



General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, September 24th, 2020 — 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

Chair: Eric-John Szczepaniak

Parliamentarian: Hannah Benoit

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- I. Call Meeting to Order: 4:32
 - A. Moment of Silence
 1. Native Land Recognition
 - B. Student Senate Creed
 - C. Pledge of Allegiance
 - D. Roll Call
 - II. **Oath of Office for Student Senators**
 - III. **Public Comment – Part I**
 - A. Loren Rullman - congratulates elected senators; values and is excited to continue the relationship administration has with Student Senate. Thanks last year's body for their work in the previous year
 - B. Phoebe Risk - endorses Senator Hicks for the position of Vice President of Public Relations. Cites previous successes such as the menstrual hygiene products project and encourages vote to be cast for them
 - C. Ryan Fritz - former Vice President of Public Relations. Due to technical problems, was unable to share message
 - D. Journalist Voss - Lanthorn looks forward to further collaboration and work between Senate and the Lanthorn
 - E. David Fountain - President of FIJI endorses Senator Hicks for the position of Vice President of Public Relations and cites previous work experience as well as pursuit in major that qualifies them for the position
 - F. Former Senator Sam Jacobs - endorses Senator Dowker, Senator McMahon, Senator Murarescu, Senator Moine, and Senator Thompson and cites experiences with these individuals which qualifies them for the position, citing them as Servant Leaders
 - G. Former Senator Hugh Boyd endorses Senator Pagel for Vice President of External Relations; Senator Neal for Vice President of Diversity Affairs; Senator Thompson for Vice President of Senate Resources; Senator Murarescu for Vice President of Allocations
 - H. Gracie Barrett - endorses Senator Hicks for Vice President of Public Relations, citing their work with marketing and designs within the Residence Assistance community
 - I. Former VP of PRC Ryan Fritz arrives on call to speak. He suggests not taking the position of PRC lightly; he commends Senator Hicks' abilities and qualifications; endorses Senator Moine

- J. Co-Chair Benoit reads a list of comments from the community - each speaker cites their personal experiences with those they endorse, their achievements in and out of Senate, and their qualifications for the position they are running for
 - 1. Holly Martinez-Cookson - endorses Senator Siegrist
 - 2. Singhe (student) - endorses Senator Siegrist
 - 3. Ally Weaver - endorses Senator Hicks
 - 4. Kate Bodwan (spelling) - endorses Senator Siegrist
 - 5. Jane Walterink - endorses Senator Mueller
 - 6. Former Senator Gillian Garten - endorses Senator Thompson, Senator McMahan, and Senator Hicks
 - 7. Former Senator Max Vazquez - endorses Senator Hicks, Senator Neal, and Senator Murarescu
 - 8. Cole Curtis - endorses Senator Hicks
 - 9. Alexis Sova - endorses Senator Murarescu
 - 10. Former President of Student Senate Rachel Jenkin - endorses Senator Dowker
 - 11. Kayley Boomguard (name) - endorses Senator Hicks
- IV. **Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers**
- V. **President's Report**
 - A. Adoption of the Agenda - stand approved
 - B. Approval of the Minutes
 - 1. Hicks moves to place Senator Samuel's comment (which is under Public Comment) to be moved under Announcements. This motion is seconded by Murarescu. Motion passes under unanimous consent
 - C. To those who are elected to a Cabinet position, please contact the former Cabinet Member to receive transitions report
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
- VII. **New Business**
 - A. Nominations and Voting for President
 - 1. Senator McMahan elects Senator Dowker for Presidency and is seconded by Murarescu. McMahan cites the efforts made by Dowker over the last two years on behalf of Senate which qualifies her.
 - a) Senator Dowker accepts nomination
 - 2. There are no further nominations for President. Body moves into Election period.
 - 3. Senator Dowker speaks: citing personal experiences and accomplishments from serving on senate as a general senator and EVP, being a student employee at the university, and as a student working for a Social Worker degree, Dowker describes qualifications for being an effective leader. Additionally, she plans on scheduling meetings with advisors, attend meetings, and making the effort to work well with GV admin, particularly in handling the university's COVID-19 response
 - 4. Chair Szczepaniak calls for questions

a) Senator Pagel asks: what is your biggest goal for this year? What is one thing you want Student Senate to accomplish?

