

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



Agenda

Part One

1. Call To Order

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. The previous meeting minutes stand approved.
- b. Passing of the Papers
 - i. There were no papers to be passed at this time.

2. Public Comment

3. Introductions

- a. New and returning Senator-elects introduced themselves amongst the new body.

4. Farewell Address

- a. **President** - Evan Jackson

- i. Good evening, It is good to see you all—many familiar faces, and some I have not yet met. Today marks a transition. You are stepping into something that has momentum. What you choose to do with that will define your year. This group now carries the direction, standard, and follow-through of Student Senate. Two years ago, I was sitting where you are now. A mix of excitement and uncertainty, with a lot of ambition. Fast forward two years, and I've had the opportunity to help shape this organization in a real way. I was trusted to step into the brand-new Chief of Staff role and build it from the ground up. I've authored 2 pieces of legislation, created the Student Solutions Summit, and developed the SPARKFund, something that puts resources directly back into students and campus life. None of that came from waiting. It came from believing in the work, and then doing it. So I'll start there. Believe in yourself, and believe in the work. If you are here just to fill a seat, that will show. If you take ownership of your role, that will show too. This organization will give you exactly what you put into it. If you take it seriously, it will open doors. If you treat it lightly, it will pass you by. Belief here is not abstract—it shows up in how you operate. It shows up in whether you volunteer for something uncertain, whether you follow through when no one is checking, and whether you stay engaged when the work gets repetitive or difficult. Do not just show up. Follow through. Put in the work. Leave this place better than you found it. Stay grounded in students. You are going to be in rooms where conversations drift toward process,

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



structure, and long-term priorities. Your job is to bring it back to reality. Ask: Where does this show up for students? Who actually feels this change? What does this look like on a Tuesday afternoon for someone walking through campus? Push conversations out of abstraction and into application. If something sounds good in theory but you cannot connect it to a real student experience, slow it down and clarify it. That is how you keep this organization aligned with its purpose. Move work forward. You will have good discussions in this room every single week. What matters is what leaves the room. Every conversation should produce movement: a next step, a person responsible, a timeline. If something is brought up and disappears by the next meeting, that is a missed opportunity. Follow up after meetings. Check in on progress. If something stalls, push it. If something is unclear, define it. And I will repeat this because it matters—Do not just talk about doing things. Do things. Execution is what separates a productive Senate from a passive one. Build relationships that move things. Nothing meaningful here happens alone. Progress comes from knowing how to work with people across the university—and doing it well. That means understanding how different offices operate, recognizing where decision-making actually sits, and being intentional about how you communicate. If you meet with someone, follow up with a clear summary. If someone gives you direction, act on it and report back. If something is time-sensitive, do not let it sit. Over time, people begin to recognize who moves things forward and who slows them down. Be the person people trust to handle something and move it. Protect your credibility. This is about how you operate when no one is calling it out. Do you contribute with substance, or do you speak just to speak? Do you handle responsibility without needing reminders? Do you represent this body in a way that reflects its importance? Credibility is built in small, consistent actions: being prepared when it matters, meeting deadlines without excuses, doing what you said you would do. It is also shaped by judgment—knowing when to speak, when to listen, and how to carry yourself in different settings. Credibility builds quietly, and once it's there, it gives you leverage. Lose it, and everything becomes harder. Show progress. Work needs to be seen to have an impact. If something is moving, make it clear: what it is, where it stands, what comes next. That might look like giving concise updates in this room, keeping stakeholders informed without being prompted, or making sure students understand what is being worked on and why it matters. When progress is visible, it builds trust. It also creates accountability—once something is out in the open, it

