

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



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

I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:30 pm

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

II. Public Comment – Part I

- a. Samuel Jacobs, former senator: VP of Gerald R Ford leadership forum student chapter at GV. Ford forum is inspired by President Ford's leadership, built on pillars of deep study seminars, professional development seminars, opportunities to network with Ford foundation leaders and donors, and opportunities to give back to the community and connect with area nonprofits. They encourage the cultivation of classical virtues long associated with public life, among them: courage, magnanimity, prudence, patience, moderation, honesty, and justice. Encourages you to join on laker link or reach out to him at (269)355-9442 or ssjacobs@38foundation.org
- b. Ash, director of president's ball: thanks everyone for their support in getting the President's ball up and running again. Very grateful to be the one who spearheaded this and for all the support they got from the student senate. If anyone has any questions they can reach out. Since tickets went live on wednesday they have sold 482 dinner tickets and 681 dance tickets. They have already surpassed their goal. It is great that people are finding joy in this.

III. Guest Speaker: Miloš Topić, CIO and VP of IT

- a. Honored to come in and speak with everyone, nice to see the theme of leadership already present in this meeting. There is a massive vacuum of leaders across the world. As someone who is a student of leadership and investing in himself to get better every year, leaders work for other people and people don't work for other leaders. Way too often leaders are interested in transactions and what they can get out of someone, and lose interest until the opportunity comes up to get something out of someone again. Sees his responsibility as someone who is tasked with leading other people. An important part of leading is knowing when to get out of your team's way. The primary goal is to develop more leaders. He is always looking for someone to take over his position one day.
- b. Difference between leaders and those in leadership positions- when you think of leaders in your life what comes to mind? Why do you think they were leaders?
 - i. Biermacher: humility and conviction
 - ii. Quist: integrity
 - iii. Al Moutaa: selflessness

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- iv. Topic: you will never forget how leaders made you feel long term when they are investing in you. One of the responsibilities of leaders is to create an environment where everyone feels safe. This starts with trust.
 - c. He has been at GVSU for almost 2 ½ years. He has had colleagues who work on Wall Street. They take over new teams and they immediately talk about how their team will have to work hard to earn their trust. Yet they expect their team to trust them immediately, being higher in the org chart does not make you more special. Trust is the foundational thing.
 - d. You are all leaders here, different people lead in different ways, it is not the volume but the substance that matters more. Timing also matters. If you don't trust each other you're not going to be who you truly are. He works with people who are amazing people that love to be the center of attention, and some that sit in 4 meetings and do not say a thing until the last minute of the last meeting and bring up amazing points. You are going to work with a lot of people you don't like or don't agree with but what matters more is alignment on values and believes ahead of how people make decisions.
 - e. Believes the number 1 priority is developing more leaders and putting the team you are privileged enough to lead ahead of your own interests. Contrary to the political scene, tends to believe most people are intelligent and can figure out when people are true and authentic. Creating an environment where people can be themselves is very important. You have to use terminology and jargon that makes sense to everyone in the room. The way leaders speak, present, and sell themselves is more important than making technical changes. Incentivizing people to bring the best version of themselves is the key to creating a good team. No member of a team can succeed or fail on their own.
 - f. Schmidt: thanks him for coming. Can you provide insight on what is being done to improve wifi performance on campus?
 - i. Topic: historically IT was not optimally placed for their services to be visible at appropriate levels on campus. Mantella restructured things and changed that. As they learn of issue areas such as resident halls and buildings, they look for patterns of calls, and they address them. A strategic comprehensive refresh of the network is currently being designed. It Will take several years to complete the whole thing and will be a big investment. They are addressing things as they see and learn of them so feel free to reach out of him. Average useful life of equipment is 5 years, there is some equipment on campus that is 8 years old and the investment has not been made to replace it. Every room, floor, space, and areas where lots of students hang out are going to be addressed.
 - g. Flickinger: would like to know more about blackboard ultra, what are the improvements and benefits it brings?
 - i. Topic: Everyone is experiencing change fatigue, over the last three years our lives and professions have changed constantly. As they have evaluated large enterprises that

