**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**April 7, 2014**

**I. Attendance**

**II. Approval of the Minutes from 3/24/2014**

A. Approved.

**III. Community Comment**

A. NA

**IV. Old Business**

A. International Representative PR Update

1. Roland- Organizing a forum that will discuss every single facet of the issue. Want to make sure that voters are informed about the vote at hand. Joint effort of SAA(Student & Academic Affairs) and Diversity committee. Q&A with senators.

2. Discussion

-Thrash- Date?

-Roland- Vote on the 25th, will be a week before that. Do not yet have a definitive date.

-Siatta- Which senators will be welcome at the event?

-Roland- Anyone is welcome. Want senators to connect directly with students to understand where everyone/various perspectives are coming from.

-Vogel- Why isn’t PR involved with this?

-Roland- Basically it’s being organized by D and SAA, but PR will be helping to advertise.

**IV. New Business**

A. Ombudsperson Elections

1. Floor open for nominations for the 2014-15

-Rasmussen- Nominates Jordan Wiest

-Nigro seconds.

-Afreh- Nominates Thayer

-Thayer respectfully declines.

2. Discussion

-Wiest- Served on ethics this year. It’s been a good year to serve on that committee- we’ve discussed a lot of things, examined many areas of our constitution. Would be excited to serve as the leader of that faction.

-Birkey- Based on the lack of nominations guesses that there probably isn’t much opposition to this. Thinks this is an excellent choice, Wiest would serve the position well.

3. Vote

-Approved.

B. Elections Committee Update

1-Olsen- All of the amendments passed at the election. They have been archived.

2-Jenson- They all passed with really high percentages.

C. Finance By-Laws

1- Best- Art V of bylaws. This change would reflect what the finance chair and controller are mandated to do/how it’s practiced. Will set money aside for block allotment.

a.Vote

-Approved.

2- Best- Subsection 6 states that the controller must meet monthly with advisor to discuss. This have never been practiced (in the last 3 years). Already meet weekly. It is the same change under the next point, eliminates these duties from the finance chair.

-Gustafson- Why was this initially required?

-Best- At one point in time there was a great deal of turmoil and concern about funds. Was a way to keep from going bankrupt.

-VanHecke- At one point in time the advisor might not have paid as much attention to senate. Agrees that these are probably no longer necessary.

-Vote

-Passes

3- Best- “2 under art 1, 2” Would require a print out senate’s 9-line activity. A way of saving the body from erroneous charges and to maintain financial integrity.

-Vote

Passes

4- Best- Striking the wording that we have to meet with the advisor monthly (same as before).

-Vote

Passes

D. Co-President Update

-Timmons- Co-presidents will be meeting with Ohle on Fri and the Board of trustees soon. Want to open up the floor for any concerns you would like to bring forward. -A Dive forum will be happening (date TBD). -During January, the board suggested having breakfast with senators. Would help make their meetings more productive with this information/breakfast. Breakfast on Fri April 25th at 7:30am. -Will send out a doodle.

-VanHecke- Need at least 20-25 people. Need these numbers in the next 48 hours. If there aren’t enough people we will have to open it up to other students.

-Discussion

-Burggraf- Is this decided? Has heard strong opposition from other students. Further perpetuates the divide with senate. This is one of the only opportunities students have to interact with the board. Not comfortable with this. We can all choose to go as any student can, but doesn’t think it’s good to limit it to senators. Not creating a good image.

-Thayer- PI- Was this an invitation?

-Timmons- The board expressed a desire to make their conversations as productive as they can. This was a suggestion to help with that.

-Siatta- Has heard similar concerns as a previous speaker from students. Students have already had an opportunity to eat with the board.

-VanHecke- This would be the third opportunity.

-Siatta- Feels better knowing that there have been previous opportunities. If this is the only one like this it might be ok.

-Birkey- Personally opposed to limiting this breakfast to senators. Believes that the purpose of these breakfasts is for the board to meet and get to know students. If they don’t have this connection, what function are they serving? Helps bridge disconnect.

-Wiest- How many students usually attend these breakfasts?

-VanHecke- Usually try to get around 32-33 to sign up (in case a few don’t show). Sends a reminder. Usually has a hard time getting that many to sign up. There are sometimes new faces, but there are usually a consistent group of the same faces. There are some who feel very strongly, but the average gusties may not be as interested.

-Wiest- There’s the concern that if senate only has breakfast with the trustees there will be a gap. Perhaps there’s a way to have a mix of students and senators?

-VanHecke- You won’t want 50 people, because that would be like 6 people per board member.