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



has to keep moving. Do not let good work sit unnoticed. I also want to recognize the incoming leadership. Lukas Hartley and Sophie Gemmen—you have earned the opportunity to lead this group. Set the tone early. Be clear about expectations. Hold the standard. Clarity and consistency from the top will shape how this entire organization operates. To everyone in this room: You are in a position that carries real access and real influence. Use it with intention. Come prepared to add value. Ask questions that move conversations forward. Be direct when something is unclear. And when something needs to happen—be the group that makes it happen. As I step away, I do so knowing exactly what this organization is capable of when it operates at a high level. You are not starting from zero. You are building on something that has been established, tested, and proven to work. What happens next is on you. This is your year. Make it count.

b. **Vice President** - Ty Vanlerberghe

- i. Hi everyone! As always, happy Thursday! Before anything else, I want to start by congratulating each and every one of you who was recently elected, who showed up tonight, and who made the decision to step up and represent your peers. That choice matters. It says something about who you are and what you care about. You are the next generation of leaders here at Grand Valley, and it's genuinely exciting to know that this organization is in your hands. It will be a privilege to watch you grow into your roles, accomplish more than you think you can, and leave this place better than you found it. As I wrap up my time as Vice President, I don't want to give a long speech, I just want to leave you with a few things that have grounded me over the past three years. This work isn't always easy. There are moments where it feels overwhelming, frustrating, or even thankless. But these are the things I've come back to time and time again.
 1. First—leadership is just as much about being a student as it is about being a coach. You don't need to have all the answers. You're not supposed to. The best leaders in this room will be the ones who listen first, who ask questions, and who are willing to grow alongside the people they lead. Stay curious. Stay humble. Let yourself learn. I guarantee you—from personal experience—that the people you are leading are your BEST teachers and believe it or not, sometimes know more than you.
 2. Second—when in doubt, lean into your values and remember why *you* are here. There will be moments where decisions aren't clear, where the path forward isn't obvious, or where balancing Senate work, class, work, and other extracurriculars can become overwhelming. In those moments, go back to your "why." What brought you here? What do you care about? Why did you just run for election? If you stay rooted in a purpose that is unique to you, you'll make the right calls—even when they're the hard ones.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



-
3. Third—don't be afraid to be a team player. A lot of high-achieving people—especially in rooms like this—feel like they need to do everything themselves. But I promise you, this work is better when it's shared. Lean on each other. Trust your team. The strongest outcomes come from collaboration, not individual effort.
 4. And finally—find joy wherever you can, as much as you can. This work matters, but it should also be fun. Celebrate the wins—big and small. Laugh with your team. Take pride in the relationships you build along the way. Because at the end of the day, those are the things you'll carry with you long after your time here is over.
 - ii. To this group—thank you. Thank you for trusting me, for challenging me, and for allowing me to grow alongside you. Serving in this role has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my college career. And to your next leadership team, Lukas and Sophie—I have full confidence in you. You're stepping into something special. Lead boldly, stay grounded, and make it your own. I have watched you both evolve as leaders, mentors, and friends since we all joined our freshman year. You have what it takes—make this year special. Thank you.
 5. **Transition of Power**
 - a. Oath of Office
 - i. President Hartley and Vice President Gemmen are sworn into office.
 6. **Recess**

Part Two

7. **Executive Reports**
 - a. **President** - Lukas Hartley
 - i. Good evening, everyone. I cannot tell you how grateful and proud I am to be in this position. It is truly an honor to have been selected to lead this amazing body, and I cannot wait to get to work, and get to know each one of you along the way. With that being said, I want to take a moment to reflect on where this body is - and where it can go. We are blessed to have been left in an amazing position by our outgoing executive leadership, and we are in a great place. However, being in a great place is not enough on its own - we must continue that momentum, and continue to represent the student body, fight for their needs, and ensure their voice is heard. As we move forward, intentionality and effectiveness will be vital. Engagement and informed participation inside and outside of our meetings will be necessary, and will be the standard. There is no doubt that there is still important work to be done, and there is no doubt that this body, and this university, will face challenges in the coming year. However, the challenges will not define us. How

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



we rise to meet them will define us. And I have the utmost confidence in this group that we will rise to every occasion. I am so happy that each one of you is here to act as the voice of your peers, and I cannot wait to hear your ideas and passion in a few moments when we begin our policy priorities discussion. In the meantime, I do have a few executive items to report on:

1. First, we will be holding our Chief of Staff interviews tonight, directly after General Assembly, in the Student Senate office. All applications should be submitted at this point. The results will be announced in next week's weekly Monday email, with the applicants being told either way by Sunday night.
 2. Second, later tonight, we will be doing nominations for our cabinet positions. The positions are as follows: Allocations Chair, Public Relations Chair, Advocacy Chair, Policy Chair, and Events Chair. When nominating someone, we will request that you provide their name, the position you wish to nominate them for, and a brief description of the rationale for the nomination. We will go over a description of each position before nominations. If you are nominated, you must accept or deny your nomination. If you are nominated, please come prepared to our next GA ready to give a speech and answer questions about your previous experiences, qualifications, and new ideas for the role. Please let me know if you have questions about the election process.
 3. Third, directly after Sophie and I wrap our executive reports, we will go into a short review of Robert's Rules, which are the governing rules student senate uses to manage our meetings. It is totally okay to be confused at first- I was too- so we will try to break it down in simple and understandable ways. Please do your best to adhere to them.
 4. Finally, our discussion today will inform the direction in which Student Senate goes for the 2026-2027 term. Ideas you bring up today will inspire initiatives, guest speaker appearances, and events, so please give your undivided attention to the discussions we will have. We are going to ask that members are not using electronic devices during our Policy and Guest Speaker discussion positions, so please be respectful of that. If you need to briefly research a topic or a potential guest speaker's name or department, that is permitted, but outside of that, please direct your attention to the conversation at hand.
- ii. I want to once again express my gratitude and excitement to be in this role, and for each of you being in this room tonight. We are going to accomplish amazing things.
- b. **Vice President** - Sophie Gemmen
- i. Hello everyone, and happy Thursday. I may be looking at this room from a new angle, but my perspective on this organization has not changed — I am as happy, honored, and excited to be here with you all as ever. I am eager to work with each of you this year as we build on existing initiatives and explore new goals. I would also like to take a moment to congratulate you all on being here today. It takes a lot of courage, effort, and passion to step into a role like this, so take a moment to feel proud of yourself. Throughout the

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



semester, when things get hectic or overwhelming, I encourage you to return to that feeling. This semester, be bold, lean on your peers, and remember why you chose to be here. Use that as your guide. For now, I have a few updates and action items:

1. If you have not already joined the new Slack, please do so now! This is how we primarily reach out, and will eventually hold communication channels for your committees. Please let me know if you have trouble joining.
2. Speaking of committees! In addition to nominating senators for cabinet positions, we will also send out a form for committee preferences near the end of the meeting. Please don't leave without filling this out!
3. I have shared a google drive with you all! This is where our semester schedules, events requirements, and other important information and files will be held, so make sure you can access it! Let me know if you experience issues.
4. Though we only have two General Assembly meetings left, we are still hosting events! Next Friday, April 10, Senators-Elect Lloyd and Fedototskin, in partnership with the University Counseling Center and RecWell are bringing students a free yoga (led by Ainsley!) and information session about balancing physical and mental health. An event description is being dropped in the Events channel in Slack now – RSVP before it fills up!
5. If you are available, we are tabling for this event tomorrow, Kirkhof 11-1 — this is a great chance to complete remaining events requirements from last semester or get an idea of what tabling looks like if you're new. Reach out to me asap if you are interested!
6. GVSU is hosting a Student Listening Session with an external reviewer regarding Kirkhof Center. If you are interested in participating in this listening session on April 13 at 10:45-11:30, please reach out to me via Slack before the weekend.
7. April 18th, Senate has been invited to table at the Earth Day Fair in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability. If you are available that Saturday, 11:00-2:00, please reach out to me... again!
8. Lastly, merch ordering is LIVE!! To purchase a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or quarterzip, please go to the link in the General Business Chat. From here, you will be able to order, pay, and determine shipping directly from the website. This will be open until April 12th. Please let me know if you have issues or concerns.
9. To recap events to connect with me about: Yoga Event Tabling, tomorrow. Yoga Event, April 10 – RSVP. External Kirkhof Review Listening Session, April 13. Earth Day Fair tabling - April 18 If you have any questions about anything I've listed, please don't hesitate to reach out on Slack or find me after GA.

