

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



Minutes

1. **Call To Order at 4:30**

- a. Roll Call - Part 1
- b. Public Comment - Part 1
 - i. From the gallery: From University of Michigan- Flint. My job is to maintain a good working relationship with the public universities in Michigan. My goal is to make it to one meeting of every student government in Michigan. This is to figure out ways to better work together. I would like to thank President Proctor and thank you!
- c. Passing of the Papers
- d. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Hazari: Motion to Adopt the Agenda
 1. Hallead: Second
 2. 23 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- e. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes stand approved.

2. **President's Report**

- a. Proctor: I know it doesn't feel like it, but we are actually almost done with restructuring. Today will include lots of restructuring topics, so hang in there. We only have two meetings left, and the plan is to vote on the final proposal at our last GA of the semester on November 30th. Please make sure you are checking Slack and your email, and responding to messages in a timely manner. When you take a while to respond, it does push back lots of work that spans across committees. The VPs are constantly collabing, so it does affect the entirety of Senate. Last week, I attended a virtual meeting with the Student Body Presidents of Michigan. Attended UAS and ECS. Next week is Teach-Ins! Teach in from 4-5:15 pm. Also, I will be limiting the Speakers List.
 - i. Hazari: Can you clarify about the speakers list?
 - ii. Proctor: Each of you would each have 2 times to speak and will reset when moving to the next topic.

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

- a. Hallead: Happy Thursday Everyone! Some EVP things to update you on: Headshots are scheduled for November 30th from 4:00pm- 5:00pm. If you missed your 2-on-1, it is your responsibility to reschedule with EVP Hallead. President Proctor and I are extremely busy, so we will not be the

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ones reaching out anymore. Reminder that 2-on-1's are required as part of the stipend guidelines. Quinten and I attended the President's Council last Friday and were able to express the need for students to be more involved in "Reach Higher 2025" and make that plan accessible for ALL students. Our next meeting is in December. Had a meeting with parking on Monday, if you want to know more, please let me know. Fill out the Climate Survey! If you would like to run for CAC, please reach out to Proctor and I.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Structure

- i. Proctor: EVP Hallead, Cabinet, and I took the suggestions regarding our executive branch. We are pretty in favor of adding another executive position, we would have the President who is the external, Parliamentarian who is the internal and the Vice President who is the bridge in between the two. Then the Judicial Branch, we decided that the Parliamentarian would be the chair of this Judiciary Committee. To be appointed, these people would be interviewed by the Executive Branch, then would have an interview every year as a check in. You could serve all four years and their job is to ensure the governing documents of Student Senate are being honored, they also would be responsible for creating policies and procedures for the spring elections.
- ii. Bartlett: Could a senator request to become a part of the Judiciary Committee if they are a current senator?
- iii. Proctor: Yes but they cannot serve on both.
- iv. Hallead: If there is no interest for these positions, you can interview and this would serve as your "University Committee". We will get into this later.
- v. Proctor: We are just going to go straight into a vote. Any more discussion on this?
- vi. TerHorst: Do we include representation of the colleges in this?
- vii. Proctor: That will be the next proposal.
- viii. Bashore: How many colleges have you looked at and what models are we taking after?
- ix. Hallead: We are taking different aspects for what we need and altering them to fit our vision.
- x. Bates: When will this go into effect?
- xi. Proctor: This will go into effect the next year.
- xii. Hazari: Motion to approve the Structure Proposal