-Goldstien- We have a lot of diverse opinions in this room. Diversity of majors, places. Yes, there are some voices that may not be repped- but you should rep all of your constituents. This would be a balanced set of voices. A new way to interact with the board of trustees.

-Burggraf- Doesn’t like the idea of choosing not to let students have the opportunity. It sounds better/is better for students to advocate for themselves. Would rather have students share their stories/passions than us speaking for them. This is furthering the divide. Doesn’t like where this is headed. Senators could jump on it right away, but there should still be the opportunity for students to sign up.

-Roland- Understands where many of the previous speakers are coming from. Looks at this as an opportunity for students and constituents to interact with one another. Perhaps send out an email to collect concerns to bring forward?

-Rasmusen- The board of trustees is a group that comes to senate for different things. Important for the board be on good terms with students. Students need to know that their voices and opinions will be brought to the board. Could bring issues forward, present in the way you think would be most receptive. Senate does big things like the dive. If one student brought that forward it might not have been covered.

-Sweet- Echoes previous speakers. As senate we are a representation of GAC. We are a catalyst for a lot of things happening at GAC. Good to have a formal meeting with them. How many senators would even be able to go? If not enough, we would have to fill with students. Some of this discussion could wait until after we know how many senators can come.

-Gustafson- We could have 15 senators and 15 students. That way we would have even numbers of both.

-Poll of how many can/will go…

-Timmons- If you want to be at this breakfast on behalf of senate, talk to JoNes after the meeting. Then determine how to open it up to the body after.

-VanHecke- That’s what I would do anyway…

-Burggraf- PI- Can we bring constituents with us?

-VanHecke- If senate fills all of the spots and you want to turn the breakfast into a special interest session, you could do that… Breakfast is paid for those who don’t have a meal plan. You can bring your friends if they can pay for their own breakfast. Also try not to have like 14 people, so as to not gang up on the board members.

-Goldstien- Would like the presidents to bring up the nordic skiing cut with the board.

-Birkey- Had a professor bring up unexpected cuts. Impacts students, too. Would like to see that brought forward.

-Burggraf- -Social Justice gen ed requirement. -Take diversity into account when making cuts. -Students notification when making cuts. -Chinese department. Greater transparency with hiring/firing practices.

-VanHecke- Wants to make sure the point you want the board to hear is heard clearly.

-Burggraf- With the Chinese program, just how concerned students are with it.

-Hinnenkamp- Had a professor bring up cuts with the CICE. Would like to see greater transparency with being clear what is being cut (not names). Public announcement/email.

-Burggraf- Divestment.

-Gustafson- Would like to add to the social justice gen -ed requirement. Comes out of Thia Copper’s class. Want to document the diversity of experience in video form at GAC.

-Siatta- Gen Ed requirements for fit/act credits. Eliminate them? Sign in when you workout.

-PI-Burggraf- The attendance policy for fitness/act classes is very strict. Only 2. Very hard to go to conferences, etc.

-VanHecke- There are faculty, college, senate committees that could examine these issues. The faculty would not be receptive to the board telling them how to run class.

B. Schwichtenberg- The Nordic Ski team. Roommate last year is on the team. Would like to hear more about why it was cut. Watched his commitment. Moves to charge student and academic affairs with looking into the reasons behind cutting the nordic ski team and what senate and students can do about it.

-Seconded by Hinnenkamp.

-Vote

Passes

C. Thayer- This is a bylaw that defines the roles of the Health and Housing Chair. Also adds a definition for a Heart Safe Champion. Moves to open discussion.

-Harbeck seconds.

-Thayer- \*Outlines H&H Chair duties as currently. -Addition of Heart Safe Champion. Would be nominated (could be a non-senator). Would organize a Heart Safe committee, AED training.

-Discussion-

-Burggraf- Capitalization of Cabinet, Residential Life in description. -Doesn’t feel like it is necessary to put the Heart Safe Champion under senate. Could be open to anyone...doesn’t seem necessary to have this in our constitution. Good with 1 and 2, but thinks that though 3 is good for the college as a whole, shouldn’t be in constitution.

-Olsen- Agrees with previous speaker. Role seems excessive, and could seem irrelevant in a few years. A great idea, but doesn’t think it should be a legally binding position. Health and Housing could advocate and informally maintain the position.

-Schwichtenberg- Might not be pertinent down the road once these goals have been reached. But, an important issue. Senate should be in charge of taking care of this. Might not be taken as seriously if not official. Perhaps should make it a certain amount of time (until more AEDS are on campus). Gosh.

