

Grand Valley State University Student Senate



General Assembly

Thursday, September 15th, 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: 4:32pm

- a. Moment of Silence
 - i. Native Land Recognition
 - ii. In memory of lives lost during 9/11
- b. Student Senate Creed
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Roll Call - Part I

II. Public Comment – Part I

- a. Read from student senate email: My name is Chris Cirefice, and I am an alumni of Grand Valley State University, returning 5 years after graduation to work as Executive/Administrative/Professional (EAP) staff charged with scaffolding and supporting 11 student employees’ learning, growth, and opportunities for success within and outside my office and unit. Altogether, I am disappointed in, and concerned about the apparent lack of initiative within the university administration in the area of improving student employment wages and compensatory benefits, particularly when framing the problem from the starting point of market compensation analysis of the current employment opportunities near campus and off-campus. When framed from this perspective, it is evident that GVSU and its wage rates are no longer competitive with the market for similar positions; in a significant percentage of employment positions, GVSU pays 15-30% less than off-campus equivalents. Furthermore, the student employment position classification system creates various arbitrary glass ceilings for student employees and supervisors: students are unable to assume greater responsibility within their position to achieve improved wages, as such classifications are nearly impossible for supervisors to justify, particularly in an equitable fashion for a small-to-medium team of student employees. Even if a higher classification level is justifiable for one or many student employees, departmental/unit budgets are not balanced in a way that guarantees fair wages to students at lower classifications, nor in a way that provides opportunities for advancement for those students who go above and beyond their job classification duties. In short, most students’ hands are tied given few opportunities for fair wages at the base “Level 1 & 2” classification and few opportunities for classification advancement. Supervisor and departmental hands are tied in trying to improve wages across the board for all student employees in their office/unit as budgets are unsupportive of such initiatives, and justification of higher classifications for all student employees to achieve fair wages is nearly impossible at the unit or college level. It is abundantly clear as a former student employee, alumni of this wonderful university, and now as a current EAP staff and supervisor mere years later, that minimal

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forward progress has been made to compensate students fairly for the absolutely critical work they do on campus to keep the institution running smoothly for us all. We should not need to remind the university administration that tuition costs, program costs, book costs, housing costs, food costs, transportation and parking costs have all skyrocketed in recent years due to substantial nation-wide inflation and economic instability. To obtain a degree from this institution, students spend an average of \$80,000 – the equivalent of a brand new high-end vehicle, or starter home mortgage – when this is the case, why is the university passively taking further advantage of a population of young Americans who are already facing unprecedented economic challenges? At face value, the state of budgetary and employment policies and practices as they pertain to students seem entirely counter-productive from an institutional and organizational perspective; see campus dining closures and hiring difficulties in recent years as a first warning flag of institutional failure to address the problem. With deeper analysis, the current system has the look and feel of exploitation of a body of young people who don't have much choice or say in the matter as they are in the hands of university administrative officials to set wages and employment policies. To me, such a situation dances across an ethical and moral line, wherein integrity of the institution's care and concern for the very student body that makes it up and that it purports to support is put into question.

III. Guest Speaker

IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers

V. President's Report

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Everly: motions to add the appointment of Jacob Welch to CAC as line item b under new business
 - (1) Frappier- 2nd
 - (2) Passes unanimously
 - (3) Senate votes to add the appointment of Jacob Welch to CAC as line item b under new business
- b. Worked on strategic planning in cabinet, will be presenting the strategic plan so far in new business
- c. Have annual cabinet lunch with SLT tomorrow
- d. UAS will be 9/30 3:00-5:00pm, need to send voting members, 4 spots available, zoom or in person options. Will be opening these spots soon in the slack.

VI. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Stand approved

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- b. Reach out if you have any questions, shoutout to Senator Johnson who went to the archives and promotions office.
- c. Attended UCS, will be attending again tomorrow.
- d. Badges were discussed in UCS, something you can add to your resume, most students are not aware of.
- e. Working on setting up a time for constitutional task force. Considering the amount of things they want to work on, it will be starting as soon as possible instead of second semester.
- f. Continuing to read over legislation, don't hesitate to reach out with questions while working on legislation.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Nominations and Elections for Vice President of Educational Affairs
 - i. Kidd: will continue to ask each week until the spot is filled. If you are considering running, feel free to reach out to cabinet members with questions.
- b. Conduct Review Amendment
 - i. Rusch: Same as last week, except for one minor grammatical change. Encourages a motion to pass this.
 - ii. Kidd: friendly amendment: 25 must read "twenty-five" in text in addition to number
 - (1) Rusch: accepts friendly amendment
 - iii. Schmidt: fully supports this proposal's passage today. Finally makes it coherent, happy to see that all Rusch's hard work will be passed into the bylaws today.
 - iv. Schmidt: motions to strike the current conduct review process and replace it with this proposed amendment
 - (1) Frappier- 2nd
 - (2) Motion passes unanimously
 - (3) Senate votes unanimously to strike the current conduct review process and replace it with this proposed amendment

VIII. New Business

- a. 2022-23 Priorities
 - i. Frappier: this is what the cabinet has come up with so far from the two strategic planning sessions. Have 3 clear subjects they have chosen. Very important to have goals to discuss with President Mantella tomorrow. The Cabinet has not yet voted on this because they want input from general senators.
 - ii. Biermacher: requests that he reads it outloud.

