



# General Assembly

Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – 4:30 pm  
Pere Marquette River Room – Kirkhof Center

*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**

- a. Jaden Rusell, VP of marketing for SFS and a student at GVSU. Asks for student senate body support on getting access to food on campus. Asks what the purpose of the student senate is if they say they can not properly assist all 25,000 students. Asks if the favor of the student senate lies in university interest or student interest? Has a student ever attended public comment praising campus dining? They are appreciative of the few on the senate that have reached out to SFS. Asks if the student senate will continue to ignore this issue. Anyone who wants to have a productive conversation is welcome to reach out to them. Their phone number is: (906)792-5005 and their email is russejad@mail.gvsu.edu

## III. **Guest Speakers**

- a. Open Access and Library Special Collections and University Archives: Matt Ruen and Library Representatives
  - i. Matt Ruen: Subject matter expert in open access communication and IT expert.
  - ii. Open=Free+Permissions, freely available for people to find and use but requires permission for people to do new things with them, allows for new and exciting purposes. Textbooks are expensive, when a professor uses no cost materials in class, the university pays for that. The cost for education materials is a real barrier to learning. Traditional textbooks can constrain teaching, professors add their own knowledge when teaching and the traditional textbook makes it difficult for professors to do this. The permissions part of OER gets rid of this difficulty.



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- iii. The Student Senate requested that a task force be run for open access resources and it ran from 2018-2019. Both speakers are a part of GVSU's team for open access resources.
- iv. Next week for National Open Access week the Student Senate is putting together events to spread advocacy.
- v. Beyond textbooks, faculty are making their own media such as softwares and podcasts. They advocate for professors to make these things open.
- vi. Exciting trends in Open Education
  - (1) Tremendous and growing momentum worldwide to move towards the default of zero textbooks costs. Faculty agrees that textbooks are too expensive, and the only way they can reduce the cost for students is creating OER.
  - (2) OER and zero cost savings- \$100 per class per student
    - (a) CHM 115/116: \$150,000 saved every academic year
    - (b) INT 201, Open content and library resources: \$10,000-\$20,000 saved each year
    - (c) Est. total of savings at GVSU due to OER for 2020-21: \$540,000
  - (3) GVSU-created Open Media:
    - (a) Department youtube channels: MTH has 4.5m views, STA 200k views, CHM 150k views
    - (b) Individual faculty also have personal youtube channels
- vii. Concerning trends
  - (1) Inclusive access: automatic billing, cost is added to tuition costs. Short-term savings, immediate access to textbooks. Long-term risks/challenges: if price increases each year, like textbook prices, that poses risk. Limits agency. GVSU saves- you have to opt-out of this service. GVSU's service is very student friendly compared to other universities.
  - (2) Included publisher homework systems: difficult for OER to replicate, they save faculty a lot of work that allows them to give more effort to students. Some include online proctoring. This poses a very high barrier.
  - (3) As members of the student senate, you have a lot of access and power in university systems to push for change because you are immediately impacted by this. There are on campus resources to help you, but your voices mean more when you are taking those courses and paying for them.
- viii. Biermacher: what do the steps towards creating a change look like, especially for homework systems?
  - (1) Faculty need to come together to find a solution and recreate the homework systems in some way, which is a very significant and difficult task. You can



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explain how the current system has unintended consequences. GVSU is not making choices about the materials to punish students, they want to provide students with the best materials to learn. Telling your story to your professors can be a very effective step. If every professor wrote one page of materials, there would be no need for textbooks.

ix. Kidd: thanks them for coming in and working with her and her committee all semester.

(1) They state that change is started by working with students and they are thankful for their help getting the information to students and spreading the word about OER.

x. Krichevsky: thanks them for coming in. Is there support from professors to create a website like a homework system and have other universities done this?

(1) Can be hard to carve out time for things that are not essential, even if they are beneficial. One of the biggest barriers to OER is time. The president's grant just received will provide faculty with grants for the time it will take to revise or create OER. GVSU does better than most universities at providing support for creating OER.

xi. Byers: they stated student's are not paying for library resources, is the library not funded by tuition?

