

# Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Justin Frappier

Parliamentarian: Zachary Schmidt

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

## **I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:33pm**

- a. Kidd: will be giving up chairing this meeting as she is not there in person, EVP Frappier will be chairing the meeting.
- b. Moment of Silence
  - i. Native Land Recognition
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Roll Call - Part I

## **II. Public Comment – Part I**

## **III. Guest Speaker**

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

- a. Schmidt: the cabinet is working on putting together the elections commission for next year. If you are not returning to the senate next year and would like to be a part of it please put your name down.
- b. Frappier: the planned guest speaker is out of town this week. If you have any questions pertaining to VP Behler’s position, email them to Kidd and she will pass them on.

## **V. President’s Report**

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
  - i. Al Moutaa: moves to move item 8a, point i to line item 7, unfinished business a
    - (1) Schmidt- 2nd
    - (2) Passes unanimously
    - (3) Senate votes to move item 8a, point i to line item 7a, unfinished business
  - ii. Haas: moves to add line item 8a under new business titled “projects” so she can discuss the OER task force structure
    - (1) Schmidt- 2nd
    - (2) Schmidt: moves to pass with unanimous consent
    - (3) Senate votes to add line item 8a under new business titled “projects” so she can discuss the OER task force structure
  - iii. Biermacher: moves to strike officer reports
    - (1) Everly- 2nd
    - (2) Rusch: thinks they should keep them because they did not have them last week and there are some pertinent updates that he wants to hear especially where ERC is on adopt a family.
    - (3) 7 yays, 8 nays, 2 abstentions

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(4) Motion fails

- b. Kidd: does not have a report due to her free time being spent on 2:1s, reach out if you have questions

## VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Approval of the Minutes
  - i. Stand approved
- b. Thanks everyone for their candor during 2:1s, it has been really good getting to know you better and know what they can do to be better. Consider signing up if you haven't, if you would like another 2:1, they can set one up.
- c. November 13-19 is the University Sustainability Showcase, GVSU has been recognized multiple times in their efforts in sustainability, encourages everyone to check it out
- d. November 29 is an OSL student workshop called pizza, people, and planning where you can learn more about planning events. You can still plan events for senate even though they are more legislation focused, and could be a great event to get involved in.
- e. Has been continuing his regular EVP tasks, reach out if you have any questions

## VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Legislation
  - i. Student Wages
    - (1) Al Moutaa: this is the second presentation of the student wages legislation. Main edits were to the recognizing statement comparing it to the federal minimum wage and now compares it to the michigan minimum wage and compares it to GVSU tuition. Appreciates your comments and help.
    - (2) Biermacher: Were most of the modifications grammatical?
      - (a) Al Moutaa: mostly, yes
    - (3) Rusch: can you go more in depth of the numbers that were changed?
      - (a) Al Moutaa: reads the before and after edits. Before it said "Recognizing, that according to the Urban Institute, the same number of hours that a student would need to work at the federal minimum wage in the 1960s to cover the costs of the average public four-year college tuition and fees would now cover fifty-seven (57) percent of these charges demonstrating a rise in costs, as well as overall inflation" now he uses GVSU tuition and compares the amount of hours that were needed to work to cover GVSU tuition and fees in 1968 with the Michigan minimum wage to the hours needed to work with the GVSU minimum wage to cover the current GVSU tuition
    - (4) Proctor: was there a provision that discussed not raising tuition?

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- (a) Al Moutaa: during the process of writing this legislation he decided that just because they say that they can't raise the tuition doesn't mean they won't. So they made the structure of the document make it so it would be really hard to raise tuition. They also order a task force to be composed with student representation so they will make sure they find a resolution that is best for every stakeholder and therefore not raise tuition.
- (b) Biermacher: in his personal opinion, it isn't realistic to ask them to not raise tuition especially because student wages are not a factor, it is up to revenue. This is a good question but not related nor realistic to this piece of legislation.
- (5) Hahs: last week he mentioned how they only use about 80% of the student wage fund in the past, is that the only place they will be pulling additional funds out of to raise wages?
- (a) Al Moutaa: there are a lot of budgets that aren't spent in full. Shows 2022-2023 general fund expenditure budget pie chart. If one percent of the faculty budget isn't used it would be more than enough to cover the raises in student wages. It is just about playing with reallocation, which is why a task force would be very important.
- (b) Proctor: what is being done with the faculty budget that is unused?
- (i) Al Moutaa: it gets transferred to the expenditure budget of the following year
- (6) Rusch: largely in favor and a fan of this legislation. Is there a portion that would address the issue that departments are run by individuals and it comes down to the individual department heads working to set their own personal budget? Asks him to highlight a part of the legislation that directly addresses this
- (a) Al Moutaa: the first let is be resolved statement asks for the university to expand the university departments respective student wage budget, then it asks for the university to restructure the wage rate classification system with the labor market analysis and make the rates more accurate. This would mean the department would just have to follow the chart since their budget has already been expanded.
- (7) Bates: Is there a way to enforce that departments use their complete budget?
- (a) Al Moutaa: it would be really hard to actually do that, at the end of the day it is up to them. Sometimes a department overestimates the number of employees they will have which results in unused funds. There is a sort of enforcement that will come from the restructured chart with the minimum and maximum pay rates that will be specified. This is the best they can do.
- (8) Frappier: specificity in a motion is pretty important so keep that in mind

