



General Assembly

Thursday, February 17th, 2022 – 4:45 pm
Room 102, DeVos Center for Interprofessional
Health (DCIH)

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: 4:45**

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. Email received from Kaylee Brawn, unable to open document and they did not respond when asked for an alternative, so cannot read her public comment.

- b. Email read out loud from Archie Smith IV: They express their concern with how the mask mandate requires less than one case a day to remove the mask mandate. VAT has sent conflicting emails. The university is not being prudent in listening to the needs and concerns of the student body. Encourages GVSU to reevaluate their approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- c. Email read out loud from Jackson Gutowski: They express their concern with how the mask mandate requires less than one case a day to remove the mask mandate. VAT has sent conflicting emails. The university is not being prudent in listening to the needs and concerns of the student body. Encourages GVSU to reevaluate their approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- d. Email read out loud from Theodore Jerva: They express their concern with how the mask mandate requires less than one case a day to remove the mask mandate. VAT has sent conflicting emails. The university is not being prudent in listening to the needs and concerns of the student body. Encourages GVSU to reevaluate their approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. **Guest Speakers**

- a. Vince Philips: Regional Vice President from Aramark Higher Education- In place of Vince, members from campus dining came.

- b. Paul Kramer- Director of campus dining, used to be food service director of Laker's buffet. Has great appreciation for Grand Valley. Worked with aramark for 38 years.



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- c. Chuck Brown: started with GVSU in 2001 as financial analyst, left in 2013 and came back in May as operations director
- d. Deb Rotman: marketing director, also an adjunct professor
- e. Alison Cooney: registered dietitian, 2 time GVSU grad
- f. Kramer: What is Aramark's history with GVSU? Contract began in 1986, added new campus to the contract in 2000 and added Meadows in 2006. Negotiations happen annually to see if there are any changes and they do an amendment every year. Have 25 alums on professional staff.
- g. Kramer: Employee wages and benefits: usually have 1000-1200 gvsu student campus dining employees, currently at 375 student workers. They follow gvsu's payroll: regular student employee \$9.87, student manager \$10.17, senior student managers \$11.12, catering student \$10.17, catering student manager \$10.72. \$2 shift premium after 3:00 pm shifts. \$100 sign on bonus, \$500 if you stay the whole semester, \$100 sign on bonus second semester, \$1000 if you stay the whole second semester. For every 8 hours worked per week you get an extra meal, 8-11 hours is 2 meals, 12-15 hours is 3 meals, 16-20 hours is 4 meals. If a student refers another student to work in campus dining they get a \$25 bonus.
- h. Kramer: What role does aramark play in how dining services run? Work together with aramark. Will bring aramark trends into practice and bring outside ideas to aramark's attention. Meal plans and pricing is worked on in collaboration. It is never price increases across the board, try to keep it normalized on campus. Another amenity is having a registered dietitian, all her services are free to any student on campus. Will work 1:1 with students, will also show new and interested students campus dining and the options they have. Adding sustainability manager to the team soon, currently interviewing.
- i. Kramer: From the food options provided by aramark, students have noticed a lack of options for restricted diets and cultures. This is mostly due to the limited choices based on staffing. Tried to keep the buildings with the most choices open. Have contacted 10 local restaurants to do pop ups to provide variety. These restaurants are also struggling with staffing so it can be hard. Feb 23- daddy pete's BBQ will take over a station in Fresh. Feb 25- executive chef in Kirkhof will be doing a pop up of pasta in Fresh. Food trucks are starting back up more regularly after Spring Break.
- i. Cooney: have worked closely with operations staff to make sure that there are plenty of options for those with dietary restrictions. Have recently added breads, pasta, and pizza crust that are gluten free to the connection. A lot of times vegan and gluten free options are made to order to ensure the quality, so you may not see it but it is there.



