Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Gustavus Adolphus College

Monday September 16, 2013

# Attendance

## Senators Absent:

1. Harbeck, Kemp, Rasmussen, Schwichtenberg, Seiness, Siatta, and Thayer.

# Community Comment

## NA

# New Business

A. Faculty Committee Confirmations

1. Students to serve on faculty committees to add a student’s perspective.

2. In the past only senators were able to serve, has now been opened to all.

3. There is an application process for selection. We must vote to approve the students.

4. Van Hecke: There are more than just faculty committees. There’s also a board of trustees. These are open mainly because there were not enough applicants in the spring; also some committees just recently decided that they would like to have a student serve.

5. Students/nominees

i. Curriculum Committee – Courtney Harbeck

ii. Honor Board – Tianan Zhu

iii. Technology Advisory Committee – Brita Pretus

iv. Higher Learning Commission Steering Committee – David Lim.

v. Interfaith Advisory Board – Sam Sanda, Adwoa Afreh, Kelly Dumais

vi. Board of Trustees Admission and Enrollment – Logan Boese

6. Discussion

7. Vote to confirm

i. Eiler- Point of order: Ask applicants to leave room and to close door.

8. Vote

i. Passes. Students are approved.

B. Senate Speaker

1. Serves as the official voice of the senate body.

2. Retains voting privileges as a senator, but also attends cabinet meetings.

3. Nominations

i. Vogel- Nominates Hoppe

a. Nigro seconds

b Hoppe accepts.

ii. Afreh- Nominates Nigro

1. Hare seconds
2. Nigro accepts.

4. Nominees speak

i. Hoppe- Wants to help senators become better leaders. Will work to develop better relationships with senators, discuss interests and find the best spots for you/on committees. Would work to mediate concerns between senate and cabinet if any were to arise. Would help delegate tasks and establish a sense of purpose. –Has served on senate for the majority of freshman year, was the Uhler rep sophomore year, and a student at large on finance committee last year.

ii. Nigro- Senior Poli Sci major. –Senator sophomore year and fall of junior year. Knows way around senate. Would love to help people out during his last year on senate.

5. Discussion

ii. Vogel- Need to discuss this. A couple of really great candidates, both experienced, would serve well. Don’t know either of them very well. Encourages discussion.

iii. Montes- Encouraging to hear that senators want to be involved with committees and to help others. Knows Nick from last fall, he was very good and encouraging. Both would be excellent.

iv. Marino- Worked with Nigro last year. He was easy to communicate with. Hoppe has a strong work ethic. Was president of SAE. Good leader. Were some issues during his tenure as president with some communication concerns.

v. Afreh- Nigro has great work ethic, willing to do work.

vi . Patton- Job description of senate speaker?

a. Cabrera- Is still a Senator, but attends cabinet. Acts as a form of checks and balances to make sure that Cabinet isn’t doing anything against the student body.

vii.Roland- Appreciates that Hoppe has a concrete plan even in the beginning.

6.Vote

1. Ballot vote
2. Both nominees choose to abstain from voting.
3. Henrickson- Voting results as follows: 6- Nigro, 3- Hoppe
4. Nigro elected senate speaker.

C. Committees

1. Cabrera- Asks that each chair stand to give a brief description of what their committee does. Must contact these chairs this week to establish what committees senators will serve upon.

2- Barr- Health and Housing: Work with health services, dining services, Res life. Address concerns under health and housing.

1. Vogel- Examples?
   1. Barr- Previous Chair extended breakfast hours in the caf.
2. Richardson- Work to address diversity issues on campus. May look at gender-neutral housing.
3. Roland- Student and Academic Affairs. Possible projects include: -21+ dive event. –Reroute Gus Bus. –More j-terms to count towards majors. Will work with provost, anything that falls under that category of the name.
4. Montes- Finance. Very important committee. Main goal is to fund all student orgs recognized by SAO. Application based. Applications will be sent out tonight. Work closely with Controller Best.
   1. Henrickson: Time commitment?
      1. Montes- Weekly meetings in the fall. In the spring, commitment of about 72 hours a week. Meet about 3x a week in addition to weekly senate meetings. More of a time commitment in the spring.
      2. Afreh- Does finance still count as 2 credits?
         1. Montes- Yes
5. Henrickson- Ethics Committee. Charged with maintaining an overview of the constitution and bylaws. Address issues that may arise from the student body or with senate, such as enforcement with policies in senate (committee credits, attendance, etc). Fall is by-law season. Are on call to update any bylaws or constitutional changes to be voted upon in the spring. This committee is required to meet once a month, but are on call pending concerns/requests from senate.
   1. Thrash- Under what circumstances would you be called to meet by senate?
      1. Eiler- Ex: If the co-pres were forced to call order on an individual and they not stop/ someone were to file a complaint.
      2. Van Hecke- Or the more likely situations of absence/attendance concerns.
6. Jenson- Technology committee. Centers around technology. Collaborate with GTS. Concerns of wifi on campus. Likely will overlap with many other areas and committees.
   1. Vogel- Do you prefer your committee members to be technologically inclined, or does it matter?
      1. Jenson- Not necessarily, would like a diverse group.
7. Cabrera- Timmons to speak on behalf of PR. (Currently an open position.)
   1. Timmons- Responsible for making sure that senate’s messages get out to campus, and vice versa. Social media, creating communication between students/senate.
      1. Nigro- Will the Schitter Chatter continue to be made?
         1. Timmons- Yes
      2. Vogel- Would you like people to commit to this committee without out there being a chair?
         1. Yes.
   2. Hare- Is there a minimum/maximum number people who must be on each committee?
      1. Not that is known.
   3. Is there a way to have all of this information regarding the committees/chairs emailed out?
      1. Cabrera- Entertains a motion to charge this task to the Administrative Director.
         1. Vogel- So charged.
      2. \*Charged to the Administrative director.

D. Timmons- Cabrera and Timmons were charged last semester with the work of the former light/chairs committee. (Which focused and improving the lighting and seating situation in the Courtyard Café). Feel that this work would be best coming from the students. Anyone want to charge this committee to a student/senator?

1. Nigro charges self with committee.

a. Vogel seconds.

2. Senator Nigro will serve as the chair of the Lights and Chairs Committee.

E. Vogel- There have been changes in Res Life regarding how signs are now posted on campus. This new process is not helpful/productive for senate, as it now takes a week for the item to be posted. This is not conducive to campaigning. During this past election senate received an exception to the new process from Charlie Potts. But, this should be examined for the future. Would like to charge this item to the Ethics Committee.

1. Nigro seconds.

2. The task of examining the new process for posting in buildings on campus has been charged to the Ethics Committee.

F. Physical plant is asking students to be apart of an action to celebrate the new move towards composting (and the new composter) at Gustavus. Students are asked to form a chain (the goal is 300 people) from the caf (near the loading dock) to the new composting site as a symbolic gesture of how we’re “closing the loop” in food our food cycle. (Vegetables from Big Hill Farm will be passed back up towards dining services and then bring some food waste back; passing through the loop of people). Will happen during daily Sabbath on Friday.

* + - 1. Timmons/Cabrera- Would like to entertain a motion for senators to attend. It would make a statement.
      2. Hare- Not sure if it is appropriate to make a motion to require senate to attend something during a Sabbath/rel event.

# IV. Old Business

## NA

# V. Announcements

# 1. VanHecke- If you would like to attend the symbolic passing of food to the compost site (that senate helped fund), Email Lisa Heldke saying “I am compost”.

# 2. Henrickson- Would like to thank the co-presidents for chairing their first meeting. Remind the senators that are not here tonight that they have a duty to be here every week.

# 3. Timmons- Thanks to those who are here tonight. To the new senators, so excited that you’re here and ready to serve. –This Saturday there will be a Lineus show at 9pm in the caf. –Reminder to contact committee chairs.

# 4. Marino- Still learning names, so show your placards clearly when you want to speak.

# 5. Cabrera- Next Monday, we will be in this room again. –SNL this Saturday is hosted by Res Life.

# 6. Hare- Could there be a tutorial for new senators?

# 7. Timmons- We will have a brainstorming session/debrief following the meeting.

# 8. Nigro- Great meeting! If you have any questions regarding parli pro, talk to Marino or Nigro.

# 9. Henrickson- Feel free to talk to committee chairs tonight. (Don’t have to wait to email)

# 10. Marino- Make eye contact when raising placards- this makes it easier to communicate who wants to be on the list.

# Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm