



General Assembly

Thursday, March 18th, 2021 — 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

Vice President: Grace McMahon

Parliamentarian: Alexis Krichevsky

- 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
- III. Guest Speakers - Dr. Carl Brown, Executive Director, GVSU Speech Lab
 - A. Begins with thanking Student Senate and their role in participating within the community, both GV and the broader nation
 - B. Presents PowerPoint:
 - i. Senate Role: part of using one's voice is understanding that people listen - and words carry weight; the focus of giving a speech is to change /your/ world, /your/ society; change is inevitable, and when we speak, we need to be thoughtful
 - ii. Clarity is Key
 - a) Communication is transactional - both take away something new from an interaction;
 - b) organization is vital - Brown recommends Monroe's Motivated Sequence, but all organization should always include a plan to solve a problem with clear steps;
 - c) logic is simple - whenever one lays out a plan for someone, think about how one can logically lay out the idea in order to see steps without leaving spaces where the audience might need to connect the dots;
 - d) delivery is important - don't forget to make eye contact, change language, avoid 'I' and 'you' statements; be conversational with people; you don't need to sound smart, you need to sound clear
 - C. Harnessing Passions
 - i. Passions are celebrated - without people who are passionate about causes, nothing would change
 - ii. Visceral Reactions - don't disregard your reactions to events, use it as a motivation
 - iii. Ethos, logos, pathos - credibility, logic, emotion; don't let one outweigh the others
 - iv. Obstacles - there are obstacles to making an effective connection that everyone who speaks in public is

- D. GV Speech Labs
 - i. “Like the writing center, but for speaking”, everyone who works in the center is well-qualified to help students with any oral presentation. Regardless of what step a student is in their speech writing, practicing, presenting process, the lab is available
- E. Questions
 - i. Siegrist - with the pandemic, how should we adapt our speeches through Zoom?
 - a) Brown - many things, but a few ideas are: don’t forget that, though it is a different medium, the process remains the same; remember that the face is the center of attention; be aware of your environment, try not to use a background and be aware of what’s happening (if you’re on a bedroom, be aware of cleanliness, etc.); don’t lose the focus on sharing the message, and be familiar with the technology
- IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers
 - A. O’Neil and Frappier are partnering with the OSL to do a service event (end of the first week of community outreach week). Volunteering opportunity will be available on Slack
- V. President’s Report
 - A. Adoption of the Agenda - stands approved
 - B. McMahon reads a letter on behalf of Dowker. As a result of on-going health concerns, Dowker will be stepping back from their role on Student Senate. They will be finishing their transitions report as well as being in communication with VPs and EVP on transitioning. McMahon will serve as temporary President until Cabinet on Sunday where the conversation on this will continue
 - C. Baker-Boosamra emphasizes the importance of respecting and supporting Dowker’s decision and their mental health. Thanks EVP McMahon and Cabinet leadership, is confident of their conversation this weekend
 - D. State of the Student Body will be on March 25th at 4:30pm - campus administrators, faculty and staff, and students will be invited. This will then go into another General Assembly meeting.
 - E. No meeting on April 1st
 - F. Last meeting is on April 8th; first meeting of newly elected body will follow
- VI. Executive Vice President’s Report
 - A. Approval of the Minutes - stand approved
 - B. Please read through all of McMahon’s email and the attached documents
 - C. If you’re planning on running for next body, please file to run. The set up (in person or online) will be up to the next body. Those interested in running for a Cabinet position should reach out to a/their VP
 - D. Elect Her (which Senate is a partner host of) nominations and registration are both open. The program is open to everyone interested in leadership, in running for office
- VII. Unfinished Business
 - A. Voting on the Bylaws
 - i. McMahon shares screen to present the Bylaws document. She does not read through the document, but it is presented to prepare to answer questions. Table of contents will be updated when finalized

