



General Assembly

Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 – 4:30 pm

GVSU Alumni House

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

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. Guest Speakers

a. Tamela Spicer: Strategic Planning Session

Tamela Spicer- What do you guys think about when you think about planning?

Senators- Organization, improvement, planning.

Tamela- Why do you think it is important? Why does it matter?

VP Biermacher- our student body never stops changing.

Senator Matthews- if we don't plan well we won't accomplish our goal.

Tamela- The Johnson center works with philanthropy. My role is to work with nonprofits to help them be more successful. What does a strategic plan look like? Traditionally we set a goal for 3-5 years down the road and we set all the correct action steps. We live in a world that moves really fast, how do we adjust? Planning is a snapshot, something is going to change. We need to build a strategic framework. Take a snapshot of where we are now and ask what is the change we want? How does Grand Valley look different because of this organization? What is our vision? How can we measure our success? What are the indicators? Recognize that there are many ways to make an impact. By understanding our vision and our success indicators we can make a frame. Within the frame, we can adjust. What does the world look like as this university shifts? Where do you want to go and how do you know you're getting there? We have to be able to teach the next senate body and

keep the same framework. Where do we start and where do we want to end up?

VP Pearson- Our vision has powerful words, but is it attainable? We need to make something measurable and attainable for our vision statement.

Tamela- a vision statement can be hard to measure. Have we defined the word in the Student Senate vision statement? Visions are not always a smart goal in the sense we are used to. How does it make you feel? Is it aspirational?

President Mueller- it is always something we are working toward and it is building every year.

VP Pearson- it is hard because it seems subjective. How do we measure sustainability and equitability? The problem here is that we have a skewed perception of the future of the senate body.

Tamela- what does it mean to be equitable?

VP Pearson- all people have the same experience no matter their background.

VP Kidd- everyone has a sense of belonging.

EVP O'Neil- providing a platform where the outcomes can be possible and beneficial for anyone.

VP Gineman- making sure everyone has equal access.

Tamela- are we here? Is it equitable? Are we there yet?

EVP O'Neil- we are always changing. We constantly have different needs

VP Biermacher- it's theoretically possible but it isn't likely. There is always going to be room to improve. Is the university improving?

Tamela- how do we know we're getting there? How do we measure it?

VP Pearson- we use the GVSU climate survey

VP Krichevsky- the university is constantly trying to be more equitable.

VP Gineman- one of the biggest barriers is financial issues. If GVSU put more effort into financial aid, maybe more people would want to enroll.

Senator Ochsankohl- is everyone using the university resources? It can be hard to tell.

Senator Wheeler- are the available resources increasing or adapting to student needs?

Senator Cheaney- are we able to identify the areas that need improvement?

VP Biermacher- how do we listen and respond to concerns?

Tamela- this idea of being equitable, we want to provide resources to everyone. Do you think the vision statement covers it all? What about accessibility?

VP Gineman- when I think of accessibility I think of something that is easy to obtain with few barriers.

VP Biermacher- having student organizations that are willing to make more involvement on campus.

Senator Schmidt- when talking about barriers, don't we want some barriers based on merit? That definition doesn't make a lot of sense to me because barriers can be good.

VP Pearson- we don't want too many barriers. When I think of barriers I think of extremes.

Tamela- we want to make accessibility but not at the stake of the university. How would we know? How do we measure it?

Senator Ochsankohl- measure it by retention rates.

Senator Pagel- course evaluations can be really helpful.

Senator Ochsankohl- social media could play a big role.

VP Biermacher- having different types of students. Non-traditional, online, grad students, etc.

Tamela- what do we think about when we think of access? How do we assess need?

VP Biermacher- more engagement with the student body. For example, sending out surveys.

Tamela- next we want to think about sustainability.

Senator Verstraete- having an environment that is successful now and in the future. Having meetings, committees, checks and balances, and having something that works for us.

VP Kidd- When it comes to our senate values we want to have policies, documents and future plans.

VP Biermacher- culture is very important. Building one where people feel comfortable enough to grow.

Senator Cheaney- something with a strong foundation.

Senator Ochsankohl- something that is flexible. The university changes as needed, we aren't stuck with anything.

Tamela- to paraphrase we want to be more adaptable along the way. Adaptability is really important when talking about sustainability. How do we know we are being sustainable? How do we measure?

EVP O'Neil- our senate body size.

VP Biermacher- attention to climate like academics and students. The university should be taking action to improve those.

Senator Wheeler- the retention of students in general.

Tamela- where do the alumni fit into this?

VP Biermacher- I think they fit into the resource category.

VP Kidd- it would be important to reach out to alumni, we should always look back on other senates.

Senator Ochsankohl- seeing if we have students who go out there and

Senator Verstrate- alumni need to be accessible and made to be a mentor. If we want to create an environment to last once we graduate. We need to also be available to help this plan stay in place.

Tamela- how do you learn your job every year?

Senator Schmidt- learned from teaching myself.

Tamela- how might this affect the entire university? How do we learn from history? Do we document everything? Where does it go? Now that we have talked about these three words from the vision statement, how do we feel?

VP Biermacher- it feels like it has more of a purpose now and it isn't just words. I would like to add the word engaged. I feel it would round out the statement.

