



# General Assembly

Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 4:30 pm

Pere Marquette – Kirkhof Center

*Chair: Rachel Jenkin*

*Parliamentarian: Morgan Mattler*

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## I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm

- a. Moment of Silence
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

## II. Guest Speakers

- a. Sherril Soman, Interim Dean of the College of Education
  - i. Here to tell you a little about myself and what I do in the college of education. I have had past work with previous senators. Love what student senate does.
  - ii. Been at GVSU since 2000, started in the Chemistry department then moved into administration roles. Helped lead the prerequisite initiative so students could have necessary classes and material before certain classes. Worked in the financial aid department, helped with the math checks program and math check, worked with with developing the override program. Recently I have worked on the MyName project. Timeline to have MyName in all systems by the winter system. Also was on the Fall Break Task Force. Fall Break has been scheduled for coming academic years.
  - iii. In the College of Education, biggest effort right now is recertifying how we delivery our education and curriculum requirements for students and faculty. College recently was restructured into four departments so it can be easier for students can navigate their time here.
  - iv. I also get to help students in their transition into student teaching or teaching positions. GV Student Teachers are prepared very well for when they do get to get into teaching roles.
  - v. What excites me about being here at GVSU is that GVSU empowers its students. Very collaborative in my work style, so I don't talk a lot about myself, so questions?
  - vi. Senator Bialowas: Restructuring and teaching requirements for pk3-pk6, benefit for lower education, benefits and issues you might see
  - vii. State is looking to make sure teachers are best equipped in early childhood education. Making sure students are given the best teachers who are equipped the best for teaching younger students.
  - viii. Senator Schaffer: What can senate do to help you with he college of education
  - ix. For College of education, lot of conversation at state level for number of bills talking about how we delivery education, so paying attention there in what is being talked about, informing us what concerns students when bills could affect your education.
  - x. Senator Merdzinski: How can we get the student voice to you the best way, changing how we get students ready to teach many levels, tech you might need.

- xi. Currently our website isn't the most user friendly, student advisory board is a great way to reach us, student information center on 4<sup>th</sup> center in Devos is another great outlet, and emailing me is always an option. Advising Center as well. I will give a contact list to EVP Mattler so he can share it with the student senate.
  - xii. VP Jones: Teacher shortage in the state, does this reflect in the atmosphere for the college of education, how it might affect you.
  - xiii. Students have not been going into education due to the rewards after graduation, also the mandates for how what we need to teach students that want to teach makes the program longer than others. Has affected the graduation numbers due to these reasons. But out of state our students are being recruited due to how well trained they are for teaching in the classroom. It takes years to have an impact on the teacher shortage, but hopefully it gets better
  - xiv. Senator Dekoekkoek: most excitement in the college of education right now.
  - xv. Able to partner with school districts for more "intensive, high leverage teaching practices" like special education, and we have been able to develop material and opportunities to train students for these type of classroom settings. A Symbiotic relationship. We are one of the few schools that gets to work with PBS!
  - xvi. Senator LaPlatt: current education major, job placement after graduation
  - xvii. All students get placed, some even before they graduate.
- b. Kristen Evans, GVSU Housing
- i. RA at western Michigan University in the past, was a major for elementary education. This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year at GVSU in housing. Helped open South Apartments, was a living center director, 3 years on operations side for housing assignments, 4<sup>th</sup> year on living center, manage training for employees for housing, training for RAs, student conduct, etc.
  - ii. Love the close relationship Housing has with Senate.
  - iii. Updates, RA recruitment season is currently going on, let people know who might be interested. TO be an RA, 2.5 GPA, background check, all applications turned in on time. Skills that we like to see, diversity of students, we do not have a "type of student" who fills an RA position, collaboration efforts people want to see, students do not just have "one thing". So skills, strong interpersonal skills, community building, critical thinking/problem solving, openness to cultural competency. Staff of RAs is 50% returning. 2 individual interviews then they are placed across 12 communities. RAs help build for each community, academic success, and provide other opportunities to grow. RAs also help with crisis control as well. Over the past years, demographic is staff, GVSU non white students has been 13-16%, but for RAs it is in the 40% range.

