

1. **Call To Order at 4:30pm**

- a. Native Land Recognition
- b. Roll Call - Part 1
- c. Public Comment - Part 1
- d. Passing of the Papers
- e. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda is adopted.
- f. Approval of the Minutes

2. **Swearing-In**

- a. Guest: President Philomena Mantella

3. **Executive Reports**

- a. **President** - Quinten Proctor

- i. Last Thursday, I gave my remarks at the freshman Convocation. Thank you to those that came to support me, I really enjoyed seeing you there. I'm happy to report that my remarks went very well, and it served as a great kickoff of the year for Student Senate. I also wanted to give a shout out to Vice President Lawson and Senator Solorio for their starring roles in the Laker Welcome Video this year. You both did an amazing job. Since Convocation, I have noticed an uptick in Student Senate's engagement as well as my own visibility across campus, especially amongst freshmen. I believe this will set us up quite nicely moving forward as we communicate our efforts and accomplishments with the student body. I spent the summer preparing to step more into the Presidential role. Last year, I was very internally focused due to restructuring, but now, my role will return to primarily external to Student Senate as it's intended to be. Over the course of the year, I will be meeting with key stakeholders and administrators to communicate our actions and concerns, bring back important information and developments within the University to keep you all informed, and to work on getting our former and upcoming projects and legislation implemented on behalf of the student body. As I mentioned earlier, I'm super excited to work with you all once again. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help you during our time together this year! And with that, I will yield for any questions.

- b. **Vice President** - Paris Lawson

- i. Hello and welcome back, I am so excited to kick off this semester with you all. Last weekend we tabled at Campus life night, our table was a big success with

lines all night. Since then we have received numerous applications and interest. Since myself and many people in this room will be graduating this spring, it is important to use this year to build ourselves up and teach each other all aspects of senate. This includes getting to know the legislative process, and policies. If you have any questions regarding this I am always happy to answer them. If you have general questions or updates about what yourself or your council is working on please reach out directly to your chair, your chair will then come to the executive team if necessary. This way we wouldn't be getting overwhelmed with messages. Lastly, please fill out the senator information form I resent on tuesday if you have not already.

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

- i. Welcome back, everyone! It's wonderful to see our campus filled with energy and excitement as we kick off a new academic year. As we begin this academic year, I want to remind everyone of the newly implemented attendance policy. The key points include:
 1. **Event Requirement:** Each senator is required to attend a minimum of 4 approved events per semester. Evidence of attendance should be submitted to me directly via Slack. Please note that if a senator signs up for an event and fails to attend without a valid, pre-approved excuse, it will result in a conduct referral. This decision was made collectively by Cabinet members to reflect the University Committee Requirements; please refer to the Bylaws Article XI, section 3A.
 2. **General Assembly Attendance Policy:** Each senator is permitted two unexcused absences per semester. If a senator needs to leave the General Assembly early, they are expected to provide prior notice and a valid excuse. Failure to do so will count as an unexcused absence. Members will be notified when an unexcused absence is issued.
 3. **Policy Enforcement:** Senators who did not meet the events or attendance requirements will be subject to review by the Judiciary Committee. This will ensure accountability and uphold the standards we've set.
 4. **Further Details:** I will provide a more in-depth explanation of the policy and its implications during the in-service session in Week 4. Please be sure to attend so that any questions or concerns can be addressed.

5. **Appeal Process:** If a member believes that an unexcused absence was recorded in error, they may appeal in writing to me directly within one week of receiving their formal warning. The Judiciary Committee will review the appeal and make a final determination.
6. **Judiciary Committee Update:** The Judiciary Committee is gearing up to start onboarding new members. This process is crucial as we ensure the committee is well-equipped to handle its responsibilities effectively. The Judiciary Committee will oversee the conduct review process, support the parliamentary and legislative process, review and edit legislation, and manage the annual election process.
7. **Legislative Review:** I've dedicated time to reviewing the previous and current legislation thoroughly and familiarizing myself with it. Additionally, I have reviewed the Governing Documents and will present changes in the coming weeks.

As we embark on this new academic year, I want to express my genuine excitement for what lies ahead. We have a strong team and a clear vision, and I am confident we will achieve great things together. Let's remain committed to our roles and continue to make a difference on campus.

4. Discussion

- a. Student Engagement in the 2024 Elections
 - i. Guests: GVSU Votes! - Melissa Baker-Boosamra and Isa Grunwaldt
 1. Baker-Boosamra: Good evening everyone! I used to be a senator here and I believe in the work that you all are doing. Thank you for inviting us here tonight. We are in the midst of a presidential election cycle. We believe that it is important for students to understand the rights and responsibilities that you all have. We have existed since 2015. GVSU votes are completely non-partisan. We want to make sure that everyone on campus can vote. We are a student led initiative with leaders along to provide guidance.
 2. Baker-Boosamra: In 2019, President Mantella signed the challenge to get 100% student voter registration and turnout.
 3. Baker-Boosamra: These graphs show voter turnout in both midterm and presidential elections. Michigan had the highest youth voter turnout in the country. They were one of only 4 states that had higher youth voter

turnout in 2022 than in 2018. In the last presidential election, the student voter rate jumped tremendously from 2016-2020. The goal for 2024 is 80% voter turnout with a view of 100%.

