**Student Senate Agenda**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**April 27, 2015**

1. **Attendance**

**II. Approval of the Minutes 4/20/15**

Hegg: Line that I didn’t say. Johnson said it.

 Amendment approved.

Minutes approved.

**III. Community Comment**

Thayer: I’m disappointed in Gustavus in the last month. They failed to recognize Holocaust Remembrance days. I would like to see something put on the calendar and prepared for future generations.

**IV. Finance**

1. **Women's Nordic**

Branch: Women’s Nordic Skiing is here for wax to put on their skis. They need this in order to ski. They were not allocated for any ski wax when they came in earlier this year. It is cheaper for them to purchase wax now. They are trying to save a little money. Finance recommended in full, $908.85.

Nordic Ski: We are requesting to order wax this spring, it’s cheaper now. Stores increase prices in the Fall. Huge part of ski racing and being competitive. We have a list of waxes that we are out of or low on that won’t get us through the next season. Conditions of snow very a lot. If you’re skiing on different kind of snow, you need different waxes. We need waxes on skis when we aren’t skiing to take care of the equipment.

Timmons: Is Women’s Nordic Ski considered a club sport? How much have they been allocated this year?

Bembenek: $5,422 for registration and lodging, $15 for printing.

Timmons: Does this violate bylaws?

Branch: No.

Edu: How long will wax last?

Nordic Ski: It depends. There was less snow this year, so there were significantly fewer races. Hopefully this season and into the next.

Hegg: I think most of us remember when Nordic Ski was in here earlier. Was wax on the budget earlier?

Branch: Yes, but there was no documentation of how much wax would cost. Now we have documentation, so they came to us now to ask.

Gladitsch: What is the precedent for capital improvements?

Goldstein: It happens a lot. Things like this have absolutely been funded before?

Hegg: How long will this last?

Nordic Ski: Through next season.

Mickelson: If you don’t receive wax, could you participate next weekend?

Nordic Ski: No, we would have to exclude people or have them buy their own wax. This is significantly cheaper than most ski wax.

Peterson: How many competitors do you have?

Nordic Ski: 13 competed this year.

Hegg: Is Men’s Nordic Ski a club sport as well?

Nordic Ski: We would be sharing with them.

Discussion:

Siatta: This is necessary for their club to continue. And for them to compete on level playing field. I support.

Singh: This needs to be funded, the only reason we didn’t last time is because they didn’t have the proper documentation.

Goldstein: Thank you for coming in with the intention to save money. That’s really cool!

Vote.

 Approved.

**B. Student & Academic Affairs**

Branch: This budget is regarding new equipment in Lund. They were charged in looking for replacement items. It doesn’t look like it will be funded any time soon and the committee felt it was a capital improvement worth Senate funding as it is available to all of the student body. Recommended in full for $650.

Johnson: This charge came over J-term. We looked into it and got quotes and verification. That’s where these numbers are coming from.

Gladitsch: Where’d you find the quotes?

Hegg: I talked to the intramural director. I told him not to get the exact number because they could change for next year, so if the price goes up we would be short. He estimated roughly what it would cost. They are not scientific numbers. They are very close.

Grosshuesch: Are these for intramurals or at the desk?

Hegg: They will be at the desk. Except softball bats.The softball bats are more expensive and they are pretty easy to mess up if you’re doing the wrong things with them.

Goldstein: Intramurals would use these?

Hegg: Yes.

Goldstein: Would priority go to intramurals?

Hegg: Yes, but often there would not be room to play during intramurals, but there are always extra balls.

Goldstein: Would academic programs have access?

Hegg: I would guess yes.

Timmons: I think this is a lot of money. This is one of the chief responsibilities of the athletic department at Gustavus. I don’t think it’s the student activity fee that should fund to provide the athletic facility with balls. I think it’s a high sticker price to fund an obligation that the school has to the student body.

Wicklund: I don’t feel this is something that we should be funding, but it’s something no one else will do.

