



General Assembly

Thursday, November 18th, 2021 – 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette River Room, Kirkhof Center

Chair: Autumn Mueller

Parliamentarian: Jim O'Neil

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

I. **Call Meeting to Order: 6:00pm**

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**

III. **Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers**

IV. **President's Report**

a. Adoption of the Agenda

b. Adding guest speakers for winter semester- send suggestions if there is anyone you want to hear from

c. UAS and ECS- presented public comments received about campus dining, will have a continued discussion tomorrow

d. Attending provost- heading to Detroit during exam week to meet with top candidates

e. Strategic planning to update governing documents, creed, mission

f. BOV committee still in the works

g. Cabinet will not be meeting next week, will have a preparatory meeting for President's council meeting from 6:00-7:00pm if you want to join

h. Meeting with President Mantella next week to discuss campus dining issues

V. **Executive Vice President's Report**

a. Approval of the Minutes

i. Stand approved

b. Was in Detroit this week for interviews for vice president of student affairs

c. Headshots moved to 2 weeks from today after GA on December 2nd

d. Meeting with reaching higher committee tomorrow

e. Looking forward to friendsgiving tonight



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VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

a. University Food Committee Report

- i. UFC Meeting Minutes- 2 ways to run a campus dining program- contractual relationship with 3rd party vendors- majority of universities do this, including GVSU, this keeps costs down for students. The goal is not to make money but to cover costs. Competitive bidding to renew contact. Contracts are reviewed each. Aramark contract is 2018-2028. \$22-23 million usually, \$15-16 this year. Aramark has been in partnership with GV for over 30 years. 30% of foods are locally sourced. Existing contractual relationships are reviewed in daily meetings to evaluate and get the lowest costs for students. GVSU has the lowest dining and boarding costs in MI, social media posts are taken into consideration. Business and finance team review proposals, vendors present to the committee, and representatives are selected among students and faculty. Conversations with campus dining happen on Tuesdays each week. Local farms are being used and sourced through Gordon foods. If farmers sold wholesale to GVSU farmers would lose a lot of money. Difficult to retain staff in much of the world, not just GVSU. Campus dining is down 250 employees, an HR member is joining the team at the end of month to help with this. Up to \$1700 in sign on bonuses, but this did not yield any new employees. Employees are not scheduled during classes, senior student managers do the scheduling. Replenish food drive is for students in need of food, or those who run out of meals. \$25,000 food insecurity fund in financial aid that students can apply for.
- ii. Incentives from campus dining: fall signing bonus- \$100, retention at end of fall semester \$100, winter retention \$50, winter sign on \$100, \$1000-\$500 working though year or ½ of year at least 8 hours a week.
- iii. Rusch: did any other contractors bid or apply?
 - (1) Mueller: They only provided info about Aramark.
- iv. Huggins: what are hourly wages for campus dining
 - (1) Mueller: Does not have exact number, around \$10
 - (2) Hoogwerf: around \$9.80 an hour, if you work past a certain time of day it goes up to \$11
- v. Huggins: are they spending the same amount of budget as pre-covid when more places were open?
 - (1) Mueller: They still have to sustain the buildings even though they do not have to provide food to those buildings. Not sure about budget



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- vi. Hoogwerf: has witnessed around 20 new employees, how did they come to the conclusion that no one is taking advantage of the bonus?
 - (1) Mueller: They are seeing students come on to campus dining for \$100 sign on bonus but quitting shortly after and not getting all of the bonuses
 - (2) O'Neil: no one has stayed until end of semester, that's why no one falls under that category
- vii. Krichevsky: do employees give reasons for resigning from campus dining?
 - (1) Mueller: They did not give exact reasons, will look into this.
- viii. Cheaney: does aramark have to stay GVSU's vendor until 2028?
 - (1) Mueller: They do not have to stay vendor, contract is reviewed and changed as needed every year
- ix. Rusch: Did they discuss the corporate structure of aramark and what part of aramark we work with?
 - (1) Mueller: They discussed that aramark is our third party vendor but not specifically how aramark is structured
- x. Matthews: Has there been any discussions about raising the hourly wage?
 - (1) Mueller: There have been many conversations about increasing hourly wage to \$14 to compare with outside employment options, has not happened yet, continued conversation.
- xi. Frappier: wages for student workers in university and criteria for raises are listed online.
- xii. UFC meets once a month on Fridays from 1-2pm, closed meetings- have to be on the attendees list. Saw great work from them last friday- their focuses for the year are: accessibility and options, food insecurity, and the staffing crisis. Refer questions to VP Gineman or President Mueller. Meeting minutes are posted on the website under student affairs.
- xiii. President Mueller: wants to find options that the student senate can pursue right now while giving UFC time to work. Some options are: resolutions, memorandum from student senate president, statement from student senate president or statement from the student senate- would have to decide what these would include.
 - (1) President Mueller's ideas: Issuing a refund for meal plans, meals added on to meal plans, more meals each day, allow meals to roll over if not used, higher wages for student employees