Tamela- who is our audience? Students. We are introducing microcredentials at the Johnson center. People learn at all different stages of their lives. Not everyone can afford college. Microcredentials are supposed to level the playing field. It is a little elevated beyond a certificate. It is similar to a college education but it is more accessible. The center has created three microcredentials. People earn a badge which states they have a certain micro credentials. What do you think of when you think of a student?

VP Krichevsky- in general a student can be anyone, but specifically when we bring it into one topic, I think of an undergraduate.

VP Biermacher- it is tough to say what the primary goal is of the Student Senate.

President Mueller- the graduate students have their own student association.

VP Krichevsky- the graduate students seem to be isolated from the undergraduate students. So we focus a lot on the Allendale students.

Tamela- is the vision what we do or is it the change you want to create? I think it is more of what we do.

EVP O'Neil- it is what we should be doing but it isn't what we are always doing.

VP Biermacher- we are in a rebuild mode instead of a move forward mode. After COVID we are trying to revive what campus was before that as well as improving it.

VP Pearson- our mission is collaborative and

Senator Schmidt- I would say it is vibrant.

Senator Ochsankohl- we need more than just the student body to be engaged.

VP Pearson - I think our vision statement should represent the needs of our students. We should get rid of the middle man.

VP Biermacher- our job is to represent the student interests before we focus on anyone else.

Tamela- we need to make a vision statement, not a how statement. In my opinion, this is a how statement.

VP Biermacher- as far as an authentic voice, it sounds like a buzzword. It doesn't seem necessary.

VP Kidd- we are the elected representatives, I think often when drafting vision statements you throw in buzzwords. But when we break it down, what are we doing to promote these buzzwords? We are utilizing buzzwords to progress.

Tamela- how is your purpose different from your mission? Why do you have four different statements?

VP Rusch- i don't see a both in having all four. Is there a way we can combine some?

Tamela- When we think about a mission, a mission should represent our values. We need a sense of our purpose and how we do our work. What does your mission statement say about your values? Does that make sense to think about all of these things?

VP Biermacher- a mission statement feels redundant. I feel frustrated by trying to squeeze everything into a mission statement.

VP Kidd- I think prior to this there was confusion between the vision and mission statement.

Tamela- what do we think of the purpose states?

VP Biermacher- It feels redundant.

VP Rusch- Other vision statements seem to be simple. We don't have to show our entire strategic plan in our vision statement.

VP Frappier- the mission should be short and brief. Ot should list our most important words and goals. It's supposed to be short and memorable.

Tamela- who sees your mission statement?

VP Rusch- the public

Senator Verstraete- other student senates

Tamela- what do we want to make sure people know? We want them to have a sense of what we do. I think your purpose statement is more of a mission statement in my opinion. I think you should play with your vision statement. Strategic plans don't have to be long. 99% of strategic plans never get implemented, so create one you will use. What are our core values? How will we get there? I recommend limiting your time frame. Build your framework. If this is what we want to measure then the next question is what can we do? If one indicator is the climate survey, how do you feel that impacts the student body life? A vision statement must reflect what you're doing in the future. You need a guiding document.

Mueller thanks the guest speaker for coming in.

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

Mueller- are there any papers to be passed?

Kidd- tabling sign up form in the senate drive for exam cram set up and take down. In the library, put on by EAC and PRC.

Schmidt- Sign up sheet in ERC folder to drop off gifts to adopt a family. First 10 to sign up can go.

V. President's Report

a. Adoption of the Agenda

Mueller- Hello everyone, as a reminder I am currently making the schedule for GA next semester. There are open spots for guest speakers. Keep an eye on room reservations next

semester. There are lots of fun activities next semester including volunteer opportunities. Attended VP candidate meetings. I will be attending a meeting with fellow cabinet members. Frappier and I discussed a resolution from 2018. No UAS last week. Meeting next week. Finally got a meeting scheduled for the BOV committee, in the process of drafting membership. I will be going to Detroit for the provost committee. Please fill out the campus dining form for our statement.

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes

EVP O'Neil- this week I have been meeting with the Vice President candidates. The fourth is tomorrow room 2270 at 3 pm if you guys would like to meet them. Reaching higher did not meet last week. Headshots after GA.

Kidd- will you give everyone a run down of headshots

EVP O'Neil- headshots are in the office and they will be alphabetical. It will move quickly around 2 minutes each person.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

a. Appointment of Bianca Munoz to the Diversity Affairs Committee

VP Gineman- I had the honor of sitting in on Bianca's interview. She is very passionate about the work that the senate and DAC does. She will be a great fit to our committee, she already has lots of ideas and I can't wait to see what she accomplishes. Motion to place her on DAC.

Seconded- VP Frappier

Passes unanimously

Welcome to student senate Bianca Munoz

b. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

IX. Public Comment – Part II

X. Ten Minute Recess

VP Pearson- motion to adjourn

Seconded

Passed unanimously

XI. Officer Reports -striked

a. Senate Resources – Alexis Krichevsky

b. Allocations – Ben Biermacher

c. Public Relations – Eldon Pearson

d. Campus Affairs – Aaron Rusch

e. Educational Affairs – Faith Kidd

f. Diversity Affairs – Kyle Gineman

g. External Relations – Justin Frappier

XII. Subcommittee Reports - ~~striked~~

XIII. University Committee Reports -~~striked~~

XIV. Roll Call - Part II

XV. Call for Announcements - ~~striked~~

Adjournment - 6:20 pm