(1) Dowker responds: all Senate's goals seem small in comparison to the goal of getting through the pandemic. Goal is to support and advocate for students at the administration level in order to make it through

5. Discussion

a) Senator Murarescu - recalls personal experience working with Senator Dowker in the previous year with Senate; fully supports Dowker as president

b) Senator Hicks - commends Senator Dowker's growth over the years and fully endorses her as president

c) Senator Moine - despite disagreeing with Senator Dowker in discussions, never lost respect for her

d) Senator Samuels - endorses Dowker for president

e) Senator Frappier - to the new senators, Senator Dowker is a wonderful fit for president

f) Senator Siegrist - through working with Senator Dowker on President's Ball and CAB, recognizes her as an ideal candidate

6. Voting

a) Senator Dowker is President Elect

B. Nominations and Voting for Executive Vice President

1. Nominations

a) Senator Dowker nominates Senator McMahon and is seconded by Senator Samuels; Dowker provides rationale, citing McMahon's efforts and accomplishments in the past year.

(1) Senator McMahon accepts nomination

2. Nominees speak

a) Senator McMahon is eager to continue making positive and meaningful experiences for GV students; to provide herself as a resource for Cabinet and Senate members alike.

3. Call for Questions

a) Senator Siegrist: Senator McMahon and Senator Siegrist worked together on food committee. Asks, with changes in constitutional taskforce, how will those changes impact the role of EVP this year?

(1) Sen. McMahon responds: Role of EVP more tailored to what it should be. Toward how to support each VP. Moving sub-committees to EVP. Changes will be effective she is ready to build and shape them with the new Cabinet.

4. Discussion

a)

5. Voting

a) Grace McMahon, elected to EVP.

C. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for Senate Resources

1. Nominations
 - a) Sen. Hicks nominates Sen. Jenia Thompson
2. Nominees speak
 - a) Advocate for students. Leadership climate set by VP for SRC. Authentic leadership. Showing up, being present. Transparency. Safe space for all Senators to cultivate a healthy environment in Student Senate. Collective effort - it will take everyone to treat others with respect. Prev. VP of SRC: good judgement and empathy are necessary. Sen. Thompson holds these qualities. This year will be challenging, but also fun and productive. Voting for Jenia = healthy and engaging Student Senate culture.
3. Call for Questions
 - a) Sen. Frapier (spelling): Senate buddies last year. Very supportive. Fit to manage Senate Buddies.
 - b) Sen. Neal: Jenia on SRC last year. Made great changes. Always there for other Senators. Transparent and open minded.
 - c) Sen. Mueller: Served as VP Ed. Affairs. Jenia was on committee. Great ideas for projects. Very well fit for the role.
 - d) Sen. Mururescu: Known Sen. Thompson for several years. Compassionate. She's the right fit for the position.
4. Discussion
5. Motion: President Elect Dowker motioned for Voting by Unanimous Consent.
 - a) One objection - Sen. Murphy
6. Voting:
 - a) Jenia Thompson elected VP for Senate Resources

Motion to break

6:35pm call back to order

D. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for Allocations

1. Nominations:
 - a) Sen. Samuels nominates Sen. Siegreist. Sen. Burkes seconds. Sen. Siegreist accepts.
 - b) Sen. Neal nominates Sen. Mururascu and Sen. Hicks seconds. Sen. Mururascu accepts.
2. Nominees speak
 - a) Sen. Siegreist: 42.1 million deficit in wake of COVID-19. \$1.2 million resource for Student Life Fund. Crucial to protect the Student Life Fun. Junior. Accounting and Finance. Last year was appointed in F19. Worked with Sen. Samuels last year on committee. Understanding of funding boards. RA downtown. MI Youth Education Fund - nonprofit org that he founded. Similar to role of VP for Allocations. Oversee distribution of grant money to K-12. This experience will translate to VP role. Worked over summer with VP Samuels and Eric Stevens. Must be mindful of

Constitutional Taskforce. Moving from standing committee to new committee model. Transparent with funding requests, fiscally responsible. Take duty of distribution of Student Life Fund seriously. Committed to conveying concerns to Cabinet.

