



General Assembly

Thursday, April 18th, 2019 – 4:30 pm

Pere Marquette – Kirkhof Center

Chair: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Parliamentarian: Andrew Nurmi

Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm

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

II. Guest Speakers

III. Public Comment – Part I

- a. Bilal: Former Senator, understand Senator Elect Pagel is running for ERC. He has a great time for ERC. Would put his all into the position.
- b. Austin Marsman: Former Senator, Sam Jacobs, threw himself into senate so far. Ask them good questions, both are good candidates. Also obscene displays have no place on our campus. This past Monday, radical anti abortion people were here. These people here yelled at people and displayed unpleasing images. Tour groups did see this. Ask ourselves where we drive the life. We can have civil discussion on these topics but cannot change people's mind by yelling. This is about civility.
- c. Adam Elonbaas: Serve as supervisor of Allendale charter township. Spent lots of hours talking to previous senate. Wanted to be here to quickly say hello and say welcome and congrats. Have a great summer but I am here as a resource for you, get in contact next fall when you all come back, would love to get to know you all.
- d. Dillon Drosshart: Former Senator, Exam cram that previous senate was working on for MHAC, MHAC will not be doing it as it would not be full work. In new business, when discussion on the upsetting displays, For a contrarian opinion. Everyone has their right to protest, speak their mind, regardless of agreeing. I do not agree with them but this is dangerous route to go down. Think this will be serving your views instead of entire student body. Be very careful how you approach this.
- e. Erin McIntosh: Former senator. For SAAC, will talk about it later. Will echo what former senator senator Drosshart said. It is very upsetting, but they are ea registered student organization, they are verified, approved for their spot, their first amendment right. Also your right to go out their and have a discussion.
- f. Bilal: Echo what Erin and Dillon said. They were out there doing something they find important to them and we should continue to allow them this opportunity.

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass Papers

- a. President Szcpaniak: Sign Up sheet for Haasta La Vista, 3-4pm tomorrow at Fieldhouse. Need people for both 2-3 and 3-4pm.

V. President's Report

- a. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - i. Reauthorization of the Sexual Assault Awareness Committee and Reauthorization of the Mental Health Awareness Committee above report.

(1) Approved

- b. Meet with senator elect Jacobs with representative Huizenga, talked about appropriations, state funding, getting him up to date with our goals. He seemed generally supportive.
- c. For subcommittee, we are aiming to reauthorize 3 committees today. Other topics you want to create for sub committee task force, see article 13 of Bylaws to see process.
- d. Tomorrow, UAS, myself and Muller will be going for open education resources findings. 4-5pm downtown, Devos, room TBD. If you want to attend, let me know. We have 4 voting seats there. Myself and 3 others.
- e. May 10th for Michigan voter summit here at GVSU.
- f. July 1st, first day of President Mantella. Meeting with her on July 1st. Anything you want me to bring to her attention, tell me before hand so I can bring it to her.
- g. Committee assignments will be sent out tomorrow in an email.
- h. In process of writing letter to Lanthorn, encouraging people to apply for senate. Tell people you think that would be great senators, encourage them to apply.

VI. **Vice President's Report**

- a. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Approved
- b. Housing meeting was today with off campus landlords. Tons of interest from off campus landlords, they had questions and concerns, lots seemed on board.
- c. Believe we should put subcommittee for housing, for deciding who should receive award. Reach out to me if you have interest.
- d. Get in touch with PV of committees you are interested in. Changes can still happen.
- e. Time is valuable here, so no cellphones or laptops.

VII. **Officer Reports**

- a. **Senate Resources** – Hannah Benoit
 - i. Again, no phones or laptops.
 - ii. Emails will be sent out tomorrow for committees.
 - iii. If you showed interest in coming back to senate and able to, reach out to me or president.
- b. **Finance** – Maddie Samuels
 - i. Begin meetings with OSL, for transition processes.
 - ii. Looking forward to the year ahead of us.
- c. **Campus Affairs** – Grace McMahon
 - i. Went to Allendale group meeting. Heard about growth and how GVSU contributes.

