



# General Assembly

Thursday, January 20th, 2022 – 4:30 pm

ZOOM

*Chair: Autumn Mueller*

*Parliamentarian: Jim O'Neil*

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

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## I. **Call Meeting to Order: 4:30pm**

### a. Moment of Silence

#### i. Native Land Recognition

### b. Student Senate Creed

- i. We, as members of Grand Valley State University's Student Senate, dedicate ourselves to cultivating a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered. We pledge to represent all students and their diverse, ever-changing needs. With persistency, intentionality, and integrity, we strive to create a Laker experience that is equitable, accessible, and sustainable.

### c. Pledge of Allegiance

### d. Roll Call - Part I

## II. **Public Comment – Part I**

## III. **Guest Speakers**

### a. Annie Belanger: Dean of University Libraries

- i. Identity wheel: white, female, cis-gender, heteronormative, immigrant, disabled, history of low-income. All of these identities inform her leadership at the library
- ii. Updated (draft) mission: equip knowledge seekers with the resources and skill to use information to shape and contribute to a more just society
- iii. Updated (draft) vision: anchored in the University's educational mission and commitment to transformative equity, the University Libraries advance a bold vision of equitable access, empowered learning, and human centered spaces. We will: partner to integrate expertise, advance access, dismantle barriers- an example: stopped charging fines for books that were late, and invest in people.
- iv. Updated (draft) values: At University Libraries, we recognize the work of living our values is ongoing: Learner-centred, equity, collaboration, care, integrity
- v. Strategic Focus Areas: inclusion, equity, diversity, and accessibility. Open and affordable. Connecting students to resources. Literacies- from information to data and digital literacy
- vi. IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility
  - (1) In progress:
    - (a) IDEA 2.0 committee
    - (b) Inclusive student hiring practices taskforce
      - (i) Gone from 2% colleagues of color to 12% in last 4 years



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- (2) Planned
  - (a) Exploration of student led programming
  - (b) Inclusive onboarding and retention
- (3) Completed
  - (a) Enhancing accessibility in our spaces
  - (b) Collections diversity process
  - (c) Library diversity faculty fellows
  - (d) Inclusive hiring process
- vii. Open, an equity issue
  - (1) Open is anything that is free and open to use
  - (2) Open data, open publishing, open collections, open government, OER, open preservation
  - (3) Advocating against access codes, the prices go up when the publishers get monopoly of it
  - (4) Focusing on affordable textbook options
  - (5) What can you do:
    - (a) Talk to your professors
    - (b) Advocate as students and as student senators
    - (c) Advocate as citizens and taxpayers
- viii. Schmidt: mentioned that the library is looking to do away with vendors that are involved with ICE, why?
  - (1) Belanger: If they are committed to equity they have to look at who they are supporting, the same reason why there are concerns with aramark. Just looking into alternatives. Also concerns with data privacy.
- ix. Pearson: appreciates her coming, a lot of people including himself, think of the library as a stagnant resource so it is helpful to see that there is more to that
  - (1) Belanger: open to suggestions to not appear stagnant
- x. Rusch: thanks her for speaking, personally loves the library and its resources. Has the library ever considered paying for university wide subscriptions to news outlets like the New York Times that you sometimes have to pay to read articles?
  - (1) Belanger: it has likely been considered, and it may be buried in their system. Will pass this concern on.



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- xi. Biermacher: thanks her for coming in. Curious if the student run programs are going to be new programs or students taking over current programming that is run by faculty and staff?
    - (1) Belanger: wants to have new programming that aligns with their mission. They believe that the library is the student's library and they are stewards to the students. Wants to work from the ground up to build these programs.
  - xii. Gineman: thanks her for joining today and thanks her for all the work the library is doing to increase equity, diversity, and inclusion. Thinks removing late fees will have a great effect on the students
    - (1) Belanger: when there is something you see that might be an equity issue she asks that you bring it to their attention
  - xiii. Kidd: wanted to thank the libraries as a whole, cannot say enough good things about the library. Ran all of their strategic planning by EAC. DAC and EAC will have a table for Black History Month and Women's History Month in the library and they were so helpful in getting that set up and ordering books.
  - xiv. Matthews: wondering about the idea committee, how can students become more aware of that?
    - (1) They want to have students on this committee and it is planned to be a paid position. They are currently building a framework: what is equity, what are the values they bring to this work, what are the principles and tools they will plan to use- the questions they ask of themselves: who benefits, who does not. Created a library wide goal for diversity, inclusion and equity; every department and individual has a version of this goal for themselves. Really trying to focus on giving everyone their voice in a way that is human-scaled. Planning to add a place in their yearly report that talks about their goals and the progress on those goals. Also making sure that student supervisors are well trained to support all students that they work with.
      - (a) Matthews: sounds phenomenal, thanks her for the great answer
  - xv. Mueller: thanks her for coming in
- IV. **Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers**
- a. Kidd: look in the slack at the tabling form for last lecture, would appreciate everyone to sign up
- V. **President's Report**
- a. Adoption of the Agenda



