



General Assembly

Thursday, December 9th, 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: 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

III. Guest Speakers

a. DEI Training: Marlene Kowalski-Braun

- i. Marlene Kowalski-Braun had a medical emergency, DEI training will be rescheduled to next semester.

b. Student Affairs Semester Update - Vice Provost of Student Affairs: Aaron Haight

- i. Division of Student Affairs places students at the center of their work, with staff ready to partner with students.
- ii. January will be 2 years ago since conversations started about COVID and now it is two years later and everyone is still trying to figure out a new normal. They have mastered the ability to adapt, innovate, and collaborate to support students. They have to take the last two years into consideration when going forward, maybe that means mixing old and new practices.
- iii. Rec and wellness: implemented virtual programs, club sports have returned, more IM options. Hired a new esports director and created a new esports room, fascinating and exciting thing.
- iv. Children's enrichment center: stayed open the whole time and continued to provide childcare for those who needed it. Obtained grant funding and were able to give additional discounts to students for childcare. The state provided funding for bonuses for all childcare workers.
- v. Student health: hired a student health promotions coordinator a few years ago. Currently in conversations about the healthcare that is provided for students. Will be transitioning health center providers this summer that has a focus on college students.



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- vi. Office of student life: exciting things like campus life night returned. New assistant director of sorority and fraternity life has been hired and is starting next week.
- vii. University counseling: did a great job during the shutdown. Offer group and 1:1 therapy, workshops, and many other great resources. Partnering with an external organization to provide true 24/7 care for students. Proud of work they've done for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Added staff and resources for students of color.
- viii. Student conduct: new director started in October- he is a GVSU alumni and 2 time student senate president. Implemented a new statement of student rights and responsibilities. Continue to implement restorative practices. Noticed an increase in academic integrity violations with online classes. Focusing on how they can be proactive in letting students know what academic integrity is.
- ix. Dean of Students Office: CARE support system continues to be used. Doing quarantine outreach. Implemented a second year newsletter this year for the students who did not get the Grand Valley experience last year. Higher open rate for second year newsletter than first year newsletter.
- x. UFC: really great meetings. 4 subgroups focusing on 4 different items of action. Groups are gathering data and will put together recommendations no later than March.
- xi. Housing and residence life: more engagement opportunities this year. New learning and living communities downtown, working on expanding these.
- xii. Announcement of new VP of student affairs coming soon, very exciting. Each candidate had different strengths and different things to offer.
- xiii. Questions:
 - (1) Rusch: what is the trajectory to expand the counseling center's abilities? It is hard to book appointments, and there is a cap on individual appointments.
 - (a) Student health insurance is a big topic. There are students who need additional support beyond the counseling center capabilities. The counseling center can tell the student to reach out to the right resources if they need financial support ect. If a student needs emergency housing or groceries beyond what replenish can provide there is a fund for that and they are working on building it. Working on expanding resources further.
 - (2) Frappier: Thanks her for all of the hard work that happens in their office.
 - (a) Haight: Excited to be here
 - (3) Pearson: What are your goals for UFC?



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- (a) Haight: The Subgroups developed their purpose. Subgroups are most likely going to change each year. UFC is committee voiced and directed. Looking at ways to get broader input, looking at different ways to survey students. Trying to listen to the group and help facilitate the process. Has high hopes for this committee.

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

- a. Kidd: sign up for exam cram- December 14-16, need help with set up and take down especially from PRC and EAC. Shoutout to Senator Kreger for already signing up.

V. **President's Report**

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
- i. Gineman: motion to strike 10 minute recess, seconded by Frappier. Passes.
- b. Will be having a few more strategic planning sessions to finish up what was started last week next semester.
- c. Speakers for next semester are in google drive
- d. Planning state of the student body: each cabinet member gives an address to the student body and faculty. Hoping to have faculty and staff speakers.
- e. Accomplishments from this semester: Mueller- proud of getting the newsletter established, O'Neil- proud of new faces this year, Kidd- proud of open access efforts, Gineman- proud of DAC's work especially climate survey, Frappier- proud of everyone coming together for BOV, Schmidt- proud of adopt a family, Huggins- proud of CAC and the relationships they built within the university, Matthews- happy to join senate and thankful for VP Kidd, Conway- happy to sit on PRC with great VP and be able to put stuff out there, Gjolaj- proud of the climate survey, Wheeler- proud of the linkedin, Pagel- excited what ERC is working on, Kreger- proud to be on CAC and to be chair of MHAC, Korte- proud of BOV work, Biggs- proud of how SRC works really well together and put on great bonding events, Anderson- proud of committee, Moore- proud of how far ERC has grown, Hoogwerf- proud of PRC's accomplishments, Verstraete- proud of the smooth transition to in person, Cheaney- proud of the senate body as a whole, Knarian- ERC is a power committee, Lindberg- proud of responding to the needs of student body, Johnson- happy to join the senate body, Crandall- proud of listening to the concerns of student body, Munoz- grateful to be here, Krichevsky- proud of being in person again and really proud of BOV, Biermacher- proud of body for overcoming adversity, Pearson- proud of each committee's internal climate especially PRC's climate and proud of EVP O'Neil and President Mueller and how they handle everything, Rusch- proud of body and the discussions and exchange of ideas that have happened.



