

# Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



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*“Student Senate will cultivate a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered.”*

## **I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:33pm**

- a. Moment of Silence
  - i. Native Land Recognition
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call - Part I

## **II. Public Comment – Part I**

## **III. Workshop: The Johnson Center**

- a. Schmidt: moves to suspend Robert’s rules until 5:35 pm
  - i. derPilibosian- 2nd
  - ii. Kidd: recommends amendment to change it to 4:45 pm because that is when they are paying the consultant to stay until and they should get the most for their money.
  - iii. Schmidt: accepts amendment
  - iv. Schmidt: moves to carry with unanimous consent
  - v. Passes
  - vi. Senate votes to suspend Robert’s rules until 5:45 pm
- b. Sharp-Eizinger: Works for the Johnson center to provide support for philanthropic efforts including student organizations, located on the Pew Campus. Will walk through the results of the climate of the survey and then look at different sections of the SRC policies and procedures. She implements Roberta’s rules, not official but is a more flexible way of doing business. But there has been much feedback that Robert’s Rules is very effective in running senate’s meetings.
- c. Climate survey: it was anonymous, 10 cabinet responses and 15 senate responses. It was highly qualitative data, so she pulled out the trends she saw. Tended to be similarities in what the climate verbally shared and what was shared in the survey, no surprises. Overall climate rating was 6.4/10 by senate body and cabinet rated it as 4.7/10. The cabinet sees the behind the scenes and that may have influenced their rating. Speed of meetings can be too fast, that’s why the one pager of Robert’s rules was made. Cabinet had a really healthy discussion on the competitive nature of the senate when competing for space, power, or influence in the senate. There was a healthy debate on whether competition is a positive or negative word.
- d. Kidd: in the fall she sent out a google form to give responses regarding climate. Clare also filled it out as EOA. They used this information as a starting point for these activities because they want to rebuild and grow.

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- e. Sharp-Eizinger: it was very clear that there was some type or maybe multiple disruptions that happened in a general body meeting that many were reflecting on. Has learned that it was an incident in a meeting that caused conflict but has since been resolved.
  - f. Recommendations that came from survey: hope for a full senate body with diverse representation across students and to be known as a strong, productive, and positive entity on campus. Shift meeting cadence which has already been implemented with 2 weeks on 1 week off. Have more working meetings, like today. Seat cabinet members with the general assembly to remove barriers, already happening today. Going to be working towards more clear processes and documents, and more team building to get to know each other in a more personal way.
  - g. Sharp-Eizinger: the policies and procedures need to be the place they start to have a productive body. Article 1 led by Haas, Article 2 led by Frappier and Everly, Article 3 led by Biermacher, Article 4 led by VP Bucon, Article 5 led by Schmidt.
  - h. 2 things of critical importance from each group:
    - i. Article 5- not really an outline on what happens if an SRC committee member or SRC VP gets in conduct trouble- suggests they report to EVP if it is one of them. Thinks that if a senator is found in violation of university conduct they should get an automatic referral to the conduct board. SRC is very limited in what they can do, there are many warnings before anything happens. If there is a severe instance they should go straight to the conduct board.
    - ii. Article 4- if the senator is not initiating the transfer when do they become aware of it. Suggests changing it to let there be a discussion that includes the senator.
    - iii. Article 2- section 1.c- strike 60 minutes in office and change to doing senate activities, move line item f under c and add a section of what does not count as office hours for more clarification. Rewrite the section about events so that it reflects that they are not an event based body anymore. Add a section that outlines expectations and requirements with involvements in legislation.
    - iv. Article 3- section 1.d-e- conflicting school work is too vague, change to supplemental class work that falls outside of class time. Conflicting paid work should be allowed for mandates or call-ins.
    - v. Article 1- changes to formal application- want to be transparent about the last time it was changed. Section 1.01.d- do you have to attend a meeting if you go through the elections process as clarification. Do not want more people in an interview than necessary, want to make it as welcoming as possible. Want to include someone from each of their top 3 committees so they can get their questions answered. Specify how soon after appointment new appointees can be sworn in.

