**Student Senate Agenda**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**April 20, 2015**

1. **Attendance**

**II. Approval of the Minutes 4/13/15**

Approved.

**III. Community Comment**

None.

**President Bergman:** I am reaching the end of my first 10 months. Excited to get a year under my belt. I tried to create a strong sense of community in my first 10 months, hope you are still feeling that. I meet regularly with the senate co-presidents. I’m hear to listen and learn.

**Timmons:** Any advice for students?

Bergman: I look for strong leadership in students, and leadership that represents the greater population. I really appreciate that you find things you believe in and you push them. Not distracting to the community, but enriching it. Find things that are really important to students and figure out how we can do that together. I’ve been very impressed with the level of sophistication of the student senate.

Panzer: Preparing for life beyond Gustavus, what is your number one piece of advice to articulate the significance of Gustavus?

Bergman: I’ve interviewed a lot of people for jobs, I look for a few key characteristics. I think Gustavus trains you well. First, intellectual curiousity. The world changes so quickly, you cannot be satisfied or stop learning. Also, I look for people who interact well with other people, how you work with teams, how you contribute to a team. I like to ask for five words that really describe who you are. It makes you think of who you are and your values. Your employer is looking to hire you for the long term. I look for professionalism and people who can represent the organization inside and outside in a way that makes the day count. I end meetings by telling people to go do something smart.

Thrash: What is something that has not happened on campus this year that you would like to see happen next year?

Bergman: What hasn’t moved along as quickly as I like is race relations. I haven’t found a way to do that yet. I would broaden that to be more about equity and a welcoming to all. We ascribe to that. That’s part of the philosophy of Lutheran higher education. The presiding bishop says lutheran colleges are welcoming to all good will. I think we should aspire toward that and I think we fall short sometimes.

Siatta: In terms of the US economic policy, how do trade agreements affect our economy and moving forward, how do you feel they will affect our foreign policy?

Bergman: I spent a fair amount of time in China before leaving Medtronic. I found it to be fascinating and I think the problem with trade agreements is that they might be appropriate for the time, but they seem to stick around long after. They outlast their utility. That’s not to say we shouldn’t try to work at that. My concern is that we not enhance the two-class world, the haves and the have-nots.

Gustafson: I have a comment on areas of improvement for equity. Many of my constituents were concerned about homecoming overlapping with EVENTS. They felt that they were not seen as part of the community. Also, did you see the sustainability pillar?

Bergman: We’ve had a problem at Gustavus with an overlap with EVENTS. At the time where we did not address the overlap, we were not utilizing a master calendar now. We are much better about that now. Sustainability was the second thing I would talk about that we did not get as far with as I would like. I’m learning about scorecards that can be kept. I think we have more to do there.

Wicklund: There was a lot of student interest in bringing in a third-party to discuss race relations. What is your thought on that?

Bergman: The problem is the budget is already set, so I don’t have a giant pot of money. We need to figure out what we are trying to get out of a survey.

Hegg: What’s the most humorous thing you have seen since being at Gustavus?

Bergman: Me on Twitter has been.... that was so outside my comfort zone. I said, “I can’t do that.” I’m determined to take challenges. I stood up and noticed that wearing tennis shoes to walk from the car to the office was noted on social media. That was kind of funny. I think I capitalize on good humor a lot, but I can’t remember a joke if you paid me.

Peterson: Is it possible in the next couple years to get out of school before Memorial Day?

Bergman: The next few years graduation will be on Memorial Day weekend. Benefit of J-Term is that we get to keep you longer in May. Unless we gave up JTerm, Touring Break or Spring Break, there wouldn’t be much time. How many people would like it if we got rid of JTerm.

Peterson: What five words would you use to describe yourself?

Bergman: Integrity, trustworthy, hardworker, innovative, strategic.

Jenson: What kind of infrastructure changes/renovations do you see as a priority for the college?

Bergman: Anderson Hall, I think we are getting close to having a budget to begin renovation. The nice thing is that no one is in there right now, so we can get to work. The project is not hugely expensive, less than $10 Million. Nobel Hall is much more expensive. We are on our way to having enough donations in hand to feel comfortable that we could start that project. After that we have some smaller projects that would be in Lund, the Chapel, Library, and there is always stuff to do in resident halls.