(1) Students are paying for the library the same way they are paying for faculty salaries. The burden is just spread thinner. Difference between asking for money and tuition trickling down.

xii. President Mueller thanks them for coming in.

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

a. President Muller: sign up for food drive for replenish November 1-4 12:00-3:00pm

## V. **President's Report**

a. Adoption of the Agenda

i. EVP O'Neil motions to add nominations for Campus Affairs under line item 8a, seconded by Senator Biermacher

(1) Rusch: now is not the time to create nominations because adequate time was not given to general senators to prepare

(2) Byers: agrees that it is not fair to other senators who may want the position

(3) Krichevsky: thinks that nominations should be held because it is a two week process and GA is not every week. EVP would have to keep CAC responsibilities longer and that is a lot to ask.



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- (4) Gineman: cabinet has not been full for weeks, would take the burden off of EVP sooner if nominations are held tonight.
  - ii. Division called, 16 yays, 8 nays, 4 abstentions. Passes.
  - iii. Frappier motions to add a five minute recess after 8c, seconded by Ingalls
    - (1) Amends motion to move after 7a after discussion from VP Krichevsky
    - (2) Passed unanimously
- b. Check slack message regarding university academic committees
- c. ECS met last week, check report in google drive for updates
- d. Board of trustees is meeting in two fridays and she will be presenting on behalf of student senate
- e. Open Access Week starts next week, make an effort to come to round table on Wednesday, attendance on Thursday is mandatory
- f. Sign up for replenish food drive
- g. Reviewing op-ed regarding campus dining
  - i. VP Kidd offers a clarification to help the sentence structure flow more
  - ii. Senator Rusch thanks President Mueller for this, thinks it is written beautifully and gets across everything the student senate has been discussing and appreciates that it has been brought to GA
  - iii. Senator Biermacher: offers a suggestion to clarify what internal and external means
  - iv. VP Frappier asks if the final version will be sent for approval and President Mueller states that it will.

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

- a. Motion for approval of the Minutes, seconded by Senator Schmidt, passed unanimously
- b. Professionalism: Watch facial expressions, tone of voice, dress code
- c. Headshots: after GA 11/18
- d. Reach out to RSOs and tell them to start requesting money from the student life fund
- e. Met with PSLC to discuss complaints that came to GVPD

## VII. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Nominations and Voting for Allocations Vice President
  - i. Speech from Senator Biermacher
    - (1) Junior majoring in allied health science, minoring in Spanish. Has loved every moment of being in the senate so far. This year has been an abnormal one with



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two members of cabinet stepping down. Believes it is extremely important to replace these positions with qualified individuals and believes he is qualified to take over VP of Allocations. He planned two successful events for BOV. To prepare he has been attending weekly meetings to go over proposals and gotten comfortable working with the office of student life. Feels comfortable and excited to work with EVP O'Neil in this transition. Has a close relationship with all the members of cabinet. He has received funding training and learned a lot from EVP O'Neil regarding allocations and finance. Feels confident in his skills as a leader, is detail oriented, and is a good listener. Humbled by this opportunity, would have never thought he would have this opportunity when he joined the student senate.

## ii. Questions

(1) Schmidt: Was this nomination a surprise to you?

(a) Yes, as he is not someone who is in finance. Understood why it came as he has been successful as general senator and is close to many members of the cabinet.

(2) Rusch: how have you prepared since receiving the nomination?

(a) He has been attending weekly meetings to learn how the office of student life runs, shadowing EVP O'Neil, and going over financial processes to feel more prepared going into the role.

(3) Frappier: how do you plan to get RSOs to use the student life fund?

(a) He participated in tabling last Friday to reach out to students as they walked by, hoping to create a social media push for all students to gain awareness of this fund.

(4) Ingalls: answer one of the following: your pet's name, middle name, or a nickname you had growing up?

(a) He has a 14 year old dog named Emmy.

(5) Ochsankohl: what is your greatest weakness and how do you hope to overcome it?