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- i. Frappier: thanks everyone for their work, it will really help him during CTF. Fill out the CTF form if you like conversations like this. These conversations will go on and on when they go through each section during CTF.
- j. Kidd: asks everyone to go into the slack and fill out the CTF form so Frappier can pick a time.
- k. Frappier: reminds everyone that this semester moves very fast
- l. Hallead: can they discuss formatting in CTF?
  - i. Kidd: yes. It is great for building skills and you can put it on your resume.
- m. Biermacher: attendance policy needs to get looked at very closely. Lack of specificity, leads to different VPs of SRC interpreting it differently every year. Some of the wording actually has typos.
- n. Bates: would love to see a way to carry over office hours into the next week. Things are pretty slow in the beginning of the year and they are not really productive.
- o. Frappier: agrees with Bates. Never know how busy you are going to be and it would be nice if you can prepare for when you know you are going to be really busy. Thinks it would prevent people from stopping at the two hour mark every week.
- p. Al Moutaa: really likes Senator Bates's idea. But sees a problem if someone does like 10 hours then they are done for a month. Maybe they will have to set a limit.
- q. Kidd: could shift it to a monthly requirement instead of a weekly requirement
- r. Biermacher: liked the small groups
- s. Frappier: liked that everyone had a role which allowed everyone to participate
- t. Hoogwerf: liked to collaborate with other small groups
- u. Hallead: feels like this was very productive and a good use of time
- v. Everly: sometimes she gets so frustrated with these policies and procedures so it made her feel better to see that everyone had issues with it
- w. Bucon: liked hearing from other people and the discussions that each group had.
- x. Biermacher: liked these chewable sections so that they could break it down and dive in.
- y. Bates: this is a productive way of getting to know each other and felt almost like bonding
- z. Haas: appreciated suspension of Robert's Rules to allow for collaboration
- aa. Mandy: is starting as adjunct faculty in the college of education and community education with her first class tonight. Reach out with questions and suggestions.

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

- a. Hallead: passing around the sign up for pres ball tabling- Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th, Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th

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## V. President's Report

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
  - i. Schmidt: moves to limit each officer, including president and EVP, to 2 minutes per report  
(1) B. Johnson- 2nd
  - ii. Biermacher: who will be timing  
(1) Kidd: parliamentarian
  - iii. 17 yays, 2 abstentions
  - iv. Passes
  - v. Senate votes to limit each officer, including president and EVP, to 2 minutes per report
- b. Reminds everyone to keep a professional tone. They do not remove people, read the governing documents about eligibility and misconduct. Be responsible and restful in what you say.
- c. Over break she planned for upcoming meetings and events, and worked on legislation. Made legislation path document. Editing handouts and newsletters.
- d. Worked on her President's ball speech. President's ball tickets are on sale, do not buy tickets for yourself yet. Fill out the President's ball nomination forms.

## VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Approval of the Minutes
  - i. Stand approved
- b. Official senate term for the winter semester is shorter, keep that in mind. Bringing legislation to ECS/UAS is about a month long process. All legislation needs to sit with the cabinet for 2 weeks.
- c. Biggest focus will be CTF this semester
- d. Spread the word about President's ball
- e. VP Schmidt will be running the elections commission, reach out to him to get any questions clarified. If you are interested in running for cabinet, reach out. Will be very busy at the end of the semester so the earlier the better.
- f. Got information from last semester to the archives, updated cabinet vote record
- g. Cabinet is meeting after GA and invites everyone to join.
- h. Reach out to him to get a meeting with him or Kidd scheduled.

