

27 April 2020 Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Quorum is met

## **Approval of the Minutes**

*Minutes are approved*

## **Community Comment**

### **Amy Sanchez - Academic Operations Committee**

Amy Sanchez: I am a part of the honor board with the college. We wanted to reach out to the Senate, because there are very clear issues of cheating and plagiarism that have set punishments, but there are other issues that aren't always so clear. I am just here to get feedback from you all if you have any thoughts or comments related to this issue. I am not sure if you have read the academic policies lately, but we would be interested in feedback about these. This is especially important now since everything is only and there is not the ability to sign the honor code in person.

- Advisor Advisor Ruble: One thing I have noticed is that the policies do not explain how the honor board procedure works, which I think needs to be included. Another thing I would think about changing is the wording from guilty/not guilty to responsible/not responsible

Amy Sanchez: Another point I would bring up is that there is a section stating you are not allowed to record classroom materials, which professors need to get permission to record google meets and such. These are the types of issues that come to us that are not clear cut issues, so we need to find a better way to let students know about these policies.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Health and Housing**

Chair CarlsonSather: I am going to start by talking about the CBD policies. Many people believe that CBD should not be included in the THC and marijuana policies. We think it should be included under a similar violation as smoking/other inhaled products

- Senator Jeremiason: I would like to know a little more about why this is punishable since CBD is legal.
  - ◆ Chair CarlsonSather: Having CBD itself is not a violation in and of itself, but it is not supposed to be used in the form of smoking.

→ Senator Braun: I would like to thank you for bringing this to the Senate's attention, because I think it is an important issue. I have many chronic illnesses and I use CBD to help with those. However, I have found inhalation to be the easiest way for my body to take in this product. Are these policies flexible at all for people who have medical documentation to use it in this way?

◆ Chair CarlsonSather: Yes, I believe they are not a proponent of inhalation because there is still limited research done in this regard. However, I know it is not illegal off campus. Megan could maybe say more on this.

◆ Advisor Ruble: Yeah we are going based on the recommendation of health services since inhalation can have negative effects, but it is okay to use in other forms.

◆ Senator Braun: Sweet thank you!

Advisor Ruble: I would like to know whether or not you propose these changes for when I bring it in front of the board.

→ Senator Young: I would be in favor of these proposed changes.

→ Senator Senator Olono: I am in favor of changing this wording. I used to use CBD oil and I did not realize it was something I could get in trouble for. I also think it would be important to help come up with options who do currently use CBD in the form of vaping.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further comments or questions, we can move onto the next item.

Chair CarlsonSather : The second item of business is regarding our discussion on visitation hours. This was something the Senate worked on back in 2015, and much of it aligned with what we had discussed. I am in favor of changing the wording, but I would like to hear what you all think about it.

→ Advisor Ruble: The only part I would consider changing is the part marked in green, which says that hallways and section lounges are NOT considered 24-hour visitation areas, so I am not sure if that is something that should be changed.

→ Senator Young: I agree with the proposed policy changes. With the portion marked in green, I do not foresee that being a huge issue if people are just walking through the hallways leaving someone's room.

- Senator Patterson: I would be in favor of these changes.
- Advisor Ruble: I am going to try to figure out a way to do a poll so that we can see whether or not people are in favor.
- Chair CarlsonSather : I contacted Anthony regarding the situation for off campus housing. I was not sure exactly what constituents were looking for, but he said he would be willing to come in and talk with the Senate, so I am going to ask him to come in next week.

### **Finance Committee**

Director Gupta: We have 38 organizations with 38 budgets that we have been reviewing, and we will be able to start getting those approved at the next meeting.

### **By-Law Amendment**

Ombudsperson Menke: I sent out the document regarding polling places and voting procedures for the Senate. I added a subsection that allows us to remove the bylaws requiring public polling places if we are unable to do so under circumstances such as this. The section section changes faculty reports to employee reports, and it would require all senators to do so. I also added a section for international senators.

