

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, September 5th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Vice Chair: Paris Lawson

Parliamentarian: Evan Jackson



Agenda

1. **Call To Order**

- a. Native Land Recognition
- b. Roll Call - Part 1
- c. Public Comment - Part 1
- d. Passing of the Papers
 - i. Proctor: Please fill out the google form to show availability for volunteer opportunities.
- e. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda is adopted.
- f. Approval of the minutes
 - i. Minutes are approved.

2. **Executive Reports**

- a. **President** - Quinten Proctor
 - i. Met with Jenny to discuss collaboration between Cabinet and SLT. She will be issuing official University responses to our legislation. Followed up on Student Legal Services Department legislation.
 - ii. I have a recurring meeting with Dr. Kyle Boone this semester on every other Monday at 1pm. First meeting is this coming Monday (9/09). Please let me know if you have any questions you'd like me to bring with me. For those of you interested in meeting with Housing, coordinate through Chair Palumbo, but that is the standing meeting time for Student Senators.
 - iii. I did want to let you all know that Provost Mili did resign her position over the summer, citing personal reasons. President Mantella has asked Jen Drake, the Dean of CLAS to serve as Acting Provost for the time being.
 - iv. Attended ECS last week. Discussed potential AI policy at the University. Faculty have requested feedback from us about how students use AI in coursework and in

Grand Valley State University

Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

classes. We will discuss this at GA next week. I initiated a conversation surrounding the University's Election Day policies in reference to two bills we passed several years ago. ECS has created the Taskforce to examine Student Senate Resolutions F-18-04 and S-20-03 regarding voter participation and make recommendations, which will include Student Senate representation, if anyone is interested please let me know. ECS has charged Acting Provost Drake, UAS Chair Courtney Karasinski, and myself to create a recommendation memo to encourage flexibility for voter turnout, and that will be sent out to faculty.

- v. Many of you received an email this summer asking you to participate in the interview process for the new VP for People, Culture, and Equity for the University. This is the evolution of the Inclusion & Equity position and it now includes Human Resources and more. They are finalizing this process soon, and I will keep you updated.
- vi. I met with Jesse Bernal last week, the University Chief of Staff, and we discussed changes to President's Council this year. Instead of traditional President's Council meetings, we will be holding Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network meetings to reflect on the Reach Higher 2025 initiative and determine the next iteration of it to determine the University's broad goals for the future. We were also able to expand the Student Senate's representation at these meetings to include the Student Senate Chief of Staff now.

b. **Vice President** - Paris Lawson

- i. Hey everyone, Following up from last GA, the Statement we had passed has been posted and can now be found on both our instagram and website. We also finished our first interview group last week and will interview our second group next week following GA. This past week I printed everyone's placards, and have been working with many of you to help organize and support the projects you are working on. Further, I will continue to work with cabinet to make sure we are planning for the year ahead. Lastly, President Proctor and I will be meeting with Doug Wentworth to set up catering for GA and other relevant plans for the year.

Grand Valley State University

Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- c. **Chief of Staff** - Evan Jackson
 - i. I will be publishing a document this week detailing the events that are officially approved and count toward fulfilling the event attendance requirement for senators. Please review it carefully to ensure you meet the four-event minimum. Senator and Judiciary Committee Applications: We have completed the first round of interviews for the initial batch of applicants for both senator positions and the judiciary committee. Further updates will follow in the coming weeks, and I am optimistic and excited for the future! Senator Resignation Unfortunately, Senator Chance Carroll resigned from the Senate due to scheduling conflicts. We thank him for his service!
3. **Discussion**
- a. The International Student Experience
 - i. Guests: International Student Services - Emily Sumney
 - 1. Sumney: Hi everyone! I am the international student services coordinator. Come and visit us in the Padnos International Service! We support our international students in many ways. Support, talking, cultural adjustment, and more. A large role is immigration advising. We had a group of international students arrive recently. There will be around 200 international students starting this fall. They are on student visas. We had 600 enrolled last winter and this number is growing. We just had Global Laker Fest as a celebration for the semester starting. We have hosted many events through our center. Our kickoff event for the semester is tomorrow! All students are welcome to come. It is on Pew Campus from 4-6 tomorrow night. We are working for our students to apply to get continued work experience after they finish their degree here. We also are working to educate employers on how they can support international students as well as how they are able to work for them.
 - 2. Questions
 - a. Proctor: What are the common issues the international students face here?

Grand Valley State University

Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- b. Sumney: There are two big ones. They do not qualify for the same federal aid that domestic students do. They do not have the same financial aid opportunities. The other would be employment. Without having access to as much financial aid, work experience is vital to pay for things like groceries, textbooks, and rent. They are limited to on campus jobs which fill up quickly. Our team worked with the social security office to get 45 students social security numbers this past week,
- c. James: Can you touch in full time versus part time status?
- d. Sumney: International students have to maintain status. They have to follow the requirements. It is a student visa, so they must be pursuing their studies full time. Which would mean they have to have a full class load. Which also limits work hours. They are only allowed to work 20 hours per week.
- e. Sumney: If they are in their final semester, and are graduating, then they can apply for authorization to be less than full time. They have to be 100 percent sure that they will graduate.
- f.