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1. Martell: Second
 2. 22 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- b. Representation
- i. Proctor: We would have 40 total seats in our representation models. 20 representatives for our at-large seats, 4 Freshman, 1 International Student, and the rest would be proportionally spread out throughout the colleges. This would change every year but here is an example of what this would look like right now with the current number of students per college. Is there any discussion on how we divided the 20 seats?
 - ii. Martinez: For the 4 freshman seats, if there were more would they just go into the other seats?
 - iii. Proctor: Yes.
 - iv. Palumbo: If no one filled these reserved seats, would it become an at-large seat?
 - v. Proctor: Yes, I will add that to the proposal.
 - vi. TerHorst: Would this be at large for graduate students as well? Would this be how all senators are elected?
 - vii. Hallead: At-large seats would be the same way we elect right now, but graduate students have their own senate called the GSA.
 - viii. Proctor: Any more discussion, ok. We will move down to elections. For the executive elections, option one would be the direct election of the president by the students, the other would be senators would elect the president.
 - ix. Stang: Did we discuss splitting up the vote?
 - x. Hallead: Yes we did, but there were a lot of logistical issues that wouldn't make this work.
 - xi. Bartlett: Having students vote, it might make it a popularity contest. Senators know who is working and people might not have a good perception of who is working behind the scenes.
 - xii. Bennett: I agree, is the president currently elected by the body?
 - xiii. Proctor: No.
 - xiv. Hallead: I don't mind either one, but I do like the first option a bit more. If we were to do it this way, there are provisions like serving on the senate for 15 weeks. I don't think we would have an issue with someone who isn't qualified.

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- xv. Hazari: I feel we are trying to get more people involved. If we have people representing the colleges we will get more engagement. I feel we have done a great job putting a great person in the position of President and EVP and as someone we trust.
- xvi. Proctor: I think there are pros and cons. Like EVP Hallead said, I want the first option. We will get more student engagement. Cons would be that the senate would know better than the student body of who is qualified.
- xvii. Hallead: If you are running for elections, you will be able to vote for whoever you want anyway.
- xviii. Rienas: When we are talking about this. In this process, making this president entirely external and if they are representing the students. The students definitely need to have a voice.
- xix. Martinez: I also agree with option one, it will make the student body want to be involved and it will be fun to have election nights.
- xx. VanDyke: Option one is a good choice and I think the best.
- xxi. TerHorst: I think if we did this they would have to serve on the Student Senate for one year.
- xxii. Gessler: I agree with everything Senator Rienas said.
- xxiii. Burns: I think the students should be involved but how are they supposed to know if the senator does their work.
- xxiv. Proctor: This is an important issue.
- xxv. Martell: I thought last week at cabinet we carved out the requirements to be on the ballot.
- xxvi. Hallead: The requirements are the senator must have been on the body for at least a semester and is in good standing within the senate.
- xxvii. Martell: I would have to agree with option one if we want to expand. If we just let the senate vote it will stifle us.
- xxviii. Jean-Pierre: Maybe we could require someone to get a certain amount of signatures from the senators and make that option work.
- xxix. Rienas: We have rules set up if someone isn't doing a good job. Since we have another position to make the president's role external. Even if they got elected because they are popular, it doesn't matter because it's an external role.

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- xxx. Hazari: When we talked about the hybrid, if we talk about signatures, would it be the new body or old body that those signatures would come from. The public still has a say they can contribute to our elections and speak what they think at public comment.
- xxxii. Bashore: What if we do have a President who isn't very good, do we have a process in case we can fix this?
- xxxiii. Proctor: We have an impeachment process.
- xxxiiii. Bates: In my sorority we do slate candidates. We are able to see which senators reach those requirements and I know we are trying to lessen the amount of work but I still like the idea of us voting on candidates.
- xxxv. Proctor: I like the signatures, this part will come back next week, I am going to entertain a strawpoll. Option one is direct votes by students and second option is senate votes.
- xxxvi. Proctor: Appointments: there would be 4 seats reserved for freshmen, we decided to go forward by doing it how we did it this year by doing it all at once. The executive branch determines the forms and amount of interviews. We also recommend that they attend one GA before an interview. We would try to take an objective approach and a holistic approach to be sure to get a diverse perspective.
- xxxvii. Johnson IV: Can you go into the timeline in selecting new senators into the regular seats and judiciary branch?
- xxxviii. Hallead: At-large seats would be hopefully appointed by the second GA and judiciary around the same time hopefully.
- xxxix. Proctor: Judiciary would just be interviewed by the executive branch.
- xl. Martniex: Is this process the same for all seats?
 - xl. Hallead: We would want all seats to be filled for elections, but if we didn't fill them, then we would use this process.
 - xli. Hazari: Can you touch on the Parliamentarian?
 - xlii. Proctor: We have a commission of members who are not running for reelection so that's why the parliamentarian would be excused. We will still come back and touch on this next week.
 - xliii. Hallead: Motions to move the Representation proposal to the Omnibus Bill.
 - 1. Werner: Second
 - 2. 19 yays, 3 nays, 1 abstention

