**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**September 15, 2014**

Minutes:

1. Attendence
2. Approval of the Minutes

 -Amendments: Last years minutes, 2013, should be 2014.

 -Approved.

1. Community Comment

 -Rundstrom room does not get wifi.

 Jones: They are not allowed to discuss it until they set their agenda.

1. Old Business

 -No old business.

1. New Business
2. Controller Confirmation

 -Nominee for position of controller

 -Person who was appointed took different opportunity

Nominee: Kaitlin Bembenek

 Goldstien: Kaitlin served on IGS as treasurer last year. She will be great for the job.

Timmons: Courtney and Kaitlin will complement each other. Groups will comfortable with because of her role in IGS last year. Treasurer of IGS last year. Confidence that she can handle the task.

Kaitlin: Finance chair of IGS last year. worked a little with Erik last year as controller. Thought it would be a great opportunity to be here.

Questions:

Kehren: What is your major?

Kaitlin: Biology.

Kaitlin asked to leave room for discussion.

Discussion:

Singh: does not know her, seems like an adequate choice.

Branch: Knows Kaitlin from outside organizations. She is wonderful and approachable and would do a wonderful job.

Grosshuesch: She did a great job with IGS budget last year. Cannot vote, but throws support behind her.

Sauve: Motion to vote.

Timmons: So you’re moving to call to question?

Sauve: Yes

Timmons: Second? Second goes to Senator Waggoner.

 -Passes

1. Speaker Confirmation

Nominations:

Gunnigle: Nominates Shawn Kehren, seconded by Austin Housh.

Rasmussen: Sauve nominated.

Sauve: declines.

Gladitsch: Nominates senator Thrash

Gustafson: Nominates Senator Singh

Singh: declines.

Senator Kehren: I’m sure most of you know me. I really like to talk. I’m outspoken. I want to listen to constituency around campus and will put an equal stand even if I disagree with the position. I’m not afraid of authority. I really care about transparance and publicizing what student senate does. Those who are not privileged and didn’t have parents in academia do not feel comfortable leading and I would love to make them feel welcome in this body.

Senator Thrash: Who ever the speaker is works for you. Makes sure voices are heard on cabinet. ROTC communications officer. Takes rubber to the road, his job is to make things happen. Would love to do that for student senate.

Questions for candidates:

Co-President Goldstien: Do either of you plan to study abroad this spring?

Kehren: plans to spend j-term traveling with choir.

Thrash: no plans.

Hegg: Any ROTC responsibilities that would require you to miss meetings?

Thrash: no.

Sweet: How are Tuesdays at 9?

Trash: Works well.

Kehren: Works well.

Discussion:

Siatta: Both displayed validity in their statements. Thrash is level-headed on most situations. Always on time. Adequately represents us as fellow senators to the cabinet. Kehren would also be a great choice. I don’t really know who I want to throw my support for. We should have a good long discussion and select the right candidate for this position.

Grosshuesch: Served with Thrash last year. He has experience and worked with speaker last year. I throw my support behind him.

Sweet: I was on senate with Thrash last year and I think he did a good job. He would be a good liaison. I absolutely support.

Wiest: Served with Thrash last year. He is very dedicated to senate and very dedicated to being on time. Chairing the ethics committee, He will be working very closely with the ethics committee. I will be gone during J-Term. I think it would be valuable to have someone who could be there the whole time.

Sauve: Experience is a big portion of this position. Understanding how senate works and the role between senate and cabinet. Thrash is great at what he does and he truly does care about senate.

Senator Rasmussen: Experience and level-headedness are what I’m hearing right now. Important for this position. Move to question.

Seconded by Singh.

\*Vote

 Approved

1. Committee Information

Technology Chair Jenson: Nate Jenson, computer science major, I love technology. I am technology chair. A lot of issues that he deals with work with health and housing or other committees. Much of what he does he does himself. Very small committee, but very efficient and very fun.

Ombudsmen Wiest: Served on Ethics committee last year as Pittman rep. Ethics committee takes into account any concern about ethics within the body. Time of the year where we go through the constitution where they reevaluate how to make senate most efficient.

Branch: Finance Chairwoman, looking for six people to be on the finance committee, works on allocations for different groups on campus. Works on RFPs. Lucky to work with Branch and Kaitlin. Applications are available.

Diversity Chairman: On diversity committee last year and also the chair. Main focus of committee is to bring a focus of diversity to senate and campus and to talk about rights and activism.

Health and Housing Chair: Sam Panzer. collaborate with health organizations on campus. Some things to work on specifically, but also lots of new things. A lot of opportunity for suggestion.

Student and Academic Affairs: Johnson deals with anything involving students and academics. Some projects, but still open to ideas. Need quite a few people.

Public Relations Chair: Delaney Sweet. Committee involved with presence and message, including social media and clothing to communicate with students and committed to engagement.

\*Discussion

Gustafson: Finance is only 6 people, is there a limit on other committees?

Jenson: Technology will be limited to 2 or 3.

Timmons: There is no limit. What we do have is a requirement that each senator have committee credits. If there are 20 people in the body that means there are 40 potential committee credits. We (Co-Presidents) will get together and see where those credits are best spent and parcel together the remaining.

Peterson: Finance you only do that committee? Are there any other committees like that?

Timmons: No.

1. Senate Ideas

Timmons: It is important to, on the record and on the microphone and on the body to talk about issues to address and how to tackle them.

Sauve: All organizations, IGS, Senate come together for a huge forum. To discuss things and bring together the community for a discussion. And to make Gustavus a safe space for everyone. Combatting sexual assault and sexual awareness. There are lots of things we have the capability to do, but we are unwilling to talk about the culture of sexual violence on college campuses.