4. Baker-Boosamra: This pie chart has information on a survey of youth pre election. 41 million Gen-Z's will be able to vote in 2024. What are some observations that you notice and what can it do to upcoming elections?
 - a. Zurita: Many have parents born out of the US. This will add new cultural perspectives. They are more likely to vote for candidates that are pro immigration.
5. Baker-Boosamra: Michigan is an important state for youth voters when it comes to the election as well. Another survey talked about the issues that young voters are most interested in as well.
6. Baker-Boosamra: Why do you think students may not be voting?
 - a. Wright: Many students do not know how to vote or how to register.
 - b. Gessler: Many younger people do not think that their one vote will change the overall result.
 - c. James: A lot of young people are still learning about what each candidate is standing for. They might not be sure of what will be on the ballot.
 - d. Stang: Some students do not know where they can vote.
 - e. Devries: They might feel intimidated.
 - f. Baker-Boosamra: We are ready to overcome these challenges with young students.
7. Grunwaldt: We hold many events. Campus life night was a success! National voter registration day is coming up on September 17. We will have a mobile unit there to get people registered. We will need some volunteers for tabling! Then we have democracy 101. We have five events. There are many good speakers and educational opportunities.
8. Baker-Boosamra: Students who live in Allendale can register and vote in Kirkof. If you are a resident of somewhere outside of Allendale, you can choose to register and vote here. Otherwise there is absentee voting and early voting. We are having an election day celebration. There will be popcorn, pizza, marching band, and more.

9. Grunwaldt: Registering online, by mail, or in person has a deadline so make sure you get there in time! Michigan started automatic voter registration so you might already be registered if you did not opt out when you got your license.
10. Baker-Boosamra: You can request absentee ballots online. Early voting happens for 9 days in Michigan. Out of state students should go to their home secretary of state.
11. Questions:
 - a. Zurita: How do we measure 100% engagement?
 - b. Baker-Boosamra: Tufts tracks the amount of student voter engagement.
 - c. Wright: How do you feel the best way to get students to vote is as senators?
 - d. Baker-Boosamra: I would use your networks that you have as senators. The GVSU votes coalition is a great place to come and brainstorm ideas.

5. **Five Minute Recess**

6. **Discussion**

- a. Expressive Activity on Campus
 - i. Guest: Dean of Students Aaron Haight
 1. Haight: I spent my summer looking into expressive activity. We wanted to be as prepared as possible when the students came back. I used to teach higher ed law. We are a public institution. We have to abide by the first amendment. Time, place and manners are important. In 2016 we were sued. A group started at the clocktower. They had a beach ball that they called their free speech ball. They pushed the ball down the lane and were asked to go back to the clocktower. The lawsuit was about how students should have more freedom than non-students. Most of the questions come when non-affiliated people come onto campus to express their first amendment. They have to use the Carillon Tower, the plaza surrounding the Transformational Link or the Mount Vernon Pedestrian Mall free of charge unless there are prior reservations. They must stay within 50 feet of the landmarks. Activity must end by 10 p.m, but amplification must end by 5 p.m. Amplification devices are allowed if

they are requested 2 days in advance. They can not disrupt the business of the university. Recreational activities need to be approved ahead of time. College campuses have a history of political candidates coming to campuses. They can rent rooms for candidates if they want to. In 2016 we had four presidential candidates on campus. We only had two disruptions at each event. When speakers are here and students are affected, students can submit a campus climate report. Campus climate reports are meant to see trends on campus and if we need to do education. Institutions of higher ed have long histories of protests on campus. Each person here does not think the same. It is important to remember. We also need to remain content neutral. There are many great resources when it comes to information. We created a response and support team for when there are violations of the grounds and use policies. We can not send out warnings or remove people that are abiding by the policy. There are many resources if you need help when it comes to response and support.

2. Questions:

- a. Gessler: Some protests on campus will get in the way of students. Why are they allowed to come back?
- b. Haight: What has been reported does not qualify as harassment. Harassment is ongoing and repetitive.
- c. Hartley: Is it okay for people to profit off filming of students without their knowledge?
- d. Haight: There are individuals who do this on multiple campuses. The goal is for people to get in an argument with them and then profit off it so that they can go to the next location.

7. **Business**

a. Student Support and Resources Statement

- i. The senate reviews the priority outline statement written over the summer.
- ii. Discussion
 1. Stang: In the second paragraph, I would keep it consistent when writing names of resource centers.
 2. DeVries: Can we add something about ASL?
 3. Johnson: They officially passed that as a new foreign language.