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bring services to many people they found that blackboard was several versions behind. Required certain members of their team to be up in the middle of the night to fix problems which aren't sustainable. Convened a team to figure out a new solution. Across the US Canvas and blackboard are the two most used programs. Look at all the options. Personally more of a fan of Canvas because of how it responds on mobile devices but thinks blackboard's latest version is slowly catching up. They reached out to many faculty and students and they were all indifferent and they never got a clear answer. Because they are under an existing contract, want to minimize spending, and minimize change fatigue they stuck with blackboard. The new app is a different ultra design and experience, once all courses are unified under the same look and design you will get the best experience. They have received feedback from students that all courses look different and now they all have the same look. Also provides additional analytics on the backend that will help students get a better sense of how they are progressing towards their degrees and suggestions of services and resources they can seek to succeed. In summary there were practical security and upkeep concerns, versions behind, and it needed a modern update.

- h. Derpilbosien: thanks him for his time, leaders eat last, wants to know his opinion of that book and expression.
 - i. Topic: to summarize: leaders work for their people, that's what leaders eat last means. If he comes into a team of 100 people and he doesn't care about their life and only cares about getting what he wants he is not a leader he is a dictator. They go in front of their teams, take the brunt of criticism and challenges, and when things go well they stand in the back and let their team take the spotlight. Great book, suggests reading his other book infinite game by Simon Sinek.
- i. Hahs: if they want to reallocate money what are you hoping to pull from, and when the contract expires for blackboard what is the long term plan?
 - i. Topic: when the contract expires in May many students won't be around so in August they will start a longitudinal study to see if people like it. It should be decided by students and faculty, if they are collectively happy it will stay. The university has different funding budgets such as- operating budget, student tuition, state funding, and donors. They have gone through the process of what is needed, they ask students first. When they send out a survey, they read the surveys and it influences their decisions. They can go through the IT budget and figure out what they can cut back on to save money, they can use the capital expenditure budget, talk to their CFO and find out extra spending. If it is \$1million they need, then they can figure out if it is a million dollars up front or if it is \$333000 over the next few years. They will never take something valuable away from students to get more funding. They can go to donors and look for investments to supplement funding. They will look for different revenue sources that they can make use of.

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- j. B. Johnson: Can you share your budget and how much they normally spend of that budget?
 - i. Topic: it should be public, but he can send it. You can find it on the bottom of the GVSU homepage and see the budgets by division. Largest budgets of expenditures are people, full time and student employees. The next biggest spending is on enterprise contracts such as banner, blackboard, and zoom. If they don't have the money they won't spend it. They look at the priorities and spend accordingly. Sometimes they have a small surplus and that is generally used to pay for integrations in the coming year. Year 1 always costs more than every other year. IT is approximately around 5% of the total operating budget which is not a lot.
 - (1) Kidd: 5.6%
 - (2) Topic: that .6% makes him feel better
- k. Kidd: Thanks Topic for coming in. Google 2022-2023 general fund budget GVSU and it will bring up a ton of information and she can always reach out to Greg and Craig if they need more information.

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

V. President's Report

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - (1) Schmidt: movies to limit officer reports including President and EVP to 1.5 minutes per report
 - (a) Al Moutaa: 2nd
 - (b) Schmidt: thinks it worked well last time
 - (c) Kidd: it is the last GA before president's ball and she will not be here next week so this is the last time for her to give updates.
 - (d) Schmidt: amends motion to take President and EVP off motion
 - (e) derPilibosian: 2nd
 - (f) Schmidt: thinks it worked well last time and kept the meeting at a good pace
 - (g) 18 yays, 3 nays, 1 abstention
 - (h) Passes
 - (i) Senate votes to limit officer reports, not including President and EVP, to 1.5 minutes per report
 - (2) Biermacher: moves to add line item c under new business titled SAFE award nominations and selection
 - (a) Frappier: 2nd