Hegg: No one is paying for these things. It’s the hand-me-downs of the sports teams. What goes to intramurals is what’s been handed down. That’s why it’s in poor shape. The budget in Lund is lower, we had to make cuts to programs. Like Nordic Ski, who we just heard from. Unfortunately, there isn’t a better way, but I would like to continue talks on how Lund would like to fund this in the future.

Thrash: I agree with previous speakers that this is the responsibilities of athletic department. My biggest problem is giving a lump sum with little accountability. When we give equipment to another organization, we can hear about the use and the wear. We are buying for a department with no need to be held accountable.

Edu: I have to agree with a previous speaker. We need to talk about a system to fund these things. However, I think right now it’s important to fund this. SNL and other organizations use these things.

Ryks: Johnson, did you ever attempt to ask Lund about them funding it?

Johnson: We started conversations and intend to continue conversations about Lund funding in the future. In the coming year, it does not appear there will be enough money in the budget to cover new equipment. They expected to just keep using what they have. This is a temporary fix.

Gersch: I had a question on the bats. It was brought up that they would not be held behind the desk. If they will only be used in intramurals, I find that problematic.

Hegg: The reason the bats are on the budget is because I got a list of items that were in really bad shape. There will not be new bats next year if it’s not funded. He knows roughly how much money he will have next year. Yea, they won’t be checked out by students. However, they’re still used by many on campus as an activity. It’s not Senate’s job to fund intramurals, but it won’t happen otherwise.

Siatta: I have some problems with this because it is the athletic department’s obligation to fund. I don’t see this as helping organizations. The athletic department is going to continue the status quo. How will the continuing talks change the funding conversation. Gives them more leverage to come back in later years for funding. I don’t know where they will find the money if they don’t have it now. I don’t feel comfortable supporting the bats. In regards to the other equipment, that’s something the athletic department needs to pony up. We set a precedent when we didn’t fund a coach because it was the college’s obligation. It’s the same thing.

Peterson: This will also allow Lund to continue on their same path and put off funding these things.

Johnson: The alternative to us funding this is doing nothing. This isn’t unprecedented. Funding water fountains was not our obligation, but we thought about it as a necessity. It comes down to whether we consider this a necessity.

Wicklund: I can’t support. I think it will set a dangerous precedent.

Hegg: When we were talking about how this could set a precedent. I would like to make a charge later in the meeting to have a resolution drafted to Lund to express our concerns to people higher up the food chain. Then we can start those talks with people above in the future. If we don’t fund this year, we will be in just as bad of shape next year.

Timmons: I don’t think the alternative is doing nothing. I think we have a lot of influence as a body. If we say, this is your obligation, we have ability to sway influence. I think when we get into distributing the activity fee, we have to be purposeful. I think in this instance, I don’t see this as the most responsible use.

Thrash: I have my misgivings about this, but the “I’m not going to fund this” mentality happens in Washington. I think we could pay for these and then put money on the athletic department. We aren’t just telling them to spend their own money, we see this as a high enough priority. If we do this, I think we are in a better position to converse with the athletic department.

Goldstein: We have funded capital improvement. A lot of this is leaking into intramurals, but they aren’t a recognized student organization. It doesn’t fall into the system we have set up. It’s a large number of students coming together, but they aren’t coming together to support this budget. I think it would be a cool budget to see if intramurals became a recognized student organization. I think a lot of arguments have to come back and look at bylaws. We don’t fund things that aren’t student organizations.

Gunnigle: I think something to keep in mind is that Senate is an organization to help students. Something should be done if things are inadequate. We have an obligation. I’m not saying we should consistently do this.

Siatta: I see this as a simple, strategic play. If we sent a resolution and fund it, the resolution is for nothing. This is strictly for them, it’s not the best use of the funds for the students. No one will lose jobs over this. It’s $650, it’s not small change, but it isn’t an exorbitant amount. It shouldn’t be coming from us. We cannot make sound change if we make such a move. It sets a dangerous precedent.

Waggoner: If I asked my constituents if we needed new stuff in Lund.

Ryks: I’m here for action and this is an action that students would enjoy and need. We need to take action, not just plan strategy.