Siatta: For off-campus constituents, I would like to address the parking issue. If you are just going to be there for the day, can you park in visitors? Reduce the price of parking pass? Work with campus safety to combat the problem. Particularly for colder months.

Kehren: We could extend the discussion to include on campus students as well. Complex students sometimes have to walk all the way from Arbor View.

Wicklund: Sidewalk revision.

Gunnigle: Sand in the volleyball pits, it’s kind of concrete.

Gladitsch: Address the wifi issue in Rundstrom.

Waggoner: To answer Senator Gladitsch’s concerns, part of the problem is the switch from GAC secure and the updates the accompanied them. Rundstrom was one of the buildings not updated.

Rasmussen: Look into the logistics behind the new GusBus rules. I find it kind of concerning considering how many people use the service.

Wiest: Once health and housing gets together, we could put hydration stations within dorms.

Rasmussen: Working on the hydration stations. They will be implemented soon.

Sauve: Visitation rules could be addressed.

1. New Business

Goldstien: Blessing by the Chaplains?

Siatta: I don’t necessarily oppose it but at the same time I do have some reservations being blessed by any type of religious higher up. Looking around, everyone may not be the same faith here. But I don’t know if it would be right to have that. I was on senate last year and I don’t remember having that. I think being blessed by the President or the Board of Trustees might be better. I wouldn’t feel comfortable accepting it, but that’s just me.

Gladitsch: Is this traditional? Does this happen quite often?

Timmons: It was a tradition. Went away my sophomore year. But it struck me one day that I remembered sitting in chapel watching the chaplains bless the body and the work of senate. I thought I would bring it up to see if it was anything we were interested and comfortable with.

Gunnigle: I would not feel comfortable. My own personal belief does not allow me to be blessed by other religions.

Singh: I am not a christian, but I have no opposition to us being blessed as a body. Perhaps make it optional. The chaplains are wonderful people.

Thrash: As long as the co-presidents and the D-Chair are involved to make sure the ceremony respects all senators.

Boucher: I wouldn’t feel comfortable with it. I don’t have a problem with it, but it has to be strictly optional.

Goldstien: All of this discussion is in new business, not just the topic of the blessing. I encourage senators to make a motion to discuss just the blessing.

Hegg: I would like to turn the attention to the mission statement of the college. Clearly the developers of the mission statement felt it was important that we bring in the religion of the college. The people who came up with the mission statement felt it important to include religion in the liberal arts mission of the college.

Kehren: Move to discussion on the subject of making blessing optional.

 Seconded by Senator Singh

 Passes

\*Discussion

Siatta: Agrees with the mission statement and supports making the blessing optional.

Sauve: In support with the stipulation that co-presidents and D-chair give chaplains the criteria.

Jones: Encourages informal way of finding out if all of you supporting an optional service would go, if not, don’t waste the chaplain’s time. Separation of church and state.

Rasmussen: Who is in charge of this?

Kehren: Co-presidents in charge or delegate.

Rasmussen: Co-presidents can check into it.

Peterson: As a member of senate, I don’t like splitting the group like that. Blessing can be setting us off on a path for this year or we can agree on a separation of church and state.

Thrash: Move to amend to require co-presidents approve full text of any blessing.

 Second by Waggoner.

\*Discussion

Rasmussen: Point of information. Are we calling to have co-presidents look into blessing?

Timmons: The original motion was that the co-presidents look into the blessing. Amendment also says co-presidents will approve any text that is read.

Hegg: I’d like to first throw out the idea that we just vote on the blessing as a whole. If more than half do not want a blessing, we should not have a blessing. Vote on yes blessing, or not.

Timmons: Technically that is out of order at the moment.

Gunnigle: We should be unified, but at the same time there is a conflicting note on this being optional or not.

Siatta: Call the question on this amendment; second goes to senator Thrash

 Passes

We will now vote on amendment that co-presidents looking into blessing and approve any text that is read.

 \*Vote

 Passes

We will return to discussion with approved amendment.

\*Discussion

Waggoner: Blessing by someone else other than the chaplains, is that an option?

Timmons: If we pursue a blessing option, it was not specific that it was the chaplain office, but if the body does not approve, we will not be looking into it.

Vote for co-presidents looking into a blessing option and approve of any text that is read.

\*Vote

Passes

Thrash: move to charge tech committee to looking into Rundstrom.

 \*Vote

Passes

1. Announcements.

Timmons:

1. Compliments on the blessing conversation and parliamentary procedure.
2. Thanks for the retreat.
3. Are you getting Matt’s emails? If no, contact him.
4. Parliamentarian: If you hold your placard up, make eye contact with him, make sure he sees you.
5. We are taking a picture after this.
6. Bid day for all Greek life today and tomorrow. Take questions and conversation to Matt.
7. Sweet: Please send Senator Sweet snapshot of yourself. Name, what major you’re in.
8. Senator Siatta: I wasn’t here on Saturday, but judging by today, I’m excited for what’s to come. I look forward working with the rest of you for the rest of the year.
9. Jenson: Take a moment to go to the Meet the Senators page and make sure all information is correct.
10. Jones: Introduction as Vice President for Student life and Dean of Students as well as advisor of student senate.
11. Goldstien: Yield means my point was already made or I no longer have anything else to say.
12. Goldstien: Hold your placard up when you want to speak.
13. Goldstien: Say second verbally.
14. Goldstien: Please don’t use laptops during meetings.
15. Goldstien: Finance committee. We need to get it up and running as soon as possible.
16. Goldstien: Try to find a committee you want to be part of tonight so we can start to get committees formed.
17. Goldstien: Commit to office hours and let Technology Director.

Sweet: Will make personalized signs for you, just let her know.

1. Kehren: Congratulations to Senator Thrash as new speaker.
2. Jenson: To join technology committee, Director Jenson’s email is on the Meet the Senators page.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm**