



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, November 14th, 2019 — 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette Room — Kirkhof Center 2204
Executive Vice President: Kelly Dowker
Parliamentarian: Hannah Benoit

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- I. Call Meeting to order: 4:30pm
 - A. Moment of silence for Native Land Recognition
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Michigan State Motto
 - D. Student Senate Creed
 - E. Role Call
 - II. Public Comment - Part I
 - A. Maddie Clare - "no longer feels supported by this elected body", speaks against the pledge, feelings of anger and of being ignored as a student. Declares that individuals may cite pledge on their own time, though Senate's only allegiance should be to the students of GV. Implores senators to "represent the people who do not feel represented"
 - B. Faculty member - (brings information for purpose of education) // removing pledge as piece of governing body on the basis of oppression - example of Azerbaijan, (fines and jail for ridiculing president); Lebanon, fines and prison for undermining dignity of president or republic; Venezuela, crime to "offend in writing speech or any other means the elected president or any other officials"; Poland, incarcerated for ridiculing president; Turkey, imprisoned for speaking against government; Netherlands, imprisoned for intentionally insulting monarch or spouse - reciting pledge helps to remember that "freedom is never free" and to be grateful
 - C. Adam Freela - (religion, respect for international students, oppressive gov't) counterargues these points - liberty to abstain from pledge; disrespectful to other nations (US international students); injustice to take liberty away; historical significance of pledge - was seen as a time to state their political opinion; right to abstain, don't take right away from others
 - D. Trevor - disheartened at removal or consideration to remove; pledge is a commitment to ideas of liberty and justice; pays respect to gov't's; concept of othering - concern is a sign of lack of courage; respect the right to abstain, but removal of the opportunity is not the answer
 - E. Aubrey - many people around the world do not have the right to an education, as opposed to those who live in the US (not an oppressive gov't); disappointment in the organization should the motion pass; focus on more important issues

- F. (Student) waste of time (on both ends) as in “othering” and patriotism to debate((addressing other problems are more important)); supports the student creed
- G. (Student) Support giving the opportunity to participate or not; giving the opportunity promotes inclusion and quality; would rather Senate time be spent on more important topics; takes offense on behalf of those who have served in the armed forces; taking the opportunity away is “unequal, unjust and undemocratic”
- H. Embarrassing that this is a conversation when there are more important conversations to be had (i.e. parking)
- I. Alex - student - perhaps there is confusion as to what is being pledged to; pledging to an administration as opposed to country; important to recognize privilege of discussing the topic, oppressive gov’t; more important issues in the community
- J. (Student) having this discussion is a waste of time for everyone; supports the pledge
- K. Maddie (Student) - taking away the freedom of speech by restricting pledge
- L. Jake (student) - former member of Air Force; pledge should not be forced upon anyone; pledging as part of the military and pledging at a school are “not really the same”

III. Guest Speakers

- A. Heather Rowan, Student Philanthropy Initiative
 1. Fundraising procedures”” - title of PowerPoint; support orgs in fundraising efforts
 2. General information in regards to how to get information (all of info is available on website) in regards to fundraising, donations, campus accounts, what to fundraiser for, searching for funds;
 3. some event guidelines on gambling (raffles), golf outings and 5Ks (don’t), and food sales (require food waiver through campus dining)
 4. Corporate sponsorships must be run through Rowan before outreach - have plan, know specifically what is being raised for, etc.
 5. How to help : Senior gift campaign for Replenish, attend alumni donor events, send Rowan updates on needs/priorities of students; build momentum around campaign and plan/conduct own campaign (“”)
 6. Practices for fundraising - start early, ask for help (Rowan, other resources), tell story/prove case, follow rules, know audience, simplicity and originality, be realistic, enthusiastic and committed (“”)
 7. Reach out heather.rowan@gvsu.edu
 8. Questions:
 - a. Siegrist - when registered orgs are planning a fundraiser, what is the most common mistake? - not having a plan, not being specific, not sharing the story (why someone would want to support them)
 - b. Dailey - registered student orgs at off campus fundraisers, recommend to go through Rowan? - sometimes need paperwork that can be provided, but generally straightforward. Would appreciate an fyi to share

