

# Grand Valley State University Student Senate

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Thursday, November 6th, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 PM

Chair: Evan Jackson

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe

Parliamentarian: William Laurin



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### *Agenda*

#### **1. Call To Order**

- a. Approval of the Minutes
  - i. Previous minutes stand approved.
- b. Passing of the Papers
  - i. There were no papers to be passed.

#### **2. Public Comment**

#### **3. Executive Reports**

- a. **President** - Evan Jackson
  - i. Good evening, everyone. I want to provide an update on the SPARK Fund. After thoughtful discussion, we have decided to pause the program for the remainder of the semester and relaunch it in the winter. While it's unfortunate to step back temporarily, this decision ensures we have the proper support systems and processes in place so that RSOs can host successful, well-supported events that reflect positively on both Student Senate and our partners. Please share this with any organizations you're part of and encourage them to reach out about hosting an event in the winter.
  - ii. Looking ahead, we have two more meetings this semester. Our final General Assembly of the semester will be on November 20 at the Seidman College of Business, Room 138E on the City Campus. We'll be joined by Laker Food Co. for a discussion on how we can better support their work, and we'll also be voting on endorsement for the Reach Higher Strategic Plan and the Academic Affairs Strategic Framework.
  - iii. To close the semester, our Celebration of a Semester of Impact will take place on December 4 at 5:15 p.m. This will take place at The Meadows

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Clubhouse. This will be an evening of recognition, food, awards, and reflection on the work we've accomplished together—and a chance to look forward to what's next.

- iv. Before we adjourn tonight, I want to emphasize the importance of the internal surveys—the climate, cabinet, and executive performance surveys. Please be honest and candid in your responses. Your feedback is crucial in shaping our growth and effectiveness as a body.
- v. Lastly, Laura Aikens and Elizabeth Doyle from RHCLN will be joining us at Cabinet this evening. If you still have questions or want to better understand the Reach Higher plan ahead of the 11/20 vote, I strongly encourage you to attend. They've been incredibly open to student feedback and are eager to ensure our perspectives are central to this process.
- vi. With that, I'll turn it over to Vice President Vanlerberghe.

**b. Vice President - Ty Vanlerberghe**

- i. Happy Thursday! I hope you all had a great halloween weekend and are looking forward to the snow that we are getting this weekend! Just a couple updates from me.
- ii. First, on Monday, Senator Rodgers and I met with Edward Jones II from the Center of Health and Well-being to discuss our Health Vending Machines bill from last year and provide updates with their implementation process. There are strong plans to have machines available on campus by the end of next semester, and have appointed Chair McDonough and Senator Rodgers, Finley, Stang, and Lipscomb to their Community Health Advisory Team to oversee the process.

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- iii. Second, the past weeks, our leadership has been working closely with campus partners through the Reach Higher Explainer Sessions to help educate the university community on the next phase of the Reach Higher strategic plan. These sessions, hosted across the Valley and City campuses, have been an excellent opportunity to engage faculty, staff, and students in shared governance and demonstrate how community input continues to shape the university's priorities.
- iv. Third, and finally, as you may know, Evan and I will not be returning to Student Senate next year because of graduation and other academic commitments. Although it is very early in the year, we are committed to having a smooth leadership transition and invite anyone interested in running for President or Vice President next year to meet with us and ask questions. For a timeline, those interested should have a confirmed idea of their candidacy by the end of winter break, and we only have one more GA after tonight before the end of the semester.
- v. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I yield to Chief of Staff Laurin.
- c. **Chief of Staff - William Laurin**
  - i. Good afternoon everyone, I hope we all had a safe and fun Halloween and are ready to knock this final stretch of the semester out of the park! I don't have a lot for you all today, just a couple of updates and reminders.
  - ii. First, I am saddened to inform you all that Senator Dykstra and Senator Vandyke are no longer with us on Senate. If you see them around, please give them thanks for their time with us and we wish

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them success in their future endeavours.

- iii. Secondly, I wanted to remind you all that we are approaching the deadline for our first semester event requirements, so please make sure we are being proactive about getting those done! On a similar note, we are already in November, meaning the end of the year is only a stones throw away. As such, some of you may be thinking about an executive position, Chief of Staff hopefully being one of them.
- iv. If any of you have questions about the position and its entailing responsibilities, my door is always open to share more about what it is I do.
- v. That is all from me tonight, I yield to President Jackson.

