



General Assembly

Thursday, November 19th, 2020 — 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

President: Kelly Dowker

Parliamentarian: Grace McMahon

- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm
 - A. Moment of Silence
 - i. For Native Land Recognition
 - B. Student Senate Creed
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance
 - D. Roll Call - Part I
- II. Virus Action Team Report - Associate Vice President Ed Aboufadel
 - A. Aboufadel presents a few slides titled “Briefing for Student Senate”
 - i. Provides brief overview of who comprises of the Virus Action Team
 - ii. Presents the graph of daily new cases from Move-in week up until November 17th. Graph consists of number for Grand Valley as well as for Michigan.
 - iii. Presents the GVSU Data Dashboard from September 5th to November 17th
 - iv. Update on Testing program
 - a) To date, 26,149 tests have been administered through the GV program.
Random testing has helped to identify about a third of positive cases
 - v. Virus Action Team meet weekdays to monitor and discuss data, scheduled meetings with Ottawa/Kent public health twice a week, recommended move back to Level 3, are working on repopulation plan for January move-in
 - vi. Presents demographics report: ratio of infections between male and female reflects the ratio of GV attendees male and female.
 - B. Questions
 - i. Siegrist - thanks Aboufadel for the Virus Action Team’s work. Would like to understand the rationale for not allowing student workers to be regularly tested up until Thanksgiving, as they are on the frontlines.
 - a) Aboufadel - wanted to expand testing to all students who may be going home for Thanksgiving. As capacity is limited, had to account for influx of more students being tested
 - ii. Thompson - What can we expect for next semester? Should we expect to be fully online, will there be a hybrid option? Compared to in the Spring of 2020, seeing that the numbers are worse now, what is the rationale to why we were sent home in the Spring but not now?
 - a) Winter Semester: Banner course offerings have been updated - mix of face to face courses, hybrid courses, and many online courses. It will reflect the Fall semester. Team is anticipating that the numbers will be driven down due to the state-wide mandates of quarantine

- b) Repopulation Plan (not finalized) - want to organize things in January so there is no surge in cases like GV saw at the beginning of Fall semester
 - c) In March there was significantly less information and governors shut down the states. GV shut down as a result of the Governor telling the universities that classes needed to go online. Even though the numbers are greater, we understand a lot more about the virus than at the beginning. When the Michigan Department of Health announced their orders this last Sunday, it's with the intention of curbing gatherings
 - iii. Thompson - for next semester, in the event of another rapid spike of cases, would GV only completely shut down and go online if it's prompted by the governor and not GV itself?
 - a) Aboufadel - Level 4 indicators is what leads to a shut down. It is possible for GV to shut down without Michigan government's influence
 - iv. Zbikowski - based on the charts you show, the current numbers seem higher or equal to shortly after spring break of this past year, could you give any insight on this?
 - a) GV wasn't tracking during GV's winter 2020 spring break, so it's hard to compare this to what is happening right now. What is trying to be done with winter semester is to provide enough time for quarantine after the winter holidays
- III. Public Comment - Part I
 - A. Annie Biggs - speaking on behalf of Senator Frappier as a former fellow employee, cites a strong work ethic justifying Frappier's candidacy for Campus Affairs Committee's VP
- IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers
- V. President's Report
 - A. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda stand approved
 - B. McMahon and Dowker will be meeting with President Mantella on Monday; this meeting typically happens each semester
 - C. Student Senate Cabinet will be having joint Cabinet meeting with the President's Cabinet in December. This will happen once in Winter, Summer, and Fall
- VI. Executive Vice President's Report
 - A. Approval of the Minutes
 - B. Continuing to schedule and attend 2:1 meetings
 - C. Will be sitting with VPs to work on strategic planning for each individual committee, this will be discussed with Cabinet on Sunday
 - D. Full round of CTF will not take place, but there will be a committee to look through the Bylaws in order to accommodate the changes caused by the pandemic
- VII. Appointment of Payton Wheeler to the Public Relations Committee
 - A. VP Moine provides rationale, citing Wheeler's previous PR experience, motion to appoint to PRC, seconded by Siegrist
 - i. Motion passes unanimously
- VIII. Five Minute Break
- IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business

