**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**November 25, 2013**

1. Attendance
   1. Absent
      1. Hinnenkamp, Montes- Osorio
2. Approval of the Minutes 11/18/13
   1. Approved
3. Community Comment
   1. NA
4. Old Business
   1. NA
5. New Business
   1. Finance Committee
      1. D.E.E.P Mid-Year
      2. Diversity Education Exploration Project
         1. Last year, visited New Orleans. Visited post-grad institutions, studied jazz history/culture, worked at the Second Harvest food bank.
         2. This year plan to go to Arizona, will be working with food banks there.
         3. Committee recommended funding travel in full.
         4. Didn’t recommend funding for cultural exploration admission. Were unclear on what exactly their itinerary would be, costs, etc. Did encourage them to come back in at a later time when they have more information.
         5. Discussion
            1. Hoppe- Were uncomfortable funding the aspect that they didn’t have a much info about. Funded travel.
            2. Nigro- How do we fund plane travel?

Best- Up to the bylaw. There are some inner workings regarding how the money is transferred. It is allowed.

Able to split a charge between two department lines, using cards. Remaining tickets covered by another department.

* + - * 1. Vote

Budget approved.

* 1. Hoppe- Last week the finance committee found a discrepancy in bylaws regarding travel reimbursement. Controller Best, do you know the specific article?
     1. Best- Art 6, section 2, subsection 8
  2. Hoppe- This is important, because we want to follow our bylaws. The wording on this bylaw is also a bit funny.
  3. Hoppe- Last week finance met and propose this change.:

**From** “Travel expenses will be **reimbursed** at the standard IRS business mileage rate.” **to** ““Travel expenses will be allocated at the standard IRS business mileage rate. Said expenses will be reimbursed after completion of the event(s) based upon proof of travel costs incurred, such as fuel costs, airfare, bus fare, etc.”