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- Hack your meal plan: go to multiple different stations at fresh to build a meal that is appealing to you. Will be posting videos with ideas for this on social media soon. Let her know if you have meal or product requests. Just ordered coconut milk ice cream to put in c-stores, straight from a student request. Will be available within the next few weeks. Bringing in halal meat options to fresh for students with dietary and religious needs. You can ask for that, also a result of student requests. International meals are starting up again, they stopped because of COVID. 3 scheduled for March- can email with recipe ideas. Hoping to bring an allergen free station to campus soon. This station would be open to anyone
- j. Kramer: Sustainability and community: 38% of purchases are local, can find purchase map on website. 69 local sources. Fryer oil is local and turned into diesel after use. They use cage free eggs. Have a partnership with student agricultural project. Donate uninked cardboard and used coffee grounds to student agricultural project. Do holiday cards to vets, and food baskets at kid food basket near the holidays.
 - k. Kramer: The plan is to open more and bring new ideas. Kliener will be renovated in the summer. Working on adding a downtown starbucks in the innovation design building. Have a sushi company that they are meeting with to hopefully bring them to campus. Thanks everyone for their patience as they try to open more. Grill and pizza in Kleiner opened this week.
 - l. Kidd: they have received complaints on the quality of food, such as raw chicken. What measures does campus dining take to ensure they are being prepared correctly?
 - i. Kramer: all employees are trained, but humans make mistakes. Required to keep temp logs when it is cooked and throughout the serving period. When they get those complaints the health department comes in and looks at the temp logs. So far every case has been closed. Supply chain issues have been a nightmare. Usually chicken tenders are pre cooked but they have been sent raw ones without knowing so the cooking time is not right.
 - m. Hoogwerf: As a Kleiner employee she appreciates the transparency. Sees them serving the same dietary restricted foods everyday. Do you have any plan to expand dietary specials?
 - i. Cooney: Definitely have plans and are working on it. Have to work with chefs to feature it. Looking for student requests for what they want to see. When they do specialty things it can be hard to make students aware. Thinks the allergen station will be a huge help.
 - n. Rusch: Thanks them for coming in, is curious about relation of aramark using grand valley's pay scale: if GVSU raised their pay scale would aramark have to raise it?



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- i. All employees are GVSU employees so they have to follow GVSU's payscale. If they wanted to negotiate pay it would have to affect pricing.
 - o. Al Mouta: thanks them for their efforts. Appreciates halal meat implementation, is curious about kosher meat for Jewish community
 - i. Cooney: Most meats are kosher certified. Have not received any requests from students for kosher meat. Would be happy to look into it.
 - p. Al Mouta: how can the students know there is a way to request specific meals?
 - i. Cooney: It is not necessarily promoted, but they are always willing to listen. Survey cards are a great way to get your opinions across. Here for students and always receptive to students and willing to make changes.
 - ii. Kramer: they hold talk with campus dining meetings every three weeks to get feedback from students to allow for open dialogue. This is an opportunity to come and bring your concerns. Can always stop at the campus dining offices
 - q. Al Mouta: even with initiative and bonuses students are still not willing to work for campus dining. Former campus employee, it is not about the pay, it is about the working conditions. They cannot miss work unless they have someone to cover their shift, which can be really hard to find. Their first priority is being students. What can be done to create better flexibility?
 - i. The student fills out an availability sheet and blocks out when they can't work. Schedule totally changes during exam week. Never heard of a time that they told students they have to work during an exam. If you run into that, they want to hear about it, come talk to HR to make sure it is taken care of. Know the building and time and they can find out where it came from.
 - ii. Gineman: Will the new sustainability position promote sustainability to the students or internally?
 - (1) The reason they are adding it is because of what is lacking, so they will fill in wherever it is needed. They will continue the current efforts, and bring new ideas.
 - r. Mueller: thanks them for coming in
 - s. Kramer: thanks them for having them and looks forward to more dialogue
- IV. **Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers**
- a. Frappier: archive day form will be going out in the slack, fill it out if you are interested
- V. **President's Report**
- a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Pearson: motions to add a 5 minute break, following line item 7, seconded by Kidd



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(1) Mueller: have to end by 6:30 for pictures

(2) Pearson: retracts motion

- b. Giving BOT remarks Friday Morning, talking about campus dining and mental health as two main talking points
- c. Headed to reaching higher luncheon on Friday in anticipation of it getting approved
- d. Going to student government conference this weekend, will provide updates at the next GA
- e. Last day to introduce legislation is March 3. Last GA is April 7, and two Thursdays prior have other events going on. Keep this timeline in mind. Cabinet will be very accommodating to keep with this timeline.