-Thayer- GAC could be a model for schools in the future. Students should have a voice in where defibrillators should be on campus. To be considered a heart safe community, we must have a Heart Safe Champion. The committee decided this. Would like to see it passed as is. Would look good for the college to have this moving forward in making a difference.

-Goldstien- Language specific in constitution regarding “chairs”. \*quote from constitution: “In full Senate meetings, Chairs have full speaking privileges but do not have

voting privileges. Chairs select members of committees and delegate tasks to

Senators within their jurisdiction in accordance with this Constitution (Article

VII) and in consultation with the Co-Presidents and Administrative Director”.\* -Is what is up on the screen in line with this or beyond? Not sure of answer. Up to body to decide if a chair should take on these roles.

-Burggraf- Would be better to have someone apply instead of being nominated. Thinks that this committee and chair are wonderful, but don’t need to be in the constitution. Moves to strike number 3.

-Seconded.

-Discussion

-Nigro- Chairs can lead committees as situations develop. Afraid that this will be future ethics committee work. Thinks we should vote these down.

-Vote (On striking the verbiage of number 3)

-Division called.

-Hand raise vote

-Amendment to the amendment fails.

-Discussion

-Nigro- there are not chair definitions because the more vague they are the better. Issues change from year to year.

-Grossheusch- Thinks this is important. Heart Attacks can happen to anyone. The safety of students is at stake.

-Sweet- Thinks this is important. Had one at high school and it saved a life.

-Birkey- Doesn’t feel comfortable giving sente jurisdiction over things that haven’t been decided. Curb senate’s power.

-VanHecke- If it wasn’t for Joe Thayer there wouldn’t be a heart safe committee or champion. If there isn’t someone passionate about it might not continue. How do we fill these positions as people graduate. Not sure if there’s another administrative home to take over this after Joe graduates.

-Vogel- Thinks that senate should own this and that students need this. Heart things could happen to anybody. It affects all of our students and they should be aware. Training events are an important part of this. Tying this to the Health and Housing chair is a good way to keep this going.

-Rasmussen- Has been swayed. Doesn’t see students coming into to senate down the road complaining that senate is taking measures to save lives. This needs to start somewhere and to make sure it keeps going.

-Hinnenkamp- Likes this amendment even though it may come to the ethics committee down the road. For now, if we want to keep this going, this should pass. Please pass this.

-Thrash- Echoes previous speakers. Calls to Q.

-Seconded.

-Burggraf- PI-What makes the Kitchen Cabinet exist?

-Sweet- President Jackson.

-VanHecke- Steve Kjellgren won’t let it go away. He thinks of it as his governing body.

\*Vote on amendment.

-Passes

-Goldstien- Is there a way to do something like alcohol edu but with cultural literacy? (In light of bias incidents). Encourages a movement.

-Schwichtenberg- So moved. To Diversity committee.

-Seconded

-Discussion

-NA

-Vote

So charged.

**V. Announcements**

-Gustafson- Exciting things happening with DLC. There came an observation that the faculty were left out of the bias incidents. Asking you to send anyone who has had an extreme example of something that has happened at GAC to come to DLC, or Tia. -D-Week is the week of the 21st!

-Best- After an intense 4 hours, we have a full spreadsheet of all of the orgs requesting funding next year. Committee work will begin soon.

-Rasmussen has invited you all to celebrate his 21st this wednesday!

-Schwichtenberg- Come to Africa Jam! OKs philanthropy. May 16th. $5. Five artists. Money goes to help kids!

-Timmons- We’re taking a picture right after this- don’t leave! -We changed our committee requirements. EMAIL [zmay2@gac.edu](mailto:zmay2@gac.edu) what committees you’re on. (And email your chairs.) -Thanks to our new members! -Relay for Life this Fri.. Lineus at 8:15. -Sat in Alumni Lineus show. -May 1st Eppies take the hill triathlon for diabetes.

-Burggraf- List of announcements from Gabe.

-Larson- Dive Renovation info session in the courtyard at 8pm on the 10th. -GAC tv is doing a segment on the dive, it would great to have at least 4 or 5 senators.

-Sweet- The vote on the dive is Thursday right before Easter break, many students might not be around.

-Afreh- Africa Night! Friday right before relay for life.

-VanHecke- Faculty fixed their own problem with not knowing about bias incidents. Faculty will now receive info at the same time as the student alias.

-Thayer- Next Mon is the first day of Passover. Celebrates the exodus, also connects to the Last Supper for Christianity.