4. Workshop

- a. Governing Document Reforms
 - i. Proctor: How do we feel about the name council versus committees?
 - ii. Wright: I do not think it is sticking, but I still like that word.
 - iii. Devries: I prefer committees?
 - iv. Proctor: The name of the DEI+B chair was brought up.
 - v. Wright: We were thinking about the names of dropping the B, the social justice council, and the advocacy council.
 - vi. Gemmen: I like advocacy because it follows the structure of the other councils with just one word.
 - vii. Wright: That is what we voted on last time and was liked the best.
 - viii. Vanlerberghe: I think it is important to include the new VP in these conversations as it does pertain to them.

Grand Valley State University

Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ix. Proctor: The big one is the conduct referral process. The judiciary committee and Chief of Staff Jackson will work heavily with this this year. What do you want to see the process look like in the future?
- x. Palumbo: I like the idea of having the judiciary committee handle it. Keeping it outside the senate rather than making it a priority during GA. Anonymous processes sound better to me.
- xi. Proctor: It used to be where we would bring both parties together. Do we like this idea or not?
- xii. Hartley: I think sometimes it is hard when both parties are brought together. It might be helpful to hear from both parties separately rather than together.
- xiii. Proctor: The ideas I am hearing are attendance policy, the name for DEI+B chair, the conduct process, and possibly changing the name back to council.

5. Business

- a. Constitutional Amendment on Total Membership
 - i. Proctor: We shrank total membership numbers and we are now revisiting the numbers.
 - ii. Jackson: Given the amount of excitement and lots of applications, I would like to amend membership from 40-50. There will be at least 13 people leaving for next year as graduating seniors.
 - iii. Hartley: I think this is important as 13 will be close to half of our people leaving. It would help to have freshmen and sophomores who can learn and grow when it comes to next year.
 - iv. Vanlerberghe: I think it is important to continue momentum moving forward. The up to 50 gives us room to have some discretion when it comes to numbers.
 - v. Eschelman: If we went to capacity, we would have about 2 extra senators to each council which would make things easier and more efficient.
 - vi. Devries: Why did we put it at 40 in the first place?
 - vii. Proctor: When we were restructuring at the beginning of last year, we had about 10 people here. The upcoming classes were small and there was very little interest. We shrank to create more competition and to reflect the lack of interest.

Grand Valley State University

Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At current we have 35, which would be 4 freshmen and 1 freshman. A lot of our applicants are not freshmen and we do not want to have to turn them away.

- viii. Hartley: We should grow with the school population.
- ix. Devries: If we stay at forty, we will have even numbers per grade.
- x. Johnstone: How would raising the number affect the seats per college?
- xi. Proctor: The bylaws let us fill these seats at large. We could potentially increase the amount of seats per college. The councils might get too big.
- xii. Eshelman: Is there any plan to add another seat for freshmen if we increase?
- xiii. Proctor: It used to be six, so I would recommend going back to that but we can talk more about that later.

6. Officer Reports

a. **Allocations** - Chair Nancy Hoogwerf

- i. I yield.

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

- i. Hi, everyone! Happy Thursday and happy first game day! This report is short but I do have some pertinent updates from this past week. Last week, we PRC had a very successful first council meeting where we laid a really good foundation for the rest of the year. We came up with a lot of fantastic new ideas of how we can elevate our social media presence and collaboration with other campus resources and I am very excited to see what is to come for us. Second, as you guys know, we had a photographer at last week's General Assembly and she did a fantastic job!! I am going to send the link to the pictures to you guys right after my report, so you all can go through and pick out the cute pictures of yourselves. Third, on Tuesday, I put in an order for some new Senate stickers. Those should come in sometime this month. If you don't already have one, we can get you one soon! And then looking ahead, I am working with Chairwoman Gessler to get some social media coverage on the events that we are holding for GVSU Votes. This will hopefully strengthen the relationship between the organization and Senate and increase voter registration here on campus! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out over Slack! Have a great weekend!

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

Grand Valley State University

Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



- i. Hi everyone ! Happy game day! And I hope you all had a great second week of classes. I've continued with planning our annual teach-in event, a GVSU centered social justice event that takes place November 13th and 14th, and again if anyone is interested in hosting a session please contact me and I can help you get that set up. I also have a meeting scheduled later this month with jesse bernal, the chief of staff, to discuss plans for the year, which I am excited for. This past week I reached out to black student union (which is an org I will be apart of this year) to formally introduce myself and explained a future hope for collaboration, also with that being said over the next week each council member will be reaching out to their center or liaisons assigned introducing themselves and explaining interest and ideas for the future. Also, we've been discussing changing our council name which will be presented at gv to get voted on. As usual, if anyone has any questions or wants to reach out please feel free to talk to me after ga or feel free to slack me. :)))

d. **Policy** - Chair Alec Palumbo

- i.

e. **Events** - Chair Riley Gessler

- i. Hello everyone! Please sign up for tabling for September 10th! I only need 1 more person, from 3-5 with free popcorn. Also, check out the other volunteer opportunities I sent in slack! Look out for information next week about our bonding event coming soon! Thanks!

7. **Advisor Reports**

8. **University Committee Reports**

9. **Conclusion**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements

10. **Adjournment at 5:35**