B. Marlene Kowalski-Braun, Inclusion and Equity Updates

1. Importance of having robust discussions, talk about tensions and different perspectives
2. Important to remember the community is interwoven and interconnected and have a responsibility in shaping the experience of students (in light of tension)
3. Brief overview of personal life, work (with social justice centers on campus)
4. Asks senators why having 5 centers is not a point of pride? - (Thompson, D) hearing disheartening stories; have centers because we have not created the inclusivity;
5. Working through issues of equity to reach equality
6. What is Senate's role to make sure students feel welcomed
7. Need to change who's labor inequities is
8. Important to make sure every student doesn't just survive, they thrive
9. Experience with students - students will say what they think regardless of being asked (if you want to know what students think, ask them); nothing works for all students; students know the difference between diversity and inclusion ("");
10. Highlights having learned commitment, persistence, strength, courage, compassion (creation of women's center, NIARA, Bias reporting process, Replenish, South Africa study abroad program, violence against women grants - student motivated accomplishments)
11. Encourages not thinking through a single lease, to see the overall tapestry
12. Located on fourth floor of Zumberge
13. Questions -
 - a. Dailey - thanks

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

- A. Benet - motions to add a moment for self reflection on national identity, faith and self identity under moment of silence; seconded by Murarescu - rationale is that in reference to pledge of allegiance, strive to find a compromise; a moment that recognizes more than one faith or lack thereof
 1. Frappier - clarifies that this would be added to under moment of silence to every agenda
 2. Nitzkin - asks to clarify on importance to GV community and motion
 3. Benet - strives to have all parts of GV's student base to be represented
 4. Boyd - friendly amendment to instead of at the beginning of meeting to after University reports; cites the importance of maintaining native land recognition
 5. Benet approves of amendment
 6. Thayer - representing all of the aforementioned things by being in the Senate and contributing thoughts, doesn't feel the need to take time out of agenda to represent ourselves

7. Nitzkin - motions to table the vote until next week's meeting on the rationale of the presence of current agenda; seconded by Pagel
8. One opposed, three abstentions; voting for this will take place next week, discussion is maintained
9. Sango - not there on condition of replacing pledge
10. Benoit - student senate creed does a good job of including the idea that we represent all students of different identities, backgrounds, etc.
11. Second by Pagel to approve agenda, motion passes unanimously

V. Five (5) Minutes to Pass Papers

- A. Pagel - Archive day, requires email and name, look into history of senate (Marlowe - what does that entail?) Looking at old stuff

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Discussion and Voting on the Pledge of Allegiance and Michigan State Motto (remove this and keep the creed)
 1. Thompson, J - prefaced with having voted to keep pledge, opinion has changed over course of time; anyone can be oppressed in US or around the world, especially in minorities; irresponsible to compare it to other countries and not seeing oppression; encourages everyone to vote the way they would as if there weren't cameras; respect everyone in the room regardless of voting; do not see the point in having pledge
 2. Neal - voted yes for personal reasons at last vote; as time passed, opinion has changed, as it was a personal reason and not on behalf of the students; take into consideration multiple viewpoints
 3. Thompson, D. - references the public comment, implores senate to think decision through, highlights the passion that can be seen from them; discussing taking away the pledge is disrespectful, takes away the right away from people who want to say; references to state funding and how it looks; need to represent the students who want to speak as well as those who don't; pledge states that darkest days are behind us, oppressive gov't would restrict the right to make these criticisms; references that other countries do not allow or do not support (as well as financially)
 4. Hicks - disappointing that this is the most important matter that has drawn the most attention; taking liberty away - minority of public universities by allowing time on agenda, other public universities don't do that, no other university departments says pledge before meeting; oppression still exists (names gender and sexuality specifically)
 5. Thayer - student senate does not represent federal gov't, work with students and international body; not taking away rights as it can be said before/after, etc.; too much time is spent on this; was disheartened at this conversation
 6. Marlowe - has only created more partisanship and toxicity which is not sustainable; disheartening to continue the conversation, there is a sense of othering, unproductive, toxic

