

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

General Assembly

Thursday, September 1st, 2022

Pere Marquette Room, 4:30pm

Chair: Faith Kidd

Parliamentarian: Justin Frappier



“Student Senate will cultivate a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered.”

I. **Call Meeting to Order: 4:38pm**

- a. Moment of Silence
 - i. Native Land Recognition
- b. Student Senate Creed
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Roll Call - Part I

II. **Public Comment – Part I**

III. **Guest Speaker**

- a. President Mantella
 - i. Thanks President Kidd for her leadership, she looks forward to getting to know all of the senators. Offers her thanks and appreciation for the leadership role each senator plays. She has plans to be connected with the student senate and be active together throughout the year. It is her duty and honor to swear in the senators.
 - ii. Leads the body in the Pledge.
 - iii. Rusch: going into a new academic year, what are your high hopes and visions for this academic year?
 - (1) Mantella: student success and student empowerment, very related. Student empowerment is an individual expressing their voice and giving students the tools to build the architecture of their future. Students have a greater voice in their educational journey. Deeply concerned about the student experience over the past two and a half years. Do not know fully how the changes from the past two years will play out, will be listening very carefully for patterns to get in early with support. Have wondered how students will gather coming into this year, will forge this journey together.
 - iv. Frappier: Student Senate supported reach higher 2025, what can the student senate do to push that initiative forward?
 - (1) Mantella: use your voices to keep pushing it forward and spreading the word. Look into each commitment and communicate what needs to be prioritized.
 - v. Hoogwerf: If you could give any advice to college students what would it be?
 - (1) Mantella: believes that number one thing is to feel confident, step into that agency for your own learning, and find what you need, if it's not there use your voice. As a senator, work to understand the entire body, which is not easy work.
 - vi. Matthews: What are the biggest changes GVSU is introducing this year?

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- (1) Mantella: looking for patterns and how to support student challenges. Will use all data and information to help students. When she went off to college she went from a small high school to a large university and realized no one knew if she was there or not. Very important to keep GVSU affordable and is maintaining a commitment to student financial aid.
- vii. Al Moutaa: thanks her for her commitment to represent student voices. How can the student senate make sure they turn the student voices into change within campus?
 - (1) Mantella: push yourselves on having created a good, strong, evidence based platform for change. Lots of years of working very directly with the student senate. Most effective can present the case, the patterns of the institution. Don't present problems, present solutions. May disagree on solutions, but will still be further down the path in exploring problems that way. She tries to put you all in front of the president's council, not just herself. If the dean's of the colleges hear your voice, it is sometimes more effective than her voice.

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

V. **President's Report**

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Rusch: motion to set adjournment to 6:15pm, seconded by Johnson, privileged motion, no discussion
 - ii. Schmidt: objects, moving to set the adjournment time is not a privileged motion,
 - iii. Rusch: when you add qualifications to adjournments in the future that is not a privileged motion but in Robert's Rules it is a privileged motion to adjust the adjournment time
 - iv. Schmidt: the motion is on the floor, but his objection still stands
 - v. Kidd: in the case of an objection, no discussion no second, pass with a two thirds floor
 - vi. Rusch: motions to put the objection to a vote, seconded by Schmidt. 4 yays, 14 nays. Motion does not pass
 - vii. Rusch: motions to set adjournment to 6:15pm, seconded by Matthews
 - (1) Schmidt: here to do the work of the students, should be here as long as it takes.
 - (2) 7 yays, 8 nays, 1 abestension
 - (3) Motion fails
- b. Welcomes everyone back, would love to catch up with everyone. Will ask things of you in the slack.

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- c. Now that you have your course and work schedules, in the next 7 days find a university committee that you are interested in joining and put it in the University Committees Fall 2022 in the drive, all information is in the document.
- d. GA schedule is in the drive. More focused on trainings and interactive presentations rather than lectures. Tell her what you think and what you want to see as she plans the winter schedule.
- e. Went to a student government conference this summer and will use a lot of what she learned to better the student senate this year.
- f. Working on reshaping the compensations program for student senate, has been meeting with stakeholders, planning GA schedules, making agendas ect ect
- g. Ask her for anything you need
- h. Will not be attending UAS and ECS, EVP Frappier will be serving as her Proxy. She accepted a job working many hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- i. Cabinet meets Mondays at 6:15pm in the office, not meeting this monday for Labor Day
- j. GA reminder: keep technology closed unless you are researching Robert's Rules as parliamentarian, are the SRC VP, or taking minutes.
- k. If you were absent or late today you will be sworn in by her next week.
- l. Johnson IV: where can they find more information on university committees?
 - i. Kidd: if there is not enough information in the document, slack her and she will connect you with how to get more information.