Grandpa... "No matter how thin you make it, a pancake always has 2 sides." He understands the importance of respect.

Acknowledges mistakes and seeks to grow as a result. Move forward with renewed passion for GVSU students.

- b) Senator Mururaescu (spell): 3rd term as Senator. Sophomore on Diversity Affairs (FSL, Food Insecurity), VP for Diversity Affairs last year. Worked closely with funding process, new structure of allocations process. Worked alongside administration for 2019 Climate Survey, Teach In, MLK events. Planning, promoting and funding events for large, diverse audiences. Meeting many cultural orgs in her role. Goals: Select, train and provide resources to all members of the funding boards. Prepare training will OSL guidance and with cultural sensitivity in mind. Encourages attending events. Centralize resources. Partner with PRC to increase communication to student orgs. Skills she has developed on Student Senate and as an RA. Reimagine events, etc. as a result of COVID. Adaptability.

3. Call for Questions

- a) Sen. Hicks to both candidates: Without standing committee, how do you plan to being engaged members of body and an active member of cabinet, with this in mind?

- (1) Se. Seigrest: Fundamental role of VP for Allocations. He was a little wary of the change. Don't want this role to be cast aside. More of a hands on role now. MONTHly updates. Informing the body about the Student Life Fund, financial summaries. Depends on how the VP sets the precedent. Accounting and Finance degree will serve him well. Student Senate oversight. Will keep him hands-on and engaged in the body. Position can have ability to stray far away. Takes sound judgement of VP to involve themselves, make themselves represent their constituency. He will be hands on. He will be at every GA.

- (2) Sen. Muraescu: Past year serving as VP of Diversity Affairs. Always represented my committee and Cabinet. Always showed up. Engaged. Giving feedback. Reaching back out. I won't stop doing that. Been active through summer, working with Sen. Samuels, Sen. Seigrest and OSL staff to think through Student Life funding guidelines. Also been an engaged Student Senator. Attended many

events to support my peers. “I have always shown up and I will continue to do so.”

a.) Sen. Neal: To Sen. Murausecu: “What sets you apart from the other candidate?” Alex - She was a part of Cabinet. She knows what goes on. Understands how the budget is split up, had to work with the budget. Intimate knowledge. Familiarized herself with Laker Link requests. Cabinet experience and knowledge of what internal budget requests look like.

b.) Sen Holcomb: To Sen. Siegrist: We are here to represent best interest of students. Can you please explain your vote opposing Title IX this summer. Seigrest answers: “My commitment to respectful disagree. Based on belief that Student Senate should not be involved in that. I believe that we should not be taking a stance on that. I felt that I was representing my student constituency.

(Senator asked for quick recap of Title IX issue: Pres. Szczepaniak responded: Go to Student Senate website to see all legislation. Title IX resolution in regards to Sec. DeVos changes. Student Senate took a position opposed to those changes. See website for more.)

c.) Sen. Moine: To Sen. Siegrist: “What sets you apart from the other candidate? Sen. Siegrist: Recognizes Sen. Murarsecu’s impressive experience in Cabinet. He is familiar with finance and accounting. Most proud accomplishment: Founder and ED for MI Ed Fund. Given him diff perspective - legal and tax compliance. Nonprofit board certification. Familiar with allocations process. I attended every meeting of funding board / appropriations meetings.