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

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved
- b. Encourages everyone that wants to write legislation to reach out so you can meet before bringing it to cabinet
- c. Very excited for reaching higher luncheon
- d. CTF will be held tomorrow 3:30-4:30, encourages everyone who wants to to come to give your thoughts
- e. Cabinet and headshots will be at 7:00. If you would like to get a retake you can but it has to be brief
- f. Reach out to Advisor Baker-Boosamra if you plan on returning next year to meet with her
- g. Huggings: where is cabinet
 - i. In the senate office in Allendale

VII. **Unfinished Business**

VIII. **New Business**

- a. Student Senate 2022-2023 Election Packet
 - i. Mueller: There is not much new to previous years. Goes over things such as the election timeline, procedures and vote threshold, eligibility, and post election procedures. Friday March 4th is when packets and forms go live, due Thursday March 24th at 5:00pm. Meet candidates and nominees TBD. Monday March 28th



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- voting goes live, closes April 3. Results announced Monday April 4th. First meeting of the new senate will be Thursday April 14th.
- ii. Election procedures and vote threshold: No signatures this year. Must receive 50 votes in order to be elected to student senate. It changed from 60 to 50 due to the trouble last year. This is the only thing that has changed.
 - iii. Suggest campaigns are held virtually but can use flyers and things as long as COVID is kept in mind. Number of people campaigning together is no more than 3. \$100 maximum spending limit per campaign.
 - iv. Email her if you see anyone not adhering to the rules
 - v. Eligibility requirements remain the same
 - vi. Expectations: being available on Thursday evenings, attending meetings, serving 2 office hours. Positivity, helping fellow lakers, understanding time commitments. Cabinet expectations are still being worked on.
 - vii. Post election procedure: complaints of misconduct will go to her.
 - viii. Krichevsky: Is the new threshold created after looking at previous years that were affected by COVID?
 - (1) Muller: yes, in the past they only needed a few more to get to 60
 - ix. Rusch: why is write in held to higher standard
 - (1) Mueller: you did not put in effort prior so you are held to higher standard
 - x. Frappier: opposed to vote threshold. In the past there were issues with people emailing their class and professors getting upset so you should talk to your professors before emailing your class
 - xi. Kidd: echoes Frapier that she opposes the voting threshold because they are disregarding qualified candidates who do not have social media clout. Also echoes that you should ask your professor before you email your class
 - xii. Al Moutou: Why are you not allowed to do online advertising? What if the cost is in the budget of \$100?
 - (1) Mueller: You can not use paid features to eliminate barriers for other students who do not have the means. It can be discussed but these are the rules that have been used for years
 - xiii. Frappier: does any money used for elections have to meet funding guidelines?



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- (1) Mueller: No, you just have to adhere to election rules on what the money can be used for
- b. W-22-02: Standardizing Test Scores Removal Legislation
 - i. Hoogwerf: when her and Kreger applied to GVSU they had the option to apply test optional which was beneficial. They started to realize they could take the pressure off of other students. Standardized test scores place barriers on students of color and low income students. The admissions office works on a yearly basis so that is why it is not a permanent removal.
 - ii. Kreger: reads legislation documents to allow for discussion and friendly amendments. If you have big changes write them down and bring them to their attention after GA.
 - iii. Kreger: this is a resolution to extend GVSU's admission test-optional policy until the 2026 admissions cycle with a possibility of further implementation. High school GPA is the more reliable indicator of academic success in college. Judging admissions qualifications upon standardized tests that pertains to a system working against underrepresented students, and goes against what the university strives to achieve. Many higher education institutions across the country have implemented a test optional policy due to the ongoing pandemic, whether it be indefinitely or temporarily. The extension of the test-optional policy gives GVSU ample time to collect admission data to revisit in 2026 with a possibility of further implementation. Becoming test optional will not further ostracize individuals from applying to GVSU; especially students and applicants who have low access to test preparation tools.
 - iv. Questions
 - (1) Frappier: congratulates them on their hard work. Friendly amendment on page 2: 4th recognizing statement, may be 2 spaces. On page 3, first whereas statement in between implemented a and test has 2 spaces.
 - (2) Mueller: for further commentary put it in the document
 - (3) Schmidt: line 28, what is the reader supposed to get out of it? What system is oppressive?
 - (a) Hoogwerf: minority students are not able to as easily access test prep tools
 - (b) Shmidt: does this rise to the level oppression
 - (c) Hoogwerf: believes it does