- iv. Remodeled, Maple Oak and Pine new windows and AC, South Campus, GBA apartments, new furniture and kitchen appliances, collaboration with art gallery as well. This Sunday, Laker Village is doing trick or treating for GVSU staff and Allendale families 5-7. Haunted Halls, 8-11 in Kirkpatrick, Disturbed Disney theme “What if the villain won”. Still in the need of some actors.
- v. RHA, has a new structure, no Community Activities Board, saw reduced student interest from students, partly due to number of student organization. Appreciate a continued relationship of RHA and senate.
- vi. Height of housing attention, non grand valley housing has grown 40% since 2015. So close to 10,000 beds on perimeter of campus. They seem to have high predatory marketing towards first year students. They make it seem that if you don’t sign asap, you wont have a space, which is not the case. We want students to take the time they want to find the best fit, whether that be on campus or off campus. Also change the mindset of housing occupancy, we are use to being “full” demand has always been greater than supply. In 2015 housing was at 108%, but now it is 99%. Over occupancy of 100% is a sign of good things. So talking points for living on campus, only GV students can live on campus, we are able to release student s from contracts, like if they go study abroad. GVSU housing is also able to make changes to housing assignments. Also SUPPORT, 24/7 crisis response, counseling, close to financial aid and academic advising. Looking at increasing student satisfactory, how we apply fees. Open to ideas to better on campus housing experience.
- vii. Senator Esselink: Lots of students feel pressure from outside company, due to their “low rent”, concern for potential RAs.
- viii. Pressure is real, very individualized situation, but we don’t have enough housing for all students, so our education for students, we don’t want to talk poorly about off campus housing because they do help provide housing for students since we can’t house all students. Hard to say to a student that it is about more than money, we are going to do more education of parents so they can help students make housing decisions as well. Math does show that off campus is the same or less fro costs for off campus housing, but how we offer campus programs.
- ix. Senator Nurmi: Red Flags for RA applicants?
- x. Doesn’t discount applicants, but someone who believes that they are already ready to be a perfect RA, we expect someone to grow in this role. We gave them the training so they can get better and pass this onto applicants. Room and Board is a great incentive, but we don’t want it to be why you apply. Also individuals that apply do that they want to “right a wrong” or “get them” attitudes for policy enforcement. Also can’t take people who are going to be here for not a full academic year

- xi. Senator Drosshart: Campus Partner with senate, how we can be there
- xii. Create a visibility, like cider and donuts outside of haunted halls. We want our partners to be like a service and utility. Be able to come into buildings and speak, but able to come and help out, like scooping ice cream. Content for senate, anything that senate would say, like It's On Us, help bring to all community living areas due to something may not be covered by each community.
- xiii. Senator Quaine: If on fence about applying, just do it! One of the best experiences I have had, life changing.
- xiv. Senator Downey: Convenience for students, struggles for some is taking out trash due to distance. Freshman have trash rooms, so maybe South as well?
- xv. Not on our list but I will bring to the housing department. In Budget process right now, will bring it up.
- xvi. Senator Slade: How often does housing express to freshman when freshman spots open for those freshmen living in upper classroom living areas.
- xvii. Good idea, we will work with students to find better housing, do want to bring this up. RAs, we shoot for 40 to 1 ratio for first year students to RAs.
- xviii. Senator Kolc: Planning for downtown living plans, there are 4 major colleges down there, parking for students who live downtown
- xix. Parking, can't answer. Housing, no current plans. Did talk with Rockford Construction and saw that some other places open with low housing. We do want housing near the health centers in the future since nothing is by there. Development is probably going to be towards HTM and health.
- xx. Senator Marsman: Plans for improved recycling?
- xxi. Cannot answer since I do not sit in on those meetings, but thank you for bringing to my attention.
- xxii. Senator Hicks: Recycling signage currently out of date, and would like to see compost bins in dorm housing.
- xxiii. Agreed that we should see compost bins, these are doable but will take some time.
- xxiv. President Jenkin: Dean and I are working on "registration housing crew" that has off campus housing pay fee and GVSU says that they are vetted by GVSU and a good option.
- xxv. We do serve all students, but when they come to us and ask about off campus housing, we want to help accommodate them, other larger campuses have this, so good idea for GVSU approved complex list for telling students who we best suggest and how they market to GVSU students, when and where.

xxvi. President Jenkin: I personally applied for an RA position 3 times. Great experience when applying, it is very important for student leaders to help lead in those RA roles.

### III. **Public Comment – Part I**

### IV. **Five (5) Minutes to Pass Papers**

- VP Jones: Voter van sign up, 3 spots open. On November 6. Couple morning slots and one in the afternoon. Have to be 21 to drive
- VP Jones: Tabling for election day, helping check people in for voter vans, spread news on importance of voting.
- VP Engler: % night at Applebee's tonight till 9.
- Senator Boyd: Shooting Videos for senate, letting you know about this.

