



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, January 30th, 2020 — 4:30 pm

Pere Marquette - Kirkhof Center

President: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Parliamentarian: Hannah Benoit

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm
 - A. Moment of Silence
 - i. Native Land Recognition
 - B. Student Senate Creed
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance
 - D. Roll Call
 - II. Public Comment - Part I
 - Erin - references the comments made by a former GVSU offensive coordinator; encourages Senate to stand in support of the Lanthorn who has covered the aforementioned story despite fear of administrative backlash, as they were told not to fully publish the article
 - Caroline - asks Senate to lend a hand for leadership during President's Ball; asks for further collaboration with CAB throughout this event (and future events); there has been 15 people who have dropped from their commitment to coat check, asks for about 8 volunteers to help with coat check (will pass around a sign-up sheet for a two hour shift)
 - Hannah Kelly (student statement read by President Szczepaniak) - encourages Senate to support the Lanthorn and transparency
 - III. Guest Speakers
 - IV. Dean Annie Bélanger, Matt Ruen - University Libraries
 - Dean speaks on her background, that she is an immigrant, first-gen college grad, who is disabled and speaks English as a second language; as a dean, her responsibility is to vision, strategic planning, budget, planning and implementation, facilities, risk management and workforce development as well as ensuring people achieves success
 - Speaks on the Libraries purpose: equity-centered which support students in being academically successful and as being active and engaged citizens
 - Core goal: how do we benefit our users? What can we do further and how can use what we know to improve? How do we practice inclusion and equity?
 - Matt Ruen speaks (Scholarly communications outreach coordinator) on OERs - typically refers to scholarly literature or resources which is free and has permission from the author/owner to be used/disbursed
 - At GV (as of July) - 13 courses use OERs in some or all sections, working on developing an incentive to adopt OER, and 6 current OER projects

- In Libraries: 23 published OERs, joined open textbook network, actively seeking grant opportunities; partnered with FTLC
- Highlights Student Senate's role in advocating for OERs such as the creation of the 2018-19 OER Task Force which made three recommendations to BoT which will be implemented; increased the creation, conversation and knowledge of OER
- OER is a high profile topic in higher education; Michigan and Midwestern working on coordinating efforts; opposition to the Cengage/McGraw-Hill merger
- For the future: continue bringing attention to OER efforts through Senate's role in committees, collaborative advocacy and "canvassing" for OER awareness; encourages students/Senate to speak up if a "student-centered" organization or program does not fulfill their goal.
- Questions
- Siegrist - offers support and appreciation for those who advocate and use OERs
- Gamage - Knowledge market is now online, how can students utilize that?
Gvsu.edu/libraries/km; the virtual resource market is a newly implemented resource to students that is designed to be as accessible as possible
- Ruen - to those interested in speaking to professors on this, MacIntosh has developed a project "script" to support its

V. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

- Valentine's week tabling
- Jacobs - tabling for voter registration for next week's tabling and a date for March 11th
- Murarescu - Interfaith leadership lab conference on Saturday February 22nd, free for student senators

VI. President's Report

A. Adoption of the agenda

- Benoit would like to add the appointment of Arthur to EAC under new business, the new line item a. Seconded by Murarescu. Motion passes unanimously
- Fritz motions to change line item a under new business to say only discussion; rationale is that Fritz would like to be approved by OSL and Stoll before it is approved by the body; seconded by Mueller; motion passes with one nay
- Murarescu motions to approve agenda as amended, seconded by Gamage; motion passes unanimously
- Pres report: shares some things which he will be speaking of at the next BoT meeting such as that all three campuses have interfaith rooms, opposition to Grand River Waterway project, building student agency and feedback with Student Perception Survey and previous resolution, addressing some of the voting barriers and potential solution, brief remarks on the SoSB as well as GVSU Design thinking session, mentioning the menstrual hygiene products projects (will be speaking with Provost next wednesday)

- Wanted to address the recent events with respect to the Morris Berger story: what he said was inappropriate, we stand with Jewish community - good reminder to be perceptive of how we view the world, speak, behave; it is inappropriate for University administrators to attempt to censor/intimidate students, student journalists; keep in mind that at GV, one should never be put in this situation

VII. Executive Vice President's Report

A. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes stand approved

VIII. Unfinished Business

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

- Grammatical changes and wording alterations suggested at the previous meeting were completed
- Houtman - supports
- Hicks motions to approve Resolution W-20-02, seconded by Murarescu; motion passes unanimously (31)

IX. New Business

A. Appointment of Arthur to EAC, rationale provided by VP Mueller - Mueller motions to appoint and is seconded by Benoit; motion passes unanimously