4. Discussion

- a) Sen. Samuels: In this role last year as VP for Finance. She knows everything, in depth, that this role entails. She supports Sen. Siegrist. Worked with both candidates. She believes that Sen. Siegrist is more suited for this role. 9 months, he has worked with Sen. Samuels to prepare for running for this role. Funding boards and attendance: Chair of Diversity Affairs attendance issues during Fall and Winter semester. Dedicated and hands on role. Sen. Siegrist is exemplary.
- b) Sen. Moine: Echoing Sen. Samuels. Remember how much work Sen. Siegrist put in to the committee. Learned the rules, Dove in to process of restructuring. Although he wasn’t on cabinet, he was in a role very similar to VP role.
- c) Sen. Krichevsky: Both candidates are good. Sen. Siegrist is trusted by her. Endorses Sen. Siegrist.
- d) Sen. Hicks: Address legislation (Title IX) assure you all that Title IX is within the scope of Student Senate. Impacts student body. Inaccurate for Sen. Siegrist has not reached out with questions, whereas Sen. Murarsecu reaches out. Title IX is very relevant to Student Senate.
- e) Senator Frapier: DEfine relationships (peer and Senate relationships). In and outside of Senate, Sen. Siegrist is great. Issues with Sen. Murarescu personal / professional boundaries and how things were handled. Eric always remains professional.

- f) Senator Holcomb: Ex- Senator Hugh's comments: Sen. Siegrist has done some things that give him pause. History of Sen. Siegrist with "stunts" - voiced frustration and threatened to leave SENate. Concerned that he has brought issues to "stir the pot".
- g) Senator Ferrera: Supporting Sen. Siegrist. Comments about political views. They disagree, but she always feels respected. Does not use his position to push his own agenda. Full confidence in Sen. Siegrist.
- h) Sen. Samuels: As someone who has been on Senate for 3 years, remember that we may not agree with each other. Disappointing that because we hold different views that Siegrist won't do his job in the role. She has full confidence in Sen. Siegrist. You might not agree. Don't have to agree for this person to be a good leader.
- i) MOTION to complete speakers list: Sen. Moine and Sen. Zibiscoksky (spelling) seconded.
- j) Pres. Szczepaniak: Assuming unanimous consent. Motion passed.
- k) Sen. Byers: Point of Information to Chair: Pulled up legislation (S-20-01 Title IX). Question: Clarification about Siegrist position on Title IX. He voted in the minority (24-1). Szczepaniak declined to discuss his motivations for vote.
- l) Sen. Raak: Both candidates political views. Don't mistake their passion for unprofessionalism.
- m) Sen. Murphy: "Pls fill me in with College Republicans controversy?" Sen. Holcomb responds: Re: Pledge of Allegiance. Was an internal issue only affecting Student Senate. Got to GV Republicans through Sen. Siegrist (he may be wrong about that). Nonpartisan issue became a partisan issue. Sen. Holcomb doesn't think that is appropriate.
- n) Sen. Benoit: Refrain from speculation. Ask about legislation. Suggest talking 1:1 with Senators about your questions re: intent.
- o) Sen. Birks: College Republicans. He filled them in. Shouldn't be made into partisan politics.

5. Voting

- a) Senator Siegrist elected Vice President for Allocations

E. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for Public Relations

1. Nominations

- a) Senator Holcomb motions to nominate Senator Hicks, seconded by Senator Weatherwax; rationale: as an outspoken member and great work ethic, their passion, eagerness, and outgoing nature would make them more than qualified for the position
 - (1) Senator Hicks accepts nomination
- b) Senator Siegrist motions to nominates Senator Moine, seconded by Senator Ferrera; as a dedicated, qualified senator, who works tirelessly for students is a wonderful example of leadership
 - (1) Senator Moine accepts nomination

2. Nominees speak

- a) Senator Hicks: has sat on two committees and chaired SAAC subcommittee, wants to support students and the body. Hicks has Co-Chair Benoit send a pdf file describing Hicks' platform and plans for the following year for the senators to peruse; promises "to make the committee more successful and accessible than it has ever been"
- b) Senator Moine: highlights the importance of being an effective servant leader; the importance of building a positive repertoire and Senate's accessibility, and providing resources to Senate as well as the student body

