



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, September 26th, 2019 — 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette Room — Kirkhof Center 2204

President: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Parliamentarian: Hannah Benoit

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:32**
 - A. Moment of Silence
 - B. Roll Call
 - II. Public Comment - Part I**
 - A. Erin McIntosh reads statements in support of Senator Dowker's run for Executive Vice President written by herself, Rachel Ibarra and Cameron Jones
 - III. Guest Speaker(s) - Yumiko Jakobcic, Director, Office of Sustainability Practices**
 - A. What does the Office of Sustainability Practices do?: Focuses on lifestyle changes, education, outreach, student engagement
 - B. GV accomplishments: reduced electric, natural gas, water, steam consumption; waste diversion; Campus Dining statistics and suggestions; and a sustainable agriculture project which offers internships
 - C. Volunteer opportunities:
 - i. Football games (zero-waste) on October 5th, 12th, 26th and November 2nd and 16th - double check the volunteer availability, but Homecoming is open for sure
 - ii. Sustainability week begins September 30th; activity information is available on website
 - iii. Committees that usually have Senate representation are the Campus Sustainability Advisory Council and Sustainable Reinvestment Fund (sustainability@gvsu for interested parties)
 - iv. For further inquiries, the Office is located in 260 Lake Michigan Hall
 - D. Sustainability week - next week; events and activities - available on website
 - E. Office in Lake Michigan Hall 260
 - F. Responses to Questions:
 - i. The October 18th football game is LIB 100/201 approved
 - ii. Sustainable Reinvestment Fund is used for new sustainability projects (ex. Bike shop)
 - iii. Has met with other sustainability organizations to in hopes of beginning a cross-organization activities
 - IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass Papers**
 - A. Vice President Mueller - Open access symposium tabling sign up
 - B. Vice President Benoit - 1-1 meeting time planning
 - C. Senator Hicks - Wellness Fair tabling from 11am to 2pm (an MHAC and SAAC joint tabling)
 - D. Senator Sanchez-Castillo - Campus-wide Food Drive on October. 11th sign-up
 - V. President's Report**
 - A. Adoption of the Agenda

- B.** Vice President Benoit motions to add the appointment and rationale of Payton Wheeler to the agenda between the approval of minutes and the nomination and voting of Executive Vice President
 - i. Motion is seconded by Vice President McMahon and passes unanimously
- C.** Vice President Murarescu motions to adopt agenda as amended and is seconded by Vice President Mueller. The motion passes unanimously
- D.** Attended Shabbat hosted by Hillel and encourages other interested individuals to attend
- E.** Encourages senators to take Senate pins
- F.** Shout-out to Senator Jacobs for the voter registration efforts (registered 288 new voters)
- G.** Met Sue Corsenic, the Chief Information Officer for university; who will add no/low costs section to website. Once this is double-checked, it will be added to a master list and will be accessible via MyBanner
- H.** September 27th is a UAS meeting in Allendale from 3-5pm in the honors college which will feature voting on the approval of the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center to develop new financial incentives for the use of open education materials. Vice Presidents Fritz and Murarescu will be in attendance and other senators are encouraged to attend
- I.** October 12th is Make a Difference day - there is still a need for sight leaders (link will be included in Monday's email and is otherwise accessible online) and other volunteering opportunities are also available
- J.** October 11th, President Szczepaniak will meet with Board Chair Mary Cramer and President Mantella
- K.** October 18th, from 5pm to 1am, 20 senators are needed to go to New Salem to be scarers for the Halloween Corn Maze (all proceeds go to Replenish)
- L.** Grand Huddle sign-up link will be sent in Monday's email. Senators may disregard affinity group if applicable (90 minutes)
- M.** After today's GA, those interested in working on sustainability project related to the Grand River dredging project may speak with President Szczepaniak
- N.** During questions, Senator Dorian Thompson speaks on his concern about the absence of the pledge from the GA agenda
- VI.** Executive Vice President's Report
 - A.** Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes stand approved
 - B.** Appointment of Payton Wheeler to Public Relations Committee
 - i. Motioned by Vice President Fritz and seconded by Vice President Murarescu
 - ii. Motion passes unanimously
 - C.** Nominations and voting for EVP
 - i. President Szczepaniak opens floor for further nominations and, seeing none, closes nominations
 - ii. President Szczepaniak reviews election process
 - iii. Senator Dowker speaks of her qualifications, citing her previous positions as a senator, what future endeavors she would pursue and her eagerness to begin

