General Assembly Thursday, October 6th, 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: 4:30pm

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

II. Public Comment - Part I

III. Guest Speaker

- a. Schmidt: moves to suspend Robert's Rules for 60 minutes to engage in the workshop
 - i. Al Moutaa- 2nd
 - ii. 23 yays
 - iii. Senate votes unanimously to suspend Robert's Rules for 60 minutes to engage in the workshop
- b. Lisa Perhamus: Civil Discourse Workshop
 - i. Group agreements: assume positive intention, listen to understand, use "I" statements, speak from your own experience, share talking space, grow the conversation-build what the person before you said.
 - ii. I am comfortable with the way we handle differences of opinion in Student Senate: 10-agree, 3-disagree, 6-it depends on what we are discussing, 5-I am not sure yet
 - iii. We can be looking at the exact same thing and see different things- very important to be very clear about what we are talking about and unpack things.
 - iv. Viewpoint diversity- One person's viewpoint is always meaningful. We need everyone's perspective to see the full picture. Heterodox community works with viewpoint diversity if it is something that interests you.
 - v. Perspectives and values emerge from life experiences. Common experiences allow us to respect people who have different perspectives.
 - vi. Argument culture- in an argument culture when people hold different opinions, there is a tendency to view each other as adversaries and to view differences as causes for power strategies. Argument culture= binary thinking, no room for "it depends."
 - vii. Elements of constructive conversation- tone of voice, body language, listening to cues. Communication is 35% words, 65% tone and body language
 - viii. 3 steps if you want to change your tone: 1. Become an expert on your mindset-develop a practice of noticing how you are responding in situations 2.

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Examine your habits- consider where and how you learned your habits 3. Develop a new mindset and new habits- give yourself grace; it takes time and practice

- ix. Active listening- show interest through open body language, ask, reflect back, keep
- x. What do you need from your fellow senators? Patience, open-mindedness, understanding, compassion, respect, kindness, acceptance, listeners, teamwork, problem solving, gudeiance, grace, Robert's Rules and order, cooperation, commitment, joy, flexibility, love
- xi. "It is hard to be upset with someone whose story you know"
- xii. Biermacher: thanks her for coming in and presenting
- xiii. Kidd: thought book that she shared will go out in the weekly email
- xiv. Perhamus: thanks everyone for their participation and encourages everyone to reach out if they need anything

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

V. President's Report

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Schmidt: moves to strike officer reports and university committee reports
 - (1) Munoz-2nd
 - (2) 22 yays, 1 nay
 - (3) Senate votes to strike officer reports and university committee reports
 - ii. Schmidt: moves to add discussion about parking serves meeting under new business point d
 - (1) Al Moutaa- 2nd
 - (2) 21 yays, 2 abstentions
 - (3) Senate votes to approve the above motion
- b. Al Moutaa- moves to move 5 minute recess after line item 6
 - i. Schmidt- suggests he changes his motion to be after line item 7
 - ii. Al Moutaa- accepts change
 - iii. 22 yays, 1 nay
 - iv. Senate votes to move 5 minute recess after line item 7
- c. Attended UAS, the intercollegiate athletic advisory board, met with Doug Wentworth, met with Provost Mili, met with the Johnson Center regarding consulting services for the rebuilding process.
- d. Will begin planning the GA schedule for next semester, most focus will be on rebuilding efforts and a few short presentations from campus stakeholders. Minimum of one week

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off per month. Will alternate between bonding activities and weeks off when there is no GA.

- e. Hoping to have a conversation about the stipend proposal soon. Only has her signature on it instead of the general assembly support. Conversations are occurring at cabinet and may be occurring at ECS/UAS so don't be surprised if it is brought to GA.
- f. Working with Doug Wentworth to get food and drinks provided for long meetings.
- g. Suggests that when you talk, you speak on facts or personal experiences and not circulate rumors. If you are unsure of something, that is a great time to use your technology to look up an answer for something, or may be best to not communicate if you do not know. Minutes are public, important to remember.
- h. If you use the senate logo or affiliate with another org or another person, you need to have a conversation with her, Frappier, and Bucon because conversations need to be had and permission has to be given per the governing documents.
- i. Only her and VP of SRC can speak on behalf of student senate, if you are going to interviews: speak as an individual, bring one of them with you, or ask for permission before hand to speak on behalf of senate.
- j. Send formal requests of her in slack or email, so she can put it on her google calendar otherwise she may accidentally forget.
- k. When you email stakeholders: be cautious, use cc or bcc, and reach out to cabinet or Valerie for help. Her, Frappier, and Guzman will go to meetings with you. They rarely will say no to anything, they just want to make sure they are helping you to be the best representative of the student senate and connect you to the right people to advance the work of the body.
- 1. Do not send emails or texts about student senate late at night or on weekends, if you text her in the evening you are not going to hear back from her for 24 hours because of her work schedule.
- m. Biermacher: you can schedule send emails so they are not sent late at night
- n. Flickinger: would like to know more about stipend proposal
 - i. Kidd: can find it in the google drive, reach out if you have questions, it is a working document. Requests tuition benefits for President and EVP, requests fellowship programs for the cabinet so they can act as employees of the offices that they work closely with, and asks for project allowances for general senators. Big ask, so sure there will be changes.