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- (2) Rusch: UFC has met since the end of October and a lot has already happened. Personally thinks they need to keep a constant application of pressure to make sure UFC's work does not stop.
 - (3) Kidd: if campus dining wages are increased would we be supporting raised wages for all student employees?
 - (a) Mueller: that would be something to have to be discussed, it would be difficult for tenured faculty and staff
 - (4) Frappier: encourages everyone to give feedback, share what you're thinking and ask questions. Can tell your VP privately if you feel more comfortable.
 - (5) Cheaney: can meals be transferred to dining dollars?
 - (a) Mueller: would not be impossible, just need to find out what meals are worth
 - (6) Schmidt: wants to bring attention to the lack of quality of the food
 - (7) Gineman: thinks the focus should be on solely student employees because the senate represents the student body
 - (8) Huggins: The wage increases from \$9.87 an hour, to \$14.87 an hour with bonuses if working 8 hours a week, 15 weeks in the semester. \$100 for signing, \$500 at the end of semester. Would be a good idea to advertise these wages more.
- xiv. Frappier: how would people go about taking action?
- (1) Mueller: Resolution: takes 2-3 weeks to process, has to go to cabinet twice and then be presented at GA. You can craft it by yourself or with a committee, anyone can start it. Memorandum goes directly from the president to whoever she addresses it to, such as Felix Ngassa or President Mantella. Statement would be published after the senate reviews it for a day, posted on all forums, cabinet and president would write and it would be approved at GA.
 - (2) Frappier: each of you are capable of doing these things. It is not up to just the cabinet to make decisions.
- xv. Kidd: We are representatives of the student body. Students are held to different conditions based on the department. Aramark- not able to request time off even for medical appointments or final exam schedule. The Hauenstein center allows you to create your own schedule and request time off. Do not only consider the amount that is being paid but the working conditions.
- b. Biermacher: what avenue would be the best avenue:
 - i. Statement approved by senate is what most would like to see
 - c. Rusch: conditions and wages are left up to departments on what they can afford.



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- i. Mueller: increasing student wages would be the most difficult because they would have to reallocate the budget and apply for grants. Very difficult and why change has not happened yet.
- d. Wheeler: should help allow time off and other benefits. Campus dining you get three write ups before getting fired which makes people hesitant.
- e. Frappier: difficult to increase benefits because aramark is a third party vendor and not a university department. Should still push aramark to provide better benefits.
- f. Kidd: under aramark- you can be written up for tattoos, unnatural nails or hair color and not adhering to the dress code
- g. Campus Dining Open Discussion
 - i. Statement approved by senate is what most would like to see, now it needs to be decided what it should address. Can be put in a google form or could vote
 - (1) Frappier: google form is a good idea, bring it back to discuss all together in case anyone wants to advocate for what they voted for
 - (2) Kidd: anonymous way to get data is a good way if anyone is hesitant on speaking out loud
- h. Rusch: What is the timeline for this? Could it be out before the end of semester?
 - i. Mueller: cabinet would write it, could bring it to GA on 2nd or 9th. Can be written over thanksgiving break or wait until 9 because of packed GA schedules.
 - ii. Frappier: could you propose having a conversation about the presentation from UFC coming to GA
 - (1) Mueller: Greg could be invited to come to GA to learn more about campus dining
 - (a) Most say that Greg coming in would be helpful
 - (2) Krichevsky: would Greg coming in push back the release of the statement
 - (a) Mueller: if he came to GA on the 9th the statement would probably not be able to come out until the new year
 - (3) Pearson: does not think it makes sense to release the statement before the end of the semester because administration will also be going on break, no need to rush
 - (4) Kidd: most important thing is being logical
 - (5) Rsyh: thinks it is important to take action on an issue that that's been pressing all semester, statement is not the end of action
 - (6) Schmidt: agree with Rusch, thnks the sooner the better, important to keep the pressure