- ii. CAC does lots of things with campus dining, facilities, other campus based projects, etc.

d. Educational Affairs – Autumn Mueller

- i. EAC, involves keeping anything education related, updated on, so educational committee and making sure student voice is heard for academic policies when made.
- ii. Working on project for textbook bookshelf at library, library wants to do a pilot program next year. Will work on over the year.

e. Diversity Affairs – Alex Murarescu

- i. DAC, division of inclusion and equity, lots of work done with them. Also student organizations on how to better represent them. Talk to me if you have interest.
- ii. If you are not on DAC, you still stand for diversity and equity.

f. External Relations – N/A

- i. VP Nurmi: When I served on ERC, worked with lots of local government leaders, state reps, state funding projects, off campus businesses, off campus landlords. ERC was very popular when choosing preference.

g. Public Relations – Ryan Fritz

- i. Eager to help get the other seats on senate filled. Encourage you all to reach out to others to apply.
- ii. President Szczepaniak, VP McMahon and myself worked with someone who works a lot on fundraising on campus. Will talk with her over summer for ideas for replacement for BOV. Encourage other students to be involved and come up with lots of good ideas.
- iii. Encourage open communication for everyone. Collaborate with everyone you can.

VIII. Call for University Committee Reports

- a. Senator Elect Boyd: Student Media Advisory Board. Head of Lanthron was replaced with a new guy. Will open up for new collaboration.
- b. President Szczepaniak: Some committees only last for 1 or 2 years. Always student representation. Over the summer will look over meeting times, see what VPs can fill and which ones we want to have the help from senators to help fill. It is a great thing to have student representation on all university committees. Consider serving if you have the time in your schedule. If no one is able to fill a spot, then we will look externally from the broader student body.

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. Reauthorization of the Sexual Assault Awareness Committee
 - i. Former VP of ERC McIntosh: Here to talk about committee, projects we did, what to do in future, what the position entails. SAAC was a large part of senate engagement.

Works with many campus departments. Had lots of projects like the Valentines Day, work with GVPD, women and gender equity, etc. Goals to have consent coaster, bystander training, Rave Guardian, Title IX, It's On Us partnership, and build on progress. Lots of room to continue grow, combat stigmas, help educate others. Needs a passionate senator who can lead it better than they found it. Help get students a better safer environment.

- ii. President Szczepaniak: Chair of subcommittee, I appoint with help from EVP and previous chair person of subcommittee.
- iii. Vote: Reauthorized
- b. Reauthorization of the Mental Health Awareness Committee
 - i. Former senator Dillon Drosshart: MHAC, worked with counseling center, warrior movement, helped promote mental health awareness, like tips and tricks, exam cram projects, MHAC Care Fair, got SAD lamps, and other things as well. Care Fair reached over 50 students for the first care fair. Had a series of stations. They have biweekly meetings. Want to have a 5-part speaker series to bring on other student organizations. Want to help remove RA counseling, since not everyone has good relations with their RA. And always break the stigma of mental Health stereotypes.
 - ii. Voting: Reauthorized
- c. Nominations and Voting for Vice President of External Relations
 - i. Nominations:
 - (1) Senator Elect Thompson: Pagel, been on body for past year, well suited for this position. Connected with local area. Knowledge of government workings. (Accepts)
 - (2) VP Benoit: Senator Elect Jacobs, well versed in GV community and local community, cares a lot about politics, could represent it well. (Accepts)
 - ii. Speeches:
 - (1) Senator Elect Pagel: One more vote to make. First few weeks of senate are eventful. When I was nominated, stayed up all night planning what I could do. Grew up in this area and ended up in Saginaw. Wanted to come to GVSU, as it is where I feel like I belong. Value of community, it has a wide range of places for many different people. If these last few weeks taught me anything, senate is great, encouragement is appreciated, and I will not take this role lightly. Had leadership roles in high school and brought this to senate. On PRC, I got to go to many conferences, collaborated with other universities. Experience will transfer well. ERC focus on state funding, work with past ERC members and those interested. Want to increase current voter registration done civic engagement efforts. Ottawa county commission meeting was an inspiration for me. Want tot work with Relay for Life, a male a difference day per say.
 - (2) Senator Elect Jacobs:

(a) Want to help inspire this university. Plans for civic engagement. Skills in leadership and communication, I was an eagle scout for example. Leading a large group and my own confidence, like leading the drum line. President of NHS chapter, went on 3 faith based service trips. I see myself as all in, will give 100% always. Desire to make GV a better place, my intentional connections, giving back to GVSU. For civic engagement, like state funding efforts, expand scope of letter drive. Want to personally contact state legislators. Want to personally talk to them. Campus democratic coalition, want to better partner with them. Will play into bettering civic engagement. More tabling, more events, and other things like that. For Allendale and GR, want to have a continued growth in this relationship, help create more discounts for local businesses, increase student employment in Allendale community. Students need to know what is happening in the community surrounding them. Build in framework previous VP built. Foster an environment of accountability. Impact on society is our goal. Ask not what university can do for you but what you can do for your university.

iii. Q and A:

- (1) Senator Elect Thompson: Jacobs, you are jumping into senate just now. Are you ready for time commitment?
- (2) Senator Elect Jacobs: I am all in for the things I do, can easily make the time. Would be committed to role and be active in the surrounding community and beyond.
- (3) VP Benoit: Pagel, know you are engaged in local community. Learning that this is like a every day job. Has lots of weekly work, ready for time commitment
- (4) Senator Elect Pagel: Absolutely
- (5) Senator Elect Nitzkin: Jacobs, how will you inspire and organize committee and make yourself a resource, as you are a newly elected senator, as you are disadvantaged since you are so new.
- (6) Senator Elect Jacobs: Even though newly elected, keys to a good leader is to know when you don't know something. I will ask if I need assistance. Being honest and accountable is key to strengthen the "team bond". Will result in more productivity.
- (7) Senator Elect Hicks: Past conference in the spring, reaching out to other student governments, it is important to have those connections, not a focus of past ERC, skills in which you can build communication, plans?
- (8) Senator Elect Pagel: had a lot of conversation with CMU, SVSU had some conversation about BOV, MSU have a couple of friends on their student government. Worked with mayor of GR as well in the past.

- (9) Senator Elect Jacobs: Pagel does have contacts, do not have direct contacts, but friends all around the state who can get me the contacts. Feel as though we do need to increase activities with other student governments. We can better show them how we run, increase our state funding efforts with other schools.
- (10) Senator Elect Boyd: Jacobs, mentions how you wanted to double down on election and voting registration efforts, why do you think it is important to keep as a focus?
- (11) Senator elect Jacobs: one of the most important things you can do as a citizen of the US is to be engaged civically, help inform people on how to vote, even on the off years when elections are being held. Making sure they are aware.
- (12) Senator Elect Russo: GVSU and student senate is non partisan. As VP of ERC you will work with both aisles, how you plan to do that and ensure body of students is informed without bias?
- (13) Senator Elect Jacobs: With us being nonpartisan, when talk to legislators, need to have an open dialogue, key to meet with both people on both sides of the aisle. To reach student body, work with campus democratic engagement coalition. Talking with them, they will help us reach students in a nonpartisan manner.
- (14) Senator Elects Pagel: civility and open mindedness will be a cornerstone of ERC under me. Want to make sure everyone is heard. Working with OSL since they are a great resource, college of democratic and republicans as well, sending out a statement on how we want to work with them and hear their voices. New letter, email, something like that. Respect.

iv. Discussion:

- (1) Senator Elect Thomson: Support for Pagel, especially with his work on PRC, his PRC strategies will be a great asset. He also has a personal connection with other state university governments. He is a hard worker. He may be a little quieter. Jacobs could be great on the committee though. Since he is just joining, Jacobs, think he should get some experience as well before he jumps into this leadership role.
- (2) Senator elect Dowker: knowing Jacobs, he has great ideas, but better fulfilled if he served as general senator. Best way for his ideas to be completed is to serve as a general senator. Support for Pagel.
- (3) VP Benoit: working with Pagel on PRC, and meeting Jacobs. Jacobs is very excited to be on senate. Conflicted to vote for. Both are professional and level headed. One concern of mine is Pagel takes his schooling very serious, which is good, but he has restricted himself from senate for his school work in the past. Time commitment for cabinet is a concern for me.
- (4) VP Fritz: working with Pagel on PRC, can agree with VP Benoit that Pagel has done this in the past. Also extensive conversation if Pagel was going to run. He

has been approached lots of times, people have talked about to him running for this. He would not have run for this position if he knew he couldn't commit the time. Support for Pagel.