Singh: You mentioned strategic as one of your five values, will you talk a little about the strategic action plan?

Bergman: Thank you to Student Senate for the two students in the Strategic committee. It’s all about understanding your future and what you will need in the future. What will Gustavus need 10 years from now and longer? It addresses how needs will change and how college will change to help students leave Gustavus and be successful. I’ve talked a little about the strategic plan with the committees.I imagine one will be about the academic experience. And then how will we prepare students for life after Gustavus? Not just the first job after graduation, but the one after that and the next after that. You have to be prepared for multiple careers. I’m leaving it to the committees to discuss which areas are the focus of the college. It will take us a year. Strategic planning is not a one week exercise.

Johnson: I view everyone in this room as an agent of change. Do you have advice in opening discussion to those who are closed off?

Bergman: I’m not sure I have the right answer, but for me it’s all about meeting them where they are and opening up new possibilities. Remember the first step does not have to be big. You can take a baby step forward toward your goal, sometimes people need to see a baby step to start believing.

Goldstein: For those of us who are leaving Gustavus, what is your advice for being an engaged member of Gustavus Alumni?

Bergman: I hope Gustavus Alumnni remember where they came from in form of professors, peers and ideas. Take time to interact with other Gusties. It is a network for everybody. I would ask that you think about being a mentor for a student. Help a student who is behind you to achieve the things that you were able to. Sometimes it’s just get to know them and have a conversation. Stay connected with people in the community. You will be done paying tuition, you can be part of philanthropy to the college. You graduate to be amongst the people who can give back in significant ways. It means things like scholarships, part of renovation for Nobel, a new drinking fountain. Remember that you are part of a legacy.

Timmons: What ideas/prospects in the near future are you really excited for?

Bergman: I’m a possibility thinker. I get so excited thinking about our future. I get excited thinking about improvements that can happen here over time. I’m a 10 or 20 year thinker. I’m excited for the process of deciding what we are going to be, what liberal arts are going to be, how we prepare for that. I wake up thinking about it, I go to bed thinking about it.

Ryks: What do you think one selling point for students is to get them really interested in Gustavus?

Bergman: All of you can kind of remember why you came here, but what stands out for Gustavus is the community. That’s why I chose that as the aspect of what we are. When you leave here, there are two things that people talk about. 1. A professor that made a difference in who they were. A story of someone who had an impact or challenged them. I don’t think we do a good job of selling that. I would like to leave here leaving liberal arts better off than when I came. I cannot see the future with 100% clarity. It’s important to me that we make decisions intentionally. I take my advice seriously. I want to make a difference every single day. But in the end it’s about the students. I want my legacy to be that this president paid attention to the needs of the students. Go tell that story to the prospective students. You are our best marketing and communication experts. Tell a prospective student.

Wicklund: After coming to Gustavus, what are some challenges and surprises you found?

Bergman: My biggest surprise that has been frustrating, many have been positive, my frustration is my calendar. It’s overwhelming and I have to make choices between doing this and doing that. I’m choosing between important and important. Some of it has to do with the breadth of the types of a work a president does. The demands on my time are the most negative surprises.

**IV. Old Business**

1. **Committee Updates**

Timmons: We have finally solidified a date for Senate Social, May 1st Friday at 5:30 at JoNes’ place. Do something social before we get into nitty gritty of spring finance.

Grosshuesch: Diversity Committee met. We originally had Columbus day resolution sent back. We want to write it for next year. We are going to work on that. We also talked about still showing support of I Am We Are 20th Anniversary. There is a class to honor the ensemble. Something we will continue to work on is the diversity gen-ed thing. We are twiddling our thumbs trying to figure out what is best. We also hope to put together collaborative body event that pulls together large organizations on campus. There are things that happen on campus that not everyone can have an open conversation about. This is an opportunity for them to talk with other leaders. We are in contact. Please let us know if there are other student orgs we should contact.