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- b. State of Student Body is next week: general senators can wear whatever they would like, mandatory attendance, bring your friends and peers, a lot of university admin and staff have RSVP'd
- c. Provost Search committee candidates are still having meetings this week, encourages everyone to attend
- d. Campus Dining Final Thoughts
  - i. Mueller: opening this up one last time before drafting the statement, can also send input via email, will be drafting the statement/memo to send to the university
  - ii. Pearson: knows that everyone has strong opinions on campus dining, advises everyone to speak up on this important issue. This statement is meant to be reflective of the entire body and that does not work unless people speak up. You all represent around 500 students, so in this case silence is complacency
  - iii. Frappier: echoes Pearson, if you believe nothing should be done, say that. If you are not comfortable with speaking up fill out the anonymous google form
  - iv. Munoz: Who is this addressing?
    - (1) Mueller: this will address the student body and university partners on where the student senate stands on campus dining
  - v. Rusch: would love the memo to address the quality of food and lack of variety of open options. Encourages everyone to speak up so there is direction
  - vi. Pearson: echoes Rusch's concerns, also thinks they could utilize the past open comments from students who voiced their concerns such as: lack of allergen sensitive and dietary restricted options, lack of options in general, many have said they feel sick physically after eating and it has caused mental distress
  - vii. Hoogwerf: thinks it should address the treatment of campus dining employees
  - viii. Gineman: One thing that really stuck out was talking about the increase in benefits for campus dining employees, a lot of people at public comment had an issue with the wages and the benefits that come with being employed at campus dining. Thinks this is something that should be talked about in the statement
  - ix. Munoz: thinks that there should be an emphasis on the student employment, and limited options, also thinks the statement should remind the student body of what the student senate has already done and that they are working with the students not against them



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- x. Matthews: echoes Munoz on dealing with employment issues and lack of options. Need to emphasize that if they can't do anything immediately think about what can be done in the future especially for those working in campus dining
- xi. Schmidt: echoes Rusch about the quality of food and the lack of variety and options, many people feel sick after they eat the food or do not feel full and do not have their nutritional needs fulfilled
- xii. Pearson: In the past, many students have said that statements are blanket statements. They need to separate immediate needs and create action items for the university to work on in the future
- xiii. Huggins: agrees with Pearson. Has noticed that GVSU's meal plans are a lot cheaper than MSU, UofM, Ferris and Saginaw's meal plans. Thinks students would be willing to pay more for meal plans if the quality of food increases
- xiv. Mueller: any additional concerns can be emailed to her, thanks everyone who shared their thoughts and will take these into consideration when drafting the statement. Once the statement and memo are drafted they will be brought to GA for approval

## VI. **Executive Vice President's Report**

- a. Approval of the Minutes
  - i. stand approved
- b. Has met with stakeholders about the constitutional task force this week and will be starting that next week
- c. Meeting with Tamela Spicer tomorrow regarding strategic planning
- d. Will be starting scheduling for 2:1s next week

## VII. **Unfinished Business**

## VIII. **New Business**

- a. **CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**

## IX. **Public Comment – Part II**

- a. Larbi Al Moutaa: Thinks that is great that the library's amount of minority employees has grown from 4% to 12%. Has personal observations regarding the hiring situation of the library. Came to America in 2020, found no positions in the library on handshake, only campus dining jobs. Wants to know how they are promoting diversity in the hiring process if there are no positions available to even apply for. Also, the quality of food and variety of food on campus dining is very limited. They worked with campus dining, there was a lot of pressure placed on them, they were treated like they were getting paid



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more than minimum wage. If there is a way to push change, they would like aramark to improve working conditions and the quality of food.

## X. **Officer Reports**

### a. **Senate Resources** – Alexis Krichevsky

- i. Reminder that this is the last week meetings will be online
- ii. If you are interested in running for a VP position for next year, reach out to the VP of the committee you are interested in to shadow them and learn more about that position
- iii. SRC has been holding mini in-services at committee meetings this week and will be finishing them next week
- iv. Has been working on the student senate climate survey, will present the results at the next in-service

### b. **Allocations** – Ben Biermacher

- i. Approations funding board will be meeting tomorrow at 1:30pm on zoom, you can join to get your training
- ii. Presented at reignite last week and it went really well, presenting again next week