## VII. Unfinished Business

## VIII. New Business

- a. Appointments

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- i. Brandon Schrader- Freshman who is a Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering Major from Macomb, Michigan
    - (1) “During my tenure as a representative of the Grand Valley State University student body, I plan to join this senate in their ultimate goal of bettering the university. I plan to be able to look back on this experience and be able to undoubtedly say that, with all of our work together, we made this institution better than how we first found it. I look forward to meeting you all and working hard with VP Schmidt and the External Relations Committee throughout my time here. I am truly excited to be joining this Senate and have the privilege to serve on it.”
    - (2) Schmidt: had the honor of sitting in on his interview- very passionate about student leadership and representing students. Seemed ready to jump into representing their voice to the outside community. Ready to jump in and become a productive member of his committee right away.
    - (3) Schmidt: motions to appoint Brandon Schrader to ERC for winter semester of 2023
      - (a) derPilibosian- 2nd
      - (b) Schmidt: moves to carry with unanimous consent
      - (c) Passes
      - (d) Senate votes to appoint Brandon Schrader to ERC for winter semester of 2023
  - ii. Jenna Kuiper to EAC- Freshman studying Political Science from Hudsonville, MI.
    - (1) “As a representative of the GVSU student body, I am very cognizant of the impact and importance of my position. I will be very conscious in representing the views of students as a whole, but also listen to the individual experiences of each student so that I can best fulfill my position. I will lead with a positive attitude and an empathetic heart so that each student may be able to have the best experience possible here at GVSU. I will also do my utmost to promote the respect and community between students, teachers, and other faculty members in terms of education so that we can create a welcoming environment where everyone feels heard and seen. Throughout high school, I held a strong passion for learning but more specifically reading, writing, and speaking which is something that I would love to be able to share and help others with.”
    - (2) Everly: sat in on her interview. Talked about her prior leadership experience and bringing individuals together to work towards common goals. Familiar with Robert’s Rules. Acknowledged that as a leader it is ok to not know the answer to everything. Thinks she would be a great addition to the body.
    - (3) Schmidt: moves to appoint Jenna Kuiper to EAC for the remainder of the 2022/2023 academic year

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- (a) derPilibosian- 2nd
  - (b) Al Moutaa- moves to carry with unanimous consent
  - (c) Passes
  - (d) Senate votes to appoint Jenna Kuiper to EAC for the remainder of the 2022/2023 academic year
- b. Nominations for Vice President of Campus Affairs
- i. Kidd: will have the opportunity to nominate next week and then elections will take place next week.
  - ii. Frappier: What are the requirements to be a cabinet member?
    - (1) Kidd: currently enrolled student, minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, remain available to attend GA meetings, and be in good standing with the student senate. Cabinet members shall serve as voting members of senate and cabinet, work to appoint members, and enter closed cabinets.
  - iii. Flickinger: nominates Senator Brock Johnson
    - (1) Schmidt- 2nd
    - (2) Johnson- accepts nomination
    - (3) Flickinger: Has sat with him on allocations. He has brought a lot of energy to student senate, has been a hard worker, attended a lot of ERC meetings but said that CAC is where his interests are. Thinks he would be a great addition to cabinet.

## **IX. Five Minute Recess**

- a. 6:07pm: meeting called back to order

## **X. Public Comment – Part II**

## **XI. Officer Reports**

- a. **Senate Resources** – Mallory Everly
  - i. Over break she worked on her transitions report and recruitment. Had a few new applications over break. The interview that was scheduled for today has been rescheduled. Did a lot of brainstorming for the new internal operating handbook.
  - ii. Met with VP Schmidt on Tuesday to compile a list of changes that they would like to see take effect when it comes to writing out a new Internal Operating Handbook. If you have questions, concerns, things that you would like to see removed, added, changed within this handbook, let her know.
  - iii. SRC will now be meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00pm in the Senate Office.
  - iv. Elections will come up faster than you know it, so, if you are interested in running for SRC, or think you might be but need more information, reach out.