3. Call for Questions

- a) Senator Siegrist, to Hicks: time commitment is important and Hicks has a lot of plans for this year, how do you feel you'll have time for Senate and VP?
 - (1) Hicks would appreciate if their private Twitter remained private (in reference to a quote that Siegrist presented); Hicks has dropped some commitments in order to better dedicate time to Student Senate, which can be evidenced in Menstrual Hygiene Project
- b) Senator Weatherwax, to both: what experience do each of you have outside of senate which qualifies you?
 - (1) Moine: Starting from her first leadership roles, she's focused on relationships with people; she strives to be approachable, to lead people in a bigger-picture way; would say that everything she has done thus far has given her the experience to be level-headed
 - (2) Hicks: responsibilities for PRC also includes marketing and outreach which requires level-headedness as well; through experience on Student Senate as well as RA position and previous occupations such as marketing for a local business during high school
- c) Senator Samuels, for Senator Hicks: how much of the packet that is provided is directly taken from former transitions reports from former senators?
 - (1) Hicks received VP Fritz's transitions reports in the summer, but this packet was created in February/March which was before they spoke with other VPs. Additionally, they did not request any other transitions reports from VPs other than Fritz
- d) Seigrist motions to extend question time for another 3 questions each, seconded by Thompson, for a total of six per candidate
 - (1) Motion is approved with unanimous consent

- e) Senator Murarescu, for Senator Hicks: how do you plan on balancing being critical of the university while also working beside them?
 - (1) Has been able to work alongside admin and the university while also criticizing them; as is evidenced in the Menstrual Hygiene Products project
- f) Senator Thompson, for both: what sets you apart from the other candidate?
 - (1) Senator Hicks: well-rounded experience on Senate within two committees and chairing a sub-committee, real-world experience in addition to marketing major
 - (2) Senator Moine: has proven this year that she is capable of setting aside outside emotions and is capable of working with others of different views; though she is not pursuing a marketing degree, she values that the committee will be filled with people with different advantages and skills and will utilize them
- g) Senator Mueller, to both: prefacing that meeting with predecessor is very important, did both of you meet with VP Fritz and what happened if you did talk to him?
 - (1) Moine: yes, important to lean on the strengths of others; Fritz provided her with the support to be a productive senator as well as to be prepared for this role; reached out as well to another former VP of PRC
 - (2) Hicks: did not get the opportunity to meet, due to scheduling conflicts. Instead, pursued meetings and conversations with other current and former members of Cabinet
- h) Senator Thompson, for Moine: Senator Hicks mentioned the Lanthorn article how decisions made in the previous school years catered to the University as opposed to students, what is your plan of action to prevent this kind of precedent from being set?
 - (1) Moine: important to find a balance between being critical while also speaking for all of the students as opposed to a select group of students. Outreach is important, but it is also important to set a culture that is balanced in which we are listening to all students and administration

4. Discussion

- a) Senator Ferreyra: just because someone is in a lot of organizations and clubs does not mean they will be a good leader. Endorses Senator Moine
- b) Senator Pearson: endorses Senator Moine, knows her through a professional relationship as a tour guide. Moine stepped up to the position when a Covid outbreak hit the office; great role model and support

- c) Senator Siegrist: references care and generosity that Moine has; articulated opinion with respect
- d) Senator Samuels: has worked with both nominees, feels Moine has shown the necessary growth and level-headedness required for the position. States that Hicks' shared documents have an overwhelming amount of similarities between them and the transitions report. Endorses Moine
- e) Senator Krichevski: endorses Senator Moine; has felt comfortable and confident in her leadership skills as well as expressing herself professionally
- f) Holcomb: the only person who has shown how seriously they have taken this position is Senator Hicks - through their packet and projects. Shares that it may be fair to say that Hicks did not feel comfortable reaching out to Fritz, or feel the necessity. Highlights that the student body has already made their decision: Hicks has received more votes than any other senator, and references the number of students who spoke at public comment
- g) *Senator Samuels motions to extend discussion by five minutes, seconded by Senator Pagel*
(1) Motion passes assuming unanimous consent
- h) Senator Stevens: although they see Senator Hicks as a kind and giving person, endorses Moine
- i) Senator Murarescu: Senator Hicks has worked hard for this, have accomplished so many projects and would say that they are the most productive senator. Urges individuals to put aside personal perceptions, Hicks has the qualities required to be successful in this position
- j) Samuels: the anecdote Senator Holcomb presented is false.
- k) *Siegrist motions to exhaust speakers list but extend speaking time to allow for the remaining two on the list to speak, seconded by Ferreyra*
- l) Senator Byers: Hicks messaged the 2024 Facebook group to encourage individuals to run for Senate; they are a kind and considerate individual and what they have done has been impactful. Student body would probably be disappointed if Hicks was not appointed
- m) Senator Thompson: was mentioned briefly that Senator Hicks' busy schedule may impact ability, Thompson disagrees. Hicks has shown they are more than capable; important to remain unbiased.

5. Voting

- a) Senator Moine is elected

F. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for Campus Affairs

1. Nominations

- a) Senator Mueller nominates Senator Holcomb; was so impressed with his work on EAC, his ideas, passion and ideas are there; seconded by Senator Weatherwax
 - (1) Senator Holcomb accepts the nomination
 - 2. Nominees speak
 - a) Holcomb: references their assistantship in the Women and Genders Equity department, as well as their successful Sit With Me project in the libraries; is passionate about improving campus culture; understands that with current events it is likely for things to get worse before they get better, but they highlight the importance of beginning the positive healing process; will continue to help GV adapt and will support adapting students; advocates for more transparency
 - 3. Call for Questions
 - a) Senator Thompson: how will you improve CAC from previous years?
 - (1) McMahan did a wonderful job, but we are seeing a dramatic change from previous years. It is important to keep the student body connected with the various offices around campus; feels it would be ideal for one or two senators to be connected with each office to monitor changes in policies
 - b) Weatherwax: what are you most excited to bring to this position?
 - (1) The cohort model utilized in their assistantship gives him a unique field of connections that allows for greater accessibility; bringing these allies in is significant
 - 4. Discussion
 - a) Senator Frappier: endorses Holcomb; knew him as an RA and a transitions leader, was encouraged by him to join Senate; feels he is a great leader who will take his role seriously
 - 5. Voting
 - a) Senator Holcomb is elected
- G. *Chair enacts a ten minute recess*
- H. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for Educational Affairs
 - 1. Nominations
 - a) Senator Samuels nominates Senator Mueller, seconded by VP Moine; rationalizes that Mueller has fulfilled the role beyond well and has seen many successes as general senator and EAC VP
 - (1) Senator Mueller accepts nomination
 - 2. Nominees speak
 - a) Senator Mueller: EAC adapts and serves to an ever-changing committee; wants to ensure that student voices are heard in academic committees and university administration as well as the university libraries; emphasizes the importance of engagement in education-oriented issues and topics. Is particularly excited to

promote open education resources and decreasing textbook costs, as well as Last Lecture

3. Call for Questions - none

4. Discussion

- a) Moine: did not work closely with Senator Mueller, but does not trust anyone more than her. She is incredibly knowledgeable about all topics Educational Affairs and it's a blessing to have her on Cabinet
- b) Senator Samuels: loved working with Senator Mueller on cabinet in the previous year; there is no reason to not have the utmost confidence in her
- c) Senator Stevens: even as a new face, Stevens feels Mueller is incredibly impressive with her knowledge and that we can trust her whole-heartedly

