



General Assembly

Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 – 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: 4:36pm**

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. Matt McLogan - Higher Education

i. State budget proposal update:

- ii. Over the last 20 years the state has cut higher ed funding whenever it was tight on funding. Pleased to see that the Governor's proposal has increased the budget 5% for higher ed, plus funds for long deferred maintenance and extra funding for 5 universities, including GVSU, that have grown substantially in the past few years and have not been compensated for that.

- iii. Up to the senate and the house to pass this now, then the Governor signs it into law. It will probably be almost 5 months before the senate and house pass it off to the Governor, probably some time in June.

- iv. State Appropriation used to constitute $\frac{2}{3}$ of funding and now only roughly 5% and the rest has been put off of taxpayers and onto students. Hopefully this year's funding will change this trajectory for the better

v. Matthews: Would this lower the cost of tuition for GVSU students?

- (1) McLogan: if we get additional help from the state it would take the pressure off of tuition and could lower it. It would also help adjust the financial aid fund to make it higher than previous years.

- vi. Biermacher: with increase in budget would GVSU still sit towards the bottom among universities as far as approtated dollars?

- (1) McLogan: would probably be at or near the bottom. Oakland and GVSU have grown the most in the past few years, if this proposal is adopted then next year



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GVSU will probably not be at the bottom and move from 14/15th place to around 13th place. Going in the right direction.

vii. Kidd: Because of the impact of inflation on the spending power of appropriations, with the increase will there be any visible power in the funds?

(1) McLogan: they have cut budgets, \$1 billion has been pulled out of the state's fund, inflation adjusted. It's even worse than the math she used and it is going to take a long time for a difference to be shown

viii. Rusch: what has the university done to lobby the state to increase state funding and how can we improve?

(1) McLogan: the university is a public body, chartered by the state. The entities that are similarly constructed to GVSU can not directly lobby to the state in the way a corporation can. They provide information to the state regularly on the implication of their actions. Higher ed has not been a priority, legislators respond to their constituents. Encourages the student senate to reach out to the representatives that have been elected because they will pay more attention to you than him. Phone call, letter, or personal visit to your representative and senator. Would be happy to work with any senator to do this.

ix. Mueller: Carl Brown is unable to attend but his presentation on the speech lab is available to view if you are interested.

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

V. **President's Report**

a. Adoption of the Agenda

i. Kidd: motions to add an additional item in new business above point F, review of the statement of support for OER, seconded by Frappier, passes unanimously

ii. Gineman: motion to strike 11, officer reports, seconded by Schmidt, 10 yays, 13 nays, does not pass.

b. Today we are reviewing legislation and closing them out when we come back from break. She hopes everyone has had time to reflect on their time with the senate. Come talk to her if you are interested in running for a cabinet position

c. Great to speak at the Board of Trustees meeting and attend the reaching higher luncheon. Great to see everyone at student senate week events, shoutout to VP Kidd for a great Last Lecture event and it being featured on the front page of *The Lanthorn*

d. Her and EVP O'Neil will be meeting with VP Jenny Hall-Jones after break

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



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- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved
- b. Hope everyone's midterms went well and everyone has a good break
- c. Reach out if you need any help with anything such as projects and legislation
- d. Reach out to him if you are planning on running for EVP
- e. Reminder to meet with Melissa if you are planning on returning to senate
- f. CTF is canceled for tomorrow

VII. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Student Senate 2022-2023 Election Packet
 - i. Mueller: made suggested edits. Put in a portion on getting permission from your professors before sending emails on blackboard. Made clarification on campaigning regulations. Finished portion on cabinet member requirements.
 - ii. Schmidt: if there is going to be no required petition this year, there is a sentence about the petition on the first page that should be deleted
 - iii. Kidd: wants to open up a discussion about the voter threshold being at 50 given the lack of engagement on campus and if everyone thinks that it is an attainable number
 - (1) Gineman: thinks a 50 vote threshold is a really great threshold because last year there was an even lower amount of engagement and this is a lower number than last year
 - (2) Kreger: if there is not a full body now how will we know that they will get a top 44 in but sees the pro because it is an election and there needs to be some sort of backing. Leans more towards not having threshold because there is not a full body
 - (3) Korte: this should have been a discussion had by the elections commission. He is not returning to the body so it has nothing to do with his own interest. Bylaws state that both the chair and elections commission hold a discussion. He applied to be on the elections commission and did not hear back. President Mueller decided to be the only one. The bylaws say that there can still be an election if this does not pass, the elections commission has the ultimate authority to change the timeline, the bylaws can be suspended at any time. Could agree with these things if they were the result of a discussion held by the elections commission, and not decided by President Mueller alone
 - (a) Mueller: O'Neil and Pearson are also on elections commission



