

11 May 2020 Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Quorum is met.

Approval of the minutes

No discrepancies with the minutes.

Community Comment

Anthony Bettendorf

→ CarlsonSather: How does res life publicize the opportunity to study off campus?

- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: We typically do this through email. We also hosted drop in hours for people to meet. There are some automatic factors that will get you off campus, but otherwise we focus on filling on campus housing first since that is a big part of Gustavus.

→ CarlsonSather: What is the process to apply for off-campus housing?

- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: There was an application that was due March 20th that needs to be filled out to be considered. There are 6 qualifiers: active military duty, married, if they own a house, and if they will be 23 by the first day of class. I am forgetting the other one. These are the only automatic qualifiers. The only reason we would release other people is if we fill capacity on campus.

→ CarlsonSather: Of the extra people who get off, how is it decided who is released off campus?

- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: This is complicated. It depends on class sizes. Gender also plays a factor if we have a female heavy class and need more rooms. Seniors have priority and room draw number plays a role.

→ CarlsonSather: When do people who apply find out if they are accepted?

- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: Usually those decisions are not made till late may or early June, but that can go all summer. Last year we offered someone a spot off as late as July.

- CarlsonSather: How are housing accommodations handled, and are people with accommodations given a room draw number.
- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: This varies year to year depending on how many of these we have. It is primarily done on a case by case basis. There is a committee that looks over these. It includes myself, our on campus dietician, a member of health services, and a member of our academic service center. We review all the applications and then decide where best to place them, so this happens before room selection starts.
- CarlsonSather: How does res life work to promote understanding of the room draw process itself?
- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: As I said we communicate a lot by email. Danny has been doing numerous hours of tabling to talk with students with questions on certain housing situations. He responds to email. He has done google meetings to help with this as well.
- CarlsonSather: Will people who applied for the quad waitlist get moved off this summer?
- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: Danny will start moving people into those as people get moved off. Some people get off campus. Other people drop out. Last year we let off around 35 people who didn't automatically qualify and ended up getting moved off. As people accept those off campus offers, we will then move people off the waitlist into quads.
- CarlsonSather: As class sizes continue to increase, how will res life change the room draw process if at all to limit waitlists and movement?
- ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: Yeah we will have to see what this looks like. We may have more people we let off campus, but the actual room draw process would not change a lot. And again, there's a good chance this could happen as this year's graduating class was one of the smallest and the rest have continually gotten larger.
- CarlsonSather: Was Uhler in the room draw process? And why did it seem like not all the quads were showing up as available?

- ◆ Yes Uhler was a part of it and it went fast. We also had a lot more accommodations this year that included four person rooms which is why some of those may not have been listed.
- Co-President Elect Doran: Are some accommodations prioritized over others? And what the process looks like for that?
 - ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: I don't really think we prioritize any, but by ADA standards, we need to make sure we are meeting the needs of these students so we can make their living situation as positive as we can. After the accommodation is approved, then I work with Danny to find a room that will meet their needs.
- Co-President Elect Doran: Are people with accommodations given a higher room draw time, or do they just get a room set aside?
 - ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: It fits more closely to the latter. We pick a room for them and that room is then not a part of the room draw process. However, they usually do not get to pick the room they want that is done by our res life team. We try and spread the accommodations of people needing kitchens out so they are not in the same building
- Senator Patterson: I have had a lot of constituents who are concerned with communication and transparency regarding off campus housing. They do understand the need of fitting all the freshmen first, but I think it could be helpful to be given a timeline instead of being left in the dark for months waiting to know if they will get off campus.
 - ◆ Anthony Bettendorf: We do send out general information about the selection process upon receiving their application. I am also always available and happy to answer questions that students have.

Committee Updates

Environmental Sustainability Committee

Chair Yangh: I just wanted to let everyone know it has been two weeks since I wrote my letter, so I will be sending that out after tonight's meeting.

Student and Academic Affairs

Chair Dunna: So I emailed Stephanie Otto regarding ACT/FIT credits. She said it might be hard for this year since there was just the curriculum change, but she said she would be willing to speak with the person in her position next year, and work towards accommodations for next year.

Public Relations

Chair Gruber: So I finished the infographic from my charge last week. I think it would be the most helpful to have Class and Hall representatives send this out to their constituents. I contacted Charlie Potts, but he didn't have any very specific examples. However, he said the committee really wants to work with students to help with any needs they may have.