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- iii. Frappier: reads the document, encourages other cabinet members to expand upon action items
- (1) Bucon: felt like this was a super productive conversation, felt very good exiting the conversation knowing they had 3 concise points to bring to the SLT and work on this year. Likes having statistical ways to track progress.
 - (2) Biermacher: the actions under rebuild are the processes they are planning on changing and improving during CTF. Measures of successes will be worked on to add specificity.
 - (3) Munoz: agrees that this is a working document, reach out to your VP if you have anything to add to ensure these goals are met.
 - (4) Frappier: this is your time to speak up before they bring it to the SLT tomorrow. Feel free to question why they picked these things. Otherwise they will move forward with these tomorrow.
 - (5) Rubos: are there specific plans behind these actions?
 - (a) Kidd: they came together this summer and worked with a facilitator to identify pressing issues for students and student senate. They realized a lot of them were saying the same things; she can share raw data of what they came up with. They realized that senate is small, they struggle recruiting and retaining, they need to work on eliminating barriers to senate which is where rebuilding came from. Representation came from realizing they were lacking representing diverse majors, backgrounds, etc. They have been shifting towards a legislative body all year so that is where recommend came from, it is an umbrella to support writing legislation.
 - (b) Frappier: there are plans behind some of the actions, but they did not have time to discuss all of them during the meeting. Through your actions and ideas you can help get student's perspectives.
 - (6) Bates: Can they give recommendations throughout the semester?
 - (a) Kidd: they will build upon this and add on to this through the next few weeks and then take it to a GA vote and use these priorities to work towards and influence GA and CTF.
 - (b) Kidd: entertains a straphole: raise your hand for one of the following three: yay if you support the beginning of the strategic planning, nay if you don't, no confidence if you have no confidence
 - (i) 9 yays, 1 no confidence
- b. Appointment of Jacob Welch to CAC
- i. Kidd: Jacob is a freshman studying political science and economics and is from Grand Rapids. He was asked the following question and sent his answer:

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- ii. What are you planning to do during your tenure on student senate to represent students?
- (1) Welch: hopes to best represent the student body and change the conditions and pay of student employees. Believes they are underpaid for their work and overworked in some cases. He wants to encourage student commerce in student clubs and bring students together through shared interests. Will also focus on bringing students together with the greater community.
 - (2) Everly: motions to appoint Jacob Welch to CAC
 - (3) Al Moutaa: 2nd
 - (4) Everly: sat in on Jacob's interview. In terms of the new scoring rubric, he scored very well. He talked about his extracurricular experiences, and is very eager to bring what he has learned to GVSU to make changes on campus. Highly competent and gave great answers to the questions. Very excited to hopefully have him on the body.
 - (5) Schmidt: asks why Welch is the only one being appointed from the others that were interviewed with him
 - (a) Everly: SRC meets Wednesdays at 7:00pm, so she has to wait an entire week until the next SRC meeting to discuss candidates. If SRC decides that applicants need a second interview she waits until the next day to email them, and they attend the following week's GA. Quite a lengthy process, working on how to fix it.
 - (b) Frappier: reasons for second interviews?
 - (i) Everly: if their rubric was a lower score than 15, or if they need clarification on committee preferences, sometimes they are not sure where to place people.
 - (ii) Kidd: feel free to ask for interview rubric if needed
 - (c) 14 yays, 3 abstentions
 - (d) Senate votes to appoint Jacob Welch to CAC
 - (e) Kidd: welcomes Welch to CAC
- c. Parking Services Legislation
- i. Schmidt: parking services increased the fine for parking on the sidewalk from \$30 to \$100, without explicitly notifying students. This legislation asks that parking services notifies students and permit holders of any changes in [parking fees, rules or regulations.
 - ii. Frappier: will not pass today because it is the first time it is being presented at GA. Parking services is a big task and expressed as a big issue among students so there is