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- (4) Krichevsky: Likes that the number is lower than last year
- (5) Biermacher: has to remain some sort of standard that shows that people want to be here
- (6) Schmidt: agrees with Biermacher. Has seen a lot of resignation from the body. If you can not show that you are capable of going out and getting the 50 votes, how can you show that you are going to put the work in and stay on the body for the whole year. In favor of the threshold.
- (7) Kidd: does not have a specific stance, wants to represent the body. Quantity is not equal to quality
- (8) Rusch: is a fan of petitions, understands with timelines and COVID still a thing, petitions are not much of a possibility. Disagree that someone who does not reach a certain number does not represent enough people, even if they have one vote they are still representing a student. Thinks a threshold to encourage engagement in a campaign is important. It encourages you to work hard and be engaged. Ultimately believes that an amendment to the voters packet should be taken to a vote so everyone can have their voices heard
- (9) Korte: appreciates the conversation but the content of the election packet is supposed to be had by those not returning to the body. Echoes Rusch
 - (a) O'Neil: thinks the use of those who are no longer on the body to make amendments is irrelevant at this point
 - (b) Kidd: only the chair has speaking power, you are speaking out of turn.
- (10) Frappier: Some of the people who have received the most votes in the past have not been here for two weeks and are not here currently or putting the work in. Thinks the amount of votes you get is not an accurate representation of the work you put in.
 - (a) Mueller: we will not be talking about others here today
 - (b) Frappier: My apologies
- (11) Korte: comments are not for the purpose of changing the voter threshold but wants a discussion from the elections commission on this matter.
- (12) Mueller: feel free to make friendly amendments on anything you would like to. The elections commission decided on the threshold of 50.



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- (13) Kidd: moves to make a friendly amendment to strike 50 and change it to 40. If you look to past elections that would allow everyone from last year except one person to be on the body.
 - (a) Mueller: accepts it, would you like to change the write in vote threshold
 - (b) Kidd: has no preference
 - (c) Frappier: thinks the write in threshold at 65 is fine
 - (14) Munoz: is there anyway to get the information on the average number of votes that was achieved last election
 - (a) Rusch: there were 3 individuals that were in 40 votes and that was the lowest.
 - (b) Kidd: lowest vote count being 41, 3 under 50, 5 under 60
 - (15) Schmidt: is the election commission supposed to be made up of non returning senators, should it be VPs and senators
 - (a) Mueller: it is anyone not returning, does not matter if you are cabinet members or general senators
 - (16) Korte: how many people ran last year
 - (a) Kidd: 39
 - (17) Huggins: what is the point of the threshold if someone can interview a few weeks later and come on
 - (a) Mueller: most of those interviews are for freshman who were not at GVSU in the Spring to run
- iv. Kidd: motions to move into a formal vote on this packet, seconded by Krichevsky
- (1) Rusch: questions if it is still worthwhile to amend it to nothing
 - (2) Bucon: was it 5 total or 8 total under the threshold of 60
 - (a) Kidd: 5 total
 - (3) Krichevsky: thinks it should move forward and there is not much to focus
 - (4) Frappier: can he entertain a straw poll not on the record, for either enjoying 40 vote threshold or would like to remove the threshold entirely
 - (5) Mueller entertains straw poll
 - (6) Vote on election packet: 17 yays, 5 nays, 1 abstention. Passes
- b. W-22-02: "Extend Grand Valley State University's admissions test-optional policy until the 2026 admissions cycle with a possibility of further implementation"



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- i. Hoogwerf: Met with VP B. Donta Truss, VP of enrollment and had a great discussion. Said that the policy fits in with the current admission process. He personally supports this and the accessibility this process would bring. They expressed their worry on the gap and VP Truss expressed his favor of the holistic review process to review GPA, essay, volunteer work and anything that would demonstrate grit and determination.
- ii. Kreger: updated the colleges at the end by grouping together similar universities, changing all numbers under 100 to words, and editing grammar, but no big changes.
- iii. Kidd: proposed a friendly amendment to change reaching higher 2025 to reach higher 2025
- iv. Frappier: thinks its looks really great and thanks them for their time
- v. Rusch: motions to vote on resolution W-22-02 as is, seconded by Biermacher. Thanks them for the time they put into this. Personally in support of this and moving towards a more understanding admission process.
 - (1) 21 yays, 1 nay, passes.
- c. Campus Dining and Food Issues on Campus Statement
 - i. Mueller: reads the edited statement, which acknowledges the challenging times that are creating issues around food at GVSU and the fact that campus dining and UFC are working to address these issues. Student senate encourages GVSU administration to actively seek new measures to administer and advance meal plans, and reevaluate the current state of student employment for campus dining.
 - (1) Implemented changes that have been suggested and added a new section
 - ii. Kidd: proposes a friendly amendment to change second to secondly
 - iii. Frappier: proposes a friendly amendment to add “the” before bureaucratic structure
 - iv. Biermacher: proposes a friendly amendment to delete “employed” in line 5 in paragraph 4
 - v. Mueller: entertains a motion to approve this statement
 - vi. Gineman: motions to approve this statement, seconded by Kidd.
 - (1) Rusch: thinks it looks really good and appreciates all the hard work that went into it
 - (2) Huggins: call the question
 - (a) Passes unanimously