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- (b) Biermacher: this is the award for president's ball, student award for faculty excellence. Kidd and him picked top nominations and today they will be voting on who will be receiving the award.
 - (c) Passes unanimously
 - (d) Senate votes to add line item c under new business titled SAFE award nominations and selection
- b. Will not be here next week so this is all information for the president's ball.
 - i. Tickets- sign up to table next week or do a coat check after the dinner, when you have signed up you will contact Everly in slack or email and let her know that you have volunteered and they will offer you a comped ticket. Also counts as office hours. Rather than having a negative attitude, remember that it is important to collaborate and put on huge events with the people that help them. Both of these links are in the slack. If you have designed social media posts or already did something to help for the President's ball, communicate that with Mallory. She will be picking up your tickets, may be held at the door, stay tuned for updates so you know how to get your ticket. If you are bringing a plus 1 you need to buy their ticket
 - ii. To bring: Semi-formal or formal attire, student id, if you're over 21 bring a valid id, at the DeVos place which is adjacent to the amway, there is an extensive shuttle running, doors open at 5:30, awards at 6:30, dance at 8:30, doors close at 10.
 - iii. Student senate is involved in 2 awards, SAFE award that Biermacher will be giving remarks for, she will be giving remarks for president's appreciation award.
- c. Fill out workshop survey from last week
- d. Order merch and tell your families and friends to order merch
- e. Has essentially no one signed up for university committees. It is an easy way to get office hours and the way to get student voices heard by faculty
- f. Hallead: suggests you message her to sign up for president ball tabling, she can get you the information you need
- g. Everly: if you're doing coat check for office hours feel free to log that before since it is after 5pm. When you sign up for tabling or coat check she will send out a google form for everyone so she doesn't lose track of it in her email.
- h. Quist: when does the bar close?
 - i. Kidd: 9pm
- i. Hahs: does any time of tabling count?
 - i. Kidd: any time counts
- j. derPilibosian: are drinks included?
 - i. Kidd: you are paying for drinks, cashless bar so bring electronic payment

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k. Kidd: Sorry for her coughing, she is not contagious.

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes

i. Stand approved

b. Next UAS will be February 3, has one seat left if anyone wants to join

c. Next BOT is February 24 in Seidman center, more information will be shared closer to the date

d. Nominations for the student award ceremony in the spring have opened, nominate someone you think deserves the award

e. Encourages you to participate in the MLK day of service which is Saturday, January 21.

f. Continue to reach out with your projects and legislation ideas

g. Has 1:1s scheduled with VPs reach out if you are interested in one as well

h. Has received composites, will try to get them out as soon as possible tomorrow, will be sending them individually.

i. Next week they will be meeting in Pere Marquette, casual dress. 30 minute mini inservice, meeting with facilities at 5 and doing a facilities tour of the university. President Kidd will be unavailable so he and everly will be heading it up. Will be going through tunnels, some of it will be outside such as roof of the library so dress warm.

j. derPilibosian: how long is the tour

i. Frappier: last year was close to an hour, went up in the clock tower, went underneath the tunnels, and went on the library roof. He'll also talk about the history of Grand Valley and things like that.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. Elections Commission

i. Schmidt: if you know anyone that wants to run push them to fill out a petition petitions are due 2/24 so keep working. Reach out with any questions.

b. SRC Policies and Procedures

i. Schmidt: motions to pause Robert's rules for 20 minutes

(1) Biermacher: 2nd

(2) Schmidt: moves to carry with unanimous consent

(3) Passes

(4) Senate votes to pause Robert's rules for 20 minutes

ii. Bucon: section V.02- there were two point a, 1st one is concerning absences, V.04- warning consequences has inconsistency in the wording and does not make much sense

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- iii. Biermacher: had committee transfer policy- IV.02- under b.i 1 they think that there is an issue of getting stuck if either VP couldn't make it, want to add a refusal clause that the EVP can take the place of one of the VPs, under approval of transfers- IV.03- want to add that the senator should be in attendance of the vote
- iv. Al Moutaa: article III, absences- 3.01.a- add details about missing 1 or both role calls if they are each half an absence. 3.01.b- add a statement that would give SRC the ability to override excused absences and what happens if SRC cannot meet
- v. Proctor: agrees that they should transition into monthly office hours requirement instead of weekly. In line item b and c they discussed getting rid of the requirement to spend one hour in the office and change it to just work productively. Line item d- get rid of requirements for cabinet members to spend time in the office. For section f they discussed having allocations count just for the duration of the meeting instead of all office hours
- vi. Hoogwerf: article 1 in line f is meant to be interviewers. Their group thinks the policies and procedures should be carved like a pumpkin.
- vii. Everly: things are either very vague or very specific and leaves it up to SRC discretion a lot. Keep in mind that some of the things that are vague are like that for a reason. Keep in mind that there are some out of box things that can happen if you change it to be very specific. If you need more clarification, reach out.

