**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**December 1, 2014, 7:00pm**

1. **Attendance**

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

**Approved.**

1. **Community Comment**

**None.**

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Building Bridges**

Goldstein: Welcome Building Bridges. Three years ago they split off from senate to see if they could receive a portion of the student activity fee. They were given 4.5% of student activity fee funds. Senate could not fully meet the needs of this organization. Two different committees went through this process and came up with this resolution. Sat down with group, looked at numbers. Came up with resolution based on need. Senate will be continuing practice of giving them 4.5% and increase by 2%. 2% split between Student Senate and student activity fund.

Organization: We hope to separate from senate so that we don’t have to go through this 3 year review process. We feel like we have a wide oversight. Many eyes on the organization already. A little bit about Building Bridges. One week during the spring about a social justice topic. We try to make it a year long conversation. Pre-event: Evolution of Rape, well attended. We have two keynote speakers and 5-7 workshop speakers. Traditionally in campus center, boardroom and other rooms. Action piece happens in Beck. A different understanding of the topic than you would just sitting down and listening. There are about 25 people who participate all year long. Full committee consists of three smaller committees. Three year plan that Building Bridges has been on was so that senate could take a look at the organization and make sure Building Bridges was using funds in a good way. Looking at it now to see if we have met that objective, if we had, the goal was to separate. We could start planning conference earlier in the year, have more control and security in the budget and save senate a lot of time.

Timmons: We talked about our obligation to continue this separation. Our finance process does not work for this organization. They meet and plan all summer. To come in and request a speaker at the end of the spring doesn’t make sense for them. Their speakers are well known and plan almost a year ahead. They would be better able to achieve their purpose. It is one of our main charges to best serve student populations. This is the best way to respect that charge. We have no concerns about how the money will be spent. Increase has been voted on by campus activities board. They are in full support.

Goldstein: Activity fee. Each student pays portion of funds. It goes to readership program and remaining funds commonly go to student activity fee. Split up between CAB, Student Senate and Building Bridges.

Discussion:

Hegg: If we approve, we don’t deal with their finances?

Timmons: They will be as independent as CAB is.

Kehren: 1% of contingency of student senate?

Timmons: Right now, 49% goes to senate, 46% goes to CAB.

Wicklund: Where will increase go towards?

Organization: We aren’t able to fully cover cost of speakers. This is not just a campus event, but a community event. We are connecting with organizations interested in our college. It’s a great experience to be a part of. We could have more competitive speakers and compete more highly with those conferences that are happening the same weekend. It would help us pay for keynote speakers. The money we are currently receiving just doesn’t cut it. Advertising, workshops, printing, it would help with all of that. Workshops are limited to the local area. A lot of times they come from Mankato, Minneapolis. We would be out of luck if we wanted there to be people outside of the area. If there was more name recognition, we could pull people in from further away. Action pieces are really unique to the Building Bridges conference. A lot of times students take you through an interactive walk through of learning for the things you are talking about. Our action piece has been very limited. More money would allow them to expand their creativity. This is not just a one day conference, it takes place throughout the year. Title this year: Hidden in Plain Sight: Rejecting Rape Culture. We had a pre-event and it was packed. We are going to continue doing this throughout the year. It has gone really well this year. These are ways we plan and hope to grow.

Wicklund: Are you still seeking the same amount of outside funding?

Organization: Yes. But in the past years we have used almost all of the budget on just keynotes. To keep growing, we need more funding. We aren’t just thinking about the 20th year, we are thinking bigger. We aren’t Nobel, but why not dream. We cannot depend on outside donations every year because support does not always align with our topic. Outside fundraising is a lot of time commitment. It would relieve that burden from us a little bit.

Grosshuesch: It is Building Bridges 20th Anniversary this spring. Huge feat for a student run organization and one that upholds our pillar of justice.

Sauve: Not to question anything Building Bridges has done, but what is 6.5% of student activity fee this year?

Timmons: Roughly $25,000 to $27,000.

Sauve: Not a significant decrease to Senate budget. I think this is the aims of the student body. Building Bridges does a fantastic job. The only issue I have is that Building Bridges is a member of DLC, right?

Organization: We don’t receive funds from DLC.

Thrash: The reason we have finance the way we do. Having looked at it, they have better oversight than we could hope to give them in senate. If anything, it would be worse for us to continue to try to micromanage what they are doing with their money. The money will be spent intentionally if we do pass this resolution.

Svendsen: As a first-year student, I just want to ask what you think the impact of Building Bridges has been on the community?

Organization: Two people involved in the past two years have gone on to work in organizations within topic areas. One found a job from a group who attended the conference. It changes the lives and directions of lives of those involved. I believe it facilitates a large enough conversation that it makes an impact. We are starting to get some name recognition. Some people had heard of the conference. The other day, someone posted something about mass incarceration on facebook and it was clear last year’s topic stayed with students long enough. I think that’s really useful. It makes students aware of the world. A lot of times we talk about the Gustavus bubble. It’s hard to be aware. Building Bridges provides the opportunity to engage. It hits a little more close to home this year. Mass incarceration was far more removed. It furthers the justice pillar. I think students are better able to engage and uphold because of Building Bridges.