Wicklund: I think we agree that action is needed, but we disagree on what kind of action. Once we provide, no one will take action. It will keep us where we’re at.

Edu: I see that everyone is divided on this. I would like to propose that we fund half of it and communicate the expectation that Lund and the athletic department fund the other half.

Singh: It sounds like a lot of equipment will be priority for intramurals. We don’t fund intramurals. I don’t think this should be supported. A resolution or a petition would be a good idea and more impactful. Action does not necessitate money. We can take action through petition and resolution. I do believe that if they see the need of the students, they’ll take that action.

Hegg: Because of the issues with the softball bats, I would like to amend line item 31 from $200 to $0. Everything else can be checked out by students, and intramurals will have priority, but with space issues, space will make it impossible to play before equipment runs short.

 Second by Miller.

Amendment vote.

 Approved.

Hegg: I know that there are some disagree. I’m a kid at heart. It breaks my heart to try to use equipment in bad condition. We can do a lot with talks in the future now that we know that this is an issue. But we do need to do something about this right now. We can state in the resolution that we will not do this again. Call to question.

Vote on amended budget.



Approved.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Committee Updates**

**B. GusMail Integration**

Jenson: I’m just going to show you how to integrate into GusMail. Details about that, depending on how much mail you have, it can take a few hours. I recommend doing that at night. One thing that’s important to note is that you will still get your incoming email, but your old messages will come back in slowly. This is great. Especially for seniors in the room. I will send out an email that I would like you to forward to your constituents.

Singh: Next year, all of webmail will be gone or will we still have the webmail link?

Jenson: The aim is to not force anyone into anything. Incoming students will be all on Gmail, so in four years there will be total student integration.

Singh: If you are logging in, do you have to use @gustavus.edu?

Jenson: You will keep @gustavus.edu.

Gladitsch: I just migrated mine over the weekend and all of my folders transferred as well. It worked out perfectly! It’s fantastic!

**C. Health & Housing Updates**

Johnson: I want to apologize on how quiet our committee has been. The charge that was put on the committee last Monday, we will not be proceeding with that. We did not find it fruitful enough to continue. Milk in open face cooler was a concern. I was assured by Chef Jake of the temperature regulation on the cooler. If you find milk that has gone bad, you can bring it back for refund, The cooler cannot be any lower without freezing things. Food labeling, I will be meeting with Elliot this week and she seems really excited about labeling for those with food sensitivity. Vacuums, we got in to Charlie’s office this morning, but it seems Charlie is excited to work on this. First time it’s been brought up to him. Look at which vacuums are bad and which just need to be refurbished. Please go back and check with your constituents, we will work with CFs as well.

Thrash: The first charge was stairs behind tennis courts?

Johnson: Yes.

Mahan: What is the concrete pathway behind Sohre progress?

Johnson: I’m emailing Warren this week.

**D. Finance Process Overview**

Branch: Spring budgeting starts next Monday. Organizations will start coming in. We hope that all of us will be respectful of organizations that will be coming in. We might be seeing a large amount of budgets depending on who pulls budgets out. Please treat each and every budget as though it’s the first one and as important as all of the other budgets. Be careful of word choice. Think before you talk. We would really appreciate it if you kept your phones away. I will throw a disclaimer out. We are going to try to get phone numbers for organizations, so they don’t sit out in the hallway for hours. That will help make things a little bit smoother. We will have our phones out for senate purposes. We want to give all of our attention to the organizations that are coming in. You will be getting emails from me or Kaitlin on late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. We want any budgets you would like pulled out by Saturday at 7. We will then communicate with the presidents and organizations.

**E. Mid-Term Vacancy Amendment & Timeline**

Svendsen: We are voting on the amendment considered last week. Contingent on that is the bylaw change. Is it possible to scroll down to the amendment?

Amendment reads: In the event of a mid-term vacancy of a senator, the Ethics Committee must publicize the opening to the position’s constituency and hold an election, which must be carried out according to the stipulations and timelines set forth in the by-laws.

Wicklund: Is the period consistent with everything?