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- v. SRC is hoping to hold a bonding event next weekend as a welcome back type of activity. She will be sending out a poll tonight or tomorrow with a few options for what the activity will be.
- vi. Office hours will not be due this week as it is the first week of classes, however, they will be due next week so keep that in mind.
- b. **Allocations** – Benjamin Biermacher
  - i. Allocations is not meeting tomorrow. Meeting at 1:30pm on Friday, January 20 in KC 2215-2216
  - ii. Elections commission update- Petitions are back, 25 student signatures and 1 faculty signature. Ask Bucon, Hoogwerf, Schmidt, or derPilibosian if you have any questions
  - iii. Bates: Does the 1 faculty signature include staff and professors?
    - (1) Schmidt: must be a faculty member which includes adjunct professors, professors, or assistant professors
  - iv. Frappier: Is this part of the elections packet?
    - (1) Schmidt: elections packet is not mandated, elections commission has the final say over anything relating to elections
- c. **Public Relations** – Emily Bucon
  - i. Hopes everyone had a great break
  - ii. If you want to fill a petition and get your name on the ballot you will get 25 student signatures and 1 faculty signature. Everything is stated on the form. All forms should be submitted the same as other students are expected, do not hand it to them. Access the petition through the website not through the drive.
  - iii. New PRC meeting time is Wednesdays at 8am
  - iv. Will be tabling for the presidents ball. Has a documents with answers to FAQ questions regarding the president's ball in her drive
  - v. Senator of the month is back- fill out form to nominate people
  - vi. Hallead: What was your final update?
    - (1) Bucon: met with promotions to discuss senate swag- will have form available next week, will be on website so anyone can order it.
  - vii. Proctor: does the 25 student votes exclude senators?
    - (1) Bucon: 25 signatures, not votes
    - (2) Kidd: look at website for answers to questions and then direct outstanding questions to Schmidt
- d. **Campus Affairs** – (Interim) EVP Frappier

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- i. Frappier: will check in on anything pertaining to CAC if needed, nothing to report as of now.
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Lina Haas
  - i. Thanks everyone that worked exam cram, it was very successful
  - ii. Working together for books to be on display in the library for black History Month. Working to link OER options by black authors. Working on thank a professor project with FTLC. Fill out the IT survey, spread the word.
  - iii. Planning last lecture. Last lecture is a student nominated event that gives professors an opportunity to share their stories and give what would be their last lecture. Wednesday, February 22 from 6-8pm.
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Larbi Al Moutaa
  - i. Hopes that everyone had a good break
  - ii. Tomorrow he will be attending UAS where they will vote on the student wages legislation.
  - iii. Worked on his transition report.
  - iv. If anyone is interested in running for VP of DAC, reach out
  - v. Looking forward to a really great semester
  - vi. Kidd: What is your meeting time?
    - (1) Al Moutaa: Sunday 10:00am
- g. **External Relations** – Zachary Schmidt
  - i. Meeting Mondays at 6:15 pm
  - ii. Adopt a family was successful, families were really grateful. Thank you cards in the office.
  - iii. Elections commission is taking up most of his time. Encourages you to start early and often and plan ahead for your petition.
  - iv. Worked on Robert's Rules one pager. Met with VP Everly to discuss SRC polices and procedures.
  - v. Attended Ottawa county commission meeting: officer- fired county administrator, fired DEI staff, changed county slogan from "where you belong" to "where freedom rings."

## XII. University Committee Reports

- a. Frappier: ECS will be tomorrow, will be joined by VP Al Moutaa while they discuss student wages. Have a faculty salary and budget statement advocating on behalf of student wage increase.



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- b. Kidd: the link for university committees was in the weekly email. Reach out if you did not receive the email. If your schedule changed go into the document and change your committee to a time that works for you.

## **XIII. Roll Call - Part II**

## **XIV. Call for Announcements**

- a. Kidd: cabinet will begin at 6:35pm in the student senate office. Anyone is welcome to join. Appointees come up to be sworn in
- b. Biermacher: bring placards to Everly

## **XV. Adjournment: 6:23pm**