

# Grand Valley State University Student Senate

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, September 19th, 2024

Kirkhof 2204, 4:30pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Vice Chair: Paris Lawson

Parliamentarian: Evan Jackson



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### *Agenda*

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

- a. Native Land Recognition
- b. Roll Call - Part 1
- c. Public Comment - Part 1
  - i. I am the recruiting specialist for launching the newest fraternity on campus. I thought it would be pertinent to talk about it. A new fraternity expansion is a good opportunity to expand school. We are looking for the best and brightest students to get involved that may not have found a way to get involved in the first place. It is new at GVSU but not in the world. Some of the most pertinent people have been members of our organization. If you are interested you can find us on instagram at PHIDELGVSU.
  - ii. Hallead: I am very proud of all that you have done and accomplished. If you need my information many of the senators have it already.
- d. Passing of the Papers
- 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. Student Affairs
    1. Over the next few weeks, I will continue work on getting our previous pieces of legislation implemented. That includes setting up the Student Legal Services taskforce that we've been discussing. I'll also be discussing the Gender Neutral Bathroom Map with the Promotions Office and Facilities as Jenny Hall-Jones, the VP for Student Affairs, has recommended.
  - ii. Academic Affairs
    1. UAS is meeting tomorrow afternoon for the first time this year. I will be attending along with Vice President Lawson, and Senators Rienas and Eshleman. The biggest topic of discussion pertaining to us is about the Taskforce for student and faculty voting. Again, if you are interested in sitting on this

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taskforce, please let me know so that I can get you added to the list. When ECS created this taskforce, they did agree to allow multiple Student Senators to join.

2. I am meeting with Acting Provost Jen Drake next Wednesday to discuss various University developments regarding faculty, curriculum, the libraries, and more related to students' academics.
3. I am finalizing our representatives for University Committees. I have reached out to everyone who has indicated interest in one on Slack. If you have not responded to me yet, please do that right now if you can! Or otherwise ASAP as I would like to get those in over the next couple days. I am waiting on a few of you still.

iii. **People, Culture, and Equity**

1. I did want to let everyone know that Robert Shorty has been selected as the new Vice President for People, Culture, and Equity. I believe it would be good for Student Senate to create opportunities to welcome and collaborate with him to establish a meaningful partnership already at the beginning of his tenure, so I will work on setting up a meeting with him once he gets settled into his position.

iv. **Office of the President**

1. Next Wednesday, I am also meeting with President Mantella along with Jenny Hall-Jones to discuss collaboration between the SLT and our Cabinet, updates on the Blue Dot initiative, her vision for GVSU, and my vision for Student Senate, in addition to other topics as well.

v. **Personal**

1. Yesterday, I sat on the Democracy 101 Student Leader Panel and it was a super positive experience. The other panelists, which include several of your fellow Senators, did amazing as well. Thank you to those of you that came out to support this event!
2. Yesterday, I also participated in the focus group for Michigan's Growth Office for their discussion on climate and how that affects people's decisions on moving. Thank you to the other Senators who participated in this as well.

b. **Vice President** - Paris Lawson

- i. Over the past week I have been working with Jenny Hall-Jones to put together our legal services task force. As of now we are working on inviting relevant university faculty as well as picking a meeting day and time. For those who reached out to me expressing

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interest in this I will be updating you on next steps soon. Further I have been working on preparing today's legislation workshop and presentations.

- ii. Yesterday the executive team as well as a few senators met with the Michigan Growth Office for an on-campus focus group to gain insight into how climate action influences migration among young people.
- iii. Looking ahead, tomorrow I will be attending President's Council and UAS with President Proctor. In Presidents council we will be broadly discussing the university's reach higher initiatives. Coming up we have our annual Campus Safety Night Walk, on Tuesday Oct 8th at 7:15pm, the events committee has partnered with GVPD to plan this event. Please reach out to chair Gessler with any questions regarding this event.

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

- i. Good afternoon, Senators, I want to start by giving you an update on the event requirement. I've put together a list of events that will count toward fulfilling this requirement, and that list is available now. Please make sure to check it, as we'll continue adding more events throughout the semester.
- ii. Additionally, Chair Gessler and I met this week to update the document tracking everyone's event attendance. It shows where each of you stand in terms of meeting your event participation requirements. I encourage you all to stay on top of this so you can ensure you meet the expectations by the end of the semester. A quick but important reminder: if you RSVP for an event and do not show up without a valid, pre-approved excuse, you will be referred through the conduct process immediately. Please be mindful of this when signing up for events.
- iii. On another note, I've had my first meeting with the Judiciary Committee, and we've begun reviewing the governing documents. We're making solid progress, and I plan to present the changes as early as October 10th. I'll keep you updated on that as things develop.
- iv. Lastly, if you have any events that you'd like reviewed and considered for the approved events list, please Slack me as soon as possible. We're always looking to provide more opportunities for everyone.

3. **Workshop**

- a. The Legislative Process
  - i. Vice President Lawson goes over the Legislative Process and documents she has prepared.
- b. How to Write a Professional Email

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- i. Chair Gessler goes over how to write a professional email.

#### 4. Business

##### a. Amendment on Attendance for the Graduate Student Seat

- i. Jackson: I would like to propose this amendment and change the bylaws. It will reshape the way the graduate student attendance policy is. It requires 50% attendance to meetings and 2 events. The reason for this is to make this seat more accessible due to the larger workload.
- ii. Discussion
  1. Gessler: I think this is very acceptable because 50% is a low number but allows participation in senate and their other responsibilities.
  2. Dykhuis: Do we want to give them the opportunity to be on a committee if they want to.
  3. Jackson: Right now we are leaning towards no because it is not fair to the rest of the group who has to show up more.
  4. Vanlerberghe: This does not limit them from participating in projects, but it does not make them obligated to do the projects.
  5. McDonough: I actually disagree and think that if you can't make the full commitment then you are not eligible for student senate.
  6. Hoogwerf: I think that the reason we did this was because we wanted the graduate student to have a voice here. So I think this flexibility is needed.
  7. Solorio: By giving this leniency we might be able to draw different voices here.

#### 5. Discussion

##### a. The Four Agreements

##### i. Aaron Haight

1. Aaron Haight discusses The Four Agreements book.

##### b. Admission Standards and Retention Rates

- i. Proctor: Please fill out this survey. I will bring your concerns to Donta Truss. In the meantime I would like to give you some updates. Last year was the biggest and most diverse freshman class. We brought in less freshmen this year than in the past. The biggest reason is the long wait with FAFSA. GVSU has stepped up recruitment with the East side and Chicago areas. There are some things at the Federal level when it comes to recruitment overall. There are fewer high school students to bring into college as well. This will potentially continue to be an obstacle. A big topic about this is the Town Hall

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talking about these issues. We can address the resources available to students and how to promote them. So, what do you think are the most important resources?

ii. Discussion:

1. Zurita: I think that we should talk more about funding for these resources rather than how to promote them.
2. DeVries: The university needs to know that students are not always going to seek out these resources.
3. Wright: I think the Office of Student Life is a very important resource for students to use.
4. Eapen: Speaking from experience, prior to moving in, I was contacted by the office of Multicultural Affairs. They offered to help me move in and then go to their orientation. This is big because I started out with a community before even starting school. I think that this is huge for overall retention.
5. Stang: There are a lot of places to find these resources and they can be overwhelming. It is helpful for students to have a group basically take them in and then you can pass down your knowledge as you go through college.
6. Hartley: I am a part of the Honors college and Greek Life. As a part of the Honors college, you get a mentor and I think that having older people who have this wisdom of what happens when things get hard is very valuable and important.
7. McDonough: I think that there is not a lot of guidance for transfer students. From experience, I did not have very many resources when it came to being a transfer student. We need to do better at these resources.
8. Dolnik: I think mental health is a very big factor. There are resources on campus that many people do not know about and their offices do not have a lot of staff. I work closely with AOD and they are like this. I think promoting offices like these would be very important and help with mental health.
9. Gemmen: I think it is important that we spread these resources by word of mouth rather than just with fliers and emails.
10. Robach: I work with the career center. This has come up a lot. Something that was discussed is a weekend orientation where students stay on campus and then take tours to see the offices and meet the people.
11. DeVries: I think a lot of these resources do not have enough staff and therefore feel overwhelmed.