A. Nominations and Election - Vice President for Campus Affairs

- i. Dowker asks if there are any further nominations
- ii. VP Pagel nominates Senator Raak, citing his success with MHAC. Siegrist seconds
 - a) Raak accepts his nomination
- iii. Frappier speaks: thanks VP Holcomb for his work as a Cabinet member and as a Senator; has found a new home within the Senate that inspires him to be his best self and a desire to help other students come to feel the same security. Cites having learned valuable skills while on both PRC and SRC, as well as the Campus Affair Committee liaison through SRC; will work to encourage cross-committee collaboration
- iv. Raak speaks: states how the shift to online learning places CAC in a strange limbo, as the campus has shifted to different accommodations. Cites role as Co-Chair of MHAC and senator in ERC as qualifications; goal is to help students maximize their tuition, would continue the work of Food Committee, and continue the use of liaisons to university departments, and would like to provide a resource to the two sub-committees from within CAC; core project will be civic engagement
- v. Questions:
 - a) Siegrist to both: how will you leverage your past experiences to enhance CAC and move forward from where Holcomb is now?
 - (i) Frappier - has lots of experience with sub-committees, particularly with SAAC and Sustainability, would be a great resource from contacts made through these experiences; has learned through Senate how to be responsible with time-management and teamwork
 - (ii) Raak - as co-chair of MHAC, has been able to work with a lot of on-campus partners; have been a regular attendee of Cabinet
 - b) Zbikowski to both: could you elaborate on why you think you would be more qualified than the other senator?
 - (i) Frappier - would say Frappier and Raak are equally qualified, both putting in work to different sub-committees and in Senate in general; both have been to Cabinet. Each brings a unique perspective to Cabinet
 - (ii) Raak - echoes Frappier, both candidates are outsiders to CAC (based on previous experiences) and both provide different perspectives. Would not say that either one is more qualified than the other and that past experiences lead to different perspectives
 - c) Moine - big part of Cabinet positions is guiding: how would you summarize your leadership approach and how your committee would run?

- (i) Raak - would consider himself a delegate rather than a leader, would consider himself an equal to his fellow CAC members; as far as direction/strategic planning, feels that civic engagement is a bit of a new thing for CAC, would like to work that in
 - (ii) Frappier - as a leader, feels it's important to have a leader who can make decisions, but in general, Frappier is a listener, is well-receptive to other opinions and plans but is capable of making the definitive decision when necessary; CAC will be focusing on upcoming events and how they can take place during the pandemic
- d) Byers - as a member of CAC, is wondering what are some things that you want to accomplish, and how would you rate your organizational skills?
- (i) Frappier - sometimes struggles with thinking further ahead in the month, but is very focused on the week at hand. Some of his main goals for CAC are a group committee project, wrap up the current projects so we can prep for the winter semester
 - (ii) Raak - Also calls himself an 8 out of 10; want to make sure students maximize tuition, particularly in regards to online resources
- e) Armstrong to both- since you've both served on sub-committees, how do you see each committee as being vital and how would you implement them on campus?
- (i) Raak - mental health is a challenge, particularly while facing the pandemic; sustainability is a keystone of GV; SAAC, there's still a lot to be done
 - (ii) Frappier - sub-committees voices in Cabinet meetings are important; MHAC is particularly important given the pandemic, but also mental health is important regardless; SAAC's menstrual hygiene project was incredible; sustainability did good work in preventing the Grand River waterway project - all sub-committees have real life benefits
- f) Thompson to both - sometimes a VP must make hard decisions for committee and other senators in regards to projects and timing, how will you deal with this?
- (i) Frappier - ties into what has been discussed at SRC with restorative justice as opposed to punishment; it's about how you can help a senator as opposed to punishing them for not getting something done. Additionally, just being willing to listen and communicate
 - (ii) Raak - gatekeeping is a hard problem within CAC, and especially now CAC may not have the resources for a project to go through. Raak is not afraid to put his foot down, and as for

senators not finishing projects, Raak concurs with Frappier: it's important to be a helping hand as opposed to punishment

- vi. Discussion - Senators Raak and Frappier leave the room
 - a) Senator Sucheki - could not have been more impressed with Senator Frappier, seeing him show up to DAC's meeting and Food Committee. Certainly sees him as qualified
 - b) Siegrist - both are well spoken, well qualified candidates, and can whole-heartedly say that either would succeed in the position. Knows Raak has worked hard on his resolutions, and feels that this is significant in showing initiative
 - c) Zbikowski - has not worked with Frappier, but as co-chair of MHAC has worked closely with Raak; he is probably one of the most hardworking, dedicated individuals he's worked with in the university; believes both candidates are strong, qualified, however feels that Raak's connections through MHAC with University Counseling Center and other organizations on campus makes him slightly more qualified
 - d) Ferreyra - wanted to show support for Frappier, worked with him through SRC, is respectful and has great ideas; he's already been attending Cabinet and comes with many good ideas.
 - e) Korte - shows support for Frappier; shares that Frappier helped him to solve food-related issues through Deb of Food Committee; feels this shows he has not only initiative but commitment; he's put in hours of work in order to prepare for this role; Frappier is more organized than he gives himself credit for, and would ensure a smooth transition
 - f) Samuels - as a Cabinet member from the previous, sees the same qualities that led her to become a Cabinet member in Frappier; has seen a lot of growth in him and feels this is one of the things that makes her have a lot of confidence in him
 - g) Mueller - wants to show support with Raak, feels he would be the best transition into Cabinet given his experience with a leadership position in MHAC, feels he would be the best candidate
 - h) Pagel - Raak is a returning senator from previous year's ERC, cites his organization and work with civic engagement, his balance of responsibilities with MHAC
 - i) Krichevsky - knowing both of them on a personal level, knows them to be motivated and well-qualified candidates
 - j) Byers offers support for Raak, citing how he messaged her as a member of CAC, willing to support CAC
 - k) Pearson - offers support for Frappier, was his Senate Buddy last year and appreciated his assistance
- vii. Voting for CAC Vice President
 - a) Senator Frappier is elected as CAC Vice President
- viii. Discussion and Voting on F-20-02: Adopt a Financial and Organizational Audit Policy for Registered Student Organizations

- a) Siegrist presents bill which would establish a policy that would allow Senate to review (audit) student organizations that have a preset budget within the Student Life Fund in order to ensure the orgs are using the budget effectively, efficiently, and to receive a more accurate understanding of how the allocated money is being used. This will increase transparency and ensure effective use of the Student Life Fund
- b) Samuels reiterates the overall importance of this bill, how other student orgs still have to go through the funding process even if there are already events the Senate knows will happen each year. Makes sense for all student orgs to go through a similar process, as well as to make it transparent
- c) Discussion
 - (i) McMahan thanks both Siegrist and Samuels for their work with this bill
 - (ii) Pagel shares that this was shared with Saginaw and Western University and that their student governments liked/supported this
- d) Voting
 - (i) Motion passes unanimously

B. Call for New Orders of the Day

XI. Public Comment - Part II

XII. Officer Reports

A. Senate Resources

i. Mental Health On Student Senate Presentation (SRC and MHAC)

- a) Burnout : Thompson defines Burnout and provides examples on how to combat it (knowing when to say no, learn how to ask for help, take breaks, etc.)
- b) Imposter Syndrome (presented by Krichevsky) - defines Imposter Syndrome and examples of emotions that may indicate the feelings associated with the syndrome - clarifies that yes, the Senators deserve to be on Senate, their impact is great no matter the size of the project, Senators belong, and every accomplishment is important
- c) Raak shares that burnout and imposter syndrome can lead to stress, diminished self-confidence, anxiety, self-doubt, emotional and physical exhaustion - it's important to remember that you *do* deserve it
 - (i) Resources: recognize your strengths, remember no one is perfect; utilize your Cabinet, VPs and MHAC, friends or family; and utilize University Counseling Center
- d) Thompson concludes that one doesn't want to make mental health a taboo subject, seek support if it is needed

ii. Attend Friendsgiving after this GA

B. Allocations

- i. Has been trying to attend each committee this week, wants to provide himself as a resource, particularly in regards to internal funding

- ii. Allocations folder contains a spreadsheet with whether or not senators have obtained their voting rights, keep an eye out for future voting rights sessions or contact Siegrist
- C. Public Relations
- i. Senators should have received through Slack an order form for Senate Swag; deadline is December 2nd
 - ii. Established that Senate Info Night will occur on December 2nd
 - iii. Senator of the Week is on-going, please continue to fill out the form
 - iv. Have been discussing advertising strategies and recruitment, continue to work on them though are accepting ideas
- D. Campus Affairs
- i. Lots of interest in Food Committee, excited with this
 - ii. Congratulates VP Elect Frappier
- E. Educational Affairs
- i. ASPC will be having emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss Spring Break resolution
 - ii. Updated information on some of the University Committees that Mueller sits on is available in folder
 - iii. EAC has been hard at work writing resolutions and continue to work on their project
 - iv. Waiting to hear from Library staff with updates from the University Library Advisory Committee
 - v. EAC last meeting met with Melissa to discuss online registration and course projects in regards to resolutions
 - vi. Mueller is looking to finish her “Double-Dipping” resolution in the coming week
 - vii. EAC will not be meeting this week or the next
- F. Diversity Affairs
- i. Encourages participation with Food Committee
 - ii. Met with heads of Basic Needs task force to obtain more information, there will likely be more meetings/information in the future. The Heads have been meeting since the summer
 - iii. Is beginning research on Aramark, other interested parties may join
 - iv. Teach-In went well, there was a lot of engagement
 - v. Attended second round of DEI process training, next round is Friday, and the last session will be in the following week.
 - vi. Encourages the use of pronouns in daily life and particularly within one’s name in Zoom
- G. External Relations
- i. Meeting with SVSU Student Association on Monday went well, discussed COVID-19, civic and community engagement, inter-university collaboration, and SCHEF
 - ii. Both Housing and Scooter resolutions are in the process of administrative review
 - iii. SCHEF is going well, semester schedule will be sent out to VPs for those interested

- iv. Met with WMU, ASMSU, U of M to talk about same topics as with SVSU; CMU meeting will be moved to the next week
- v. Encourages thoughts within Senate: what can Senate do with GVSU for preparation for the 2022 midterms and 2024 election? What would a polling place look like, and how would that happen?

XIII. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Byers - SAAC did not meet today, but did meet with Menstrual Health Task Force initiated by Former Senator Hicks last year; are working on researching menstrual health to present to administration
- B. Raak - MHAC, have meeting tomorrow with APSC to present Spring Break resolution; MHAC will probably be meeting tomorrow, if not tomorrow then it will be rescheduled; have been having good meetings with UCC and Rec and Wellness
- C. Cargill - Sustainability will not be meeting this week, but will be meeting next week in which there will be a presentation in regards to everyday products being made sustainable (ex. Plastic bags, toothpaste tubes)

XIV. University Committee Reports

- A. Mueller, Pew Faculty and Teaching Committee - focused on giving awards to outstanding professors (Teaching Excellence Awards); however, in the previous meeting touched on online/remote education training, providing assistance to professors with online, address racism and systematic oppression while online
- B. Siegrist
 - i. FSBC notes are in allocations folder, reviewed and approved two programs; Provost came and discussed some faculty issues;
 - ii. Steering committee is putting together a group of student huddles specifically for undergrad and grad students to provide their input and help guide the goals of the Steering Committee
- C. Sucheki - LIFT MC, making final decisions and edits for September 2020 engagement and index report which is supposed to provide information on how academically challenging a class is and how well students engage in it
- D. Gineman, LGBTQIA Recruitment - met twice to think of ways to increase the amount of people who want to use the LGBTQ+ centers, find more ways to help people be comfortable at GV, want to emphasize establishing GV as a safe space, a safe college for students in the LGBTQ+ community
- E. Vela - Undergraduate Research Committee, revised plans for the mentor/mentee situation to be completely remote; doing well with ensuring researching students receive the necessary funds and professorial assistance

XV. Roll Call - Part II

XVI. Call for Announcements

- A. McMahon - Fill out Doodle poll so EVP can schedule 2:1s
- B. Frappier - offers thanks for his election; encourages attendance at Friendsgiving; and asks members of CAC to watch out for an email with agenda and a few other bits of information
- C. Moine - Senators should continue to plug the Google Form survey

XVII. Adjournment: 6:51pm