B. Discussion on 2020-2021 Elections Packet

- Fritz presents Elections packet and highlights the changes made from last year's packets; this will be sent in an email for Senators to review
- Packet includes timeline, eligibility criteria, rules/regulations, candidate petition - ten extra spots have been added which are not required, but available
- This year, the packets will be due March 20th; April 9th first meeting of '20-'21 Senate
- Highlights significance of looking through rules/regulations
- Questions
- Szczepaniak - 6pm on Friday April 17th will be the end of year dinner; talk to VPs if there is interest in running for VP role; if not returning, reach out to VP Fritz to help with elections commission
- Murarescu - offers suggestion to correct the second bullet point of the rules/regulations to make it sound better
- Hicks - suggests avoid using terminology like "preferred name or pronouns", by changing it to "don't have to use legal name"
- Thompson - is it specifically stated the purpose of the extra 10 spaces? / no, the only thing specified is that you only need 100 signatures and will add language to reflect the purpose of the 10 spaces
- Benoit rescinds nay vote from above
- Szczepaniak shares that one is allowed to campaign with up to 3 people and the limit per campaign is \$100

C. Discussion on Mackinac Signage Project

- Houtman presents information: came up with idea to put up new signage for each of Mackinac's wings; met with facilities and project was greenlit, they're working on mock-ups for it, asked for Houtman to bring this to Senate to come up with what kind of language would be preferred
- Questions:
- Thompson - perhaps full language of "Building A" would be appropriate, citing concern for braille placement
- Frappier - even just putting a letter on the door would be helpful, agrees with Thompson
- Nitzkin - letter/colour should correspond with colour of the wing; Houtman said this would be difficult without re-signing the entire building - it is in the plan to re-sign building within the next 5 years
- Gamage - outside signage should be consistent with wording of existing signs
- Holcomb - would recommend "Entrance to A Wing" and feels that using "building" may be confusing to newcomers
- Thompson - agrees with Holcomb, and whatever Houtman and facilities decide is great as long as braille is included
- Mueller references how some signs say "building a with entrance to e" as an option

D. Call for New Orders of the day

- Hicks - motion to introduce and open discussion on student senate statement of support for Lanthorn, seconded by Murarescu; motion passes with three nays;
- Discussion on statement of support for Lanthorn
- Vazquez - statement does not mention recent events, references that senate works for students and supports students; this does not have to do with content of article, rather the attempts to limit journalism and the management of that process and its follow-up
- Hicks displays prepared statement of support
- Questions
- Siegrist - support Lanthorn's rights to publish, would caution body in moving forward with a statement that with this timing would definitely call events into question regardless of including content
- Thayer - originally opposed publishing a statement, but changed mind and feels that the statement accurately supports Lanthorn and does not invite nearly as much politically controversy as some may be afraid of
- Holcomb - concern that we are taking agency from Lanthorn to handle their crisis if this is their concern, but supports the statement. ; Hicks - argues that Lanthorn shouldn't have to ask for Senate to support them
- Houtman - Senate shouldn't be sticking neck out in places it doesn't belong; Lanthorn is strong institution, not the first nor the last time they will be under fire for anything; if

Lanthorn wants support, give it to them, but until we are asked, we shouldn't involve ourselves with it

- Neal - Senate should uphold its creed and lend support
- Thompson - does not understand the argument against offering a statement of support; Lanthorn may not have outwardly asked, but does not understand why they would; poses a question to ask how many asked those at the Lanthorn how they are doing?; feels a statement of support is necessary and ethical
- Fritz - feels that statement should have been written as a group effort of the Senate; senators should touch base with each other, even if there are disagreements; references an email that Mantella sent out giving an overview and how the administration decided to act. In email, it says "we can now move forward", feels like this statement is coming after the fact and ruffling the feathers that are already put down. Can understand the sentiment behind both sides, make it clear that Senate supports Lanthorn, but the decision to or to not put a statement out does not sway that support; does not know if much impact will be made by putting this statement out;
- Hicks responds - this was began last night in the office that several senators had a hand in, statement was sent to Cabinet at noon; not about the content, but about the actions of the athletics department; wonders what it would look like if we support Lanthorn behind closed doors and ot in person
- Nitzkin - situation is over, investigation is an HR issue; if editor in chief of Lanthorn feels it isn't necessary, then Senate shouldn't do it. If anything, Senate should repost the statement Hillel made
- Hicks - reiterates that it's not the content, it's the opposition of the athletics department
- Arthur - if Senate does not post a statement, it may do more harm to those who will view this as a statement in and of itself; this statement can be a perfect end to the situation
- Thayer - posit that if we wait for students to give an invitation, then we will wait for a long time
- Pearson - important that as a GV family, one shouldn't have to ask for help it should just be given; feels this statement also covers all future incidents of censorship; it's clear to the Lanthorn, but it may not be clear to the students
- Holcomb - wanted to note appreciation to Hicks for bringing statement forward, feels concern that Senate is too concerned with how Senate looks as opposed to how Lanthorn would be affected
- Thompson - easy to support from behind the scenes, but publicly is both powerful and intentional
- Fritz - feels that Lanthorn should be apart of this discussion, to discuss effects; want to urge the fact that not publicly saying something does not mean it subsides or doesn't exist
- Murarescu suggests pulling up the email sent by Mantella. Vazquez reads email