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- (9) Al Moutaa: motions to pass the Student Senate Student Wage Budget and Chart Restructuring Bill
- (a) Rusch: 2nd
  - (b) Biermacher: Who are we charging? Do we charge UAS with passing it and sending it along to BOT?
    - (i) Al Moutaa: thinks it would be best to ask for support of UAS and send it to BOT, this will make it more credible when it goes to SLT.
    - (ii) Frappier: ECS has already seen it, UAS and ECS are both faculty driven bodies. There is the SLT and President Mantella. Him and Haight think it should be sent to VPSA, Jenny Hall-Jones.
  - (c) Proctor: congratulates and thanks VP Al Moutaa, can see how much effort he put into it. Student wages have been a huge issue with the student body so he will be putting his full support behind it.
  - (d) Hoogwerf: also fully supports this legislation
  - (e) Frappier: would you be willing to take your motion off the floor to make a grammar change that has just been noticed
  - (f) Al Moutaa: retracts motion
- (10) Bucon: capitalize office in the last recognizing statement
- (a) Al Moutaa: accepts
- (11) Hoogwerf: motions to pass this legislation with the intent of moving it to the VP of SA, Jenny Hall-Jones
- (a) Z. Johnson- 2nd
  - (b) Biermacher: would like to request that UAS be added to the motion
    - (i) Hoogwerf: accepts amendment
  - (c) Frappier: does not know how pertinent the support of faculty is on this legislation, and ECS said how they are also wanting an increase in the faculty budget, so does not know if that is the best channel.
  - (d) Biermacher: thinks that having more eyes on it will make it more palatable for the SLT and make it more likely to be put into action
  - (e) Rusch: agrees with VP Biermacher, it is better to get more awareness and support for it, which is what they did for his legislation about the Little Mac Bridge and it helped. Has concerns that in the end departments won't do anything, works in a department that has a surplus of student wage money and doesn't raise wages. Hopes that future members of CAC and DAC will keep an eye on this to make sure that it is enforced.

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- (f) Al Moutaa: appreciates him telling him that. This will be mentioned in his transitions report so that the future DAC VP knows about it.
- (g) 18 yays, 1 abstention
- (h) The senate votes to pass this legislation with the intent of moving it to the VP of SA, Jenny Hall-Jones

## VIII. New Business

### a. Projects

- i. Haas: seeking endorsement of the OER task force structure with the recommendation from cabinet.
- ii. Regarding Senator Rusch's question which was if the task force had a disassembly date Matt Ruen said that this iteration of the OER task force will be ongoing. Hopefully at some future date OER work will be integrated into the normal work of other committees and offices across campus. If that happens, the task force may decide that it's time to wrap up their work.
- iii. Regarding Senator James IV's question that was would the task force also work on endorsing digital literature materials and Matt Ruen responded with.. I'm not sure what this question means, but the answer is almost certainly no. Generally, individual faculty instructors are in the best position to evaluate the quality of potential materials for courses in their subject areas, and the task force is not likely to change that. It might recommend some options for an instructor or a department to consider, he sometimes does this for individual faculty, searching directories of OER for items that might fit a particular class - but final decisions would be up to the subject area faculty.
- iv. There was also a question that was brought up last meeting that questioned if the OER task force worked on anything other than trying to get cheaper textbooks. Coming straight from the OER Task Force structure, one of their two purposes is to: "Communicate and collaborate with campus partners on issues and initiatives related to affordability of course materials."
- v. Biermacher: expresses support, thinks it is a no brainer to take a look at how textbook pricing goes on at the university. Worst case is the university decides to do nothing and the best case scenario is that they see a substantial decrease in textbook cost
- vi. Hoogwerf: expresses support, currently taking a course that uses OER and it is so nice and super easy.
- vii. Schmidt: motions for the student senate to place their support behind the implementation of the OER task force
  - (1) Biermacher: 2nd
  - (2) 19 yays, 1 nay

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## b. Appointments

- i. Frappier: appointments have been rescheduled due to the weather and the hybrid format

## IX. Five Minute Recess

- a. Schmidt: motions to extend the five minute recess by five minutes
  - i. Biermacher: 2nd
  - ii. Schmidt: moves to carry with unanimous consent
  - iii. Senate votes to extend the recess
- b. Meeting called back to order: 5:25pm

