**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**Monday, May 9, 2016**

Co-President Panzer calls the meeting to order at 7:03

**I.Attendance**

Question of the day: What is your goal before the end of the year?

**II.Approval of the minutes from May 2, 2016**

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

Ruble: I’m the Assistant of DoS.

Pehrson: I’m Amy Pehrson and I’m advisor to the PAs and I’m the director for mentoring and peer education.

Ruble: We look at alcohol and all things that  surround it. We are around sanctions now. We would like input from the students on how to go about the changes. If you have feedback, feel free to reach out to me. We look at our sanctions every year. This year, level 0 is new. We don’t have good sanctions for minors. We don’t have good education for it. We’re looking at the social host, we need to add other elements to increase student safety. All these things are about having education and hearing student’s input.

Pehrson: There is a marijuana grid. You can find that online. That’s a great thing to talk about to your constituents and know how to encourage people to make healthy good decisions.

**Questions:**

Andersen: What’s the extent of education?

Ruble: PAs workshop (2hour) , 4hour led by our substance use specialist and a 10hour session.

Andersen: Prevention?

Ruble: PAs, CFs do that. We are working on it.

Haberman: Providing to minors?

Ruble: We don’t know where it would fit yet

Luing: Someone suggested focusing on student leaders. Holding them on a higher standard.

Ruble: If you have thoughts on how to do that, I would love to hear more about it.

1. **Finance**
   1. **Budgets from Omnibus in violation of the by-laws**
      1. **Equestrian Team**

Schmitz: The by-law is that it’s over $5,000.

Mueller: I didn’t know there was a $5,000 limit. We use all the money allocated to us. We compete with other schools in horses.

Rep: We’re 10 over because of the printing.

Schmitz: We recommended it in full.

**Discussion:**

Roose: We thought the finance looks great

**Roll Call Vote**

**Fully Approved**

* + 1. **Hmong-American Cultural Outreach (HACO)**

Schmitz: We allocated what we did because of financial flexibility.

Duy: I’m Duy and this is Baou, David.

David: We advocate for cultural awareness and we encourage our members to participate in events.

Duy: We would like the full amount. We host the Hmong New year every year. Our theme is Hmong identity next year. We want to focus on issues that existed when we were still in Thailand.

Baou: The speaker is a Hmong American author. She resides in MN and travels around talking about Hmong culture. She has been awarded for her writings, she co-hosts a weekly Hmong program and received other great awards.

David: She was a host of the 15th Building Bridges. Her talk on Hmong experience would be very valuable.

Duy: Thanks for listening

**Questions:**

Muganga: Any alternate sources of funding?

Baou: DLC but it will most likely not work.

Rasmussen: Finance Director, there is a $4,000 a cut-off for all the speakers.

Derek: Yes

**Discussion:**

Roose: The reason we did this was because of our guidelines.

Cella: I move to amend $4,000 to $5,000

Seconded by Sweet

**Discussion:**

Cella: It’s an awesome speaker and since it doesn’t break a by-law let’s do it.

Sweet: I’m in agreement with this. This a great use of our money.

Luing: This doesn’t break a by-law but a guideline.

**Vote**

**Amended**

**Discussion (Cont’d):**

Schmitz: Just a reminder that we wouldn’t have enough money

**Roll Call Vote**

**Fully Approved**

* + 1. **Men’s Rugby**

Schmitz: We didn’t recommend some elements because they aren’t necessary.

Rep: The items would help us for more flexibility on the field. The water bottles are for waste reduction.

**Discussion:**

Roose: The reason for this was because it wasn’t necessary.

Luing: I’m in support of this. It just benefits the team.

Sweet: I agree with the budget

**Roll Call Vote**

**Fully Approved**

* + 1. **Queers & Allies (Q&A)**

Schmitz: We recommended what we did for Franchesca Ramsey because it’s a cooperative action. We just added the missing amount.

