**Student Senate Agenda**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**March 16, 2015**

1. **Attendance**

**II. Approval of the Minutes 3/9/15**

Siatta: Last page. Freedom of expression, not freedom of speech.

Waggoner: Derrick Schmidtz. Not Dan Schmidt.

Thrash: The person who asked about senate was David, not Ryks.

Approved.

**III. Community Comment**

**IV. Health & Housing Appointment**

Goldstein: Alex Johnson Great traits in candidate. The thing that really stood out to Matt and I was his experience in planning athletic meeting. Region conference planning. We thought that showcased communication skills and ability to accomplish.

Johnson: I am a health and housing major. Trying to improve student and athlete health and the environment for everyone. Mental, community, environmental health. I served on the student senate for Athletic conference. 12 on senate. Put together sponsorships, quizbowl. Over 350 students at conference and attending meetings. One of the many ways become involved in community.

Gustafson: Are there any immediate actions or activities you would like to do as Health and Housing Chair?

Johnson: Not immediately.

Hegg: What qualifications do you have with other Health and Housing?

Johnson: I’ve talked to people, lived here, gone to meetings. I would like to do more than that here.

Waggoner: How do you feel that you are able to handle projects that current Health and Housing has already undertaken?

Johnson: I think I can step in really well. I stepped into a role this year and I will keep ideas and commitments and put forth effort.

Discussion:

Panzer: I’d like to throw my full support behind him. Everything resonates well. I’ve interacted with him in a few ways. Smooth transition. I’m excited to see him interested.

Edu: I was just wondering, my question is about this process. How did you got about picking him?

Goldstein: We sent out applications and we collected applications and there were a few people that we thought would excel at this role. We came together, looked at resumes, applications and decided to present this candidate.

Hegg: How many candidates were there?

Timmons: Few. The number was lower than what was typically encountered and far less than what was encountered with a full year.

Hegg: Do you think he will be willing to step in for next years senate?

Timmons: I think that’s getting in to a…

JoNes: Next years cabinet will present those they want on their candidate. It would be difficult for Matt and Hayden to predict.

Approved.

**V. Off-Campus**

Stromme: Focused and determined to make Gustavus a better school. I have a highly available schedule. I think I would be a good representative.

Gustafson: Off campus is hard to even get in contact with people, I just wanted to know what you planned to do to get in contact with people.

Stromme: I will post on social media platforms and I am able to stay on top of things and could reach out through other platforms and media.

Svendsen: Are you aware of our bylaws and constitution?

Stromme: No, but I will look through.

Svendsen: Are you familiar with Robert’s Rules at all?

Stromme: Yes, I served on a senate before.

Discussion:

Waggoner: I know Noel pretty well, I have no doubt he will be able to contact people. I’ve seen him organize. I think he’s capable of handling anything we can give to him.

Siatta: He is good at organizing large groups of people and has a broad understanding of different groups off campus. I think he reaches a different demographic in that way.

Skiba: If someone wanted to get in touch, I think they could do that with Noel.

Approved.

**VI. Finance**

1. **Gustavus Finance Club**

Branch: Finance Club came to us. They want to take a trip down to Thrivent to take a tour. They were looking for transportation. We recommended budget in full.

Finance Club: We want to take a trip to Minneapolis Thrivent offices. They have tie to Gustavus and are looking forward to us coming. We are a new group and don’t have a lot of money to budget, so we are hoping Senate can help.

Edu: Who will this trip be for? Members of the club or just people who want to go?

Finance Club: Members of the club.

Swenson: How many people would be going?

Finance Club: 15.

Vote.

Approved.

**VII. Old Business**

1. **Committee Updates**

Goldstein: I am giving a quick committee update on something we can take off Health and Housing. One thing that happened was ILL houses and what could be done with language learning house. It would go through ILL houses. All 5 could become language learning.

Svendsen: I am currently looking into people who will not be impacted by the next year’s co-presidents to see if we can figure out senior voting in co-presidential election. As far as midterm vacancies and an electoral process, that would be a constitutional amendment. We are working on language. We are hoping to bring language for office hours next week. Ethics was asked to look into having student-at-large on our committee and conflict of interest. We found no conflict. Reviewed by Ethics and JoNes.

Edu: You said you were going to get a list on senior voting, but have you made a decision on senior voting or not?

JoNes: There is a difference between being a senior and planning to graduate, so you can’t make decisions just based on senior status. The problem is how you figure out who has applied to graduate and who hasn’t gotten around to applying to graduate, but intends to graduate.

Edu: That means that Ethics made a decision to disallow people who will be graduating?

Svendsen: We could see the grounds for eliminating those who will not be affected by co-presidents who are being elected. We want to make sure representation is fair. Now it’s just trying to figure out how to make sure we aren’t limiting the voices of those, whether or not it’s even possible.

Hegg: Could I ask that if it were to become too complex that some language would be brought just for limiting seniors?

