**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**October 13, 2014, 7:00pm**

1. **Attendance**
2. **Approval of Minutes**

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

None

1. **Old Business**

Gustafson: Move to amend agenda to place Q&A with President Bergman right now.

1. **Q&A with President Bergman**

Bergman: Sorry about the surprise. I finally have my head lifted up after a busy September. I can finally participate in things. I would love to take time to learn how student senate works. I would like to stop in once or twice a semester, or by request if you have an agenda item that you would like me to weigh in on.

Kehran: I am not really knowledgeable on the subject, but what separates you from your predecessor?

Bergman: What year are you?

Kehran: Junior

Bergman: Good question. I don’t know if I would answer it in a way, all leaders have a certain style of them. You’ve probably seen me performing in public, but many haven’t seen me in small group situations. I have a collaborative and fairly approachable style. I like to listen and learn. I tend to pull back on input and opinions until I have a chance to hear from people. I like to be in the strategic zone rather than the tactical zone. I like to work with really smart people. I think one of the greatest things about Gustavus is the collective intelligence of this place. I like people who care about what they do, people who like to contribute to the world, the society, the community, their organizations.

Kehran: Congratulations on being inaugurated.

Bergman: Thank you. It was a scary day. I’m not a person that likes to be the center of attention, but I have to say it was a really invigorating feeling.

Panzer: Off of your comments that you are more strategic, we are a body that can help with the strategic goals. Are there any specific ways we can help you with your strategic longterm goals?

Bergman: You are leaders of the student body. You are a good voice for the student body, the community as a whole. You see things, you hear things, you notice things, you have access to the population. When you bring things forward, it is important to realize most things have positive and negatives and I encourage you to think carefully about decisions you make and look to administrators and leaders. We all have limited resources, carefully utilize them. I am always looking for a way to move the college forward. We want to serve students better all the time. We will try things. I am not a person that works with desire for strict rules. I think the most efficient way to interact with this body is with your chairs and Jones. I would prefer to do what makes sense, but we do want to follow reasonable protocols.

Waggoner: We hear a lot of complaints about the wifi, do you think updating that would be a priority?

Bergman: Things that affect productivity on campus should be a priority. I don’t know how big of a problem it is or how much it would cost, but I’m happy to look into it.

Jones: It’s significant cost.

Bergman: If that’s the number one priority in residence halls, we need to hear that.

Siatta: How do you feel being the first woman president and the trailblazer so to speak?

Bergman: I am an engineer and when I was in school, I was one of very few women in engineering. Gustavus seems like it has a lot of gender equity compared to the last 30 years or so. I haven’t had a woman on my staff in a long time. It’s nice here. I’m looking forward to when it doesn’t have to be in the headlines. I used to think that would be true by the time my daughter grew up. The world doesn’t move as fast as you think it will. I was disappointed that the world didn’t change faster. I don’t tend to dwell there. I think that people who are first have a really great responsibility to be a good role model. It is important to set a high standard, but I would do that anyway. I tend to try to ignore it. It does make me always look for equity in any group I’m in. It’s something that pops out to me and not just gender.

Thrash: Is there anything you thought was true as a Board of Trustee Member that turned out not to be?

Bergman: No, there were some degree things. The hospitality surprised me in a positive way. The pressures on my time, I thought would be reasonable and their horrible. I thought living in two houses would be really tough and it isn’t terrible. The time thing is something I underestimated severely and I don’t like driving on 169.

Thrash: Is there anything on campus?

Bergman: I think there are some things that are really tired on campus. For example, we replaced the Eckman Mall benches.

Goldstein: Thank you for being here. I recognize some of this student senate stuff is pretty new. Have you heard of any objectives of senate that you particularly support?

Bergman: I don’t think I know enough about senate. I’m here to learn.

Hegg: When you were at Medtronic, what kinds of things did you research on?

Bergman: The most recent job I had was in the cardiac rhythm department. We made pacemakers and defibrillators. We were working on miniaturizing those devices, carving out new ground in medicine. A lot of the other stuff I did was troubleshooting. If a device unexpectedly breaks or malfunctions, I was part of a team that went to figure out why. If it’s bad enough, we have to issue a recall which is dangerous in the medical field. Understanding the root cause of a problem was my job. Knowing the fundamental root cause of the problem allows you to make the right decision. That was some of the most gratifying work I did.

Hegg: How big was the team you lead?

Bergman: 250 people and the animal research lab. A mini hospital for animals. We don’t treat that lightly because animals are precious. Before you put things in humans you have to test it on animals.

Gustafson: I’ve read in the news that Medtronic is facing some ethical difficulties, I was just wondering what you would like to see from Gustavus.