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

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved
- b. Sending email next week to remind everyone to review reach higher 2025, returning on January 13th to present updated proposal
- c. Make sure to get DEI modules done if they are not done already
- d. Starting constitutional task force next semester

VII. **Unfinished Business**

VIII. **New Business**

- a. **CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**

IX. **Public Comment – Part II**

X. **Officer Reports**

- a. **Senate Resources** – Alexis Krichevsky
 - i. SRC did bonding this week for the first time this semester, very fun
 - ii. Don't forget to submit office hours by tomorrow. Last office hours for the semester. Will be adding up who had the most hours this semester when they come back.
 - iii. Will be presenting inservice first week of next semester
 - iv. Sign up for exam cram
- b. **Allocations** – Ben Biermacher
 - i. Will be meeting tomorrow in room 2263, will be hearing from 4 groups tomorrow, and will be a good opportunity to get training. There are still people who need their training. Had people get their training at last three meetings.
- c. **Public Relations** – Eldon Pearson
 - i. Sign up for exam cram
 - ii. Working on newsletter
 - iii. Will be ordering more promotional items
 - iv. Looking into alternative for senate swag for next semester, lots of supply chain issues
 - v. Have committee pictures after GA
 - vi. Send pictures of your break to be shared on senate instagram page
- d. **Campus Affairs** – Aaron Rusch



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- i. Setting foundations for next semester, planning on making a couple pieces of legislation- counseling center and campus connectivity. Setting goals for events- elect-her and Huggins is working on an event
 - ii. Reminder to read cabinet minutes
 - iii. Vigil for Oxford High School on Saturday at 7:00pm at the clocktower, be supportive of your GVSU community
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Faith Kidd
- i. Happy last GA of the semester
 - ii. Did not have HCDC or IOER this week
 - iii. ERC meeting following GA with Christine Rener
 - iv. Meeting with Dean Belanger tomorrow for strategic planning for the library, if you are interested in attending.
 - v. Food in the corner of office is for exam cram
 - vi. Sign up for exam cram, counts as office hours, great chance to share responsibility
 - vii. Thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone, hopes everyone has a great break
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Kyle Gineman
- i. Climate survey closed yesterday, appreciates everyone who filled it out. Had 33% participation in 2019, hoping this year is higher than that.
 - ii. Attended UFC last Friday, in the food insecurity subgroup. Currently gathering data to fight against food insecurity on campus.
 - iii. DAC will be going to Peppinos after GA for bonding today, more than welcome to join
- g. **External Relations** – Justin Frappier
- i. Committee meeting after GA
 - ii. Thank you to Ochsankohl and Wheeler as it is their last meeting before graduating, wishes them the best
 - iii. Archive day is next semester, more information to come
 - iv. BOV meeting with SVSU is also next semester
 - v. Senator Verstraete and him are reconnecting relationship with rent college pads
 - vi. Senator Moore is looking into resources for recycling at off campus apartments
 - vii. Senator Pagel is looking into conversations on higher education and is securing relationship with Allendale public schools



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- viii. Senator Cheaney is working on voting resources on campus, possible satellite office on campus
- ix. Senator Schmidt wrote a transition report for adopt a family, gifts were due before GA today. Still spots open to join ERC to drop off gifts at 3:00pm tomorrow. Thanks everyone for participating in this project.
- x. Working with Kreger to contact MSU about their solar power system in hopes to encourage GVSU to do the same
- xi. Hope everyone has a great break, do not hesitate to reach out
- xii. Schmidt: is voter drive small d democrat

(1) Frappier: Yes, it is

XI. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Mental Health Awareness Rationale, presented by Senator Kreger: meeting time may be changed due to adopt a family conflict. Remember to put yourself first over exam time, reach out to others to check in as well
- b. Sexual Assault Awareness Committee Rationale, presented by Senator Pagel: meeting tomorrow is TBD, will be quick, just wants to go over a few ideas for next semester.

XII. University Committee Reports

- a. Lindberg: international educational committee- in wake of covid, they concluded that it is not a good idea to add more study abroad programs

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements

- a. Kidd: sign up for exam cram!
- b. Schmidt: dropping off adopt a family gifts tomorrow, meet in senate office at 3:00pm
- c. Wheeler: thanks everyone and extends herself as a resource even though she is leaving the body she will always be there for everyone.
- d. Kreger: MHAC will meet from 10:00-10:30am tomorrow on zoom, SAAC will meet on the same zoom link from 10:30-11:00am.
- e. Krichevsky: Those meetings count as office hours. Office hours due tomorrow. Bring up placards after meeting.
- f. Biermacher: reminder of committee pictures after GA.
- g. Mueller: cabinet, EAC and the gavel order for committee pictures

XV. Adjournment: 5:21pm