Svendsen: I could see an issue because it would affect those with senior status who will still be on campus the following year. We talked about considering an appeals process for votes. That could be an excessive amounts of people asking for votes. We shouldn’t take away rights and ask for it back, we should give them rights to begin with.

Hegg: How many come back for a 5th year?

JoNes: 25-30.

Svendsen: We are taking this the constitutional route. The student body should vote on whether they want to see this happen.

JoNes: It’s not even fifth year seniors. There are a whole bunch of people who are third years because of credit hours, but are listed as seniors. They don’t intend to graduate. They will be around all four years. That’s in addition to fifth year seniors.

Hegg: Doesn’t residency know?

JoNes: Your years of residency is not an indicator of your intention to graduate.

Svendsen: These are great concerns. I want to sit down with registrar and decide whether this is even possible. Then we will bring it to the floor.

Hegg: I would support people in third year being able to vote. I wouldn’t have an issue with these people voting.

Gustafson: Was the student-at-large committee all committees or just in the case of Joe Thayer?

Svendsen: It was because he ran for the position of Ombudsperson and sits on the Ethics committee.

Gustafson: Can you clarify?

Svendsen: Joe Thayer ran for Ombudsperson and also serves as student-at-large on Ethics committee. We wanted to make sure there wasn’t an ethical conflict of interest.

Peterson: On the senior vote, you say that seniors should not be able to vote because they wouldn’t be affected, but they shouldn’t we let incoming students vote?

Svendsen: We talked about that. We are just trying to figure out if it’s even feasible at this point.

Jenson: Technology Committee met with Academic Technology committee, committee of faculty and students, take departmental requests and prioritize which are most important for students. I went in to advocate for wifi improvement. It was a good crowd. Lots of chairs. A Dean. The second thing is new. Working with GTS to help with Google Apps migration. The GTS committee is going to move webmail to google for students. You will log in through google. This will bring a couple of cool things. The biggest is that right now after graduation you will lose your email after 6 months, but this system nothing will change. Starting in spring for students and in the summer switching everyone over. More privacy. That was a concern, but it’s actually more privacy. No email storage limit. They are just trying to start PR for this. I will send an email with details for your constituents.

Gladitsch: Even people who are currently students will be able to keep email address after college?

Jenson: I assume anyone who opts in this spring will be able to.

Hegg: Will you be able to roll contacts in?

Jenson: I would assume it’s relatively easy. When you reach out to your constituents, we want to know about questions and concerns.

Sweet: T-Shirts got here last week. I’m going to hand them out here. If you have time tomorrow, I will be sitting in the Gustie Den from 1-2:30. If you don’t want to wait, that would be great for not you, but me. I was charged to look into a button maker. I could only find 2.25 inch maker, not 3. Seeing no concern, I’ll move forward.

**VIII. New Business**

Bembenek: This last week Courtney and I met with JoNes to talk about spring budgeting. We need to vote tonight about the percentage that will be going to block budgets. We will keep percentage the same as last year.

Timmons: Will you just give a little information about block budgets?

Bembenek: Block budgets get a percentage of senate’s money through block allocation.

Timmons: What is the official motion?

Bembenek: 44% of spring budget be allocated towards block budgets.

Waggoner: Can we get a balance of the contingency?

Bembenek: This isn’t a contingency issue actually. We were very conservative with our numbers. This is the money available for next year based on incoming students, etc. $245,000, we are allocating 44% of that.

Wicklund: Are all of the organizations still spending at the same rate? New members?

Bembenek: I think DLC may have added new members.

Vote on percentage of spring allocated dollars for block budgeting.

Approved.

Branch: Coming up on spring budgeting. We would like to do things a little different. Spring budgeting process usually has Finance team meet with student organizations and then have senate see the same budget. We would like to send budgets out to all of you to review budgets and then if you would like senate to review budgets specifically in senate and then organizations can also review in case they don’t like finance decision on it. We want to incorporate needs for you and organizations. We’ve decided to automatically take out block budgets, senate budgets and budgets over $10,000.

Bembenek: The budgets taken out by student orgs would be voted on separately. If club sports come in and are happy and we’re happy, why would we talk about it?

Timmons: The way spring budgeting works now. Right now finance hears budget, goes over details. Then we do the same thing. Most of the time we are happy, the organization is happy. We want to remove all the budgets that aren’t an issue. If we take the time to look at recommendation and identify those we don’t have an issue with, then we are able to spend more time on the budgets where there is contention. Typically a senator has the right to see every single budget and pull any budget at any time. We’ve tried to structure this so that all rights are still protected and we are being diligent stewards of student activity fee. Our finance committee spends dozens of hours and we trust their decisions. This alleviates budgets where we know we are going to fund to bylaw. Maybe we have fewer hours in spring and can dedicate more time to budgets that need it.

Siatta: I was informed that this is how other schools do it?

JoNes: Gustavus did it this way. I don’t know how senate got away from that. Finance used to do all the work and then senate voted up or down. Every other institution I’ve worked at does it this way.

Hegg: Will there be line item amendments? You would send out the budget and I would have a discrepancy with budget?