### V. **President's Report**

- a. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- b. Past week focus as been on BOV.
- c. Friday, meet with Felix, chair of UAS, talked about relation between them and senate. Meeting with UAS tomorrow, passing around jar for change for BOV, all professors were given flyers.
- d. Email to all of campus for BOV week
- e. Ottawa County Commissionaire meeting, potential for campus wide email to let students know it is happening here.
- f. Mental Health Awareness Committee, shout out to Senator Drosshart for running it
- g. Senator Vinke, we talked about her tampon project and game plan
- h. Compiling 2 on 1 notes. Will be meeting with cabinet to tell them feedback.
- i. Jessie Bernal, VP of inclusion and equity, talks about safety walk and land recognition.
- j. Agenda for board of trustees, meeting with them on importance of having student senate president there to give report.
- k. Survey conference for student senates, asking about board of trustees and having senate there.
- l. Dean of students event, donuts with the dean. October 29, 1130am-1pm. 125 Devos center. October 30, Kirkhof Lounge first floor. Opportunity to talk with the dean.
- m. Thursday next week for night walk for safety and lighting. Spots that you want us to look at, let us know. We have our own list but open to suggestions
- n. Make sure you are looking at the Facebook page so you can get information so you can stay up to date.
- o. Senator Quaine: Night Walk, Opportunity to start up Laker lights project again.

- p. Senator Nurmi: Facebook page, in my opinion, see a flood of posts, some not as important as other posts. Reserve FB for more important page and use GroupMe when it is not professional events, GroupMe for personal conversation.
- q. Senator Esselink: Can we look into maybe a better use for mass communication
- r. VP Jones: Slack is something I have used before that I see can help with communication.
- s. President Jenkin: Want to make sure people just stay on top on information and maybe a new platform might have people see less information
- t. Senator Kolc: Downtown walk as well?
- u. President Jenkin: Only in Allendale right now. Due to it being in most conversation.
- v. Senator Kolc: Personally email to me is better communication for information, and departments don't usually use Facebook.
- w. Senator Hicks: Methods of communication, remind101 might be useful.
- x. Senator Thompson: Collaboration efforts for using certain platforms for certain types of communication.
- y. President Jenkin: Emails comes from EVP and President, Facebook for dates and information, GroupMe for personal stuff, that was the idea

## VI. Vice President's Report

- a. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Approved
- b. BOV Week, love the casual GA for all BOV week. Events have been going great, % nights, tabling help, pie day, pumpkin painting. Only way to lose a charity competition is to not participate.
- c. BOV game on Saturday, let me know if you are going.
- d. Encourage people to help donate for BOV at [gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys](http://gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys)
- e. Talking with president ball coordinators, voting in a couple of weeks for the two awards
- f. Working GA, 2 weeks from today, schedule to come, focus on cultural competency training. Project development as well and a scenario situation as well.
- g. November 15 for Ottawa County Commissionaire meeting. 2:30-4:00.
- h. Sue that came last week, her answers to question from last week, will email her answers.
- i. Senator Drosshart: Working GA, set in stone? Suggestions?
- j. Open to suggestions for content but mainly set in stone.

## VII. Officer Reports

- a. **Senate Resources** – Holly Neva
  - i. Reminder for food and phones, please reframe from eating and phone use during GA
  - ii. If in need of a nametag, let me know if you need one.
  - iii. Post In-service survey is going to closed this coming Sunday.

- iv. Absence requests are voted on every request, can submit in advance if you need to do that. Appeals can be submitted, send Me an email and come to meeting or send me an email if you can't make it.
  - v. Submit senator of the spotlight.
  - vi. EAC had most attendance for open access. Office Hours excused for next week
  - vii. Make sure you are submitting tabling and volunteering times.
  - viii. November 1<sup>st</sup> for make up in-service if you missed it or a new senator.
  - ix. Senate buddies, updated has been posted on Facebook page. This is like a mentorship program
  - x. Applebee's Percentage tonight for BOV.
  - xi. New senator's talk to holly about contact information.
  - xii. Senator Downey: Posted in FB for rebounder night now November 4<sup>th</sup>
  - xiii. Senator Hicks: Can have google docs survey send a receipt for survey response.
  - xiv. Senator Mueller: In-service make up right after GA.
- b. **Finance** – Amanda Crawford
- i. Next appropriations meeting most likely shorter
  - ii. If doing individual travel, let us know, need feedback
  - iii. BOV spent funds little over \$900. Final cost will be posted in budget when final receipts come in.
  - iv. Event, next Thursday after GA, 6-8 Niemeyer, celebration for dia del muerte.
  - v. Internal budget to help senate when project has certain costs. Questions about it ask me.
- c. **Campus Affairs** – Carter Engler
- i. Welcome to McMahon to the body
  - ii. Thanks for BOV help from everyone that has helped. Replenish loves all the help.
- d. **Educational Affairs** – Erin McIntosh
- i. Open Access went amazing, guest speaker was amazing. Had 70 people attend, mix of Liberians, professors, and students.
  - ii. Committee meeting went 2.5 hours long, loved all the conversation
  - iii. SAAC (sexual assault awareness committee) notes in team drive. Ideas for projects and initial points of contact.
  - iv. Last Lecture form live until October 31.

