**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**October 27, 2014, 7:01pm**

1. **Attendance**
2. **Approval of the Minutes 10/13/14**

Approved.

1. **Community Comment**

Carl and Ashley from College Democrats and Republicans: This Thursday at 6:30 in Three Crowns Room there were be a public conversation between Carl Cusack and Ashley Spears.

1. **Old Business**
2. **Committee Updates**

**Panzer:** Health and Housing. Contacted Building Bridges co-chairs and let them know we are very willing to help with their topic this year. We checked into weight room and sidewalks on the South Side of Pittman and Sohre. We are working on collaborative kitchen cabinet and “Take Your Professor to Lunch” day. We are looking for a program where professors can sit down with a professor or faculty member. Had a conversation with Charlie Potts and discussed bulletin boards, visiting hours and students abstaining or fasting from electronics not being able to get into dorms with new key cards. Visiting hours were discussed regarding gender issues and inconsistency of enforcement. He explained visitation hours are used to investigate other situations. They do not stand alone. He didn’t view there was need to change the policy, but that it would continue to be covered well in training. It helps in rooming conflicts. We talked about room draw. We as a committee wanted to hear the benefits of the process. I am confident that it is a really impressive process for a really complex issue. Our suggestion was to continue to brainstorm ways to make the reason for room draw policies to be communicated to the student body.

Thrash: I mentioned a conversation I had with a PA, has that come up at all?

Panzer: No, I had a conversation with another PA. It is being discussed.

Thrash: For the sake of the body, one of my constituents is a PA. There is conversation about making medical amnesty something communicated with parents.

Jones: That is the opposite of what medical amnesty is meant for. If you can give me more information, I can talk to them.

Goldstein: Readership program. We passed out 200 newspapers today and a bunch of flyers for the program. Many did not know papers were free. Overall it was a good event.

Singh: What does this look like for us for the future?

Timmons: I will say that we have not really discussed multiple promotionals. In the past it has been done once. If the body wants to do it again, that is up to the body. But for now we have not discussed another promotional.

Wiest: Ethics committee. We have been doing great work with the constitution. We are looking forward to the senate reviewing them as well.

Timmons: If a senator were reading the constitution and saw some sort of irregularity, how would they address that.

Wiest: They could bring it to me and we would talk about it at the next meeting.

Gustafson: Diversity Committee. Has been approached about researching gender neutral housing. If any of you are interested, please contact Gabe Grosshuesch.

Waggoner: Who did we charge red parking to?

Goldstein: Academic and Student Affairs

Johnson: Right now, we are in discussion. I am meeting with Carol Brewer on Thursday. We don’t have a set solution, but we do have a couple of ideas. We are going to try to find out where the issues truly lie.

1. **New Business**
2. **Roman Banquet**

Bembenek: Roman banquet. Food budget. Midyear. The finance committee talked about what they wanted to do. If a cultural event wanted food at an event, we decided we would like to fund in full. $1500 if food determined necessary. Half of food if not.

Representative for Roman Banquet: The roman banquet happens every year. We get recipes, we translate them and we cook them. It’s cool to recreate the past. It’s free and open to the public. Celebration of Roman Culture. Aspect not taught in class at all, so we advertise it pretty heavily.

Siatta: Can you give us a rundown of plates?

Representative of Roman Banquet: Course of general roman banquet. Main course will be two types of meat and a vegetarian entree. There will also be a honey cake dessert.

**Thrash:** Are you funding half of this?

**Bembenek:** No, we decided food was essential for this event. We recommend in full $1500.

**Siatta:** I think that it’s important because this is our first finance budget, so I think it’s important that we consider this a precedent set because we are using new guidelines. We will need to be conscious of what we have done in the past.

**Hegg:** Could you have more than one essential thing like this as a campus group?

Timmons: There are a multitude of organizations that could host many events at many times and we have never considered number of events as a reason to fund or not.

Passes.

1. **Society of Physics budget**

Bembenek: Society of Physics wants to host a speaker and we did decide to recommend in full.

Thrash: Is it safe to assume the speaker has been paid?

Bembenek: I believe so.

Jones: My best guess is that we haven’t paid the speaker. General institutional practice is to pay after they have spoken, not before they’ve spoken.

Thrash: My concern is that if we don’t pay this physics is kind of up the creek in paying this speaker, but we don’t want to set a precedent that people go out and get a speaker and then come to us for funding in retrospect.

Passes.

Skiba: I have a safety concern that I want to address for chapel view. One of the entrances to Chapel View is shared with church. The lights are turned off and it’s hard to see. I want to charge to Health and Housing Committee.

Jones: I think technically we are not supposed to use the church driveway.

Skiba: People have looked into it before? It is a safety hazard in the winter.

Jones: It might be a great concern to charge to a committee. We do not own the church or chapel view.

Skiba: So we could have a committee look into it?

