

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 5:15 PM

Chair: Evan Jackson

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe

Parliamentarian: William Laurin



Agenda

1. Call To Order

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Previous meetings minutes stand approved.
- b. Passing of the Papers
 - i. No papers were passed at this time.

2. Public Comment

- a. Quinten Proctor
 - i. Proctor promoted work-study programs available through the CLAS Center for Experiential Learning.

3. Executive Reports

- a. **President** - Evan Jackson
 - i. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for being here tonight and for the commitment you bring to this space.
 1. I want to start with a quick acknowledgement: we're fortunate to have Sean Lancaster and Annie Bélanger from Academic Affairs joining us this evening. We appreciate their partnership and look forward to hearing from them later in the agenda.
 2. As for updates—I don't have any major announcements since our last General Assembly. Our committees, however, continue to make strong progress as we gear up for two big moments next week: the official opening of our new office on October 1st, and our Student Solutions Summit on October 2nd. Both of these events are important opportunities to showcase the work of Student Senate and to engage more students in what we do. I want to especially emphasize the Summit—it will only be as strong as the

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turnout we generate. Please keep spreading the word, inviting your friends, and encouraging students in your networks to attend. Your outreach makes a real difference.

3. My call to action tonight is simple: keep working hard, keep supporting your committees, and keep showing up for each other. Every one of us has the ability to strengthen this body and to show our peers that Student Senate is here to listen and to act. Thank you all for your leadership. Let's keep building momentum. With that, I'll turn it over to Vice President Vanlerberghe.

b. Vice President - Ty Vanlerberghe

- i. Happy Thursday, everyone! A short report for everyone today.
 1. First, today I met with Emil Delgado, Associate Vice President for IT, to discuss both the digital ID bill and the printer bill that we passed last year. I am happy to report that progress has already been made on both projects by the IT team.
 2. Second, also from Emil Delgado, I wanted to pass on the opportunity to attend the GVSU Technology Summit on October 2nd from 12-5 PM. This event is directly before our Student Solutions Summit and will take a similar form, but specifically pertaining to IT. If you are interested in attending, please let me know, I really would like Student Senate representation at this event!
 3. Third, this morning, I sent messages to all college representatives about scheduling meetings with their respective Deans, and initiating their work as representatives. If you are a college representative and have any questions, please let me know.

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4. Fourth, as a reminder, next week we will NOT be holding committee meetings before GA and will instead be taking our semesterly headshots. I just dropped a link to a sign-up sheet in Slack for everyone to register for a time. Headshots will be taken from 4:00-5:15, please consider coming as early as you can, so we can avoid running over into GA.
5. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to Slack me or email me. I will now yield to Chief of Staff Laurin for his report.

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

- i. Good afternoon everyone, it's good to see all your beautiful faces back here for our third GA. I'll keep it brief this week so we can move right along into our agenda; First, I was honored to attend our reach higher together collaborative network last Friday with President Jackson and Vice President Vanlerburghe. We were able to engage in constructive dialogue with leaders at the university to determine the best path forward in regards to our Reach Higher Goals, and I am excited to see what they have for us in the future.

4. Academic Affairs Strategic Framework

a. Sean Lancaster & Annie Belanger

- i. Sean Lancaster and Annie Belanger joined the Senate to provide information to the Senate body regarding the Division of Academic Affairs's Strategic Framework Draft. Both representatives began with articulating the link between the Reach Higher Together Commitment, and how the Division of Academic Affairs' visions, strategic priorities, and actions fit together with the University's framework.