8. Overview of the Basics

- a. Robert's Rules

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



-
- i. The new leadership team presented a detailed overview of Robert's Rules for new and returning Senator-Elects.
 1. Fedototszkin: How will this work for nominations for Cabinet?
 - a. Hartley: You will raise your placard in this specific instance.
 2. Westbrooks: When raising my placard, do I need to be approved to speak?
 - i. Hartley: You will be placed on the speaker's list, and will be called upon. However, for "points of" motions, you will not need to raise your placard.

9. Discussion

- a. Scheduling
- b. Policy priorities
 - i. Zazula: Longer library hours.
 - ii. Fedototszkin: Attendance and going through grief.
 - iii. Westbrooks: Revitalization of campus vibrancy on city campus.
 - iv. Smith: Having pet-friendly living options.
 - v. Hunkele: Disability accommodations for class syllabi.
 - vi. Boujoulian: Standing desks in common spaces.
 - vii. Taverne: More transparency on parking policies and how they're come up with.
 - viii. Hunkele: Overall increase in food hour options, longer dining hall hours for example.
 - ix. Taylor: Changes to the way pay-to-park works.
 - x. Frikken: Clear and direct policies on AI in classrooms.
 - xi. Grayson: Mentoring system between alumni.
 - xii. Guajardo: Available 10-15 minute parking spots by the Laker Store and Marketplace.
 - xiii. Spoon: Some sport of rain or safety cover on the Little Mackinac bridge.
 - xiv. Fedototszkin: Bridging gaps between student success and placeholder Blackboard assignments. Any assignments on external sites, new policies for having external site assignments on BlackBoard feeds and calendar.
 - xv. Taverne: Rules and guidelines around legal studies internships earlier on in collegiate careers.
 - xvi. Almas: Covers over biking locks outside every dorm. Also, longer bus schedules for the Laker Line.
 - xvii. Frikken: Healthier food options around campus.
 - xviii. Zazula: Better snow plowing and icing in parking lots during the winter.
 - xix. Taylor: Better plowing in the winter.
 - xx. Sanour: Better training for professors or students in the LGBTQ+ community.
 - xxi. Williams: Better understanding or easier navigation for student internships. Uniformity.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



-
- xxii. Guajardo: I second that, especially with career fairs and more opportunities for other majors, as well as having more Lime bike accessibility on this campus. I would also like to see more professional advisors.
 - xxiii. Robinson: Healthier food options.
 - xxiv. Spoon: One more bus sitting spot with a cover for the Rapids outside of Kirkhof.
 - xxv. Lipscomb: Staff or faculty to supervise groups at the clock tower for speakers.
 - xxvi. Woodfork: Revitalization or updates of audiobooks system for the library.
 - xxvii. Almas: More rules on electric scooters.
 - xxviii. Zazula: Deadlines for grades due besides midterms.
 - xxix. Paliy: Discount or some sort of system for parking for student workers.
 - xxx. Bahena: Expand on more careers at the career fair.
 - xxxi. Westbrooks: More accessible food options during breaks.
 - xxxii. Guajardo: More protection to be able to have more advocacy for discussing the current political climate. Guidelines in place where during an emergency or life altering circumstances, professors being able to be less judgemental and punishment-focused for this.
 - xxxiii. Taylor: Snow days and more transparency as to why one isn't called. Snow days maybe for specific campuses. Dedicated scooter lanes.
 - xxxiv. Frikken: Extending hours for the health campus buildings to amplify city campus vibrancy.
 - xxxv. Williams: Can we keep the gym open longer on weekends? When we do have snow days, can we announce them earlier?
 - xxxvi. Paliy: More transparency about GVPD and where they can and cannot utilize their power. More communication between both police departments.
 - xxxvii. Guajardo: Improving road conditions and not feeling comfortable attending class, but still getting punished for it by professors.
 - xxxviii. Harrison: More snacks and beverage options in the student athletes buildings, like the fieldhouse.
 - xxxix. Sanour: Healthcare stipends for students getting into accidents or emergencies on campus for extra financial aid.
 - xl. Hunkele: More transparency and communication from GVPD and emergency services during on-campus emergencies.
 - xli. Taverne: GVSU parking and parking service cars and holding them accountable for driving safely on campus.
 - xlii. Harrison: More policies on who can drive in Laker Village.
 - xliii. Rodgers: Creating an educational system for health and car insurance for life insurance for students who may not have extra financial support.
 - c. Guest speakers
 - i. Smith: Laker Food Co.
 - ii. Lloyd: QPR training through UCC.
 - iii. Taylor: GVPD and Parking Services.

