

**General Assembly**

Thursday, April 22nd, 2021 — 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

*President: Autumn Mueller*

*Executive Vice President: Emma Suchecki*

1. Call Meeting to Order: 4:31pm
   1. Moment of Silence for Native Land Recognition
   2. Student Senate Creed
   3. Pledge of Allegiance
   4. Roll Call - Part I
2. Public Comment - Part I
   1. Andy Beachnau: thanks the Senate body, congratulates graduating students, and welcomes the new senators to the body.
   2. Loren Rullman: congratulates the senators, appreciates their leadership within the Student Senate; encourages Senate 20-21 to become familiar with shared governance. Shares that “Service” and “Selflessness” are two words to live by while working in these positions - Student Senate serves the students, and are the mouthpiece of the student body to upper administration. Rullman recognizes that this current time period may present the hardest time to lead, and the hardest way to lead, so he thanks the Senate for being willing to do this work, and encourages them to stay connected with each other
   3. Alex Hicks: (former Senator), speaks in support of Teagan Byers for VP of ERC. Hicks feels she is the best option as a returning senator, and has demonstrated her leadership through taking over as Chair of SAAC. There is no one better to be our representative to other universities. Lack of previous experience may reflect a poor image of Student Senate. Additionally, Hicks is on the Board for SFS and is willing to work with Senate in the upcoming year
   4. Holcomb: (former VP), speaks in support of Byers. Citing her experience as serving as chair on SAAC, and her work within her committee as benefiting the person who will fill the VP of ERC role
   5. Kristin Green, student: in regards to an email sent out today about the campus going cashless. She points out that this discriminates against individuals of low socioeconomic status, specifically BIPOC, who may not be able to get a bank account, may only have access to cash. Statistically, this would affect approximately 2600 students. There are reversible ATMs, but this also could present barriers. Additionally, does not appreciate the insinuation that there are robberies or issues regarding the safety of cash on campus
   6. Chris McQueen: speaks in support of Ochsankehl for VP of ERC, sharing that she would be ideal to represent the student voice. In her part on the Greek Life council, she sends out well-detailed letters and news to individuals within Greek Life - this position will elevate her and Grand Valley
   7. Ryker Henriksen: speaks in support of Ochsankehl, has worked with Ochsankehl for three years, sharing that she would be an extraordinary fit for the position. She is incredibly detail-oriented, inclusive, in regards to her efforts on his research team, and she would be more than capable of tackling Battle of the Valleys in the Fall.
   8. President Mueller reads submitted comments
      1. Pagel, former VP of ERC: shares that he is eager for the next group to take over. He wishes all candidates for the ERC. He shares that while he was in the same position, he focused on leading and working with other student gov’ts, sharing what GVSU did and bringing new information in, meeting with other students, involvement with Allendale and Grand Rapids, and civic engagement.
      2. Aubrey Pretzel speaks in support of Teagan Byers, sharing that they were co-workers. Her communication skills are significant. Adds that her position in her hometown’s city council also lends evidence to her being a great fit.
      3. Unknown individual, video presentation: when some employees could not return after COVID restrictions were put in place, Byers was instrumental in helping to get the salon business back on its feet and meeting all of the requirements for reopening. Byers went above and beyond, invested for personal and professional reasons.
3. Guest Speakers - Provost Maria Cimitile for GVSU Budget and Tuition Presentation
   1. Cimitile is accompanied by colleagues Wieschhorster, Sanial, Truss, Rhodes, and Schick.
   2. Cimitile congratulates the new senators, looks forward to working with them in the coming year
   3. Wieschhorster presents his screen, showing a pie graph that depicts the General Fund Budget sources from 2020-2021. Majority of the budget is made up of tuition, followed by smaller chunks from State Appropriations among other sources. Higher enrollment leads to more funds for the budget. Over the last four years, enrollment has begun to decline, due to a demographic decrease in the graduation of high school seniors.
   4. Wieschhorster presents a slide on updated Legislation: the FY20 State higher education funding cut by $200M; FY21 budget is flat, and the proposed FY22 proposed budget has a one-time 2% increase. There are signs from the state budget office for concern in FY23. Notes that we cannot expect increased state support in the future. In order to make up for the deficit in State Appropriations, tuition has had to increase.
   5. Wieschhorster shares that GV is at a disadvantage compared to other state universities. Though it receives nearly 5% of state appropriation, it educates 8.76% of FYES, just behind Wayne State. GVSU’s state appropriation per FYES is approximately $2500 less than the state average.