Timmons: Thursday prior to the meeting, you would get budgets we planned on hearing. You would review them. Then you will have a deadline where you have to respond back to the finance team that says “I want full senate to review budget B.” But we’re also giving the same rights to the student organizations, they will have a deadline and they will be able to decide if they want full senate to review the budget.

Hegg: Will any student-at-large’s have any problem with this?

Timmons: This does not violate any of our bylaws. This is like when we had 8 candidates for a position, we suspended rules for a specific situation.

Gladitsch: If a senator wanted to review a specific budget, they would have three days?

Timmons: Yes.

Gette: Will you give us a short description of why you recommended?

JoNes: I don’t know how you could do that to a level of detail that you’re talking about. Every year there is some degree of not being able to fund everyone in full. There’s some difficult ones to write and justify.

Branch: There’s always bylaw stipulations, we cannot violate bylaws. We’re having budget meetings next week on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday about problems before we get to actual budgeting problems themselves.

Bembenek: Maybe we could look into color coding it or something.

Waggoner: This would be to do it to fit the body best for this process. Why would we do a temporary suspension of the rules rather than an amendment change?

Timmons: I think that because it’s not delineated in the bylaws and because we haven’t tried this exact system, we would just have a trial period. We currently don’t have language about this in the bylaws, I am hesitant to put it in until we have tried it. This affects the body’s rights and I want to make sure the body recognizes that. That way we can say, no you can’t review that. You didn’t meet the deadline.

Goldstein: This is a long process. This is a step in the right direction. Approaching how to know why the finance committee did what they did. Look through the bylaws, it will often be bylaw. You can also ask questions of committee members, finance chair and controller. Send them an email. We will find a way to communicate as efficiently as possible. This will save us a lot of time and will save groups a lot of time.

Discussion:

Siatta: Like finance chair said at the start, the rest of the finance committee was in agreeance to this. It was unanimous. This will make the process more smooth. It can be cumbersome. I felt last year organizations weren’t getting all of senate’s attention. We are going through a lot of budgets, but that doesn’t mean each budget shouldn’t get the attention. I think this process will help alleviate that. Groups like club sports get what they’re asking for, it makes the most sense. Why would we go over these things twice and make them explain themselves twice? I think it is a great opportunity to see if this actually works and we can tweak it and maybe put it in words and writing next year.

Vote on budgeting process.



Approved.

Waggoner: I would like to make a charge to new Health and Housing Chair to look into replacing vacuums in residence halls.

Second goes to Hegg.

Hegg: I just made fun of how old a vacuum was the other day.

Vote.

Approved.

Waggoner: I would like to make an additional charge to Health and Housing to look into the storage area where they store the milk in the caf. The open faced cooler. If they aren’t pushed back far enough they aren’t properly cooled.

Second goes to Miller.

Vote.

Approved.

Hegg: In Student and Academic Affairs Committee the other day, we were talking about shrinking enrollment at Gustavus. I think this is an issue when it comes to housing on campus. I know that this is a four year residential college, but many students feel that living off campus is a nice thing to do. I would like to charge co-presidents to look into more seniors living off campus in the future.

Second goes to Siatta.

Hegg: I know for my grade next year, it’s going to push a lot of my constituents into Sohre hall. I know that a lot of constituent were really opposed to being in Sohre for another year.

JoNes: Then you need to talk to Admission to get more freshmen.

Hegg: There was a lot of concern of being pushed into less desirable housing.

Goldstein: We are happy to look into this. It’s always a brick wall. I also don’t know if we are the best ones to look into this. I would suggest an amendment to put this on Health and Housing.

JoNes: Also, Charlie Potts doesn’t really get any control. The college is always going to want to fill up residence halls first. Off campus is second. You can charge and talk to Charlie, but he can’t decide.

Hegg: What would be less work and less costly? Having less dorms?

JoNes: No, it would be more lucrative to have the most dorms.

Gersch: I want to remind senators of where this charge is going, in case anyone wants to amend.

Vote.

Fails.

**IX. Announcements**

Waggoner: I would like to wish Senator Ryks a happy 21st birthday!

Gunnigle: Tomorrow is St. Patricks day!

Timmons: Please do whatever you are inclined to do to celebrate, but do so safely and return. I want to welcome our new members to the body. It’s great to have a full senate. I hope you return on Monday. Thank you for amending the process for spring budgeting. It is already confusing, it’s with money, there is a lot of stress. If you have criticisms or questions, send them to us and we still have time to have those conversations. Congratulations to Hayden on employment.

Siatta: This is my yearly plug for St. Joseph’s day. Wear red and get a cannoli or something. I would like to welcome a fellow off-campus representative. Have a good week!

Edu: I would like to give credit to the Administrative Director. It’s not easy, listening, typing.

Gette: Thursday at 6:15 is Mr. Gustavus!

Goldstein: If you brought anything from the caf, please take it away. I want to give a shout-out to Eric Beste because we are making real progress in finance!