**B. Vacancy Policy By-Law**

Svendsen: I cannot bring this forward. We will have voting member of ethics bring it forward and talk about it.

Thrash: The point of this amendment is that in the case of a vacancy, senate votes on who fills that vacancy. The students do not have a chance to vote on it. We don’t see a reason for that to be the case. We think there should be a regular election. We don’t think there is reason to put a timeline in the constitution, those things change.

Svendsen: We want to keep language as minimal as possible. It’s based on when senate holds its meetings. Language will be brought forth next week. We have an idea of the timeline. The language has not been written out in the way we would like it to be in the bylaws.

Thrash: We are obligating ourselves to set forth things in the bylaw. We have a plan for if this passes. We could set that timeline.

Goldstein: I want to describe the process. This week we are voting to consider, next week we are voting to pass. Passing would bring it forth to the student body. Tonight is consideration. Next week is taking to the student body.

Hegg: The election would be ran as a regular election?

Svendsen: Yes, fielded entirely by Ethics. The green right there references Article 6, section 1 that discusses presidential elections processes.

Discussion:

Hegg: I think there is a lot of merit behind this amendment. I think constituents should choose who is representing. I don’t think we are the best ones to decide. I think we should consider it despite flaws in wording.

Gette: I agree, I think that the constituents should get to decide who gets to represent them.

Waggoner: There’s no doubt that this is ethically correct and needs to be considered.

Vote to consider constitutional amendment.

Approved.

Goldstein: Bylaws will also come through next week.

**C. Parking Resolution**

Johnson: The parking proposal charge was made to the Student and Academic Affairs committee. Main areas of concern were Norelius lot and overcrowdedness. It houses complex, college view, Norelius and Uhler. From that, we changed several other lots to accommodate faculty and visitors. There could be days where the changed areas have to be vacated due to increased visitors, such as on visiting days. I was given an email from prospective parents via admissions that noted how disgruntled they were with the current parking situation for visitors.

JoNes: Did admissions sign off on this?

Johnson: Not officially. We are now bringing it to you to approve before we bring it anywhere else. We may have to change or continue to discuss at this point. This is not what ultimately will happen. We are going to get it approved by Wunderlich and Carol Brewer.

In figure two, we added 38 new red parking spots. Another issue that was raised by survey and individual students was that there is not enough commuter parking on campus. We decided to take half a row out of Beck lot to delegate to commuter student parking. It would allow them to get there first thing in the morning and would make sure the lot is empty overnight. Since we’ve added a significant amount of student parking, we have to accommodate faculty as well. Currently there is one row in Arb lot that is student parking. We thought it was reasonable to make it all faculty and visitors. We canvassed. It is underutilized, as was Bjorling lot which is now delegated for faculty parking. There would have to be a shift of faculty. We add 7 student lots and 5 faculty lots and hopefully help admissions when students are coming in.

Questions:

Siatta: In regards to shifting faculty lots, what was the rationale that faculty would accept?

Johnson: If we want to make any changes, this is ultimately unavoidable. In order to add more faculty parking, the only lots are residential parking lots. The entire shift is toward the southern end. Student and faculty. For any change, that is the real option. The hope is that faculty who are in Con-Vick will still be accommodated. We don’t have specific numbers of which faculty members are parking where. It’s an unknown, but our conversations with faculty will allow us to reach a solid compromise.

Sweet: I’m confused on timeline and likelihood. Is it a campus safety, student life kind of deal?

Johnson: I’ve spoken with many people to get feedback. If this was approved I would officially submit this to them. I have meetings with them in the next couple of weeks. Then we could get a timeline figured out in the next couple of weeks and move forward talking to faculty and admissions. We want a feasible idea in place and complete by the end of the semester.

Timmons: What were fill rates of faculty spots in Beck lot?

Johnson: The most heavily populated time period for both of the lots was noon to 1:00 Mondays and Wednesdays. Faculty was normally one or two slots open. Tuesdays and Thursdays, generally 5 or seven slots open. Later in the day, population decreases. By 3:30, spaces for faculty were more vacated.

Panzer: Method for receiving feedback is to present to the faculty senate?

Johnson: We could go to faculty senate. There are several methods. There are different committees.