7. Houtman - references speaker (from inclusion and equity) said nothing will ever be best for all students ; should not remove pledge of allegiance in light of that; more options are better, having the option is a good opportunity to display this; supports that people may say senate creed; disrespectful to the decision that was already made
8. Nitzkin - motion to limits discussion to 10 minutes with 5 minute extension if needed/voted, at end of this no more extensions 60 second maximum for speaker, then immediately into a vote; rationale of talking about this for hours, seconded by Murarescu; requires 2/3rds majority to pass
9. Motion passes
10. Frappier - not taking away right to say pledge, would not expect requesting time to pray on agenda; reference veteran who pledged for his job, but supports using senate creed instead
11. Sanchez-Castillo - references experience with other political student orgs, doesn't make sense to continue conversation, get rid of it
12. Benet - should represent both sides (has or remove), going forward with removing it, should have something to replace it (references former motion); respectable to want to represent all students
13. Siegrist - references the presence of flag at meetings, right to freedom of expression; believes there are more than enough things at the beginning of meetings, shouldn't take away pledge; political bias towards issue is prevalent, don't take right away from other senators; voted on this already, doesn't make sense to have this conversation again
14. DeBerry - embarrassed, wasted too much time on this topic. Erase personal beliefs to serve on behalf of student body; more important things
15. Boyd - reminds that living in a republic, does not pledge allegiance to it, republic serves the public; gov't has a history of oppression; history of pledge, use of word 'God'
16. Ferrara - creed should be something that is uniting, outlines everything senate is here for; make clear that taking pledge out of GA agenda doesn't take away the right, can be said earlier
17. Pagel - keep it
18. Thompson, J - oppression is multi-faceted, systemic; recognition should come for other things; puts personal bias aside to recognize that pledge is not inclusive
19. Fritz - thanks service members, acknowledge those who have service members in family (this is an important aspect to consider); think about (in his professional opinion) once something is on an agenda, it's hard to take it away, especially when it's something that gives voice to opinion
20. Thompson, D. - can talk about what other schools do, but other schools may not do things great""

21. Dowker - raises concerns that this irrelevant to discussion (what other schools do)
22. Thompson - taking out of the agenda sends message that senate doesn't believe that anyone should have that right
23. Nitzkin reminds to keep facial neutral
24. Sanchez entertains motion to extend, seconded by Mueller; (2/3rds placards vote) discussion is adjourned
25. Thompson, J - motions to do role call voting, seconded by Benoit
26. Nitzkin - friendly amendment to do ballot vote instead
27. Benoit point of info to friendly amendment - is this public information?
28. Nitzkin yields to VP Fritz
29. Fritz - when it comes to role call voting, taking each individual name is not typical; closed ballot vote would not be making this public information
30. Nitzkin provides rationale for role call/ballot info - first is public vote, second is private vote
31. Thompson, J - role call motion, democratic body (declined Nitzkin's motion)
32. Discussion on this motion
33. Hicks - if students care about this, we owe the transparency
34. Thayer - all big votes should be role call voting, good place to start
35. Siegrist - no problem standing behind words, actions, thoughts, questions motives as to why? Possible to out other senators, other, etc. Take this as a professional matter, don't trash the rep of anyone on body
36. Sanchez - be the change you want to see "" be transparency in gov't
37. Nitzkin call to question, Thompson, J seconds motion passes with 2/3rds majority; succeeds
38. Motion on the role call vote - motion passes
39. Motion passes

VII. New Business

A. Discussion on Freshmen and Transfer Student Orientation

1. Project to revamp transition and welcome week, wanted ideas on pros and cons of these experiences; those with ideas or want to help, email them or speak to them after / Eric Stevens meeting - took survey for next year transition; great info for changing, but doesn't want to refine all of it - can't discard everything; hopefully within the next two years, with small steps, will see changes
2. Marlowe - what was the idea for transfer students as a part of conversation? - Plachta - wanted to have transfers in a group and freshmen in a group, difficult to make friends due to the mixing of these groups; wanted to do team building activity (introduce)
3. Moine - looking for help on project or personal stories, ideas for change? Thornton, as of now, need input, less manpower. As time goes along, this could change
4. Benet - should be more group events, more opportunities for socialization

5. Thompson, J - good way to start is to look at the training that transitions leaders go through, process was insufficient (did speak with Stevens about that, said that there are plans to fix that)
6. Wheeler - as a transfer student - was not included in info about transitions
7. Dailey - optional events were skipped, more regulation on this and more to do in the small group rooms, more socialization
8. Marlowe - retention is a big issue, some of lessons/classes weren't too engaging - spoke with Stevens about this, most of the learned info was from floor meetings and again stated on Thursday/Friday, seems like there is an intention to redo the Thursday plan in reference to this due to the RAs having already discussed these topics; in reference to retention (Plachta) will shorten transitions, putting bulk in first day
9. Russo - careful/thoughtful of removing information just when it's said at floor meetings, not every first year student lives on campus, not every floor student goes to RA meetings, important for that info to be there // resolution in brief conversation about info
10. Frappier - for sake of time, ask to email them which would be more useful, encourages contact over email; stresses that first year and transfer students reach out to them as well as transitions leader
11. Mueller - encourages everyone who has attended to email them
12. Benoit - will voting be implemented? No, this is just discussion (not next week)