Svendsen: Yes.

Hegg: Would it be absurd to have ethics and PR for the publicizing part?

Timmons: In all other language about vacancy, it’s ethics. It’s consistent with the rest of the document.

Gersch: This isn’t about campaigning.

Vote on Amendment.

 Approved.

Svendsen: The next thing we have to look at is the timeline. This is the timeline we are proposing. The issue is that vacancies kind of turn up at any point. The timeline proposed is that there’s two possible situations for how it can be handled. This is something that needs to be changed so that if a break happens and it was necessary to change the timeline, this is how we are proposing to keep it flexible, while also setting up structure.

JoNes: When number two says the candidate will notify the Ombudsperson, will it be official application or will it just be an email?

Svendsen: I think it depends on the situation. I don’t know if email is the correct form. I think emailing is the best way.

JoNes: One of the challenges in the old system that we can rectify in the new system is that you have to have good academic standing to serve in this body. You would need to make sure you had time to do checks with Dean of Students.

Thrash: Timeline was set with that in mind.

Svendsen: Given the multiple possible circumstances, we tried to keep it flexible while still setting ground rules.

Waggoner: Are we voting to consider? Or pass?

Timmons: I am going to propose that we consider, and then vote to move forward on the vote happening tonight. I think to best serve student organizations, it’s best if this happens tonight. But if you would like more time, that is certainly within your rights.

Gladitsch: I have a question about the Thursday after?

Svendsen: That is why we have an alternative timeline. Point four is to make it flexible enough.

Discussion:

Peterson: If no one does email you back, is there a backup plan?

Svendsen: In that situation, it would be on the Ombudsperson to reach out. We do need to fill that slot. If no one replies by that Thursday, we would use an alternative timeline.

Goldstein: I want to thank previous speakers for bringing up flaws in current bylaws. I don’t know if this was made explicitly clear, but these changes are fully dependent on constitutional amendment passing. A previous speaker brought up the idea of what this process looks like. I wrote some quick wording. “The Ombudsperson must make applications available.” The application could give permission to look at academic record. And then “Applications are due by the Thursday.”

Svendsen: If this does not get considered for some reason, if it is voted down in any way, then we have a constitution applying to something with nothing for it refer to in the bylaws, we would continue this into next year at that point.

Vote on consideration.

 Approved.

Wicklund: Motion to suspend the rules related to disposing of our bylaws this evenining.

Vote on motion.

 Approved.

Discussion:

Waggoner: I move to change language to read: “Ombudsperson must make applications available to constituency of the vacancy…” I just think this helps keep our language consistent.

Peterson: My question is what the application looks like?

Timmons: You signed one at the beginning of the year.

Wicklund: Why do you need to be in good academic standing?

Goldstein: That’s the case with all student organizations on campus. We don’t have the right to check academic standing without a signature.

Wicklund: Move to extend the meeting.

 Approved.

Vote on amendment.

 Approved.

Waggoner: I move to change the language to read “Applications are due by the Thursday…” Same reason.

Vote on amendment.

 Approved.

Grosshuesch: In three, wouldn’t you want it to say following the deadline for applications.

Svendsen: I see that as unnecessary language to the constitution. As far as other points, I personally do not see anything in the current bylaws that would suggest that is necessary.

Vote on immediate disposal of this bylaw amendment.

 Approved.

Goldstein: Was community comment old business?

Timmons: No.

**VI. New Business**

1. **2015-2016 Senate Calendar**

Panzer: Here we have a thrilling look at the 2015-2016 school year. These are the things we are constitutionally obligated to do. Monday meetings and elections. We wanted to leave the cabinet and finance times and dates to those committees. It’s pretty barebones. There’s dates that need to be set. Monday’s missing are Spring Break.

Rasmussen: I thought about potentially changing fall election timelines to a little later to better serve first year students. We didn’t find a good way to change the bylaw to have elections occur after. Sam and I are taking it upon ourselves to really try to connect with first years next year. If you have a great idea to change that, we would love to hear about it.

Timmons: Did I see co-presidential election February 22? That seems very early to me.