Panzer: Was it ever discussed in which there would be a time barrier where a lot flips from green to red?

Johnson: It was not extensively considered due to difficulty of campus safety to follow through. The main area that you would do that is between faculty and student lots. Flipping faculty to student lots would require an early morning move of cars. The viability seemed like an issue.

Panzer: Is this signed from Student and Academic Affairs or Senate?

Johnson: Right now it is signed as Student and Academic Affairs, but it we all approve I assume we could sign senate’s name on it.

Gersch: Did we look into the actual expansion of asphalt and adding of new slots?

Johnson: We did discuss that at length. We talked about adding another parking lot, there is not a lot of space on campus to add a parking lot. A parking structure is even more expensive. The cost would be a large proportion. It then becomes an issue of who should be funding. We ultimately ruled that would not be the most likely form of action. In the survey 68% wanted to have a restructuring.

Timmons: Data suggests that we have plenty of parking. The way it is structured right now does not satisfy students wants.

JoNes: We used to have commuter parking. Commuters weren’t very happy. They had to park in lots where no one wanted to park. I think we started to feel pressure for Residential students. Did you go back to look at commuter parking?

Johnson: We did to talk about benefits and issues. In our discussions, the committee as a whole did not consider it as a viable option at the time. There were issues. We would be backtracking. We would potentially see those issues arise.

JoNes: Did you talk about the Student Body shrinking? And the number of students who are coming in from off campus shrinking?

Johnson: We touched briefly on it, we don’t know exactly how many students are coming in.

Gette: Thank you for all the work and being patient with questions. If we vote to pass this, who has to say it’s okay?

Johnson: In theory, the people who are required are Carol Brewer and Warren Wunderlich. We are going to talk to admissions because we value them. They don’t have a say.

JoNes: I think Carol will be hesitant to say yes until she has a chance to hear from the people who will be affected. I think she’s going to want to reserve an opinion until employees have had a chance to weigh in.

Johnson: I am using the term faculty because that’s what green parking is called right now.

Gette: Many complain that in complex, the lines are drawn to make spaces extremely big. Is there a way to resize?

JoNes: Maybe it’s because it’s a circular lot.

Johnson: I don’t know what that would cost, looking into it and knowing about the construction of lots, normally there are standards for how large each parking stall must be in a given area. Normally it’s state and local standards that are set. I don’t know how much it would cost to change that or if there are standards.

Hegg: What was the consensus of survey sent out?

Johnson: In the proposal it states that 68.5% of students are not happy with parking situation at Gustavus. 67.49% said they thought rearrangements would benefit.

Hegg: We’re voting not on a faculty perspective, this is pretty popular for students, right?

Johnson: Yes, it was the most heavily voted upon area by students.

Goldstein: My Sophomore year, CollegeView was never full, but now it’s always full. Is there anyway to determine if this year is just a fluke?

Hegg: Numbers have remained pretty constant on campus. Everyday there are new numbers of red given and revoked. We cannot conclude who was parking in lots in previous year.

Ryks: Beck or Stadium would remain non-overnight, correct? How was that decision made?

Johnson: The largest concerns raised were that this area was specifically put to be no overnight. Mostly snow removal. There is not a nearby resident hall. Last year there were three rows of faculty and one row of student, but expansion would be to help commuter students. That’s the number one reason I’ve been given.

Ryks: Were there any other discussion on making a different parking lot being a non-overnight?

Johnson: We left it at that. That was the one that already was. it seemed like the most viable lot unless you wanted to take parking away from residential halls.

Gette: If we vote to pass this right now, can we bring it back to adjustment?

Goldstein: Yes, that’s well within your rights.

Johnson: In the proposal it says we are open to further conversation and further compromise.

Skiba: Where on campus did Warren have an idea for additional lots or structures?

Johnson: One was to expand on collegeview lot, it’s not very central but there is land. It would help overflow from other bulidings. Other area, specifically behind Norelius hall. It’s a putting green right now. In terms of parking structure, the only place been considered (it has been in conversations, it’s not a new idea, it has been generally shut down) the area in which they do that would be Norelius hall, Norelius parking lot. It’s the largest and one of the most central lots. The issue with that is the idea that Gustavus is trying to be aesthetically pleasing, it would obstruct if it was built up.

