



General Assembly

Thursday, February 25th, 2021 — 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

President: Kelly Dowker

Parliamentarian: Grace McMahon

- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm
 - A. Moment of Silence for Native Land Recognition
 - B. Student Senate Creed
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance
 - D. Roll Call - Part I
- II. Public Comment - Part I
 - A. Steve Catlin speaks. He has been working on a project with Pagel and Raak in regards to providing resources to housing education and landlord accountability. Feels that it is key for students to be at the center of this conversation.
 - i. Questions
 - a) Byers: will we be able to leave reviews for landlords we have had a poor experience with? Catlin: yes, there are a variety of review systems such as live reviews (describing your experience); another option is to put out a student survey which would allow the website to accumulate responses immediately as opposed to over the course of the year.
- III. Guest Speakers
 - A. GVSU Career Center - Rachel Becklin
 - i. Becklin shares some information on the center:
 - a) the Career Center is still open and functional, though the downtown campus is closed for in-person meetings. This center provides resources on writing cover letters, resumes, interviews in a drop-in space, career planning, exploring careers, and working to the end goal of what comes next after one leaves Grand Valley.
 - b) Every student has a career advisor, organized by major. Becklin encourages all students to utilize the career center as soon as possible
 - c) Employers are still looking for workers, though most of the events and activities will happen online.
 - d) March 18th is the Work Like a Laker Conference from 2pm-6pm, all online
 - e) Handshake is a great resource where internships and job opportunities are posted. All of the Career Center's events are posted on Handshake, as well.
 - f) Career Center services are available forever - alumni are able to access these resources

- ii. Questions
 - a) Pagel emphasizes the importance of getting involved with the Career Center as soon as possible. How do you see the Student Senate being a resource for the Career Center?
 - (i) Becklin - if there are any partnership opportunities that Senate sees, please let the Career Center know. The center is always looking for ways to contribute in a relevant manner
 - b) McMahon: Is there anything in particular students need to do in order to attend the Work Like a Laker Conference?
 - (i) Becklin - all of the events ask that you register beforehand in order to register for the events. The Career fair requires that individuals make a profile on the platform Career Fair Plus. Other events, such as resume review, may require you to bring additional material. Information on this is available where one signs up for the event

B. Virus Action Team Report - Ed Aboufadel

- i. Aboufadel presents a slide describing who consists of the Virus Action Team
- ii. Aboufadel provides a brief overview of the responsibilities of the team, such as having daily meetings to discuss current data on self-assessment, isolation and quarantine, testing and tracing, vaccination activities, etc., and presenting information.
- iii. Aboufadel presents a graph showing the trend of cases in the GVSU community. Since Christmas, the numbers have been low
- iv. As of yesterday, there are twenty active cases total. In comparison, there were 440 active cases in mid-November
- v. The total number of cases at GV since August is 2514. Cases that occurred in the past where were only recently reported were added to their appropriate time slot on the graph.
- vi. Other universities: Calvin has implemented a 2-week stay at home order, while Northern Michigan University is "virus free" - there appears to be no consistency. Aboufadel feels that GV has been doing well in terms of their aggressive approach to testing and adhering to public health guidelines
- vii. Aboufadel presents a graph and chart on variant strains. Michigan has some of the highest presences of variant strains in the country.
- viii. Testing will be moving to an antigen test, which should provide results within 15 minutes. PCR retests will be made available for positives.
- ix. Current vaccination options require two doses, though a one-shot vaccine has just been approved. Supplies are presently limited, but there is expected to be more available soon. The campus is prepared to have an on-campus clinic, if GV obtains doses, but it is unlikely that this will be set up this semester due to availability.
- x. At this point, it is hard to say what Fall 2021 will look like, but the team is anticipating Fall 2021 to look like Fall 2019: $\frac{3}{4}$ tradition and $\frac{1}{4}$ online.

- xi. Aboufadel presents the approximate time table for vaccination distribution within Michigan.
- xii. Questions
 - a) Pagel - do you see a student senator on the Virus Action Team in the future?
 - (i) Aboufadel - haven't thought about it, but would a student senator be available five days a week for an hour long meeting? It's time consuming, but if Senate asked to have a student senator attend every once in a while (lower time commitment), that would be alright
 - b) Cargill - What can we learn from other institutions?
 - (i) Aboufadel: the things GV is doing seems to be best practice. Transmission also seems to occur more between friends, family, at restaurants, etc. So campuses that have not made attempts to limit "party culture" are negatively impacted
 - c) Noble - How worried is the Virus Action Team about the new variant, particularly the one from the University of Michigan?
 - (i) Aboufadel - the good news is that all the preventative measures GV has been doing already works just as well with the new variants. The team is concerned, not about the whole university, but that there will be hotspots, such as in a dormitory. The team looks for clusters of cases in particular--last semester, these were present. If there is another surge, GV may have to go remote, but the team is being optimistic, especially in light of the increased number of vaccinated individuals

C. Rent College Pads - Steve Catlin - Questions and answers were presented in Public Comment Part I

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

V. President's Report

A. Adoption of the Agenda

- i. Proposed election timeline for VP of SRC has been added since the body first received the agenda
- ii. The agenda stands approved

