

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

DCIH 445, 5:00pm

Chair: Quinten Proctor

Vice Chair: Paris Lawson

Parliamentarian: Evan Jackson



Minutes

1. **Call To Order at**

- 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 form in slack.
- e. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. Agenda is adopted.
- f. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Minutes stand approved.

2. **Executive Reports**

- a. **President** - Quinten Proctor
 - i. Academic Affairs
 1. Last week, UAS met with quite a bit on the agenda. We didn't ultimately get to the taskforce to encourage student voting, but we did discuss a new "Research Intensive" label for courses that had a lot of interesting discourse.
 2. I met with Provost Drake yesterday, and we had a good discussion about a variety of topics. We touched on our college representative seats and the relationships with the Deans, the shared governance model and communication loops with administration, as well as the invisible communication barriers legislation that's still in progress.
 3. I will be attending ECS tomorrow and we will be discussing AI policy once again, along with the GVSU Omni program.
 - ii. Office of the President
 1. Yesterday, I met with President Mantella and Vice President for Student Affairs Jenny Hall-Jones. We came up with an action plan to make the most of the upcoming Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team meeting in November. We also discussed our broad priorities for the year, along with the Blue Dot, and student voter engagement efforts, among many other topics.
 - iii. Personal

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1. Earlier this week, Chair Gessler and I attended a student voter roundtable hosted by the Michigan Secretary of State's office, which was quite informative as well.
 2. I want to review the fall schedule real quick, as I made some small edits.
- b. **Vice President** - Paris Lawson
- i. Good afternoon, In the University Academic Senate (UAS) meeting, last friday, Provost Drake shared updates on advising resources and program changes:
 - ii. 15 new advisors have been hired, bringing the student-to-advisor ratio to 450 students :1 advisor. Of the new advisors, 7 were assigned to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 3 to the Seidman College of Business, and 5 to exploratory advising.
 - iii. Additionally, the college success course is now a mandatory requirement for students in the Oliver Wilson Scholars program, which has also seen an increase in staff from 4 to 12 members.
 - iv. Over the past week, I have been following up with some of our college representatives and helping them with their collaboration with their Deans. As we move through the semester, time is flying by. With that in mind, I encourage you to start brainstorming and drafting any legislation ideas you plan to work on this year. Keep in mind that the legislative process can take several months, so it's important to get started as early as possible.
- c. **Chief of Staff** - Evan Jackson
- i. Over the past week, I have met with the Judiciary Committee, where we began reconfiguring our conduct process. We are actively working on rewriting the conduct process form to streamline procedures and ensure clarity. This revision will improve how we handle conduct referrals moving forward.
 - ii. Additionally, I will present a three-part plan that builds up to an event aimed at engaging with the larger campus community. Today, we will discuss this initiative in small groups to gather feedback and refine the details. Senators have also been actively suggesting events, and I am working to compile these recommendations. On top of that, I am developing a few additional event opportunities to ensure broad senator involvement in campus activities. As always, if you have any events that you would like to suggest as a potential requirement fulfilling event, please let me know as soon as possible.
3. **Workshop**
- a. The Shared Governance Model
 - i. Proctor: We are going to go over the Shared Governance Model. Students, Faculty, and Administration partner to make sure that everyone is aware of policy changes at the

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university level. When everyone agrees, that is when the change happens. Usually, when we pass legislation, they are very willing to work with us to push it forward. We tend to make bigger changes with legislation. Faculty looks at smaller things that they get from university committees. Oftentimes, that is where the policies come from. This is why it is important for students to be on these committees. From there it goes to ECS. ECS votes to send it forward, deny it, or create task forces. President's council is President Mantella, the senior leadership team, the executive branch, and other high officials on campus. Right now we are talking about Reach Higher 2025.