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- (7) Hoogwerf: wait until after break, does not mean work should be halted
- (8) Pearson: received negative feedback on statements when publishing blanket statements and statements that the university did not take action on
- (9) Kreger: thinks taking time and listening to the presentation would be best. Break is a short period of time to gather thoughts and then get started on action at start of second semester
- (10) Verstraete: should not be rushed, it will die out during break and releasing it right when we come back will start the new year with a bang. Publishing a statement does not automatically bring change.
- (11) Crandall: thinks they need to allow UFC to do their work, and wait for facts before rushing to get a statement out based on emotion
- (12) Kidd: good, well researched term papers will not be good if written in one night. Taking time for research is not halting.
- (13) Pearson: The vast majority of the body has not seen statements. Senate works with departments and make sure that the right individuals receive the statement
- (14) Pearson motions to put out a statement regarding campus dining following the return from winter break, seconded by Huggins
 - (a) Frappier: advocates for memorandum so it can be discussed to chair of UAS, President Mantella, and Craig
 - (b) Mueller: could do all, not just one. Reach out to talk about it
 - (c) Pearson: important to let the student body know where they stand
 - (d) Gienman: thinks if it is memorandum and statement one should come before break and one after
 - (e) Passes, Frappier and Krichevsky abstention. Will release a statement upon return from winter break
 - (f) Schmidt: encourages Mueller to write memorandum before break
 - (g) Frappier: thinks a memorandum should be written after a statement of support is released. Memorandum requests that the university does something and the statement contains initial research and is a comment and memorandum requires even more research and puts pressure on the university.
 - (h) Verstraete: nothing is going to happen in a month, change is not immediate and will take time.
 - (i) O'Neil: benefits can not change half way through the year, can not change the contract that has already been signed for this year.



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- (j) Pearson motions to send out a memorandum after the statement, seconded by O'Neil.
 - (i) Schmidt: in favor
 - (ii) Rusch: does not think this is the time to motion for it before statement is written
 - (iii) Pearson: thinks this gives an action plan and accountability to keep working on this issue and setting it as a priority.
 - (iv) Cheaney: timing does not matter as much as research and thoroughness that is put into it.
 - (v) Frappier: could be beneficial to do a memorandum at the same time as a statement so maybe not a good time to vote on it until an action plan is further developed.
 - (vi) Passes, 5 abstentions- Cheaney, Huggins, Pearson, Kidd, Krichevsky
 - (vii) They will be voted on before they are sent out, google form will determine what is addressed in the statement.
 - (viii) Pearson: encourages everyone to give honest feedback, cabinet really does take it into consideration when crafting the statement
 - (ix) Frappier motions to end discussion and move to the next point, seconded by Kidd. Passed unanimously.

i. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

VIII. Public Comment – Part II

IX. Ten Minute Recess: 5:33pm

X. Officer Reports

a. Senate Resources – Alexis Krichevsky

- i. No office hours next week, office hours for this week due tomorrow by 5:00pm. Office hours are still counted next week, just not required. Tabling next week- please sign up.
- ii. SRC decorated the office this week, ready for the holidays, thank you to Senator Korte and Senator Biggs. Clean up after yourself in the office.
- iii. Some committees will meet before friendsgiving. Will take 20-30 minute break before friendsgiving. Expects to see everyone there.