(a) His greatest weakness is confirmation bias, which is when he thinks he is right he moves forward without considering outside ideas. He is working on this by being a good listener and doing well rounded research to make more informed decisions.

(6) Open discussion:



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- (a) Rusch: fully believes that Biermacher will do a great job, as he understands what RSOs need and how funding requests work. Believes he is the most qualified and most willing person to put his all into the senate.
- (b) Krichevsky: puts support behind Biermacher not only because of the work he has done to prepare for this role over the past two weeks but he has also been coming to cabinet meetings regularly since the beginning of the semester which has helped prepare him.
- (c) Ochsankehl: appreciates all the work Biermacher has done to prepare but thinks that it will be hard to completely fill the hole left behind by EVP O'Neil.

### iii. Voting

- (1) Unanimous, Senator Biermacher is VP of Allocations.

b. 5 minute recess: 5:39pm

## VIII. **New Business**

- a. VP Krichevsky motions to appoint Lance Matthews to the Senate Body as a member of the Educational Affairs Committee.
  - i. VP Kidd: Lance was wonderful to interview and believes they will fit perfectly into her committee. They have had daily communication with VP Kidd and has attended non mandatory meetings.
  - ii. Rusch: met Matthews doing committee work and seems great and looks forward to working with them.
  - iii. VP Kidd motions to appoint Lance Matthews to the Senate Body as a member of the Educational Affairs Committee, seconded by Ochsankehl
    - (1) Passes unanimously, Matthews joins the body
- b. Nominations for VP of Campus Affairs, will have another round of nominations in two weeks
  - i. Biggs: nominates Byers, seconded by Frappier. Biggs has worked with Byers on SRC and thinks she would do a great job in the role especially with her previous experience of being on CAC for a semester. Byers accepts nomination.
- c. **CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**

## IX. **Public Comment – Part II**

## X. **Officer Reports**

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



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- i. Bonding after GA once committee meetings are done, in the office. There will be movies, games, and pizza.
  - ii. She attended SORB with Gineman to approve clubs and name changes.
  - iii. Professionalism: when you are on campus you are a senator, this is a position not a club. You need to not only act that way but also dress the part. Dress like you are going to your dream job interview. No jeans, no streetwear. Watch what you're saying and watch facial expressions.
  - iv. Now that BOV is over it is time to work on why you joined the senate. Reach out if you have any questions. Collaborate with other senators on projects.
  - v. Office hours are meant for senate work, work on projects and senate related things. Tabling also counts towards office hours. Put all office hours in the form, the senator with the most office hours at the end of the semester will receive a prize. If you do hours outside of the office there is a form on laker link.
  - vi. You are required to know SRC policies and procedures, take the time to read them and know them.
  - vii. If you will be absent for GA submit an absence form.
  - viii. Hopes everyone has a great break
- b. **Allocations** – Interim Jim O'Neil
- i. The Funding Board did not meet last week and will not meet tomorrow due to lack of requests from the student life fund.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way through the school year and has not received enough requests from the student life fund.
  - ii. If you still need your funding training you must attend a funding board meeting. Every single senator needs to undergo funding board training in order to have voting privileges on funding requests that come to the senate. If you cannot attend the funding board meetings, reach out to Biermacher to set something up.
  - iii. Biermacher thanks everyone for this opportunity.
- c. **Public Relations** – Eldon Pearson
- i. PRC is hosting senate info night on November 2, each committee should have the items they are handing out by the 30th, promotions will be virtual for sustainability month
  - ii. The Newsletter was released two weeks ago, thanks President Mueller for her help.
  - iii. Open Access Week promotions are finished
  - iv. Working with promotions office to film a new promotions video for the student senate