Rep: We bring awareness around LGBTQ issues. We did a drag show this year and next year we want to bring more speakers. All this to make Gustavus an increasingly welcoming community.

**Questions:**

Luing: What other orgs will o-fund Franchesca?

Rep: WAC for sure and other orgs.

Muganga: Other fundraisers?

Rep: They will stay intact. Caf shifts.

**Discussion:**

Martinez: The conference I attended was very informative. I will be abstaining.

Roose: We only funded 1,100 for the Mblgtacc 2017 because that’s what we do for conferences

Stolt: How many people attend the conference?

Rep: 12 usually.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Approved**

* + 1. **Womyn’s Awareness Center (WAC)**

Schmitz: We funded what we did to stay under $5,000.

Liza: We fund events. We promote gender equity on campus.

**Questions:**

Luing: For unfunded speakers, will they be open to the larger campus?

Liza: Yes

Sweet: Is this budget how you prefer it?

Liza: We want to propose a change to the budget. We want to allocate the money (Sandra Kim) to our small speakers and the Prison Doula project .

Soule: We’re ok with going with this.

Andersen: What are the three speakers for?

Soule: They are active around Title IX, sexual violence activism. The MN Prison Doula Project offers help to incarcerated individuals.

Liza: The last one is a pro-choice group. They bring their faith into their work.

**Discussion:**

Roose: I move to allocate 0 for Sandra Kim and allocate the rest to Know your IX speaker and the small speakers.

**Discussion:**

Roose: Their wishes

Johnson: For the RCRC speaker, where does the money go?

Liza: The money goes back to the org rather than profiting them directly

Soule:

Muganga: for CLPP speaker, will you be funded by the Gender and Women Department?

Soule: They are co-funding this

Panzer: Point of clarification: if the donation is not given, they won’t come?

Soule: Correct

**Vote**

**Amended**

**Discussion (Cont’d):**

Svendsen: The total is under 5,000. The roll call vote won’t be needed.

**Vote**

**Approved**

* + 1. **Women’s Nordic Skiing**

Schmitz: They had documentation for this.

Annika: The budget looks good. We are implementing Ski rentals. We do a lot of races and we usually go to the cities, to a better practice area.

**Questions:**

Rasmussen: Are you required to have a coach?

Annika: We share it with the Men’s team?

Andersen: Where do you practice?

Annika: Golf field, the Cities

**Discussion:**

Roose: We didn’t fund them fully because of registration funding restrictions and a few lacking documentations.

Sweet: It looks great.

Muganga: If the cost may vary, feel free to come back to ask for more funding.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Fully Approved**

1. **Committee Updates**
   1. **Co-Presidents**
      1. **Graduation cords**

Panzer: Cords next week

* + 1. **End-of-year celebration**

Panzer: This Friday. We’ll send a time next week.

1. **Unfinished Business**
   1. **Consideration to endorse Womyn’s Awareness Center petition for the creation of a full-time Title IX position**

Rasmussen: We’ve had a handful of administrators asking for a discussion to take place within Senate. We’re opening this to the floor. We’re asking a new position to President Bergman. I will read off some pros and cons and we’ll have you hold a discussion. The policies procedure team is currently made up from a mix of Student life, the Academics office, and Human Resources. They meet weekly and monthly to talk about policies and procedures. Also talk to peers at other schools. Ken - St Olaf wants things Gustavus has and we want some things St Olaf has. Also, even with a new position, they wouldn’t want the team collaboration style to go away.

Pros

-The “bureaucratic inefficiency” of the task force “allows rape culture to continue to thrive on this campus”

-“Only a full time Title IX coordinator will have the capacity to ensure compliance, adequate training, and student safety”

-“The Title IX Will minimize the risk of a conflict of interest and in many cases ensure sufficient time is available to perform all the role’s responsibilities”

-Allows “Gustavus to set and example for gender equity in education.”

