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| Bill Number: | W-23-03 | Sponsored By: | President Faith Kidd Vice President Z. Schmidt |
| Introduced On: | 3-16-23 | | |
| Voted On: | 3-23-23 | | |
| Result: | Passed | | |
| Vote Count: | 16-1-0 | | |

A BILL TO: Update Compensation Package Offered to Student Senate Cabinet Members to Eliminate Financial Barriers

Recognizing, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate is currently composed of fifty (50) senators, nine (9) of which are cabinet, or Executive Board Members¹; and

Recognizing, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate stipends are currently flat rate amounts, awarded to Cabinet members at the conclusion of the fall and winter semesters²;

Recognizing, within the current stipend system, all funds are drawn from the Office of Student Life’s student employment budget³; and

Recognizing, that there currently is no predetermined or fixed semesterly stipend amount for any of the nine (9) Cabinet positions⁴. These amounts are instead determined semesterly in conjunction with the Staff Advisor; and

Recognizing, during the 2022/2023 academic year, the stipend amounts were as follows:

- President- \$1500/semester
- Executive Vice President- \$1200/semester
- Vice President of Allocations- \$900/semester
- Remaining Vice President roles- \$700/semester; and

¹https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_2020_constitution_3_1.pdf

²https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_bylaws_2021-2022_4.pdf

³https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/8D86E681-E631-FDD9-C965A207536EA137/2022-23_general_fund_budget_-_approved.pdf

⁴https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_bylaws_2021-2022_4.pdf

Whereas, cabinet members invest an average of ten (10) to twenty (20) hours per week to Student Senate-related projects; and

Whereas, calculated at fifteen (15) hours per week, the President earns approximately \$6.66 per hour, the Executive Vice President earns approximately \$5.33 per hour, the Vice President for Allocations earns approximately \$4 per hour, and the remaining Vice President positions earn approximately \$3.11 per hour; and

Recognizing, as of January 2023, the Michigan minimum wage is \$10.10 per hour⁵ meaning that Student Government Executive Board Members are not compensated at the state minimum for their time; and

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University is undercompensating their student leaders in comparison to other Michigan universities. The average compensation package given to a Student Government president in Michigan as of 2022 was \$5,319 per semester⁶; and

Recognizing, Eastern Michigan University, a Division I publicly funded state institution with an undergraduate enrollment of 11,617⁷, provides their student government leadership with a twelve (12) dollars an hour compensation package capped at twenty-nine (29) hours worked per week⁸; and

Recognizing, calculated as a percentage of their total General Fund Budget, Eastern Michigan University allocates .03% to student government leadership compensation; and

Recognizing, calculated as a percentage, GVSU currently allocates .004% of the General Fund Budget to student government leadership compensation; and

Recognizing, Central Michigan University and University of Michigan - Flint, both public institutions with varying enrollment sizes and funding sources, provide full tuition benefits to their Student Government Presidents; and

Whereas, Grand Valley State University is undercompensating their student leaders in comparison to a variety of out-of-state universities; and

Recognizing, Winona State University, in Minnesota, provides their President with \$6,000 over biweekly periods, the Vice President and Treasurer receive \$5,000 in quarterly periods, and chairs and government staff earn roughly \$900 annually; and

⁵<https://www.michigan.gov/leo/news/2022/12/05/michigan-minimum-wage-set-to-increase-on-january-1-2023>

⁶

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cU-9B_PuYiceqFIR5JX_K7HHQD-EZzPFuN9xQatxrdQ/edit#gid=0

⁷ <https://www.emich.edu/facts/index.php>

⁸https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Du_le2R8vWah7ybVw88Zmt29XB1tBduu/edit#gid=1742737104

Recognizing, Georgia State University provides the Student Government President with \$6,000/year, and provides a stipend of \$3,000/year to the Executive Vice President; and

Recognizing, University of South Alabama delivers monthly stipends of \$100-\$675/month based on leadership positions; and

Recognizing, the University of South Alabama, Georgia State University, and Winona State University have varying undergraduate enrollment sizes that vary from approximately 5,000⁹ students to approximately 28,000 students¹⁰; and

Whereas, GVSU offers a more competitive compensation package to other student leadership positions on campus, such as Graduate Assistantships and Resident Assistantships; and

Recognizing, graduate assistantships at GVSU are paid \$13,000 a year for twenty (20) hours per week of work spanning 9 months¹¹; and

Recognizing, GVSU offers resident assistants (RAs) fully subsidized room and board which has a total approximate value of \$10,000 a year¹²; and

Recognizing, students at GVSU have financial obligations that prevent them from participating in extracurriculars such as Student Senate¹³; and

Whereas, the Student Senate believes that providing student leaders a more competitive compensation package would allow them to commit the necessary time to fully and rigorously represent student needs and address student concerns; and

Whereas, the Student Senate believes that increasing the stipend amounts given to Student Senate members will eliminate financial barriers of entry for students which will increase participation of diverse populations; and

Therefore, Let it be resolved, that the Student Senate requests an increase in our compensation package, and provides two alternatives as follows:

- A) Updating the Student Senate compensation structure to award the Cabinet members an hourly rate of pay based on their position for up to 20 hours per week. They would log their weekly hours with the Student Senate Advisor.
 - a) The President would be compensated 13.50/hour. This would total up to \$4,050 a semester.

⁹<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/winona-state-2394#:~:text=Winona%20State%20University%20is%20a.campus%20size%20is%20125%20acres>

¹⁰<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/georgia-state-university-1574#:~:text=It%20has%20a%20total%20undergraduate.is%20National%20Universities%2C%20%23234>

¹¹<https://www.gvsu.edu/pnha/graduate-assistantships-79.htm#:~:text=In%20return%2C%20assistantships%20provide%20a.to%204.5%20credits%20per%20semester>

¹² <https://services.gvsu.edu/TDCClient/60/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=5559>

¹³ <https://www.gvsu.edu/catalog/navigation/costs-and-financial-aid.htm>

- b) The Executive Vice President would be compensated \$13.00/hour. This would total up to \$3,900 a semester.
 - c) The Vice President for Allocations would be compensated \$12.50/hour. This would total up to \$3,750 per semester.
 - d) The remaining six(6) Vice Presidents would be compensated \$12.00/hour. This would total up to \$3,600 per semester.
 - e) The total amount that would have to be allocated per year to fund these compensation packages would be a maximum of: \$66,000. GVSU is currently allocating \$15,600 per year for student government compensation. This would be a 323.077% increase in total funds allocated for student government compensation packages. If the GVSU Student Senate were allocated the requested stipend amounts, it would be .02% of the General Fund Budget.
- B) Paying a flat-rate stipend in quarterly deposits per semester based on their position.
- a) The President would be compensated \$2,025 in quarterly stipends totaling \$4,050 per semester.
 - b) The Executive Vice President would be compensated \$1,950 in quarterly stipends totaling \$3,900 per semester.
 - c) The Vice President for allocations would be compensated \$1,875 in quarterly stipends totaling \$3,750 per semester.
 - d) The other six (6) Vice Presidents would be compensated \$1,800 in quarterly stipends totaling \$3,600 per semester.
 - e) The total amount that would have to be allocated per year to fund these compensation packages would be a maximum of: \$66,000. GVSU is currently allocating \$15,600 per year for student government compensation. This would be a 323.077% increase in total funds allocated for student government compensation packages. If the GVSU Student Senate were allocated the requested stipend amounts, it would be .02% of the General Fund Budget; and

Furthermore, Let it be resolved, that the GVSU Student Senate recommends that the updated compensation model would be funded by increasing and utilizing a portion of the Office of Student Life budget. The purpose of the Office of Student Life is to enhance campus life and individual student development at Grand Valley State University. Student Life fosters learning, development, wellness, and success for students at Grand Valley State University. To adequately fund these changes, the Office of Student Life budget would need to be increased by \$66,000 per year; and

Furthermore, Let it be resolved, that the updated compensation package would be written into the annual Office of Student Life budget; and

Furthermore, Let it be resolved, that the compensation package can be reevaluated at anytime should organizational or financial circumstances change; and

Furthermore, Let it be resolved, the updated financial compensation package offered to Student Senate should take effect for the 2024/2025 Student Senate body.