



General Assembly

Thursday, October 7th, 2021 – 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette River Room – Kirkhof Center

Chair: Autumn Mueller

Parliamentarian: Alexis Krichevsky

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

- 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. Unnamed speaker, member of SFS. October 29, 2020 student senate of Indiana university passed a bill to end the contract with Aramark, Boise University followed. These universities like GVSU have had their students struggle to eat. The difference is GVSU's student government is not taking action like these other universities. It is time for the student senate to take a stand and submit a public statement that they stand with SFS and are against aramark.
- b. Laura Sutherland, member of SFS. Employs student senate to stand up for students who are struggling with campus dining. There are students who can not eat, are forced to buy a meal plan and become ill after eating the inedible food provided by GVSU.
- c. Member of YDSA. Everyone has seen what aramark is doing on campus and the student senate does nothing while they sit in a position of power.
- d. Member of YDSA. There are students who are losing weight, unable to eat, spending all of their money buying food from outside services because they can not eat on campus. GVSU claims to be inclusive but they have a contract with aramark, a company who exploits prisoners and women. He has not witnessed much action from the student senate regarding these issues.
- e. President of Latino student union. Aramark hurts cultural organizations at GVSU. Thanks GVSU for being inclusive especially towards DACA students, but aramark profits off of isis and prisoners. Switching to a self-sustaining food provider would cost less to GVSU, and not conflict with student organizations. When aramark said they would work with cultural organizations and provide food of different cultures they gave



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- bosco sticks with brown sugar instead of churros, showing that they do not care about students and their needs.
- f. Unnamed GVSU Student. As a vegetarian only offered 3 or 4 options, this led to cancelling their meal plan early. This poses more of a problem for those with stricter food restrictions. Michigan prisons cancelled their contract with aramark because it was not high enough quality for their repisoers, how can it be enough for Grand Valley students.
 - g. Member of YDSA, when you believe in concepts such as social justice you have to put these into practices and policies, you do not get to starve freshman who do not have a car to get food from other places, you can not underpay workers. Many of those who are negatively affected by campus dining are part of marginalized groups who GVSU says they stand with. Asks the student senate to leave a legacy and use any amount of power that they have. Strongly urges student senate to support proposal and issue a statement.
 - h. Member of YDSA and SFS. Very glad that they did not purchase a meal plan so that they do not have to starve.
 - i. Unnamed GVSU Student. The student senate should start listening. They had to pay over \$1000 out of pocket to not eat anything and can not get a refund. When the meal plan card was cancelled and they had to call, they had to wait until the next day to get it resolved and eat again. Urges the student senate to stop worrying about superficial stuff. They are really disappointed in GVSU campus, and need to start paying better wages.
 - j. A previous campus dining employee. Offended that the “essential worker pay,” \$2 bonus was not available last year. This is a desperate attempt to return to the status quo of overworked and underpaid employees. Paychecks are not sustainable and do not cover current expenses. Urges student senate to take action to raise GVSU student employee’s wages.
 - k. Member of SFS. Furious at the things that aramark and campus dining condone. Aramark can not fill their employment and students are forced to spend thousands of dollars and not eat.
 - l. Unnamed GVSU Student. Does not know what to eat most of the time, can not afford to eat off of campus and does not have a car. Urges the student senate to do something and kick Aramark out.



