

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 30th, 2023

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Parliamentarian: Magdalyn Hallead



Minutes

1. **Call To Order at 5:23 PM**

- a. Roll Call - Part 1
- b. Public Comment - Part 1
- c. Passing of the Papers
- d. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Hallead: Motion to Adopt the Agenda
 - ii. TerHorst: Second
 - iii. 24 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- e. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes Stand Approved

2. **President's Report**

- a. Proctor: Welcome to the last meeting of the semester, I appreciate all of the work you all have put in in the last few months. Over the next few weeks, I will be looking over our restructuring proposal and working it into governing documents. I would recommend checking your schedule and making sure you are available on Thursdays at 4:30 PM. I will be passing a paper and it's just to let us know if you plan on staying next semester. Next Thursdsay, we will be holding our end of the semester holdaiy party. It will be at the Meadows Clubhouse. If you have questions on how to get there, let us know. The party will be at 5 pm and the dresscode is casual. We will have paper plate awards, presents, and food. Applications for the winter semester are open and they close on January the 8th, I would love to see more applications. I will give everyone 15 seconds, find the "Join Us Today" post on instagram and repost it on your stories. Please remember to file your paperwork with the Student Employment office and fill out your self reflection by December 8th at 5:00 PM . Tommorow I am attending UAS, Senator Palumbo and VP Martell are attending with me and I have another slot open, it is 3-5 pm in Niemeyer. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to come!

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

- a. Hallead: We did really well with headshots, thank you for being on time and participating. Please fill out your forms, a lot of them are tied into your stipends. Proctor and I attended VSAB, they supported our proposal for restructuring and they want to work with us. I had a meeting with VP Truss and I got a lot of information on financial aid and stipends.

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4. Workshop

a. Professionalism

- i. Proctor: Eligibility hasn't changed, any questions or comments there? The absence policy is still the same, mostly it's pretty similar to how it is currently. We switched the name of Parliamentarian to the Chief of Operations.
- ii. Hallead: The name Chief of Operations was suggested to us by Jenny Hall-Jones.
- iii. Proctor: If you have ideas for a name, let Hallead or I know. Any questions or comments on absence policy? The required assignments are still the same, the university committees will be at the discretion of the cabinet for the year. All senators are required to complete the tasks that are assigned to them. Any questions? Moving on to misconduct. It is the same as our current process, just offloaded to our judiciary committee. Any questions? Moving on to conduct review, it will be the same as our current processes. The last part, the impeachment procedure, it's not very different. Any discussion?
 1. Johnson IV: Motion to advance Professionalism to the Omnibus bill
 2. Gessler: Second
 3. 23 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstention

b. Shared Governance

- i. Proctor: Not too much has changed here, University Committees, they are the same. You can read through these, this is in the legislation portion of the drive. We put more clarification when a senator presents legislation. The second week is when this legislation could be voted on. Any questions on the shared governance proposals or any comments?
- ii. Hallead: Motion to advance the Shared Governance to Omnibus Bill
- iii. Johnson IV: Second
- iv. 24 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

c. Miscellaneous

- i. Proctor: The awards have not changed, we will be doing the student awards for faculty, I will be sending out a form to nominate a professor. I will let you read through the awards process, it will not be much different from what we have been doing anyways. The President Emeritus, we made one small edit to the GPA requirement. After hearing your feedback, the cabinet settled on 3.2, that is because a 3.2 is the university's requirement to graduate with honors. Any more discussion?
 1. Hallead: Motion to advance the Miscellaneous to the Omnibus Bill

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2. Bashore: Second
3. 23 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstention

5. **Business**

a. Restructuring Omnibus Bill

i. Proctor: I am going to read this bill and we can discuss this after.

1. **Recognizing**, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate has been on a steady decline in both membership and engagement from students over the past several years; and
2. **Whereas**, this disruption of the typical longevity of members has resulted in fewer students eligible and prepared to serve in leadership roles; and
3. **Recognizing**, that all members of the Student Senate are students first and foremost, and a student also needs to prioritize their academics and personal well-being; and
4. **Whereas**, there are considerable time commitments that coincide with serving on Student Senate, which cause barriers for students seeking to join or run for Cabinet positions; and
5. **Recognizing**, the Student Senate has a responsibility to represent all students and their diverse and ever-changing needs; and
6. **Recognizing**, the Student Senate needs to adapt as the student experience changes; and
7. **Whereas**, adjustments made to the existing functions and structure during the Constitutional Task Force meetings in previous years have made improvements, but they have not sufficiently addressed the problems facing Student Senate;
8. **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved**, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate will completely restructure itself in order to broaden our representation to increase student perspectives; to increase our visibility and engagement with the student body; to improve our reputation and prestige on campus; to enrich the overall experience for Student Senators, Cabinet members, and the student body; and to implement the best practices to maintain a sustainable Student Senate and student body.