B. Meeting with President's Campus went well

C. Academic Student Affairs committee is tomorrow, Dowker will present student concerns on campus

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

A. Approval of the Minutes

- i. These stand approved

B. Bylaw Review was completed. Changes will be presented next week in a side-by-side comparison

C. Headshots were completed, so McMahon will begin talking to Promotions about compiling the composite.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion and Voting on Resolution W-21-02: Show Support of and Encourage Grand Valley State University to Partner with “Rent College Pads” and Provide Housing Assistance to Students

- i. Pagel presents a few adjustments made to the resolution. There are some statements that provide for more student feedback, in order to ensure that students are more a part of conversation moving forward. Pagel and Raak read through the resolution
- ii. Byers - severely emphasizes her support for this resolution, feels it will be helpful to a lot of students who may be in the same predicament that Byers herself is currently in
- iii. Senators cast their vote through an online link.
- iv. With 30 yays, 2 nays and no abstentions, the resolution passes

VIII. New Business

A. Nominations for Vice President for Senate Resources

- i. Frappier nominates Senator Krichevsky. He provides rationale in that he’s seen a lot of growth in Krichevsky’s leadership abilities and believes she would be the best fit. This nomination is seconded by Gineman, and accepted by Kirchevsky.
- ii. Senator Jasmyn Pearson nominates Senator Ferreyra. In the same committee last year, she was hard-working and capable. This nomination is seconded by Byers, and accepted by Ferreyra

B. Proposed Elections Timeline

- i. Moine presents the proposed Student Senate Elections schedule as created by co-chairs Moine and Neal.
- ii. One of the major discussions is whether or not Senate should reimplement obtaining 100 physical signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. Neal and Moine have come to the conclusion that this will not occur. This will require the bylaws to be suspended and the system to be adjusted for this semester alone. This is in response to the current pandemic climate.
- iii. Voting on this timeline will take place next week. Upon approval, it will be made available on Thursday, March 5th for students to file to run. The deadline for filing is March 25th.
- iv. Questions
 - a) Dowker - have the co-chairs formed a channel of Slack for the elections commission? Moine and Neal have not yet put together an elections commission, so the Slack channel has not been opened.

C. Call for New Orders of the Day

IX. Public Comment - Part II

X. Officer Reports

A. Senate Resources

- i. McMahon and Dowker will be presenting the climate survey with SRC in the next week

B. Allocations - Siegrist

C. Public Relations - Moine

- i. PRC had a productive meeting this past week

- ii. Will be reaching out to DAC to find out an update to the Bulletin Board
- iii. Working on some ideas to boost engagement on social media
- iv. A committee member will write something for the Lanthorn this week, so Moine will touch base with them
- v. PRC is tentatively planning a roundtable discussion/town hall. Tentatively planned meeting for March 16th, targeted towards freshmen. The plan is to have targeted town halls
- vi. Reminder that Senator of the Week is still live, submissions are still open

D. Campus Affairs - Frappier

- i. Succulents with Senators went very well. There are some succulents and pots left unpainted

E. Educational Affairs - Mueller

- i. Last Lecture was on Tuesday, attendance was great, but it was recorded so it will be posted
- ii. K-12 Connect Program is still looking for tutors and mentors. Those interested can reach out to Mueller for assistance if required
- iii. ULAC is meeting on Friday to talk about the new strategic planning process, which Mueller will attend

F. Diversity Affairs - Neal

- i. Sunday at 6pm, Neal will be speaking at the SFS hosted town hall
- ii. Bingo is tonight from 7-8pm
- iii. Is in contact with someone from the LGBTQIA+ center to continue pronoun discussion on the broader campus

G. External Relations - Pagel

- i. Some senators and Pagel were able to meet with GVSU administrators to talk about civic engagement and government
- ii. ASMSU meeting was successful, Saginaw Valley meeting will be next week; and the following BoV meeting will be on March 16th
- iii. The housing project went great, appreciates everyone's assistance on it
- iv. Tomorrow at 3pm will be a meeting to speak on each individual's student experience as well as their experience on Student Senate.
- v. Moine and Pagel have met with promotions to talk about a BoV video, as well as discussed a potential trophy

XI. Subcommittee Reports

XII. University Committee Reports

- A. Wheeler, Outstanding Service Award Committee - it was a quick meeting to go over the process of award recipient selection. There is potentially new award criteria and even a potential addition of some awards
- B. Raak, University Assessment - discussed on how to provide feedback on self-study reports
- C. Suchecki, Lift Management - focusing on trying to dive into the bias that comes with the data and decide if we can get any good data out of these evaluations in terms of how a professor actually teaches a course as opposed to the potentially emotionally-driven review provided by students

- XIII. Roll Call - Part II
- XIV. Call for Announcements
 - A. Neal - Bingo is in Kirkhof 2263 from 7-8pm today
 - B. Cargill - Cook Leadership Academy has extended the application deadline; there is also an application for the Student Advisory Board led by Dean Rullman
- XV. Adjournment: 5:47pm