - iv. Proctor: SRC is who handles this, then it comes to cabinet. The problem is that SRC and cabinet members are involved and it is hard keeping neutrality. Every meeting we were talking about how bad the climate was and nothing was changing last year.
    - v. Bates: What is the point of the Judicial Branch?
    - vi. Proctor: It would be external group that would deal with our conduct issues,
    - vii. Bartlett: Would these be senators?
    - viii. Proctor: No, it would not.
    - ix. Stang: What would that look like, how would it work appointing people to that?
    - x. Proctor: We don't have a specific idea. No senators would be on it, if they are making policy suggestions, I don't have too much yet but the cabinet will expand on this later.
    - xi. Jean-Pierre: We could invite previous senators and I am curious on what the advisors role is in this.
    - xii. Bates: I think it's a bad idea. I don't think an outside person will have any idea what kind of policy we are making. How would you be able to train someone to do this? I don't know if the answer is bringing in new people.
    - xiii. Proctor: My goal is that they would look through the policies and make suggestions and I more wanted it for personnel issues. I think that they could work with this really well and not know anything and it would keep us pretty neutral.
    - xiv. Palumbo: This could be a good opportunity to expand our community with the Law Club and Criminal Justice Organizations.

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- xv. Vanlerberghe: I agree with Bates, I think it would be great to have Haight or Guzman to chair it.
- xvi. Bates: How can we trust someone is completely objective?
- xvii. Hazari: I kind of agree, but that's the point that they don't know you personally and can take a more neutral position and an advisor can provide context and what our governing documents say. My only concern is getting people interested.
- xviii. Lawson: I am wondering how often we will be using this branch.
- xix. Proctor: As needed.
- xx. Lawson: Is this not something Haight and Guzman could do on their own?
- xxi. Guzman: Should advisors be responsible for these conduct reviews? I think peers should be involved. The advisors are here to support and guide. If there was a Judicial Branch, it would be under our advice. Think of them as a layer of accountability that helps handle the internal things that come up but also to look at are we interpreting policy correctly and are we living our bylaws. We are looking closely at the Constitutional Task Force. Maybe these were Juniors or Seniors who can't be involved in General Senate and would be able to be involved somehow. I am happy to respond to questions. This is how some universities have structured, creating opportunities to address what we need to focus on the work we want to do rather than be busy with other things.
- xxii. Martell: I think we need to simplify this, do we want it or do we not. I would personally go for the Judicial Branch.
- xxiii. DeVries: How much of this branch is present in the faculty senate?
- xxiv. Guzman: When faculty are represented, they are employees and there are different mechanics to hold them accountable. There is a different pathway of how they handle them.
- xxv. Proctor: Do we support the cabinet in making an outline for a judicial branch?
1. Group consensus is yes.
- d. Structure- Legislative Branch.
- i. Werner: Our group talked about discussion on topics and we feel that we repeat things a lot and if we want to cut time maybe cap the time for discussion.
  - ii. Johnson: Limiting the amount we talk about legislation in GA and Cabinet.
  - iii. Martinez: We talked about retention. If we have a stipend, it will increase retention and hold senators accountable.

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- iv. Rienas: We talked about lowering the time commitment and discussed ideas on how to do that.
- v. Bates: We talked about representation, we were looking at what the legislative branch is.
- vi. Proctor: To clarify, Student Senate is the Legislative Branch.

### 5. Officer Reports

#### a. Senate Resources - VP Hazari

- i. Next week, we are having another bonding event after GA in the senate office. Bring a game of your choice. Last week, Bennett, Hallead and I worked on the Climate Survey and it is just to understand how everyone is feeling. Be sure to be reaching out to your Senate Buddies. Next Friday before 5 PM is when office hours are due. Any hours after the 27th will be towards November.

#### b. Allocations - VP Johnson IV

- i. I had lunch today with Dean Shaub. Allocations is tomorrow at 1:30 pm in Kirkhof.

#### c. Public Relations - VP Martell

- i. DAC and PRC will be further collaborating, if anyone else would like to table let me or VP Lawson know, this will count as office hours. We will also be redecorating the bulletin board and this is open to any senators to help.

#### d. Campus Affairs - VP Quist

- i. Quist: Campus Safety Night walks were a success. The AP Executive Meeting, we discussed PTO for staff and I also had a meeting with GVSU Parking.

#### e. Educational Affairs - VP Gessler

- i. Everyone has been very welcoming to me, thank you for electing me to this position. I emailed the Dean of University Libraries and we are meeting October 29th. Tomorrow, VP Martell and I are discussing Credit/No Credit deadline posts.

#### f. Diversity Affairs - VP Lawson

- i. Last week on Thursday, we held the first Teach In tabling event and want to give everyone a chance no matter what committee you are on. Quist, Martell and I are contacting DSR about how to showcase their events and I am working on the Teach In.

### 6. Advisor Reports

### 7. University Committee Reports

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- a. Proctor: We do not need updates on everything but if there is anything super important, let me know.
  - b. Johnson IV: Discussing technological literacy, they meet on Monday 2:30-4:30 pm. If you have availability, let me know.
8. **Adjournment at 6:26**
- a. Public Comment - Part 2
  - b. Roll Call - Part 2
  - c. Call for Announcements
    - i. Quist: I will be graduating this semester, if anyone has interest in my position, please let me know.
    - ii. Bates: I want to wish a belated birthday to the EOA and Senator Bennett. Also please vote for me for Homecoming Royalty!
    - iii. Proctor: We do have a meeting with President Mantella coming up. Office hours, if you think you are below them please reach out to your VP. You also could come to the cabinet meeting tonight. Before this, if you are an Allocations senator, please speak with Johnson IV before your committee meeting tonight.
    - iv. Adjourned at 6:26PM