VIII. Five (5) Minute Recess return at 6:26pm

IX. President's Report

- A. Questions about volunteering should go to Pres

X. Executive Vice President's Report

- A. Investiture ceremony is tomorrow morning; those who are participating should have received an email
- B. Have gotten through 20 2-1s, those who haven't can expect an email
- C. President's ball updates - responsible for 2 awards, pres award will be chosen by pres and cab pres, still responsible for student award for faculty excellence, nomination form will be sent through laker link
- D. Approval of Minutes
 1. Stand approved

XI. Officer Reports

- A. Senate Resources - Hannah Benoit
 1. Urge body to read reports that are sent out on weekly basis
 2. Bonding activities - tonight, Parasite showing, get in touch with Boyd
- B. Finance - Maddie Samuels
 1. Is in email
- C. Campus Affairs - Grace McMahon

1. Elect Her is next Wednesday, 52 people are signed up, having met the 50 person goal, there is room for 88; panel of 5 elected women - register for that and show up
2. Food committee is Tuesday, the last one for semester

D. Educational Affairs - Autumn Mueller

1. ?s about last lecture - explanation - student nominated event where professors give what would be their "last lecture" annual event hosted by student senate, gives profs opportunity to talk about story, personal experiences, what inspired them, why they want to keep doing what they do; last years spoke about the lessons they've learned (life lessons), two professors will give last lecture and selection process will be maintained by EAC// will be on WEdnesday, Feb 26th from 5-8pm, subject to change; tabling opportunities will be available; will need PRC help for pluggers
2. Exam Cram is coming up, work with PRC/EAC; suggestions can go to Thompson, J or Holcomb
3. Has meeting scheduled with Dean of Libraries in December, so questions can be given to her to be asked

E. Diversity Affairs - Alex Murarescu

1. Climate Survey

- a. (After) - asks senators to take survey at this time
- b. Moine - does this still need tabling done? // still open on November 18th on Monday from 12-2 downtown;
- c. Attend climate survey launch events
 - (New)
 - Interest in the project can be directed to the senator in charge, (surroundings LSU and Aramark, this was well-done)

F. External Relations - Joel Pagel

1. SVSU Student Government Conference Debrief

- a. Kahoot to review conference
- b. Passed a few resolutions which will be brought to body (pertaining to mental health awareness and sustainability Benoit will be presenting to these subcommittees)

G. Public Relations - Ryan Fritz

1. Appreciate passion and care, hopes that this is a learning opportunity
2. Events coming up - registered for campus life night 2.0 on January 10th - email sent out by OSL had false date; Student senate week coming up (second semester) - different events take place every day, open to ideas;
3. Marlowe - Fox story will come out tonight; recommends being wary over position, had zero influence over conducted interview outside of Fritz' which was informational on behalf of student senate; asked individuals to speak on their own personal behalf, not on behalf of senate (which is standard for future) /

4. Fritz received phone call earlier today to inform of filming; found through various social platforms that it was a conversation and then contacted a student to receive information that is all public; does not know if Fox 17 will be the only aired platform; Sanchez-Castillo - it's up for grabs once it's aired, gave an interview // McMahon - any agreement that they had to include the part where they had to say the interviewers are speaking individually? Specified, clarified that no one signed anything, information was communicated but it is in their hands; Thompson, D - voices that filming stemmed from him, made social media post, received call, sent group to PRC as he was uncertain if he could yay/nay this;
5. Dowker reminder that this is time for questions for PRC's report
6. Marlowe - for future reference, notify body that people are coming in and recording; did not like the negative feelings that came surrounding the cameras
7. Fritz clarifies that was notified close to go time and handled it with as much grace as time provided
8. Nitzkin - time for questions, not statements, feels that this discussion is circular
9. Thompson, J - "be wary of position" are there positions being threatened? No (Fritz)
10. Will be meeting with VP McMahon and Mueller to discuss exam cram and philanthropic efforts with Replenish
11. Working to nail down senate swag before end of semester

