

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Thursday, January 22nd, 2026

Zoom, 5:15 PM

Chair: Evan Jackson

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe

Parliamentarian: William Laurin



Agenda

1. Call To Order

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. The previous meeting's minutes stand approved.
- b. Passing of the Papers
 - i. Vice President Vanlerberghe passed a survey from the Information Technology department to shape their departmental development strategic plan.

2. Public Comment

3. Executive Reports

- a. **President** - Evan Jackson
 - i. Good afternoon, everyone.
 1. I want to start by acknowledging the week we've had. Between snow days and the cold, it's been a disruptive start back. I really appreciate everyone making the effort to be here tonight. Thank you all for your flexibility and for adjusting on short notice.
 2. I also want to take a moment to welcome several new senators who are officially joining us this evening to fill vacancies. We're glad to have you here, and we appreciate your willingness to step into this work. We're looking forward to your perspective and your contributions as we move through the semester.
 3. You'll notice that tonight's agenda is more condensed than usual. We had originally planned to be joined by Donta Truss, Vice President for Enrollment Development and College Futures, along with members of his team. Due to the change in format and weather-related constraints, we'll be working with Vice President

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Truss and his team to reschedule that conversation for a future General Assembly.

4. As a result, we'll keep tonight's meeting focused and efficient.

Later this evening, we'll be voting on resolutions to endorse the university's strategic planning materials, as well as reviewing and voting on the materials for our upcoming Student Senate elections. Both items are important for alignment and continuity, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged as we move through them.

5. Thank you again for being adaptable this evening. I yield to Vice President Vanlerberghe

b. **Vice President** - Ty Vanlerberghe

- i. Happy Thursday, everyone! I hope you all had some restful snow days. I am very upset that I am not seeing your lovely faces in Pere Marquette today, however, I am glad everyone is able to stay home and stay safe. Just a couple of quick updates.

1. First, as a reminder, Laker Food Co. is holding a Student Senate-specific listening session this coming Tuesday, January 27th from 5-6 PM in Kirkhof Center. This is a gracious opportunity extended to us, so please make a point to come if you are available. You can RSVP by responding to the invite email sent by Deb Rambandt, or if you are a new member, by letting me know after this meeting.
2. Second, in partnership with the IT division here on campus, Student Senate will be co-hosting two student listening sessions to help gather student perspectives for their new strategic plan, parallel to Reach Higher Together. One session will take place this

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Tuesday, January 27th from 11:30-12:30PM in this room, Pere Marquette. The other will take place Thursday, February 5th from 11:30-12:30 PM in the Seidman Center on City Campus. We need several students to help out with this, so please Slack me if you are interested.

3. Third, new members have been added to our Shared Google Drive, Slack, Committee Slack Channels, and our emailing list. If by any chance you did not get Evan's message in General Business today, my weekly email or Evan's email, or notification of your committee meeting by your Chair in Slack today, please let me know ASAP, so we can fix that.
4. Finally, I have scheduled headshots and committee photos for before our GA on Thursday, February 5th from 4:00-5:15 PM. Please mark this date down and dress nicely. Returning members that already have a headshot do not need to retake theirs, but will have to participate in committee photos. Please look out for a slot sign-up here shortly in Slack.
5. If there are no questions, I will yield to Chief of Staff Laurin.

c. **Chief of Staff** - William Laurin

4. New Member Swearing-In and Committee Appointments

- a. All new Senators were sworn-in by President Jackson.
- b. New members were appointed to their respective committees.
 - i. Gemmen: Motion to appoint Emma Leonard, Jazmyne Rees, Lourdes Stokes, Carma Tavern, and Rashaad Williams to the Public Relations Committee.
 1. Hartley: Second.

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2. Vanlerberghe: Motion to carry with unanimous consent.
- ii. Wright: Motion to appoint Mai Sanour and Gabrielle Hosey to the Advocacy Committee
 1. Hartley: Second.
 2. Vanlerberghe: Motion to carry with unanimous consent.
- iii. McDonough: Motion to appoint Stephen Boujoulian, Peyton Driver, Tyler Fedototszkin, and Ainsley Lloyd to the Policy Committee
 1. Hartley: Second.
 2. Vanlerberghe: Motion to carry with unanimous consent.
- iv. Theakston: Motion to appoint Sadie McCann to the Events Committee.
 1. Hartley: Second.
 2. Vanlerberghe: Motion to carry with unanimous consent.

5. RHT and AASF Resolution Vote

- a. Jackson: Does anyone have any additional questions/comments after the first-read of the document at last week's GA?
 - i. Hartley: This is a great document that supports two great plans, I am in full support of this.
- b. Jackson: I will entertain a motion to vote on W-26-01, Reach Higher Together and Academic Affairs Strategic Framework Endorsement Resolution.
 - i. Laurin: Second.
 - ii. Motion was passed with a vote of 40-0-2, and the resolution was passed.

6. Election's Packet Review

- a. Chief of Staff Laurin showcased several documents that make up the election's packet, and opened the floor to questions.
 - i. McDonough: On social media, if I reposted someone's campaign posts, would that be a violation?