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- m. Unnamed GVSU Student. Often does not use their meal plan, only given two meals a day that are barely filling and are often so bad they only choose to eat once a day. Does not have a car or money to get food from other places, this is their only option and they need better options. Student senate needs to do something, as this is their job- to represent the student body.
- n. Unnamed GVSU Student. Disappointed by options for those with dietary restrictions and allergies. Left hungry after choosing from limited options. Campus dining does not pay enough, aramark does not belong on this campus. Student senate needs to put pressure on canceling the contract with aramark.
- o. VP of SFS. Believes that access to nutritious food is a human right. GVSU has shown a lack of ability to provide a basic need to students. Food should not be a stressor to students. Ask the student senate body what they are going to do to represent the students. SFS has done the work, and needs the student senate to release a statement of support.
- p. Unnamed GVSU Student. Senators are elected, it is their job to be a voice for the students, they need to do their job. The speaker is an RA and has students in their room every day hungry. Wants senators to do their job.
- q. Unnamed GVSU Student. Has never used a meal plan due to the fact that there is not a thing on campus that they can eat as a vegan and gluten free. GVSU's promise to work with those with dietary restrictions is at best a lie. If you have dietary restrictions you can not eat at GVSU, it is impossible. Campus dining leaves those with dietary restrictions the sides of a meal and calls it a meal and it is not. There is a large amount of students that have developed eating disorders after being on campus and that is GVSU's fault. The student senate has the privilege to make a change and if they are not going to put in the effort and time to make a change they should not have that privilege.
- r. This should be a paradigm shift, hearing all these stories and watching it get silenced is disappointing. Many students lose weight and struggle with finding options. Just because you are not struggling does not mean others are not
- s. Email read. Asking student senate to sign on with SFS's proposal and issue a statement of support.
- t. Email read. Asking student senate to sign on with SFS's proposal and issue a statement of support. Aramak has no place on campus, food choices are becoming fewer every semester, aramark is nor reflecting of GVSU's values.



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- u. Former student. They have heard that the same things that were happening 10 years ago are still happening. How long is this going to be a circulatory issue without a plan of action? What does it take? How radical does a protest have to be for the student senate to listen? Is today the testament that you will sit idly by and watch an issue of human survival, food, pass you by? To have a voice means to have an authentic choice, not just a few minutes to speak. Do not let future students have the same issue.

III. Guest Speakers

a. **Vonnie Woodrick: i understand – love heals founder**

- i. Expresses appreciation and gratitude to the student senate.
- ii. Addresses the gallery and acknowledges the passion of those in the gallery and knows that it will make a change. She turned her passion into change when she lost her husband to depression and used that passion to start a nonprofit organization. She started that change by making a change to the definition of suicide. Suicide is a side effect of a mental health illness. Someone does not choose depression, depression changes them. We need to make a change to accept each other as we are. We need to gather around and support each other. Judgment hurts, love and understanding heals. She senses a lot of angst in this room right now but knows that if everyone comes to an understanding, that is how change is made.
- iii. Iunderstand is an organization that supports those who have lost people to suicide or struggle with mental health. It is a small organization doing big things. She has also written a book that is used as a resource for those who have lost loved ones to suicide. Iunderstand offers support groups. Has a statue downtown called the door is always open representing the stigma and judgement that surrounds mental health and suicide. We need to recognize that person and go in and help those people, the door is always open. They wear pink to represent unconditional love. There is a butterfly that represents that through time, transformation, and love, everyone has the ability to leave the dark place and emerge as something beautiful.
- iv. She is so proud of the student senate for the amount of money raised and is so thankful. Wishes nothing but the best to every member of the student senate.
- v. For more information: iunderstandloveheals.org
- vi. Schmidt: thinks that iunderstand is great and that they do great work and wants to thank her for her organization.



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vii. VP Pearson: wants to thank Vonnie for coming in and states that working with her for BOV showed him how involved she is and was so happy with that.

viii. VP Frappier: offers his thanks for coming in and encourages everyone to see iunderstand as more than a partner and utilize them as a resource if need be.

ix. Senator Pearson: thanks Vonnie for working with them and coming out to events. Asks how the donation is going to help the organization?

