**Student Senate Agenda**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**September 29th, 2014, 7:02pm**

I. Attendance

II. Approval of the Minutes 9/22/14

Timmons: Amended, Siatta “This is” changed to “During”

Approved

III. Community Comment

Joe Thayer: Last year, senate funded a defibrillator to be placed in the library and we were told a plaque would be placed, but it never was. Also, last year there was an email sent out noting that all disciplinary action would be reported to student advisors. It was implied that Gustavus Student Senate supported that decision. Perhaps a statement could be made removing that implied support.

Jenny Marquette: Bulletin boards on campus are filled with posters advertising events that are over and will remain there for the entire year. There is so much to be involved in, but there is no place to post about those events. Perhaps students can be in control of those boards. There isn’t even enough room for CAB, one organization, so I can’t imagine there is enough space for all of the organizations on campus. Make more organized and visible.

IV. Old Business

Rasmussen: Move to health and housing committee look into the defibrillator plaque.

Vote

Approved.

Rasmussen: Move to have student academic affairs look into advisors situation.

Vote

Approved

Kehran: What is the status on the blessing?

Goldstein: We talked about it a lot and the conclusion we came to was that we want to be unified and due to concerns expressed, we will not be pursuing it. Feel free to pursue it on behalf of senate.

V. New Business

a. Ethics Nominations

Gersch: We will start with Student at Large. We have decided to nominate Mr. Joseph Thayer. He showed initiative in approaching us about the position and has experience.

Thayer: My name is Joe Thayer, biochem. I served as Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior rep. I carried bylaws with me to every meeting and referenced them often. I’ve done quite a lot of work with documents at hand. I read all bylaws and the Gustie Guide. I have most of my evenings open to commit to senate.

Questions:

Thrash: On what committees did you serve as a member of senate? Did you serve on ethics?

Thayer: Yes. For two years. I’ve served on pretty much every committee.

Timmons: Have you served in confidential roles and have you served in positions where dealing with complaints and issues of ethics?

Thayer: Yes. Previous experience shows abillity to maintain confidentiality. I have a lot of restraint when it comes to that sort of thing.

Discussion:

Grosshuesch: I served with Nominee Thayer last year and I have to say he has it together, he knows the constitution and I cannot think of anyone better.

Gersch: We in discussion brought up that it would be good to have a body of experience on the ethics committee. We think he would do a fantastic job assisting us in that regard.

Vote.

Approved.

Gersch: Nominees for Senators on the committee. We talked about how experience would be important. We also wanted various backgrounds. First is Senator Hoang. He explained how he would be making decisions for the best interest of his constituents and not swayed in what he knew was right.

Thrash: Long is really reliable, really consistent. I see no reason he shouldn’t serve.

Vote.

Approved.

Gersch: Experience with upperclassmen and a structured sense of how to deal with issues as well. Senator Gunnigle can provide first year perspective and has past experience that will assist him in making helpful decisions for the group.

Gunnigle: I had previous experiences in high school. I think this would be a great chance for me to learn and contribute to Gustavus as a whole.

Goldstein: Is there anything about senate so far that you are interested in pursuing on the ethics committee?

Gunnigle: Parliamentary procedure.

Discussion:

Kehran: I’ve met Carter. He’s awesome. He seems sound to be part of the committee.

Panzer: I’ve been impressed with Gunnigle’s ability to speak up on difficult, ethical issues.

Vote.

Approved

b. Finance Nominations

Branch: First nomination is Logan Boucher. Freshman, will be a finance major. He was not afraid to ask questions and was very persistent, great asset for finance committee this year.

Boucher: Finance would be my big committee. I plan on majoring in finance, economics. I think I would be a good fit. I like that sort of thing. I think I could be a big help.

Rasmussen: Do you see bylaws, financially, as black and white?

Boucher: In certain situations, there is interpretation involved.

Kehren: Were you involved in finance with any groups in high school?

Boucher: No, but I’m hoping to be more involved here.

Thrash: You seem confident that you have time now. Finance is a huge time commitment in the spring. Will you still have that time available?