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved
- b. Good to see everyone again, congrats them on being sworn in
- c. If anyone is not receiving the weekly email or not in the slack, reach out to him
- d. In the future the weekly email will be longer, make sure you read the email fully and all of the attached documents in it.
- e. Meeting minutes from cabinet were not in the weekly email this week, they will be sent out later due to the cabinet meeting ending at almost 11:00pm and the EOA needing more time to edit them.
- f. If you have any questions regarding cabinet elections reach out
- g. Happy to meet with you or your VP regarding legislation
- h. His calendar is in the google drive if you are curious about his schedule or want to meet with him.

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- i. Senator Biggs, Senator Krichevsky, and Senator Rusch are SRC members and experienced on the body. If you have questions and are uncomfortable reaching out to cabinet members feel free to reach out to them.

VII. Five (5) Minute Recess

- a. 5:15pm: meeting is called back to order

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

- a. Nominations for Vice President of Campus Affairs
 - i. Hoogwerf: motions to nominate Senator Munoz for VP of CAC, seconded by Rusch
(1) Rationale: Munoz has proven that she is a leader, not only in the student senate but also in LSU. Proven to be a hard worker in her small business. Believes she would be a great fit for CAC VP.
- b. Nominations for Vice President of Educational Affairs
 - i. Kidd: will also accept nominations next week in addition to candidate statements and q&a. You have a whole week to talk to cabinet members and senators to get more information if you are interested in running.
- c. Conduct Review Amendment
 - i. Frappier: found quite a few issues with the current conduct review process. Names both EVP and VP of SRC as chairperson for conduct review board. This was in place at one point, and is functionable. Highlighted changes that have been made, included an appeals process and included a way for those accused to cross examine the witness. This will be a band aid solution, but will allow them to hold conduct review boards until it is adjusted in CTF. Share thoughts, concerns, and edits. In the governing documents folder.
 - ii. Schmidt: old conduct review section is a disaster. Has created a slideshow that is 21 slides long in his folder in the drive about what was wrong with it. This is not a long term solution but it is usable and coherent. Need to have something that will work and can work to make it better moving forward.
 - iii. Frappier: ex-officio chair is a non voting member of a committee and will vote in case of a tie. Personally, will not be making further edits unless asked to do so.
 - iv. Rusch: happy to not vote on it today, thinks that all bylaw changes should sit with the body for at least two weeks even though it is not stated in the governing documents. This body has functioned since 2018 with the current procedures and it has functioned. Agrees that it is a disaster and has contradictions. But there is a reason this old one didn't last. It has redundancy issues, line item B is redundant to line item 2. Does not give conduct review board measures to hold people accountable. Functioned for four years with this, so why keep patching when you can build

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- something new and good that would solve this issue. Perhaps this is scrapping conduct review boards all together and leaving it to SRC, they already have mechanisms in place that can take the place of the conduct review. Need to be smart and not just throw this together. Thinks it is a mistake to do something a little bit better but still wrong.
- v. Schmidt: agrees with Rusch on most of this. It is nowhere near perfect but it is a readable solution until CTF can redo it. The conduct review process has not functioned under this body, cabinet was making closed cabinet votes to vote members off with no way to see the minutes or vote record. Agrees that conduct review boards may need to be scrapped altogether. Need to have a working process in the meantime.
 - vi. Frappier: would be very happy to hear anyone's recommendations. Have personally been through the process twice, and was acquitted of his charges, and both times they were entirely different. He chose not to speak up when this happened to him. Hopefully they can consistently hold people to the same standard
 - vii. Schmidt: both of the times he was acquitted were probably illegitimate, because it probably violated the bylaws because there is no way to use the current process without violating it because it contradicts itself.
 - viii. Matthews: echoes Rusch on his point of this being a sloppy band aid fix.
 - ix. Johnson IV: how much time would they have to make edits?
 - (1) Frappier: would be voted on when a senator makes a motion on it, whenever that may be.
 - x. Bucon: when would CTF start?
 - (1) Kidd: EVP leads CTF, so it is up to Frappier
 - (2) Frappier: does not have a date set yet, will be waiting until more people are on the body and meetings are set in place
 - xi. Al Moutaa: if this remains how it is until CTF works on it, someone who has to go through the conduct review process will be treated unfairly. Fully gives support to this bylaw adjustment. CTF will create a solid solution in the future.
 - xii. Everly: strongly encourages everyone to read the current conduct review process. If you came to her tomorrow she would not be able to help you through the conduct review process even after spending a lot of time with it over the summer. Agrees that this amendment is not a solution but is better than the current one. Encourages everyone to take the time to read it and educate themselves to make an informed decision.
 - xiii. Frappier: happy to take suggestions from anyone, text or slack him or leave comments on the document.
 - xiv. Frappier: motions to table this conversion until next week