(5) Senator Elect Boyd: He is my roommate; last week has been hard on him in deciding to run. He didn't want to run at first but once starting to think about it, he is now all in for this. Complete change in energy. For Senator Elect Jacobs, love his enthusiasm. But there has been senators who can in "hot" but burned themselves out. Keep in mind enthusiasm does not translate into a long term senator.

(6) Senator Elect Hicks: With lots of discussion, with how these people represent the student body, keep in mind ERC represents us to the government, local and state leaders. Keep in mind how each one speaks. ERC can have "On the Spot" speaking, not as rehearsed sometimes.

(7) VP Mueller: Make sure this place can be safe for both candidates.

(8) Senator Elect Thompson: When I got to meet with Governor Whitmer, this type of role, both can do great in position, only concern is how senator Jacobs is so new, not to discredit him.

v. Voting: Congrats to Senator Elect Pagel 21 -1 Jacobs -1 no confidence

X. **New Business**

a. Reauthorization of the State Funding Task Force

i. Senator Elect Thomson: State funding is one of the coolest projects senators can work on. State government giving us funds, GVSU students get about \$3000 per student, and all the other schools basically get more per student. They use an outdated formula for deciding the amount. Many of us have spoken to legislators to making this change. They all agree this needs to change. T-Haas has said that I fit was \$5000 per student, tuition could be maybe lowered by 18%. Something we should put tons of focus into. I think we should all support this initiative and task force. Here to lend any assistance if I can. Have over 140 legislators to talk to.

ii. Voting: Reauthorized

b. Discussion and Voting on the Statement Denouncing Upsetting Displays on Campus

i. EVP Nurmi: Cabinet talked about this wording a lot. Heard some criticisms about this as it "takes a side of an issue" does not point any group out though but hopes for people to find better avenues. Saying things that can only upset and will not change people's minds.

ii. President Szczepaniak: Participation in student groups from other student groups earlier this group, we do not want to deter the message they want to display, as there are only certain areas where non student organization can practice free speech.

iii. Senator Elect Thompson: Appreciate the start to dialogue. Here to represent all students too. I just feel this sends the wrong message, especially is says "denounce"

maybe instead say “encourage dialogue”. Understand where we are coming from. There should be something, it is on the right track, would like to have “encourage different type of dialogue” instead of “denounce”

- iv. VP Fritz: This is a hard conversation. Attitude and opinion on this statement is what we saw last week. Brings up some chance to pick a side easily. How you support his statement or not, it does not speak to your personal beliefs as well. A lot of what I say and do is modeled after previous PRC VP. Maybe not something we want to jump into right away to start the next academic year. No matter our choice we will upset someone or people.
 - v. Senator Elect Boyd: Try to separate personal emotions from this to the best you can. This statement will not only affect “radical type” groups. How far this goes, it is important to take situation to translate to other situations on campus as well.
 - vi. Senator Elect DeBerry: Think this is a good idea to do, but the timing of this will be tied directly to one organization. Wording leads this wide open to something to many different types of “speech”. Maybe pass something next year so timing is better.
 - vii. Senator Elect Paquet: Do not feel as though we should release this from objective standpoint. Next year would be a better time, as to not seem to target one student organization. Want to help enact organizations to not be attention seeking.
 - viii. Senator Elect Neal: We probably shouldn’t not do anything. We are the voice of students, this issue last week, but others will come. Need to talk to others as well.
 - ix. VP Fritz: Table the discussion and voting to Fall semester:
 - (1) Senator Elect Thompson: Will agree with Fritz, over the summer, at cabinet retreat, really think about wording of “upsets and hurts students” as the past current event is very political. In 2020 when presidential race happens, it can be very upsetting and hurting to some on some people’s views and political campaigns
 - (2) Senator Elect DeBerry: Very behind this tabling, as finals are very soon. Can work in more language, encourage people to counter protest if they so believe or want to.
 - (3) Vote: Table till the first GA of Fall semester? 20 – 4 has been tabled
- c. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**
- i. Senator Elect Hicks: “New BOV” meet with CSLC, talked to them about possible plans, how we should continue philanthropic efforts and grow them. Replace with Relay for Life. It occurs in the spring, can build relationships with other student organizations. Positive are that but also near to when the “New Body” for senate comes in as well. Should do 2 service days of the year. One in first semester the other in MLK week. Can request one particular focus if requested early enough. Previous EVP Mattler also encourages us to still sell t-shirts to take money and donate to on