Skiba: Were there conversations about a parking structure being built behind SouthWest?

Johnson: No.

Discussion:

Goldstein: What we will be discussing specifically is the content of this resolution.

Hegg: I support this proposal because I think we can see our constituents are asking us to do something about parking. It’s good in Pittman, but others have major issues finding parking and end up going to college view or other places that back up parking elsewhere on campus. I think building new lots would be great, but this is a good way of providing a bandaid. I think in the future we could look to expansion of lots, but this is a good solution for right now. We represent students, we should go ahead and approve this.

Timmons: Generally, I try to stay out of the fray, but I have concern. I think touching anything faculty changes the efficacy of this body. I think we have to be conscious about how we go about this. If Admissions is okay with visitor lot changes, then that’s great. I think we should continue conversations. This is a major change to faculty parking, I think there would be strong opposition to how drastic this is. I think we can move forward in having conversation in how we change faculty parking. I don’t think it will appear as a fair transition as is. We are already in crowded lots, there will always be concerns, I don’t think this is the most effective way.

Goldstein: You are more than welcome to suggest amendments, but this is so large and complex. For efficiency, it might be better to send back to committee.

Siatta: I agree with the co-presidents. This is a community problem, the changes that are proposed right now are too dramatic. I don’t see this being an open dialogue with faculty and staff. I would be more comfortable if they had the chance to provide input before we put this through. I don’t think I could put my support behind this in the proposed manner, butI could get behind it. As of right now, I will not be voting for this proposal.

Gladitsch: A lot of previous speakers have made good points, but I think it is important to be in conversation with faculty and admissions. I don’t think they will see it as an affront.

Mahan: To give a little background, a lot of potential issues were in the Norelius and Complex lot were ending up parking in the College View lot. Then College View would park in other lots. We tried to change in the areas we thought would make the most difference. I think it’s also important to realize, we don’t think this is the perfect plan, but it’s also important to realize we are interested in hearing feedback. We want to come up with a compromise that works. It might not result in anything, but maybe it will open a dialogue. It’s important to open the conversation and the dialogue. If we don’t do something now, it will come up again and again and again.

Wicklund: This makes really good strides for my constituents. It has a lot of hope for them. I’m concerned that we are making too much of a sacrifice for students. I have concerns that it will have low impact after putting proposal forward to faculty.

Waggoner: Red parking has been an issue all year, I think moving any green parking to south side of campus is the best option because there are so many more buildings that faculty will be in and will be near. There have to be over 500 students between Uhler, Norelius and Complex. We don’t have even close to enough parking in that area. This needs to go through, we need to talk to faculty and start moving forward.

Gette: I understand the pushback, but there will always be pushback. I feel obligated to vote for this. We can show our constituents that we are at least trying. At least this gets something going.

Sweet: I agree that parking is an issue, but it’s also a question of convenience. I think the faculty that commute everyday, we need to do our diligence of making sure we do what they need. We need to take into consideration the Gustavus Community as a whole. By putting this proposal forward, it says that student senate is in favor of this proposal. We need to take three steps back and assess the situation.

Goldstein: By us passing this, we are saying we are in support of this. Not that we are in support of discussion. I think it might be a wise decision to see how we can accomplish the same goal without using such a heavy hand. I think that’s a much more beneficial option. I don’t want there to be animosity between the two organizations. If we can come forward saying we are thinking about it, it’s much better than saying we passed this.

Mahan: I would like to extend the meeting to after announcements.

Seconded by Wicklund.

Vote.

Approved.

Johnson: One of the biggest concerns is conversation with faculty and admissions. This isn’t starting the conversation, conversation has already started. So far, we haven’t seen a whole lot come out of that. This is getting something on paper to point to and say this is an idea that we can consider. It’s not just that it would be starting conversation. It would be adding to the conversation.