Svendsen: It should technically be on Monday, February 29. Applications must be available the first week of classes, applications are due the second Monday of classes, and the election takes place on the fourth Monday of classes.

Vote on calendar.

 Approved.

Wicklund: We had a community comment on Holocaust Days. I would like to charge Diversity Committee and Student Academic Affairs to come up with something.

Vote on charge.

 Approved.

Hegg: I was going to ask Student and Academic Affairs to draft a resolution to Lund center asking that they start pitching in money to provide money for equipment behind Help Desk so that it never has to come out of Senate again.

 Second goes to Waggoner.

Goldstein: I would be interested in changing the charge. I would like it to be worded in the future we would like Lund to be the ones to buy their own equipment.

Wicklund: Is this also under Health and Housing?

Hegg: I think because the motion came out of Student and Academic Affairs, it’s appropriate.

Wicklund: I think it could be a good joint effort.

Hegg: I think it will save time.

Vote on charge.

 Approved.

Timmons: I think that there is a reason we have stipends in our constitution and bylaws. If we were fully aware of how much time finance puts into Senate, their stipends are pennies an hour. I do think that it might be time to have Ethics look into raising finance team’s stipends. I am so grateful that Kaitlin and Courtney have put in the time that they have.

Hegg: I agree with this.

Svendsen: I think that was just wording.

Rasmussen: In my memory, I think it was specifically Administrative Director.

Goldstein: I think a lot of people have worries about looking at stipends in the middle of the year.

Vote on charging ethics to look at stipend raise for finance.

 Approved.

**VII. Announcements**

Timmons: Pay attention to email, we have a lot of things coming up. I won’t capitalize and exclamation point subject lines. Stay on the ball. Finance is coming up. Pay attention to Courtney and Kaitlin’s emails. We have Friday social at JoNes’ house! May 1st, 5:30. If you have yard games, bring to share. Pay attention to an email regarding graduation cords. Thank you in advanced for the next three meetings. They will be very long. Please plan ahead. The last three meetings are often 5 hours. This is finals prep, I get it, but these last meetings are when our constituents need us most. Thank you thank you thank you finance! It’s an unbelievable amount of time and effort. Congratulations to Gabe on the award for Diversity Ball. I want to highlight that every member of this body will be recognized at Night of Distinction this Sunday. I’m glad we get to take a moment to highlight that.

Thrash: I want to apologize to the body for whatever that was. I was not making fun of anyone. We had an extremely long meeting, but it was civil and quick.

Edu: Thursday evening there will be Nigerian feast. This is the first time African food will be served. 4:30-7:00 in the UN.

Wicklund: It’s my half birthday today!

Mahan: On Friday after the Senate get together, you should head down the Dive and watch the step show.

Singh: On May 8th, PASO is hosting last event of the year. Hiphop. The same day is an event put on by hall councils calls Palooza. Come, participate in that.

Jenson: Diabetes week is this week. Tomorrow you can get your blood sugar tested for free. Thursday is a student panel about living with diabetes. Wednesday is a day in the life of a diabetic in the caf. There will be more information available. Saturday, we are having a belgian waffle feed. All of the profits go to diabetes research.

Goldstein: Matt stole a bunch of my announcements. Matt and I messed up our calendar last year, but it’s okay. That’s how all great presidents start. Saturday at 7 is the deadline for budgets. Cords. Congratulations to Matt who will be recognized for leadership award, congratulations to me for buying a car yesterday. Throughout all the budgets coming in, take a step back in and consider if you have personal biases and abstain if you don’t feel like your voice is coming straight from your constituencies.

Hegg: I think the diabetes stuff sounds a lot better than the bake sale for diabetes week. I think we had a fruitful discussion today. I would like you to keep Nepalis killed in earthquake in your thoughts and prayers.

Rasmussen: Thanks for help on calendar. Cabinet applications are due Friday.

Grosshuesch: As you wind down the year, come to a dance class to relax! Friday we are doing David Getta. If there is any specific artist you would like, request it!

Thrash: MayDay is this week!