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#### 6. Officer Reports

##### a. **Allocations** - Chair Nancy Hoogwerf

- i. Hi everyone, We funded two events last week, those can be seen in my Allo report in the weekly email. There is no allo meeting tomorrow but I am expecting to have one the week after for anyone interested in attending! Have a safe and wonderful weekend!!

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

- i. Hi, everyone! Happy Thursday! First, this past weekend, I attended Ignite, the Office of Student Life's semesterly training for Student Organizations, on behalf of the Student Senate. Here, I attended two focus groups on organizational promotions and leadership retention and development. I learned a lot during this event and am excited to share what I learned with the cabinet and apply it to both PRC and the Senate as a whole.
- ii. Second, I am currently in the process of updating the website with our new members and new headshots. If you are a new senator or would like me to update your profile/headshot on the website, please fill out the form that I have in Slack. I am going to post it again right after my report.
- iii. Finally, I have been working with Senator Gemmen and Senator Thuene to work on social media posts and bulletin board updates to reflect our new body. You all can look forward to those coming soon.

##### c. **Advocacy** - Chair Genna Wright

- i. Hi everyone! Happy Thursday, and I hope you all had a great week of classes ! I've continued with planning the annual teach-in event which is a gvsu centered social justice event, featuring session presentations that engage participants across a variety of challenging issues. If you want to consider presenting a session, each collaborative session must have at least two presenters, preferably one being a student. Additional guidelines for proposals and the proposal submission form may be found at the "Where to Start" tab on the Teach-In website, and proposals will be accepted until Sunday, October 13. Also, as we are approaching the end of September (which is deaf awareness month) we will be discussing how we can advocate for deaf students on campus! Per usual if anyone has any question or wants to talk about anything, please feel free to slack me :))

##### d. **Policy** - Chair Alec Palumbo

- i. Hello everyone, I wanted to announce a couple of meetings occurring soon. First, we will be meeting with the Libraries Executive Team on October 8th to discuss cost transparency and other relevant library updates. Additionally, there will be a meeting with Morgan Billings, director of Pew Campus Food Service, on Thursday, October 24th. If

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anyone is interested in joining and discussing the food options available to Pew Campus, feel free to slack me. As one more reminder, do not forget to fill out that quick survey that I have sent into the slack.

- ii. Lastly, the Policy Committee will be discussing their intended first meetings today. We will likely have more announcements and opportunities to present to you all in the upcoming weeks. If you have any interests in meetings or legislation, feel free to ask me any questions. I yield.

e. **Events** - Chair Riley Gessler

- i. Hello everyone, Happy Thursday! I want to start by reminding people that our GVPD Safety Night Walk sign-up is still out. It is in the opportunities channel and counts as one of your four events! Another reminder that GVSU Votes! Volunteer events also count as an event. Please let me know if you have questions about either of these things and I will be happy to answer questions! Lastly, please come to my committee with ideas for bonding events. Thanks!

7. **Advisor Reports**

8. **University Committee Reports**

9. **Representative Reports**

- a. Zurita: The Graduate Student Center is hosting an event tomorrow. The biggest challenge was culturally appropriate food. We had to move our event to a park in Grand Rapids.

10. **Conclusion**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
  - i. Just a reminder that we will be on the Health Campus in DCIH 445 next Thursday!
  - ii. Committees will be meeting immediately following adjournment. I will be sitting in on Advocacy, Vice President Lawson will be with Public Relations, and Chief of Staff Jackson will be with Events tonight.
  - iii. Cabinet will be meeting at roughly 6:45pm for anyone interested in attending!

11. **Adjournment at 5:56pm**