4. Lawson: We did not pass that as a senate so we should not add that to the list.
5. Lawson: If we pass it, it will be sent out tomorrow and posted on our instagram.
6. Guzman: I would send it out on Tuesday so you have more interaction rather than a Friday before a long weekend.
7. Johnson: I would like to revisit adding ASL.
8. Gessler: We haven't done anything specific, so I think I would not add that in specifically.
9. Proctor: We can discuss how we sparked conversation rather than legislation.
10. Palumbo: I think that the legislation paragraph feels random and it might work better for focusing on last year in general.
11. Bernardi: I think the things that were added in this are things that students would resonate with immediately. The smaller changes might not resonate with the general population.
12. Palumbo: Focusing on the memorable things on campus makes the most sense to me.
13. Rienas: I think it's important to share the work that we do overall. A statement about the changes we made might be interesting as well. Regarding ASL, I think that gets lost in the statement.

iii. Proctor entertains a motion to approve the statement.

1. Gessler: So moved
2. Palumbo: second
3. 28 yays, 1 nay, 2 abstentions

b. Constitutional Amendment on Total Membership

8. Officer Reports

a. **Allocations** - Chairwoman Nancy Hoogwerf

- i. Hi everybody, Sorry I had to miss today, but I am currently girlbossing — so no need to worry about me. I have been working with Bri and Tristan (Finance Assistant) in the OSL to prepare us for another amazing year on Allocations. Though I had a few meetings with Bri over the summer, our weekly meetings begin tomorrow. If you have any questions for me/are interested in sitting on

Allo, or if you just want to talk, please reach out to me! I'm always happy to chat :)

b. **Public Relations** - Chairman Ty Vanlerberghe

- i. Hi, everyone! Happy Thursday! I cannot express how excited I am to be back in Pere Marquette with all of you. I hope you all had a great summer, first week of classes, and are excited for the year ahead! Over the summer, I have been busy preparing for the school year and attending to some of the updates that needed to be done. First, throughout the summer several PRC senators and I put up a couple posts on our social media, keeping campus updated on what the Senate has been up to these last few months. Now that we are back to school, social media content will be ramping up and become more regular again. Please slack me if you need/want promotion for any event/policy action that your council is planning ahead of the time, so PRC and I can get it completed. Second, over the summer, I worked with President Proctor to update our website and ensure that all the information present on it is relevant to our current body and the restructuring process. Third, recently, I worked to prepare us to be represented well at campus life night, as well as around campus. We have posters up throughout campus as well LakerHub slides to promote applications and had a very successful Campus Life Night that saw lots of new followers on Instagram and applications to join GA and the Judiciary Committee.
- ii. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out on Slack!

c. **DEI+B** - Chairwoman Genna Wright

- i. Hi everyone! Happy Thursday, I hope everyone had a great first week of classes! Since we had a lot to cover in ga today, and with our interview schedules I am going to keep my report short n sweet. I am overall very excited for this upcoming year of senate, and I'm also excited to have our first DEI+B council meeting today! With that being said, I have a meeting coming up with Jesse Bernal, the chief of staff, which I am very excited for. Also I've continued with planning the annual teach-in, a gvsu centered social justice event that takes place november 13th and 14th. Please let me know if any of you are interested in presenting a session for this event. If anyone has any questions or wants to reach out, please feel free to slack me :))

d. **Policy** - Chairman Alec Palumbo

- i. Good evening everyone, welcome back to the Student Senate! I hope your summers were good and relaxing. I have a quick update on policy: Me and Senator Johnstone met yesterday with Matt Ruen and Annie Belanger, who preside over University Libraries and Open Educational Resources. In short, we had a very productive conversation in terms of cost transparency of class textbooks. There is the potential for several follow-up meetings in regard to this topic, including sending a survey to students regarding textbook cost issues and even drafting potential legislation for clearer transparency practices. Everyone we have been in contact with thus far is very enthusiastic and supports the Senate's focus on this issue. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know.
- ii. In general, you can always get involved in Policy, even if you are not a part of the Counsel. Please reach out at any time if you have legislative ideas or want to learn more! We have a lot to look forward to and a lot of issues at hand to discuss. I look forward to a great semester with you all! I yield.
- e. **Events** - Chairwoman Riley Gessler
 - i. Hello everyone! Just wanted to give a few updates over the summer. I met with a few liaisons about Elect Her and we even have a date set up. I am starting to think of days for Last Lecture and I am about to get the process started for the 9/11 memorial so if you would like to help out please slack me! I did get offered a position as a GVSU Votes Fellowship member and I am super excited about that. Please let me know if you would like to help with anything at all!!

9. **Advisor Reports**

10. **University Committee Reports**

11. **Conclusion**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Proctor: After we adjourn we are all going down to the senate office to show the new applicants where it is.

12. **Adjournment at 6:45 pm**