## X. Public Comment- Part II

## XI. Officer Reports

### a. Senate Resources – Mallory Everly

- i. Recruitment- the DSA email that went out a week or two ago had information about applying to Student Senate within it thanks to PRC. That significantly boosted the amount of applications that have been received on Lakerlink. They received 11 or 12 applications within the past week which is very exciting. Had three interviews scheduled for today but they will be rescheduled due to the weather.
- ii. Bonding- there will be a hang out session in the snow at 6:30pm on Friday, feel free to tag along. For those who signed up for carpool karaoke, she will be making a group chat to figure out what times and dates work best. Senator Quist deserves a lot of snaps because he showed up to his first ever SRC meeting with around 18 bonding ideas. So, due to the recent resignation of Senator Biggs, Senator Quist will now be spearheading the bonding efforts.
- iii. SRC had quorum at their committee meeting this week, therefore all forms that were submitted prior to Tuesday have been voted on. When SRC is voting on whether or not to excuse an absence, they strictly follow what is laid out in the governing documents because if they don't they would be subject to a conduct review. Therefore, if something of yours is not excused, do not take it personally. She thinks that the current standard is pretty unreasonable for all of the goals that they are trying to achieve, and she doesn't think it's fair for you all as people. So, just know that she shares your frustrations and she is brainstorming ways to improve that policy during their era of rebuilding.

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- iv. Lastly, remember that office hours are due by 5:00pm tomorrow, make sure that you turn those in on time. SRC is continuing to meet at 5:45pm on Tuesdays, so if you want to stop by feel free.
  - b. **Allocations** – Benjamin Biermacher
    - i. No allocations meeting tomorrow or next Friday
  - c. **Public Relations** – Emily Bucon
    - i. SRC had their committee shoutout on social media this week, PRC's will be next. Keep an eye on your inbox in slack to get more information on what you need to send over when it is time for your committee.
    - ii. Committee photos will be rescheduled to the 8th, please show up on time and be courteous because they are understaffed and they are being very generous by doing everything on the same day.
    - iii. Website is 95% updated, take a look.
    - iv. Had a meeting with GV PRSSA that partners with a national communications firm to get suggestions on recruitment and it went very well.
    - v. Question boxes have been put around campus so students can give feedback in an anonymous way and they will be going downtown as well if you want to help decorate them.
    - vi. Frappier: asks that during announcements VP Everly clarifies if there will be office hours next week.
  - d. **Campus Affairs** – Bianca Muñoz
    - i. Yields her report
  - e. **Educational Affairs** – Lina Haas
    - i. Have reserved tables in the library for exam cram, will share a sign up sheet soon. In the process of ordering food and pluggers for it.
    - ii. Brought Hoogwerf's credit/no credit legislation to cabinet so it will be at GA soon
  - f. **Diversity Affairs** – Larbi Al Moutaa
    - i. Thanks everyone for their support and collaboration on the student wages legislation. Wants to assure you all that this is just the first step, enforcements of this legislation will be the next step.
    - ii. DAC and EAC are working on a partnership to create a book showcase table in the library to showcase books with diversity.
    - iii. Thanks PRC for their great marketing efforts because the Teach-In went great
    - iv. No DAC meeting next week due to thanksgiving break
  - g. **External Relations** – Zachary Schmidt

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- i. Have adopted a 5 member family, 2 17 year old twins, a 12 year old, a 2 year old and a single mother. Can provide more information on their story if you are interested.
- ii. Attended the GR commission meeting, very heated but nothing relevant to the university was discussed
- iii. Contacted GR to put a crosswalk on Winter St. because students have to jaywalk and the city said they will investigate it.
- iv. Flickinger is working on a funding guidelines project to make funding more accessible to RSOs.
- v. Will be attending the Ottawa County Commission Meeting

## **XII. University Committee Reports**

- a. Haas- met with the university libraries advising committee. Each member was charged with researching their assigned peer university and their use of OER. She was assigned SVSU, NMU, and Western Washington
- b. Biermacher: attended SORB, approved some new RSOs including skateboarding club, students with chronic illness, and more. Can get you contact information to join them if you are interested.
- c. Hahs: attended the Pew faculty teaching and learning center committee. Each of the 5 subcommittees gave reports with their goals for the year. He was placed on the OER development subcommittee.
- d. Frappier: still have seats open on some university committees so reach out to Kidd if you are interested.
- e. Frappier: UAS/ECS: had 1,115 Teach-In participants which is fantastic. Hired a dean for KCON. Received a report from HR on exit interviews, SRC will now be working on formulating some kind of exit interview process for the student senate. Milso Topic gave a report on IT, if you have questions let him know. Received a report from Jesse Bernal, DEI officer, reach out if you want to see the notes.

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

## **XIV. Call for Announcements**

- a. Proctor: had sticky notes on their bulletin board for students to write ideas on, compiled them and put them in a doc in his folder in the drive if anyone wants to see them
- b. Everly: office hours are due this week but they are not due next week due to Thanksgiving break.
- c. Frappier: will never have to hear him talk this much again, thanks everyone for their patience. Be safe in this weather and attempt to leave earlier for meetings since it can take longer. Enjoy your break, if you need anything, reach out to him. Committee meetings are up to the discretion of your VP. Will be having 2:1s via zoom tonight. Will



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have Zuriel Johnson at 6:00 and Munoz at 6:30. Grab snacks before you leave so nothing goes to waste.

**XV. Adjournment: 5:42pm**