(1) Their current big project is called “be the ONE (offer, narrate, encourage support) training program”, this is to go into churches, schools, and businesses and help others get the help they need. She doesn't like to charge for mental health services and training and that is where the funds will go.

x. Zdunczyk: thanks Vonnie for being here and states that she is blown away by her organization and is so happy that iunderstand became their beneficiary. Being partners with Vonnie has brightened her life.

xi. Check is presented to Vonnie

b. Marlene Kolwaski-Braun: DEI Training

i. Due to a time conflict, this will be rescheduled

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

a. Kidd: passes a tabling sign up for Open Access training Monday October 18th-Wednesday october 20th

b. Cargill: make a difference day: October 16th- leader or volunteer. RA applications are open for anyone interested.

V. President’s Report

a. Adoption of the Agenda

i. VP Pearson motions to add a 5 minute break following line number 6, seconded by Senator Schmidt, passed unanimously.

b. Thanks everyone for their help with BOV

c. Reminders:

i. Last day to register for Make a Difference Day is tomorrow

ii. Student senate will be taking a trip to sap farms next Thursday at 4:30, meet in pere marquette room, attendance is mandatory- dress in casual clothes that you can get dirty

iii. Projects should be main priority now that BOV is over



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- iv. Fill out contact sheet in drive
- d. Updates
 - i. Cabinet is in process of BOV reflection
 - ii. UAS met and reaching higher 2025 did not pass, will no longer be presented at board of trustees meeting
 - iii. Will be beginning two on ones with new EVP starting in november
 - iv. Strategic planning will be starting
- e. Projects
 - i. Student Senate alumni panel
 - ii. Taking part in radio show over fall break
- VI. **Executive Vice President's Report**
 - a. Approval of the Minutes
 - b. Thanks everyone for their help with BOV
 - c. Reminds everyone to come to pere marquette room to check in for service project next week
 - d. Make a difference day is a great opportunity, highly encourages everyone to participate
 - e. Please fill out contact sheet in google drive
 - f. Do not forget to fill out your office hours, due Fridays at 5:00pm
 - g. Interviews will be in student senate office at the end of GA
 - h. 5 minute recess: 5:33pm
 - i. Resumes at: 5:40pm
- VII. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Nominations and Voting for Executive Vice President
 - i. VP Pearson nominates VP O'Neil
 - (1) VP Pearson states that he has developed a great friendship with O'Neil and has witnessed his great personality that embodies the core values of senate, remains level headed in intense situations, acts objectley not subjectively. Pearson wholeheartedly believes that there is no one better to take this role.
 - (2) VP O'Neil accepts the nomination
 - ii. Senator Ingels nominates VP Krichevsky , Seconded by Senator Cargill
 - (1) States that she is doing a great job as interim



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(2) VP Krcivesky declines nomination

- iii. VP O'Neil: in time on cabinet as VP of allocations he has worked with OSL, presented at ignite to all RSOs, and approved funding requests. This has prepared him for the role of EVP by opening his mind to what the EVP needs to be doing. He defines the EVP as the glue that mends the VPs and their committees. EVP must unite the senate as a whole community. If the student senate cabinet is trying to obtain goals the EVP must unify the body through their abilities, it is fundamental that the EVP has a relationship with the cabinet members. He believes that the EVP needs to be level headed, organized, composed, and vulnerable. He states that he is capable of all of these everyday and has shown this to the cabinet. His first action will be coming to each committee and subcommittee meeting and attending 2 on 1s with President Mueller. He would like to accomplish cross committee collaboration and would do this because he is able to act promptly even with 20 things coming at him at once. Student senate is not a perfect organization but change can begin now. He thanks everyone for this opportunity.

(1) Questions

(a) Schmidt: how do you feel that your role can be filled on allocations?

- (i) He will fill the role of allocations until a replacement is elected, he is next to talk to if the new VP of Allocations has any questions. OSL has great employees to help whoever takes over.

(b) VP Pearson: what is your biggest weakness and how do you combat that?

- (i) He has been told that his honesty can be too much at times, he has been working against this by waiting a day or two before responding to ponder and respond correctly.

(c) Kidd: if you like to ponder what will happen if you have to make a quick decision?

- (i) As CFO for his fraternity he was faced with making decisions promptly and he is capable of getting the job done promptly when there is need.