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



-
- iv. Schwallier: CAB.
 - v. Fedototszkin: Latoya Booker.
 - vi. Guajardo: Counseling Center.
 - vii. Westbrooks: Office of Multicultural Affairs.
 - viii. Zazula: Library staff.
 - ix. Lipscomb: Housing and Residence Life.
 - x. Bahena: TRIO.
 - xi. Taverne: IT.
 - xii. Frikken: Housing and Residence Life.
 - xiii. Paliy: Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.
 - xiv. Smith: Office of Sustainability.
 - xv. Guajardo: Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid.
 - xvi. Taylor: I yield.
 - xvii. Woodfork: Whoever oversees and creates guidelines and rubrics for professors educating styles.
 - xviii. Harrison: Student Athlete Resource Center, specifically Dr. Arnold.
 - xix. Hosey: Advising Services.
 - xx. Taylor: UAS.
 - xxi. Smith: I make a motion to exhaust the speakers list.
 1. Yays: 34.
 2. Nays: 2.
 3. Abstentions: 0.
 - a. The speaker's list was exhausted at this time.

10. Overview of the Cabinet Positions

11. Cabinet Nominations

- a. Allocations Chair
 - i. DeFever: I nominate Senator-Elect Joshua Smith for the position of Allocations Chair.
 1. Smith: I accept.
- b. Public Relations Chair
 - i. Garrett: I nominate Senator-Elect Carma Taverne for the position of Public Relations Chair.
 1. Taverne: I accept.
 - ii. Fedototszkin: I nominate Senator-Elect Bella Frikken for the position of Public Relations Chair.
 1. Frikken: I accept.
- c. Advocacy Chair

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 2nd, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 pm

Chair: Evan Jackson / Lukas Hartley

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe / Sophie Gemmen

Parliamentarian: Ainsley Lloyd / Ainsley Lloyd



d. Policy Chair

i. Sanour: I nominate Senator-Elect Grayson Rodgers for the position of Policy Chair.

1. Rodgers: I accept.

e. Events Chair

i. Woodfork: I nominate Senator-Elect Samuel Schwallier for the position of Events Chair.

1. Schwallier: I accept.

12. Call for Announcements

a. Bahena: Honors Familia, Belong Beyond GVSU, as well as PSU GVSU, are hosting an “Erased Histories: Violence Against Mexican-Americans” event, so please come if you can.

b. Rodgers: Thank you for filling out the Alumni Relations form. Second, we’re tabling with the Center of Health and Wellbeing from 11 AM - 2 PM, sending sign-ups in Slack!

c. Sanour: The health and wellness yoga event hosted by Senator-Elect Lloyd and Senator-Elect Fedototszkin is coming up soon! Make sure you RSVP for their event.

d. Gemmen: Before we leave, Senator-Elect Taverne will be recording a video of all of us welcoming our new body! Please don’t leave until we complete this.

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.