b. Collaborative Public Forum

- i. Jackson: I came up with a three part event series that shows what the Student Senate really does. Tabling is where students can come and talk and see that we are all humans and get to know us personally. Secondly, there is the social media part. The PR team will be going around campus doing interviews asking questions about what students do and do not like about campus. Finally, we will have a forum for students. This will be a way for students to voice their opinions and work through the problems. It will be a way to hear from students directly to see what students would like to change about campus specifically.
- ii. Proctor: The idea is that this event will be high visibility for the student senate throughout the general student population. The hope is that this will be an annual event that will happen in the fall like the State of the Student Body in the winter. To make this work, we will need help from all senators. Over the next ten minutes discuss your connections on campus and which event option sounds better.
- iii. Discussion
 1. Hartley: It would be helpful to make this INT approved or work with the honors college.
 2. Palumbo: I think we should reach out to student organizations specifically and have them RSVP so we can have a productive conversation.
 3. Gessler: We talked about having parents send in thoughts about things on campus that they have known.
 4. Laurin: We talked about roping student admissions in so that when students are taking tours they can see the office and talk to real people to know what the student senate does.
 5. Hoogwerf: We talked about bringing in the Student Success Center and offering food.

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6. Hartley: We talked about having the RA's spread the information so the freshman population will know.
7. Zurita: We talked about having different color sticky notes to go along with something that maybe they agree with versus not agree with so that we can see what people think on different subjects.
8. Green: We talked about making the interview more personal so they feel they are being heard. We also talked about making sure at the end of the interview we give a date.
9. Theakston: I thought about doing a giveaway with senate merch or maybe with the Laker store to get people to come.
10. Gessler: I like the idea of signs that lead to the room on the date. Those always catch my eye.
11. Hartley: I think that going over what the student senate is and what the lengths of our powers go to so that the questions are productive versus not.

4. Discussion

a. Deaf Awareness

- i. Proctor: As far as making university changes, I am not sure what we can do in this case. I do think it is important that we bring it up. Does anyone have any thoughts about things we could be doing or conversations we could be having related to deaf awareness.
- ii. Green: I think that teaching or having a person come in to teach the basics of sign language so that everyone has knowledge about how to communicate.
- iii. Stang: Going off of that, having an interpreter would be interesting and then they can explain what they do.
- iv. Wright: I think we need to spread the word that ASL is being counted for the language requirement.

5. Business

a. Amendment on Attendance for the Graduate Student Seat

- i. Jackson: We are going to revisit the amendment to the Graduate Student Policy. The highlights are they are required to attend 50% of the General Assembly Meetings, 2 events are required, they will not be on a committee, and finally they can not miss 3 consecutive General Assembly meetings.
- ii. Proctor: Just for clarification, if the student wants to work with the committee they can.
- iii. Proctor: Motion to pass the Graduate Student Amendment
- iv. Palumbo: So moved

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- v. Hoogwerf: Second
- vi. 35 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

6. Discussion

a. Transparency with Courses

- i. Palumbo: We are going to have a discussion about Course Marking and Cost Transparency. Course marking is the act of signifying course materials as either no cost or low cost (\$50). Required materials refers to textbooks, workbooks, and other learning platforms. This would take place during registration making sure that students know that the class is either low cost or no cost. It is not always a perfect system but it has made things a lot easier when it comes to the cost of materials for class. There have been many states that have taken the initiative to have courses using low cost or free course materials. There is a typical standard for low cost which is \$50 or less but each state that has passed it has defined it a little bit differently. There is no law in Michigan that enforces course marking, although Oakland University's Student Senate has been pushing for Michigan colleges to start this. This helps students better prepare for the cost of classes. It also provides clear and transparent information about courses. In my opinion, this sets a precedent for professors to get this mark by using cheaper resources. We are going to discuss three questions in our small groups.

ii. Discussion

1. Gessler: If students know this information earlier, it can help students budget their money over the summer.
2. Eapen: It can be overwhelming to have a surplus on your bill. This could help with this stress.
3. Rienas: For one of my classes, I have had to purchase more than \$200 extra for projects.
4. Schwallier: I had to purchase a 100 dollar book after classes started and it would have helped to know this. I could have then taken a different class.
5. Hoogwerf: It is hard to change curriculum, so some professors might not like this at all.
6. Solorio: If a teacher has to change their curriculum, they might not be able to teach at the same level as before.
7. Rienas: I don't think I have not had to pay for a class, but it might deter people from the major overall.

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8. Stang: There might be some gray area of if the professor will have to use the free or low cost material.
9. Gessler: Some professors might not care, because the class will be required anyways.
10. DeVries: How do we prevent the unexpected supplies from classes?
11. Palumbo: I think that this is hard and sometimes unexpected costs can come up. This will definitely deserve further discussion.
12. Gessler: A warning might help that extra materials are going to have to be purchased.
13. Hartley: From \$75-\$100 makes more sense for 3 credit hours. So based on 3 credit hours.
14. Theakston: I think that \$50 makes sense overall.
15. Hoogwerf: I think that low cost should be defined based on minimum wage. I think 4x campus minimum wage makes the most sense.
16. Eapen: I like the way GVSU save works so that you can use either your scholarship or tuition money to pay for it.
17. Rienas: I think it is important to have a note of buying an extra kit for class or more.
18. Gessler: Is there any way to market classes as high cost?
19. Palumbo: I think that that would just be defined as higher than the low cost.
20. Bernardi: Some majors have a cost barrier when it comes to school. So, this might be something that will not change for time.

7. Officer Reports

a. **Allocations** - Chair Nancy Hoogwerf

- i. Hi everyone, we didn't meet last week as there were no requests, but we will meet tomorrow and President Proctor will be chairing the meeting as I have work commitments. We will have three funding requests. Other than that, have a safe and fun weekend!

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

- i. Hi, everyone! Happy Thursday! And Happy October! First, I am happy to announce that on Monday Senator Richards and I completed our collaboration with the Career Center to help promote the upcoming Career and Internship Fair. Collaborative posts with different offices around campus were a huge goal for PRC and I this year and I believe this was a great start and am excited to do more.

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- ii. Second, I met with Chair Gessler on Monday to discuss a potential collaboration between her and I for a fall bonding event. Stay tuned in the Slack for more details from her and I.
 - iii. Third, I have finalized all of the requests I received for website profile changes. All of you who filled out the form I sent out can now view your updated profile and headshot. If you want changes done to your profile or are a new Senator and have not filled out the form that I sent out yet, please do so soon.
 - iv. Fourth, today several PRC Senators and I updated the bulletin board with all of our new headshots. A huge shout out to those who helped work on it, it looks great!!
 - v. Finally, last week, cabinet and I approved a new order of Senate lapel pins to replenish our stock. If you did not receive one last year or are new this year, please reach out to me and I will make sure I get you one when they come in! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out over Slack! Have a great weekend!
- c. **Advocacy** - Chair Genna Wright
- i. Hi everyone! Happy Thursday, I hope you all had a great week of classes! I had a meeting yesterday with my teach in committee (marketing and promotions) where we discussed the best way to get more student outreach for this GVSU social justice event, and we are working on getting tabling booked in Kirkhoff October 28th, 29th, and the 30th. Also, with that being said if you are interested in presenting a session for the teach in please reach out to me and I can help you get set up! Proposals will be accepted till Sunday, October 13th. Also over the past week the senators in my committee have reached out to their centers/liaisons for future collaborations so good job to them for that. As usual if anyone has any questions or wants to talk about anything, please feel free to slack me!
- d. **Policy** - Chair Alec Palumbo
- i. Happy Thursday everyone, the only announcement I have for you this week is that meetings are currently being made for housing, parking, and sustainability. I will share more updates on when we will meet and what our focuses at these meetings will be in the future! Thank you!
- e. **Events** - Chair Riley Gessler
- i. Hello everyone! Safety Night Walk is really coming together and is next week! There is still time to sign up and send me your confirmation. This month is Breast Cancer Awareness month and Events has decided to take this on and collaborate with other clubs/table for it! More details will come out soon. Also, please respond to my message

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in updates about the three selected dates! We are trying to select another date for bonding/do fall pictures that will be super cute! Thanks!

8. **Advisor Reports**

- a. Haight: Make sure you are looking into the voting events! Make sure you are being respectful overall when it comes to events on campus.

9. **University Committee Reports**

10. **Representative Reports**

11. **Conclusion**

- a. Public Comment - Part 2
- b. Roll Call - Part 2
- c. Call for Announcements
 - i. Bernardi: This is domestic violence month, so there are many events. I sent out a calendar of events, so please check those out.
 - ii. Solorio: There is a hispanic heritage event happening with food.

12. **Adjournment at 6:40pm**