5. Voting

- a) Senator Mueller is elected

I. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for Diversity Affairs

1. Nominations

- a) Senator Pagel nominates Senator Sanders, seconded by Senator Mueller; feels he brings a great experience to Senate through various participation in university programs and student orgs
 - (1) Senator Sanders accepts nomination
- b) Senator Moine nominates Senator Neal, seconded by Senator Murarescu; Neal has the characteristics needed and was also a member of DAC last year which demonstrated her passion
 - (1) Senator Neal accepts nomination

2. Nominees speak

- a) Senator Sanders: Senate is a place to make oneself vulnerable in order to serve and make a prosperous one's society. Making a difference requires boldness, humbleness, courage, passion, a sense of servanthood; diversity is found not only in race, but in sexuality, in veteran students, in students of various financial standings, etc.; Senate must focus on inclusion and equity for all students; cites his personal experience as a youth advocate including his work in Flint, participating in the GV Next series, speaking at an MLK week event, etc.
- b) Senator Neal: served as a committee member on DAC in the past year; cites experience as being a part of Food Insecurity Task Force, hosting a Teach-In, etc. committee needs to focus on strengthening relationships between cultural organizations as well as social justice centers; one of main goals is to ensure transparency about racism on campus; recently GV cut multiple programs, (such as interfaith resources), will strive to use her voice to continue to support students

3. Call for Questions

- a) Senator Siegrist, for both: what is the main goal/theme for DAC this year?
 - (1) Senator Sanders: building a relationship with Student body first - important to hear from the students what they want and need and put that in the forefront of the agenda
 - (2) Senator Neal: strengthen relationship with cultural organizations (in spite of limitations of virtual realm); encourage communications and make Senate more accessible and approachable
- b) Senator Gineman, for both: how will your personal experiences affect them in this position?
 - (1) Neal: has worked at the Office of Multicultural Affairs, hears all of the conversations which are present; was a Peer Mentor last year whose events are focused on social justice and democracy; also is studying human rights, which she can tie in to work with committee
 - (2) Sanders: it is important to remember that all lives do matter and the underrepresented group on campus need the support; it's difficult to be a student in a place where there is no one who looks like you; important to produce a more inclusive and comfortable student body to teach and learn from each other in order to have difficult and needed conversations
- c) Senator Ortiz, for both: what events or plans do you have to include all ethnicities/races on campus?
 - (1) Senator Sanders: conversations are important, start with conversation in-person where one can; emphasizes the importance of understanding where people come from
 - (2) Senator Neal: conversations are great; perhaps after COVID have people sit in in-person meetings and have other orgs speak on what Senate can do for them; had planned Undocumented and DACA students day, uses this as an example for future events

4. Discussion

- a) Senator Siegrist: we have two highly qualified candidates for this position, feels that both candidates will represent DAC well
- b) Senator Ferreyra: worked closely with Senator Neal and knows her to bring a lot to the table in terms of experience and ideas
- c) Senator Thompson: endorses Senator Neal, is an authentic leader and believes she would be the best option
- d) Senator Murarescu: Neal is driven, a self-starter, a dependable member, problem-solver and provides resources; DAC's projects aren't always able to have full closure, so it would be beneficial to have a VP who continued over from the last year

- e) Senator Krichevsky: endorses Senator Neal, citing her experience and knowledge
- f) Senator Frappier: Senator Neal's experience would be very important; though both of them would do phenomenal on the committee, it will take some time for a newcomer to adjust

5. Voting

- a) Senator Neal is elected

J. Nominations and Voting for Vice President for External Relations

1. Nominations

- a) Senator Mueller nominates Senator Pagel, rational is Pagel is a hard-working individual and was an amazing, successful VP in he previous year; his achievements with SCHEF and other work on campus speaks to his qualifications; Siegrist seconds.

(1) Pagel accepts

- b) Senator Trainor nominates Zbikowski and is seconded by Korte; rationalizes that his developed skills and personal life experience would be ideal; his unbiased opinion and dedication to promoting equity for the student body assures her that he will do well

- c) Zbikowski accepts the nomination

2. Nominees speak

- a) Pagel: having served on PRC and ERC, has had a unique experience working on and off campus on behalf of GV. The focus in the previous year was to work with other student gov'ts; worked with CLC to promote civic engagement; worked for Allendale charter township - going local would be the plan for 20-21 year

- b) Zbikowski: as a first generation student, a navy veteran, (among others), worked as a public affairs officer to bridge a connection with the community surrounding the base; has worked as a liaison between GV and veterans through Laker Vets, in which he made real-time significant progress; as VP, would address community relations and civic engagement with a multifaceted approach, partnering with local high and middle schools in the region to better prep students for college and to drive initiatives that would further support the Grand Rapids area; to support nonviolent protests for civil liberties; would work to push initiatives at the State level; a fresh perspective will allow for Senate to expand upon past projects and generate new ones

3. Call for Questions

- a) Senator Moine, to Senator Zbikowski: excited for the fresh voice and unique perspective he will bring to body; knowing that last year ERC worked with other student bodies, are there any plans to continue engaging in those relationships?

(1) Zbikowski: wants to continue the work which has already been done, emphasizing the learning and teaching that can be exchanged between universities; would like to see BoV

brought back as a fundraising campaign that's lead by both student gov'ts

- b) Senator Samuels, for Zbikowski: have you had any conversations with former senators to understand what the ERC leadership role entails?
 - (1) Reached out to previous senators, of previous bodies as well as the 19-20 body;
- c) Senator Moine, for Senator Pagel: do you have any thoughts on BoV?
 - (1) Pagel: SVSU has planned their own campus event for this year; would love to work with them in the future. Getting some sort of philanthropy on campus for the surrounding areas is essential to this year, even if it's not BoV
- d) Senator Siegrist, for Pagel: what your work with SCHEF will look like this year and how it will be expanded?
 - (1) There is a good team to spearhead a strategic avenue for SCHEF; at the following conference believes it will be completely formalized and then begin to truly start the work on behalf of the students.

4. Discussion

- a) Senator Moine: endorses Senator Pagel; is thoroughly excited for Zbikowski's perspective on the body; saw Pagel work immensely hard throughout the last year, traveling and speaking with other schools, working on SCHEF, involving the community, etc. Important to recognize the work he has done and the continuity which can push ERC in a strong direction
- b) Senator Samuels: reiterate Moine's point that Zbikowski's experience is significant; however, endorses Pagel. He is dedicated and more than qualified
- c) Senator Raak: endorses Pagel, important to keep the continuity, and his skills are unmatched
- d) Siegrist: both candidates are highly qualified, each bring their own strengths and own perspectives which is appreciated and will make an amazing body. Endorses Pagel, has worked with Pagel through MEF and knows his strengths are ideal for ERC

5. Voting

- a) Senator Pagel is elected

K. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY

VIII. Public Comment – Part II

- A. Melissa Baker-Boosamra: congratulates those who ran and those who were elected, as well as all of the senators for being a part of the process; shares that she is impressed with all senators' commitments to the student body. Also thanks leadership from the previous year for their work and commitment

IX. Call for Announcements

- A. McMahon - the body will receive an email from her within the next week that is important for everyone to read through as there will be links and things to fill out which will need to be filled out; as well as the plan for next week's modules; Cabinet will receive communication from President and VP in regards to meeting times
 - B. Samuels - expresses excitement to work with everyone this year; if anyone has questions, they are welcome to ask her
 - C. Dowker - emphasizes listening to McMahon's announcement
 - D. Thompson - in the future, let's keep personal information of other senators out of the conversation, especially when it is not pertinent to the conversation.
 - E. Szczepaniak - appreciate those who sat through this and participated in strong discussion; is always able to chat with anyone on the body; can't wait to see what Senate will accomplish.
 - 1. Swears in the new officers
- X. **Adjournment: 10:19pm**