5. Five Minute Recess at 5:12pm

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6. New Business

a. Division of Labor

- i. Hallead: President would mostly remain the same, external focus. I took my role and wrote down everything I do and broke it up between external and internal.
- ii. Hallead: The Executive Branch would work as a triad, 5 chairs of focus groups, and 8 senators in each group. Allocations would function the same as it does now.
- iii. Proctor: Instead of dividing it by topic, we divided based on function.
- iv. Hallead: We have the chairs, Allocations, Public Relations, DEI, Policy, and Events. These would be the groups, but the topics would change year to year based on the needs of the body.
- v. Hazari: We talked about Allocations being its own committee.
- vi. Hallead: Allocations work as it is now. I do not want to mess with it.
- vii. Hazari: I was going to say, why did we choose 7?
- viii. Hallead: We would want to have 7 to plan for people missing.
- ix. Proctor: You can't tie with 7.
- x. Proctor: This proposal will hopefully encourage more collaboration across senators.

b. Image

- i. Proctor: We would like to get a strawpoll on our logo. On your placards, there is an example of our logo.
- ii. Consensus to keep the logo as is.
- iii. Proctor: Let's discuss if we want to use Tik Tok.
- iv. VanDyke: We discussed as a committee and Tik Tok isn't beneficial towards our message.
- v. Bashore: It's another platform to get our message out.
- vi. Lawson: I do like the idea of making videos, but we could utilize Instagram Reels.
- vii. Martell: Although I want everyone's opinion, but I do not think this would be that effective. I think using Instagram Reels would be a great decision.
- viii. Hallead: I think reels are a good compromise.
- ix. Bennett: I like the reels. I saw a lot of content though Instagram Reels from GVSU.
- x. Jean-Pierre: Knowing the controversy and security concerns of Tik Tok, we should be mindful of this in our decisions.
- xi. Bartlett: The only benefit of Tik Tok is the algorithm.

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- xii. TerHorst: Reels is a good idea since we already have a platform and tiktok sounds cheesy.
- xiii. Proctor: PRC decided to get rid of our X or Twitter account and I am in full support.

c. Calendar

- i. The President will set all of the meeting times in conjunction with all of Student Senate. The senate body can discuss what time it is at.

7. **Pertinent Updates**

- a. Hazari: I don't have a lot, climate survey was sent out in EVP weekly email, counts for 2 office hours. Make sure you log this. I wanted to say applications for next semester are open and please tell your friends to apply by January 8th at 5 pm. Office hours are due on November 24th at 5 pm.

8. **University Committee Reports**

- a. Rienas: I met with Laker Food Co. about having more allergy friendly options. They have added more desserts that are gluten free and options downtown. I am meeting with them again tomorrow and if there is anything you would like to talk about please let me know.

9. **Adjournment** at 5:42 PM

a. Public Comment - Part 2

- i. From the Gallery: I think from what I have seen, there is a lot I can take back for the U of M Flint. Hopefully we will see GVSU Student Senate working closely with U of M Flint and with Maize and Blue. I yield to President Proctor.

b. Roll Call - Part 2

c. Call for Announcements

- i. Proctor: Committee Meetings will last for about 45 minutes and Cabinet is at 6:30pm.