- v. Conference November 10 for student senate conference. Will send 6 delegates, will bring board of trustees' survey, state funding, relationship of GVSU and GVPD, PRC efforts, gender neutral bathrooms, travel fund, senate updates in general. Other topics you want to be heard let me know so I can submit it. Will be presenting what was presented at the following GA most likely.
- e. **Diversity Affairs** – Rachel Ibarra (Senator Patil)
  - i. Approved funding for pronoun funding
  - ii. Group chat for book club created
- f. **External Relations** – Cameron Jones
  - i. 2 weeks away from election day. Events coming.
  - ii. Post election town hall, November 8 at 9pm. Began in 2016, birth of democracy 101 program. Hoping for this to be a pint of growth. Come attend if you want to voice your reactions to the election
  - iii. Project Idea list posted to FB from a recent conversation I had recently
  - iv. Associate Dean of student search, thoughts on what you want to see from them, let me know so I can relay to candidate search.
- g. **Public Relations** – Bilal Qureshi
  - i. Senate Swag, list of non apparel item are going to be limited, due to cost pricing.
  - ii. In Class speeches, working on different versions. Video to share with class idea was shared
  - iii. Senator Vinke and Quaine idea of putting google calendar in live feed for events on website
  - iv. Exam cram December 3-15, planning on snacks for exam cram.
  - v. Love all the BOV work going on
  - vi. How many tickles does take to tickle an octopus, “ten-tickles”?

## VIII. Call for University Committee Reports

- VP McIntosh: OER task force, Saginaw Valley was at Open Access Event. Head of task force had meeting with Saginaw and Saginaw wants to start a task force at their university as well. Students have a lot of influence for conversation for open access. Speaker said the student voice is what effects change and lets people know about open access opportunities. Help with push for submitting textbook sooner so people can plan budgeting sooner. Also push of courses with highest enrolment classes.
- Senator Swatski: General education Committee, discussion of new way to access education, gen eds evaluation suggestions want to be heard

- Senator Schaffer: Faculty and Staff Salaries, heard a lot of what benefits professors get and how much professors get paid
- VP Neva: UAC, accessing student services in my group, we checked to see if they are doing all requirements and ability to fix problems before accreditation team comes to access.
- VP McIntosh: Student Organization review board, 2 were approved for reapproval recently.

**IX. Unfinished Business**

**X. New Business**

**a. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**

- i. Senator Schaffer: Metal pit behind come GVSU apartments, heard back that they are cleaning it up soon. End of Fall for completion if not spring of 2019. Effect is no run off but pulling it out damages land but funds are being spent for fixing damages.

**XI. Public Comment – Part II**

**XII. Call for Announcements**

- a. VP Jones: Suggestions for associate dean of students, want to hear from you.
- b. Senator Kolc: ASA taco dinner, November 5<sup>th</sup>, unlimited tacos. \$5 from me, \$6 at the door.
- c. Senator Drosshart: 1st Mental Health Awareness meeting, notes in CAC folder. Notes are a bit jumbled. Hot Lines, 5-part series, those were ideas talked about and more
- d. Senator Szcapaniak: 5pm for Salem Corn Maze, if not listed in email let me know
- e. Senator Quaine: reminder to submit office hours.
- f. Senator Downey: Friend giving for senate, date and details TBD. Opportunity to bring things for replenish.
- g. VP Neva: All American dinner, hot dogs etc., let me know.
- h. Senator Hicks: Grilled cheese November 13 from AST
- i. Senator Vinke: EVP Mattler and VP Engler for all of their hard work, major props!! 10/10
- j. EVP Mattler: Composite Photos, will be sending out sheet where you pick out a time for photos. In early November. Need to give 24-hour advance if you can't make time, otherwise you will get charged if you don't show up. Committee photos next week after GA.

**XIII. Adjournment: 6:51pm.**