Ombudsperson Menke/Tech Committee

Ombudsperson Menke: I reached out to Jesse at GTS. I haven't heard back yet, but once they get back to me I will let everyone know and then share that information with the Finance Committee to see how we can get that funded.

Finance Committee

Controller Johnson: We discussed it last week and we all agreed we shouldn't make any large statements about the travel fund until we know more about when commencement will actually occur. We decided to allocate \$10,000 towards this travel fund. And \$20,000 just for relief during and after struggles with COVID-19.

Old Business

No old Business

New Business

Budgets

Controller Johnson: Today, we are going to be doing budget approvals for budgets over \$5,000. The first budget we will be looking at is for the Gustavus Dance Team. They are requesting a total of \$15,924.82 and we are suggesting an amount of \$6,970. I believe this needs to be done in a roll call vote. This will be the full amount for a competitive organization plus some additional for a coach.

Co-President Villarreal: Are there any questions?

→ Senator Patterson: How much did we allocate for them last year?

◆ Controller Johnson: Just over \$7,000.

→ Co-President Elect Doran: So I see that they want money for practice tank tops. Is that something they will be reusing?

◆ Controller Johnson: Yes, as far as I know the members will use them for the duration of their time.

→ Chair Yangh: Does anyone know if the Gustavus Dance Team does their own funding?

◆ Controller Johnson: They have dues that go towards some of their costs and students pay for any travel that Senate doesn't fund

Senator Hieptas: I move to remove the need for a roll call vote to approve these budgets.

Seconded by Senator Johnson.

Co-President Villarreal: All those in favor of dismissing the roll call vote for the budgets say aye.

*The ayes have it. Motion Passes.
One Nay.*

Co-President Villarreal: And if there is no further discussion on the dance team budget, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the Dance Team's budget say aye.

The ayes have it. Budget Passes.

Director Gupta: There is someone here who wants to speak and represent the dance team.

→ Advisor Ruble: I know we just approved the budget, but she has been waiting for a long time and I feel like she deserves the chance to speak on the group's behalf.

→ Ombudsperson Menke: Since we already approved the budget, that will not change, but we could vote to give them more money.

→ Parliamentarian Boyden: I think she should have the chance to speak as she made it a point to show up to the meeting.

Nicole: I am one of the captains of the Gustavus Dance Team. We are actually both a competition team and a performance team, so we are two different groups, but we must apply for our budget as one. I also want to emphasize the importance of adding a coach this year. We

believe it is very important to have both a coach and a choreographer because they both bring a lot to the team. In the past, we had been paying out of pocket for our choreographer, but she is no longer with us and costs have gotten much greater and we would no longer be able to afford this. Not having a choreographer the last two years really hurt our scores at nationals and competitions.

→ Director Gupta: What additional amount of money would help be successful for you guys?

◆ Nicole: I know \$3,000 is a lot of additional money, but even if you could help us with \$1,000 or \$2,000.

→ Senator Young: Now knowing that you are two separate organizations, I feel like it would be fine to fund an additional \$1,000 for a choreographer and \$1250 towards the competition travel. I move that we give an additional \$2,250 towards the dance team.

Seconded by Senator Patterson.

→ Senator Young: If they had applied as separate organizations they would have received this additional amount anyway so I think it makes sense to fund this additional amount.

Co-President Villarreal: All those in favor of approving an additional \$2,250 for the Dance Team say aye.

The ayes have it. Budget approved.

Director Gupta: Just to reiterate for Nicole, the total amount the dance team will be receiving is \$9,220.

Director Gupta: Our next organization is the Equestrian Team; they requested an amount of \$5,510. We are recommending giving them this full amount. The money will go towards travel cost, facility use for horse shows, new equipment, and to pay for a coach.

→ Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of funding the recommended budget for the Equestrian team say aye.

The ayes have it. Budget Approved.

Director Gupta: The next organization is GSNA. They requested \$6,039.92 and we are recommending \$1305.00. For a non competitive organization they can only receive \$1250, and then some additional for some snacks for one of their events, so we are giving them the full amount we are able to.

→ Advisor Ruble: Have we funded this organization for travel in the past?

◆ Director Gupta: Yes we gave them the cap last year.

→ Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget for GSNA say aye.

The ayes have. Budget Approved.

