

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

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: 4:35pm

- a. Moment of Silence
 - i. Native Land Recognition
- b. Student Senate Mission Statement
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Roll Call - Part I

II. Public Comment – Part I

- a. Maddie Samuels: former laker and former senator, works for a nonprofit called Michigan League of Conservation Voters, encourages everyone to get involved in elections. Pretty important race for a lot of people, especially those in Kent and Ottawa county. If you are interested in helping with getting out the vote she will be here until the end of the meeting. They are non-partisan but they do endorse candidates that are environmentally conscious. There are options for virtual phone banks or canvasses launching out of Grand Rapids, 6 opportunities a day starting November 4th through election day.

III. Guest Speaker

- a. Mayor Bliss: Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids
 - i. Thanks them for the invitation, was asked to share insight on leadership and teamwork and how they can get more involved in local government.
 - ii. When she was in college she never thought she would run for office. Grew up in Michigan in the upper peninsula. Has 6 brothers and 3 sisters. Says that her big family prepared her for a lot of what she deals with today. Neither of her parents went to college. Her dad was a brick mason and her mom worked at a grocery store. Went to the University of South Alabama to study criminal justice and psychology with an emphasis in research. She met her husband there and he was originally from Grand Rapids which is where she made her home after she graduated. She worked with adults with chronic mental illness. She got her masters in social work at Michigan State. Attend legislative day at Michigan State and heard Senator Stabenow speak and her campaign for senate was one of the first campaigns she actively worked on. Worked in domestic violence and child welfare at DeVos Children's Hospital. Got to meet a lot of people active in politics and became active in the community while raising awareness for domestic violence. Met a group of women that was focused on getting women elected into office. In 2005 there was a seat on the city commission. This group encouraged her to run, at first she said no because she was working full time, living in a small apartment, recently divorced, and there were no women on the county commission at the time. After starting to attend city commission meetings she

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



- decided to run. Ended up winning, not by many votes, every vote really does count. Served 10 years as city commissioner, in 2015 ran for Mayor, and is currently in her second term as mayor. Really grateful to continue to serve the city even though there are some tough days.
- iii. Thinks leadership is something you learn, our experiences shape us but anyone can be a great leader. Takes high emotional intelligence, need to manage your emotions even when you are frustrated, and need to recognize the dynamics when you walk in the room. Need to be aware of communication, not an expert herself but you have to embrace mistakes and failures and learn from them. Recognize that it is how everyone learns and grows. Take responsibility for your mistakes and figure out a way to make a solution. Part of leadership is honing in on the problems you are trying to solve.
 - iv. Danger of today is that people surround themselves with people that think like them and not people who challenge them. Thinks our world needs to listen a whole lot better than people do right now. She believes in common ground and thinks respecting one another even when you have different opinions is a great thing.
 - v. You don't accomplish anything alone, everything fails or succeeds based on the people around you. She is nonpartisan and in Lansing you really often need to work across the aisle to get a majority, some are great at it but some just aren't. Your reputation follows you everywhere and you need to be really careful with how you treat people.
 - vi. Never too young to get involved, hope all of you think about how you can get involved. Assumes that most of you work hard, care about your grades, say yes to a lot of things and have very full schedules. You will be the best you can be when you find what you're passionate about and spend time there. Play to your strengths, you will be miserable if you spend all of your time working on your weaknesses. Accepts what she is not good at and appreciates her strengths. Know your blindspots and create a team that fills in those blindspots.
 - vii. Biermacher: Thanks her for joining them, why do you think strong local leadership is important to democracy?
 - (1) Bliss: Many of the issues that touch our lives happen at the local level. It is where you're able to build relationships and create community. You are impacting people's daily lives every day. The beauty of local government is that every city is different and unique. Mayors of 13 largest cities in Michigan meet once a month, every city is different and you get to work on the things that that community cares deeply about. City of GR has 32 neighborhoods and each neighborhood is unique, she has to hold on to that and make sure it is protected. You can resolve problems a whole lot easier on a local level.
 - (2) Bliss: asks him what his position he is interested in