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- ii. The Academic Affairs' vision is to drive leading with intention, collaboration with purpose, and creating a lasting impact for generations of future students. AASF Strategic Priorities include catalyzing curricular and pedagogical developments, empower learners for the future, amplifying research, scholarship, and creative activity, advancing an organizational culture of inclusion, equity, and well-being, and activating partnerships to drive positive impacts for the place and planet.
 - iii. Digital Literacy is the ability to use, create, evaluate, and engage critically with digital technologies to complete tasks safely and ethically in professional and civic contexts.
 - iv. Senators were able to answer with their ideas on topics such as what might be the most pressing support needed, what they would want to be equipped with by then.
 - v. Lancaster and Belanger opened the floor to questions.
 - 1. Gemmen: I believe consistency with what students are allowed to do with AI, as certain professors prefer certain policies. Having an overall initiative I think will combat this issue.
 - 2. Stang: Potentially think about the high-level of AI. Each graduating student should have overall a common set of skills regarding AI.
 - 3. Anmis: I believe we need to learn how to use AI with critical thinking instead of copying and pasting texts into AI. It is a high objective, but if we can find a way to enforce an AI policy, place that impact on students.
 - 4. Dykhuis: Is there a plan on addressing professors that inhibit the use of AI?

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- a. Lancaster: When you see the steps of our plan, they are very high-level. We do not have plans set yet, but the feedback you have given will carry us through into the future.
 5. Lipscomb: As an incoming student, my professor gave me the spiel of how AI should be used correctly and in good effort. If you care, students would use AI as a tool.
 6. Hardgrave: In the moves and actions, I would like to see balance. AI needs to be instructed to students but needs to not completely erase basic skills. I can also see efforts towards sustainability.
 7. McDonnough: I struggle with AI, with reasonings due to sustainability and the lack of critical thinking that comes along with it. However, generative AI can help me learn. I second that there should be a balance and having faculty explain to us the basics of AI.
 8. Dodaj: How can we make sure staff and faculty understand AI?
 - a. Lancaster: We need to fully ensure that those who are teaching you policies and skills in AI understand it themselves.
 9. Annis: Would it be more beneficial to have a course regarding AI?
 - a. Lancaster: We have had conversations with the College of Computing for example, but I don't want to lose the impact of learning how to gain skills individually in professional and academic settings. It is something we need to further converse on.

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10. Gemmen: What else do you hope students think about when Digital Literacy is thought about?
 - a. Lancaster: One of the main critical thinking skills students should have is informational literacy. Right now, there is a Digital Tech Essential skills module on Blackboard offered to students to help them learn technical skills.
 11. Westbrooks: Based on listening, I do think it is very important to have students learn how to interpret all information and even misinformation. I think it should be a widespread topic all students should learn.
 - vi. Furthering the discussion, Lancaster and Belanger further conversed with the Senate to discuss their triads during their university experience with academic opportunities and experienced learning.
 1. Lipscomb: I've had a very pleasant experience with joining organizations. I believe GVSU gives every student opportunities and resources, but some students I have met don't actively engage in the same opportunities as me.
 2. McDonnough: An opportunity I wish I knew about was Undergraduate Research. As a transfer student, I was extremely interested to learn from my professors on their research. I wish this was more exposed to students. Also, on how to build these opportunities for transfer students.
 3. Hardgrave: To build on Chair McDonnough, I think there should be more exposure to research. I am also curious to know if this will go into a conflicting difference with RHT.

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- a. Lancaster: The University will develop metrics of super high-level conceptions of a framework. Our framework aims to work on how the University can tackle experiential learning.

Belenger: In many ways, how we activate the University's framework through each Division. Our hope is to have each division.

4. Potter: I am a junior here, and something I wish I had known was that some programs you absolutely have to research in order to graduate.
5. Taylor: In regards to my experience, I am a Student Commuter. When I came in, I felt like student orientation wasn't very engaging. I would like to see more efforts towards recognition of student commuters, maybe not hearing as many opportunities as students that live on campus.
6. Garrett: I am also a transfer and commuter student, and unfortunately, some of my credits didn't pass through. I have to have an internship through my degree, but there aren't a lot of internships that I am unable to find. I would like to see if GVSU can promote opportunities outside of just West Michigan.
7. Dodaj: Some obstacles that I have or noticed is that some of my pre-req courses are run vastly differently in how they organize topics. Some professors don't even look at their powerpoint for years. It feels almost not attentive towards us because of their

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monotonous content. When content is changed so often, how can they make courses more cost-effective?