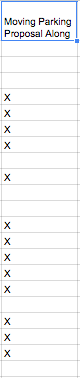
Hegg: First, I’d like to see change with parking. Second, being in the committee, seeing the ideas, there was really not much more that we could do. I’m not saying this is all or nothing. There weren’t great options. In the areas we wanted to add spots, we had to move green parking. Third, there was a question about different faculty who might have problems moving in and out of buildings, but we didn’t move any handicapped. Fourth, we don’t represent the faculty, we represent the students. Fifth, we must have happy students and happy alumni to function as a college. If we pass this today, we won’t wake up tomorrow and have changes already having happened. It will take a year.

Singh: We all agree that we want to have a conversation with faculty and staff. We are disagreeing about a method. We either fail this and have a conversation or we pass it and have a conversation. They’ve already talked to these people and seen results. This document will make it more official.

JoNes: I don’t want you to miss that Carol Brewer has only been here a year, I want to remind you that she’s not been here as long as some other administrators.

Singh: If we want to see action, we sometimes need something more official. Call to question.

Second by Thrash.



Waggoner: PR update on Rock-A-Thon?

Sweet: Fill out the surveymonkey. I will send out a conclusive email by Wednesday.

**V. New Business**

Waggoner: I would like to bring something to senate. There are stairs down the back of the tennis courts. I would like to open discussion on bringing stairs to the tennis court.

Peterson: My hesitation with this is the time of year and viability.

Thrash: I think we should look into it. I don’t think we need a lengthy discussion. I want to move to charge to Health and Housing.

Second, Thrash.

Johnson: Can you clarify where the stairs are?

Waggoner: There are steps behind the tennis courts, going out the back down to second avenue. There are about 8 steps of concrete blocks and then it just stops. The side of the tennis court closest to 7th Street. It’s a hill.

Wicklund: I’m worried that charges to health and housings may be too numerous and there are more important places to have stairs, like the hill to Sohre.

Vote on charge.

Approved.

**VI. Announcements**

Grosshuesch: First things first, if you have suggests for collaborative group, let me know. It’s Diversity Week, please participate! Diversity Ball, you can get tickets at the CAO desk. There’s food, awards, a dance, it’s semi-formal. I need a representative from student senate who is willing to set up.

Timmons: Thank you to President Bergman. I also wanted to make you aware that Hayden and myself will be emailing the student body about the student run and student lead memorial given to teaching excellence in their name. We will be asking for nominations and then there will be a vote. The award will be given to a faculty member on Honors Day. May 1st at JoNes’.

Svendsen: Thank you for passing that consideration for constitutional amendment. If you do have any questions about language and timeline, feel free to come to Ethics and ask us about that. Ethics, meet afterward.

Timmons: I was made aware of an important fact. If you have dietary restrictions and concerns, if you are comfortable please talk to me or we use suggestion box.

Branch: Finance meet after!

Hegg: I think we took a really good step in passing parking proposal today. I think constituents will be really happy.

Gustafson: This week is also Green Week! The events don’t overlap with Diversity Week. Fika will be fun. We are going to walk over to the composter.

Panzer: 62 of 100 Take Your Professor to Lunch tickets have been used. Remind your constituents. Cabinet applications for 2015-2016 Student Senate are now available. We are looking for experience and younger leaders with a lot of promise. Due May 1 at 4pm.

Sweet: Scott Dickers is coming to speak on campus. Tickets are available at CAO desk.

Thrash: Be careful what words you are saying. I know we speak off the top of our heads, but it’s on record.

Mahan: GTS is doing a soft opening of GusMail. We are not announcing to the entire Gustavus community, but we are letting people know. You can migrate to GusMail if you’d like to. We would love feedback. It usually goes pretty seamlessly. You will have to update settings. If you have questions, let me know. Super simple, just takes a couple of hours. You have to do it by next fall anyways. You can get more attention now than you will later.

Waggoner: Wild are up 2 after 2! Go Wild!

Wicklund: Shout out to Student and Academic Affairs, Ethics, Administrative Director, and all of you! Stay warm.

Johnson: Thank you for bearing with me. I will continue to update you on parking. To my committee, if you can stick around for 5 minutes.

Panzer: This weekend marks a Board of Trustees weekend.