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9. **Furthermore, Let it Be Resolved**, the restructured Student Senate will reflect the proposals outlined below, and these proposals will serve as the framework for what will be implemented into the Student Senate governing documents.
- ii. DeVries: This is not an objection, but I know some people are opposed to DEI does anyone think it could be a problem in the future?
 - iii. Johnson IV: I want to go back to our values, is initiative defined as a value?
 - iv. Proctor: The intention is that senators are taking initiative to do their projects and I want you all to think about what initiative means to you.
 - v. VanDyke: It means we take on the problems that people have that the school doesn't solve for the students.
 - vi. Burns: Maybe add taking?
 - vii. Hallead: I like that, but we already had this conversation.
 - viii. Bashore: Is this ranking our values or just a list?
 - ix. Proctor: Just a list.
 - x. Bates: I like it but I think we should do "Taking Initiative"
 - xi. Martinez: I like the one word and if we add taking it takes away from the format of how we had it listed.
 - xii. Bashore: If we have the student body read this, they might not know what we are talking about.
 - xiii. Bartlett: We could replace it with "Advancement"
 - xiv. Johnson IV: Dynamism, I think this is more oriented towards us.
 - xv. Hallead: Do you think people will know what that means?
 - xvi. Proctor: At the university level I think DEI is the term. Thank you for the question, Senator DeVries.
 - xvii. Stang: I am not sold on initiative, maybe an option to not have it.
 - xviii. Bennett: We are meant to make change, to have initiative, we will have students come to us knowing we can make a change.
 - xix. Proctor: Okay, advancement, dynamism?
 - xx. Proctor: Okay, for the straw poll, there will be a few options here, leave it the way it is. Option 2, add "Taking" in front of it, 3, "Advancement", Option 4 was "Dynamism", Option 5 is removing it from the list.
 - 1. Option 1: 16, Option 2: 6, Option 3: 1, Option 4: 1, Option 5: 0

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- xxi. Proctor: Back to DEI, do we want to use it, or take it off?
- xxii. Hallead: Can we do a straw poll?
- xxiii. TerHorst: I would say leave it off.
- xxiv. Lawson: Since it's the name of one of our groups, I would leave it off.
- xxv. Martinez: I like it, it still needs to be valued and in our actual values and if it does change in the future we can just amend the constitution.
- xxvi. DeVries: I don't want to have it taken off but it could cause issues.
- xxvii. Bashore; I don't see a problem with DEI on there because that's what we represent.
- xxviii. Proctor: Option 1: Leave it, Option 2: Come up with other options, Option 3: Take it off
 - 1. Option 1 Wins
- xxix. Proctor: Any discussion on the Structure and Representation. We originally reviewed it on November 2nd, officially passing it November 19. We have the international student seat, we have 4 seats for incoming freshmen. Any discussion on representation? Perfect. Division of labor, it is listed on this bill and the responsibilities are broken up.
- xxx. Proctor: Allocations will still meet on Fridays, PRC will still do bulletin board, merch, and recruitment. That is why we split it into internal and external. DEI is still the Teach In and all that good stuff. Are we all set on that, any discussion? Next up we have image. We are going to outreach to the students with our current platforms. Calendar, the only thing we have set in stone is Thursday evenings at 4:30 PM.
- xxxi. Bashore: I want everyone to know, how long did you two spend on this entire thing? No one understands how much time and effort went into this.
- xxxii. Hallead: We brainstormed until 3 am on Thursday nights, I am glad you guys are liking it.
- xxxiii. Vanlerberghe: Motion to pass the Omnibus Bill.
- xxxiv. Martinez: Second
- xxxv. 24 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

6. Five Minute Recess 6:10 PM-6:15 PM

7. Elections

- a. Vanlerberghe: I nominate Senator Price for Vice President of Campus Affairs
- b. Bates: Second
- c. Price: Hello everyone! For those who don't know me, my name is Braylond Price and I am running for the position of Vice President of the Campus Affairs Committee! As a first generation

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college student, one of my goals is to make sure students have the best campus and overall college experience and that's the mission for Campus Affairs. Although I am a freshman and a new senator, I assure you that if given the opportunity, I can prove myself and show everyone that I am eager and excited for this role and to further my knowledge and leadership skills. I've had a tremendous amount of leadership experience, majority of which being in high school, which involved being class president for all four years, serving on several executive boards of student organizations, and was a co-founder of Students Making a Change, a group devoted to talking about issues in our community and the world, and creating goals working towards a solution. I have already been a very active member within senate and I'm excited to continue. I have been preparing myself for this role by reading the past transition reports as well as having meetings with several cabinet members and former vp Jonahntan Quist to make sure I am fully aware of the responsibilities that come with being Vice President. My goal for serving as the Vice President of Campus Affairs is to serve those currently on the committee to the best of my ability and being able to aid senators in fulfilling their* goals and encouraging them to achieve great things. I plan on working more towards our sustainability goal. Working more towards making campus more sustainable. I plan to properly assess the progress we have made and provide support and grow from there. I am very excited to see what we will accomplish. In this role, I plan on focusing to continue in the direction we're currently headed while being open to new ideas and seeing how we can collectively work to make campus a *feel good place* for all. A personal goal of mine is to become more acquainted with campus in general and help everyone feel valued on campus. Thank you all for your time and consideration! I'm looking forward to an amazing next semester.