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- v. Senate swag was not released due to labor and stock shortages, looking into alternative options
- vi. Senator Crandall is working to promote senate to fill the open seats of the body. Senator Bucan and Senator Conway are working on freshman targeted events to receive feedback. Senator Hoogwerf and Senator Cargill are working on a roundtable. Senator Wheeler is working on social media promotions and linkedIn.
- vii. Nominate senator of the month
- viii. Follow new linkedIn and make one if you do not have one
- ix. Fill out promotion requests
- x. If you need pluggers or flyers it takes around a month to receive funding
- xi. Hopes everyone has a restful fall break
- d. **Campus Affairs** – Alyson Zdynczyk
  - i. EVP O'Neil reads Alyson Zdynczyk's resignation letter that states she resigns from the Student Senate.
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Faith Kidd
  - i. Leaving for NYC tomorrow, will be gone through Tuesday. Her phone number is (231)383-5892 if you need her. Slack Senator Rusch or Senator Ochsankehl if you have EAC questions.
  - ii. Everyone will be getting Aaron's survey in their emails by Monday, please fill it out
  - iii. Come up with questions to ask at Open Access Symposium next week
  - iv. Open Access Week kicks off next week, Thursday's Open Access Symposium is mandatory. Roundtable on Wednesday at 1:00pm in the multipurpose room in the library, encourages everyone to attend.
  - v. Thanks PRC for their great promotions
  - vi. Exam Cram prep will begin November 1st, if you have ideas, reach out. Plans to do a few events throughout the week.
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Kyle Gineman
  - i. Attended SORB with Krichevsky
  - ii. The Teach-In proposal deadline was extended to October 25th. Reviewed the proposals they have already received last week. Time slots have already begun to fill up. Encourages everyone to sign up.
  - iii. The teach-in is composed of presentations to educate the GVSU community. The theme is power privilege and difficult dialogues.





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- iv. In need of hosts for teach-in, hosting is really simple. You go up at the beginning of the presentation and read a script and at the end ask for questions. All senators are encouraged to host. The link to sign up has been sent in the slack.
- v. Did an interview with *the Lanthorn* last week and it was published
- vi. Need senators to table for the climate survey event. Sign up sheet will be coming when details are finalized.
- vii. Senator Anderson is working on a pronoun initiative on campus. Senator Lindberg is working on research to make campus more autism friendly. Senator Pearson is working on an undocumented student initiative. Senator Johnson and Senator Gjolaj have reached out to social justice centers.

**g. External Relations** – Justin Frappier

- i. ERC will have strategic planning following GA, if you have ideas reach out.
- ii. Reflecting on BOV in cabinet meetings, if you have comments or recommendations, reach out.
- iii. Asks everyone to look at ERC report in email

**XI. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Sexual Assault Awareness Committee Rationale, presented by Senator Byers: SAC met with Senator Anderson and Senator Pagel in attendance. Discussed senate info night. Planning cross committee collaboration with MHAC and SUS. Hopes to collaborate with film students to highlight what sexual assault is and what GVSU has done to help survivors, thanks to Pagel for their suggestions and help with this. Would like more involvement.
- b. Sustainability Rationale, presented by Senator Biggs: Sustainability month is almost over, hope everyone attended events. Senate info night will have all virtual promotions. Plan to have a competition between committees on who can be the most sustainable. Next meeting is Sunday at noon on zoom.
- c. Mental Health Awareness Rationale, presented by Senator Kreger: meeting tomorrow at 3:30pm in the senate office.

**XII. University Committee Reports**

- a. Rusch: Undergraduate research council: how to help undergraduate mentors, student summer scholars was approved and that was discussed.

**XIII. Roll Call - Part II**

**XIV. Call for Announcements**



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- a. Kidd: thanks everyone who tabled for her, reminds everyone that next Thursday is Open Access Symposium at 4:30pm in Pere Marquette and to bring questions. EAC is meeting 10 minutes after GA ends.
- b. Krichevsky: bring placards up. 50 minutes after GA ends will be bonding in office
- c. Frappier: ERC will meet in Pere Marquette after GA for strategic planning. If you feel like you can handle the work he encourages you to run for CAC. Reach out with questions, he would be happy to talk to you as prior CAC VP.
- d. Mueller: next week is not business casual attire

XV. **Adjournment:** 6:17pm