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- (1) Rusch- 2nd
 - (2) Schmidt: would like Frappier to amend his motion to state that the EVP will work with representatives to define sanctions to be discussed and voted on by 9/8
 - (3) Frappier: moves to table this conversation with the intention to meet with student government representatives to identify sanctions and punishments within the conduct review process to be discussed again on 9/8
 - (4) 16 yays, 1 abstention
 - (5) Votes to table this conversation with the intention to meet with student government representatives to identify sanctions and punishments within the conduct review process to be discussed again on 9/8
- d. Guest Speakers Amendment
- i. Schmidt: the current bylaws have no process for guest speakers and only grant speaking rights to those in the body except for public comment
 - ii. Frappier: in support of this, will allow guest speakers to speak without going outside of Robert's Rules. If you want this to sit with the body for two weeks to give everyone time like Senator Rusch said, then no one has to motion to vote on it today.
 - iii. Rusch: Friendly amendment line item c, point 1, change "any guest speaker that is partisan" to "any guest speaker who speaks on a partisan issue"
 - (1) Schmidt: accepts friendly amendment
 - iv. Bucon: friendly amendment line b, point 1 "any question...lack" to "any question...lacks"
 - (1) Schmidt: accepts friendly amendment
 - v. Frappier: friendly amendment line b, point 1 "any question that is deemed..." add "by the chair"
 - (1) Schmidt: accepts friendly amendment
 - vi. Munoz: friendly amendment line c, point 1 and 2, confused on "could result in a warning or termination of speaking rights"
 - (1) Schmidt: possible sanctions that the chair could impose
 - vii. Bucon: friendly amendment line b, point 1 add any question "dedemed by the chair to be..."
 - (1) Schmidt: accepts
 - viii. Schmidt: moves to table to revisit this next week
 - (1) 2nd- Frappier
 - (2) Schmidt moves to pass this with unanimous consent
- e. Call for New Orders of the Day

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X. Public Comment- Part II

XI. Officer Reports

a. Senate Resources – Mallory Everly

- i. Welcomes everyone back, hopes everyone had a great summer and first week of classes
- ii. All phones and laptops must be turned off and put away out of sight for the duration of the meeting. She only has her laptop out for attendance.
- iii. Reminds everyone to dress appropriately. Recommends business casual attire, can provide resources. Wants everyone to feel comfortable.
- iv. Office hours- will not be collecting office hours this week, starting next week. Due each Friday at 5:00pm. After 5:00pm on Friday it is for the following week. Strict on this deadline. Talk to her about unforeseen circumstances, happy to discuss ways to make them up. Required to complete 2 a week, welcome to complete more. Many different ways to complete them, will typically be completed in the student senate office. Can not do them at home unless previously approved. Long them in the office hours google form in the SRC folder.
- v. Absence policy- allowed 3 unexcused absences which is missing GA or committee meetings and other mandatory events. Each missed hour of office hours is a half absence. Must submit an absence form within one week after the absence occurs.
- vi. Very pleased with recruitment efforts. Over 20 applicants and all have been reached out to. First set of interviews will be done tonight. Hoping to get more applicants after CLN next week.
- vii. Placards will be here soon
- viii. SRC meetings are at 7:00pm on Wednesdays in the office.
- ix. Schmidt: What is the committee meeting time?
 - (1) Kidd: 7:00pm on Wednesdays
- x. Rusch: where is the laptop and phone policy laid out
 - (1) Kidd: there is a term in Robert's Rules called decorum which is meeting etiquette. Within their interpretation of decorum they include this technology etiquette.
 - (2) Schmidt: the chair can not point of order anyone for using technology, only a member of the body and it can be overturned by 2/3s vote.

b. Allocations – Benjamin Biermacher- Frappier reads his report

- i. Committee members for allocations are: Krichevsky, Johnson IV, Rubos, Flickinger, and Proctor
- ii. Allocations will meet at 1:30pm on Fridays, not this week
- iii. RSO letter coming out on Tuesday