XII. Sub-Committee Reports

- A. Sustainably will meet tomorrow at 4pm at senate
- B. SAAC No new developments, disappointment in lack of attendance

XIII. University Committee Reports

- A. MLK - finalized some details; wants to draw attention to that Saturday is the day of service and solidarity, ask that senators all apply if available and able; encourage those who are interested to apply being site-leaders
- B. Training for university conduct pool - (conducts hearing for student misconduct) currently the only student who is trained, need students to be trained; 3 hour training, recommends; those interested can contact him
- C. Food insecurity task force - list of things that are currently being done and things that other universities are doing; how to create a transition of ideas and utilize them; will be brainstorming at next meeting
- D. ECS - presented Grand River Waterway Project resolution - ECS has drafted some language to issue statement of support, if it passes in ECS it will go to UAS for discussion (as well as on Open Access);
- E. Organizations should register (Nitzkin)
- F. Benoit motions to retake role; seconded by McMahon
- G. Motion passes with 9 abstentions
- H. Role call (second)

XIV. Call for New Orders of the Day

- A. Mueller takes a straw poll - wanted info on how the agenda is currently set up (placement of unfinished and new business to above office reports) (before role)

XV. Public Comment - Part II

- A. (Gordon) former student senator - Hillel event - Palestinian Muslim and Israeli Jew coming in from Hillel international to speak on Palestinian-Israeli conflict; has shabrunch dinner on Saturday for Hillel

XVI. Call for Announcements

- A. Hicks - I am GV awards opened up; encourage nominating people (how to select Laker of Year winner (Dowker))
- B. Nitzkin - 2215/2216 at 7:30 in Kirkhof - important to become knowledgeable about international conflict; invites to shabrunch
- C. McMahon - didn't like agenda and have comments, talk to them
- D. Jacobs - interested in hosting voter registration drive, talk to him
- E. Murarescu - climate survey, encourage all friends to take it, highlights importance of obtaining this data / this friday, African student council is having their global laker lounge in the GR room, important to support events that Senate funds
- F. Thompson, J - working on project to get student employees a staff title (which in turn would include privileges of getting staff parking), needs help; is presenting to head of HR, payroll and Office of Student Employment on the 25th (open to those interested)
- G. Thornton - info on transitions can be shared with them
- H. Sanchez-Castillo - climate survey, recommends getting others involved / RA is hosting an event called Cans for Cones inviting students to have ice cream and drop off donations which will go to Replenish / Exam Cram - reach out to EAC and PRC about ideas, starting to brainstorm and solidify items and times
- I. Frappier - apologizes for vocalizing exhaustion / send info for fliers to be made for their projects, reminder to reach out to PRC for help with promotions , Exam Cram events ideas (will need help putting on some of these events)
- J. Houtman - trying to start a new project (polisci department piloting a program to match seniors with people who have the position they want to be employed in) talk to head of polisci department next week for how to best implement that for other majors; message on slack with opinions, if it would be helpful
- K. Boyd - Parasite showing tonight at 9:50pm; interested in going, reach out to Boyd; made Movies channel in slack
- L. Dailey - ideas regarding social media, let her know
- M. McMahon - CAC will be having a bonding meeting next week (Elect Her)
- N. Dowker - reiterates the Hillel and SRC event

XVII. Adjournment: 7:18pm

Vote: 22 - 10 - 10

Armstrong: yay
Bell: yay
Benet: ab
Benoit: yay
Boyd: yay
Brainard:
Dailey: yay
Daughrity: ab
DeBerry: ab
Dowker: yay
Ferreya: yay
Frappier: yay
Fritz: nay
Gamage: yay
Garton: yay
Hicks: yay
Holcomb: yay
Houtman: nay
Jackson: nay
Jacobs: yay
Kamekawa: yay
Krichevsky: yay
Love: ab
Marlowe: yay
McMahon: yay
Moine: ab
Mueller: nay
Murarescu: yay
Neal: ab
Nitzkin: ab
Pagel: nay
Paquet:
Plachta: yay
Przekop:
Russo: ab
Samuels:
Sánchez-Castillo: ab
Sander: nay
Sango: nay
Siegrist: nay
Sparks: yay
Szczepaniak:
Thayer: yay
Thompson, Dorian: nay
Thompson, Jenia: ab
Thomton: nay
Wheeler: yay