



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, January 23rd, 2020 — 4:30 pm

Pere Marquette, Kirkhof Center

President: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Executive Vice President: Kelly Dowker

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- I. Call to Order: 4:31pm
 - A. Moment of Silence
 - i. Native Land Recognition
 - B. Student Senate Creed
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance
 - D. Roll Call
 - II. Public Comment - Part I
 - A. Evan (RA) on food insecurity - 30% of students face it; denounces the use of Aramark, feels it is the duty of Senate to fight for a solution to these
 - III. Guest Speakers
 - A. Maria Cimitile, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
 - i. Offers a description of her position: provost is a chief operating officer in the university, deans report to provost; goal is to be student-centered
 - ii. Summer housing - references the discussion had at a prior GA, particularly ideas such as a tuition discount - wants it to be known that provosts is very aware of the financial burden college can be; a discount that makes a difference to an individual during the summer would make it difficult to maintain the programs year round. In order to make summer classes valuable, provost has asked professors to utilize hybrid or online classes to accommodate for flexibility; other suggestions were dining options and keep more dorms open, these are both things that are frequently discussed
 - iii. Questions
 - a. Siegrist - asks do we know how GV summer tuition to other state funded college tuition as well as their housing? // provost - housing/dining rates are the same all academic year, but these rates are lower than peers; work to raise tuition as little as possible and financial aid as much as possible
 - b. Benoit - references that without changing anything with tuition or housing, letting students know what courses are available further ahead of time; understands this could be difficult, but feels this is a suggestion worth exploring // provost explains how schedule is made. Takes about 4 months to build a schedule, provost recognizes this suggestion, last year made schedule visible sooner but how soon would it need to be visible in order to make an informed choice? What would that date be? / find that registering for an entire year helps students and admin to plan ahead —this is open for change, but would have to heavily consider pros/cons
 - c. Moine - offers support to scheduling both semesters at the same time; wanted to echo the benefit of online classes, as it is a helpful convenience / is aware of the concerns of the

quality of online vs. hybrid vs. in-class; senators state that they value online courses for independent learning, but that it does take away the socialization factor (Benoit); definitely depends on subject matter (Fritz); barrier to people wanting to stay for summer courses (in-person) would be activities—the same amount of activities during the academic school year differs (Thayer)

- d. Murarescu - who else are these types of conversations being had with (among the student body)? Found common theme vp found is that summer campus is not a student-friendly campus at the time. // conjecture: Focus groups recently; values student senate ;; recommends involving student workers and housing over the summer, especially RAs
- e. Hicks - Is there any data GV has gathered in regards to which demographics of the students stay for the summer, have we surveyed the students who stay for the summer for why, how, information similar; Provost responds that we do have analysis which answers these questions, currently mining the information to try and determine the trends and patterns
- f. Houtman - references online classes, in only one of three classes did a professor use the Skype portion and felt that this was helpful and could work around the face-to-face issue many have; recommends professors who teach online classes to become familiar with blackboard as well; provost goal is to continuously increase faculty's technological skills, encourage faculty of all generations to keep up with changing skill sets
- g. Provost - concludes with the importance of general education program, as it teaches a wide range of topics and skills, to be informed citizens
- h. Pres - thanks Provost for joining Senate for State of Student Body and for joining Senate today to share coming ideas and projects; thanks as well for engaging with faculty leaders on campus, appreciates the relationship Senate has with provost

IV. Five (5 Minutes) to Pass Papers

- A. Murarescu - Interfaith conference for Saturday, February 22nd, waived registration fee
- B. Mueller - Last Lecture tabling sign-up sheet, hour-long slots
- C. Pagel - archive day sign-up sheet
- D. Fritz - asks for Non-returners
- E. Szczepaniak - fill out the form that's in EVP's email to sign up for Senate table of President's Ball
- F. Nitzkin - Israel Seminar hosted by Hillel sign-up sheet

