



General Assembly

Thursday, February 3rd, 2022 – 4:30 pm

Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center

Chair: Autumn Mueller

Parliamentarian: Ben Biermacher

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. Ottawa County Commissioner's Office: Greg DeJong and Robyn Afrik

- i. Made an Ottawa County newsletter that is new- Ottawa Way. Tells people where to get connected in the county. Can share stories from the community, update people about services that the county offers.
- ii. Ottawa County 2 on 1 program helps you when you're in need of something, such as food.
- iii. 2/12 2:00pm at Lighthouse Church on Lake Michigan Dr there will be a food pantry on wheels
- iv. Park systems: Pigeon Creek Park- very nice cross country skiing trails. Idema Explorers Trail- runs from Grand Haven into Grand Rapids along the river and comes through GVSU's campus.
- v. American Rescue Plant: county had been allocated \$57 million for Ottawa County projects. A lot of it will be going towards building affordable housing. Looking for ideas from the Student Senate on how they should spend this money. They need to spend it and want to make a difference with it
- vi. The Community Action Program is having the walk for warmth in the city of Zeeland this Saturday.
- vii. Received an additional \$1.1 million for water studies, glacier water is not regenerating enough.
- viii. Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Robyn Afrik.



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- (1) Vision: Communication, creativity, cultural intelligence, customer service- all about residents.
 - (2) Cultural Intelligence committee was formed, started as volunteers, through time the business committee came forward and realized there was a challenge to keep talent here because they did not feel like they belonged there. The DEI office was formed to help with this.
 - (3) Business & community attract and retain talent
 - (4) Shift from blame/guilt to future prosperity, it's not just the right thing to do, also about healthy (physical and mental) and safe communities.
 - (5) Created a DEI workgroup that involved members from many different departments in the county
 - (6) Worked with municipalities to remove implicit bias from their policies and programs, and operationalize a racial equity plan
 - (7) Eliminate bias from programming, processes, and decision making
 - (8) Cultural Intelligence Committee diversity forum that is open to Grand Valley Student Senators. CIC also has a book challenge where they encourage their employees to read from diverse authors
 - (9) Created a welcoming plan to better understand how immigrant populations impact our economy- 700 immigrants living in Ottawa County in 2019, full report on DEI website
 - (10) Invited to Portland to the legislative conference
- ix. Pearson: thanks them for coming, is Ottawa County looking into skill building workshops for lower socioeconomic class individuals
 - (1) DeJong: Has not looked into that, but will consider
 - x. Frappier: thanks them for coming, knows that he can work with PRC to let people know about the mobile food pantry, will make sure to get the conversion going with his committee about ideas for the \$57 mil
 - xi. Biermacher: Hudsonville school is one of the fastest growing African American Schools in the state and country and they are lacking equity in the hiring process, is anything being done?
 - (1) Afrik: Does not have jurisdiction over schools, so the school would have to come to them. But things are coming from the school board to help.
 - xii. Kidd: what are the best ways to utilize existing committees to get involved?



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- (1) DeJong: Reach out through myottatwa.org to find all the different department heads and commissioners, reach out with anything, loves to hear from you and will get back within 24 hours
 - (2) Mueller: thanks them for coming in
- b. Strategic Planning: Tamela Spicer
- i. Goal is to walk out with common understanding: a good sense of what the mission statement, and a pretty good sense of what the vision statement should say
 - ii. Thinking of strategy:
 - (1) What does our community look like because we exist (students of GVSU)? The senators change frequently but you care about this community so it is important to think about the future. This is your chance to leave a mark and shape the body for years to come. A good vision is 30-50 years out and think that will probably never happen, think long term and extend- vision and impact
 - (2) What are the indicators that show us we're moving toward success? Student senate sits in a very large bureaucracy that sits within a larger community, and sits within higher ed all across the world. Have to recognize that things going on in all the communities around you will impact you and you can not control
 - (a) Metrics- lots of layers to measuring success- what we count, community indicators, sector data- these measures take a long time. Need to measure little incremental successes, because small steps build over time and in ten years you will realize your part in the long term success
 - (3) What levers can we move that drive toward success? Levers are what you can do to impact your indicators- strategies
 - (a) Mueller: when cabinet made their priorities it seems like they already made their indicators
 - iii. Strategic framework: creates the long-term guideposts, uses bookends- have the mission and vision that everything else falls in between, helps focus resources, provides continuity, allows for flexibility, promotes sustainability
 - iv. Strategy is the framework that facilitates decision making- long-term. Planning tells us how we respond and do the work resulting from the decisions- timely, short-term actions, smaller steps
 - v. Operationalize: structure the organization and board meetings around levers, plan regularly, build into annual goals