- iv. Senator Sanchez-Castillo speaks of his qualifications, referencing his perseverance and other leadership positions
- v. Questions for the candidates - limit to up to 5 questions each
 - a. Both candidates are asked for clarification on their qualifications, their preparedness for today's speeches, their goals for the future and their relationship with the Senate body
- vi. Vice President Murarescu motions to extend questions to up to another 5 for each candidate and is seconded by Vice President Mueller
 - a. Motion passes with majority to one (1) nay and one (1) abstention
- vii. Additional questions for candidates
 - a. Candidates continue answering questions in regards to their goals for the Senate as well as how they intend to achieve them
- viii. President Szczepaniak closes questions
- ix. Discussion: senators may offer their opinion on how to cast a vote
 - a. Senators Dorien Thompson, Jenia Thompson, Frappier, and Vice President McMahon offer support for Senator Dowker, citing her preparation for today's speeches, previous experience and her clear goals
 - b. Senator Holcomb offers support for Senator Dowker with a hesitation in regards to how her previous relationship with Cabinet members functioned. Vice President Murarescu clarifies that Senator Dowker has understood the difference between Senate business and Cabinet business
- x. Senator Hicks motions to call to question and is seconded by Vice President Samuels
 - a. Motion passes with a more than 2/3rds vote
- xi. Senators vote using slips of paper
- xii. Two (2) minute break while the votes are counted
- xiii. President Szczepaniak announces the election of Executive Vice President Dowker

VII. Officer Reports

A. Senate Resources - Hannah Benoit

- i. Will be scheduling 1-1 meetings
- ii. Inservice has been completed, make-up Inservice is immediately following October 3rd's GA
- iii. Reviews the logging of office hour process and reminds everyone to log them today. The office hour link will be in the google drive in the SRC folder. Vice President Benoit will make a note for those exempt for office hours
- iv. Bonding
 - a. A senate lock-in is in the works, looking to be scheduled by the end of October
 - b. Senate buddies will be announced within the next few weeks
 - c. A positivity jar will be in the Senate Office where one can place compliments and is available for anyone to look through
- v. Questions
 - a. In regards to the flexibility of office hours, it is SRC policy and procedure to do 2 hours a week, but SRC is open to communication for those with interfering circumstances

- b. Senate buddies - a deciding form or otherwise will be implemented soon in order to arrange who will be paired with who
 - c. President Szczepaniak encourages the use of one's placard to govern questions and clarifications during a meeting
 - d. For those who are newly appointed, placards are on the way and are in the promotions stage of being processed
- B. Finance** - Maddie Samuels
 - i. No Cultural Funding Board on September 27th, but appropriations is still scheduled to manage a program request and two traveling requests
- C. Campus Affairs** - Grace McMahon
 - i. Shout out to Senator Gamage for their work within Senate
- D. Education Affairs** - Autumn Mueller
 - i. Is in the process of deciding on which units (departments) and professors will be recognized and awarded at Open Access Symposium and will create a document where student can nominate their professors
 - ii. Writing a piece for the Lanthorn about Open Access Week which will be released around the first week of October
 - iii. Attended a meeting downtown about Open Access Week
 - iv. There are five confirmed speakers for the round table discussion
 - v. Encourages senators to attend the Symposium from 1:30pm to 4pm on October 24th - the Libraries will need people from Senate to volunteer and run check-in
 - vi. Pluggers and fliers have been made, a budget request has been placed and a catering menu has been finalized and its budget request placed
 - vii. Four different fliers have been made, one will be released each week leading up to the symposium

Made a new slack channel (Educational Development) for those interested in the adoption of new minors and majors
- E. Diversity Affairs** - Alex Murarescu
 - i. Committee meets Mondays at 8:30pm on the second floor of Holten Hooker in the academic section, room 207
 - ii. Look at next week's committee report for projects that are open to senator participation
 - iii. For those interested in the Teach-In, they are welcome to meet with Vice President Murarescu for assistance
 - iv. Encourages senators to participate in the Teach-In; the requirements are a 2.5 GPA and having a faculty, staff member or graduate student who you are presenting with
 - a. DAC will work with those who are lacking a faculty/staff/grad student
 - v. Make a Difference Day is October 12th, Vice President Murarescu encourages participation and has placed a form on Laker Link
- F. External Relations** - Joel Pagel
 - i. Read report in Monday's email and email Vice President Pagel for questions
- G. Public Relations** - Ryan Fritz

- i. A website has been made by Competitive Edge for Senate Swag. A link for the website will be made available to the Senate body as soon as it is active
- ii. Asks senators to continue reaching out to other student organizations
- iii. Social media continues to be a success; the first (of many) Senate Giveaways took place on September 25th and will continue to take place mostly on Instagram
- iv. Created a Stop the Bleed channel in Slack
- v. Inventory has been completed. Vice President Fritz reminds senators not to take promotional items without permission
- vi. Food Insecurity task force will start late fall, yield to Senators Hicks and Neal for questions about involvement
- vii. Is interested in tabling opportunities at the GV Farmer's Market
- viii. Will be spending the next committee meeting discussing PRC's strategic planning as well as planning Senate Info Night which is open to other senators interested in that night's planning
- ix. Encourages senators to come to Cabinet meetings
- x. Encouraging the filling of empty spots on University Committees - Eboard members contact information should be available in Laker Link