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



-
- (3) Biermcaher: wants to be a city manager
- (4) Blass: Mark Washington is GR's city manager and he is great.
- viii. Al Moutaa: thanks her for joining them, she mentioned how it is important to vote on all positions on the ballot even the ones at the bottom, how do you make informed votes even for the small candidates?
- (1) Blass: encourages you to call them, typically almost all local candidates have websites. Allendale is a township, and doesn't tend to campaign as much as GR candidates, but every single one of them has an email and a phone number. There are a lot of core issues that impact GV students that these candidates will deal with, and you can ask them where they stand on those local issues. They can't pass a local ordinance on state issues, so make sure you do a little bit of homework on what is at a local level that they can control. School boards are very contentious on issues that have been blown out of proportion, make sure you know the issues for that district and ask relevant questions. School board races are very important. Many court positions are on this ballot, you can find information about how they ruled on certain cases online and that can give you insight.
- ix. Schmidt: Came and spoke at her commission meeting asking about the uptick in crime in GR and Allendale. Asks her to provide more insight into what they are doing to help with this issue.
- (1) Bliss: thanks him for coming down to the meeting. Does not have jurisdiction in Allendale. They shut down the Blue Bridge from midnight to 6am. Whenever there is an uptick in crime they have to try to find out the core issue that led to this violence. This is a result of what has happened over the past couple of years, which are pop up parties that spread very quickly on social media and result in 100-150 people gathering. GRPD team monitors online to watch for these pop up parties and shut them down to prevent these gatherings from happening. Saw that they were planning on doing one in another location and they are able to stop it from happening. There is a local ordinance that all parks close at dusk, and they have started to more strictly enforce this rule while these gatherings are happening. Have redeployed folks from other areas in the PD to be downtown more. Have hired private security that walk around downtown Thursday-Saturday nights. Root of the issue is the proliferation of guns, so many guns on the street and they are so easily accessible it is really challenging. Can not do anything on the local level about gun laws. Can not even pass an ordinance to make people lock up guns in their home if they have children. This is not a long term solution but it is a short-term solution. Police departments across Michigan are short staffed, GRPD is 30 officers down. Just hired a recruiting firm to help them get fully staffed. Will have a whole team of officers walking around downtown once they are fully staffed.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



-
- x. Johnson IV: you were handed the keys in regards to artprize. Asks how it will be run in the future and if they will implement expansion to GV's downtown campus? What are the necessities that will be impacting the pandemic rebound? What leadership strategies are involved in these implementation strategies?
- (1) Bliss: Art Prize 2.0 was announced today. Social districts are partnerships between the city and neighborhood corridors. It has taken a lot of collaboration and getting together and talking about what they want to accomplish and how to get there. They were temporarily allowed to do these social zones through the laws of the state during the pandemic and then they were extended so they can continue to do them. Within those social zones they allow a number of restaurants to have outdoor seating and sell containers of alcohol that guests can walk around with. They will continue to support local restaurants, as many are struggling to maintain staffing levels and have had to change hours. They are thinking creatively about how to support businesses. If there are issues they will address them but hopefully they will be successful. City has been much more active in artprize, helping them raise money and working with others to bring in additional events. Created tech week to bring in experts on technology. Trying to expand art prize to be more than just art. Thinks artprize could be more like South by Southwest that has live music and events that are intellectually stimulating. This is the evolution of artprize and it will be getting away from the small nonprofit board that led artprize and having it be more community driven. People really want it where they can walk to everything, have heard feedback that it got too spread out, talking about how they can accomplish this and still get neighborhoods involved. Next few months will be a lot of work and hopes it will be bigger, broader, and better.
- xi. Hoogwerf: When was a time being the only woman in the room was a challenge?
- (1) Bliss: when she was first elected there were many challenges, but it was hard to really know if it was because she was a woman or because she was the youngest. When she was elected to the city commission board it was 6 men over the age of 58, she was at least 25 years younger than all of them and the only female. She was intimidated about messing up Robert's Rules, saying the wrong thing, or asking a stupid question. She knows that she is smart but walking into a space voting on things she was not very familiar with was very intimidating. She spent a lot of time learning as quickly as she could. She read everything, toured all city facilities, over prepared for every single meeting, and it helped her build her confidence. She had to learn how to confront inappropriate comments in a way that didn't damage personal relationships. When she has to confront someone, she rarely ever does it in a public meeting, 99.5% of the time she has a one on one conversation with that person. Most people are good people but sometimes good

Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier

people say stupid things. Tries to give people a lot of grace and never assumes poor intentions. Believes you can have difficult conversations in a respectful way if you put thought into it. Have to be fair, firm, and friendly. Make it about the issue, not about the person. Do not attack the person, the minute you make it personal the person stops listening. Sometimes you need to call on your allies to speak up.

xii. DerPilibosian: with big elections coming, how can residents be sure their votes will be counted and counted correctly?

(1) Bliss: encourages everyone who has concerns to learn about what the actual process is. The voting process is very secure and there are a lot of checks and balances. Just had an audit yesterday, all local clerks do this process and the public is invited into these spaces to come and watch and learn about the election process. Even drop boxes have 24-hour security footage and are checked multiple times a day. You can track your absentee ballot on a statewide website. Results not finalized until the canvassing board reviews them, does audits, and puts the stamps of approval on those votes. Any candidate can ask for a recount. Encourages people to get to know the process. There are people at the polls from both parties that can challenge ballots. One thing that has changed is 2 years ago you could download the electronic file and the county puts in the results, now every township and city has to physically walk over the results to the county, and cannot transmit them electronically. Guesses results probably won't be in until the middle of the night because this process will take a lot more time.

xiii. Haas: She seems to have had several different career paths, what is one piece of advice you would give to a college student trying to learn their passions?

(1) Bliss: if she could go back she would say, think long and hard before you say yes. Knows what it is like to think you need to find a job as quickly as possible. As you graduate and you start to look for a job that you are interested in, go into the interview interviewing the organization just as much as they are interviewing you and listen to your gut and intuition. Going to get a lot of people asking you to do something, sometimes we are so eager to please other people that we say yes, and stretch ourselves too thin sometimes instead of being intentional with our time. If you do this you won't take good care of yourself, and will start to live your life for other people instead of yourself.

xiv. Kidd: Thanks her for coming.

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

V. President's Report

a. Adoption of the Agenda

i. No changes or additions to be made

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



- b. Finished her major midterm work yesterday, so she is back.
- c. Very close to being done with the GA schedule for next semester, there is a draft version in the drive. Blue is confirmed, black is the topic for the day, red is waiting for confirmation. Working with OSL to confirm a space, working on finding a consistent space to meet. They have multiple weeks off next semester, as they have found that when they meet less frequently they have higher engagement and quicker project timelines. Would love to do a volunteer project on one of the weeks off so if anyone is interested in planning that, reach out.
- d. Schedule your 2:1s, there is availability to meet in GR, Allendale, and on zoom, do what works for you. If there is not a time that meets for you in the form message EVP Frappier.
- e. She has a ton of meetings next week so she will have updates soon.
- f. Have next week off of GA, there is a fall concert next week put on by CAB, encourages everyone to go.
- g. There will be a Holiday party at the Meadows club house, December 1st 5-8pm, more planning to come. Food will be provided, working on finalizing the menu.
- h. Flickinger: are 2:1s mandatory?
 - i. Kidd: not mandatory, but kind of customary. Will be an open space where you can bring suggestions and recommendations. If you are able to do it, recommends doing it.
- i. Schmidt: Is the Christmas party mandatory?
 - i. Kidd: it is optional
 - ii. Frappier: It is a Thursday and they won't have GA so you will all be free.
- j. Johnson IV: is there a specific space in GR for 2:1s?
 - i. Kidd: no, wherever works best for you

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved
- b. Thanks them for being on time and showing respect to Mayor Bliss
- c. His midterms are ramping back up so will be a little bit busier
- d. Reminds everyone to fill out the 2:1 form. After you fill it out he will reach out via slack once to confirm the date and time and discuss a location, then he will send a google calendar invite so it will be on President Kidd's calendar too. If you lost or did not receive the email reach out.
- e. Has UAS tomorrow from 3-5, needs 3 more individuals to join him. There will be cookies and coffee. Per VP Everly you can have receive office hours to count towards

Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier

next week. The senators that attend are voting members, so you vote on staff and faculty legislation and give student representation.