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- vi. Mission: purpose, what you do, who you serve, values based, shows benefit, current focus
 - (1) Current: Student Senate cultivates a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered
 - (2) Bucon: purpose: trying to reach the three goals that are already stated, what we do: not there, who: students of GVSU, shows benefit and value based, written in the present tense gives the idea of what they're actively trying to do
 - (3) Schmidt: felt that the current statement is a bunch of buzzwords, more concise, less ambiguous words- language matters
 - (4) Kidd: missing emphasis on diversity, actively representing the student body, solitary, listen and respond to student needs, represent the student body to administration and external body, values equity, inclusion, diversity, shared governance, communication, benefiting the entire community and building representation
 - (5) Munoz: purpose is to serve the student body, outreach, collaborate, inform, gvsu and surrounding communities, equity, inclusion, empowerment, liaison between students and administration
 - (6) Frappier: focus: shared governance, community, equity and inclusion. Who: student body and local community- do we serve the students on campus or GV as a whole and if it is students, who do we classify as students?
 - (7) Purpose is about why we exist, not what we do- often helpful to go back to origin story
 - (a) Biermacher: purpose is why we do what we do
 - (i) Spicer: Really ambiguous statement, why is it important to serve the students? Have to pull back the layers and dig deeper.
 - (8) Mueller: purpose: serve the interest of students and communicate on behalf of students, who: undergraduate focused community, GSA's job is to serve graduate students, values based: engagement, education, representation, transparency, communication, showing benefit: student's interests are communicated
 - (9) Spicer: what did you learn
 - (a) Rusch: there are values missing
 - (b) Kidd: current statement does not have direction, like a blanket statement
 - (c) Huggins: everyone has different ideas on their purpose
 - (d) Al Mouta: cannot make change without a focus



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- (e) Bucon: equity and inclusion are not stated and they are a huge part of our mission
- (10) Spicer: Almost everyone agrees that the mission statement needs to be changed. Best way is to transcribe all these notes, put them together, create a small committee that is representative, create a draft, put it where everyone can see it, leave it there, and come back together to make changes. She writes a lot of mission statements and would be happy to help.
- (11) Spicer: Think of yourself as setting the stage for the next 30-40 years, it can not happen in less than 60 minutes, it will take time. Encourages you to find the documents that tell how this body was shaped in the beginning
- (12) Haight: Need to revisit board of trustees and constitution
- vii. Vision: future focus, demonstrates impact of your work, aspirational, very long-term
 - (1) Current: The GVSU student Senate, in collaboration with university governance, envisions a vibrant, engaged student body, where the Laker experience is equitable, accessible, and sustainable.
 - (2) Gineman: need to better demonstrate that this is future focused, thinks a different word should be used for engaged, does not feel very long term
 - (3) Verstraete: lots of buzzwords, this statement includes equity and thinks it is necessary to have in mission statement and vision statement because it should be short and long term
 - (4) Munoz: impact: change, growth, opportunity, equity & inclusion
 - (5) Frappier: future focus: students having more say, beter senate retention, happier laker experience, more participation
 - (6) Kidd: future focus: missing idea of involvement and overall enjoyability, want to create a positive experience, and that they are actively collaborating with the university and students.
 - (7) Mueller: thinks the last three words are good words to have to show that the senate is a part of the university and aligns with Reaching Higher 2025.
 - (8) Spicer: everyone is in agreement that the vision statement needs some work
 - (9) Verstraete: feels that when committees and task forces are created it can be hard to have structure. How big should it be and how often should it meet and report back to the body?



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- (a) Kidd: It is going to be slow, but to actively accomplish this the President and EVP should be on it with one representative from each committee. Meet weekly.
- (b) Spicer: does not have to be a long process, give yourself a deadline to have the statement ready by- such as a month.
- (c) Mueller: instead of making more work, the cabinet could be in charge of it and the committees could work through their VPs.
- (d) Kreger: cabinet already meets every week and everyone has the option to attend cabinet meetings
- (e) Spicer: if cabinet does it make sure that everyone is communicating
- (f) Kidd: there is a lack of manpower in the cabinet and the current climate struggles with transparency. It might not be seen as something to represent the whole body
- (g) Schmidt: agrees with Kidd, it would be reinforcing the idea that cabinet makes all the decisions
- (h) Pearson: disagrees, everyone in the body elected cabinet to be your representatives. Cabinet wants to represent their committees and the student body
- (i) Kidd: there is not going to be a solution that everyone agrees on. Urges cabinet to ask if they want to add on another hour or two to cabinet meetings to do this
- (j) Bucon: would general senators still be able to attend?
- (k) Mueller: it would be very difficult to form another committee/task force and get this done by the end of the semester. Having cabinet do it would still allow for general senators to give input
- (l) Frappier: cabinet follows GA and anyone is welcome to attend, if you can not attend you can communicate through your VP
- (m) Spicer: We do not have time to unpack the culture, happy to do it another time. Conflict is a healthy thing if used correctly. Key to using conflict well is that conflict needs to be focused on the issue and not the person. Makes sense to leverage the structure that is already in place and allow flexibility to that structure. Thanks everyone for their work