### c. **Public Relations** – Eldon Pearson

- i. Can find the winter promotions calendar in the PRC folder, if you have anything to add come to meetings or reach out to him
- ii. Senate swag will launch on monday and be live until friday. You purchase individually and all orders will be shipped to the student senate office and then distributed
- iii. Promotional items have been shipped, items can be utilized at tabling
- iv. Student senate week is coming up, send your promotional requests in as soon as possible
- v. Last lecture promotions have been finalized
- vi. Will be working with SAC on protmong some GVPD services such as the guardian app
- vii. State of student body flyers are up and social media promotions will continue
- viii. Working with DAC to redo the bulletin board for Black History Month
- ix. Working on doing a roundtable with DAC
- x. Student senate video is almost finished



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- xi. Working on general promotions for outlets for students to connect with student senate
  - xii. Will be working on promoting mental health services on campus
  - xiii. Will be working with SRC to promote applying to join the body
  - xiv. Have bonding planned for end of the month
  - xv. If anyone is interested in running for PRC VP, reach out
- d. **Campus Affairs** – Aaron Rusch
- i. Have room reserved and succulents reserved for student senate week event-succulents with senators, next step is submitting a funding request for pots and soil
  - ii. Working on elect-her
  - iii. Personally has been working on speech for state of the student body
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Faith Kidd
- i. EAC is down to one member at the moment, focusing energy on relationships with the library and last lecture planning
  - ii. Closing last lecture nomination form next week, please fill that out if you have not done so
  - iii. The library is purchasing books for black history month and woman's history month table
  - iv. Senator Mathews is joining LIFT committee and sitting on the constitutional task force
  - v. If you are bored she has a lot of things for you to work on
  - vi. EAC is meeting on zoom next week
  - vii. Currently writing state of student body speech
  - viii. Reach out if you are interested in running for any cabinet position
  - ix. If you are sick, reach out if you need anything
  - x. Mathews: if anyone has any question ideas to add to the LIFT surveys at the end of the semester, reach out. If anyone wants to help with his green study space legislation, reach out
  - xi. Munoz: are you taking book recommendations for table in the library?
    - (1) Gineman: sent a slack message for black history month book recommendations and will be talking about the women's history month books at the next DAC meeting
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Kyle Gineman



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- i. Need a student senate rep for UFC, meeting 1:00-2:00 pm on Fridays once a month. If you are interested, reach out
- ii. Has been generating the agenda for next week's UFC meeting with Aaron Haight
- iii. Will be discussing black history month events at their next meeting, division of inclusion and equity will hopefully be involved in a few events
- iv. Will have a reading list for black history month and women's history month
- v. Let him know if you are interested in running for DAC VP
- vi. If you want to help DAC with a black history month event, let him know
- g. **External Relations** – Justin Frappier
  - i. Will be sending out a sheet for archive day- they go to the Seidman library and look at old documents passed by the senate in the past, encourages everyone to join, it will count as office hours
  - ii. Met with previous VP Pagel yesterday and talked about BOV and other ERC related topics
  - iii. Working on state of student body speech
  - iv. Working on planning student senate week event
  - v. BOV meetings with SVSU will be soon, encourages everyone to join
  - vi. The BOV game will be 10/1 at GVSU
  - vii. Melissa spoke with ERC on civic engagement, it was a great conversation
  - viii. The Lanthorn has asked him to write an article about civic engagement
  - ix. A satellite voting center on campus has been approved, GVSU students who are registered to vote in Allendale will be able to vote on campus
  - x. Was recently notified by the State of Michigan that they are looking for people to apply for the 2022/2023 Michigan collegiate student advisory task force that will be made up of representatives from different universities to discuss civic engagement, if you are interested please reach out. Will be accepting two students from grand valley, not just senators
  - xi. CSLC and Melissa are looking for students to work with them in a fellowship position on civic engagement, if you are interested reach out to Melissa
- XI. **Subcommittee Reports**
  - a. Mental Health Awareness Rationale, presented by Senator Kreger: sent out a form to figure out meeting times, please fill it out if you are interested in participating in meetings. Plans to send out a meeting time tomorrow





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- b. Sustainability Rationale, presented by Senator Biggs: they had their first meeting last night. Talked about goals for the semester and possible legislation. The sustainability showcase is coming up. Meeting every other wednesday on zoom at 7:00pm
- c. Sexual Assault Awareness Committee Rationale, presented by Senator Pagel: looks like Mondays 2:00-3:00pm is going to be the meeting time, but the form is still open to give your preference

## **XII. University Committee Reports**

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

### **XIV. Call for Announcements**

- a. Krichevsky: if you are interviewing tonight, stay on the call and they will go from there
- b. O'Neil: will be sending the cabinet link in the slack after this
- c. Mueller: cabinet will start after the interviews

### **XV. Adjournment: 5:40pm**