**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**November 30, 2015**

Co-President Panzer calls the meeting to order at 7:00

1. **Attendance**

Question of the day: What’s your favorite thing about winter?

1. **Approval of the Minutes 11/23/15**

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

None

1. **Unfinished Business**
   1. **Contingency Update: Controller Johnson**

Johnson: We currently have $85,887

* 1. **Committee Updates**
     1. **Public Relations**

Swenson: Take your Professor to Lunch: 66pairs already taken; Senate shirts will hopefully be finalized before the end of the semester, the Senate logo is being finalized.

* + 1. **Health & Housing: Chair Dickey**

Dickey: We are working on finalizing the survey for visitation hours, hydration survey, recycling policies, Peace Tea, vegan vegetarian new options.

* + 1. **Diversity: Chair Singh**

Singh: We will be analyzing the data from the survey from last week.

1. **New Business**

Luing: I’ve been working on a resolution. I would like the Senate to read it and have a discussion about it. This would be an endorsement from Senate to promote diversity and inclusion. I move to pass this resolution and send it to the student body, the faculty, Senate and Gustavus ACTS.

Seconded by Haberman

**Discussion:**

**The Resolution:**

**“From: Gustavus Adolphus College Student Senate**

**Topic: Student Senate Affirmation of Education Emphasizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Curriculum Development**

**WHEREAS Student Senate acknowledges that people experience systemic oppression (insert link to Student Senate Solidarity Resolution);**

**WHEREAS Gustavus has engaged in strategic planning to address the world’s most pressing problems through curricular innovation, career readiness, the articulation of the institution’s immigrant and Lutheran tradition, and establishing a fiscally secure future;**

**WHEREAS Student Senate recognizes that education is an essential tool for long term change;**

**WHEREAS curricular innovation provides an opportunity for education on diversity, equity, and inclusion with regards to all peoples on local, national, and international scales;**

**BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to live out the pillars of Justice, Community, Faith, Excellence, and Service, Student Senate endorses an integrative education emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the current curriculum reform. “**

Luing: We as the voice of the student body recognize that many of our constituents across the campus work to reject the systemic oppression of marginalized people. We as a senate body have previously issued formal statements rejecting such ideas. As established in previous discussions, this is not a political issue by nature, but rather a moral one.

Here at Gustavus, things are changing. With Gustavus ACTS, the college has moved to not just take notice of the world’s most pressing issues, but to form an active stance to address these problems. One of these problems is systemic oppression of innumerable marginalized populations across the globe and Gustavus has the opportunity to help stop it.

This opportunity takes place in curriculum reform. We are restructuring what an education at Gustavus looks like, and I believe this to be the perfect time to implement an emphasis of diversity, inclusion, and equity into the learning process of this school. This not only prepares students to address the issues currently on campus, but allows them to leave this institution equipped to grapple with the larger issues in the world.

What I urge Senate to do tonight is not to create a curriculum or an addendum for one. We are not qualified and that is already being developed very intensively by a curriculum committee outside of Senate. What may prove fruitful is instead creating an endorsement of this model as now is the time that ideas are being integrated into the very experience of Gustavus.

We as a body need to pass this as soon as possible because the input stage is nearly done. The date this stage will end is December 15th.

Gladitsch: I would ask the author: where would you like this to go?

Luing: It is intentional. I don’t want this to be restrictive in any way.

Ostberg: I support this resolution. This encourages diversity and inclusion in the curriculum.

Singh: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are everyone’s task. I appreciate that Senator Luing took this initiative. I would like to clarify the 2nd “Whereas”. That refers to Gustavus ACTS. A lot of work is happening in searching more about including this in the curriculum. This resolution puts more work into the resolution that was passed last week. It is important that faculty and the administration hear what we are thinking. This is to say that we support the work being done already

Toeben: I support this too.

Hinnenkamp: I support this. I’m on the curriculum committee. So this strengthens what we already have. Our last meeting is Dec 11. This being passed today, it would help make it through to the committee’s meeting.

Sweet: I’m in full support of this. I once served on the curriculum committee. We created diversity in the curriculum through different processes and it’s great that students are willing to contribute to this planning.

VanHecke: I had a brief conversation with the Provost and he’s in full support of this. But ultimately the huge responsibility belongs to the faculty. I would encourage Alex to send it to the curriculum committee.

Rasmussen: Is there any reason to send the resolution to the different groups you specified?

Luing: I wanted this to be sent to the student body specifically to make people conscious of a sense of accountability.

Haberman: Is this sent to the curriculum committee?

Luing: If it’s passed tonight yes.

VanHecke: Are you sure the whole committee is in the ACTS?

Hinnenkamp: Not everyone

Singh: The 2nd “Whereas” can be changed to the present tense. And please include the curriculum committee as one of the targeted groups.

Gladitsch: So moved

Seconded by Hinnenkamp

Gladitsch: I move for this resolution to be sent to the curriculum committee

Seconded by Lamberty (Curriculum Committee)

**Discussion:**

Gladitsch: This is commonsense

Hinnenkamp: This is very reasonable to do.

**Vote**

**Amended**

Gladitsch: I think this is great. But I don’t think this a way to tell the faculty what to do but it’s just a suggestion.

Schmitz: Should we send it to the student body? Or should we do in a different way…this is a big deal.

Gladitsch: One of the Co-Presidents, can you tell us how is a resolution supposed to be?

Rasmussen: A resolution is normally in a formal statement.

Schmitz: A formal letter to the curriculum committee would be appropriate

Sweet: I think one of our goals was being transparent with the student body. This would be a great way to do it.

Hinnenkamp: This would hold more weight if we do it formally. This should remain a resolution but the idea continuing.

Schmitz: If we send out a resolution every week, it might weaken resolutions…it’s a good thing but I don’t think this is necessary.

Luing: I do recognize that we sent a resolution last week. But given that we have timing special circumstances, we should send it now if approved.

Dix: This should be said powerfully.

**Vote**

**Approved**

1. **Announcements**

Sweet: Neighborhood shirts, get one soon! Our sorority is tabling all this week.

Svendsen:Tomorrow is election for off-campus voting, it would be good to have someone from 12:30 to 1:30. Let me know if someone is available.

Luing: The roads are slippery. Remain safe and warm.

Hinnenkamp: Prayers for peace outside of Christ Chapel Wednesday 6:00-6:15.

VanHecke: Heads up for Wednesday. Candles will be lit for peace around the world.

Dix: Don’t forget that Safe Rides is running.

Roose: CinCC, go to rehearsals. You are all welcome.

Singh: PASO is hosting Kwanza Thursday Dec 10 (6-8pm). 45 spots available. Sign up in the D- Center.

Panzer: Chair Singh and I are members of the Strategic committee…reiterating what we think College should look like 10 years from now. Next Monday after the meeting, we will be looking for input on the document.

Gunnigle: Don’t forget that tickets to CinCC are free for students.

**\*Meeting adjourned**