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved

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- b. Asks for snaps for President Kidd who has been working really hard, he really appreciates her and is sure the body does too. Come to him first if you can when you need something, Kidd has a lot on her plate.
- c. Working on scheduling headshots, will let you know when the date is set.
- d. Will be sending out a sign up genius for 2:1s to take place in November.
- e. Will be getting legislation updates from the provst tomorrow: legislation for printing the suicide prevention hotline number on the back of IDs and legislation for student involvement on a safety reevaluation on the Little Mac Bridge have been passed by UAS and ECS and the provost. Will be checking in with the provost for an update. Test optional policy legislation has formulated a task force to formulate a holistic admissions process.
- f. Connect with him about your ideas and reach out with questions.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Nominations and Elections for Vice President of Educational Affairs
 - i. Roubos: nominates Senator Haas for VP of Educational Affairs
 - (1) Schmidt- 2nd
 - (2) Rubos: has spoken in length with Haas about her interest in this position, believes she possesses the organizational and leadership skills to be a good cabinet member. Is open minded and willing to learn, has her full support.
 - ii. Kidd: election procedures: 5 minutes for candidate statement, 10 minutes for 5 questions, 15 minutes of closed discussion, vote by secret ballot
 - (1) Schmidt: any of these items can be extended by a motion
 - iii. Haas: freshman, recently appointed to the body currently on ERC. Double majoring in international business and global studies. Served as VP of student council, senate representative. Learned how to plan early to make sure events went smoothly. Worked at a law firm the past two years. Has learned that she is a facilitator and planner. Passionate about implementing change. Extremely interested in EAC. Personally spent \$600 for books alone this semester, knows that students would greatly benefit from OER. Is in the business college and honors college and has a mentor for each, her roommate is a STEM student and does not have a mentor, and wants to give all students equal resources. Acknowledges that she is new to senate and GV, but she is passionate, ambitious and will work hard.

b. Questions

- i. Schmidt: thanks her for running. Could you define EAC per the bylaws and how would you run the committee based off of that definition?
 - (1) The Educational Affairs Committee will remain informed on the changing system of education at Grand Valley State University, maintain close contacts with

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University academic committees, and ensure a strong student voice in the shaping of academic policies and resources. She plans on meeting consistently with libraries and university committees, to make sure resources are providing students with the best facilities and resources. Making sure they are aware of student concerns and improving those concerns.

- ii. Al Moutaa: thanks her for running, and is really impressed by her high school involvement. What is an issue you encountered as a leader in high school and how did you lay out an action plan, execute it, and what were the results?
 - (1) Haas: saw a lack of participation during COVID, decided after attending multiple leadership conferences to spend all of her senior year planning a leadership conference at her high school for the three different middle schools that feed in her high school to teach them leadership skills and make them eager for getting involved in leadership in high school. It was very successful and her school has decided to continue to put it on this fall.
- iii. Biermacher: thanks her for running, it is really important to gain student interest and garner support on these issues: how do you plan to gain student support?
 - (1) Haas: has been thinking about this a lot, thinks they've become very virtual but in person contact is still very important. Wants to set up booths or tables set up in the library or the different colleges and try to figure out a time that would be most productive to do this. Virtual resources are also a great option, utilizing the student senate social media accounts or her own accounts. Also wants to try to get other student orgs e-boards opinions by setting up events to include all of them.
- iv. Proctor: attended nearly every cabinet meeting last year and there were tense moments. How would you deal with conflict?
 - (1) Haas: has had to encounter different conflicts and sometimes we don't see the other side's perspectives because we are blinded by our passion. Would try to look at the idea and try to gain the other party's perspective. Sometimes passion comes out in anger, she would try to organize a conversation in more of an open way so no one is coming off as angry when it is only passion.
- v. Hoogwerf: is a member of EAC, and an equitable educational environment at GV is very important to her. What does that look like to her?
 - (1) Haas: equality is giving the same size stick for two people different lengths away, equity is giving them the right length sticks to reach the saem goal location. Equal access to resources, same level of treatment and resources depending on where they are coming from is equitable education to her.
- c. Discussion:

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- i. Schmidt: had Haas on his committee for one week, she is fantastic, impressed him, is extremely passionate and ambitious, and he cannot say enough good things about her, convinced she will do a great job, has his full endorsement.
- ii. Frappier: met with her and she was worried she didn't know enough yet. He believes she just needs someone who is willing to learn, and she has made it very clear that she is willing to do that.
- iii. Proctor: very impressed by how well spoken and how she answered the questions. Has only been on body for a week, so is a little concerned but sure she could do great. Multiple cabinet members have talked about quality over quantity and concerns have been expressed about previous cabinet members who were elected after only being on the body for a short amount of time.
- iv. Everly: has her full support. She has had multiple conversations about what cabinet is like, and being a new member. Also thinks that Senator Haas dedicated a lot of time to learning the ins and outs of EAC before running and that speaks volumes about her character. Would love to have her on cabinet.
- v. Rusch: loves that senator Hass is a freshman, believes that they need young and fresh perspectives on cabinet. Hopes Haas sees the inexperience as an advantage and to hold on to the values and everything she has and brings instead of deferring to people that have been around longer.
- vi. Bucon: puts full support behind her. Very impressed during her interview, confident that she will be a good addition to cabinet.
- vii. Mackenzie: has her full support. Her light and joy is very encouraging.
- viii. Al Moutaa: speaks about concerns due to lack of experience, and shares the example of VP Everly who was relatively new to the body when she was elected as VP, she is doing an amazing job and he is really impressed by her. Does not see how lack of experience can be a disadvantage. Echoes Rusch that it could be an advantage.
- ix. Biermacher: he had only been on the body for a month before filling a cabinet position that needed to be filled. Very scared before running because he was so inexperienced. But when you are entering a group of caring people, you don't have to go through that alone. She will be surrounded by passionate and caring people that are willing to teach her. Gives his full support. She shows initiative and cares about the position so it would be wrong to write her off due to lack of experience.
- x. Everly: thinks concerns about lack of experience are valid and she respects it. It is only a lack of experience in this specific student government, high school student government can teach you a lot, and it is important to recognize that that leadership experience will not be left behind.
- xi. Proctor: nothing personal, thinks there is a little difference between Haas and Everly. Everly had almost a full semester on the body and a week is a lot less. She did an

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amazing job speaking and answering questions, and thinks she will do very well. Leaning towards not supporting her in elections, but will support her if she gets the position. Believes she will do well in the position if she is elected.

- xii. Rusch: moves to call the question
 - (1) Schmidt: 2nd
 - (2) 19 yays, 4 nays
 - (3) Passes
- xiii. Kidd: you can write: the candidate's name, no confidence, or abstention if there is moral comprise or you are personally benefiting from the vote.

xiv. Kidd: congratulates senator Haas on being elected as the new VP of EAC

VIII. 5 Minutes recess

a. Meeting called back to order: 6:20pm

IX. New Business

- a. Appointments
 - i. Justin Hahs to EAC
 - (1) Statement from Justin Hahs: As a representative of the GVSU Student body I hope to be a voice for those who want to be heard. And as someone who has always had a passion for improving the quality of education I hope to be a positive addition to the Education Affairs Committee. Throughout High School I was a math tutor who assisted students in Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. I hope to use this passion and apply it to GVSU by improving academic policies, staying connected with the University Libraries, and making more students aware of scholarship opportunities. I know there are ways to improve the quality of education here at GV and I think getting involved in EAC would be a great way for me to encourage positive change within the University.
 - (2) Everly: moves to appoint Justin Hahs to EAC
 - (a) Biermacher- 2nd
 - (b) Everly: sat in on his interviews and an additional meeting regarding his committee placement. He was very generous, and asked what committees were in most need of help. Has a lot of extracurricular experience. Has some amazing ideas for EAC regarding the tutoring center and has prior experience with parliamentary procedures.
 - (c) Schmidt: moves to carry the motion with unanimous consent
 - (d) Motion carries
 - (e) Senate votes to appoint Justin Hahs to EAC