- ii. Siegrist motions to approve the Bylaws for next year (2021-2022); Moine seconds. McMahon places the voting link into the chat.
 - iii. Motion passes unanimously (27 votes)
 - B. Voting on the Financial Policies and Procedures
 - i. Siegrist presents Financial Policies and Procedures document to provide a source for questions and comments
 - ii. Moine motions to approve the Financial Policies and Procedures and is seconded by Siegrist. McMahon places a second voting link in the chat.
 - iii. Motion passes unanimously (25 votes)
 - C. Discussion and Voting on Resolution W-21-03: Further Standardize Online Learning Shells to Increase Understanding and Engagement
 - i. Senator Kidd presents the resolution document as a source for questions and comments.
 - ii. Discussion:
 - a) Zdunczyk - appreciates the effort and work that went into this, feels it will greatly benefit Grand Valley
 - b) Gineman echoes Zdunczyk
 - iii. Moine motions to approve W-21-03 and is seconded by Mueller. McMahon places third voting link into the chat
 - iv. Motion passes with 24 yays, 2 nays and no abstentions
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Call for New Orders of the Day
- IX. Public Comment - Part II
- X. Officer Reports
 - A. Senate Resources - Krichevsky
 - i. Bonding event to celebrate Senate's accomplishment is in the work - information to be placed in the Slack
 - ii. Krichevsky is sitting on Kirkhof Renovations steering committee, meeting tomorrow
 - B. Allocations - Siegrist
 - i. Has been working on Financial Policies and Procedures for the last few weeks, looking forward to their implementation
 - ii. Also working on budgeting for student life fund, and given the university's budget crisis, the information which would usually be presented today is unable to be presented. We are budgeting for the same allocated student life fund next year. Next GA will see the Student Life Fund budget presented, which will then be voted on at the April 8th GA meeting
 - iii. All information is up to date in Allocations folder in regards to all of Siegrist's projects as well as transitions report
 - iv. Praises each senators for their efforts and hard work during a very difficult year
 - v. Questions
 - a) McMahon - when voting on the student life fund, you have to be trained in voting rights, correct? Siegrist - yes, Siegrist will be in contact with the new senators and those who still do not have their voting rights

C. Public Relations - Moine

- i. Contact forms are in the Elections folder, please plug Senate elections
- ii. Working on advertising for State of the Student Body and Elect Her, information will be going on social media soon
- iii. Battle of the Valleys promotions collaboration
- iv. Moine is working on ordering promotional items to get a headstart for next year
- v. Freshmen Focus round table was canceled due to no one signing up. PRC discussed how to encourage better engagement next time

D. Campus Affairs - Frappier

- i. CAC members are working on great projects, Frappier is very proud of them
- ii. Elect Her is coming up - nominate any of your friends so that they have a chance to attend. One can nominate oneself as well. Promotions for this event will be moving forward soon. Zdunczyk and Frappier will be working to invite other campuses to this event as well
- iii. University does drop-in service event year-round, Senate's service event will be taking place in community outreach week in the Grand River Room
- iv. Frappier echoes Siegrist's sentiment: is very proud of the Senate body and their efforts throughout the difficult year

E. Educational Affairs - Mueller

- i. EAC met with ULAC to talk about Library Strategic Planning - there will be an upcoming meeting on March 26th. All documents from this meeting will be posted in the EAC folder
- ii. Has been working on getting EAC ready to transition into a new body

F. Diversity Affairs - Neal (Gineman speaks on behalf of Neal)

- i. Jen Tsu-Bishop will be joining DAC meeting on March 29th
- ii. Hosting a town hall on pronouns in April; planning will begin next week and updates to the Senate are to come

G. External Relations - Pagel

- i. Two follow-up meetings for housing resolution will take place tomorrow at 8am and 9am
- ii. BoV meeting on Tuesday to discuss how to set up the next Senate body for success
- iii. ERC has been working on higher education including working on a potential resolution and hosting an Archive Day next Tuesday at noon.
- iv. ERC is working with Allendale Township to maintain community relations; those interested in meeting with high school council leaders as well as city leaders, please reach out to Pagel

XI. Subcommittee Reports

XII. University Committee Reports

- A. Suchecki, Lift Management Committee - invited next week to go to FPPC meeting; discussed the topic of bias found in student evaluations and research in regards to this; an individual from economics department would like to compile research data to submit it to the Economics of Race Journal; found out that there is a huge lack in participation in

terms of completing these evaluations from the University, so there may not be enough data to give for a research paper

- B. Mueller, General Education Committee - talking about teaching systemic racism and how this will be taught moving forward as well as equity in learning and discussion on General Education Assessment Results (Mueller reads this document aloud)
 - C. Siegrist, Faculty Salary and Budget - talked about Faculty benefits;
 - D. Siegrist, Strategic Planning Committee Reach Higher 2025 - still needs student input. Link for the website is placed in the chat where individuals can look at all of the committee's work
- XIII. Roll Call - Part II
- XIV. Call for Announcements
- A. McMahon - file to run for Senate next year!
 - B. Zdunczyk - Nominate and register for Elect Her on April 7th at 6pm
- XV. Adjournment: 6:03pm