- Co-President Elect Doran: Do the changes to the employee reports make them mandatory for class representatives as well?
  - ◆ Ombudsperson Menke: Yes, it would now be hall representatives and class representatives.
- Chair Yangh: Would a student employee count as someone who could be interviewed?
  - ◆ Ombudsperson Menke: I am not sure if you would get as good of information from a student, but you probably would be able to interview someone who does work study.
  - ◆ Senator Young: Point of clarification -- I think because Senators are often reaching out to students as part of our organization, so I would propose clarifying the wording to apply to closer to full time employees at the college, rather than students doing work study.

## **Old Business**

### **ES Letter**

Chair Yangh: I can give you a brief overview. One thing I want to mention is that it is a very busy and unprecedented time for the college figuring out plans for the fall semester, so I think we should consider whether or not this is the right time to send out the letter. I tried not to come off too pushy or aggressive with the letter. We made sure to let the college know that the Environmental Sustainability Committee is willing to help and lend a hand in any way that we can.

- Senator Patterson: I just wanted to say I think it is a very well written letter, and you recognize that the college is busy, but we still think this is an important issue. I would propose waiting to send this letter maybe until mid-May once the college is done figuring out scheduling for fall semester.
- Chair Yangh: I also want to know your thoughts on sending it to the Provost and Dean of the College Brenda Kelly because she works with President Bergman and oversees the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation.
- Senator Young: My question was going to be why you chose to send it to these people, so you answered that question. I would second Senator Patterson that we should wait a couple weeks to send the letter.
- Senator Fest: I motion to send out this letter.

*Seconded by Senator Braun.*

- Senator Young: I would propose a friendly that we send the letter in 2 weeks time.
  - ◆ Senator Fest: I accept the friendly.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of having Senator Yangh send the letter in two weeks time say aye.

*The ayes have it. Motion passes.*

## **New Business**

### **2020-21 Cabinet Appointments**

Co-President Elect Conception: Our first nominee is Corinne Stremmel for Public Relations chair. She has an English and Communications major. She is involved with the Gustavian

Weekly and a writing center tutor. She also has a lot of background in graphic design, so I think we would be a great fit for the position

- Senator Young: What are some of the proposals you suggested for the position?
  - ◆ Corrine Stremmel: I would like to make a change in how we share information. I think the newsletter is very long right now. I think students want information in a way that is fast and efficient. I also want to promote Senate more on social media
- Senator Young: Have you held any other leadership positions within a student organization?
  - ◆ Corrine Stremmel: At the writing center, I work often with students one on one and I have worked with the other staff there. I also have many leadership and editing roles at the gustavian weekly.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

- Chair CarlsonSather : I have worked with Corrine and I support her being voted into this position.
- Co-President Elect Doran: I have worked with Corinne in a number of areas. We are in a class together that published the literary magazine on campus and she does a great job with that.
- Senator Olono: I had the chance to interact with her at the start of the semester. She is really sweet and hardworking and I think she would be a great fit.
- Co-President Bhakta: I was able to work with Corinne on the weekly and she is always striving to do better, and I think she has some great ideas for next year.
- Chair Gruber: She seems very well rounded and like she would do a great job in this position.

Co-President Elect Conception: Our next proposal is for Signe Jeremiason to be the Environmental Sustainability Chair. She is an environmental studies and classics major. She is a leader of the radicals and our current off-campus representatives.

- Chair Yangh: One criticism I get a lot is that environmental sustainability movements on campus do not involve people of color, so how would you include DEI in this role? And what have you done on campus related to environmental sustainability?