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b. Newsletter

- i. Bucon: would like to open up the discussion to move the senate newsletter to be a component of the DSA newsletter. Engagement statistics: similar or slightly higher when looking at DSA compared to the student senate newsletter. DSA is weekly so it allows for giving more pertinent updates to students. Opens the floor for discussion on this matter.
- ii. Frappier: full support of utilizing the DSA weekly email.
- iii. Proctor: expressed his support in the PRC meeting yesterday to utilize the DSA weekly newsletter. Cowrote the first newsletter with Bucon, and started drafting the October newsletter and because they are a legislative body there is almost nothing to put in it.
- iv. Rusch: mentioned there was an increase in engagement in the DSA newsletter?
 - (1) Kidd: reviewed newsletter statistics, over 70% of recipients opened DSA, less than 1% unenrollment rate. Student senate newsletter had a single digit percentage opening rate.
 - (2) Rusch: rather than scrapping current form of communication, has any work gone into increasing engagement for current communication and using similar methods as DSA newsletter or is it unattainable?
 - (3) Bucon: their thought was to move into DSA because they felt it was a better fit and they do not see a way to get people to open it more, students see it and they are not aware of what student senate does and they either do not open it or unsubscribe. Open to suggestions on this.
 - (4) Welch: recognizes that there would be an increase in engagement but have to think about how many students would read the student senate section in the DSA newsletter. They are a body of students for students, worried about how it looks by putting it into a university email from administration.
 - (5) Kidd: Regardless of the version it is sent to, it is the same recipients. DSA is a great big umbrella, various emails used to go out from different departments but now they are all put in one email and students know it is how they receive all their information and it reduces email traffic. Very helpful for students to know that they can reach DSA with concerns which will in return come to the senate, which opens a lot of doors for student engagement.
 - (6) Proctor: student senate's newsletter had very low engagement, and does not think students are going to care that much. In elections last year he was the third highest vote getter and got less than 200 votes out of 20,000 students.
 - (7) Kidd: flawed to think about student affairs as administration, many things fall under DSA.

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- (8) Frappier: this conversation started because it will be a big help to the advisor and PRC VP.
- (9) Bucon: moves to shift monthly newsletter to delivery via the weekly division of student affairs newsletter with a formal recommendation from cabinet
 - (a) Schmidt: 2nd
 - (b) Rusch: wholeheartedly opposes this motion. Understands reason behind it but feels like it is rather than patching the boat they are lighting it on fire and going to a new boat. Does not think abandoning it so promptly is a good idea, thinks it could harm them down the line. Thinks that thinking they have nothing to put in a newsletter is wrong because they have already passed legislation, had meetings with parking and campus safety, and received updates on past legislation. Individual newsletter would be a great way to make them stand out, thinks engagement can be worked on. It is a newer newsletter, but thinks they still currently have this unique outlet, sees that as something that can stand out and work with what they have to make it better because it is so unique.
 - (c) Schmidt: sees it as jumping into a lifeboat because their current boat is on fire and sinking in two different parts. Thinks that because they are in the single digits in engagement, they can not patch it. Better chance of getting engagement is with the 70% opening rate in the DSA newsletter. The good senator has been very inconsistent with when they should send out emails, opposed parking legislation emails but encourages an email that no one opens
 - (d) Frappier: remains in full support and it comes with a recommendation from the cabinet
 - (e) Proctor: stays in support. Currently is working on a social media post that highlights the legislation process and legislation that has passed.
 - (f) Haas: suggest seeing if they can make the student senate newsletter a bimonthly or quarterly email while still doing a weekly DSA newsletter update to not completely get rid of the individual newsletter.
 - (g) Kidd: has been in communication with the Lanthorn to purchase space in the Lanthorn to give updates every semester and include pictures.
 - (h) Bucon: believes students would care about legislation because they write it to improve students' experiences, and would still include updates in the DSA newsletter. It would just be shifting over to weekly instead of monthly.
 - (i) Gjolaj: calls the question
 - (i) Schmidt: 2nd
 - (ii) 19 yays, 2 nays, 2 abstentions