-“Without a full time single Title IX coordinator, rape culture will continue to stand as the sixth pillar of Gustavus”

-Could expand education on prevention

Cons

-Would create a budget deficit / need for a cut

-Administrative bloat is one reason for tuition inflation

-Faculty unrest

-Faculty has been shrinking while admin increases

-Some people might think money may be better spent elsewhere (faculty, counselors, etc.)

-Undermine task force we helped create

Already under consideration by President Bergman (JoNes has had conversations with her about it)

“The system is working because we make it work and we take it seriously” - Steve Bennett

He wonders if this is the best step towards creating a better culture at Gustavus? Will this change things?

This conversation is being held by administrators

“A vote against this does not mean Student Senate does not support improving our campus’s culture surrounding sexual misconduct” -Ken W

Voting yes - pretty self explanatory

Voting no - please explain why

Postpone indefinitely

Panzer: We yield the floor to Sweet to explain why she took great leadership on this

Sweet: I met with Leah last week and we went through the letter together. We want to see rape culture ended.  We would like to see more faculty and staff positions , but this a very necessary administrative position. We thought this is a huge change towards this. We would like to see the College doing a more actionable step. The discussion is the most important. What role do we have in this? If we table this to the fall, it will be reconsidered as well. I would advocate for postponing this indefinitely.

Panzer: In case of tabling indefinitely...we can move it and talk about it anytime.

**Questions:**

Cella: What’s the current situation?

Ruble: Title IX has a lot of functions. Right now it’s fulfilled by Paula, Steve and Ken. And all of them have full capacities. All our new Human resources directors candidates have no Title IX experience. Sexual Assault Response is in Health Services.

Cella: Pros and cons

Ruble: Pros are the work will get more attention. Cons: budget and resource concern, how many administrators on campus,... I think it’s a priority though.

Roose: What would that do to those already involved.

Ruble: It will remain collaborative with probably less demands on those involved.

Luing: Did the WAC contain a specific date?

Sweet: It’s a letter of recommendation.  No timeline.

Muganga: The effects on the Taskforce?

Ruble: Consensus has been reached on a few topics. Listening sessions soon. If a Title IX coordinator comes soon, they would engage with Jaime and Paula and see the best course of action. It would continue in a little bit different format.

AbuEid: Other schools?

Ruble: I don’t have enough information on that

AbuEid: Train faculty?

Ruble: WAC wants a full-time position.

**Discussion:**

Panzer: If you vote no, verbalize it.

AbuEid: I don’t know how I feel. It would be a better investment though.

Svendsen: There is something that can be done in consolidating all of this on a single individual. Some concerns: another administrative position. Disconnect between admins and students. If this means that we would lose another job, it would be a loss.

Sweet: Title IX is a law. Colleges should invest in Title IX to alleviate legal issues. The position holder is a well trained individual and knowledgeable. This would put a fine line in terms of priorities.

Luing: After the WAC petition failed, constituents were frustrated. As a PA, I work with Title IX . I’m lost when I look at it. A more specialized person is very valuable. Constituents I talked with are in full support with this.

Muganga: I need more time.

Nelson: I have discomfort doing this quickly. It’s important to know federally funded schools are required to have those positions. But it will take longer as a private institution.

Haberman: People holding money over student safety. Title IX law is very dense. It’s very important to have a knowledgeable person.

Rasmussen: All colleges and universities are required to have Title IX. There is no job description so far. There are still different teams helping with this. This is for more compliance.

Johnson: I question what needs to be prioritized. It would be a big jump to decide about this now.

Cella: I’m entirely in support of this. It’s a sensitive issue and this would show an overwhelming support…. We need to foster a safe learning environment for our student body.

Andersen: I want to table indefinitely. But if we voted, I would vote no. I think what Gustavus has now works well. Admin think we need more educational pieces beyond orientation, and I think they are willing to implement this. I don’t think we need a separate position to do this. Cultural change occurs when peers encourage each other rather than admin. I think it might be a good idea to encourage the task force to become a more permanent committee to help with title ix.

