**Student Senate Agenda**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**March 9, 2015**

1. **Attendance**

**II. Approval of the Minutes 3/2/15**

Approved.

**III. Community Comment**

Building Bridges: Thank Senate for support. Some pretty heinous things have happened the last twenty-four hours. I feel personally attacked, as do many others involved in Building Bridges. I will just read one. “Building Bridges? More like Building Bitches. The girls that run that shit are bitches.” I was in the caf last night working on homework. I looked at these and began to cry and shake and had to leave. This is a real issue causing real fear. It is a real fear for women and men and gender non-conforming people every day on this campus. It is not just rape culture. It is rape culture, sexism, homophobia, ableism, classism.

I was the organizer of the action piece. Going through that was a drain on my soul. Seeing all of the personal attacks on apps where there is no accountability is draining. Yik Yak has done nothing but tear the community apart since it began. We are looking for action. Dean of Students has been very helpful already.

There are open cases where people are seeking healing and this conference was a beacon for those people. Support and criticism has real effects on real people every day. It’s not just a topic, it is not just an idea. I cannot even imagine how terrifying it would be to advocate it on your own.

One of the things that has been discussed by friends today is that this language would not be tolerated if it was spray painted on someone’s door. It’s not just that’s showing up on Yik Yak, it’s that it exists in our community. We need to look at root causes of intolerance on our campus.

**IV. Senator Appointments**

Goldstein: Is there anyone here for off campus appointment? Seeing none, there are four people coming in who want to be part of the body as a Junior Class representative. We will then open up for questions. With that we will be figuring out voting process during the discussion.

Ryks: My name is Mitch Ryks. Involved in Greek life, IGS. Looking to get involved with student senate obviously.

Hegg: What attributes would you bring to this body?

Ryks: I’ve been a part of IGS. I know what it’s like to have to make difficult decisions that will benefit the community. I would like to challenge senate to stress student life and what is pertinent to students on campus and how it affects students every day.

Hegg: Do you have individual examples of those?

Ryks: At the moment, I do not.

Gustafson: Why are you joining? What will that involvement bring you?

Ryks: My freshman/sophomore year, I was not involved. I found out my junior year that you can get your voice heard on campus and I’m looking to take that step forward and get my voice heard. And also being open to other opinions and bringing other voices forward. What better way to advocate than to advocate with senate?

Wicklund: What would you do to make sure you are embodying your entire junior class?

Ryks: I would get out there and meet people. Get the ideas out there. We may not reach resolution now, but maybe we will. Facebook. Sign on my door. Invite people to tell me what they have to say. I’m really really interested in what people have to say and what needs to be done on campus. We need to do what’s best for students.

Hegg: Do you have an opinions on the room draw process as a junior?

Ryks: I’m aware of the opinion that room draw is not right, but I’m not well informed enough on the topic to take a stance. I think there should be more opportunity for seniors to be off campus.

Hruby: Justin Hruby. I would like to get involved because I have a lot of experience getting to know people, but have not had the opportunity to be as involved as I like. I would like to broaden my horizons. I have experience in the past representing other. I was on Student Council in high school and I’m in the air force and doing mentoring for younger members. I’m a supervisor, manage about 10 other people on the base.

Wicklund: How would you reach out to and embody the voice of your class?

Hruby: Networking. It’s a small campus. You know one person, you can network to know another person. I’ve made connections and can really network myself well.

Gustafson: As senators we are here representing a class, I would like to hear what makes you different from other candidates?

Hruby: I want to broaden our campus’ horizons. I think I can sit down and make genuine connections and listen and help. It’s something I’m good at.

Waggoner: You said you felt like you didn’t know many of the people in your class, how will you represent them?

Hruby: I think I know lots of types of people on campus, but maybe not individuals. What I’ve learned so far is that my experience is pretty applicable.