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1. Laurin: No, we encourage support of other candidates, but two candidates campaigning together would be a violation.
2. Vanlerberghe: That clause that you are questioning is to prevent any slates from forming. It just provides unnecessary complications. This doesn't mean you can't support another candidate, just cannot campaign jointly.
- ii. Krupa: Could we get confirmation on who to ask when we would like to post something in a public area? Is it promotions or another dept.?
 1. Vanlerberghe: The promotions office can approve postings. There are certain guidelines that must be followed, but they are not anything too demanding.
- iii. Smith: Who has to go through the elections? Is it everyone?
 1. Laurin: Once petitions open up, everyone will be going through the election's process.
 2. Gemmen: If you were just sworn in today, you would also have to go through elections to be on the 2026-2027 Senate body. Feel free to reach out to us for campaigning.
- iv. Taylor: In regards to the college rep. seats, that's determined by the enrollment number for that department? Are those transparent?
 1. Laurin: Yes, that information is publicly made available by the University.
- v. McDonough: As a comment, make sure when you get signatures that they write their student emails clearly. That is necessary in order to validate their signature.

7. Call for Announcements

- a. Advisor Reports

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i. Haight:

1. Hello to our new senators! Make sure you read the Laker Weekly, there are many tips on staying safe in the cold weather in this edition. Also, a large reminder to remember to not open your window during the next few days!

ii. Guzman:

1. In the case we go remote for REIGNITE, there is an alternate date already planned. Also, campus life night is a go for Sunday! Come say hello. Also, hello and congrats to our new senators.

b. Chair Reports

i. Allocations - Lukas Hartley

1. Hi guys! Not much for me to report. Allocations will not convene tomorrow, as we do not have any requests in the queue. Last week, we approved Phillipine for their yearly Philippine Culture Night event for \$3,018.27. Thanks everyone!

ii. Public Relations - Sophie Gemmen

1. Hi everyone! Thank you all for being here despite the outside!
 - a. I'm very excited to welcome Senators Leonard, Rees, Stokes, Taverne, and Williams to PRC!
 - b. During our committee meeting, we went over various events we plan to promote this semester, including the two-day Meet Your Future Profession event put together by our College of Health Professions College Representatives and faculty members. Here, CHP students can learn about careers, graduate school, professional programs, research

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opportunities, volunteering, and more from professionals, faculty, and alumni.

- c. Undergraduate night is February 12th, so spread the word!
- d. Lastly, if you have any interest at all in running for Chair of Public Relations at the end of this semester, please reach out to me!! I am more than happy to answer questions and talk through the role.
- e. Thank you all, and stay warm this weekend!

iii. Advocacy - Genna Wright

1. Hi everyone!

- a. The Advocacy committee has several initiatives planned that are coming up, we will be tabling for sex ed. week with the health and wellness center, we will also be having a bhm showcase with black student union, and with that bhm tabling as well. And we will be doing a business clothing swap with replenish April 1 and 2nd, I will get you back to you all with more information on all of those things, and also sign ups for upcoming tablings as well!
- b. Everyone please stay safe this weekend, and also anyone who is interested in running for advocacy chair for our upcoming election season please feel free to reach out to me!

iv. Policy - Cera McDonough

1. Good Evening everyone,

- a. I hope everyone is making it through this winter storm and having to stare at a computer screen longer than an average

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person should. Currently Policy is establishing our new liaison pairing and introducing our new members to the interworking of our committee. Next week, Monday, I am planning on introducing myself to the new Director of Alumni Relations, Mike Przydizal to form a connection and to learn more about what resources they offer to graduated students. If you're interested in being involved in this email chain, please slack me as soon as possible. If you are not in Policy, but want to be involved in ANY of the liaisons that we connect with, please reach out to me. I love to see cross committee interactions.

- b. Secondly, I am announcing that I am currently writing legislation with Senator Hardgrave about bringing Reverse Pop Can Vending Machines to campus to help make GVSU more sustainable and bring convenience to students who live on campus. As of now, I have been in contact with Doug Wentworth about the logistics about this idea and currently in the drafting stage.
- c. Finally, if anyone is interested in running for Policy Chair for the upcoming election, reach out to me. I am eager to talk to anyone who has any interest in this position.
- d. And of course, during this consistent snow storm, please drive safe and make good choices. And I am hoping to see everyone's faces next week.
- v. Events - Karen Theakston
 - 1. Happy national polka dot day. Not much from me, I yield.

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c. General Announcements

- i. Hartley: During my time on Senate, as a general senator and chair, I have grown a strong admiration for this senate. I am incredibly proud to announce my candidacy for Student Senate President.
- ii. Gemmen: Likewise, I am proud to announce my candidacy for Vice President! Senate has been foundational for 2 years of my life, and I am excited to continue to develop our student body.
- iii. Hardgrave: I am part of the founding executive board for a fraternity. We accept any major to help contribute to the fraternity.
- iv. Zazula: With the event requirements, how many get passed over and how do we see that?
 1. Laurin: No events get passed over.

8. Public Comment

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.