(2) Open discussion

- (a) VP Pearson: wants to reaffirm that although he is amazing in his role of VP of allocations and that was his biggest apprehension when cabinet was discussing who was going to run for EVP, he believes that O'Neil will train whoever takes over allocations properly and make the transition very smooth.

- (b) VP Frappier: has spoken to more than half of the body about running for EVP and states that he thinks it is best to yield to VP O'Neil for EVP at this time.



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He will be running for EVP next year. Stands by O'Neil and thinks that he will do a great job.

(c) Schmidt: motions to elect Jim O'Neil as EVP via unanimous consent, seconded by VP Pearson. Passes unanimously, 1 abstention.

(d) O'Neil is elected as executive vice president

(3) VP Pearson motions to hold nominations for allocations, seconded by Senator Biermacher, passes unanimously

(a) VP O'Neil nominates Biermacher

(i) Biermacher has served on the allocations committee and has shown that he is very devoted and O'Neil believes that he will fill the role in a phenomenal way.

(ii) Biermacher accepts the nomination.

(iii) Voting will take place in two weeks.

VIII. New Business

a. Appointment of Johanna Pagel to ERC

i. VP Frappier has not had the chance to meet them yet but has heard that they are a fantastic, well-rounded individual and will be a great fit to the ERC. motions to appoint Johanna Pagel to the Senate Body as a member of ERC, seconded by VP Krichevsky, passes unanimously.

b. Appointment of Kylee Crandall to PRC

i. VP Pearson states that she is well spoken, has great communication skills, and is poised, finding this in a freshman is extremely rare and knows that the student senate will allow her to cultivate her skills and her skill will benefit the student senate and PRC. Motions to appoint Kylee Crandall to the Senate Body as a member of PRC, seconded by Kidd, passes unanimously.

c. Appointment of Zuriel Johnson to DAC

i. VP Gineman, has not yet met them but has heard that they have the drive to create change on campus and will be a fantastic addition to DAC. Motions to appoint Zuriel Johnson to the Senate Body as a member of DAC, seconded by VP Pearson, passes unanimously.

d. Additional Appointments

i. Appointment of Adam Korte to SRC



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- (1) VP Kriversky states that they are a previous senator, a hard worker and believes that they will do great work. Motions to appoint Adam Korte to the Senate Body as a member of SRC, seconded by Kidd, passes unanimously, 1 abstention.
- ii. Appointment of Emily Bucan to PRC
 - (1) VP Pearson states that they are a well-rounded and well-spoken individual. They offer ideas for diversity. He is grateful to have her fill the last spot on his committee as a great fit. Motions to appoint Emily Bucan to the Senate Body as a member of PRC, seconded by Kidd, passes unanimously.
- e. **CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**

IX. **Public Comment – Part II**

- a. Alexander, Latino Student Union, offers thanks to the student senate and acknowledges the immense pressure that they are under, and the great work they did for the BOV, Vonnie and iunderstand. He will continue to stand against aramark and hopes that they take into consideration everything that was said. Offers his congratulations to EVP O’Neil.
- b. Unnamed Student, Urges that the opening in their schedule due to the ending of BOV be filled with working with SFS. SFS can not be a registered organization due to the fact that they will not list their members to the university because some members are former campus dining employees and do not want their names known. Hopes that the student senate will work with them regardless of this.

