**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**April 4, 2016**

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

1. **Attendance**

Question of the day: What song can best describe your Spring Break?

1. **Approval of the Minutes 3/21/16**

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

None

1. **Appointments**
   1. **2016-17 Ombudsperson**

**Nominations:**

Cella: I nominate Mr. Joe Robbins. We’ve had great conversations and I think he’s a great candidate.

Seconded by Dix

Robbins: I have met most of you. I’m a Philosophy major and with a Dance Minor. I’m on the Ethics committee. I want this because I enjoyed my time in the committee. I’ve been familiar with what the Ombudsperson is supposed to do. In addition to that, last year I was on the inter-hall council and we drew a constitution. This experience gave mea good number of insights.

**Questions**:

Svendsen: Are you familiar with the current constitution and the by-laws?

Robbins: Yes

Panzer: We can choose violate the 2/3 vote sometimes in financial matters, is that someone something you will avoid.

Robbins: When a violation has occurred, we decide what needs to be done based on the action’s intent and the precedent of the decision.

Gunnigle: Are you able to look at situations in a non-biased manner?

Robbins: In my position as a student at large, I don’t have a bias in the committee. My main duty will be to follow the by-laws.

Panzer: What’s the most important purpose of Student Senate?

Robbins: Create an encouraging atmosphere for the student body.

**Discussion:**

Cella: He does a great job.

Singh: I worked with Joe in the past in the inter-hall council and putting the by-laws together, he played a great role in it.

Roose: He’s very intelligent. He’s also able to make fast and accurate decisions. However I have experienced multiple times when he was not able of being completely honest and willing to listen to the other side of the argument. This why I won’t personally be voting for him and I thought I should let everyone know.

Svendsen: Joe likes to be the devil’s advocate in a lot of arguments, and that can solidify the decision that needs to be made.

Dix: I’ve had a class with him and he’s able to understand quickly new concepts. He can be very practical.

**Vote**

**Joe Robbins Approved**

1. **Committee Updates**
   1. **Public Chair Committee**

Swenson: Spread the word on Take your Professor to lunch

**Questions:**

Singh: The logos?

Swenson: Soon!

* 1. **Student and Academic Affairs**

Ostberg: Mirrors are in the weight room!

**Questions**:

Gladitsch: Did it go under the budget?

Ostberg: Right on

* 1. **Health and Housing**

Dickey: Tell me about your day has started.

1. **Unfinished Business**
   1. **Bylaw amendments**

Svendsen: We were tasked to make a Finance and Ethics joint committee to look into the appropriate language about the take-away items.

**Discussion:**

Gladitsch: I’m very much in favor of this.

Toeben; I like the changes, they show where we should stand.

Panzer:How should the Readership Program be justified through this?

Johnson: We would still use it. Technically the Finance doesn’t decide on it but it’s the Co-Presidents’ decision.

VanHecke: This would be changed through the leaders of Senate, CAB and Building Bridges. It’s more complex than it seems.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Fully Approved**

* 1. **Constitutional amendment**

Svendsen: Specific places where “his/her” is used and that doesn’t include everybody.

Rasmussen: We’ll go with the by-law amendment first and then the constitution one later.

**Discussion:**

Toeben: I support this.

Gladitsch: I don’t oppose it. It’s not legally necessary but I’m fine with voting for it.

**Roll Call Vote (By-law Amendment)**

**Fully Approved**

**Roll Call Vote (Constitution Amendment)**

**Fully Approved**

* 1. **Letter to the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct**

Panzer: This letter contains a set of recommendations from Senate based on Senator Cella’s propositions.

Co-President Panzer reads and explains the letter below:

*“Dear task force members:*

*We write to you today on behalf of the Student Senate. In the past few weeks, students have spoken out to all members of the college community to raise concerns with the College’s handling of sexual misconduct. We are pleased the administration has listened to these messages and is taking meaningful steps to review and improve the culture and policy around this sensitive subject. Although sexual assault directly affects only a set number of people, it disrupts the wellbeing of our community as a whole, and provides a threat of injustice that we must work together to confront. We believe you are the best vehicle for meaningful, sustained change on this topic. We commend your ongoing inclusion of student perspectives and look forward to any recommendations you put forth.*

*Our purpose of reaching out is not an attempt to dictate the task force’s charge or recommendations. However, after careful conversation within Student Senate, we call on you to make the following points central to your work:*

*A. Focus on survivor well-being. We have heard the difficulties survivors face on a small campus and hope you tirelessly include their perspective in your review and recommendations.*

*B. Thoroughly review the sanctioning board procedure. Many students particularly doubt of the efficacy of the judicial board’s selection and training process.*

*C. Maximize transparency of both the task force’s progress and the college’s adjudication process. We recommend you keep some sort of public record of the committee’s work, and provide an avenue for students to send their concerns and recommendations to your team.*

*D. Review and advocate for an increase in consent education, both in and beyond first-year orientation.*

*In addition, we request a regular report back to Student Senate and the student body in whatever medium you find most conducive to assure your progress to those with vested interest and to allow for productive feedback. We invite a student member of your team to report out to Student Senate as often as you see fit during the Community Comment portion of our meetings, held at 7:00 each Monday in the Board Room.*

*We would also be more than willing to assist you at any point in the process if you feel we can be of use. We sincerely thank you for your time as you begin this critical process to ensure our community is an environment that honors the wellbeing of all our students.*

*Sincerely,*

*The 2015-2016 Gustavus Adolphus College Student Senate”*

**Discussion:**

Grossuetsch: I would like to entertain a motion to change “*Although sexual assault directly affects only a set number of people, it disrupts the wellbeing of our community as a whole, and provides a threat of injustice that we must work together to confront* “ **with** “*Sexual assault is harmful to the community as a whole, especially survivors; it creates an*

*injustice that we must work together to confront”*

Because it discourages survivors to report.