- ◆ Senator Jeremiason: Yes, so I am a firm believer that human rights are planet rights. It is very important for all voices to be heard. Environmental issues often affect minorities and marginalized groups at larger rates. We need to take environmental racism seriously. I try to reach out people I know on DLC for advice and suggestions. I have also tried to do my research and unlearn mainstream environmentalism. Some things I have done on campus are that I am an avid composter, and I try to encourage other students to do so. We work a lot with environmental issues in the radicals. I participated in the global climate strike and Groundswell, and I have attended EAC meetings. One thing I think is really important is to help people recognize that their individual impact makes a difference, while also holding larger corporations accountable. I also want to explore the avenues of art and environmental sustainability.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

- Senator Nelson: I had geo-chemistry with Signe. Everything she stated in class was very intelligent and I could tell that she really cares about the environment.
- Chair Yang: I would second the previous speaker. She applied for students at large and had a great application, but she withdrew to run for off campus rep.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of Signe Jeremiason becoming next Environmental Sustainability Chair say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Doran: Our nomination for Administrative Director is Delaney Bluhm. She is a Political Science and Peace studies major. She is involved in Building Bridges, Model UN, and AMOM. I have worked with her personally on Model UN and she is very organized and we think she would make a great fit.

- Co-President Bhakta: Do you have any experience taking minutes, attendance, and sending out emails?
  - ◆ Delaney Bluhm: At home, I volunteer at the fire department in my town and I have taken minute meetings for that which also follows Robert's rules. I have also done attendance in this setting. I have not sent out mass emails, but I definitely think I will be able to figure it out.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

- Senator Hietpus: Delaney is a close friend of mine and I think she would do a great job in this position.
- Co-President Elect Doran: I personally feel that Delaney would be a great fit for this position. I have worked with her on Model UN and she always does her tasks well.
- Senator Olono: I also worked with Delaney on Model UN and she took very detailed notes and would meet the requirements well.
- Ombudsperson Menke: I think she would be understanding if someone didn't do the faculty report, but she would also make sure everything gets done.

Co-President Elect Doran: Mandii Braun is our nominee for Parliamentarian. She is a Political Science, GWSS, and Peace Studies triple major. Some of her involvements are WAC, Building Bridges, and DLC. I think she has a lot of good experiences and would be a great fit for this position.

- Co-President Bhakta: What interested you in running for this position?
  - ◆ Senator Braun: I just joined the Senate this semester and only got to have one in person meeting, but I was hooked right away. I love seeing the change Senate is able to bring on campus. I am a rule-follower, but not overboard. I think I walk a good line and want to try and do this job to the best of my ability if you choose me.
- Advisor Ruble: I know in 2018, you worked on a campaign. Do you think this will be an issue this coming fall?
  - ◆ Senator Braun: I do not think so. I work very well under pressure. I am also not currently working on a campaign, so I do not foresee that being an issue.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will now move to a discussion.

- Co-President Elect Conception: I have known Mandii since freshman year, and I know she is very detail oriented, and after seeing her initial excitement with the Senate and I think she'll be able to bring this to teaching Robert's Rules.
- Co-President Elect Doran: I think her election experience and impersonal work with teaching will be very beneficial in this position.

→ Senator Yang: I have worked with Mandii in many different areas of campus. She is very multi-faceted and I think she does well with time management and we can trust her in this role.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no more discussion, we will now move to a vote. All those in favor of appointing Mandii Braun as Parliamentarian say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Conception: Brendon Chair CarlsonSather is the current health and Housing Chair and he is our choice for next year as well. He is a bio major and a Spanish minor. He has been doing a great job already this year and has pushed through many initiatives. He also has a lot of new ideas for next year.

→ Co-President Bhakta: What are some of the new ideas you have for next year?

◆ Chair CarlsonSather: I would like to continue working on pedestrian safety, stocking bathrooms with feminine products, and working on removing gendered and cis normative language from campus policies.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions or discussions, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of Chair CarlsonSather becoming the new Health and Housing Chair say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Conception: Our nominee for Technology Director is Abbie Doran. She is a mathematics and computer science major, and a dance and economics minor. She is involved with the Gustavus Dance Company and works in the Chaplain's Office.

→ Ombudsperson Menke: What would you like to see changed going into next year?

◆ Abbie Doran: I think this pandemic has shown that there is a disconnect between students' accessibility to technology. I think there are different options such as a computer sharing system or social distanced computer labs. I think this is important because there is a great variety in students and their access, so it is important for everyone's voice to be heard. Therefore I would like to see updates to the Senate website to make it more accessible.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.