X. **Officer Reports**

- a. **Senate Resources** – Alexis Krichevsky
 - i. Reminds everyone to fill out contact sheet and complete office hours
 - ii. Encourages everyone to sign up for make a difference day
- b. **Allocations** – Jim O’Neil
 - i. Allocations meeting Friday, October 8 in Krikhoff 2263. Attend to receive funding board training. Dress appropriately and come on time.
- c. **Public Relations** – Eldon Pearson
 - i. Seate info night October 20th- planning on doing it trick or treat style, each committee will have a table. More details to come.
 - ii. Relaunching senate swag this month.
 - iii. Working with promotions office for new student senate promotion video
 - iv. Planning roundtable event



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- v. Open access week promotional material is in the works
- vi. Finalizing newsletter for the end of the month
- vii. Senator Wheeler: bringing back senator of the month on Instagram, you are nominated and get a post on Instagram about yourself.
- viii. PRC meets on Tuesdays at 8:00pm if anyone would like to join
- d. **Campus Affairs** – Alyson Zdunczyk
 - i. Thanks everyone for their help with BOV, all their work and for supporting iunderstand. Thanks to her members specifically for all of their hard work on their events.
 - ii. CAC meets in Kirkhoff 1249 Tuesdays at 4:00pm
 - iii. Came up with ideas of events to put on in the future, Senator Kreger is putting on Elect-her again, very exciting.
 - iv. Committee members have liaison roles and will be reaching out to their campus departments.
 - v. Will have a CAC member on each subcommittee.
 - vi. Congratulations to Senator Kreger for being chosen as new MHAC subcommittee chair
 - vii. If you have any events you are interested in putting on, come to a CAC meeting
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Faith Kidd
 - i. Senator Rusch is working on a survey for the university on affordability of textbooks
 - ii. Senator Osycakl is working on teach-in
 - iii. Working with Milos on digital landscape feedback, reach out if you have any feedback
 - iv. Contacted by Suzane Benet to help with adding surveys
 - v. OAS is in the works, sign up for tabling, complete OER survey only takes 60 seconds
 - vi. Thanks everyone for their help with BOV, and family feud, it was a big success
 - vii. Provost meeting tomorrow
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Kyle Gineman
 - i. Senator Conway will serve as student senate representative for UFC
 - ii. Has been in contact with UCOM about taking over the GVSU social media accounts to promote teach-in



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- iii. Will be reviewing proposals for the teach-in next Tuesday 9:00am, if anyone is willing to come- reach out
- iv. Met with planning committee to discuss teach-in, will be planning tabling events
- v. Sits on the climate survey committee, hoping to do a kick off event on November 17th and 18th to promote the survey and get increased participation. Participation 2 years ago was only 30% of students.

g. External Relations – Justin Frappier

- i. Thanks everyone for their help with BOV
- ii. Will be talking about how to better shape BOV for years to come, if you wish to be involved, highly recommends coming to cabinet
- iii. ERC will be going out to dinner instead of a formal meeting, anyone is welcome to come
- iv. If there is anything you would like to see ERC working on, reach out
- v. Welcomes all new appointees.
- vi. Asks that everyone brings their folders to GA and wear your nametags
- vii. Encourages everyone to come to the bonding events, always beneficial
- viii. Appreciates the professionalism in GA tonight, Vonnie stated that this is the most professional atmosphere she has ever seen on a college campus

XI. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Sustainability Rationale, presented by Senator Cargill states that Sunday at 12:00pm on zoom will be their first meeting.

XII. University Committee Reports

- a. Senator Pearson, past Monday at 10:00am university committee met: student wellness and mental health was the main topic. The university counseling center presented. They introduced an app for faculty and staff to report students who they believe are struggling with mental health. University counseling center is on call 24/7 and has resources available. Many resources on campus for those struggling with their mental health.
- b. President Mueller encourages everyone to speak their opinions at university committee meetings. Faculty and staff are very impressed and thankful when students speak up at meetings.

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements



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- a. VP Gineman states that they need hosts for the teach-in, please reach out if you are interested.
- b. Senator Wheeler reminds everyone to fill out the content request form if you need promotions for events on social media.
- c. VP Frappier explains that university committees are a way for students to get their voices heard, and encourages everyone to sign up.
- d. VP Krichevsky reminds everyone to bring up their placards, those without placards will get them in two weeks.
- e. President Mueller reminds the new appointees to come get sworn in.

XV. **Adjournment: 6:28pm**