

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, January 9th, 2025

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Vice Chair: Paris Lawson

Parliamentarian: Evan Jackson



Minutes

1. **Call To Order**

- a. Approval of the Agenda
- b. Approval of the Minutes
- c. Passing of the Papers

2. **Public Comment**

- a. Gessler: As you all know I have resigned from the Senate. I want to say thank you to everyone for everything and I still want to be friends with all of you. Thank you for everything that you have done for me and please reach out.

3. **Executive Reports**

a. **President** - Quinten Proctor

i. General

1. First of all, I want to welcome all of our interviewees that are sitting in the gallery. We're excited to have you here tonight.
2. We do need to start out with a serious topic for this meeting.

ii. Academic Affairs

1. No Confidence

- a. As some of you may have heard from a recent Lanthorn article, UAS, that's faculty senate's main governing body, UAS has been deliberating a potential vote of no confidence on several members of the Senior Leadership Team. I became aware of this at an ECS meeting, that's the executive committee of the faculty senate, back in November.

2. Why did I not update you all until now?

- a. The full UAS did not meet to have this discussion until after our last General Assembly of the semester. I decided to wait until after that UAS meeting, once I had more information and a better understanding of the situation and its implications. That way I could give you a broader update.

3. What is a vote of no confidence?

- a. Essentially, if the vote of no confidence passed in UAS, faculty would be saying that they do not feel that these Senior Leadership Team members are able to adequately fulfill the responsibilities of their jobs.
4. Why is this happening?
 - a. At GVSU, the shared governance model is important. Administration has regularly consulted faculty, staff, and students prior to making policy decisions. In recent years, many faculty have grown increasingly frustrated with the current Senior Leadership Team's decision-making processes.
5. What happens next?
 - a. UAS has not voted on this or anything. Furthermore, there will not be any vote of no confidence in the immediate short term. However, UAS is meeting in a special, closed session next week to discuss this further. They will not be conducting any other business, nor will they be holding any votes on anything.
6. What about us?
 - a. Well, we still have a lot of work to do, and we've got several pieces of legislation on the docket. It is very important that we stay informed and that we're prepared to talk about University developments with our fellow students. With that being said, I do want to remind everyone that there are only two people period that are allowed to speak on behalf of the entire Student Senate. That's the President and the Public Relations Chair and nobody else. Just myself and Ty. If you are talking to other people about these developments, or anything else, please make sure that you are only speaking from your perspective. Does everyone understand?
7. Questions
 - a. That was a lot, and this is a big topic. If you want me to repeat anything, or if you have questions about anything I just said feel free to ask, and I'll do my best. So with that being said, I will go ahead and open up the floor for discussion.

iii. Elections

1. I do have some news on the Elections Commission. After discussion with Cabinet, I will be serving as the Chair of the Elections Commission this year. Chair Boyd, that's Nancy, will be serving as Vice Chair and Vice President Lawson will be serving as Parliamentarian. Chair Palumbo and Senator

Johnstone, in addition to the Judiciary Committee members, are also on the Elections Commission.

2. We had our first meeting already on Tuesday to prepare the Elections Packet, which contains the rules and regulations, and the petitions to get on the ballot. We will bring this to next week's GA for your feedback.

iv. **Personal**

1. As a reminder, I will not be returning to Student Senate in any capacity for the 2025-2026 academic year. If you are interested in running for President, please let me know, and I can walk you through my role.

b. **Vice President** - Paris Lawson

- i. Hey everyone and welcome back! First I just want to remind you that all Legislation will be due to Cabinet February 20th. If you are currently working on any pieces please let me know and I can assist you with moving it in the right direction. Furthermore if you have legislative projects logged in the dashboard please make sure you are updating your progress, as I check it often so we can stay organized. Lastly, headshots for this semester are scheduled for Thursday January 30th. This Thursday is a day we have a bonding event and no GA but I encourage you all to come so we can get some committee photos and you can also retake your headshots if you were unhappy with your fall ones.

c. **Chief of Staff** - Evan Jackson

- i. Good afternoon, Senators, I am very excited to welcome everyone back from winter break and to kick off the new semester. I hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating break and are ready for the semester ahead. I have been working on a few important tasks to ensure that we can hit the ground running this semester. First, I am finalizing the event's requirements for this semester. This includes updating the list of approved events and ensuring that everyone has plenty of opportunities to fulfill this part of our work. We are also trying out a new method for taking attendance and role calls. There will be a paper in the back with all Senators names, please sign in with your signature and time that you arrive. Similarly, when the General Assembly ends, please sign out with your name and signature. Additionally, I have been coordinating the scheduling and organizing of interviews for our prospective new members. These interviews will take place tonight, and we will look forward to onboarding our new members next week. I am very excited about the semester ahead and look forward to everything we will accomplish together. Let us make this a productive and impactful term for the Student Senate and the student body we serve. Thank you!

4. **Workshop**

a. **Vibrant Campus Life Accelerator**

- i. Guests: Valerie Guzman and Aaron Mowen, *Student Life*

1. Mowen: We are going to work tonight to get your thoughts about the current landscape of Grand Valley, obstacles/barriers, and different ways we can improve on campus.

5. **Recess**

6. **Business**

a. F-24-02: Holiday Hosting Program for International Students

- i. The Senate goes over the international student legislation.
- ii. Discussion:
 1. Jackson: I think that this is something that is beneficial for all students, but especially for international students.
 2. Boyd: Motion to pass this legislation
 3. Vanlerberghe: Second
 4. The legislation passes unanimously.

b. F-24-01: Providing Narcan and Training for RAs and Greek Life

- i. Lawson: This is a bill discussing having Narcan for both RA's and Greek Life as well as training for these individuals.
- ii. Discussion:
 1. Vanlerberghe: As you said, what have you heard from the stakeholders in the university?
 2. Lawson: We have heard that there are no drug users on campus, but it could go unreported.
 3. Annis: Have you talked to relevant health professionals?
 4. Lawson: Yes, I learned that giving someone narcan who is not overdosing would not harm them in any way.
 5. Devries: How much of an issue is this on campus?
 6. Lawson: Drug use goes unreported a lot, so this is difficult to give a number to, but in my legislation there are statistics.
 7. Schwallier: Are there other schools that distribute narcan?
 8. Lawson: Yes, there are many schools including MSU and ASU.
 9. Robach: As an RA, we have a bag we carry during shift times so it could be easily accessible. We are usually told with things like CPR to let the health professionals deal with it, so this might apply as well.
 10. Ford: What strategies are implemented after the narcan is administered.
 11. Lawson: After, they would have to go to the hospital. Usually, overdose victims need more than one dose.
 12. Robach: I think this bill is a good idea and I see that there is a drug issue on campus that goes unreported.

13. Devries: I have heard that people become violent after narcan is administered. How would we deal with this?
14. Lawson: I think this would come along with the training.
15. Vanlerberghe: I think it is important to recognize that when we pass legislation, administrators and relevant stakeholders work with us to make sure that it will work for everyone on campus.
16. Boyd: Have you looked into ways that would bring it to campus but not put RA's at the forefront?
17. Lawson: I thought about vending machines or in Kirkof, but there was not a lot of support.
18. Theakston: I think that putting it in first aid kits would be something to look into, because then it is not in the hands of the RA's.
19. Lawson: I like the idea, but I have never seen a first aid kit on campus, so a map might be helpful in this instance.
20. Devries: Have you talked to AOD?
21. Lawson: AOD is aware, but I was not able to get a meeting with them due to the small office.
22. McDonough: I like the idea of RA's and Greek Life, but I would like to look more into the vending machine idea due to the fact that more can be added to it.
23. Haight: Our campus offers condoms and Plan B on campus, so I like the idea of the vending machines because we already offer these two on campus.
24. Palumbo: I like the idea of bringing narcan on campus. I would like to try to come to a compromise if there is serious pushback.

7. Elections

- a. Nominations for Events Chair
 - i. Proctor: This week we will open up the floor for nominations for the event chair.
 - ii. Robach: I would like to nominate Senator Theakston as the chair of the events committee.
 - iii. Theakston: I accept.
 - iv. Eshelman: I would like to nominate Senator Dolnik as the chair of the events committee.
 - v. Dolnik: I accept.

8. Officer Reports

- a. **Allocations** - Nancy Boyd
 - i. Here is my report for today: Hi everyone, I hope you had a good break! If you didn't get a chance to sign the paper, please let me know if you are able and/or willing to sit on the allocations committee this next semester. It is on Friday's at 1:30 and at the latest will run to 3pm.

b. **Public Relations** - Ty Vanlerberghe

- i. Hi, everyone! Happy Thursday and welcome back! I hope you all had a holly jolly break! Just a couple quick updates for today.
 1. First, PRC will soon be putting out some social media content about our event with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the two pieces of legislation that are soon to be passed. When we post these, please be sure to repost them to your Instagram story. This extends our reach even farther and it is very important that we advertise our events and initiatives as much as we can.
 2. Second, This coming Sunday, other members of cabinet and I will be representing Student Senate at the Winter Campus Life Night. If you know anyone who is interested in potentially running for a seat during our spring elections, please make sure to tell them about the event and direct them to our table.
 3. Last, thank you all for your responses in the merchandise interest form that I sent out before break. I am going to recap with the promotions office this week and hopefully have some updates and an order form at our coming GAs.
 4. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out over Slack! Have a great weekend!

c. **Advocacy** - Genna Wright

- i. Hi everyone! Happy Thursday, I hope you all had an amazing first week of the new semester and I hope you all enjoyed time with your families over the winter break. As we all are so excited to be back, the Advocacy committee is excited and ready to get the ball rolling for this new semester. Yesterday I met with Josh in the advocacy committee to discuss the logistics for the multicultural night that he has planned, that you all will hear more information about soon. This event will be taking place March 20th from 7:30-9:30 in the Grand River Room. Today we all will be discussing what we plan to do for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and although we have that day off, we plan to still make an informational post and recognition on our student senate social media page. As usual if anyone has any questions or wants to reach out, please feel free to slack me or see me after ga! Thank you everyone and I'm excited for what's to come with this new semester!

d. **Policy** - Alec Palumbo

- i. Happy New Year Senators,
I do not have much to discuss today, but I am hoping for the Policy Committee to resume our liaison meetings very shortly. I have scheduled monthly meetings with President Proctor to meet with Dr.Boone on a monthly basis. If you have any interest or questions about these meetings, please let me know.

- ii. As you may know, this will be my last semester here at GVSU. If anyone is interested in a potential future as the second policy chair, please talk to me as early as possible. I can assist you in learning about the position's role and the actions you should prepare to take.
Have a great weekend!

- e. **Events** - Paris Lawson (interim)

- i. I yield.

9. Call for Announcements

- a. Advisor Reports

- i. Haight: The new technology is here and you guys were a large part of getting this free for student organizations.

- b. University Committee Reports

- c. Representative Reports

- d. General Announcements

- i. Eapen: I have been working with the office of Multicultural affairs and we have an event happening. I have shared the event in slack, and this is approved for INT as well. I will be sharing more in the coming days.
 - ii. Eshelman: I would formally like to announce that I am running for president with Senator Dolnik as vice president.

10. Public Comment

11. Adjournment