VIII. New Business

- a. Appointments
 - i. None this week
- b. Nominations and Elections for Vice President of Campus Affairs
 - i. Johnson: will recall his nomination for VP of CAC
 - (1) Kidd: any further discussion?
 - (2) Johnson: after discussion with senators and EVP Frappier he thinks he should get more experience on senate before running for a VP role
 - ii. Kidd: seeing no other nominations this will be a running agenda point
- c. SAFE Award
 - i. Biermacher: will provide names and rationale as the student who nominated them wrote it
 - (1) Melba Velez Ortiz- Rationale: Impactful, inspirational, high energy, contributes to students' growth. Noted that she creates a safe classroom environment and celebrates vulnerability and diversity.
 - (2) Michelle Miller-Adams- Rationale: Demonstrates a commitment to student success, actively assists students with job and grad school applications, writes

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deeply personal recommendations, and values the use of different forms of data in the classroom. In addition to this, she is a researcher for the Upjohn Institute and one of the nation's leaders in college promise programs. She is readily available and willing to assist anyone. NOTE: She will be partially retired next year, meaning she will not teach here as much.

- (3) Felix Ngassa (Chair of ECS/UAS/Chem Professor)- Rationale: Felix was able to translate a very difficult subject (O Chem) into a positive learning experience. He leads with confidence, and strong organizational skills, and provides strong explanations. He goes above and beyond, hosts at-home reviews before exams, and makes himself available whenever students need his assistance. He knows his students well and provides flexibility when they are ill, or dealing with emergencies. Overall, he goes above and beyond to create a positive learning experience for students.
- ii. Hallead: had Melba as a guest speaker in her honors class, she is the professor who is partially blind and has a service dog named professor Chad. Is such a great person and great to be around. Gave a talk on listening and it was really great.
- iii. Hahs: has Melba Ortiz's class currently, never had a teacher who could cultivate such an open environment in her class in a personal way. Today they had a potluck in class and just talked and shared. She is so kind and it has been a pleasure to have her.
- iv. Proctor: has a class with Miler-Adams, she is so kind and great. Attended her presentation on higher education funding and it was very well done. She has a couple people in this room that are in her capstone.
- v. Kidd: something to note is that this is the last year Miller-Adams can be nominated because she is entering partial retirement. Published by Harvard, attended Columbia for her PHD, she has a disabled daughter that she had shifted her life for. She has been the best professor she has had in her four years.
- vi. Frappier: has met all three of them, they are all very pleasant people. Whoever ends up with the award will be well deserved. They are all super connected and deeply involved in campus life.
- vii. Flickinger: have any won the award before?
- (1) Kidd: no
- viii. Hallead: Is this going to be the last lecture speaker?
- (1) Kidd: top three nominees will be put in the lottery for last lecture, whoever wins will be invited as the first choice.
- ix. Kidd: write the last name of who are voting for on your secret ballot, she will collect them. If they don't reach 50% plus 1 with one name they will go into a run off vote with the top two. You can abstain if there is personal gain.

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- x. Kidd: top two choices for the run off vote are Miller-Adams and Ortiz, you can also abstain. They needed 12 votes and they had 11
- xi. Kidd: could not reach 50 plus 1 because of the number of abstentions but did reach majority. They would have to have two less abstentions. They can suspend this portion of the bylaws and recognize the majority as 50% but would have to take this motion off the floor.
- xii. Schmidt: there is no motion on the floor. You can vote present instead of abstain when you vote present you are saying you're not voting. It will be 50% plus 1 of votes cast.
 - (1) Kidd: will revote and you have the option to vote present instead of abstaining
- xiii. Kidd: The winner is Professor Miller-Adams, will be contacting her to let her know.