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

- a. Kidd: sign up to table for last lecture 2/15-2/16, on google drive. Counts as office hours



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b. Korte: fill out senate climate survey that was sent in slack, need results by next Thursday

V. **President's Report**

a. Adoption of the Agenda

i. Kreger: motion to add a 5 minute break before line item VI, seconded by Pearson

(1) Schimdt: encourages Kreger to extend break to 10 minutes

(2) Gienman: thinks there is not that much longer of the agenda and there will be a break in between cabinet

(3) Kreger: motions to add a 10 minute break before line item VI, seconded by Pearson, Passes

(4) Frappier: motions to add 3 new line items under item VIII for the appointment of Mallory Everly to EAC, Larbi Al Mouta to DAC, and Quinten Proctor to PRC. Seconded by Kidd, passes.

b. Thanks everyone for their attendance at State of the Student Body

c. Will be giving her remarks on 2/18 at the board of trustees meeting, email if you have things she should mention

d. Met with development, has a BOV advisor to help with administrative backing and collaboration, super exciting

e. The Student Senate will be taking part in the USG conference, there are a few spots open so let her know if you are interested in attending. It is an overnight conference

f. Have drafted the statement regarding campus dining, working on edits and it will be presented at the next GA

g. Next week there will be inservice at 4:30pm and then headed to the service project at kid's food basket. No dress code, attendance at both is required. Fill out the required registration link by Monday. You will receive an absence if it is not filled out by Monday

h. GA 2/17 will be downtown on the Health Campus. Will be starting at 4:45pm, more than willing to give rides. Parking is taken care of: on campus parking passes are allowed to park in the spectrum lot.

VI. 10 Minute Break: 6:23pm

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

a. Approval of the Minutes

i. Stand Approved

b. Biermacher: Cabinet 2:1s are happening in the next few weeks and the time slots will be sent out for general senators to sign up soon



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- c. Rusch: Constitutional Task Force is meeting in the student senate office a 3:30pm on Fridays, this week will be on zoom

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

- a. Appointment of Mallory Everly to EAC
 - i. Kidd: very optimistic, good communication, works for the library, and already very involved with the university. Motions to appoint Mallory Everly to EAC, seconded by Pearson. Passes unanimously.
- b. Appointment of Larbi Al Mouta to DAC
 - i. Gineman: he is highly motivated, already willing to work for DAC, already has projects ideas to work on, willing to help with projects that are in progress, knows he will be a great addition to DAC. Motions to appoint Larbi Al Mouta to DAC, seconded by Kidd. Passes unanimously
 - ii. Schmidt: would like to know some project ideas and how the interview went
 - (1) Gineman: The interview went very well. Had an extensive conversation regarding projects specifically for mental health
- c. Appointment of Quinten Proctor to PRC
 - i. Pearson: already knows senators on PRC which will help with the communication, confident that Quinton will be able to communicate and go out into the community and university and grow as a person. Confident that he will embody the qualities needed to make PRC successful.
 - (1) Schmidt: why are you confident that he will embody the qualities needed to make PRC successful?
 - (a) Pearson: something that helps PRC succeed is someone who is willing to communicate. It is important that you have good relationships in the committee and he has these qualities.
 - (2) Frappier: was able to sit in the interview, kind and driven which is exciting. Has experience working with diverse groups of people.
 - (3) Pearson motions to appoint Quinten Proctor to PRC, second by Frappier. Passes unanimously.
- d. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

X. Public Comment – Part II

XI. Officer Reports



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a. Senate Resources – Alexis Krichevsky, presented by Senator Biggs

- i. The climate survey is required of everyone to take by Monday, and takes less than 10 minutes. Anomus and only seen by SRC. Identifying questions are not required if you do not feel comfortable. If 90% of the body fills it out by Monday SRC will bring a treat to inservice.
- ii. Sign up for next week's service project by Monday
- iii. Office hours due Friday
- iv. Working on a bonding event to a trampoline park, more information to come
- v. If you have an issue, come to talk to her, if you have nothing nice to say do not say anything at all. If there is a genuine issue, she will work with you to find a solution

b. Allocations – Ben Biermacher

- i. Cultural funding board in Kirkhoff room 2263 tomorrow at 1:30pm
- ii. Get your funding training

c. Public Relations – Eldon Pearson

- i. Communicate your student senate week event details
- ii. Senate Swag will be shipped to the office in the next few weeks
- iii. Hoogwerf is planning a roundtable for next week working with DAC
- iv. Working with DAC to redo bulletin board for Black History Month
- v. Will be finishing up campus dining statements with President Mueller
- vi. Bucon has been sharing resources for those who have been affected by interpersonal violence on the social media
- vii. Have begun releasing last lecture promotions

d. Campus Affairs – Aaron Rusch

- i. CAC had bonding last week to talk senate and enjoy company
- ii. Senator Kreger is working on ElectHer, reaching out to speakers
- iii. Succulents with Senators February 23 at 7:00pm
- iv. The Constitutional Task Force is meeting in the senate office at 3:30pm on Fridays. Starting off by looking at different universities' student government models, looked at voting rates and how GVSU is not where they want to be to gain a direction for constitutional task force
- v. CAC is going back to solar panel project to promote sustainability on campus



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- vi. Got a tour with facilities to expose students to parts of the campus they have not seen, meeting with housing to give RAs the opportunity for a tour.
- e. **Educational Affairs** – Faith Kidd
 - i. Last lecture planning is going very well: have 2 professors secured. February 22nd at 6:00pm in the Library Multipurpose room or on zoom.
 - ii. Sign up to table on 2/15 and 2/16
 - iii. Thank you to PRC for the beautiful graphic
 - iv. Shoutout to Senator Mathews: joined CTF, on appropriations, cultural funding board, LIFT MC committee
 - v. One of the library staff members reached out regarding how to access subscriptions such as New York Times, they have the log in if you need it
 - vi. If you have any ideas for how to inform students on OER during class registration times reach out
 - vii. If you have project ideas for EAC or want to collaborate, reach out
 - viii. Meet at 4:00pm on Tuesdays in the office and will be having family dinners after
 - ix. If you need anything, reach out
 - x. Will be having Mario Kart Tournament after cabinet tonight if anyone wants to come
- f. **Diversity Affairs** – Kyle Gineman
 - i. Munoz and Gjolaj have planned Black History Month Trivia Night 2/8 at 5:00pm in Kirkhoff
 - ii. 2/24 Black History Month Movie Night as Student Senate Week Event, Senator Johnson is working on this
 - iii. Trying to do a student senate service project with Lisa Knight, Senators Anderson and Al Mouta are working on this. They are meeting tomorrow to discuss
 - iv. Collaborating with EAC on the Library book table
 - v. Working with PRC on roundtable event and bulletin board
 - vi. 2/28 DAC will be putting on a college affordability panel with a few faculty- need 2 people to talk about you college funding story, reach out if you are interested
 - vii. Pride Prom- Senator Anderson is planning, need people to sit on the committee
- g. **External Relations** – Justin Frappier
 - i. ERC meets Tuesdays at 4:30pm on zoom
 - ii. Schmidt is working to further his legislation



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- iii. Verstraete is working to see how to get donations for BOV
- iv. Pagel is working on forming a partnership with Allendale Public Schools, met with them last week and meeting again this week
 - (1) Planning Anti bullying/mental health event and college information event at the high school
- v. Student Senate Week Event will surround Civil Discourse on 2/25, if anyone wants to present reach out
- vi. Setting up archive day
- vii. Working on setting up BOV meetings with SVSU
- viii. Looking over old documentation from the UGS conference, encourages everyone who can come to come, it will be a really good experience
- ix. Working on legislations to reallocate higher education funds
- x. Come to cabinet tonight to discuss legislation
- xi. Kidd: ERC is also invited to Tuesday Family Dinners after their meeting

XII. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Sustainability Rationale, presented by Senator Biggs: thanks everyone who came to SUS last night, meeting with office of sustainability tomorrow to discuss legislation, going to have a bonding activity to upcycle clothes
- b. Mental Health Awareness Rationale, presented by Senator Kreger: had a good meeting last week. Will meet every other Tuesday at 6:00pm in the office

XIII. University Committee Reports

- a. Matthews: Lift MC academic committee, trying to find bias in responses, start a mid semester review to talk about book prices and tutoring.

XIV. Roll Call - Part II

XV. Call for Announcements

- a. Frappier: what time will cabinet be
 - i. Mueller: 7:15pm
- b. Fill out Kids Food basket registration by Monday
 - i. Verstraete: it's the Kent county location
- c. Biggs: fill out the climate survey

XVI. Adjournment: 7:05pm