   6. Rhodes, of the Financial Aid office, presents a graph on the amount of financial aid allocated from the general fund each year, showing that the amount has increased. GVSU utilizes peer institution data to keep an eye on where GV stands with other public universities on financial aid. Rhodes encourages the use of MoneySmart Lakers, which is a financial literacy outreach program
   7. Wieschhorter presents the factors that drive tuition pricing, including but not limited to:
      1. Net Cost of Tuition // Total Cost of Attendance
      2. Quality of education
      3. Lifetime Value and Connection
      4. Student Experience
      5. Class size
      6. Condition of Facilities
      7. Revenue and expense factors
      8. Inflation
      9. Value relative to competitors
   8. Wierschhorster shares a data sheet on the total cost of attendance, comparing GVSU with peer institutions
   9. Questions
      1. Ochsankehl: could you explain why it’s based off of the sources that it is, why are tuitions different for different universities, and why are they not moved to a more performance-based criteria?
         1. Sanial: essentially, the state takes what they did last year and apply a small increment. Using this method, GVSU attendance has grown while the incrementation has not, meaning that the amount from the state per student has gone down. Whatever percentage is down is made up for with tuition. In the last several year, a great effort has been made to increase financial aid.
         2. Sanial: an adjustment to the criteria has not been made because it will change the “winners” and “losers” - while GV might get more funding, another university may not. There is a *small* portion in state appropriation based on performance, which GV does well in. This is a very political process, and Sanial and Cimitile encourages everyone to pay attention to who you’re voting for in regards to higher education funding
      2. Zdunczyk: have you considered making a MoneySmart Laker presentation during Transitions?
         1. Rhodes: the last several years, there has been a small part in Transitions with videos, but Rhodes is ready to help and open to speaking with who they can in order to have a greater role in Transitions
         2. Truss: we are also working hard to expand pre-college programs and ensuring that we cover all that one can in terms of advising.
      3. Rusch: do you have any program or plan to potentially educate the student body on these general funding mechanisms? Seeing the tuition raises accompanied by seeing adjunct professors laid off, however, helps him to understand why this happens
         1. Cimitile: it would be so helpful to partner with Senate to have these types of town halls and get this information out.
      4. Kidd: When tuition increases, how will this impact middle and upper-income students who are still paying their own tuition? How can we increase scholarship opportunities for those who are not eligible for financial aid?
         1. Rhodes: we spend a lot of time trying to ensure the middle and upper income students are served well. This past year we made a Hardship Grant application, for example. Rhodes recognizes that the information from the FAFSA is not always reflective of the reality. Works close with development office to create scholarships; there is also an external scholarship database.
         2. Truss: encourage people to come into the financial aid office to find viable solutions tailored to each individual
4. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers
5. President’s Report
   1. Adoption of the Agenda - stand approved
   2. ECS/UAS
      1. Discussed updates to parking passes - one’s license plate will now be the parking pass
      2. Cashless policy - as Student Senate was not reached out to about this, Mueller will be reach out.
      3. Lift Management Committee discussed evaluations of professors, how it affects the professors, etc.
      4. Mantella will be speaking at tomorrow’s meeting
      5. Board of Trustees report will take place on April 30th, given by McMahon. Mueller’s first report will be given in the summer
      6. If anyone is interested in chairing a sub-committee, please speak with Mueller. Mueller will be selecting the chairs.
      7. GV and Student Senate will be establishing a Food Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of food service on GV campuses, the next academic year focusing on the potential for other food options. Senate and the assistant director of housing and residence will be chairing these meetings
      8. Welcome to the new Executive Office Assistant, Clare!
      9. The first Cabinet meeting will take place tomorrow, mostly closed, to discuss committee placements.
6. Executive Vice President’s Report
   1. Approval of the Minutes - stand approved
   2. Attended ECS/UAS with Mueller; Suchecki encourages individuals to sign up for university committees
   3. Weekly emails will be sent out on Tuesday mornings at 8am - this is the main form of communication, so please check these links. Google Drive has also been shared
   4. Fill out the committee selection forms by 8am tomorrow.
   5. Encourages senators to accept their invite to Laker Link, and reminds everyone to maintain proper decorum when sending out messages or emails.
7. Unfinished Business
   1. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for External Relations
      1. Eldon Pearson nominates Frappier: he is one of the few members of the student body who has prior experience on Cabinet. The type of effectiveness of his leadership is necessary for upcoming large projects such as Battle of the Valleys. He has a unique perspective on cross-committee collaboration; he has a strong working relationship with members of previous Cabinets, including Pagel; and he comes to the table with a wide range of skills and ideas. This nomination is seconded by Prielipp.
         1. Frappier accepts the nomination
      2. Gineman nominates Ochsankehl: she has demonstrated preparation for the role through her work outside of Senate. She has great plans for Battle of the Valleys. Second by Byers
         1. Ochsankehl accepts the nomination
      3. Scmidt nominates Kalafut: she is an inspirational individual and passionately involved with GV. Over the past week (since first elections) he has seen the continued drive and determination to work with others, demonstrating her skills which make her a great fit for the role. Seconded by Byers.
         1. Kalafut accepts the nomination
      4. Zdunczyk nominates Byers: she is the Chair of SAAC, well aware of the internal workings of Senate, and would be a diligent worker when it comes to BoV. Seconded by E. Pearson
         1. Byers accepts the nomination
   2. Speeches
      1. Frappier: he has spent his time on three different committees, two as a senator, and one as a VP; he has experience working with Cabinet and with Pagel in particular. Frappier has goals to work with other universities and other student governments, civic engagement, higher education funding, and community engagement - all of which are fundamental pieces of ERC. He has plans to continue Pagel’s work in all of these areas, including SCHEF. Perhaps his greatest experience is his attendance and efforts in the past year to help lay the foundation, and develop BoV. He is motivated by the opportunity to pick up where Pagel left off and to continue to further develop their ideas in the coming year
      2. Ochsankehl: acknowledges how wonderful it is that there are so many qualified individuals running for this position. Pagel left a great impression on Senate and Student body, but Ochsankehl’s experience and applicable expertise will permit her to pick up where he left off. She is fully prepared to get to work on BoV, highlighting the safety concern given the pandemic. She hopes to engage with partners and student organizations to replicate strategies utilized by Relay for Life and other such philanthropic events to execute events safely. She also has goals to advocate for betting funding and more inexpensive opportunities in college, such as ensuring the Issues credit does not have to be fulfilled by a large and expensive study abroad program. She has been transparent and set up meetings with some of her fellow candidates in the hopes that, should she become the VP, she’ll be able to effectively lead the group of people who were once running against each other.
      3. Kalafut: will make sure to continue and strengthen relationship with local governments in Allendale, Grand Rapids, etc.; it is imperative to bring all initiatives usually centered around Allendale to Grand Rapids, particularly with Grand Rapids; is eager to continue building relationships with other student universities, including the particularly important relationship with SVSU in regards to BoV. Kalafut is more than ready to ring BoV to fruition. State funding is also a significant part of ERC, and will not be taken lightly - she hopes to be a voice to increase financial support for students and the university. She will encourage other universities to ratify SCHEF
      4. Byers: in her first year on Senate, she supported many ERC initiatives; she was on the Menstrual Health Task Force; she works as the liaison with the City Council Commissioner, and is a City Council member of her hometown - all of which highlight her skills which prepare her for the VP of ERC role. She plans to become more involved with local organizations, businesses, and governments. Her experience on Senate has given her the opportunity to become acclimated to the inner workings of Senate, and shown her that she enjoys being on Senate. She intends to continue work with BoV and RentCollege Pads, and to work with other student governments. In order to make BoV successful, she will start early communication with Saginaw, she will start early fundraising, keeping herself up-to-date on COVID protocols with sports events, etc. She will looking for more ideas from other committee members
   3. Questions
      1. Gineman, to all: what are your plans outside of/after BoV?
         1. Frappier: community engagement and partnering with EAC to work with local schools on March is Reading Month; higher education funding and increasing it for GV; willing to sit on the board created by SCHEF
         2. Ochsenkahl: would focus on the two goals of cross-committee collaboration to look for alternative opportunities in the community for Issues credit, and higher education funding. Emphasizes that these are personal ideas and goals, and she will be taking the input of her committee members to collaborate and come up with a great plan for the rest of the year
         3. Kalafut: hopes to focus on getting a permanent polling place on campus, with civic engagement, and to continue work with RentCollege Pads. Would like to go to local highschools and share what Senate does; would like to partner with local organizations for volunteer opportunities.
         4. Byers: she has sent an implementation/continuation report a few days ago, and this list covers her ideas outside of BoV. She would like to advertise the Grand Rapids Public Library more (an idea first pitched by former Senator Hicks), collaborating with EAC; collaboration with DAC for having speakers come in throughout the year for Black History Month, Women’s Month, Indigenous Awareness, Veteran’s Day, etc.; collaboration with CAC to partner with Kent County Animal shelter to foster or adopt dogs for the day; collaboration with PRC on all of their events and ideas
      2. Schmidt, to all: how would you ensure that people with different viewpoints are heard, respected, and taken into consideration?
         1. Byers: she has family and friends who are on complete opposite spectrum of her personal political beliefs; if she is elected to this position, personal viewpoints would not have any effect on the work done. It is imperative to put personal beliefs aside in the best interest of the student body.
         2. Kalafut: believes that everyone has valid opinions based on their different life experiences. As long as the opinion is not hurting another person, they are entitled to their opinion. However, Senate is nonpartisan, and while this is true, one’s personal experiences still form their opinions. She will listen to everyone and learn from their experiences, listening to everyone will lead to obtaining the best outcome
         3. O’Neil motions to extend the time by 10 minutes, seconded by Prielipp. The motion passes and time is extended.
         4. Ochsankehl: disagreements and different ideas are vital to a robust community and Senate body. The best committees should be able to have different ideas. When it comes to resolving conflict, she has experience and training on it through work on her Greek Life committees. The ability to find common ground and keep a level head is vital. She has the ability to listen, understand, and give respect to those who are expressing their own ideas.
         5. Frappier: echoes much of what fellow running mates have said. He is an open-minded leader, he personally feels there are not that many ideas that could exist that he wouldn’t like as long as the individual presenting them can explain themselves. There were plenty of times on Cabinet or in his committee where he didn’t agree with everything they said, and a great aspect of Cabinet is the opportunity for individuals to give proper explanation for their idea and find proper support.
      3. O’Neil: two former projects of Pagel were the Housing Resolution and Spin project - what are your plans for these should you be elected?
         1. Ochsankehl: she and Pagel talked extensively on the Housing Resolution, as well as other projects, in which he advised her to focus on three, maybe four, five maximum projects a year. That being said, unless the Housing Project had a great desire to be completed, the Housing Project will not be one of her top priorities
         2. Byers: in regards to the RentCollegePads resolution, she has great support for this in light of her own personal problems with finding a good apartment. She will definitely continue with this project. Unfortunately, the Spin project didn’t gain a lot of traction in the past year as it was stuck in the administrative process, but Byers would like to continue with this initiative.
         3. Frappier: these projects got ride support from Senate last year and these resolutions had been strong. What is left is for the VP of ERC to reach out and meet with Beachnau and following up with RentCollegePads to implement. As for the Spin Project, it will be coming to the body this year through a collaboration of ERC and CAC - he plans to meet with Ford again and with VP McLogan in order to continue implementation
         4. Kalafut: spoke with Pagel on Spin Scooters and there are some concerns about pedestrians, clutter, and the boundaries that still need to be discussed before implementation. It is a wonderful project, and would like to continue this project despite the amount of kinks to work out. RentCollegePads is similarly a great project that she would want to continue.
      4. Byers motions to extend time by ten minutes, seconded by O’Neil. The motion passes.
      5. Zdunczyk, to all: what are one or two specific examples that you believe has prepared you for this role?
         1. Kalafut: Girl Scout Gold Award, earned through leading the initiative of providing menstrual pads for girls in Tanzania - this demonstrates that she can lead bigger projects, that she can coordinate many people; as well as a specific project in which she worked with creating Ad events, coordinate traffic and supplies distribution
         2. Frappier: volunteered for a local campaign in his hometown which he says was a ‘wake up call’ for his development of professionalism both for himself and in regards to external relations; additionally, his experience on Cabinet which gave him great mentors and motivations
         3. Byers: she’s had a professional, educational, and political relationship with ERC: being a commissioner on City Council, lead receptionist (interim assistant manager) at family salon, and the Menstrual Health Task Force
         4. Ochsankehl: would like to highlight her experiences a first generation college student, giving her a great appreciation for learning how to network and overcoming challenges that you did not expect. These skills and assets can be applied to any position or role. She also highlights her ability to maintain high academic achievement while also being a part of several on-campus organizations. Her work/life balance is pristine.
   4. Discussion
      1. E. Pearson: believes that having an individual who can jump right in with BoV and other projects is essential, as well as having an individual who has experience with the inner workings of Senate. All of the candidates bring something unique to the table, but highlights that Frappier would be the best fit for this role.
      2. Krichevsky: echoes E. Pearson, Frappier would make an amazing ERC VP. Specifically for this role, it would be ideal to have someone with previous experience, and once BoV is over, he’ll have the knowledge of how to navigate additional projects and their completion.
