

07 December 2020 Student Senate Meeting  
*Meeting Called to Order at 7:03PM*  
Quorum is met

## **Approval of the Minutes**

- I. Minutes are approved.

## **Community Comment \*\*\***

- I. Trang Nguyen - Housing Petition
  - A. Miss Nguyen presents a slideshow for the petition to “Demand for GAC to give students prorated housing refund for online transition.”
  - B. She received over 100 shares and over 400 signatures. The prorated refund amount proposed is worth at least \$412 based on \$3,300 room fees in the average 16 week period of a semester. She wishes to propose this refund because students are not utilizing the space and electrical equipment for educational purposes and online learning reduces the quality of education. This refund will not affect the school’s funding in the long term. One of the core values of Gustavus is justice, so the refund backs that up.
  - C. Discussion is held.
- II. JoNes VanHecke - Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students
  - A. Vice President Van Hecke is here for questions from Senate about items she can answer. She also addresses the Housing Petition from Miss Nguyen.
  - B. The Gustavus Administration has tried to give the students as many opportunities during the pandemic as possible in order to meet their needs. The best opportunity they could think of would be to have a choice to either stay on campus or go home for the online portion of the semester that started right before Thanksgiving. Because the school has not asked all students to pack up and go home, it is hard to justify refunds as they did in the spring.
  - C. Discussion is held.
  - D. Senator Baring motioned to extend community comment time. Seconded by Senator White. The motion passed.
  - E. More discussion is held.

## **Committee Updates**

- I. Ethics
  - A. The Committee just passed the by-law amendments last week. They are posted on the website. If there are any ethics violations, please let Ombudsperson Menke know.
- II. Technology
  - A. The Committee is getting the online readership program in action. There are confirmed memberships to the New York Times, USA Today, and the Star

Tribune. They are working on advertising it and making those advertisements the most understandable for students. Chair Doran is working with the Academic Technology Committee to put together a survey for a reflection on hybrid/online learning. They are hoping to gather information on what resources professors should have going into another semester of hybrid learning. This would create a “manual” for the faculty to help students in the hybrid semester. Chair Doran wants feedback from Senate on what questions they think should be included in this survey.

III. Health and Housing

- A. Kari Eckheart has gotten back to Chair CarlsonSather, and Lund does not have any equipment to rent out. The most feasible option for size-specific activities are snow shoes. Chair CarlsonSather wants to keep brainstorming ideas for helping on-campus quarantine/isolation students.

IV. Environmental Sustainability

- A. Chair Jeremiason will be sending the end-of-semester report to Co-Presidents Concepcion and Doran by the end of the week.

V. Academic and Student Affairs

- A. Chair Patterson has been working with Chair Lim on FIT/ACT credit accessibility. She is also working on the THEOL credit charge from last week. Over break, the committee will be reaching out to all academic departments for input on Student Senate and its work. The Student Academic Operations Committee is contemplating extending the Pass/Fail option into the Fall 2021 semester. Chair Patterson is looking for feedback on that.

VI. Inclusive Excellence

- A. The gender-neutral bathroom signage has an approved design. The gender-free housing is working pretty well. Hormone Replacement Therapy will have to wait until Fall 2021. Chairs Jeremiason and Lim will be going through Arboretum name change surveys this week.

VII. Finance

- A. The Committee has been helping student orgs with accessing their accounts. They have also been transferring money to GTS for the laptop rental program.

VIII. Public Relations

- A. Chair Doran and Chair Gottlick have been working on advertisements for the online readership program. During J-Term, they will be moving onto the next stage of the laptop rental program advertising. The Committee is continuing the Gavel Gazette. The members are continuing to revamp the Instagram account.

## **Old Business**

- I. No old business.

## **New Business**

- I. Gender-Free Housing Update

- A. Senator Learned presents on the Gender Free Housing Survey responses.
  - B. Discussion is held.
  - C. Senator White motions to pass the proposal. Seconded by multiple people. The proposal passes and will be sent to Residential Life and Student Life.
- II. Inclusive Excellence Chair Appointment
  - A. Chair Lim, the current Inclusive Excellence Chair, is unable to be with the Senate next semester. The nominee proposed to take her place is Senator Learned.
  - B. Discussion is held. The nominee is moved to the waiting room while further discussion is held. A vote is held.
  - C. Senator Learned is the new chair for the Inclusive Excellence Committee.
- III. Co-President Doran brings up the issues presented in this meeting's Community Comment. She believes in searching for ways to support the community, especially during J-term.

### **Announcements**

- I. Co-President Concepcion lets everyone know that this was the last meeting of the semester. She also thanks everyone for hanging in for this long meeting and that we should continue this momentum through j-term.
- II. Ombudsperson Menke wants to raise the attention of Senators who know people in Norelius to encourage them to apply to be a Senator as Senator Learned will be taking over for Chair Lim.
- III. Director Bluhm reminds people to complete faculty reports.
- IV. Chair CarlsonSather notifies of another COVID testing event on Thursday for those on campus.
- V. Co-President Doran thanks everyone for a great fall semester!

*Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM*

\*\*\* It is highly recommended that you watch the recording of the Community Comment Section to hear the questions and answers in relation to COVID refunds.