- Houtman - none of what he said meant that we should wait for all students or organizations to ask for help, but given this situation feels that it isn't appropriate for us to participate in.
- Nitzkin - this statement is going to drag the situation on; Senate doesn't need to have their hand on this
- Armstrong - statement pertains directly to Lanthorn, feels that this should be a conversation with Lanthorn, but based on statements it sounds as though the Lanthorn does not want this to continue
- Siegrist - all we can ask for is what the university is already doing: forming an investigation
- Hicks - university has not addressed that athletics department has asked to take an article down
- Justin - Lanthorn didn't think it was necessary to do this; feels it's important to support Lanthorn, doesn't see a problem in making a post when the issue is over; shouldn't happen in a time of controversy when they are trying to put the matter to rest
- Wheeler - not working to avoid a controversy, supporting students
- Benoit - would suggest that everyone recall the comments made during public comment by Erin MacIntosh; would argue that this is our place
- Thayer motions to suspend bylaws to vote now and Thompson seconds.
- Nitzkin - wants to respect bylaws
- Benet - highlighting importance to make a speedy response, feels it's appropriate to suspend the bylaws
- Holcomb - having this discussion wrap up tonight would be valuable to Senate's time
- Vazquez - regardless of what is voted, we all respect everyone's opinion. Let it be decided tonight
- Murarescu motions to retake role, seconded by Hicks; motion passes unanimously
- Role is retaken, 33 in attendance
- Vote to suspend bylaws - 24-8 motion passes
- Hicks motions to pass statement of support; seconded by Vazquez;
- Siegrist - regardless of the outcome that the amount of senators is disappointing given the significance of the debate
- 11-21-1 ; motion fails

X. Five (5) Minute Recess - will return at 6:45pm

XI. Public Comment - Part II

- Student - the act is not supporting the Lanthorn; if Lanthorn was not strong enough, they would not have published article; would recommend to make a statement that urges action to be taken against the perpetrator
- Kellen, sports editor for the Lanthorn - on behalf of the Lanthorn, thanks Senate for their support; would like to personally thank Senator Dowker and Senator Vazquez

- Fritz motions to suspend officer reports given the time; seconded by Thompson
- Discussion
- Benoit - has a bit to remind everyone about before next week
- Frappier - if reminders could be done in calls for announcements, that would be helpful
- Murarescu - important to keep going through meeting, do what we have to do
- Marlowe - one of the biggest barriers is the length of meetings; especially when things can be posted online or sent through email
- Thompson - since this is a motion to be voted on, should we reinstate the bylaws / Pres. - don't need to, it's a simple majority vote
- Motion passes 22-9-1

XII. Sub-Committee Reports

- DeBerry - met with self wellness task force, notes are in MHAC folder; on February 12th (11am-2pm) the wellness fair is downtown; mental health care fair will be on February 19th from 6-8pm; MHAC will not officially meet anymore due to lack of participation; will meet with certain people here and there to carry forward but no more official meeting times
- Hicks - Valentines week is coming; met with facilities this morning, meet on Monday

XIII. University Committee Reports

- Mueller - attending meeting last friday for University Libraries Advisory committee where they discussed OERs and open access; a lot of talk was on affordability and issues with higher education and how professors were struggling to implement open access; also discussed library's approach to budget cuts, unfortunately there will be more which will affect us in the future. ; discussed publishing model and how library is focusing on pushing back on how professors publish their articles, as when publishing with Grand Valley you have to sign over your rights and cannot own work; talked about MIT framework for publisher contracts; collective actions with other universities; talking about university tenure - open access is not considered on tenure application, working to change this; inter library loan - loan library will give you to write open access materials is encouraging for professors

XIV. Call for Announcements

- Murarescu - vote what you care for with your attendance; highlights some events coming up: campus interfaith will have a site visit to Temple Emanuel; through OMA and in collaboration with cultural student orgs, there has been made a schedule for Black History month programming and activities as well as Native American/Pacific Islander heritage celebration; DAC will start a slack channel to plan a field trip to Ferris State where they have a Jim Crow museum; CD is starting to implement a program to donate unused meals at the end of the week/semester - join the discussion by attending DAC
- Pagel - Archive day sunday at 3pm in Senate office focus on higher education funding
- Vazquez - appreciates hearing from multiple VPs and the discussion

- Thompson - if someone is available to meet for the food insecurity task force, inform Thompson
- Samuels - CFB and Approps tomorrow
- McMahon - makes some pointers on professional conduct and body language during meeting;
- Nitzkin - February 11th 6pm in Kentwood 5\$ dinner
- Dailey - tomorrow from 3-6 RHA is doing a beauty salon for Pres Ball
- Benoit - CTF meetings, important to learn about docs even if not on committee; Senate Climate Survey will be launched tonight; inservice is next week
- Szczepaniak : available for UAS tomorrow, inform pres; take care of each other for president's ball

XV. Adjournment: 7:17