Jones: The value ripples, student planners and students who go. But also to people who don’t choose to go. The conversations are richer. At a gathering, a dean from another college was blown away that we sustained this event for so many years. We have a name in the upper midwest for the ability to do this. It’s a big deal.

Gustafson: As a senator, everyday of the conference is a life changing event. I don’t say that lightly. You have your eyes open to whole issues of justice. It’s mindblowing.

Gladitsch: If we passed this, would we have to renew this 1% every year?

Timmons: No, it is permanent.

Peterson: How many attended last year?

Organization: 800 last year. Most has been 1200.

Goldstein: Some have touched on this. What we are voting on is this resolution. If you notice any wording/grammar errors, bring those up too.

Rasmussen: How many student orgs does student senate fund?

Timmons: It fluctuates. Last year we saw about 98 student organizations.

Rasmussen: I want to point out that given a 1% of student activity fund is 2% of our funds. Might not be a big deal. I agree with letting them off on their own. I’m concerned about 2% increase.

Organization: Would it make sense to talk about this in dollar amount?

Jones: You can’t do that because you don’t know what enrollment will be.

Rasmussen: I don’t think many groups on campus ever get what they want. I know there are so many organizations on campus that have great speakers. Every year people want more money. This resolution almost doubles their funds. It seems off to jump almost 50%.

Organization: I’m unclear on how you get a 44% increase in our budget. Student senate is not the only source of our funds. Student Senate does not even meet the money we need to bring in our keynote speakers. I certainly understand your concern about other student groups. The impact we have means this is a conversation that takes place on the entire campus. I agree that there are absolutely wonderful groups, but Building Bridges is unique. Because of the environmental justice topic last year, Building Bridges maintains a great relationship with the Greens and this year we have built a great relationship with the WAC. Student Senate funds events that serve all of these groups. This will only meet the need. But it will give us some room in our budget. What Building Bridges does is unique. I would compare us more to the big speaker CAB brings in, rather than other student organizations.

Waggoner: What Building Bridges is doing, they need this amount of money.

Peterson: Spelling error. Lead.

Waggoner: Friendly, spelling error Lead. Motion to call to question.

Call to question.

Approved.

Sweet: Everyone fill out the survey I sent out!

1. **New Business**

Wicklund: There is a beeping noise outside of Pittman and Sohre at 7am and they get woken up and the would like that not to happen. Also, we have a compost pile and only two places to put compostable items. I motion to charge Student and Academic Affairs to look into beeping noises.

Discussion:

Goldstein: Clarification, this makes sense in Student and Academic Affairs, the beep is probably not part of Health and Housing, residential life.

Hegg: Call to question.

Call to Question Vote.

Approved.

Motion to charge Student Academic Affairs Vote.

Approved.

Wicklund: Motion to charge Health and Housing for more areas for compostable items.

Sauve: Call to Question.

Call to Question Vote.

Approved.

Charge Health and Housing Vote.

Approved.

1. **Announcements**

Panzer: Health and Housing meeting after this. Also, CAB sent out spring speaking candidates.

Sweet: Thetas will be selling neighborhood shirts.

Gustafson: It’s December and Gustavus hosts a Santa Lucia festival. We are privileged to have one of the candidates as a member of the body. Vote.

Singh: I would like to thank everyone for a nice healthy discussion today. Thank StudyBuddys for frost-your-owns.

Goldstein: Thank you for a good discussion. One meeting for the rest of the semester. Be here next week. Congratulations on finding that edit on the resolution! It’s a busy time of year, take some time for yourself.

Rasmussen: Hydration stations are figured out! I hope we will get it onto the floor next week. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me.

Grosshuesch: I’m tabling tomorrow for International Abolition of Slavery! CAB is looking for a diversity committee chair.

Johnson: Student Academic Affairs, stick around after.

Timmons: Thank you for tonight. It was an extremely respectful conversation and engaging. Thank you for your cooperation. I’m really glad this process worked. Talk to your constituents about it. What happened tonight is pretty cool. Feel free to share it with your constituents. Lineus show before Midnight Express. Special event immediately following. Whoever is the winner, has most money in the jar, will be wrestling Jordan Wiest in food. I’m am so glad that this is the first time since the beginning of the year that we have had full attendance. Faculty reports! CinCC is pretty neat. I’m excited for this year.

Wicklund: Sidewalks are icy. Stay safe, stay healthy.

Sauve: I had an awesome Thanksgiving. Finals are approaching. Don’t binge on coffee and other drugs that will make you not do well on your finals.

Thrash: Tonight we had a significant vote on finance and then had to look to a co-president for beeping noises. I’m really glad things went well tonight!

Hegg: What was the awareness month/day?

Grosshuesch: This is World AIDS Day. On Valentines Day we will be tabling on cut flowers to bring awareness to the harms.

Jones: I follow Hayden on Twitter and I really set a new goal for myself. I want all of you to consider following me. Jones\_VH

Rasmussen: Thank you for sticking with me through those numbers!