Roland: David Roland. I am also a junior here. I am a secretary-treasurer for choir. I was an editor for the Gustavian Weekly. I was a senator last year, but I wanted to spend more of my time on the newspaper. I wanted to cultivate ideas on campus. When I was the cabinet member for Student and Academic affairs, I tried to get a wind turbine on campus. I was working through school and city administrators. I couldn’t without getting a wind farm. I didn’t succeed. I feel I acted too unilaterally, but I want to change that. The good that happens at Gustavus is everywhere. The reason I want to be a senator is because I want to have direct contact with the student body.

Wicklund: How do you plan to reach out to and embody the voices of the junior class?

Roland: I want everyone to know that had I run, I would not have been elected. I would reach out. If ethical, I would use baked goods.

Shmidt: Dan Shmidt. One of the reasons I would like to be on senate is that I like to help people. Vice President of the investment club. We are doing well this year. I help students learn how to invest. I’m part of the finance club here too. I think financial responsibility is important and it’s important in senate too. I see people around everyday, work in the caf. Never worked in a body like this, but I know Robert’s Rules and I’ve looked at bylaws and constitution. I know quite a few people in this class and at Gustavus. I’m qualified. I enjoy helping people out.

Siatta: In your experience in finance and investment club, what proportion is 2016 students?

Shmitz: About 15 in each. A lot of my fellow classmates are around.

Siatta: You’re a finance major?

Shmidt: Yes.

Wicklund: How do you plan to reach out?

Shmidt: I’m around campus quite a bit. I reach out. I’m easy to approach.

Hegg: We have spring finance season coming up. How do you think your background will help you to make decisions?

Shmidt: I’m not sure how senate runs those sorts of things, but I’m good at looking at budgets and talking about money and economics. Not everyone here is an economics major. May not have experience with budgeting. I think that expertise will help senate as a whole.

**Discussion:**

Goldstein: Voting process—open for debate immediately. We will open vote for four candidates and then vote for the top two candidates.

Siatta: I have support behind candidate Schmitz. Just numbers wise, the largest portion of students on campus are finance majors. That would adequately allow him to reach out to the right people. Background in finance will make spring finance far easier. I would like to throw support behind candidate Roland. He has experience and energy.

Peterson: I just want to give a shout-out to Ryks for being here for the third time. The thing I like about Mitch is that he really cared about reaching out to constituents. Also, Roland. Put together, smart, experience. I have concerns about Schmitz.

Jenson: I do really appreciate Ryks. I put most of my support behind David Roland. He’s a workhorse. He gives a ten minute apology if he misses a deadline. This is a benefit as we move into a busy finance season.

Wicklund: I wanted to point out that both Mitch and David offered unique ideas to reach out to candidates. They both deserve credits. We’ve always considered Ryks a good candidate.

Singh: David did a good job last year, realized things he needs to change if he is elected. I put full support behind him.

Gladitsch: I think Schmitz and Ryks are really good candidates.

Hegg: I echo the previous speaker’s support.

Waggoner: I know all four of these candidates on a personal level. Like previous speakers have said, they are all great candidates. I think Ryks and Roland are our top choices. Roland works hard and doesn’t miss deadlines. Ryks talked about advocacy and he never talks about anything more than speaking for students.

Edu: I’m concerned that David said he would not have been voted.

Timmons: He was recognizing that he doesn’t have to be elected because he went through this process.

Gette: Ryks sat me down and asked me about senate. He wanted to know what he’s getting himself into.

Gersch: Both Ryks and Roland look passionate and excited to be here. I think they would be a positive addition in discussion.

Wicklund: I want to throw my ultimate support behind Roland. Sounds like he worked on a HUGE project and figured it out. I think we could get him in here and he would be great on committees.

Mickelson: I would like to throw support behind Ryks. He co-founded a fraternity. He knew guys that didn’t find a place they would fit. He created that space for him. He’s had a positive influence on Greek life.

First round of voting.

Narrowed to Roland and Ryks.

Final vote.

Ryks is the new Junior class representative.

