**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**December 9, 2013**

1. Attendance
2. Approval of the Minutes 12/2/13
   1. Edit the spelling of Kwanzaa in announcements and Edit Burggraf’s comment about green fee to $2 and Hare’s comment about Bemidji ST to $5.
3. Community Comment
   1. NA
4. Old Business
5. New Business
   1. S.S.A. Resolution
      1. Burggraf- Secular Student Alliance is here to describe what has been happening with their posters on campus.
      2. SAA- Have used allocated funds and spent about $50 of personal money on posters. All posters in campus center down (replaced 5 x), all down in music building (replaced 3 x), also Beck and Olin. This is happening all across campus.
         1. All of these posters were approved and put up by the appropriate people in the appropriate places.
         2. Events that are older are still up (so not removed by routine).
         3. Can tell that they’ve been torn down. (Pieces of tape/corners left behind on surfaces).
         4. Some have been vandalized w/ sharpie.
         5. Had a similar event last year. Talked w/ Virgil and Campus security. Nothing resolved.
      3. Burggraf- (Read resolution)
         1. Part of work in the Diversity Committee is to reach out to SSA, and help them feel welcome in community.
         2. Chaplains have spoken with the group, supports their existence.
         3. SAA has events planned. Working w/ FCA, Prepare, and Proclaim.
         4. Important to pass resolution, help community on campus.
      4. Thayer- Point of Information- Where is the resolution coming from? If it’s coming from the floor, does it need to be seconded.
         1. Nigro seconds the resolution.
      5. Nigro Friendly Amendments:
         1. Line 2, flip students/secular (so to read secular student alliance)
         2. Fix line 22 so that ‘all students’ is part of line 21
         3. Capitalize, clean up formatting on lines 21/22
      6. Thayer- Point of Information- Would like a ruling from the chair to state that the resolution is what we see, and not anything else.
         1. Timmons- This is what we vote on, as is.
      7. Cabrera—Confused w/ formatting. What is the purpose of the numbers?
         1. Burggraf- The only reason the numbers are there is purely to act as a tool for editing purposes on the floor.
         2. Cabrera- Would you like to see the numbers removed in the final copy?
            1. B- Yes.
         3. Hoppe- Point of Information- Do we have to remove the numbers with a friendly, or do we have to do it at the end?
            1. Timmons- If everyone agrees that they’re just for formatting purposes, no. But if someone objected we would have to remove them.
            2. VanHecke- You can friendly to remove the numbers.
         4. Burggraf- Friendlies to remove the numbers.
         5. Birkey- Thinks this resolution is extremely important. If Christian posters were torn down there would be an outrage.
         6. Best- Agrees that if a Christian org’s posters were torn down there would be a lot of upset people, but if any group’s were torn down it would be an outrage. There’s a burden of proof that this was in fact a bias incident and not just someone being an idiot. Including language on bias incident, thinks that there needs to be a little more proof.
         7. Roland- In favor of protecting free speech and supports SSA. Ripping down these posters challenges the group’s right to exist. Prove that it goes beyond that language. That is directly threatens the group’s right to exist.
         8. VanHecke- Chaplains sent out a message regarding this to the students-l.
         9. Burggraf- Having trouble understanding why a burden of proof is needed. The specific planned intentions of a person are not necessary to silence a group of people. A community is being silence, and their personal views are being seen as not necessary to the community- and they are (necessary). Through the fact that these are being systematically taken down, it seems that the SSA is being silenced and having their existence threatened.
         10. Richardson- Feels that the need to prove that these posters are being taken down in a system of discrimination is offensive. We should prioritize making a community that is open to all of the voices. Their voices are being systematically denied in our institution. Strongly urges the support of this resolution.
         11. Thayer- Supports the premises on which the resolution stands but doesn’t support the language. Doesn’t think that senate should alienate any part of our body, which is what is happening here. An appropriate resolution would use non-specific language in describing the group. It would make it a blanket resolution aimed at progress and remain unbiased to any specific group so we can represent the student body as a whole and ensure that we are “inclusive to all the voices”. Don’t want to offend by tearing this apart, but a proper resolution would eliminate any reference to a specific org, and would instead target any act of tearing down org posters. There are a multitude of posters torn down around campus. This resolution is targeted towards a biased event. It becomes aggressive if we are specific, and could shut people down/not allow for conversation. Does not feel that this is appropriate.
             1. Burggraf- Point of Information- Is it in the constitution that a res can’t directly refer to a group.

No

* + - 1. Hoppe- Echoes previous speaker. There was a situation earlier this year that was a bias incident. There was a specific word/name used in the spray paint incident, so we knew for sure who the target was. In this situation, we do not completely know. We cannot be jumping to conclusions with our language.
         1. PO- Richardson- Would like the senate to define “bias”.
      2. Hoppe- Yields the floor to Hare.
         1. Hare- Bias incident. Hate crime is directed to a specific group or body a Bias does not have definite proof of intent to harm. Hate crime is more severe.
      3. Hoppe- Supports the right to free speech.
      4. Henrickson- Question to SSA- What happens if you’re outside this college and someone takes down a poster you put up?
         1. Germaine called
      5. Henrickson- Is it a bias incident or a hate crime? Do you feel that you were targeted?
         1. Thayer- Hate crime at GAC is an act directed at a protected group.
         2. VanHecke- In order for something to be called a hate incident it has to be traced to a specific group (EX swastikas drawn on a synagogue vs Nobel).
      6. Henrickson - Wants people to consider what’s being thrown around. We’re making a conversation kill by one another. This a group that feels that they’re being slighted. Whether or not the group feels that this will change anything, they are entitled to it (the resolution).
      7. Siatta- Whether the victims are one or many, the senate should stand up against any act of oppression. A resolution needs to be passed either at this meeting or one in the near future.
      8. SSA- All of the posters surrounding their’s still remain.
         1. Posters put up to show the breadth and diversity of opinions regarding secular people. Vandalism on Morgan Freeman poster. Have had discussions with Christian groups regarding these posters. When the majority determines the rhetoric of the minority, that is a form of oppression.
         2. To remove SSA from the resolution would get away from the heart of the matter.
         3. Org feels that this would be helpful as a resolution. Don’t want to sweep it under the rug, but bring it to attention. In the resolution correct name to Gustavus SSA (official name)
      9. Siatta- Friendly to change line two to “Gustavus SSA” and all others within the document.
      10. Afreh- Great conversation.
      11. Hinnenkamp- Likes what the chaplains did, this seems a bit harsh in wording.
      12. Nigro- We’re spinning out wheels. Calls to question.
          1. Hoppe seconds
      13. Vote on ending debate
          1. Fails
      14. Nigro- we have the majority to pass this. Doesn’t know what we’re doing. We should support them. Someone please call to question.
      15. Richardson- In response to the concerns about the aggressiveness of this. The resolution does not express any negative feelings towards members of the Gustavus community. Perfectly appropriate expression of support. Reminder that the previous senate voted to fund this org
      16. Harbeck- Friendly to correct formatting of word “unwelcoming’ down to line 12 and “entitles” down to line 6,etc within the document.
      17. Afreh- Calls to Question.
          1. Vogel Seconds
          2. Vote

Passes

* + - 1. Vote on resolution as is:
         1. Thayer asks for a ballot vote.
         2. 12-4 the Yeses have it with one abstention.
         3. Resolution is approved.
  1. Gus Bus Conduct
     1. VanHecke- Received a call from the Gus Bus drivers. Neighbors complaining about occurrences near stop/pickup sites. Asking for assistance in addressing the inappropriate conduct from our peers.
     2. Best- Could the advisor elaborate.
        1. VanHecke- Noise predominantly. But also some concerns about vandalism.
     3. Nigro- Moves to charge the PR Committee to do some sort of ad campaign or email relating to gus bus conduct.
        1. Patton seconds.
        2. Discussion
           1. Richardson- Excellent idea! Note that it’s more of a problem in areas surrounding the gus bus, not on the bus.
           2. Kemp- Not sure how effective a poster/email campaign would be. Are the residents aware of the sites?

3 locations that neighbors near drop off site have complained.

Traverse/Church, Grace/7th,

* + - * 1. Kemp- It would be very hard to instill something that isn’t on campus. Sympathizes with residents of St. Peter, but not sure how effective this would be.
        2. Wilkes- Wondering if PR is the best committee for this issue. Especially if posters are put up around campus, and students live off campus. Not sure if it’s the best way to go about this issue.
        3. Burggraf- Use PR to make fun posters that say “Be respectful” in a catchy way. Remind students that other residents live in St Peter.
        4. Rasmussen- The places read are drop off spots?

2 of them

* + - * 1. VH- The way our contract is written is that there are specific designated sites that are drop off/ pick up sites, but if the driver is able they may go to non-designated spots. Could amend the contract…
        2. Rasmussen- Doesn’t think this is the right way to go about this. More of a problem of drunk people being around town, not the gus bus. Thinks we should maybe charge it to Student and Academic Affairs. Look into different routes to take.
        3. Hoppe- Understands the sentiment that it may not be the perfect task for PR. Perhaps charge different tasks to two committees. But at the very least thinks it’s something we should try. Charge to PR, and think of another committee to charge it to as well.
        4. Nigro- PR would be well suited. Works on relations with the students. We’re just arguing over who should do this.
        5. Hare- Have there been complaints in the past?

Van Hecke- Students being disrespectful to drivers, First round of comments regarding the getting on and off of the bus.

Hare- Use office hours on the Gus Bus?

* + - * 1. Roland- Are we talking about pursuing a PR campaign to make gusties more respectful or are we considering making changes to the gus bus/contract?

We’re just discussing the PR charge.

* + - * 1. Larson- Responsibility, not a right to ride the gus bus. Needs to come from a higher authority than PR.
        2. Patton- Posters don’t hurt anyone. Doesn’t think anyone is morally against being respectful to your neighbor. Thinks we should do this.
        3. Vote

Passes, so charged.

* + - 1. Rasmussen- Was not aware that there were different drop off spots. This can cause misunderstanding. Charges the Student and Academic Affairs committee to look into the gus bus contract and how to better the gus bus situation and issues on complaints.
         1. Discussion

Roland- Moving sound pollution?

Thayer- Look into historical significance of contract. Doesn’t think we need to change this. It exists to keep students safe. It serves that purpose.

Richardson- Concern seems to be with student awareness of how the gus bus functions.

Nigro- Let’s pass this!

Roland- If we were to do anything to change the route, would we have to consult city officials?

Germaine.

* + - * 1. Vote on charge to Student and Academic Affairs.

Passes.

* + 1. Larson- Looking at the root of the problem. Thinks drivers should stick to stops.
       1. The language of the contract notes that other drop offs are per the driver’s decision. The way it’s currently written is at the driver’s discretion.
    2. Thayer- The contract at one point had a set route, but was added by student senate. When there was a designated route students had to wait a long time. Students complained. Likes it as it stands b/c it decreases students’ drinking and driving. Don’t have to wait as long, won’t risk drinking and driving. These are the lives of our friends that we’re considering now. Whether or not you have ill feelings towards drinking/underage, think about drinking/driving.
    3. Burggraf- What’s the process in altering a contract?
       1. Cabrera- Would go first before cabinet, then the senate. The company would also have to be ok with the changes.
    4. Patton- On this campus we have very few drunk driving incidents compared to other institutions. Should be careful when we find things we want to change, it could snow ball.
    5. Rasmussen- We are charging two committees with this. Not sure what we’re discussing.

1. Announcements
   1. Henrickson- Ethics stands to serve this body. If we have concerns w/ the constitution feel free to contacts ethics!
   2. Cabrera- Thurs is the Festival of St Lucia. Encourages you to attend the service during Sabbath. Will celebrate these women and other lights in your life. –Friday is Kwanzaa. Is at 6:30. It’s free, sign up in the DCenter.
   3. Timmons- Travel safely when you go home. – Thanks for the conversations we had tonight! -Thanks to everyone who was in or attended CinCC. –Rock for Tots is this Sat at Patty’s $9/$10. Money goes towards children in the Mankato/St Peter area to give gifts to children.
   4. Schwichtenberg- Wed 8pm in courtyard hosting Billy Johnson. Proceeds to Africa Jam.
   5. Henrickson- How many will be in the Twin Cities during Xmas break/Jterm. If you find yourself in a tough situation, call Eiler.
   6. VanHecke- Fri Michael Johnson will be in Bjorling. 8pm. A tradition for him to come to GAC. A legend in how many years he’s played at GAC.
   7. Kemp- Final Friday dance performance. 6pm in Kresge.
   8. Marino- 8pm in alumni. Lineus show!
   9. Gabe- Physical theater Fri and Sat at 8pm. And Sun at 2pm. Tickets online.
   10. Midnight express this weekend!
   11. PAs have an event to “pledge to not drink or drive over the holidays”.
2. **Adjourned at 8:24 pm.**