

Minutes 10/28

Meeting is called to order at 7:02pm

Quorum is met

Minutes from previous meeting are approved

Community Comment

Mandi Braun: concern of diversity and student welfare on campus

1. Diversity: student visibility, accessibility, and resources, suffering from lack of inclusion and accountability, increase visibility within the student body and faculty
2. Discussion
 - a. Senator Smerillo: thank you for coming in, what specifically can Student Senate do to address the issue
 - i. Lay the groundwork of what students need with faculty and administration
 - ii. Want us to contact administration? - direct communication with faculty and administration
 - b. Senator Cella: point of privilege to shut door
 - c. Chair CarlsonSather: thank for voicing concerns, currently working with director of the counseling center to appoint multicultural counselors but department struggles with funding
 - d. Senator Young: what specific policies or actions would you like to see the college and administration take?
 - i. Transparency between President's Council and student body for initiatives.
 - e. Parliamentarian Boyden: Senate is working hard on initiatives, but important to continue the progress
 - f. Chair Johnson: urge to visit the website and see the faculty working groups for initiatives, and once goals are met they are output into community, but could be more transparent within the process.
 - i. Ideally it would be best to hear from the President
 - g. Ombudsperson Doran: we need to center our position and fall back into a lack of transparency because we know what we are working on, diversity at the core of where we are at elsewhere, how we can better uphold constitutional mandate. Committees work together for common initiative (ethics and inclusive excellence)
 - h. Senator Smerillo: We should get actual steps that we can take, discuss, charge specific committees. Would it be in your goals for us to have someone contact administration asking for an increase transparency on

current diversity initiatives? Then we would contact student body and intermediate between the response from administration. Take a step and announce that we are taking a step

- i. Yes, accountability is critical
- i. Chair Menke: what are some goals that you have for the campus?
 - i. Small ones: there's an issue with the word "diversity" on campus and we need to break down the barrier and have it be an energizing conversation.
 - ii. Large ones: make campus ADA accessible and disability inclusive, diversity work being done not just the CIE but other offices.
- j. Senator Ellingson: point of information, if we were to charge a committee would go to new business?
 - i. Yes
- k. Senator Young: which buildings are non ADA accessible?
 - i. Uhler, Rundstrom, Confer Vickner
- l. Senator Schaaf: difficult for disabled family members on campus, need to include family and parents in the Gustavus community, increased transparency of how accessible buildings are needs to be improved.
- m. Mandi Braun: there are no handicapped accessible showers in Gibbs

Committee Updates

Student and Academic Affairs, Senator Warner:

- Vocabulary we cannot change the word choice in "death" because "passing" alienates students who have the same religious beliefs of that vocabulary, focus on inclusive language.
- There's not a lot of student information provided in letter, phone call to family is usually right after they have found out and are grieving, doesn't want to press with questions during mourning, difficult to get information in a timely manner.
- Could be changed: Peer Assistant's added, equipped to be a resource to students,
 - families usually file obituary and GAC could adopt as well, published in a newspaper, filed at a later time when information is given by the family to respect wishes

Health and Housing, Chair Carlson Sather

- Met with Steve, head of dining services, offered to come into a meeting to talk directly to Senate to answer questions and clear up concerns

Technology, Chair Menke

- Reached to GTS to meet about increasing accessibility tech services to students

- Maybe rental computers, survey about how students feel about going paperless, student org activity calendar online.

Public Relations, Chair Gruber

- Weekly meetings summarized on social media to convey to students
- Board is finished, highlight a different Senate member every week

Finance, Director Gupta

- Assigned 2 finance committee members to educate student organization treasurers about the finance process

Old Business

Ethics Committee Students-at-Large, Ombudsperson Doran

- Casey Olson
- Questions
 - Chair CarlsonSather: what is your favorite part of the Constitution or By Laws?
 - Senator Smerillo: what excites you about ethics?
 - Parliamentarian Boyden: what are some initiatives you'd like to take on this year?
- Corinne Stremmel, absent
- Questions
 - Senator Zaun: do you know what would excite her most about ethics?
- Discussion
 - Parliamentarian Boyden: in favor
 - Administrative Director Concepcion: in favor
 - Senator Jorgenson: in favor
 - Ombudsperson Doran: like-minded individuals are drawn to committee and both are energized by laws and ethics
- Vote for Corinne: ayes have it, member is approved
- Vote for Casey: ayes have it, member is approved

Ombudsperson Doran: constitutional referendum will be on Thursday, get excited to vote

New Business

MAPCS Project: Governor Waltz declared a college student food insecurity awareness day

- Board thought it best to do an event of awareness, thinking about doing a video project this week to distribute next week
- Health and Housing, PR, Technology Committees
- Discussion:
 - Senator McDonald: what project were you thinking of doing?

- Have students share their own stories and express thanks and gratitude in a video
 - Ethics Committee should be involved too
 - Ombudsperson Doran: not super ethics related but could get involved with “how does senate uphold the rights and wellbeing of students in food insecurity”, should this be a conversation among the committees involved?
 - Senator Haney: did governor Waltz say what his plan to resolve the issue is?
 - Research for the committees
 - Senator Smerillo: charge the technology committee with including appropriate charis in the discussion with creating a video campaign about food insecurity on college campuses
 - Second to Senator Cella
 - Chair Menke: happy to accept charge but will need people who have experience making videos.
 - Senator Nelson: I am good at making videos and happen to be on your committee?
 - Senator Cella: will this include Public Relation Committee
 - Yeet
- Vote: ayes have it, technology chair is charged

Senator Smerillo: Charge Inclusive Excellence to talk to administration regarding current diversity initiatives on campus, and sending an email of accountability to students and administration

- Discussion
 - Chair CarlsonSather:
 - Speaker Ellingson: amend the charge to draft strategies, initiatives, and policies related to diversity equity and inclusion
 - Friendly from Senator Smerillo
- Vote: ayes have it, charge passes ot Inclusive Excellence Committee

Announcements

Chair CarlsonSather: I <3 Halloween

Administrative Director Concepcion: Faculty Reports are due Monday, November 4

Ombudsperson Doran: come to the Wind concert on Sunday

Co-President Bhakta: nonprofit and government career fair is this Friday, bus leaves at 8:15am, comes back at 3:30pm, sponsored by Career Development

Senator Smerillo: Model UN is going to Chicago in November, November 16 Scrimmage noon-4pm, model UN session, Beck 111, may pair with Building Bridges about environmental sustainability solutions

Chair Gruber: HACO is celebrating Hmong New Year in Alumni Hall 6-8:30pm, with food

Senator Ellingson: DLC Letters of Goodness October 30, 6:30-8pm in courtyard

-Queers and Allies of the Night: Oct 31, 5:30pm in 3 Flags to trick or treat for the food Pantry in St. Peter

-Rejoin our Loved Ones: HACO and OLAS, November 1

Senator Young: Political Science Friday Forum on Studying Abroad 12:30 Old Main 006, this Friday

Senator Lim: DLC event for Letters of Goodness would be good to have Student Senate members for diversity accountability

Co-President Villarreal: Chapel service for Día de los Muertos this Friday, food, art, amazing

Parliamentarian Boyden: Friday for Future, during Chapel in Multifaith center

Meet Adjourned at 7:57pm