b. Allocations – Ben Biermacher



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- i. Senator Hoggwerf and Him are meeting with Bri and Maddie to get clarifications on funding guidelines.
- ii. Reminder to get funding training to receive voting rights
- iii. Had several RSOs reach out after newsletter went out
- c. **Public Relations** – Eldon Pearson
 - i. Past Tuesday, hosted a Roundtable. Thank you to Senators Hoogwerf and Cargill.
 - ii. Hosting senate outreach event for freshman in Kleiner on December 8th
 - iii. Helping with sustainability conference
 - iv. Working to redo bulletin board, will include different holidays, general section about body in middle, and general information on senate and how to apply
 - v. Tabling on Tuesday next week, please sign up
 - vi. Working on exam cram with EAC- hot cocoa bar in library
 - vii. Posted on LinkedIn, follow if you haven't already
 - viii. Advising survey was released, newsletter was released, promotions regarding climate survey and SRC tabling has gone out, filming for promo video has started, trying to get a giveaway with athletics department going
- d. **Campus Affairs** – Aaron Rusch
 - i. Loved hearing everyone in discussion today, remember you can make a motion about essentially anything
 - ii. CAC meets in Krikhoff 2228 at 5:45pm on Tuesdays
 - iii. ElectHer well in the works- CMS is interested in sponsoring again, reach out with questions
 - iv. Looking into putting solar panels over parking lots to create covered parking. Met with facilities today to start discussion.
 - v. Huggings looking into 3v3 basketball tournament during March Madness potentially collaborating with IM sports
 - vi. Reached out to Biermacher for a list of RSOs to hear their voice and promote Student life Fund
 - vii. Meet with the assistant vice president of Facilities Services, they handle work order requests and do a ton on campus. Got insight on solar panel project- funding is the largest hurdle they see. Talked about snow removal- they have contracted out K, D, J to a third party so they can focus on more internal snow removal. Proposed for them to work with housing to figure out issues with snow in the residential lots. Facilities



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- want to make campus as flexible as possible, the primary goal is to make campus work for your needs. They are a great resource and want to be used. Proposed a campus tour series to help students better appreciate the backend of campus- they were super open to providing one of these tours to the student senate.
- viii. Will work to gather more data on solar panel project and develop a more set plan for 3v3 tournament. Will continue the discussion on mission, vision etc. strategic planning.
 - ix. No CAC meeting next week
 - x. Frappier: ElectHer is open for anyone of any gender identity
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Faith Kidd
- i. Teach-In was all senators so did strategic planning- will be working on adding question about textbook cost to end of semester evals. Letter to registrar went out this week, which puts textbook cost on banner when registering for classes, putting out a statement after a full year of research, VP Rusch's survey is still open, take advising survey.
 - ii. Working on exam cram- funding and food waiver were approved, tables in library were reserved
 - iii. EAC members are coming up with individual initiative projects and cross committee collaboration projects. Bring any project you are passionate about to your VP
 - iv. EAC is meeting shortly after GA, Senator Crandall is requested to join
 - v. Working on transition report
 - vi. Nominations for Cook Leadership academy open this week, best opportunities she has had in her time at GVSU. You receive a mentor in the community that works in the profession you want to work in. Meet people that have graduated from GVSU, work in political offices or healthcare. Not major specific. Offers great opportunities. Reach out with questions
 - vii. Rusch: how many responses from OER survey
(1) Kidd: not known yet
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Kyle Gineman
- i. Climate launch survey event went great, went through 14 large pizzas, and more than 100 people today. Still have one more day tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who has helped and filled out the survey
 - ii. Teach-In went really well last week, had more than 1,000 people attend.
 - iii. Finished 1:1s with committee



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- iv. Attended UFC and SORB last week
- v. Liaison roles: Johnson- multicultural affairs, Anderson and Gjolaj- center for gender equity Lindenburg- LGBTQ center
- vi. DAC is meeting informally after GA in 0042
- g. **External Relations** – Justin Frappier
 - i. Thanks everyone for a productive conversation day
 - ii. 1:1s with committee this week
 - iii. Not meeting next week- everyone enjoy your break and reach out if you need anything
 - iv. Working with Allendale Public Schools and Recycling
 - v. Working on Rent College Pads
 - vi. Adopt a Family- Senator Schmidt is working on. 3 members of the family and the committees are broken up to take a member of the family. Your VP will be reaching out. Senator Schmidt has a folder in the ERC folder with a lot of information.
 - vii. Fill out Archive Day form if you are interested- great way to see old senate work and get ideas for projects
 - viii. Looking forward to friendsgiving

XI. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Senator Pagel is announced as new SAAC chair
- b. MHAC will not be meeting this week, next meeting will be December 3rd 3:30pm in the senate office. Enjoy break and take care of yourself, put yourself first
- c. SUS met Sunday- working on off-campus recycling. If you live off-campus, reach out with information about recycling
 - i. VP Krichevsky mentions that the off campus apartments have tried recycling initiatives in the past
- d. Pagel- will be sending meeting times in the slack, reach out with ideas for meetings, and is excited to take on SAAC.

XII. University Committee Reports

- a. Knarian- facilities planning- went over library and padnos window issues.

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements

- a. VP Krichevsky: 30 minutes after GA will see everyone for friendsgiving



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XV. Adjournment: 6:12pm