Director Gupta: The Gustavus Club Hockey team has requested \$22,600. However, we feel comfortable funding an amount of \$9,200.00. This money would go towards travel and hosting games. They also need money for a coach and officials.

→ Ombudsperson Menke: Does the recommended funding include any for dues?

◆ Director Gupta: No it does not.

→ Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget for Club Hockey say aye.

The ayes have it. Budget passes.

Director Gupta: Next we have Men's Nordic Skiing. They need money for trail fees, registration, lodging, fees, and practice. We feel comfortable funding the full amount in every category except for travel since our cap is \$4500.

→ Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget say aye.

The ayes have it. Budget Passes.

Director Gupta: The next club is Men's Rugby. They have requested \$6,315 and we are recommending to fund this entire amount.

- Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget say aye.

*The ayes have it. Budget Passes.
One abstention.*

Director Gupta: Next we have The United States Institute of Technical Theatre. This is a newer organization. They have requested a budget of \$8,890. We recommend funding \$1250 as this is the cap for non competitive organizations, The greatest amount comes from their travel to Conferences.

- Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget say aye.

The ayes have. Budget Passes.

Director Gupta: Our next organization is Women's Nordic Skiing. They have requested a budget of \$9,237 and we are recommending an amount of \$7,415. This is due to the cap on competitive budgets.

- Senator Hieptas: I forgot to ask this for Men's Nordic Ski. Was the full amount approved for last year and this year?

◆ Director Gupta: Yeah last year they received the full amount but we changed the by law to increase this amount.

- Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget say aye.

The ayes have it. Budget Passes.

Director Gupta: The next organization is Women's Rugby. They have requested an amount of \$12,710. We are recommending an amount of \$7,710. They did ask for an additional amount if they make it to regionals or nationals, so we are going to wait to fulfill this part of the request if they do make it to regionals or nationals.

- Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the recommended budget say aye.

*The ayes have it. Budget Approved.
One abstention.*

Director Gupta: Next we have the budget for Student Senate. There is a requested amount of \$48,304. This money will go to Gus Bus, general expenses such as stipends, Day at the Capitol, a shuttle bus for the general election, and a new item on the list for the Cabinet to attend a leadership conference.

→ Co-President Bhakta: So for the ASGA DC Conference, is that something that will happen next year?

◆ Co-President Elect Conception: We were looking at leadership conferences. After submitting this budget, we found out it did not get the best reviews, so we found a different virtual option and this will allow Cabinet members to do workshops from home.

◆ Advisor Ruble: Yeah this is a conference that CAB goes to and it's very well known. We just got prices back and it sounds like it is around \$100 per person per session, so I am not sure if \$1250 will be enough for the whole cabinet and I would recommend allocating more funds to this.

◆ Co-President Elect Doran: We want our cabinet to be well versed in the world of Student Government. We have specific workshops we want certain Cabinet members to attend and then there are two sessions we would like everyone to attend. Those would be on Equity and Inclusion and then a general program on Student Government.

→ Chair Johnson: What made you decide this would be the best way to strengthen the next cabinet?

◆ Co-President Elect Doran: We have a few main focuses as Co-Presidents. We want to continue supporting leadership in organizations including our own. This is something we haven't really done within Student Senate thought, but I think it would be very beneficial to learn from other institutions and other peers.

→ Senator Fest: I move that we increase the amount of funding to the Conference to \$4645.

Seconded by Senator Heiptas.

- Co-President Bhakta: I think this would be very beneficial since other student governments do run very differently than our own. This year I was a member of MAPSAS and I got to meet with various MIAC schools as a representative.
- Director Gupta: I think this is a good motion. Sometimes the bylaws prohibit us from funding amounts we would like to.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no further discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving the Senate Budget say aye.

The ayes have it. Motion Passes and Budget is approved.

Director Gupta: That was all our budgets for today. I did want to mention that we discussed our charge from last week. Our proposed amounts are \$10,000 for a commencement travel fund. This would be accessible to seniors who live 350 miles or more from campus. We will set this aside until the new commencement date is decided and then receive applications.

- Co-President Elect Doran: So we will set that amount aside, but we will not discuss it until the commencement date is set? Is this amount flexible at all?

- ◆ Director Gupta: Yeah since we don't know if commencement will happen in the summer or the fall or later.

- Ombudsperson Menke: So if we just make the decision that this budget will be passed onto the new Controller and Director to make these decisions in case this would need to be done over the summer since we will not have senators yet.