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- (4) Pearson: friendly amendment: all numbers under 100 should be written out.
Thinks universities should be grouped together. Would look through to see if things can be condensed. Thinks there are few subjective statements that can be cut out such as the sentence Senator Schmidt brought up.
 - (5) Huggings: what is the threshold for scores for GVSU admissions and how does it compare to similar universities? Thinks it could be helpful to include this.
 - (a) Biermacher: there would be no threshold since they have been test optional
 - (b) Mueller: make a note to find out the score for next time
 - (6) Kidd: point of clarification if you want to clarify something. Look for the lowest score range, highest score range and 50%. GVSU is comparable with MSU.
 - (7) Al Mouta: thanks them for their effort and thinks this would help the community. Many scholarships given by GVSU are based on these test scores, so for the people who choose not to report their score it would put them in a hard place for getting scholarships.
 - (a) Kreger: originally it was going to be to go completely test optional, admissions and cabinet recommended that scholarships are not included because that is how they diversity candidates for merit based scholarships
 - (8) Al Mouta: how can they make sure that those who submit high SAT scores compared to those who do not submit a score are treated equally in the admissions process?
 - (a) Kreger: admissions said that it will not affect you either way
 - (9) Schmidt: line 4: why is GPA a more reliable measure of success in college, GPAs are not comparable between private schools and some public high schools
 - (a) Hoogwerf: explained more in the hyperlink that is included. Tests are just one test, a GPA is 4 years
- c. Campus Dining and Food Issues on Campus Statement
- i. Mueller reads the statement that will be sent to the university that acknowledges the negative impact that food issues have had on the student body that have been brought to the Student Senate through public comment, email, and other channels. Student Senate encourages university administration to reevaluate the contract with aramark and request new and improved services. Student senate encourages university administration to actively seek new measures to administer and advance meal plan



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- options for students. Student Senate prompts the university food committee to reevaluate the current state of student employment for campus dining.
- ii. Mueller: the recent discussions have made some of this information not as prevalent. After meeting with Craig and Doug and listening today has seen that Aramark is not the biggest problem.
 - iii. Frappier: thanks them for their hard work
 - iv. Kidd: recommends that anyone who has suggestions utilizes the comment feature on google docs
 - v. Rusch: thanks her for taking this time. Suggest focusing more on student wages especially because it is related to GVSU's pay scale.
 - vi. Frappier: echoes VP Rusch, VP Kidd and himself are also paid at base level through the university and are getting paid more. They still have the opportunity to move campus dining employees up.
 - vii. Munoz: gave her a completely different answer when she asked asked about wages, they told her it was because of the incentives
 - viii. Al Mouta: it is not mandated that they follow the scale, it is just a reference
 - ix. Mueller: put a comment if you have any suggestions or questions, would really appreciate it

d. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

IX. Public Comment – Part II

- a. Josh Alburtus: have been covering the student senate for *The Lanthorn*, wanted to notify everyone of Lathorn changes. Has been moved to state and national political correspondent. On a personal note, thanks senators and cabinet for their cooperation with *The Lanthorn*. Has had an enlightening experience with the student senate and thanks them for it.

X. Officer Reports

- a. **Senate Resources** – Alexis Krichevsky
 - i. Office hours due at 5 tomorrow
 - ii. SRC and PRC doing mocktails for student senate week event
 - iii. SRC is working on legislation
- b. **Allocations** – Ben Biermacher
 - i. Yields for time



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c. Public Relations – Eldon Pearson

- i. Yields for time

d. Campus Affairs – Aaron Rusch

- i. Succulents with senators on Feb 23

e. Educational Affairs – Faith Kidd

- i. OER photoshoot- sent an email to those who signed up. Need a confirmation from those who signed up within 24 hours
- ii. Last lecture is on Tuesday at 6:00pm in the Library Multipurpose room, encourages everyone to come. Thanks everyone who tabled
- iii. Working on two pieces of legislation
- iv. Printed everyone's schedules for USG conference
- v. If you need anything reach out

f. Diversity Affairs – Kyle Gineman

- i. Thursday Feb 24 4:30 DAC is hosting a movie night in Kirkhof 2226
- ii. February 26- hosting service project in Grand Rapids, fill out survey in slack if you are interested
- iii. DAC is hosting rock climbing on campus as bonding before service project, if you are interested in coming reach out

g. External Relations – Justin Frappier

- i. Encourages everyone to go reread legislation and make comments
- ii. BOV meetings: Tuesday 5-6pm, March 1st is first one
- iii. Working on legislation and setting up a meeting to discuss higher education funding
- iv. Preparing for USG conference, having an information zoom meeting after cabinet tonight

XI. Subcommittee Reports

XII. University Committee Reports

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements

- a. Kidd: come get your conference schedule
- b. Frapier: congratulates VP Krichevsky on securing her congressional internship in DC
- c. O'Neil: if you want a headshot retake come see him



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d. Mueller: thanks everyone for their flexibility

XV. **Adjournment: 6:17pm**