Goldstein: Matt and I would like to give you an update. We do have an opening in Cabinet after the co-presidential election.

**V. Finance**

1. **Gustie Buddies**

Branch: Making pictures with Gustie Buddies. The paintings will go up in the banquet rooms for display. Not a take-away because it is going up in the banquet rooms for student body to enjoy. Capital improvement. Funded in full for $59.04.

Gustie Buddies: We want to have nicer canvases to go up in the campus center. It’s cool when they can come back and see their art. Sense of accomplishment.

Waggoner: Wonderful idea for Gustie Buddies and kids themselves. Fund in full.

Hegg: I will always support something that puts a smile on kids faces.

Vote.

Approved.

**B. Comm Club**

Branch: Communication Club is going to a conference. They opened it to the entire group. Only two people could make it based on timelines. The committee decided to fund this budget in full. It’s under the $1100 bylaw and fair.

Comm Club: Meet once a week. Host blood drive in fall and the spring and host major night. We really wanted to do a conference to branch out and do more things with our club. The lodging is one night and attend conference the whole day. $50 per person. It’s for communications students and faculty specifically. Things we learned in class and stuff. We could apply it in classes.

Wicklund: Does this budget cover in full?

Comm Club: I’m assuming it would go probably a little over. Gas to Madison, WI shouldn’t cost as much as is listed. I based it off of the mileage school provides.

Waggoner: Since they have to take school vehicles, they would probably take a prius or an impala. There is no way.

Bembenek: We based it off small car on the school website. That’s the process finance committee requires.

Vote.

Approved.

**C. Model UN**

Branch: Model UN is going to a conference this spring. At the time they came into us, they didn’t have any documentation about the cost of their trip. The finance committee recommended $0 for everything. However, in the time between our meeting and this meeting, they came with documentation and the numbers are now different than what is on that particular budget. The hotel cost is $1,286.48. Flight is $1,431.60.

Model UN: Student organization. Around for a couple of decades. We attend two conference each year. Fall was funded by Peace Studies Department. We want to go to NYU conference. It is in New York, headquarters of the UN. Also, more challenging. Those are the prices that we listed through internet searches.

Gunnigle: Usually attend two meetings per year, would you go to the previous location? Would you have a spring conference?

Model UN: No.

Hegg: Would we be breaking the bylaws?

Branch: Yes.

Hegg: Can we send this back to committee?

Goldstein: I think the floor could negotiate this on its own.

Hegg: $1100 for travel and lodging. I would like to make a motion to amend line item 29 to $1100.

Bembenek: We are comfortable not splitting it up to let the organization decide how to spend it as long as it doesn’t violate bylaws.

Second goes to Thrash.

Peterson: Would you still be able to go if it isn’t funded in full?

Model UN: We have a few more source we are turning to. There are three of us going. That’s the cost for the three of us.

Hegg: If they chose not to go, the money would just go back into our account?

Bembenek: Yes.

Vote on amendment.

Approved.

Waggoner: I don’t know if it’s necessary now that we did that.

Vote.

Approved.

**D. LineUS**

Branch: LineUs is going to Chicago for an improv trip, conference. 7 people going. Workshops for performances. They asked for more than bylaws allow for. While in the committee they specialized that they would prioritize workshop funding and flight.

LineUs: Trip to Chicago. Specifically with Second City. That’s super exciting. We want to improve on improv and provide quality entertainment for Gustavus.

Peterson: How much would it cost to drive to Chicago versus flying?

LineUs: The way that we are forced to allocate brought a 10 passenger van at $800.

Vote.

Approved.

**E. DAC (Day at the Capital)**

Branch: Day at the Capital. Group of student at Gustavus go and advocate for state grants. Bring 50-100 students with them. Funded for students to go up to the capitol. The finance committee recommended $0. No documentation about bus cost. Now there has been documentation received that matches the $835 they asked for.

DAC: Going on for eight years. Tradition. Day full of advocacy and sightseeing. Connection with alumni. Open to whole campus. Free of charge.