- ◆ Co-President Bhakta: I would agree with this idea.

- Senator Young: Another note is that we chose 350 miles as that is the number the college uses for storage. If the total amount needed by students was over \$10,000. We would figure out the exact percent and every request would be reduced by the same percent so that would remove some of the discretion needed so we would not be picking and choosing between students.

- ◆ Co-President Elect Doran: That information is helpful and I feel comfortable with this decision.

Director Gupta: The long term impact fund is money that will be set aside for students or organizations to request for if they have new ideas they want to try out or that doesn't fall under our typical guidelines. One of the ideas was the computer fund and this money could be used for that. It can essentially be used for anything and the Senate has free rain to make decisions on a case by case basis.

→ Senator Johnson: Just a clarification is that this money we were considering using for the laptops so I wanted to let Ombudsperson Menke.

◆ Ombudsperson Menke: That is helpful. I was looking at options today and we can get carts of rechargeable chromebooks for \$500 for 10 and we could get some of those and I think it would be a great use of the money.

→ Senator Lim: One idea that has come up with my committee and from constituents would be to use some of the funding to work with the indigenous committee. There is a proposal to combine this group with the Johnson Center so we would not lose this position. Our proposal was denied and wouldn't be considered again until the summer of 2021. So I thought maybe some of this money could go to paying for this position.

→ Co-President Bhakta: yeah I actually met with MAPSAS and we discussed similar topics. Many of the miac schools are already starting to rent out laptops and use money to pay for wifi and they said it has worked very well. We also talked about reconciliation efforts. I think both ideas are very great and deserve to be considered.

→ Ombudsperson Menke: So are you proposing that we pay this person for their service?

◆ Senator Lim: Frances has been the main leader for the indigenous relations committee and the proposal was also to have him take over at the Johnson Center which is in charge of Big Hill Farm. He would not only then be working with both these committees but also teaching courses.

→ Ombudsperson Menke: I just have a question for Advisor Ruble. Contractually if this is something we can do?

◆ Advisor Ruble: Yeah I was thinking about that. I do not think we are able to fund a specific person to do a specific job. I think it has to be done more broadly.

- ◆ Ombudsperson Menke: Yeah I think this would be a valuable thing to the Gustavus Community, but I think it could contractually and logistically become an issue, so I think we should be cautious moving forward with this idea.
- Chair Yangh: Do we have an estimate of how many students would use a rental service?
- ◆ Ombudsperson Menke: I do not. I am not sure if this is something Gustavus keeps record of. I thought about doing some sort of survey, but due to this access issue it may not be possible for everyone to answer. GTS might know more.
- Chair Yangh: I really like the idea that senator Lim pointed out. In my position I am always looking to find more ways to encourage environmental sustainability, so I think this position would be so beneficial to learn about both sustainability and reconciliation. For example, the University of Minnesota has worked with doing a natural medicine garden that has been very successful.
- Co-President Elect Doran: Yeah I think this is something we should be supporting as a senate and I think this provides a unique opportunity. I think we could give the money directly to the Indigenous Reconciliation Committee to help achieve these goals, but it would limit contractual obligations.
- ◆ Senator Lim: I do think that is something that would be very beneficial and helpful in keeping this position opporattng.
- Director Gupta: These we just established as a 9 line and more discussion on extra money could happen at a later date.
- Co-President Villarreal: This money that would possibly go to the IR Committee, they could request it from the long-term impact fund?
- ◆ Director Gupta: Yes, they would be able to request money from that fund for this purpose.

*Roll Call vote passes unanimously.
The ayes have it. Budget is approved.*

Mid year Allocation

Senator Young: I move that we fund \$158 for the future Cabinet to attend this conference since it got moved to an earlier date.

Seconded by Speaker Ellingson.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving this funding.

The ayes have it. Allocation approved.

College Committee Student Representative Approval

Co-President Villarreal: Does anyone have any comments or discussion on the College Committee approvals.

→ Advisor Ruble: After talking to JoNes we will be tabling the approval of the Academic Technology Committee.

Co-President Villarreal: If there is no discussion, we will move to a vote. All those in favor of approving these appointments say aye.

The ayes have it. Committee's Approved.

One abstention.

Announcements

Co-President Bhakta: Next week is our last Senate meeting. It should be pretty short, but I want to see everyone there.

Co-President Villarreal: We also have budgets to approve so please come so we meet quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.