Bergman: Don’t believe everything you read in the newspaper. There is always a story behind it. There are things that were okay years ago in the medical industry that wouldn’t be okay now. There were times when doctors were courted, taken to fancy resorts, encouraged to be customers. That’s illegal now. Whether you call it bribing or cultivating customers, it was part of our world. That’s not okay anymore. Those practices have more or less been curved. One of the issues that still arises is that a doctor is passionate about an invention and sells the invention to the company. If the doctor creates the invention can they then prescribe their own product. That’s part of what’s going on right now. Medtronic paid doctors who were inventors for their inventions and the doctors went on to practice medicine. Internal referral raises ethical questions. There is a lot of examples of slippery slopes in medicine, whether patients are at the heart of decisions or if it’s just for money. When you think about the law and what’s just, you have to think about the common good and the precedent you’re setting in the law because that precedent can be cited in cases that you never thought would rely back on that precedent. When you are a law maker, you have to really think about how it will be utilized. If people are given enough rope, they will use it. What is just? Justice is one of our core values and I would like to focus on it because I don’t think we necessarily understand what it means for Gustavus. It’s not disconnected from service, it’s not disconnected from thinking globally, so we aren’t far, we are around the edges of justice.

Rasmussen: Time and time again, people have come to ask about hydration stations. I talked to reslife and physical plant about funding. They both sent me to the other entity. The conversation happened with physical plant and other faculty members throughout the summer. Did the conversation ever cross your desk or come to you? If not, I’m curious to think where the line should be drawn regarding funding in residential halls.

Bergman: In the end, it’s all Gustavus budget. I don’t get too worked up about who is paying for it. We do have to meet a budget. The conversation getting passed around means that maybe people don’t know where this issue involves. If they put them in airports, I think we can afford them. How much would it cost?

Rasmussen: About $2000 per residence hall.

Bergman: Generally speaking I’m happy to talk about it. Someone else is involved in handling it, so I haven’t heard about it. But a $2000 decision shouldn’t land on the president’s desk. What’s the priority of the student senate? It would help me if you had a list of priorities.

Gersch: What did you think about the Nobel Conference?

Bergman: I really enjoyed bioengineering portion and the sustainability portions. That was my real favorite.

Timmons: Do you have a piece of advice that you think would be really fitting to a decision making body?

Bergman: Because I’m a scientist, I really value hypothesis driven thinking. That’s not just in science. But to have a premise for an idea and an outcome in mind is important. I appreciate deliberative thinking and I appreciate people who can think short term and long term and people who can understand the tangible and the future outcome. The best deliberative bodies think carefully about the tradeoff. Bias and politics have no place in a good deliberative body. That doesn’t mean you shouldn’t disagree, disagreement allows you to see all perspectives.

Timmons: What has been your favorite experience/moment?

Bergman: Oh, the square dance. Definitely. That was kind of a surprise. Seeing the orientation days was really fun. Not the square dance specifically, but to see how this community welcomes a new class.

Goldstein: The conversation does not end here. Me and Matt meet with President Bergman once a month and we will be working to establish priorities so that we can all work together.

1. **New Business**
2. **Committee Updates**
   1. **Tech committee**

Jenson: Rundstrom wifi problem. Would require structural rewiring of Rundstrom. Cost prohibitive. We want to see how widespread the problem truly is. The budget isn’t there from GTS. We are going to look at getting the funding from elsewhere. If the problem is isolated, we are going to give help with anything we can to make them more productive.

Bergman: Do people still use wires?

Jenson: Yes. The problem is devices that aren’t computers.

VanHecke: What problems are we having elsewhere on campus?

Waggoner: There are parts of SouthWest, CoEd, Rundstrom. The only fully covered are Uhler, Pittman and Sohre.

Hegg: If it’s really some specific rooms, would it be more cost effective to put routers in each room?

Jenson: Yes. I think they are trying to avoid bandaid fixes.

1. **Diversity Committee**

Grosshuesch: We would like to take a multiculturalism/diversity gen-ed to the curriculum committee. I took it already. The biggest concern is to separate it from non-western requirement. It would have to be domestic. Diversity/multiculturalism/personal identity course perhaps. Would like it to be a WRITD also, making it more appealing for faculty to teach. I noticed Diversity Center falls under Academics on campus, so I brought that to attention. They will move Diversity Center from Academics to Campus Offices. We are working on a service component for MLK Day, Gender neutral housing, and using places on campus that aren’t being used—Offices, storage spaces on campus. We would like WAC to have their own space.

Sauve: How would the potential change in curriculum affect Three Crowns Students?

Grosshuesch: I hadn’t thought about that. Thank you.

Sweet: In Three Crowns we learn many cultures at one time.

Sauve: In response, I think we do learn about a lot of cultures, but not domestic and practical approach. It’s very theoretical. Not what Grosshuesch is trying to set up probably.

Hoang: As an international student, I am in Three Crowns. After one year, I see that we learn about global history, but most of the time if not all of the time the professors encourage a Western viewpoint. I think it should be more culturally diverse.