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- iv. Next Thursday the internal operating budget will be presented
 - v. Funding training will be coming up, in order to vote on future funding requests you must have received your funding training
 - vi. Schmidt: was told that the EAC representative for allocations is Munoz and Flickinger is the financial advisor, has it in writing
 - (1) Kidd: will be reviewed by cabinet
 - vii. Johnson IV: Have there been requests greater than \$20,000 in the past?
 - (1) Frappier: not common, have seen it in the past for president's ball
 - (2) Rusch: threshold is \$10,000 for review by GA
 - viii. Johnson IV: what if a senator is part of the organization that the funding they are voting is for?
 - (1) Kidd: if there is personal gain you are encouraged to abstain from the vote, this is a moral decision. Reach out to Biermacher with funding questions
 - ix. Bucon: will funding training be a presentation?
 - (1) Kidd: that is a decision made by Biermacher
 - x. Rubos: asks to repeat appointees
 - (1) Frappier: Krichevsky Johnson IV, Rubos, Flickinger, Matthews, and Proctor. Reach out to Biermacher with questions.
- c. **Public Relations** – Emily Bucon
- i. Hope everyone has had a first good week of classes
 - ii. Business cards and windowed envelopes with heading have been ordered
 - iii. Bulletin board was updated
 - iv. Met with university communications team to get a crash course to update the student senate website
 - v. Student Senate overview packet is updated in the drive
 - vi. Discussed dividing up tasks in their committee meeting
 - vii. You can utilize the social media account request form in google drive
 - viii. Her class and work schedule in her folder in the drive is updated
 - ix. Frappier: give some examples of what you would fill out the social media request for
 - (1) Bucon: student senate has an instagram, twitter, and linkedin that all can be updated with content of things related to student senate. Reach out to her with questions
 - x. Bucon: Committee meetings are Wednesdays 1-2pm
- d. **Campus Affairs**

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- i. Frappier: According to governing documents the EVP will serve as VP for a committee until a new VP is elected. Must not have meeting times established until the second week, not meeting this week. Quick discussion after GA regarding CAC with the committee members.

e. **Educational Affairs**

- i. Same as for CAC, no established meeting time this week. Committee members meet after GA for a quick discussion.

f. **Diversity Affairs** – Larbi Al Moutaa

- i. Welcomes everyone and hopes everyone enjoyed their summers. Excited to get to know the interview candidates and looking forward to interviews. This is the start of unlimited opportunities for change especially as they enter the start of a post COVID world, prioritize your health and wellbeing. Remember to focus on your healing journey and if you can, be the helping hand for others.
- ii. Wants to remind everyone that he is not your superior. Appointed by you all and here to honor your trust. Here for your service, do not hesitate to ask for any support he can provide yourself.
- iii. Schmidt: committee meeting time and what DAC plans to take on this year?
 - (1) Al Moutaa: still waiting on committee member availability to set meeting time. Focused on revamping the constitution definition of DAC to allow them to create legislation as a committee. Currently strategizing to create legislation to raise student wages, especially with inflation. Wants to work on legislation for victims of child abuse, it is currently being written. Lastly, strategizing how they are going to go forward with the parking pass system.
- iv. Kidd: committee meeting times must be set by the second GA. DAC is not given the ability to write legislation as a committee like other committees.

g. **External Relations** – Zachary Schmidt

- i. Has personally written three pieces of legislation, they are in the drive. Still looking into parking services. Has been helping Frappier and Rusch with amendments.
- ii. Committee meeting after GA, not meeting this week per the bylaws. Committee members will bring ideas on what they want to focus on. Plans to be a legislation focused committee. Bringing back adopt-a family. Will assign liaison roles to Ottawa County and Grand Rapids, will attend one meeting for each by the end of the month to report back.
- iii. Kidd: if you are struggling with Robert's Rules or governing documents, reach out to EVP Frappier, Senator Rusch, or VP Schmidt to learn. This will count as office hours.

XII. **University Committee Reports**

- a. Kidd: prior to next Thursday fill out your university committee preference form.

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XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements

- a. Frappier: knows that GA can be a lot, there are no bad questions, ask away. Will have training soon, reach out with questions. Does not expect everyone to know everything. Per motion, he needs to work with you on the conduct review process, reach out with ideas. CAC and EAC meet after GA, meeting with VP Schimdt at the flag
 - i. Schmidt: request to meet at the Ficus
 - ii. Frappier: agrees
- b. Everly: will meet with interviewees after meeting adjourns
- c. Kidd: thanks everyone for their attendance, knows meetings like this can feel weird but they are trying to be better this year with upholding Robert's Rules and decorum. Do not take anything personally. Remember that the cabinet is not meeting on Monday. Interviews will begin in the office at 6:30pm, try to be in the office as soon as you are done with any business.
- d. Frappier: notebooks are yours to take home

XV. Adjournment: 6:17pm