* + 1. Wanted to make it clear what changes were made.
  1. Cabrera- Point of information- Do we need to vote on this tonight?
  2. Marino- No, we must just vote to consider it. As for our constitution, we must vote to approve this/open discussion. Requires 2/3 vote. Next meeting we would vote to enact it.
  3. Is there a second?
     1. Birkey seconds
  4. Thayer- Point of Information- Why does it require 2/3?
     1. Marino- Constitution states it.
     2. Thayer – It doesn’t.
     3. Correction, requires just a simple majority.
  5. Vote to discuss
     1. Passes
  6. Best- This is coming before you tonight because for the past 3 years the wording has said “allocated”. Now, it has changed to “reimbursed”. As far as the second sentence, it is codifying how we’ve reimbursed in the past
     1. Best- When we allocate money for groups to travel, it notes that we have money set aside to give to a group to travel. Reimbursing pays you for travel-incurred expenses. This (with receipts) is how it has been done in the past. The primary part of this is to rectify an error that has happened, and further codify how travel costs are handled.
     2. Best- Received an email with the bylaws from the beginning from last fall that the previous finance chair had sent out to the committee with that uses the word reimbursed. Nowhere in any of these documents is there notation of changing the word “allocated” to “reimbursed”.
     3. Nigro- Would like to refute the point that it says allocated. Archives note that the rules have said reimbursed since 2000. We have not been following this. Amending to cover up what we’ve been doing is a bad thing. We need to follow our rules and stick with them.
     4. Henrickson- With due respect to a previous senator, the past two ombudspersons, did not once in any way shape or form update our bylaws. They have been updated in the past three years by myself. The official copies in archives state the opposite. How do we know what is official and what is not? According to our bylaws, the flash drive must contain clean and changed copies of our bylaws. This may not be the case, as the past two individuals did not do their jobs. The previous speaker noted that the official ones reside within our thumb drive. Definitively they reside there, but do not believe that they are the documents from the past. The documents on the website may not be correct. How do we correct this? We must go through minutes, it will be a lot of work. Maybe nothing has changed? But, I seriously doubt that.
     5. Richardson- Worries that it will change the way budgets are approached from students. A burden to place on students/ would have to handle a great deal of money. Must be consciousness of a wording to allow students to be reimbursed before an event is over.
     6. PI- Burggraf- Does senate fund things before an event happens now?
        1. Yes. Uses dean of student’s credit card
     7. Burggraf- If student senate reimburses however the group went about getting their funds, then that’s how it’s reimbursed after that. It’s fine the way it’s worded.
     8. Thayer- Remembers changing this wording spring of freshman year. Seeing this bylaw recommendation come up again is like a déjà vu.
     9. Cabrera- On the record saying: Be cautious speaking about the work ethic of past ombudspersons.
  7. VanHecke- The discussion should be are you going to use standard rate or IRS rate?
  8. Hoppe- Likes the change. Doesn’t think it’s us trying to cover our backsides, just that we want to make sure our bylaws are the best they can be. Does understand situations when groups need money before an event (i.e. plane tickets). Has the way we do it now ever been a problem?
     1. Best- As of now, no.
  9. Hoppe- Doesn’t think it’s a problem. Students have option of going to the Dean of Students. Is there a way to make this more clear?
  10. Best- Reasoning behind allocated over reimbursed. Being reimbursed at the standard IRS business rate would be exponentially more expensive. In the interest of a group so that they could turn in more fuel receipts in a given year. Costs more than just being reimbursed for your gas. That was the reasoning behind the first change.
  11. Marino- (Reading form past minutes) Monday Jan 23, 2012. New Business. The finance committee moved to consider changing wording from allocated to reimbursed.
  12. Rasmussen- Confused… We need to go back through minutes, etc. If that’s the case, is this something we should wait to do?
      1. Henrickson- The job is done, the minutes have been found.
  13. Vogel- At this time I’ve heard a bit of an issue with the current wording. As a member of the finance committee, was ok with it. Now sees some complications. Would like to amend it.
  14. Vogel- Doesn’t see the official copy in front of me. Need a copy with what it truly says.
      1. Marino- The copies online say reimbursed. The minutes say otherwise. There is proof saying we changed it to allocated. We have to decide which document we trust more.
  15. Marino- Issue with the past minutes. Since this motion is not anywhere in our bylaws it is not valid. Changing something that doesn’t exist..
  16. Vogel- Moves to charge this to the ethics committee. Would like them to look into what is what, which document is the one we’ll follow and why we are in this situation.
  17. Timmons- Encourages a ten-minute recess.
  18. Hoppe- So moved
      1. Patton seconds
      2. Reconvene 10 till 8pm
      3. Vote
         1. Motion fails
  19. VanHecke- The good news is that you can’t vote this in or out tonight. This still doesn’t get you out of the dilemma
  20. Thayer- Point of Interest- where does this come from?
      1. Article 9, bylaws, section 2
  21. Thayer- Point of Interest- The discussed article must be discussed next week? We can’t consider this until next week? We can only present the motion and idea tonight. Would like a ruling.
      1. Marino- Because we’re discussing bringing it up, this isn’t the actual consideration.
  22. Rasmussen- PI- We already voted to consider.
  23. Vogel- Moves to end discussion and debate
      1. Rasmussen seconds
      2. Vote
         1. Motion fails
  24. Vogel- I’m afraid at this point that we’re not really sure if we’re talking about anything. Not sure what the point is of continuing discussion. Wishes we would pay attention.
      1. Henrickson- There’s nothing to do. We found the minutes, we’re there. There’s nothing to do.
  25. Patton- Suggests tabling this until we have a concrete copy of our constitution/decide what we’re using.
  26. Marino- Art 9 of our constitution under bylaws “any bylaw changes must be voted at the meeting after they’re presented”. This could be interpreted two ways. Requires a ruling from the co-presidents.
  27. Patton- Moves to end discussion
  28. Marino- Encourages senator to table until we have accurate information.
  29. Hoppe- Can I make a request to withdraw a motion.
      1. Marino- Motion has been approved, we’ve already began discussing it.
  30. Patton- If I table the discussion indefinitely, can we ever change this?
      1. Means it’s tabled until whenever we want to bring it up again.
  31. Patton- Moves to table this discussion indefinitely.
      1. Thrash- Seconded
      2. Vote
         1. Passes.
  32. Nigro- Moves to discover why there is a discrepancy among our bylaws.
  33. Marino-…and article 9 section 2 wording.
  34. Birkey seconds
  35. Discussion
      1. Henrickson- The issue at hand is that there was a discrepancy. There was an issue in the past. The individual who occupied this position at that time did not update the documents. The only thing that needs to change tonight is that I need to go back into those minutes, find what was changed, and update it. We are discussing something that has already happened.
  36. Hare- Wasn’t the motion to discuss whether we wait a week after a meeting to discuss?
  37. Rasmussen- Shouldn’t we also look at subsequent minutes.
  38. Burggraf- Also suggests that past minutes are looked into.
  39. Cabrera- It is this body’s right to bring forth an ethics complaint, and that ethics must hear it.
  40. Vote (Art 9 section 2, regarding consideration and the issue in the discrepancy of the documents)
      1. So charged
  41. Thayer- Feels that this body should be kept in the loop/up to date through this process. Charges the ethics committee with reviewing the past four years of senate minutes and comparing any bylaws and constitutional changes with the constitution online, on the thumb drive, and the archives and to notify the body of any changes before the end of the semester.
  42. Nigro- This is four years of minutes. And that’s three weeks to do this task. That’s insane. Would like to move to change this to the end of the academic year.
      1. Birkey seconds.
      2. Discussion
         1. Hoppe- When do bylaw proposals have to be in/go through student body?
            1. Only changes to the constitution require this.
         2. Best- It would be swell if these changes could be made before the spring budgeting process.
         3. Richardson- To the Ombudsperson, what would be the appropriate timeline?
            1. Before spring finance season starts would be best.
         4. Hare- Point of Information- When does the budgeting process begin?
            1. Best- Officially begins 8 weeks before the end of spring semester.
         5. Nigro- Friendly amendment to my own amendment (which I’ve never done before!) to change to:
            1. Before the spring budgeting process.
            2. Marino- Encourages to change to before the start of the spring budgeting process.

Friendlied as such

Vote

Passes

* + - 1. Discussion on charge.
         1. NA
      2. Vote
         1. Passes, so charged
  1. Hare- Moves to charge the finance committee that regardless of the charge that they work to change the wording that we’ve been discussing.
     1. Best- That duty would be a joint effort with what has already been charged.

1. Announcements
   1. Nigro- Thanks everybody! That was the most wormholes I’ve ever seen. Have a great break!
   2. Burggraf- Bruce McClain has an exhibit opening in the Hillstrom tonight! Check it out!
   3. Kemp- Hopefully you’ll get your clothing next Monday! Thanks to those of you who came to choreographer’s gallery. –if you have friends in complex, let them know a position will be open next semester! (Will be studying abroad)
   4. Cabrera- Great job to those performing in the I Am We Are Race Show, Vasa concert, and the dance performance! Have a safe break and safe travels home!
   5. Richardson- Gender-neutral housing survey sent out! Fill it out!
   6. Timmons- Thank you all for this evening! Thanks for you attendance at the forum. Please be safe traveling for break!
   7. May= Faculty reports!!!! TURN THEM IN ASAP.
2. **Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.**