



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, November 21st, 2019 — 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette Room — Kirkhof Center 2204

President: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Executive Vice President: Kelly Dowker

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm
 - A. Pres acknowledges the debates and conversations had in the previous week in reference to the pledge. Right intent behind actions, do their best in stressful situations, students first; thanks for engagement in deliberation and discussion for this previous conversation and future; asks respectfulness of colleagues and peers, everyone operates with their intentions with the students' best interests first; administration welcomes these sorts of discussions, step out of comfort zone to make GV a better place / President reinstated pledge through constitutional power, now is time to get back to advancing efforts (move on) of things that GV deserves
 - B. Student Senate Creed
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance
 - D. Moment of Silence
 1. Native Land Recognition
 2. Respectful Observation of our Diverse Laker Community
 - E. Roll Call
 - II. Public Comment – Part I
 - Erin - returning to make comment, referencing previous comments of the divisiveness of pledge; lack of diversity in GV, current reality of GV's reputation with this and the power of donors; maintaining pledge perpetuates environment
 - Student, expresses happiness that the pledge has been returned. Hopes one can move past this issue onto more important topics such as open access, parking, etc.
 - Graduated former student, expresses that returning to this decision has not made anything more equitable and has even encouraged threatening behavior; disdain for the imbalance of power of donors threatening to pull
 - III. Five (5) Minutes to Pass Papers
 - Holcomb - Exam Cram event, four spots for tabling in the library, less tabling and more promo
 - Fritz - bulletin board leaves which will be put up later tonight
 - IV. President's Report
 - a. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - Murarescu motions to place under new business, the appointment of Jasmine to DAC, seconded by Benoit / motion passes unanimously
 - Dowker motions to amend, Pagel seconds; motion passes unanimously with one abstention

- Thankful that EVP Dowker and VP Fritz have stepped up to leadership role with media and community
- International LGBT Leadership Conference - look forward to working on some of these issues, references previous successes (eligibility to win bids)
- As previously mentioned, assume positive intent and that everyone is present for the right reasons
- For future action items, will be doing an overview before doing second public comment

V. Public Comment – Part II

- Joshua, current student - does not know any other public schools that care about pledge as much, especially in a student senate; do the words of pledge really matter this much? References President who overrode vote, feels weird (uncomfortable) as a student
- Student, glad pledge is back, disappointed it was up for debate and that people don't see value of pledge anymore. Feels that today's society doesn't understand what true oppression is; feel this is worth fighting for and that having this debate is telling of how oppressive the gov't really is, makes GV seem out of touch
- Camrie, former senator - GV is not as diverse as it should or where we want it to be; pledge is not meant for people of colour, so if intending to become a university that takes the lead on diversity, this is a setback; not every voice is being heard
- Thompson, D. - speaks on behalf of student who couldn't attend (Taylor Parker) - was outraged at the decision to remove pledge and, while it didn't directly affect him, was disgraceful to have conversation; references particular part of pledge (under god) pledge is not oppressive, but telling people they don't have a right to is oppressive
- Second student (Thompson, D.) - thanks for reinstating pledge
- Savannah (student) - disappointed that the vote to abolish pledge was not upheld and the override does not represent the senate well; pledge does not stand for diverse groups on campus (which is already low); people are being silenced about their true feelings

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

- Appointment to DAC (Jasmine Pearson) - Murarescu provides rationale and motions to appoint to DAC, seconded by McMahon; motion passes unanimously

a. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

- Murarescu - halfway through window for climate survey - encourage friends to post on social media, take climate survey, make clear where to find link and importance of it

VIII. Executive Vice President's Report

a. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Stand approved
- Thanks for attending investiture ceremony, honored to be speaking
- Nominate a professor for SAFE award
- Keep an eye on emails and slack for updates and messages

IX. Sub-Committee Reports

- MHAC - shout out to Moine for plugging survey, encourages everyone to do the same

- Last meeting on Monday, discuss plans for next semester
- SAAC - progress on menstruation products project, will have promotional things to be posted (as well as surveys) will not be meeting next week, last meeting will be the wednesday after that to discuss current projects and meeting time for next semester

X. University Committee Reports

- Fritz - trained for university conduct pool, other students who are interested may contact him to get trained
- Hicks - Honors curriculum and development committee - approved two more courses, any interested parties for next semester (Hicks can no longer attend) may contact Hicks
- Pagel - university conduct pool training
- President - next semester, current holders of university positions have first option to stay on committee; reevaluating how to formalize student training for when students are on a university committee; encourages senators to look and see if they can still maintain their position for next semester, if not a list will be sent out in the next week; in winter, all meetings are on Pew campus

XI. Call for Announcements

- McMahon - nominate people for I Am Grand Valley awards; last food committee was on Tuesday - accomplished wipes in Fresh, Arizona Tea, more exploration of vegan/vegetarian options
- Houtman - trying to start a project to expand DC Mentor program, thanks to senators who have already reached out, encourages those of majors/minors other than political science to speak with Houtman about whether or not it would be beneficial to have a mentor program
- Hicks - I Am Grand Valley; RA applications are due in December, Holcomb Hicks and Murarescu are open to looking over applications
- Frappier - appreciate filling out leaves;
- Samuels - cultural funding board and appropriations will meet tomorrow
- Russo - tomorrow 7-9pm in Holton-Hooker, karaoke and winter crafts; December 6th, Holton hooker, sip and study for exam cram
- Thompson, J - on Monday at 9am, Neal and her will be meeting with student enrollment and payroll to discuss getting student employees title of staff (for parking purposes); student leadership academy applications will open tonight at 6pm
- Benoit - thanks those in the gallery for attending, interested in applying for senate, can reach out to Benoit; film festival downtown tomorrow night
- Thompson, J - straw poll of those interested in doing a dodgeball event
- Murarescu - look in slack for bonding activities for tonight
- President - welcomes new senator, tomorrow is UAS which is considering own resolution to oppose GR waterway project; at 5pm tomorrow in student senate office, hosting members of student senate from West Shore community college to learn about student government which will be accompanied by admissions ; December 5th is Friendsgiving brief GA for QPR training - don't include nuts in any dishes, there is no GA next week ; on January 16th, state of student body speech at cook-Dewitt center; Mantella will attend which will start with University arts corral performance (last about 30 minutes)

XII. Adjournment: 5:18pm