Boucher: Yes.

Discussion:

Thrash: I love the idea of a freshman finance major being on the finance committee. We lose a lot when we have only seniors because they leave and they take all of that experience with them. I think this is a great move for the finance committee.

Rasmussen: Is it germane to ask what year the other nominees are?

Timmons: My concern is that I do not want other nominees to determine his status because that is not a factor he controls. I will call it germane, but dissuade making decisions based on a factor outside of his control.

Branch: Three seniors. Primarily upper classmen.

Gunnigle: He has his act together. He’s always on time for things. He would be a great choice.

Vote.

Approved.

Branch: Our next nominee is Ben Miller. He has worked with budgets in the past. We value that experience.

Miller: I was on a finance committee in the past and was a volunteer coordinator. I have past experience and am passionate about finance.

Thrash: Finance chair said you worked on budgets, for what organizations?

Miller: Des Moines Area Religious Counsel. Here at Gustavus I have not worked on a finance committee yet.

Hegg: You were saying you were on a religious affiliated finance role, will that cause a bias for non-affiliated religious financing in this new role?

Miller: No.

Discussion:

Panzer: I was in the same section as Ben our freshman year and watched him balance a busy schedule. I think he can bring level-headed, calm leadership to a stressful committee.

Kehran: He seems passionate about finance committee and his experience as a finance major makes him a good fit.

Vote.

Approved.

Branch: Josh Skiba. He has experience in the past and has worked with organizing finances such as in the Advancement Office. We thought that was really impressive.

Skiba: I have experience in finance through the Advancement office and other organizations. Passionate about finance.

Rasmussen: Bylaws: black and white?

Skiba: I will make level-headed decisions either way.

Thrash: Do you feel finance has all control or that larger decisions should come to the body?

Skiba: I think the large decisions should come to the body.

Thrash: So there are decisions for the body and decisions for the committee?

Skiba: Yes.

Discussion:

Siatta: He is diligent and works hard. He would be a great fit for this committee.

Vote.

Approved.

Branch: Mark Siatta. He has also had practice in other finance areas and has worked with senate before. He would be a good fit because many of us are so new.

Siatta: Finance season was heated last year, but it gave me the experience to know how to deal with those situations before they come to the floor. There are grey areas with bylaw, but sometimes finances need to be black and white. I have experience balancing budgets with family owned company and manage own portfolio. Experience with money and cash flows.

Kehran: What is your major?

Siatta: International Management Major

Discussion:

Rasmussen: I had the opportunity to serve with Senator Siatta last year. I think experience is good for this committee and he was very level-headed and diligent with finances last year.

Thrash: He knew the bylaws and had an eye for consistency. He is a great choice for finance.

Hegg: What were the issues finance faced last year?

Timmons: Germane, unless you want to know how he personally dealt with those issues.

Vote.

Approved.

Branch: Tia Gustafson. She was on student senate last year and has seen the process. She is also approachable and someone people would feel comfortable talking to.

Gustafson: Gustavus Greens co-president. I’m comfortable and familiar writing budgets. Experience looking at budgets.

Discussion:

Grosshuesch: I served under Gustafson when she was diversity chair. She is very open and very easy to talk to and very diligent. I know finance has stigma for being hard to talk to and I think she would be a great addition.

Vote.

Approved.

Branch: Olivia Ward. Non-senator. Applied for controller position originally, we thought she would be a better fit as a member of the committee. She went to the Finance Academy last year. Treasurer of youth advisory council. She could bring diversity to finance committee as well.

Hegg: Did she run for one of the senate seats?

Branch: I don’t believe so.

Discussion:

Timmons: As a first year, her application stood out as a controller. I think there is a lot to be thankful for bringing this nomination to this floor.

Grosshuesch: She has such a bubbly personality.

Thrash: We know how hard it is to find a good controller. Having someone still interested even not as part of this body is a really great thing.

Vote.

Approved.

c. Readership Program

Goldstein: Readership Program is free newspapers for students and faculty. In the past, we have done a door to door, senators pass out papers. It seems it may not have been a great event. We want to promote this awesome program and let students know they are paying for the papers. We think it might be most beneficial to pass out newspapers during chapel and table. Put people around campus near academic programs to promote it and get the news out there.

Siatta: I definitely like the idea of changing our technique. I think we will reach more people. I believe in this program, all news, right or left should be read through. Reading about things that are going on. The only reservation I may have is the newspaper provider, if it is extremely conservative or extremely liberal.

Jones: You would be handing out USA Today because they are the biggest supporter of the leadership program.

Waggoner: Even with the new proposal, even if we did go out at chapel and distribute papers, how many of those would get thrown away? We could table chapel, lunch and dinner and encourage people to take a paper.

Kehran: Is it germane to include another paper in the process?

Timmons: We just wanted to talk about changing the program and still promoting the program.

Kehran: I agree with Waggoner. I don’t want to waste paper. Maybe we could do the WSJ and NYTimes as part of our promotion.

Jones: WSJ is not available.

Singh: I guess I don’t know much about the readership program. I think we should have a survey go out and see how many use it.

Timmons: We pay for every paper pulled.

Jones: Reduced price.

Singh: If we are handing it out, do we pay for the paper?

Timmons: I believe it would be more cost effective than passing them out door to door.

Gersch: We would not reach off campus people by just tabling.

Hegg: If we promote papers, we also increase cost.

Jones: Just so you know, part of student senate is that we put x amount of dollars into readership program account and then we pay as we go and if we ever hit the max of that number, then, at that point the papers would be free. But we never even come close to that number. The money that is left over rolls back into the senate budget. As of today, senate has been willing to pay for more papers than we have ever had students using.

Gladitsch: Likes the idea of putting papers on tables and Senate encouraging students to take them.

Miller: Off campus and arborview people would not necessarily be in the cafeteria everyday.

Timmons: I think we wanted to pose it to the body. At this point, it seems as though we have ideas. I don’t know if we have a concrete plan surfacing out of this discussion. I think it would be a good idea to charge this to a committee and have them come forward with a specific plan.

Golstein: Possible to put newspapers in academic buildings as part of tabling.

Charge the co-presidents look into more concrete plan.

Vote

Approved.

d. Board of Trustees

Goldstein: Co-presidents will be meeting with the Board of Trustees later this week. Took all ideas from this body and a couple of outside bodies. Any additions? What we’ve noticed is that things are pretty good. We thought this would be a great time to talk about the good things. We have heard mostly good things about the new president. We want to talk about the positives and our goals for the year.

Timmons: We just wanted to pose it again that if you have questions, comments, concerns, we are always here.

Discussion:

Goldstein: It is important to say a lot of the issues that came up have been allotted to specific committees.

Singh: Poster concern charge to PR committee.

Vote.

Approved.

Jones: Do we now have everyone on two committees?

Goldstein: What we are going to be doing, to get into committees, after the meeting, chairs will be around the rooms with sign-up sheets.

Jenson: I have PR Chair Delaney Sweets sheet over here.

VI. Announcements

Timmons: Thank you for getting through committee appointments. Please reach out to chairs. Thank you for the first few meetings. They have been very productive, efficient and effective. Conversation has been fruitful and respectful. Always listen to complaints. If it kind of feels like people are griping about something, listen to what they are actually talking about. Some of the best ideas come out of complaints. This week is homecoming week. I am excited. I want you all to have a good time and be safe. This is a decision when risky decisions are made, be safe, smart and healthy.

Singh: Encourage everyone to come to the inauguration. 2:30pm in the Chapel.

Branch: Committee meet after the meeting.

Jenson: Committee meet after the meeting.

Goldstein: If you have concerns or others have concerns, reach out to Co-Presidents.

Thrash: Mankato 5k sponsored by ROTC on November 8.

Panzer: Liberal Arts Education symposium Wednesday, 7pm in Alumni.

Waggoner: Nationally-renowned anti-bullying speaker in October.

Meeting adjourned: 8:11pm