#### **4. Mid-Semester Review & Feedback**

- a. Climate Survey
  - i. Cabinet members and faculty advisors left the room, as the rest of the Student Senate General Assembly completed a survey to gauge their experience on Student Senate and the performance of leadership.
- b. Executive Team Performance Survey
  - i. President Jackson, Vice President Vanlerberghe, Chief of Staff Laurin, and faculty advisors left the room as the rest of the Student Senate General Assembly completed a survey to gauge executive leadership performance and communication.

#### **5. Legislation Work Shop**

- a. Chair McDonough walked the General Assembly through a legislation workshop presentation, informing the body about the proper process and providing additional information.

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### 6. Call for Announcements

#### a. Advisor Reports

- i. No report was discussed.

#### b. Chair Reports

##### i. Allocations - Lukas Hartley

1. Hi everyone, hope your Halloweekend was good. A few updates from Allo: Two weeks ago, we funded events from Women in Business, Latino Student Union, and Kpop Group! Also, Aux Cord Wars was held last night! We are still waiting on final numbers, but it looked like a good crowd and then everyone in attendance was having fun. In the future, I'd like to see more Senators there. For this week, we're hearing requests from: Indiana Student Association You Beautiful Black WOMen African Student Council And Irish Dance Club. Thanks everyone, and have a good weekend!

##### ii. Public Relations - Sophie Gemmen

1. Hello everyone, and happy Thursday!
2. Thank you to everyone who submitted your merch order form. In the next few days, I will be reaching out to everyone who ordered individually to remind you of your total and where to send the payment. Please reach out to me if there are any questions or complications with this process!
3. Chair McDonough will touch on the specifics, but PRC is excited to be partnering with Policy to focus on promoting Replenish services in the month of November. We will be updating the bulletin board to function as a physical information hub, adding

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content to social media, and updating aspects of the website to redirect students to where they can help or receive help. Please reach out to me or anyone in my committee if you have additional ideas or questions about this.

4. I believe that is all from me today! Thanks all.

iii. Advocacy - Genna Wright

1. Hi everyone! Happy Thursday!
2. I first want to thank everyone who attended the advocacy committee's first ever disability expression forum! The event went truly amazing, it was informative and impactful and went better than we all could've imagined.
3. Thank you to everyone who volunteered this morning for our final teach-in tabling and on that note I really would like to see all of you in attendance for the Teach-In! It is over the course of two days November 12th and 13th- at Seidman Center (12th) and the Kirkhof Center (13th) we have fellow senators presenting, there will be tons of informational sessions and also I would like to see everyone attend the self-reflection panel that Annah and I will be speaking on, which will take place on the 13th from 5:30-7 in the Grand River Room.
4. With that being said, I hope to see you all there and I hope everyone has a great weekend!

iv. Policy - Cera McDonough

v. Events - Karen Theakston

1. Happy National Saxophone Day!

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2. First for those who are not aware Professor Austin will be our speaker for the Last Lecture and he is so excited to do this opportunity. This is on November 18th from 5-6:30pm in Kirkhoff room 2270. We will most likely be tabling for the last lecture on the week of the event so expect a sign-up for that soon!
3. Finally, we are also hoping to have a bonding event this month on either the 14th or 21st just to hangout in the office to play games and have snacks. So expect a poll on which day works best in the bonding channel.

c. General Announcements

- i. Uppala: There will be a Career Development program, for students to learn more about career pathways and to get headshots. If you are interested, we'd be happy to have you!
- ii. Mulvenna: Bella and I had a very successful meeting with the CHP Dean. We are happy to say that we are working on two different projects, one a piece of legislation.
- iii. Frikken: This project is up in the air, but Grace and I are trying to hold a Understanding Future Professions. This can help undergraduate and graduate students find some information about careers in healthcare.
- iv. Scott: Good evening. Recently I met with the Dean of the College of Education and Community Innovation to discuss experiences in the university. She shared that employers continue to give positive feedback on Grand Valley students and alumni in their careers. Efforts are being made to provide more information to students. We also discussed student experiences on the City campus. They are interested in working collaboratively with the Senate to improve conflicts across campuses.

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- v. Pandey: I met with the Dean of the College of Computing. He shared some exciting information with us. They are launching a new interdisciplinary studies program, for more flexible graduate requirements alongside internships. We also discussed creating programs surrounding AI, which are planning to be launched next fall. Overall, the college is focusing on engagement and student involvement.
- vi. Jackson: We are not meeting next week, due to the Teach-Ins. I expect all of you to attend to at least one. There are online option alternatives. Our next meeting will be downtown in the Seidman College of Business.

### **7. Public Comment**

### **8. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.