Hegg: Motion to change line item 29 to full $835.

Vote on amendment.

Approved.

Vote.

Approved.

**VII. Old Business**

1. **Committee Updates**

Grosshuesch: Diversity committee has been working on the best root for general requirement class about diversity. We want to do a trial in FTS. We also want to look into gender neutral housing. What has been proposed isn’t gender neutral, it’s gender mixing. That’s different. We want to continue to support I Am We Are. Do more with Building Bridges later in the spring. Also, a conference to bring together groups on campus to discuss the diversity issues faced by students on campus.

Hegg: Are you looking into the issues brought forward in community comment today?

Grosshuesch: Yes.

Waggoner: What are your thoughts on power hour?

Grosshuesch: I think power hour was a step in the right direction, but we shouldn’t need it. We did. But it’s up to the committee to discuss and I’m going to have a meeting with the Health board to see what their thoughts are.

Waggoner: Maybe talk about having it be beginners power hour. So everyone can feel safe.

Sweet: If you are looking to expand, consider greeters in your group too.

Rasmussen: I’m interested to hear information on the plan moving forward regarding gender neutral housing.

Grosshuesch: We haven’t had a lot of a chance to talk about. Right now it has to be two identified males and two identified females. That’s not gender neutral. Troubling for transsexual community. I’m worried if it doesn’t work, they will shut it down. I would rather see it work first and then start a larger conversation.

Panzer: Health and Housing will work with D-Committee on gender neutral housing. The main committee has talked about sidewalk up from Sohre hall. That’s perhaps the largest task. Lock in expectations of Heart Safe Champion. Taken on a repeatable identity this year with champion of Meg Crosby. To clarify, Take a Professor to Lunch has expanded to co-presidents and PR chair. Strongly encourage to seek out qualified candidates to fill vacancy for the end of the year. It’s a great opportunity.

Mahan: Just a quick question, talk about sidewalk going to Sohre, was there a discussion about a sidewalk from Rundstrom to overflow lot?

Singh: I had a meeting with Warren. We’re looking into sidewalks for both.

Sweet: T-shirts are in route! I’m bad at math. The T-shirts were $3 less. I’ll give you money back with your shirt. I’ll send an email for people who still need to pay.

Grosshuesch: I’m supposed to update body on DLC. I serve as senate representative. Some of the stuff we’ve been talking about is stuff about power hour. DLC had a conversation with SAFE about paradigm speaker. Educating campus on different things. Gender and athletics.

Timmons: I think we’ve seen time and time again, midterm vacancy process is flawed. I think it is possible to have an electoral process for midterm vacancies. I encourage charging ethics to look into it.

Wicklund: So moved.

Waggoner: Can you explain to the body what you mean by it was flawed?

Timmons: I thought it was concerning that someone thinks it’s problematic to vote a person in without the possibility for any constituent to vote. My personal opinion is that our personal system is flawed.

Singh: I think it’s flawed as well. I support.

Hegg: I think Ethics should look into it. I think we will be more fair.

Vote.

Approved.

**VIII. New Business**

Singh: I want to bring up community comment that we heard tonight.

Timmons: Cabinet is bringing forward resolution. It directly addresses much of what community comment is about. We have a motion to bring forward out of cabinet. I want to apologize. I normally would want you to see the document before. We have a struggled with hatred, prejudices, rape culture. We decided the one constant is YikYak. Now with it being such a salient topic in conversation. It feels wrong to further wait further deliberate. We have the right minds and patience to look through it and still put thought into it. I personally felt I wasn’t serving my constituents, the Gustavus community, by staying silent.

Goldstein: I would like to give everyone a moment to read through this and gather their thoughts.

Thrash: Before we get started, I move to extend the meeting to the end of announcement.

Vote.

Approved.

Wicklund: I have experience writing resolutions. Formating looking sound. I don’t see why we wouldn’t pass this.