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Mental Health Awareness Committee

- i. Met 6pm on Monday and encourages other senators to attend. Updated information on meetings will be added to the google drive as the semester progresses
- ii. Met with Amber from counseling center and saw the renovation
- iii. The Counseling Center has: a new psychiatrist who is focused on referrals; received funding for the hiring of a mental health specialist; and has three projects they would like Senate to work on
- iv. Attended the wellness task force
- v. Wellness Fair is October 4th and will need volunteers

IX. University Committee Reports

A. Sorb continues efforts to make a cohesive calendar of student organizations

X. Unfinished Business

A. Nominations and Voting on Homecoming Regent

- i. Further nominations
 - a. Senator Russo motions to nominate Senator Hicks and is seconded by Senator Sanchez-Castillo. Senator Hicks accepts the nomination
- ii. Brief discussion (nominated individuals are Senators DeBerry, Hicks and Sanchez-Castillo and Vice Presidents Murarescu and Pagel)
- iii. Voting
- iv. Votes are counted
- v. Senate has voted to nominate Vice Presidents Murarescu and Pagel
- vi. President Szczepaniak will file these results online

B. Discussion on Resolution F-19-01: SJR E, Whitmer, BoT

- i. Voting on the resolution will take place on October 3rd after a discussion
- ii. Discussion on the resolution opens

- iii. Vice President Fritz makes a friendly amendment on wording
- iv. Senator Jacobs makes a friendly amendment to add the word “undemocratic”
- v. Vice President McMahon makes a friendly amendment to delete the word “duplicitous”, the sentence now reads, “inherently undemocratic and a deterrent to public input.”
- vi. President Szczepaniak makes a friendly amendment to add the words “State of Michigan”
- vii. Senator Hicks calls a point of discussion: Have we worked with other universities in regards to this resolution?
 - a. President Szczepaniak has reached out to the presidents at Central, Wayne, Michigan, and Michigan State, to inform them of the resolution and its purpose
 - b. Student Conference will take place November 8th and 9th
- viii. Senator Houtman comments hesitancy on resolution, prefers incremental method
- ix. Vice President Fritz stresses that passing the resolution does not guarantee a positive outcome; references Aboufadel and going to board of trustees with clearer intentions
- x. Senator Jenia Thompson expresses concerns about backlash for Senate if senate’s name is attached to the resolution
- xi. Senator Siegrist comments that passing the resolution may jeopardize relationships with Board of Trustees on behalf of students (and that Senate works for the students)
- xii. Vice President Murarescu shows support for resolution, with concerns regarding timeline and process currently being taken (says there does not appear to be too much difference between one in march and current one); references Aboufadel asking that senate comes with succinct request; supports incremental achievements (ex. Finalizing agenda a week prior to meeting, adding public comment to their agenda.)
- xiii. Senator Moine doesn’t disagree with the goal, rather with the method. Believes the situation could be solved in house and still be an example for other mi schools; in reference to backlash, taking action without knowledge of what backlash could be and how it could affect future bodies
- xiv. Vice President Benoit **motions to exhaust speakers list** and is seconded by Vice President Fritz. The motion passes unanimously
- xv. Vice President Benoit comments that, regardless of backlash, whatever it may be, this is the purpose of Senate. Benoit supports the resolution; however, if it continues to be shot down, the approach should be changed to incremental
- xvi. Vice President Fritz motions to table discussion until its place on agenda next week and is seconded by Vice President Murarescu
 - a. Discussion: 5 people left on speakers list, information is available in minutes, senators have left the meeting, discussion is available next week
- xvii. Vice President Benoit calls to question and Executive Vice President Dowker seconds
- xviii. Senate votes on the motion to table. Motion passes 23 to 11

XI. New Business

- A. Call for New Orders of the Day

XII. Public Comment - Part II

- A. Custodial request for the Senate to vacate the space by 8pm in order for the custodian crew to have enough time to prepare for the next group

XIII. Call for Announcements

- A. Senator Jacobs thanks the body for support during National Voter Registration day
- B. Senator Russo: RHA events will be coming up; on October 6th, family week breakfast will be available from 9am-12am; on October 27th, haunted halls will take place, etc.
- C. Senator Dailey encourages senators to follow social media and to encourage friends to do so as well
- D. Vice President Murarescu reminds senators to speak with her about Teach-In ideas
- E. Executive Vice President Dowker thanks the body for her election

XIV. Adjournment: 8:04pm

- A. Vice President Murarescu motions to adjourn and is seconded by Senator Jacobs
- B. The motion passes unanimously