- f. Headshots are December 8th at 7:00pm, prepare to look your best. They will be outside of the student senate office in the promotions area.
- g. Reminder that they are quickly approaching November which is the last full month of the semester so keep that in mind for projects. Second semester is quicker because of elections.
- h. Hopes everyone has a fun halloween weekend but encourages everyone to be safe and responsible.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Farmers Market Bill
 - i. Schmidt: made some changes since last time he presented it, added a recognizing statement saying that 8-5 are peak business hours. Added a recognizing statement that it is only a problem during fall and winter semesters. Changed undue burden to arbitrary burden.
 - ii. Johnson IV: how often is the farmers market?
 - (1) Schmidt: April-October Wednesdays 10:00am-1:30pm
 - (2) Kidd: stated in first line of legislation
 - iii. Rusch: moves to pass VP Schmidt's farmer market bill as written
 - (1) Frappier- 2nd
 - (2) 21 yays
 - (3) Senate votes unanimously to pass VP Schmidt's farmer market bill as written

VIII. New Business

- a. Legislation
 - i. Hoogwerf: writing legislation to extend current credit/no credit deadline. It is in the early days and she still needs to meet with stakeholders, a rough draft is in the senate drive.
 - ii. Al Moutaa: currently working on student wages legislation, decided to informally present to ECS to receive their comments to make sure it will be passed by ECS. Will be meeting with Kidd today to prepare to bring it to ECS.
 - iii. Kidd: still working on stipend proposal. Brought it to ECS and got a long list of comments from them and will continue to work on it.
- b. Appointments
 - i. Kidd: Individual that was supposed to be appointed had an emergency and was unable to come. Will happen at the next GA not next week but the following week.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier

IX. Five Minute Recess

X. Public Comment- Part II

XI. Officer Reports

a. Senate Resources – Mallory Everly

- i. Thanks everyone for their participation in Fall Inservice last week. She will be reaching out to those who were not there regarding the date/time for the make-up inservice as it is required for all members to attend per the governing documents.
- ii. Continuing to work on recruitment efforts, specifically interviews and appointments. There will be one interview taking place after GA today, and is hoping to have an appointment at the next GA. Supposed to have one today but there was a change in schedules.
- iii. Office hours are looking much better, thanks everyone for working hard on them. Office hours are not required this week due to the short week of classes, however they will be due again next week.
- iv. SRC is planning some pretty fun bonding events that will be coming up, so stay tuned for more information on that.
- v. SRC will be meeting after GA, after interviews, anyone is welcome.
- vi. Hallead: can she submit office hours before she does them?
(1) Everly: try not to because you never know if something is going to come up and it won't go as planned, submit them after you complete them.

b. Allocations – Benjamin Biermacher

- i. Meeting tomorrow at 1:30 in KC room 2225
- ii. If you are interested in running for VP of Allocations next year, reach out.

c. Public Relations – Emily Bucon

- i. Met with VP Behler and spoke about efforts to gauge public opinion and talk about recruitment and retention. She had some great advice on starting with the perspective of basic understanding, which is something they will focus on incorporating in all of their outreach strategies. Behler followed up to help get her in contact with a communications firm she's really fond of, called Grand PR and she is drafting a message to reach out to them by Tuesday of next week and to hopefully set up a meeting.
- ii. Attended the public safety meeting with Chief DeHaan and some individuals from the Department of Public Safety. It was an informative meeting to learn about what measures the department and GVPD are taking in response to the recent rise in crime around our campuses. Communicated some concerns around the topic of safety and

Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier

- adequate lighting on campus which came up during one of their committee meetings. She has the agenda from that meeting and some notes if you have any questions.
- iii. They are looking to do a funding informational video through promotions to make students aware of how to get funding, if you're interested in doing a voiceover reach out.
 - iv. Another project in the works is the initiative of a partnership with GVSU Ambassadors. GVSU Ambassadors are responsible for orientations and tours. PRC is looking to partner with them for the purpose of being a first impression on freshman and transfer students and learning about the assumptions students have coming to college and what a transfer student is looking for here that they didn't have at the college or university where they came from.
 - v. Will be doing committee shoutouts, focusing on a singular committee for 2-3 days on their socials in effort to increase interest and encourage students to apply. They will also invite members of that committee to participate actively whether that be doing a social media takeover or however else they want to get involved and spread the word about their committee. Understands this can be nerve wracking for some people, but we would like to have at least one member from each committee participate when it is their committee in the spotlight so start thinking about this and you will hear more soon on exact dates, and once
 - vi. PRC has ordered teach-in flyers and pluggers for tabling. Look up for the tabling sign up sheet that will be coming very soon.
 - vii. You can utilize the social media content request form for anything you want shared.
 - viii. Schmidt: ERC has two members and neither of them are very apt with social media. Scared she would lose followers if he was in charge, how would they tackle that?
 - (1) Bucon: you do not have to do the social media takeover, it is not required. You do not have to do it if you do not want to.
- d. **Campus Affairs**- Bianca Muñoz
- i. Did not meet this week, but at their last meeting they discussed Al Moutaa's student wages legislation.
 - ii. Johnson IV and Welch met this week with Bates and did more research.
 - iii. They discussed the planning and structure of the food committee, reach out if you are interested.
 - iv. Discussed concerns regarding GV privacy policy.
- e. **Educational Affairs**- Lina Haas

Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier

- i. Continuing discussion on how they would like to run exam cram this year. Exam cram is tables with snacks and senate swag in the library during exam week to show support.
- ii. Hoogewerf is working on credit/no credit legislation and a higher education funding handbook.
- iii. They are having an archive day next Thursday at 3:30pm.
- iv. Meeting with VP Delgado regarding academic technology. Has a document with topics they are going to discuss in the drive, if you have any questions reach out.
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Larbi Al Moutaa
 - i. Welcoming Senator Johnson as a new committee member, great opportunity to open an additional liaison role with the LGBTQ resource center.
 - ii. PRC and DAC are partnering to table for the teach-in, stay tuned for the sign up
- g. **External Relations** – Zachary Schmidt
 - i. Helping Senator Flickinger with his project to make RSOs more aware of funding
 - ii. Will be starting up adopt a family soon, he will be taking it on again this year. Senate picks a family from the community and gives them Christmas gifts. It is a great opportunity to help the community.
 - iii. Had been working on the farmers market bill, thanks them for their support and for passing it.
 - iv. Looking at his availability to attend Ottawa County and GR commission meetings
 - v. Kidd: for adopt a family last year they split family members between committees and it was very fun to go shopping together, also very heartwarming. Thanks Schmidt for continuing this.

XII. University Committee Reports

- a. Bates: honors curriculum development committee: there were 2 proposals for new 350 classes, one was pushed to the next level of review, and the professor will develop an official syllabus, they saw issues of the description not matching the syllabus in the other proposal so they came up with suggestions for him and he will resubmit it. She can provide further information for those interested.
- b. Johnson IV: general education committee: discussed curriculum and probation status on some faculty. Listening to students and getting their feedback on alleviating the vote of faculty members. Spoke on how women of color are 4x more likely to get a bad review.
- c. Frappier: UAS is tomorrow from 3-5, if you want to join him reach out
 - i. Kidd: It is really fun, Stacie Behler will be there tomorrow. Great way to get office hours, free cookies, free coffee, meet cool people, and hang out with Felix Ngassa.

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, October 27th, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



XIV. Call for Announcements

- a. Proctor: Midterm elections are in 12 days, make sure you have a plan to get out and vote. He interns for Ottawa County elections division, so reach out with questions regarding the election process and if he cannot answer them he will connect you with someone who can.
- b. Munoz: her birthday was yesterday, having people over tonight if anyone is interested in coming over let her know.
- c. Kidd: Thanks everyone for their decorum and kindness practiced today, it is an honor to work with you all, encourages everyone to go to UAS tomorrow, and hopes everyone has a safe Halloween weekend, call her if you need anything.

XV. Adjournment: 6:05pm