IX. Five Minute Recess

- a. Meeting called back to order: 6:23pm

X. Public Comment – Part II

XI. Officer Reports

- a. **Senate Resources** – Mallory Everly
 - i. Senator Quist sent out bonding form, please fill it out
 - ii. Sent out form about winter mini inservice, please fill it out
 - iii. Thinking about when to close recruitment so keep that in mind
 - iv. Office hours are due by 5pm tomorrow
- b. **Allocations** – Benjamin Biermacher
 - i. Meeting tomorrow, 1:30pm KC Room 2215, 2 requests
 - ii. Flickinger: Can you send the agenda?
 - (1) Biermacher: yes
 - iii. Quist: what room?
 - (1) KC room 2215/2216
- c. **Public Relations** – Emily Bucon
 - i. Senate swag order form is now open, open for two weeks. Reach out with any questions
 - ii. Thanks Hallead for doing a great job with president's ball tabling
 - iii. You have the opportunity to do an instagram takeover for president ball so reach out if you are interested
 - iv. Official petitions are live on the website so print it out and get started. Reach out with any questions, there are no dumb questions.

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d. **Campus Affairs** – (Interim) EVP Frappier

- i. Seeing no one is running for this position, he will reach out to liaisons. Hoogwerf will be taking on electHer and they will be working with OSL to hammer out details soon
- ii. Schmidt: What are you doing to ensure the electHer is nonpartisan?
 - (1) Kidd: they will be inviting the same number of officials from each registered party. This event will be as bipartisan as possible because they are a nonpartisan body.

e. **Educational Affairs** – Lina Haas

- i. EAC sent over a list of books for Black history month to the library. The library purchased the books they did not have and will be pulling and displaying the books for them.
- ii. Working on mechanics and form for thank a professor with FLT
- iii. Nomination form for last lecture is live, SAFE award winner will be asked first and if they decline then the nomination form will be used
- iv. If you are interested in running for VP reach out
- v. Hallead: what does FLT mean
 - (1) Faculty Learning and Teaching Center

f. **Diversity Affairs** – Larbi Al Moutaa

- i. ECS showed full support for the student wages legislation, it will be brought to UAS in about two weeks

g. **External Relations** – Zachary Schmidt

- i. Still working on elections commission
- ii. Working on legislation with President Kidd
- iii. Committee meeting is Mondays at 6:15 in senate office

XII. **University Committee Reports**

- a. Guiera: UTC had its first meeting of the semester, they provide guidance of major IT initiatives. Digital creator lab on the 2nd floor of the Mary Idema Pew library is open and offers rentable technology, podcast booths and digital skill consultants. Digital creator lab is a great way for digital literacy to be fostered and improved. 200 students attended the opening last week, encourages everyone to check it out.
- b. Frappier: attended ECS last Friday, the student wages legislation has been accepted with support and forwarded to UAS. Looking positive and they were really happy with the changes made. Great example of shared governance. Passed a few more things to go to UAS- independent study compensation for professors and 8 year time limit policy for graduate students. Can give you faculty resolutions if you have more questions

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- c. Kidd: Please sign up for university committees, there are so many vacancies. Only 7 people on this body have signed up. That is not even a third, let's represent the student senate well.

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements

- a. Frappier: cabinet is after GA. Casual GA next week. Last chance to sign up for CTF.
- b. Proctor: senator of the month form is open
- c. Frappier: headshots will be sent out tomorrow by EOA Meter in slack.
- d. Kidd: she will not be here next week because she was mandated to work which is disappointing. If you need her next week please keep it to emergencies, she will be really busy with the president's ball. If it's something that can go to someone else or wait until the following week please do that. You are still expected to be here next week at 4:30 and it will most likely be in the senate office. Dress warm for the tour, it is really cool. Sign up to coat check or table, reach out if you cannot and she can try to find a different option. Check slack to see how you get your ticket. Cabinet will start at 6:45 pm tonight.

XV. Adjournment: 6:37pm