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- not a clear way to handle it. But this is a good start and he supports this. Schmidt and Munoz are currently working on setting up a meeting with parking services.
- iii. derPilibosian: is there any legislation being written to change this fee?
- (1) Schmidt: is not personally working on it, but would support it. Wants to look at the parking services budget, and heard they got a budget increase but not sure. The fee for parking in the wrong lot also increased, it used to be \$25 now \$35.
- (2) Biggs: \$100 is for parking on sidewalks, this usually means in front of a building which is usually a fire code issue because fire trucks could not pull up if needed.
- iv. Proctor: commending Schmidt for this legislation, believes transparency to students is very important. The student body needs to be aware when changes occur.
- v. Kidd: Some of the buildings are set up that in order for students to unload groceries they pull up on the sidewalk in front of the building.
- (1) Schmidt: it is a common practice for students to park on the sidewalk to unload groceries, during move in week there are a lot of cars that they allow to park there, and parking services parks on sidewalks, so can't imagine it is too big of a fire safety issue.
- (2) Biggs: there is a 15 minute time limit to unload groceries. They take a picture of your car and come back. They are not ticketing people during move-in week.
- (3) Kidd: does parking services communicate with RAs?
- (a) Biggs: yes
- (b) Kidd: if you receive any further communication, please pass along.
- vi. Al Moutaa: motions to allow Schmidt to exceed 2 times on the speakers list
- vii. Al Moutaa: does not think it is too much of a fire hazard, firefighters have long hoses, does not believe a car would block them.
- viii. Schmidt: If they are allowing students to park there for 15 minutes that doesn't show too much of a fire hazard. Has known of people getting tickets for being parked there for less than 10 minutes and got their appeals denied. It is much harder to prove innocence after you get the ticket.
- ix. Frappier: encourages everyone to reach out with parking questions ahead of their meeting with parking services.
- x. Biggs: this is what she was told directly from parking services, not arguing, just trying to share information.
- xi. Rusch: need to be more specific than "specific mass communication" in the legislation, because that could be interpreted in many different ways, such as a tweet which was sent out.
- (1) Schmidt: appreciates that and will make the change

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- xii. Schmidt: appreciates Senator Biggs and her knowledge and appreciates all that was brought to light today.
 - xiii. Munoz: grateful for Senator Biggs's input but the student body is not given that information. Very important what Schmidt is putting forward.
 - xiv. Bucon: Is that information sent to Biggs's supervisor and then shared with her?
 - (1) Biggs: had an entire presentation from parking services during RA training
 - xv. Schmidt: in the process of writing another piece of legislation regarding the farmers market. The farmers market takes up 27 spots in lot G, and it is nearly impossible to find a parking spot even without the farmers market. Want to have a healthy discussion about this too. Shows images from 9:00am of the full G lot with cars circling, and then pictures of the faculty lot which has many open spots. Thinks it is a difficult situation that needs to be addressed due to the fact that students pay \$240 for parking passes.
 - xvi. Schmidt: moves to table this discussion until next week
 - (1) Frappier- 2nd
 - (2) Schmidt: moves to pass with unanimous consent
 - (3) Passes with unanimous consent
 - (4) Senate votes to table this discussion until next week
 - xvii. Kidd: If you have any questions regarding parking services reach out to Schmidt, Munoz, her or Frappier
- d. Student Senate GA Training
- i. Schmidt: Motions to suspend Robert's Rules for this point of the agenda to go through training in a more interactive matter, to be automatically reinstated upon moving to the next agenda point
 - (1) Frappier: 2nd
 - (2) Schmidt: would suspend rules that they are currently using to better ask questions and not be so formal while they are trying to learn
 - (3) Schmidt: moves to carry with unanimous consent
 - (4) Passes with unanimous consent
 - (5) Senate votes to suspend Robert's Rules for this point of the agenda to go through training in a more interactive matter, to be automatically reinstated upon moving to the next agenda point
 - e. Call for New Orders of the Day
 - i. Rusch: motions to enact the previous bylaw amendment regarding the conduct review process immediately

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- (1) Schmidt: 2nd
- (2) Rusch: in the bylaws it states that amendments do not get enacted until the next academic year and we forgot to clarify that in the previous motion
- (3) Schmidt: moves to pass with unanimous consent
- (4) Passes with unanimous consent
- (5) Senate votes to enact the previous bylaw amendment regarding the conduct review process immediately
- ii. Schmidt: motions to enact the guest speakers amendment passed last week immediately
 - (1) Rusch- 2nd
 - (2) Schmidt: same reason Rusch just explained
 - (3) Schmidt: motions to pass with unanimous consent
 - (4) Rusch: objects
 - (5) Passes unanimously
 - (6) Senate votes to enact the guest speakers amendment passed last week immediately

IX. Five Minute Recess

- a. Call meeting back to order 6:27pm

X. Public Comment- Part II

XI. Officer Reports

- a. Rusch: motions to adjourn
 - i. Proctor- 2nd
 - ii. 12 yays, 4 nays, 1 abstention
 - iii. Passes
 - iv. Senate votes to adjourn the meeting

XII. Adjournment: 6:28pm