Grosshuesch: As diversity chair, I serve on diversity council. Part of my job is I’m supposed to keep the body updated on DLC. Three important things. 1) Committee to host SNL. 2) Franchising DLC and getting a logo. 3) Updated constitution.

Kehran: I am Three Crowns too. Basically it’s just all western philosophy we’re learning in these classes. Also, you said gender neutral housing, have you thought about gender neutral restrooms?

Grosshuesch: I was really disappointed because gender neutral bathrooms were part of dive renovation. When that didn’t happen, it was really disappointing. I’m hoping that even if the dive renovation doesn’t go through, we can still create gender neutral bathrooms.

Thrash: WAC is no longer in the basement by the dive?

Grosshuesch: It is, but WAC is trying to recreate to make it what it was supposed to be. There are places down in the dive area that aren’t in use, I don’t understand why that is the case.

Hegg: You were talking about the Womyn’s Awareness Center, what work do they do?

Gustafson: I’m a member of the WAC. We are trying to change the name as well. We talk about gender equality. We do a female orgasm event. Lacey Green is coming in the spring. We do vagina monologues.

Grosshuesch: They provide opportunity for members to go to abortion clinics to escort patients.

1. **Group Breakout Session**

Goldstein: What roadblocks do we need to face? What’s going extremely well? What should the priorities be? Tomorrow night at cabinet, we will make a massive list of priorities.

Goldstein: Thank you for that fruitful discussion. Tomorrow night we will go over everything as a cabinet. If you have big concerns, do not hesitate to voice them.

Discussion:

Siatta: Referring to previous speakers as a previous speaker is something we need to do to be respectful.

Timmons: Trying to keep personal biases out of this room. We are all human, so we will of course bring our own perspectives in. But the intent behind the rule is not to stifle, but to be mindful of senators.

Grosshuesch: One of the roadblocks is that no one knows who we are and people have a bad stigma. I want us to host an SNL.

Wiest: We talked about office hours and how we can make that more efficient and our presence more known.

Waggoner: Are we going to post all of our office hours somewhere? Can we get something for rooms to distinguish us?

Jenson: Some of you have sent office hours to me, I don’t know if you’ve sent them to the administrative director.

Mahan: I may have missed this. What are office hours? What do they entail?

Goldstein: An hour a week you commit to talk to constituents.

Timmons: Serving or attending residential hall council meetings can count. A specific conversation will be had about office hours and how they can be most efficient.

1. **New Business**

Sauve: Gustavus still references today as Columbus Day in the calendar. Many would like to see Indigenous People Day.

Gunnigle: A couple weeks ago I was around St. Olaf and saw some language houses around the area. We had some before the tornado struck. Is there something this body can do to reinstitute the language houses?

Siatta: Did you want there to be a discussion on the naming of October 13?

Sauve: I guess discuss it here and come to some sort of conclusion.

Siatta: I move to open discussion on the naming of October 13.

Discussion:

Siatta: I agree with changing a name or not having a name at all for October 13.

Goldstein: This sounds like something that would be awesome for Resolution. Resolution is basically a document that says Student Senate believes this for these reasons. I think we should discuss it and encourage a committee to bring Resolution.

Rasmussen: Seeing that Columbus Day is closing, this might not be a necessary conversation to have right at this very moment. I move to charge naming of October 13 to Diversity Committee.

Discussion:

Wicklund: I think it is appropriate to charge to Diversity committee but would like to specifically note that Diversity Committee will bring Resolution.

Grosshuesch: The reason I think this falls under my jurisdiction is that the issue of Columbus Day is an issue that has a lot to do with imperialism and Native Americans. I think it deals a lot with multiculturalism and the oppression of people.

Vote.

Charge Approved.

1. **Announcements**

Sweet: If you have not emailed me your little tidbit about yourself, do that please!

Timmons: I wanted to apologize for not being here last meeting. It’s the first meeting I’ve missed in a year in a half. I also wanted to thank you for the conversation with President Bergman. She said the body asks insightful questions. Please travel safely over fall break. Technology Chair Jenson is being flown out for an Amazon interview. Congrats!

Rasmussen: We have a plan set for hydration stations.

Waggoner: Anti-bullying speaker the Wednesday after Fall Break.

Singh: On Thursday after break is Bali. Have some awesome Indian food.

Goldstein: Eppies hosting SNL for Halloween. Reading break—catch up on sleep, be safe, make good choices. 1-3 tomorrow student activity office for committee for new campus organizations.

Jenson: Office hours, send them to me.

Gersch: Thank you for the body for your patience with my typing speed.

Gustafson: I know you are all just dying to find out more about I <3 Female Orgasm. Healthy relationships, female sexuality.

Panzer: Health and Housing in 49er right after this.

Grosshuesch: Wednesday CAB hosts Origami and Sushi. Q&A: Coming Out Week. So many events.

Hegg: Over reading break, no senate.

Grosshuesch: Come to my cardio dance class!

**Meeting adjourned: 8:43pm**