Jones: Yes, I just want to let everyone know it will be really complicated. Ultimately, I don’t think we will get a straightforward answer. We might have to go the apartment property owners. Really important question, just complicated.

Motion to charge to Health and Housing.

Passes.

Gustafson: Gabe Grosshuesch wanted me to bring something up because he can’t be here. Dining Services will no longer allow student groups to hold events in the cafeteria anymore. Diversity Leadership Council wrote a letter to oppose this decision. He wants your feedback on the issue.

Johnson: I’m also parliamentarian of DLC. First note is that this letter has not been approved upon by the body or sent out. We will decide in our meeting on Wednesday.

Thrash: Does it have a lot of support in DLC?

Johnson: To this point, the letter itself has a lot of support. There is talk of adding a portion where we protest by not spending money there.

Thrash: I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiment of the letter. The caf is the largest space on campus. Where else are you going to hold student run events? The caf is dependent on Gustavus and Gustavus students. We fund the caf. There is no caf without Gustavus.

Hegg: Why did the caf start restricting organizations?

Johnson: The initial reason given was that some of the events happening in the caf were making people uncomfortable. Because the caf is a public space, the didn’t feel the people in the caf would be forced into uncomfortable situations.

Hegg: What if there was a different place to take food so people wouldn’t have to be subjected to things that make them uncomfortable?

Edu: Does the caf have any other problems with events taking place in the cafeteria?

Johnson: That’s all we’ve discussed to this point.

Jones: Dining Services receives complaints every time the caf is closed for an event because the students want to eat in the caf. I would warn against making judgements that the decision was because of the drag show. It’s not.

Edu: Have we discussed solutions about caf events?

Johnson: We are not necessarily opposing the decision, we just want to engage in the conversation.

Sauve: I agree that we need to take a stand. We can’t continue to just have a conversation. We need to oppose it or support it. We need to find a solution. Maybe open up a different space.

Panzer: I am concerned about some of the comments that have been made about the caf being a business dependent on Gustavus. They are not a business, they are an entity that really cares about furthering all of the goals of this college. Some events do overwhelm the caf during rush meal times when people just want peace and quiet to talk and dine. These are important discourses to have, I just don’t think peak meal time is the time to do that necessarily. Dining services is really in touch with the students and our needs. This decision comes from student concern.

Sweet: Dining services is part of the college, they further the goals of the college. I understand it is frustrating that events cannot happen in the cafeteria anymore, but the cafeteria is not intended for that and I think we need to keep that in mind. I encourage someone to make a motion to charge this to the Health and Housing Committee to look into this more.

Goldstein: We are right now in new business. So some of you entering multiple times speaking would not be able to bring it up.

Motion for Discussion of Issues in Cafeteria

Approved

Waggoner: As far as the community space of the caf, yes it is important that students can go in there and feel comfortable. The caf is for eating. It is a social space, but it’s not an auditorium. I would encourage DLC looking into other spaces.

Timmons: I would encourage senators to think about what is senate’s role in this issue and what authority and capacity we have. Every student will have individual opinions, but discussion requires us to think about senate’s role and the role of senators. I think the multitude of opinions is great, but I think we need to keep our role in sight.

Charge to Student Academic Affairs

Discussion:

Thrash: Keep in touch with Health and Housing chair.

Panzer: I agree, I would also encourage discussion to confine restriction to peak meal time hours.

Siatta: We as senators are representing people who voted for us, so I think it is important that we talk to our constituents to see how they feel instead of just discussing our own sentiments on the topic. How we handle this will set a precedent for the future.

Hegg: I was happy with the idea of keeping Health and Housing in the loop. It is an issue concerning the availability of GusWare and being able to take food out of the caf.

Motion approved.

Singh: A previous speaker mentioned GusWare. There is a huge pile up in the bin. Not many people know you are supposed to bring it back to the caf. Please spread the word that you are supposed to bring it back to the caf.

1. **Announcements**

Timmons: Have a fun and safe Halloween. With that, there are a lot of things going on Friday. Eppies SNL Saturday. Love to see you there.

Sweet: I would like to announce Senator Franken will be here tomorrow at an event I coordinated. 5:45pm in Alumni. Vote on November 4.

Panzer: Zombie Crawl on Wednesday. A couple different substance free events at ILS houses. Free halloween-y treats, drinks, crafts and haunted house.

Johnson: Co-ed haunted house on Saturday. Student affairs, stay after.

Singh: International festival Saturday, November 22 at 6:00pm in Alumni Hall.

Goldstein: Attendance, make sure you are here as often as you can be. Email Administrative Director Knutson.

Gersch: Angels in America on campus this week. It’s going to be great. Head down sometime this weekend.

Gustafson: It’s Coming Out Week! Lots of events. Wednesday is a female orgasm event. Learn about safe relationships. Vote for Santa Lucia. Diversity Committee Saturday in the Gustie Den.

Siatta: Elections are coming up. Go out and vote. Exercise your right.

Adjourned: 8:02pm