V. President's Report

- A. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Murarescu motions to move line item c under new business to above evp's report, seconded by Dowker. Motion passes unanimously
 - ii. Dowker motions to move five minute recess under Benoit's report to allow for Senate buddy interaction, seconded by Benoit; motion passes unanimously
 - iii. Thompson motions to move line items a and b under new business to after EVP's report, seconded by Fritz; motion passes unanimously
 - iv. Murarescu motions and Pagel seconds to approve agenda as amended, motion passes unanimously
- B. University Academic Senate on January 31st

- i. From 3-5pm downtown, if a senator would like to attend, they may contact Szczepaniak (who will be in attendance); at this point, there is no UAS agenda items for things that Senate has pushed for
 - C. Met with heads of two new RSOs that had questions about how to be successful on campus, how to reach out to Senate
 - D. Melissa Baker, Thayer And Szczepaniak met to discuss the two mass emails which will be sent prior to spring break; presidential primary in michigan will happen in March
 - E. Jacobs and Szczepaniak will be presenting at leadership summit from 10am to 4pm in Kirkhof on Date, hosted by OSL
 - F. Replenish week with McMahon was successful
 - G. MLK day of service is on Saturday (this coming); Szczepaniak will be going to Grand Rapids Pride center
 - H. GVSU design thinking day is tomorrow from 11am to 4pm where the future of GV will be discussed with President and her staff
 - I. Senate website has meeting minutes, resolutions posted
 - J. Pres and UAS chair Felix met on Tuesday
 - K. Pres has prepared the memos which will be sent upon approval of resolutions, which is his common practice though there is no formal process
- VI. Executive Vice President's Report**
- A. Approval of the Minutes
 - B. VP Samuels presents NASA funding request: this is more of a formality than discussion, CFB voted unanimously in favour of this request which has been adjusted appropriately
 - i. NASA acknowledges those who have lived and continue to live on this land; weren't allowed to practice cultural traditions until mid-1970s; April 4-April 5th in fieldhouse which celebrates NA culture through songs and dance, this year the focus will be the hiring of two-spirit and lgbt identifying people; OMA will provide staff support, several organizations on and off campus have donated funds, staff or time to this event.
 - ii. Questions - Sparks thanks NASA, asks what the invitation is like, who is invited/does someone have to be invited? Everyone is invited, no invitation necessary, it is an open event
 - iii. Moine - shows support and enthusiasm that this is occurring on campus
 - iv. Opens floor for discussion on the standing motion to approve the 2020 Celebrating all Walks of Life Powwow - there is none. Motion passes 26 approval, no disapproval, x abstentions
- VII. Appointments**
- A. Appointment of Haley Sawatzki to the Educational Affairs Committee - Mueller provides rationale; Mueller motions to appoint, seconded by McMahon, senators voice their support, motion passes unanimously
 - B. Appointment of Kevin Freeman to the Finance Committee - Samuels provides rationale; Samuels motions to appoint, seconded by Murarescu, motion passes unanimously
- VIII. Unfinished Business**
- A. Discussion and Voting on Resolution W-20-01: Student Perception Survey
 - i. Holcomb and Hicks - grammar changes were made, but the substance did not altered
 - ii. Discussion:
 - a. Murarescu - appreciates the listening to feedback and many voices, supports

- b. Siegrist - feels last discussion was helpful and that it was a great addition to student senate
- c. Houtman offers support, for future discussion this is not on immediate implementation, it is on getting the ball rolling ; anyone who would like to be involved in the prior conversation can contact Hicks/Holcomb
- d. Murarescu motions to approve resolution, seconded by Houtman. Motion passes with 26 aye 1 nay and 1 abstention; motion passes

IX. New Business

A. Discussion on Resolution W-20-02: Voting Barriers

- i. Jacobs and Thayer present; Thayer this stems from Student Collegiate Student Advisory Taskforce with the goal of getting information to students on electoral process and getting students to vote; resolution is for the university for formally acknowledge and endorse what was done in the taskforce, and perhaps to go above and beyond
- ii. Jacobs reads through resolution
- iii. Questions
 - a. Siegrist - concerns with adding to syllabi, does not feel it is necessary to include this, as it may not pertain to the syllabus // Jacobs - the purpose of putting it into syllabi allows students to be able to have access to this information that might not be seen otherwise, feels that adding to the syllabi permits a new avenue to inform students, civic education is essential to people of every major ; Thayer adds that it would not take away from the educational material, despite whether or not the information on elections/voting is related to the class
 - b. Siegrist - agrees with the importance of civic education, but doesn't see syllabi as the best place to advertise material given the other methods/mediums; doesn't feel this should be a mandated thing for professors to put in syllabi, but is comfortable if a professor willingly places it there
 - c. Benoit - reminds Senates to read minutes, emails, resolutions before coming to GA; supports utilizing the syllabus; makes a friendly amendment to change 'political' to 'community', as political should not belong in the resolution
 - d. Hicks - previous resolutions were passed in relation to campus scheduling part which would be useful to reference in this resolution; as student senate has a history of supporting resolutions such as this; feels that University and Senate's goals and visions support this resolution perfectly; friendly amendment for final whereas, to make the first sentence flow more smoothly
 - e. Thayer - if passed next week, we cannot let it go; it's up to the body to promote civic engagement at all time
 - f. Moine - supports resolution; asks for university transport, is it an issue for the Rapid to implement a new stop, is that in the scope of GV's ability? Jacobs - sounds like an implementation feature, but the CSLC does have their own version of transportation
 - g. Melissa and others are working on getting a precinct close/on campus, which would alleviate the need for so much transportation
 - h. Gamage - rather than including this on syllabus, could we perhaps put elections on university calendar? ; Thayer - working with faculty to be able to broadcast information in an effective way, encouraging professors who have it on their syllabus to talk about it.

Hopes syllabi and university calendar, anywhere where it is possible to place this information

- i. Sparks - offers support; makes friendly amendment for wording
 - j. Pearson - great idea to implement registration into orientation; university transport, where would new stops be advertised to students? // Thayer responds, publicizing all voter registration everywhere, including stops. However, that would be a question for implementation discussion
 - k. Siegrist - highlights importance of difference of opinion
 - l. Fritz - syllabus is about accessibility, but it is up to the students to take the initiative
 - m. Thompson - putting it on the syllabus doesn't cause that much harm and should not be a reason to vote against the resolution
 - n. Houtman - Do you see the syllabus section pertaining to vote in all semesters or just otherwise? // Jacobs - all syllabi, as it's about accessibility
 - o. Will be up for a vote next Thursday
- B. Discussion on University Committees, Appointments, Follow-Up
- i. In reference to conversations about the relevance of University committees
 - ii. Pres provides brief overview of Senate's relationship with University committees, how appointments are made to these committees; majority of students serving on these are from senate or graduate body, senate has not created an effective system that gives this information to other students.
 - iii. To GA: Are there university committees that could have used training? What might that training look like? Do you understand your role? How do you think committees should operate to make it easier for students to engage?
 - a. Murescu - being involved with university committees is important to Senate's work, but it's also important to include other voices in the conversation; it may be difficult to get one's opinion in, so she would have appreciated someone telling me that it's important to speak your mind and that it's important for students to be there; supports extending this to other students
 - b. Siegrist - important to understand what students' role is, tools on how to engage in conversation
 - c. Houtman - communication from the committees is important, maintaining communication
 - d. Moine - trainings and preparations for committees is a necessity if students outside of senate want to be included
 - e. Hicks - useful to prepare something akin to a Transition report with contact information, general information, typical agenda items and what purpose the committee serves.; feels student senate underutilizes other connections such as leaders board, Greek life, cook honors, feels that these organizations are filled with students who would be helpful to them
 - f. Fritz - certain committees have more student involvement/need more student involvement than others; mention to university committees to utilize the student voice and actively engage students in the conversations