- d. Johnson IV: What made you want to be in this position?
- e. Price: I want to get more experience!
- f. Gessler: What is something that stood out to you in the last Transitions Report?
- g. Price: I want to learn more about sustainability and working with more on campus partners.
- h. Martell: Can you describe your leadership style and what are you most excited about CAC wise?
- i. Price: My style is more inclusive and I have gained that by working with different diversity committees and I am excited to work with you amazing people.
- j. Johnson IV: Have you talked to current CAC members?
- k. Price: I have reached out and asked them about their goals.
- l. Stang: Besides sustainability, what will you focus on?
- m. Price: Parking and housing are other areas I want to go into.

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- n. Gessler: Senator Price is amazing, he is so ready to go and is very friendly to everyone. Since he was class president for 3 years I think he is great to take on this role.
 - o. Lawson: I have been really impressed with his work, in multiple committees.
 - p. Vanlerberghe: I nominated him because he's clearly a leader, he has gone above and beyond and it will be advantageous to him and our future senators.
 - q. Johnson IV: His overall embrace of campus, I want him to approach different projects and this role will help him and I think he is pretty capable.
 - r. Bashore: He has reached out to everyone in CAC, it shows he is driven to see what it is about.
 - s. Martell: You all have said what I want to say, we all know he is a great candidate, I am really excited to see how he will say.
 - t. Stang: I second what Martell says, it's a good investment in the future of senate.
 - u. TerHorst: He is in my class and he is really involved. I second everything said.
 - v. Proctor: Please join me in congratulating Vice President Elect Price.
8. **Officer Reports**
- a. **Senate Resources** - EVP Hallead (interim)
 - i. Hallead: Make sure you fill out the forms, Audrey is working really hard and deserves answers. If you are interested in SRC VP, please reach out to me.
 - b. **Allocations** - VP Johnson IV
 - i. Johnson IV: Allocations is my new hobby, anyone interested in a budget request, reach out to me. The budget will be reviewed for next semester and it's looking good. We haven't spent as much money as I expected. If you are interested in sitting on the Allocations Committee, please message me.
 - c. **Public Relations** - VP Martell
 - i. Martell: Good evening, I can't believe it is the last meeting! I have a few things: I finished the apparel. Please fill out the Active Shooter Policy Survey.
 - d. **Campus Affairs** - EVP Hallead (interim)
 - i. Hallead: Congrats to VP- Elect Price. My main focus has been working with the Counseling Center's Mental Health Screenings. I am excited to see what Price does with the position.
 - e. **Educational Affairs** - VP Gessler
 - i. Gessler: We have started making a survey for Open Educational Resources, to see what students know about it. Thank you to Senator Martinez for setting up a meeting with the

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Laker Store next week and for all the work he has done this semester. If you would like to sit on my committee, please let me know. Thanks for your patience with me learning.

Exam Cram is soon and I need senators to help me out with this!

- f. **Diversity Affairs** - VP Lawson
 - i. Lawson: We have been working closely with DSR for a guest speaker. Teach In committee, any one who has feedback I can take it back to them. I am preparing for next semester. I am working with EAC and I am excited to make book displays for Women's History Month, Black History Month, etc.
- 9. **Advisor Reports**
 - a. Guzman: I want to congratulate you all and give a special thank you to Proctor and Hallead. Please do your paperwork for your stipend. I need your G number, please see me after the meeting. I am Grand Valley is a brief nomination form in the newsletter. Winterfest is tonight and tomorrow, exam cram, finals mode, make sure you take care of yourself and take advantage of what the university offers you.
 - b. Haight: I want to echo everything, thank you Valerie for the time, research, and effort for all of this.
- 10. **University Committee Reports**
- 11. **Adjournment at 6:41 PM**
 - a. Public Comment - Part 2
 - b. Roll Call - Part 2
 - c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Proctor: First off, I want to thank Senator Martinez and congratulate him on graduating. I will not be running for reelection as president, I have decided to take my last year as a general senator. If you would like to run for president, please reach out to me at any time.
 - ii. Hallead: I am also not running for reelection and I am undecided if I will return.
 - iii. Proctor: Committee meetings will be after this for 30 minutes, that way we can get through our very busy cabinet agenda tonight. If you did not provide your G number, PLEASE talk to Valerie before the committee meetings.
 - iv. Hallead: I want to thank you all. We did some great stuff and I am glad you are all here for it.
 - v. Bashore: I want to give a round of applause for Hallead and Proctor.