Goldstein: I know this is a very sensitive topic. I’m going to be upfront with calling things out of order.

Hegg: Does the body feel the word injustice is the best word to end the resolution? I feel that there’s a better word to describe the deplorable actions that have been taken.

Gunnigle: If this is passed, is this a thing saying student senate condemns this or will it be action?

Goldstein: Representation of where student senate stands. Will be looked at by those outside.

Peterson: I observed yikyaks that are pretty offensive about power hour. Is this a response to that as well?

Timmons: When co-presidents decided it was time to take action, it was in response to female power hour and those yaks. This was crafted prior to yesterday’s yaks. Much of the sentiment came out of female power hour, but it had to do with a lot of yaks we saw throughout the year. Many marginalized groups, not just women and rape culture.

Waggoner: I’d just like to say, no matter who the group is, or what’s being said about them, if things that have been said have been said we have to take a stand. We are Gusties. This is not how we act.

Gustafson: The community under the resolved is capitalized and the one under concern is lowercase. I’d like to move to friendly to capitalize the first C.

Approved.

Goldstein: Doesn’t change the meaning of the statement, so we can just friendly the amendment. If someone had a problem, we could talk about that.

Wicklund: If anyone wants information about the yaks that have been going on, I’ve got contact information for someone who has been collecting them.

Singh: I don’t think the wording encompasses other groups.

Timmons: I think the exigence for this being passed and distributing tomorrow is rape culture. I think we are addressing that there are other persons and other forms of identity that have been attacked more than just women. I also think the exigence was out of rape culture.

Singh: I wasn’t sure if the ultimate goal was to address multiple groups or just this one.

Timmons: You are more than welcome to amend it and hash it out.

Hegg: I agree with previous speaker. I don’t think it should include just gender and rape culture, but should include everyone discriminated against. There’s 2400 students at Gustavus. We should treat each other as equals.

Thrash: Would striking the word gender fit your intent?

Hegg: I motion to strike the word gender.

Second to Waggoner.

Hegg: I know some people are going to want to rip me apart because I’m taking gender out, but I think it’s more all inclusive. They weren’t just attacking women. It’s inclusive of everyone that was involved and felt threatened.

Wicklund: I’m concerned about striking the word gender. I believe and most believe it is connected to gender. I would encourage Cabinet to come out with another resolution.

Sweet: We talked about what would make this most effective. This resolution is talking about anonymous social media. YikYak has had unfortunate posts about rape culture, some rooted in homophobia, ableism, etc. I think it’s positive if we bring biases into this.

Hegg: One of the things I heard over the weekend was that sexual assault isn’t a one sex issue. We shouldn’t exclude men.

Goldstein: The first part talks about why we are doing this. The reason we were writing this was as a response to yaks on female power hour. I think that’s a different thing than the resolved. The resolved can be broader. For the two writers of this, what got us to this point was the response to female power hour. I just thought I would highlight that.

Gette: I questioned gender inequality portion. I don’t just represent women. But I do see what previous speakers said. I’m in favor of removing it. I think that the whole document, the whole resolution needs to reflect that, not just the ending.

Waggoner: I agree with striking the word gender. I think that communicates we are against all inequality posts, not just gender.

Peterson: Is there any way we could keep gender inequality and add discrimination?

Timmons: I want to say that I am resonating with your idea a lot. I think it we are going to specifically talk about why it came about and why the resolution is put forward, we have to talk about gender inequality.

Gustafson: I don’t really think our understanding of gender inequality appropriate reflects what gender inequality really is. It’s not just women. It’s not just women and men. I think that this resolution is pointed towards a series of events. I think it would be more appropriate to include what the events we are talking about are. I would be the first person to tell you I am against inequality, but I want it to be more specific.

Grosshuesch: I would like to mention you could remove the words rape culture and replace with marginalization.