Roose: My consitutents are in favor. Would we be able to submit recommendations for this petition?

Sweet: No. The WAC has written this and they are just asking students for support. Senate can discuss after this step what should be happening after we make a recommendation to have this position.

Panzer: We as co-presidents will be meeting with Becky on Wednesday and will bring this up.

Schmitz: Senate supported the task force, and by supporting this position we are saying we don’t support the task force. I think this is inappropriate.

Stolt: One of the issues with having multiple people doing this job is the prioritization. Priority of students versus multitasking - the student needs might be missed. One of the things brought up in the forum was that there were a few laws that were missed by the people who currently form our title IX team. This could be minimized by adding this position. This position should be looked into.

Panzer: A senator should move the meeting past

Martinez: My constituents told me when we didn’t pass the petition that Senate had failed to protect and support them.

Svendsen: With title IX, a lot of it applies to federally funded colleges. Do we receive any of these? What is required of GAC because of these funds?

Ruble: We are required to have a coordinator - Paula. We do this already. There are other things, and we do those too.

Abu Eid: I want to see more investment in the education part. Alcohol sanctions are not going to make people stop drinking, but education might. I would feel more comfortable if we table this indefinitely.

Seconded by Antes

**Discussion:**

Abu Eid: I think this will come up again and we can thus talk to our constituents and learn more about the subject. I want to have a deeper discussion.

Luing: I move to extend the meeting.

Seconded by Sweet

**Vote**

**Extended**

Luing: I have had these conversations with my constituents. I would like to see more senators speaking on behalf of their constituents. I am ok with tabling.

Sweet: I think there are more people in the affirmative. The college and Senate have had a lot of time to discuss sexual misconduct. I think I would really like to see something happen tonight.

Muganga: Tabling indefinitely means we can talk about it later. Faculty and admin opinions should be weighed in as well. This is the perfect time to bring it up since we are doing the faculty reports.

Roose: My constituents are in favor of the letter. Bergman is not going to do anything that will hurt the school. This is just a recommendation.

Cella: Echo previous speakers. Senate represents students and we should be representing and speaking on behalf of the student body. Not in favor of tabling. This is very important. There is nothing that requires the admin to do something now. We are just saying this coordinator position is something we need to support.

Stolt: Also not in favor of tabling because of my discussion with my constituents about this and previous topics. I think most of the student body has the same feelings. This is a recommendation not a demand. We shouldn’t move too quickly, but not too slowly that we are not making progress.

Haberman: Echoing previous speakers. We have heard a lot from consitituents. This is something Senate can do right now. I move for a roll call vote. No objections.

I move to call to question

Seconded by Cella

**Vote**

**Question called**

Roll Call Vote to table indefinitely

**Motion fails**

**Discussion (Cont’d):**

Abu Eid: I will abstain because I have not had enough time to talk to my constituents.

Luing: My constituents support this. So I will vote yes. We are not saying that the task force is not doing a good job, we just recognize that they are multitasking/busy, so they aren’t getting to this as quickly as we need.

Muganga: I will abstain.

Sweet: I move to call to question.

Seconded by Luing

**Vote**

**Question called**

Haeberman: I move for a Role call vote

Seconded by Luing

**Roll Call Vote**

**Approved**

Panzer: Senate will support the petition.

1. **New Business**

None

1. **Announcements**

Sweet: Thanks for passing that. Lea Delaria at 6 pm tomorrow in the Chapel.

Panzer: Thanks to Speaker Sweet, Megan for being here, and Senator Andersen for doing extra research and reaching out to people.

Rasmussen: Come watch Senator Toeben and I dance at 5:30 in the Arb.

Schmitz: Check out senate's executive fund. It’s coming next monday.

Panzer: Please consider applying to one of the Board or Faculty committees. Applications open until Wednesday.

Ngabirano: Faculty reports due next Monday.

**\*Meeting Adjourned**