      3. Schmidt: Returners continually talk about how great it is that newcomers are here, but the Cabinet is made up entirely of returning Senators. It would be beneficial to have a newcomer on the Senate
      4. O’Neil: there is a lot of individual knowledge from the candidate, but there needs to be a lot of firsthand knowledge, which he believes Frappier has
      5. E. Pearson: it is 100% encouraged for newcomers to run, but with ERC’s position in general, it would probably be beneficial, especially with BoV, to have a returner. There is an extent your passion and drive can take you before firsthand experience is necessary
      6. J. Pearson: it would be a disservice to the new senators with this position needing so much experience. Does not want to throw new senators under the bus, so feels that supporting Frappier is the best option
   5. Voting
      1. E. Pearson motions to take attendance again before voting. It is seconded by Krichevsky. The motion passes.
      2. Suchecki places a voting link in the chat. It will be open from 6:53pm to 6:58pm.
      3. Frappier is elected as Vice President
8. New Business
   1. Call for New Orders of the Day
9. Public Comment - Part II
   1. Baker-Boosamra: thanks Mueller and Suchecki for running a smooth election; and congratulates the full 2021-2022 Cabinet
10. Officer Reports
    1. Senate Resources - Krichevsky
       1. Has got the SRC masterfile up and running
       2. Please review the internal documents before Fall Inservice, and note that leaving early or arriving late will result in a half-absence.
       3. Kirkhof Steering Committee met, Krichevsky looks forward to sharing the developments in the coming fall.
    2. Allocations - O’Neil
       1. Attended UAS meeting with Mueller, and echoes what they have noted
       2. Starting next week, he will begin working with the OSL on the budget and Student Life Fund
    3. Public Relations - E. Pearson
       1. First report is present in the Google Drive
       2. BoV promotional material is available. The first post will be made on Monday
       3. He is logged into all social media accounts with the exception of the Facebook group, which is on his priority list
       4. He has a design for the bulletin board, and they will complete this once the committee is put together
       5. Will begin working on the social media calendar
       6. Attended BoV transitions meeting, and is excited to say that the discussion on direction was great. A Slack channel was set up
       7. Sent out all LakerLink invites
       8. Reminders: in terms of speaking on behalf of the Senate Body as a whole, only E. Pearson or Mueller are able to speak. If senators are ever doing interviews, make clear that they are personal opinions. When sending out emails, make sure to CC VP or appropriate Cabinet members
    4. Campus Affairs - Zdunczyk
       1. Emailed some of the administration that CAC usually works with
       2. Created folders and posted documents within Drive
    5. Educational Affairs - Kidd
       1. Suchecki speaks on behalf of Kidd
       2. She sent introductions to all Deans with a contact list of EAC
       3. Attended BoV and Honours Curriculum and Development meetings this past week.
       4. Has created folders and added materials to the Shared Google Drive
       5. She is preparing a welcome packet for EAC
    6. Diversity Affairs - Gineman
       1. Started work on Google Drive folder
       2. Started introductory channels with all social justice centers on campus as well as with the director of Division, Inclusion and Equity.
       3. Attended BoV meeting with other members of the Cabinet
    7. External Relations - Frappier
       1. Will be finishing CAC wrap-up with Zdunczyk and will begin to prepare for ERC
11. Sub-Committee Reports
    1. Mental Health Awareness Rationale, presented by Mueller: Raak sent in his rationale, citing that the implementation of MHAC has had immense success with achieving its goals of advocating for students’ mental health. The stigmas around mental health are being broken, more students are coming forward and getting the support they need. He implores everyone to vote to reinstate MHAC.
       1. Gineman motions to reinstate MHAC and is seconded by Byers. The motion passes.
    2. Sustainability Rationale, presented by Cargill: this committee utilized collaboration and made implementation plans for the future on informing the community and bringing about physical projects such as on-campus food gardens. It is a committee dedicated to encouraging students to be conscious of environmental issues and to advocate for environmental change
       1. Gineman motions to reinstate the committee and is seconded by Byers. The motion passes.
    3. Sexual Assault Awareness Committee Rationale, presented by Byers: would love to continue the efforts of this year into the next year, especially in light of bringing a speaker to campus in the following semester. If re-elected Byers has a lot of plans that she is eager to continue with.
       1. Frappier motions to reinstate the committee and is seconded by Byers. The motion passes.
12. University Committee Reports
13. Roll Call - Part II
14. Call for Announcements
    1. Cargill: there are many off-campus opportunities for Earth Day in regards to clean-ups and volunteering initiatives
    2. Byers: she is currently in the process of creating an RSO for Reproductive Freedom. They are partnering with Planned Parenthood and looking for an advisor. Anyone interested in joining can contact her
15. Adjournment: 7:35pm