- Senator Young: She seems to be very aware of the needs of students, and I think she will be able to address any changes that arise with all these new circumstances.
- Chair Yangh: I know Abbie individually and she is very enthusiastic and passionate about working with the student body. I also think her computer science major will bring a lot to the position
- Ombudsperson Menke: As former tech chair, I think she is much more qualified than I was and since I will be on the Cabinet next year I will be able to help her and I think she will do a great job and be a fast learner

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of appointing Abbie Doran as the new Technology Chair say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Doran: Our next nominee is Alex Johnson for Finance director. He is very well qualified as a financial economics major. He is also our current Finance Controller and he is involved in the Investment Club.

- Chair CarlsonSather: What are some of the initiatives you would like to work on next year?
  - ◆ Controller Johnson: For the past 12 years or so, we have been using google sheets for the Senate budgeting process which is good for sharing information, but there is a lot you cannot do. I have been talking to Megan about implementing a system such as quickbooks. Additionally, I will plan to continue to use the survey we implemented this year.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

- Co-President Elect Doran: I have known Alex for a while through Senate and personally. He is very good at what he does. I have heard from friends who went to him for budgets and they said he was very helpful and personable.
- Senator Young: I served on the finance committee this year with Controller Johnson and he has done a fantastic job. I think he will do a great job with creating an easier system for finances in the Senate.

- Co-President Elect Conception: I know close to nothing about finance, but I have complete faith in Alex to do this job.
- Director Gupta: I cannot think of another person more competent to do this job. He takes initiative and has done major work in improving the budgeting process this year.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of Controller Johnson becoming next year's Finance Director say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Doran: Our choice for Finance Controller is Jenna Wyum. She is an accounting major and a political science minor. She has been involved in GWiL and GYO. She has a lot of interpersonal experience and we think she would be a great fit.

- Senator Young: What experience doing budgets at Gustavus do you have?
  - ◆ Jenna Wyum: I do not have any experience yet at Gustavus, but I work as a bank teller at Pioneer banks, so I have experience working with money.
- Senator Young: What classes at Gustavus have you taken that will help you in this position?
  - ◆ Jenna Wyum: Financial accounting and microeconomics. I will also be taking macro econ, other accounting classes, and business courses.
- Chair Yangh: What challenges do you think you will face in this position and how will you address this?
  - ◆ Jenna Wyum: I imagine mid year budget allocations will be time consuming, and just learning all the budget processes that the Senate uses.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

- Senator Young: She seems like she would be a great fit and that she has a lot of experience!
- Co-President Elect Doran: In her application, she talked about how she maintains a personal budget and her practical experience with work. She also seemed very eager to learn.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of Jenna Wyum becoming the Financial Controller say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Conception: Our nominee for inclusive excellence chaire is Charlotte Lim. She is a sociology and anthropology major and a peace studies minor. She has been involved in nearly every aspect of diversity on campus, and we were excited about her ideas for new initiatives

→ Chair Johnson: What are some of the new ideas you have for next year?

◆ Senator Lim: One thing I would like to work on is gender transparency in many aspects, such as gender neutral bathrooms. In general, I want to provide more access to those who identify as trans, gender neutral, and other similar categories.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

→ Chair Johnson: I have worked with Charlotte on many occasions and she always seems very engaged and willing to learn.

→ Speaker Ellingson: I have worked with her on DLC and I think she is a great fit. She does not step on other peoples' toes, and is not confrontational which I think is an important skill.

→ Chair CarlsonSather : Charlotte was on my committee this year and she always showed up for meetings and was very dedicated to the work we were doing.

→ Senator Olono: I cannot think of anyone better suited for this position.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of Senator Lim becoming next year's Inclusive Excellence Chair say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

Co-President Elect Conception: Our final nominee is Paige Patterson for Student Academic Affairs Chair. She is a Political Science, Spanish, and LALACS. She is currently a senator. She is also involved in the Mentor program, the voter education committee, and GWiL. She seems to have a lot of reach in different areas on campus.

- Co-President Bhakta: What would be your plans for working with the care office?
  - ◆ Senator Patterson: I think the care office is more important now than ever whether we are online or not to make sure students are provided with the best help we can offer to them.

Co-President Villarreal: If there are no further questions, we will move to a discussion.

- Senator Olono: I have been able to work with Paige in Senate and Model UN. She is very hard working and organized. I think she would be a great fit for this position.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of Senator Patterson becoming next year's Student Academic Affairs Chair say aye.

*The ayes have it. Appointment is confirmed.*

### **Senate Fund**

Co-President Villarreal: During our Cabinet meeting, we discussed using our excess money in our Senate fund. Some of these ideas were to add it to the emergency relief fund, put it towards senior week, or use it to help seniors travel back for graduations, so we just wanted to see what ideas people might have.

- Co-President Bhakta: I think we should try and think creatively, and be aware of the impact it will have.
- Speaker Ellingson: Point of order. We need to have a vote to extend the meeting time, because it will officially end at 9:15 based on the constitution.
- Senator Patterson: How much money do we have leftover that we would be using?
  - ◆ Director Gupta: We have currently 130,000 dollars. Our thought was to use 90 to 100,000 of it, and keep 30,000 of it for a cushion next year.
- Senator Patterson: The idea that peaked my interest the most would be to help Seniors get back if there is a commencement. I have talked to a lot of my out of state and international friends, and they aren't sure they will be able to make it back, so I would love to be able to help with this.
- Director Gupta: After doing some rough estimations, it is possible we would be able to use the money in more than one way since we would not need all of it for senior scholarships.

- Senator Young: I would be in favor of using some of the funds to create scholarships for seniors to come back, but I would be in favor of rolling over the rest of the funds to next year. Secondly, I would move to table this discussion for 30 seconds so we can vote on extending the meeting.
- Senator Young: I move to remove the meeting time cap.

*Seconded by Senator Hieptus.*

Co-President Villarreal: We will now move to a vote. All those in favor of removing the meeting time cap say aye.

*The ayes have it. Motion passes.*

- Advisor Advisor Ruble: One point I would like to make is that for many years, we have had rollovers of around \$100,000 so we are going to look into that more because Suyash and I think we should have more. I also reached out to other advisors about what they are doing. Some are using it for a food pantry, community outreach, some for online learning resources, others donated to emergency funds, and one I really liked was that the funds would roll over to a special fund that could be used for organizations to try new things.
- Co-President Elect Doran: One of the things I hope to keep at the front of our decision is our community. We need to be thinking about the people who are affected the most by Covid-19. I also think this is an important issue and should be given its time, and this meeting has already gone on for over 2 hours. One option could be to charge the Finance Committee with coming up with a proposal.
- Co-President Bhakta: I do like Advisor Advisor Ruble's idea for a special fund. I do not think we need to limit ourselves to what we have done in the past.
- Senator Young: I think it might be more advantageous to have this discussion next week after we have finalized budgets and have a better sense of where our total surplus is.
- Ombudsperson Menke: The constitution is pretty broad with what we can do with the money, and any finance bylaws can be overturned with a two-thirds vote.

### **Proposed By-Laws**

→ Senator Young: I move that we adopt the bylaw amendments as proposed earlier in this meeting.

*Seconded by Senator Fest.*

→ Senator Young: I think this is a good idea if similar circumstances arise in the future.

Co-President Villarreal: All those in favor of adopting the new bylaw amendments say aye.

*The ayes have it. Motion passes.*

### **Announcements**

Co-President Villarreal: Please remember to send your employee reports out, so we can get those back. Also, sign up for your tabling hours. Feel free to ask if you have any questions. Lastly, President Bergman will be at our meeting so please make sure to fill out our google doc.

Co-President Elect Doran: I think Senators should come up with some conclusive ideas about what we might want to do with the Senate fund, so Senators should be thinking about that for next week.

Chair CarlsonSather: I just want to thank everyone for feedback on the policy change proposal. We couldn't have done it without all of you!