8. Gemmen: I have had very lucky experiences, but something I view as a hiccup is that I would hope websites and information hubs are updated with experiential learning outside of just classrooms or Senate meetings. Digital media can really help boost this.
9. Uppala: I am speaking as an international graduate student. One problem I have seen with international students, I wish international students were given more scholarship opportunities. Some friends of mine got a scholarship through GVSU, but others did not. If we had motivation to want to stay here at GVSU, I feel that would have created a better experience for me.

vii. Lancaster and Belanger finished with their closing remarks.

5. Call for Announcements

a. Advisor Reports

- i. Height: It has been wonderful to see you use your voice, as it doesn't go unrecognized. Also a big thank you to those who have tabled in Kirkhof. As we are already weeks away from midterms, I encourage you all to think ahead with your schedules to take care of yourself.

b. Chair Reports

i. Allocations:

1. Hi everyone, hope your week is going well. Last week, allocations had our first meeting of the semester and practiced situations and asking questions. This week, we're hearing requests from the Renaissance Festival, Black Student Union and Amnesty International. Going forwards, I will be sharing who we approved

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funding for and what we approved funding for during my reports every week. That's all from me, have a great weekend.

ii. Public Relations:

1. Hello everyone, and happy Thursday. PRC has been very active these last few days. I'd first like to shout out my video team for their initiative and effort they put into creating the first video of the year to promote our Office Open House on October 1st. Additionally, I worked with VP Vanlerberghe to finalize promotions for the Student Solutions Summit on October 2nd, so you should be seeing a LakerHub slide and yard signs within the next week or so. Please continue to reach out to your classmates, roommates, and friends about this opportunity so we can maximize attendance as much as possible! If you would like a plugger to circulate around your classes—on your professor's permission—let me know and I can get one to you as soon as they're in my hands. Thank you all, and have a great weekend!

iii. Advocacy:

1. Hi everyone, Happy Thursday! I first want to start off by thanking everyone who tabled or stop by for our hispanic heritage month tabling, it was amazing and we heard great feedback from it. We do have tabling for suicide prevention month tabling this monday (sept 22nd) from 11:00 am-2 p.m. in Kirkhof which the sign up will be sent out over slack shortly, for this tabling we are collaborating with the gv counseling center and the mental health ambassador program, which today it was confirmed that we will have one of their peer educators at the tabling to engage with

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students directly, which we are super excited for! I have tabling booked again for the teach-in on Monday September 29th from 11-2 and this tabling will be specifically for the proposals and the deadline which is October 20th. As I said last week, if anyone is interested in hosting a session for the Teach-In please feel free to reach out to me! With that being said, as usual if anyone has anyone questions feel free to reach out to me after ga or over slack! I yield.

iv. Policy:

1. Good evening everyone, I am happy to see everyone again. Policy currently has 4 meetings scheduled; Sustainability tomorrow (09/19) @ 12pm, Replenish 09/28 @ 4pm, Athletics 10/2 @ 9:30pm, and Parking 10/7 @ 1pm. As of right now, we are in the process of scheduling a future meeting with laker food co, the counseling center, admissions, and student health services. If anyone is interested in joining these meetings, please let me know. All of the meeting minutes will be posted within 72 hours after the meeting in the policy folder in the google drive. We are currently half way through September and if you aren't aware, September is Suicide Prevention Month. I just wanted to state if anyone is in need of support, please never hesitate to reach out to me. I am here for you always. The world is better with you in it.

v. Events:

1. Happy national cheeseburger day! Thank you to all the senators for signing up for tabling and the senators who helped set it up! For our next bonding event we are planning something in October

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where we will be painting pumpkins and then having a trip to an apple orchard off campus, date to be determined. Additionally, expect tabling in October that we are planning, a sign-up will be sent out soon. Finally, we are preparing for the last lecture and will be sending out the professor nominations form during the next GA. Have a great weekend!

c. General Announcements

- i. Eapen: I do want to bring up Multicultural nights. We are brainstorming how we can grow and make the event better than ever. Please come talk to me with any questions or concerns.
- ii. Robinson: We are re-doing the Senate bulletin board, please come help us redecorate!

6. Public Comment

- a. No public comment was made at this time.

7. Adjournment

- a. General Assembly was adjourned at 6:26 PM.