VIII. Ten Minute Recess: 5:33pm



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IX. New Business

- a. Appointment of Clay Plachta to the Educational Affairs Committee
 - i. Kidd: Excited to have Plachta on her committee, has over a year of experience on the body. Has great interpersonal skills, has project ideas for class attendance policies and recording classes, very passionate about senate, stayed in the loop even while not on senate, is a nursing major and interested in participation in student government, thinks diversity of interests is very important, he has already started attending senate events. Motions to appoint Clay Plachta to the Educational Affairs Committee, seconded by Korte.
(1) Passes, 20 yays, 4 abstentions.
- b. W-22-03: "Create a safety barrier or net on the "Little Mac" bridge"
 - i. Rusch: started this process in fall semester after the tragic loss of a student. He did his own research over winter break on the effectiveness of barriers. Met with facilities planning, Chief DeHaan, Office of student affairs, and VP of student affairs. All of these discussions have led up to this. Reads the document.
 - ii. Biermacher: one says recognize and the rest say recognizing
 - iii. Schmidt: thinks it looks great. Have you done research on the resources that would be spent and if putting it towards a different source such as the counseling center would be better
(1) Rusch: GVSU is working hard on suicide prevention, it is not a unique problem outside of soicity as a whole and GVSU is already doing their part, specifically thecounseling center. The university does not seem too concerned about cost, in the end if something is deemed to be changed he does not think the university would be deterred by the cost. It is hard to determine the exact cost, Cornell spent around \$10 mil on 6 bridges over 5 years.
 - iv. Rusch: thanks everyone for the opportunity to present
(1) Kidd: if you see any grammatical errors let her know
- c. W-22-04 "Urge Grand Valley State University to re-examine COVID level alert system"
 - i. Schmidt: semester long project and this is the final culmination. Encourages everyone to look through the legislation. This legislation is in support of GVSU moving to alert level one, changing alert level 0 requirements, and asking for student representation on the VAT.



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- ii. Huggins: this is an optional thing, you can still wear a mask if you choose.
- iii. Rusch: at the very end, the first therefore let it be resolved statement says one case per day instead of one case per week
- iv. Huggins: if it's grammatical amendments you can make a comment in the document
- v. Rusch: if you wanted to cut the length you could consider taking out the global and other state changes to their mandates
 - (1) Schmidt: thinks it is important to show that this is not just a state thing but also a national and global change that is being made
 - (2) Munoz: were the states that you chose, chosen for a reason
 - (a) Schmidt: these were the most recent ones, did not think he should add all 50 states but can
- d. W-22-05: "Ratify USG Resolution 2022-005 for the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding (SCHEF)"
 - i. Frappier: SCHEF has been around for quite a while. The purpose is for the universities to sign on a coalition to address higher education funding and to meet and put them into action. It is clear that there are issues in higher education funding. It has been passed by other universities and they are willing and excited to work together on this. Feel free to add comments on the google doc. Reads legislation as written.
 - ii. Biermacher: where can senators access the SCHEF document from USG
 - (1) Frappier: will be in the legislation folder titled 2022-005, encourages everyone to take a look at it. He will be one of the co-leads for the remainder of this semester
 - iii. Bucon: should it be February 19th or 19
 - (1) Frappier: either is proper
- e. W-22-06: "Encourage Grand Valley State University to Print the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Contact Information on Student Identification Cards"
 - i. Munoz: This was passed at USG and this is to ratify it at GVSU.
 - ii. Frappier: other universities in Michigan have also passed this
 - iii. Munoz: reads the statement to print the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline contact information on student identification cards.
 - iv. Kidd: there was a lack of recognizing that needs to be amended to maintain legislation standards and two statements at the end need to have “; and” instead of period



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- (1) Frappier: there have been other legislative pieces tonight that have shown periods so make sure that it is “; and”
- v. Munoz: met with Pam Wells from the registrar, Amber Robers from counseling center, Chief DeHan from GVPD and Aaron Haight and they are all supported
- vi. Kidd: should upperclassmen students have their ID replaced free of charge.
 - (1) Munoz: Pam said it would be only new cards, not sure if this can be added
 - (2) Kidd: suggests advocating that an email is sent out to all students letting upperclassmen know about this so that one student is not given an advantage over the other
- f. Review of the Statement of Support for OER
 - i. Kidd: works a lot with the library and gets to be a part of teams that decrease overall costs of education and promote and support open educational resources. This statement puts the student senate’s support behind OER. Reads statement.
 - ii. Rusch: could you clarify what incentive programs for OER consist of?
 - (1) Kidd: if professors decide to write their own OER they are offered sabbatical and financial resources while they do this
 - iii. O’Neil: Can you clarify the differences between open, zero cost, and free?
 - (1) Kidd: open- access to all people, no copyright issues, zero cost- free materials that are accessible to most people, like a newspaper, free- anything that doesn’t fall into either of those categories
- g. **CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY**

X. **Public Comment – Part II**

XI. **Officer Reports**

- a. **Senate Resources** – Alexis Krichevsky
 - i. Hope everyone has a great spring break
 - ii. Thanks everyone who came to bonding last week
 - iii. Climate survey report is now out and in the SRC drive, if you have questions about it reach out
 - iv. You can check your own absences in the SRC masterfile, if you have a concern about your absences reach out
 - v. If you did your office hours and forgot to submit them, reach out, she is understanding



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b. Allocations – Ben Biermacher

- i. Hope midterms went all right and is looking forward to break
- ii. Appropriations funding board is meeting tomorrow at 1:30pm should be short, if you are interested in running for allocations attend this meeting or reach out
- iii. Will be working on university budget for student life fund with Valerie Guzman and Bri Slager over spring break

c. Public Relations – Eldon Pearson, presented by Senator Hoogwerf

- i. Shared senator of the month
- ii. Assisted in revision of statements
- iii. Working on newsletter which will be released soon
- iv. Wrote emails about elections to send to different departments
- v. Proctor is working on Elect her
- vi. Reach out if you are interested in running for PRC VP
- vii. If you go anywhere fun for spring break, send him pictures for a potential post on the Senate social media

d. Campus Affairs – Aaron Rusch

- i. Elect her update: event is up on laker link, the nomination form will be up soon. Promotion submission request was submitted.

e. Educational Affairs – Faith Kidd

- i. Thanks everyone for their support of last lecture, lanthorn's front page article made her very happy. Still waiting on recording and will share it with everyone
- ii. Just finished OER marketing campaign which will go live during registration week. Thank you to her models
- iii. Working on bridge legislation with VP Rusch
- iv. Finalizing statement of support for OER
- v. Reach out if you want her to read your legislation
- vi. Use her as a resource for elections
- vii. Thanks everyone and appreciates everyone and looks forward to future endeavors together. Use her as a resource for anything

f. Diversity Affairs – Kyle Gineman



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- i. UFC met last friday. Started building recommendations from each subgroup to send to senior leadership committee. Preparing for his last UFC meeting at the end of this month
- ii. Thanks everyone who came to service project, movie night, and trivia night and the senators that put these events on
- iii. Thanks everyone who came to the college affordability event
- iv. You can find the woman's history month book table in the library
- g. **External Relations** – Justin Frappier
 - i. Hope everyone enjoys their spring break
 - ii. I am GV nominations are live through March 18th, nominate anyone you think embodies GV, you can nominate yourself
 - iii. Archive day 3/17 2:30pm in the Seidman library
 - iv. ERC met on Tuesday and had the BOV meeting following. No changes were made to the rules agreement. Will stay in contact with the battle chair at SVSU, Josie, until after everyone is in their new positions
 - v. Thanks Mueller for her efforts in campus wide coalition
 - vi. March 25th going to Allendale Public Schools and speaking to all the english students about college. If anyone wants to join him and Senator Pagel reach out, you will have to provide your driver's license for a background check

XII. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Sustainability Rationale, presented by Senator Biggs: SUS met last night. Talked about Earth Day, which is the week of finals. Will be doing events a few weeks before such as campus clean up. Applied for land at the SAP to grow plants and it was accepted. Have to do training, but very excited.
- b. Sexual Assault Awareness Committee Rationale, presented by Senator Pagel: Had a good meeting with Leah Short from center for women and gender equity. Will partner with them on a week long event the first week of April, reach out if you want to help. Meeting the week after spring break and will bring a snack

XIII. University Committee Reports

- a. Matthews: LIFT MC academic committee- finalizing a report to send to a few provosts considering how effective the surveys are and the findings of the comments.
- b. Muller: Academic Policy Standard Committee came to University Academic Senate to extend the withdrawal deadline two weeks



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XIV. Roll Call - Part II

XV. Call for Announcements

- a. Frappier: have lots to go over in cabinet, come if you can. Encourages everyone to look over the climate survey report. Reach out if you are interested in running for cabinet
- b. Krichevsky: office hours due tomorrow at 5:00pm, no office hours next week
- c. O'Neil: cabinet will start at 7:00pm

XVI. Adjournment: 6:44pm