Roose:So moved

Seconded by Cella

**Discussion:**

Roose: The changes are more inclusive

**Vote**

**Approved**

Roose: I think this is a good way to solve with the original discussion.

Haberman: I was disappointed in the beginning but I believe this is a good way to address concerns.

Toeben: I would encourage us to create a vehicle for the student body to be aware of this.

VanHecke: On **B.,**  We don’t have a sanctioning board but a hearing board. The Taskforce doesn’t have to review the conduct Board as a whole but only the sexual Misconduct hearing Board.

Rasmussen: Our goal was not to give any specifics

Luing: I move to make those changes

Seconded by Cella

**Discussion:**

Grosshuetch: Review the sanctions given by the board.

VanHecke: I think we have two different things: the Board and the sanctions. The conduct process hears many kinds of processes. Sexual misconduct is a subset of the conduct.

Toeben:I amend the motion to say: procedure instead of guidelines and then remove sanctioning towards the end

Seconded by Luing

**Vote**

**Amended**

Muganga: How will we know the Taskforce’s feedback?

Rasmussen: We’ll talk about that in the original discussion

**Vote (Change to the amendment)**

**Approved**

**Discussion Cont’d:**

Luing: I like the amendment and the letter as a whole. It emphasizes education in a positive way. I move to make this a roll call vote.

Cella: Great job on the letter.

Lamberty: The “adjudication process”. I move to have it as a sexual misconduct process

Seconded by Toeben

**Vote**

**Passes**

Lamberty: I like how the letter is open.

Grossuetch: Word better B. by proposing a step of action.

**Discussion:**

Toeben: They will know what needs to be done. I think it’s ok.

Singh: There are two separate statements that shouldn’t be mixed at all.

Panzer: Include hearing board in the first sentence of B.

Cella: I move that.

Seconded by Miller

**Vote**

**Approved**

Toeben: I move to add the **sexual misconduct** *between “and” and “guidelines”.*

Seconded by Muganga

**Vote**

**Approved**

Luing: I move for Roll Call Vote

Seconded by Cella

**Approved**

**Roll Call Vote (Taskforce Letter)**

**Fully Approved**

Letter Approved:

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*spoken out to all members of the college community to raise concerns with the College’s*

*handling of sexual misconduct. We are pleased the administration has listened to these messages*

*and is taking meaningful steps to review and improve the culture and policy around this sensitive*

*subject. Sexual assault is harmful to the community as a whole, especially survivors; it creates an*

*injustice that we must work together to confront. We believe you are the best vehicle for*

*meaningful, sustained change on this topic. We commend your ongoing inclusion of student*

*perspectives, and we look forward to any recommendations you put forth.*

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*make the following points central to your work:*

*A. Focus on survivor well-being. We have heard the difficulties survivors face on a small*

*campus and hope you tirelessly include their perspective in your review and*

*recommendations.*

*B. Thoroughly review the sexual misconduct hearing board and the sexual misconduct*

*sanctioning guidelines. Many students particularly doubt the efficacy of the sexual*

*misconduct hearing board’s selection and training process.*

*C. Maximize transparency of both the task force’s progress and the college’s sexual*

*misconduct adjudication process. We recommend you keep some sort of public record of*

*the task force’s work, and provide an avenue for students to send their concerns and*

*recommendations to your team.*

*D. Review and advocate for an increase in consent education, both in and beyond first-year*

*orientation.*

*In addition, we request a regular report back to Student Senate and the student body in whatever*

*medium you choose in order to share your progress with interested students and to allow for*

*productive feedback. We invite a student member of your team to report out to Student Senate as*

*often as you see fit during the Community Comment portion of our meetings, held at 7:00 PM*

*each Monday in the Board Room.*

*We would also be more than willing to assist you at any point in the process if you feel we can*

*be of use. We sincerely thank you for your time as you begin this critical process to ensure our*

*community is an environment that honors the wellbeing of all our students.*

*Sincerely,*

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1. **New Business**

Panzer: I want to reiterate what Controller Johnson said. The readership program doesn’t go through a finance process and therefore doesn’t go through our finance laws.

1. **Announcements**

VanHecke: Shout out to Emily who I think uses the e-mail alias in a singularly fantastic way in communicating with her constituents.

Svendsen: The meetings might be monotonous especially at this time of the year but let’s make sure we’re attentive and serving our constituents well.

Gunnigle: Free tickets for the Campus Seder soon.

Rasmussen: I would like to remind students about the hiring of a new Finance VP . Tomorrow and Thursday, we hope to have more students at the Q/A sessions.

Grossuetsch: Diversity Awards Banquet Saturday April 30th. Tickets $15 online or at CAO, masquerade theme. Free mask with purchase of ticket. And Lead DeLaria, A Man For All Seasons. Tuesday May 10th at 7pm in Christ Chapel

**\*Meeting Adjourned**