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- (j) Bucon: moves to shift monthly newsletter to delivery via the weekly division of student affairs newsletter with a formal recommendation from cabinet
 - (i) Schmidt: 2nd
 - (ii) 17 yays, 6 absteions
 - (iii)Senate votes to shift monthly newsletter to delivery via the weekly division of student affairs newsletter with a formal recommendation from cabinet
- c. Next Semester General Assembly Discussion
 - i. Kidd: opens the floor for thoughts on GA schedule for next semester- 2 weeks on 1 week off or 1 week on 1 week off, and allow time to work with university legal team and the Johnson Center. This allows for more time working together, more collaboration, and less time hearing and listening. This semester is workshop focused, next semester will be more focused on collaborative efforts
 - ii. DerPilbosian: Why take more breaks next semester than this semester?
 - (1) Kidd: last year when they followed this schedule engagement was higher in the office, more meetings, spent more time together, and morale was up. When morale is up, more work gets done. Also winter weather can make travel more difficult.
 - iii. Mackenzie: really appreciates this, had a lot of fun getting to know people at bonding last week.
 - iv. Proctor: expresses support for not meeting every week, slows down legislation writing. Did not meet every week last year and still passed a lot of meaningful legislation. May take longer to get it passed, but thinks that should not be an issue as long as they are aware.
 - v. Everly: expresses support for new schedule, feels like a lot of time cabinet sits up here and talks at you. Would open up more time for bonding and she loves bonding.
 - vi. Hallead: expresses full support, attended almost every GA this semester and they have all been very similar and not getting a lot done. One Thursday off would give them more time to work on legislation. Experiences winter sadness and would like that time off to focus on mental health and studies and bonding would boost morale. Would maybe also result in more applications if it is not as big of a commitment.
 - vii. Frappier: reserve the right to call an emergency general assembly if they feel like they should meet when there is no GA scheduled
 - viii. Rusch: less GAs the better
 - ix. Schmidt: agrees with senator Rusch
 - x. Biermacher: thinks 2 weeks on one week off would be much better to maintain consistency. Taking a week off in between every meeting would be hard to remember

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what happened at the last meeting. Does understand burnout and thinks time off is important but need to maintain some consistency.

- xi. Welch: seconds Schmidt and Rusch
- xii. Roubos: echoes Biermacher. 2 weeks on 1 week off makes a lot of sense. The time they take in GA is very important, thinks it would maximize the work they can get done and still give bonding opportunities and mental health breaks.
- xiii. Kidd: 2 weeks on 1 week off is 5 weeks off out of 15, which is a lot of free time xiv. Bucon: echoes Biermacher, thinks 2 weeks on 1 week off makes more sense.
- xv. Frappier: greatly appreciates hearing everyone's opinions, this will not be the end of this discussion. Asks Kidd to let them know when she is close to finishing the schedule so they give their final opinions before it is finalized.
- xvi. Biermacher: recommends that the chair does a straphole to see who is in favor of 2 weeks on 1 week off
- xvii. Kidd: does a straphole to see who is in favor of 2 weeks on 1 week off
- xviii. Kidd: will begin planning and keep you in the loop
- d. Parking Services meeting
 - i. Schmidt: student senate now has 2 student representatives on the parking committee. Parking services updated their website to explain how the parking judiciary works and how submitting an appeal works. Got answers to how many permits were sold and how much money they make off of permits. Updates can be found in the drive in his folder. Slack him if you can not find it.
 - ii. Frappier: highly recommend taking a look at the notes, ask Schmidt or Munoz if you have any more questions.
 - iii. Rusch: aks Schmidt to elaborate on how meeting affects his legislation
 - (1) Schmidt: currently in conversion with Chief DeHaan and parking services about their concerns for students parking on sidewalks in regards to his grace period legislation. Farmers market legislation is forthcoming shortly, because it still needs to be moved out of lot G.
 - iv. Munoz: parking services are working very well with senate so if you have any other concerns bring it to them. They are answering all questions and giving proper explanations. Not parkings fault, it is reasons out of their control. Be aware of all rules before making assumptions or thinking they are working against you.
 - v. Kidd: commends Munoz and Schmidt for their great work because the communication was handled very well. They worked collectively to gather questions and it was a great meeting. Take note: affective communication works, there are reasons they do things the way they do.
 - vi. Al Moutaa: motion to adjourn

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- (1) Schmidt- 2nd
- (2) Motion fails
- vii. Johnson IV: why might Chief DeHaan just change the policy in regards to the grace period legislation?
 - (1) Schmidt: does not know if he is going to agree to change the policy, wants to talk about his concerns to see why the rule is there. Having a discussion to see how they should move forward.
- X. Public Comment- Part II
- XI. Roll Call Part II

XII. Call for Announcements

- a. Biermacher: allocations committee will be in KC 2263 and it will be a relatively busy meeting, great one to come to to get funding training. Meeting with the CFO next week, reach out with questions.
- b. Bucon: happy mental health week, take care of yourself. If you notice someone needs extra support, please give that to them. She is here for everyone.
- c. Everly: fall inservice is Thursday, October 20, if there are any topics you want in the presentation send her a slack. SRC will now meet after GA on Thursdays.
- d. Frappier: need all of the cabinet and EOA because they are calling emergency cabinet meeting after adjournment. EAC will have their weekly meeting after cabinet.
- e. Kidd: Will swear in Justin Hahs, welcomes VP Haas to cabinet. Cabinet just has to look at a memo quick.

XIII. Adjournment: 7:02pm