Rasmussen: We might want to think about what exactly we are trying to state in this. Are we responding to all negative YikYaks or just this specific issue? If this is a direct response to the recently surfaced yaks, why haven’t we come out with a resolution about all yaks that have come out. Was the recent yak the breaking point where we decided to step in and do something.

Wicklund: I first have a question, can we amend the first few lines?

Goldstein: Anything that comes through this body can be amended at any point.

Wicklund: I think this is an important and focused resolution. I’ve seen a majority of offensive acts have been about rape culture.

Svendsen: The top part of it is to explain why this is occurring and why we felt the need to bring this forward or address it. It is coming out of the female power hour and responses on yikyak. Resolved says we don’t support any sort of injustice.

Hegg: I still feel it’s a good idea to strike gender and just have inequality. I would be interested to see all of the offensive yikyaks. There’s offensive yaks about everyone in any way shape or form.

Siatta: I agree with the overall premise of the resolution, I agree that not putting this out perpetuates the problem. But I do have problems with previous speakers not agreeing with opposing viewpoints. If you don’t believe in freedom of expression for people you despise, you don’t believe in it at all. Even if they are saying things that are hurtful, we can’t violate their right to say it.

Vote.

Fails.

Hegg: Although I don’t think we can ever get a perfect resolution and they won’t solve every problem. I definitely support one.

Mahan: I would like to make a motion to make the contributing line state “Contributing to a culture of discrimination and gender inequality when remaining silent.” In previous discussions we talked about the need to include gender, but also a need to include non-gender language.

Peterson: I think this is a good idea too. This is almost the last part. Tying together the why and the broader aspect.

Vote.

Approved.

Mahan: I think with recent happenings, this is an important thing for us to put out. Create an open dialogue with your constituents. It shouldn’t stop here. Let’s create understanding. Talk to people and disapprove of people posting things like this on yikyak. It takes a whole village.

Wicklund: I support.

Gustafson: I think we need to keep in mind the safety of Gustavus community. You enter a communal contract. You need to be accountable for hateful things that you do. I would liken Gustavus Community to the workplace. If you say something you’re not supposed to say, there will be repercussions.

Mickelson: I think it’s important that senator Siatta did recognize that everyone has a right to their opinion. We are just taking a stance that we support the good opinion.

Wicklund: Another thought with the whole first amendment thing. We all have freedom of speech, but we can still be called out.

Vote.

Approved.

**IX. Announcements**

Thrash: I want to publically apologize to this body for my lack of faith today. I said we should push back the resolution because we wouldn’t have the attention span to have a good discussion on the resolution. I apologize and applaude the co-presidents for pushing it through.

Timmons: I want to publically thank you for allowing this conversation to happen and for having a robust discourse tonight. I want to say officially congratulations to our new co-president elects. I want to welcome our new senator. I want to thank all of you. The ones I saw, those who participate, in Building Bridges this weekend. I was proud to be a Gustie.

Mahan: Tomorrow is the Saint Peter school referendum vote. I encourage anyone who is informed and passionate to go out and cast a vote. I personally believe it will create safety mechanisms and grant resources for students to learn.

Siatta: I would like to clarify, my reference of freedom of expression. Freedom of speech, anything. I wasn’t trying to defend the deplorable verbiage, but I do think the resolution encroaches infringement on freedom of speech.

Singh: Africa Night is this Friday at 6pm. PASO put a lot of work into it. Check it out!

Sweet: Theta week is coming up next week. We are tabling for nominees for Mr. Gustavus. Put in names. Patties fundraiser. Pinkies for a Promise. $10 a piece.

Bembenek: If we could ask finance to meet with us for three minutes.

Goldstein: We did charge ethics with issue of filling vacancies.

Gustafson: There have been a lot of ideas expressed tonight. Come to the ACLU meeting on Thursday at 7pm in Beck 117.

Wicklund: It is nice outside. We are now going to have a lot of long nights in the board room. Enjoy the weather, enjoy p-ball.

Ryks: Thank you for accepting me and thank you in advanced.

Skiba: Pi Day is Saturday.