campus center or an on campus philanthropic group. Will make a slack channel for this.

- (1) Senator Elect DeBerry: Love this idea. Important that we should still do charity. Like Relay for Life, even with near end of body's term. Would like to see a small charity week or event in fall semester as well.
- (2) Senator Elect Hicks: Ideas for fall event, concern due to how little help we got before from BOV. Relay came about since it is already hosted by many student organizations and this way we have a new way to connect with students.
- (3) Senator Elect Russo: Love days of service and relay for life as it all has a big impact.
- (4) VP Fritz: When sitting with Heather Rhoen, replacement of BOV she said, for BOV we raised \$15,000 for replenish. She encouraged focus stay in replenish. What events, when, and where it can go, how to actively engage students. So like a blood drive, founder's day, homecoming, "battle of the classes", maybe a fall and/or winter charity events. Big areas she wanted to focus on was: Replenish, textbook fund/scholarship, and money for counseling center. Active steps we could talk about is to educate students about established events and our efforts as well. Stressed to stay on campus. Possibly target alumni as well since 50th anniversary is approaching as well.
- (5) Senator Elect DeBerry: Make sure if we do both semesters, the events should be smaller. Another idea during football season, work with football team or athletic director.
- (6) Senator Elect Dowker: importance we raise will benefit GVSU directly, what we did from replenish was great.
- (7) Senator Elect Paquet: Do a penny drive to get student organizations involved or alumni as well. Reward to winners possibly
- (8) Senator Elect Brainard: Keep within GVSU, like others have said. Best to benefit students.

XI. Public Comment – Part II

- a. Lansing Sanchez-Castillo: former senator, congrats to you all for being here and Pagel as well from his role. Food insecurity task force on their behalf. Those that have interest, we would love to get more senators get involved to be part of the conversation. Task force will be worked on over the summer and goal of implementing goal of income based meal plans by Fall 2020. Also Sheryl stated how Replenish could still use more attention and help, financing, donations. Need storage, fridges, space, etc. We can also make changes to contract with AirMark, but for all of this change we need more bodies in the conversation. Contact senators on the task force if you want to get involved. Also on

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topic of PRC, with event services, the “lollipop” stands, senate will have two of these stands promoting GA. Also love the idea of the blood drive from VP Fritz, but keep in mind LGBT community cannot donate, Programs in other states where you can have people donate on one’s behalf. Maybe look into having this type of effort here as well.

- b. Olivia Kolc: for “BOV” keep with replenish. Greek Life donated 1200 products in 1 week. You guys can go through the Greeks. The statement, do not feel as though you should release any statement, as what is “upsetting” to someone. We can go directly to the student organization, so maybe do that or have an administrator help us go talk to them. Statement seems very emotional and personal, so maybe do not release this when vote does happen

XII. Call for Announcements

- a. VP Fritz: Make it out to Haasta La Vista tomorrow.
- b. EVP Nurmi: Trusted with setting up a slack, will be sending emails out soon for those who have not joined. Be active in checking email and slack over the summer. But especially email. We also have a student senate contact sheet, will be shared with you soon.
- c. Senator Elect Hicks: Contact sheet also has spot for pronouns spot, please fill out regardless of views as we represent all students.
- d. VP Benoit: Definitely fill out contact sheet.

XIII. Adjournment: 6:41pm