**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**December 7, 2015**

Co-President Rasmussen calls the meeting to order at 7:00

1. **Attendance**

Question of the day: What’s your favorite cartoon character?

1. **Approval of the Minutes 11/30/15**

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

**Reid:** I’m the Assistant Director of the D-Center and the DLC advisor as well. I just wanted to stop by and say hello. We look forward to bringing multicultural talks soon on campus. We will organize discussions during J-term and Spring Semester. I hope to see you when you come to visit or hang out in the Diversity Center.

**Questions:**

Dix: Have you been able to accomplish anything yet this semester?

Reid: With the departments yeah. For now we’ve been adjusting to the environment and getting know students. But we will be starting to implement different projects next semester.

Gladitsch: Where were you before Gustavus?

Reid: The University of Northern Iowa.

Huerta: Do you have office hours?

Reid: Now I’m open, you can stop by anytime. But soon, I’ll starting having office hours. You can also stop by and have a student worker put you on my schedule.

1. **Finance**
   1. **Gustavus Athletic Trainers Association**

Johnson: They request money for a J-Term conference.

Anthony: I’m the President. Our focus is to promote athletic training professions. This conference is for all the athletic training schools in MN. There will be talks about actual things going on in the domain.

**Discussion:**

Gladitsch: This is common to fund such events. I would encourage everyone to pass this.

Dix: It’s always a good thing to invest in student learning.

**Vote**

**Approved**

* 1. **Hill Crew**

Johnson: They are requesting money for a flag.

Representative: We ordered another one because we got a banner.

Johnson: The Finance Committee recommended $0.

**Discussion:**

Gladitsch: Our idea was to wait until next semester. Organizations shouldn’t be buying things they didn’t say they were buying.

Sweet: How do you factor economic stability?

Johnson: We felt uneasy about this particular subject.

Sweet: If they wanted a banner, and reversed orders I don’t think they should be punished for that. It’s a small amount for money. We should meditate on that.

Hinnenkamp: I believe they should be funded. If it was a mistake I don’t see any reason not to support the organization.

Hinnenkamp: I move to fund in full Line 39.

Seconded by Luing

**Discussion:**

Miller: I think this money should be allocated to them because it was just a mistake. They can use this flag for J-Term, we wouldn’t wait until next semester.

Luing: This is a new organization. They are growing, they shoul be encouraged.

Gladitsch: If we continue to fund in contrast with the committee’s recommendations, we’re putting ourselves in a dangerous situation.

Dix: We should pass this budget but take careful note.

Representative: That was a good point.

**Vote (Amendement)**

**Approved**

**Vote (Budget)**

**Passes**

* 1. **Student Senate Executive Fund**

Johson: This is for the GusBus.

Panzer: We thought it was appropriate to add a bus on Wednesday. We brought this budget on the floor, we would have one bus on Wednesdays. It would require $1,650. It would operate from January 6 to March 23.

Johnson: The committee decided to recommend it in full

**Discussion:**

Dix: It’s a good budget.

Gladitsch: I think it’s a really good program. It’s a pretty decent price. If people don’t like it, we can shut it down.

Luing: I support it given that some of my constituents talked to me about it.

VanHecke: I think that if you move forward this, you should educate people about all the ways in which they could use this.

Dix: I think we should try to help to have this perceived in another way. But ultimately, all this is done for the safety of the students.

**Vote**

**Approved**

1. **Committee Updates**
   1. **Ethics**

(The Chair couldn’t make it for tonight’s meeting)

* 1. **Student & Academic Affairs**

Ostberg: We have been working on the fossil fuels, I found a consistent to connect with the MSU Senate previous President about the Zip car. Soon, I’m meeting with Carol Brewer to talk about about a new Safe Rides Car.

* 1. **Diversity**

Singh: D-Committee got our survey back and Indigenous people’s day is the favorite option based on the survey results. The next step is to work toward putting the Indigenous Day on the calendar. We will have to make a presentation to the President’s Cabinet on Dec 16.

1. **Unfinished Business**

**Panzer:** After Bobby distributed the Resolution to the curriculum committee. A lot of good feedback was received:

“Please note below the resolution that has come our way from the Student Senate. This fits into the work of the Faculty Senate as the primary long term body for academic planning. This resolution also falls under the function of the Curriculum Committee, especially given that they are in the midst of curricular re-design, thus the curriculum committee is also included in this forward. Thank-you Sam and Bobby for all of your work on this important resolution”.

**Michele Koomen, Faculty Senate Chair**

•This is thoughtful, helpful and much-needed. Thank you for your excellent leadership on campus.

Peace,

**Siri Erickson, Chaplain and Gustavus ACTS Co-Chair**

•I don't think I've ever experienced an endorsement from a Student Senate like the one you've delivered to the SAT at Gustavus Adolphus. It confirms my belief that Gusties are a special breed and deserve to have a curriculum like the one being proposed for the Gustavus strategic plan. You would thrive on any curriculum, because you'd make it into what you need to succeed. That said, you deserve to have the innovative learning experience, suffused with "diversity, equity, and inclusion," that is being proposed by the SAT. I hope to see you both on campus in the not too distant future. In the meantime, enjoy your holidays and J-Term.

**Ann Duffield, Gustavus ACTS Consultant**

•Our Gusties are indeed a cut above.

Bobby and Sam, please convey to Student Senate both our appreciation for this resolution and our commitment to making diversity, equity, and inclusion core elements of all parts of the Gustavus ACTS plan.

**Alisa Rosenthal, Professor of Political Science and Gustavus ACTS Co-Chair**

Thank you for sending over the wording of the resolution.

I plan to include the resolution in my faculty meeting announcements:

**Mark Braun, Provost**

**Discussion:**

Hinnenkamp: We will be talking about it soon in the curriculum committee too.

Rasmussen: I also got many good positive responses after e-mailing the resolution.

1. **New Business**
   1. **DLC survey response**

Panzer: One of the responses on the survey was vulgar. It is a problem because it’s in a disrespectful language. We work with different cultural groups on campus and this shows a bad image of our body. The response was not a way to build a constructive dialogue. Bobby and I would love to have a discussion about it with the concerned person. If you have any questions or doubts about DLC, we would like to have a conversation and find out the reason behind it.

* 1. **Gustavus SAT workshop**

Singh: Sam and I are part of the SAT (Strategic Action Team). As student representatives, we were required to make from major campus focus groups and Senate being one of them. So, that’s why we’re having this conversation now. We will start by brainstorming on what we want to see in 10 years. We will break in groups of 4.

**Break Time (10 minutes)**

Singh: I think now we can get together and share some of the ideas that came up in your groups.

Hinnenkamp: We talked about expanding alumni connections and how Financial Aid should be individualized and not based on a group.

Sweet: We also talked about expanding the Mentorship program. It would be great to foster great ideas and maybe even incorporate it in the FTS program.

Rasmussen: Having students from different majors coming together to accomplish a great project.

Muganga: There should be acceptance of different perspectives in classes.

Toeben: We talked about critical thinking and being accountable as skills a Gustavus graduate should have.

Ostberg: We talked about sustainability as a possible pillar. We talked about a potential new dorm on campus and how to incorporate more cultural food in the Caf.

Dix: We talked about how to change the environment you’re in.

Johnson: We talked about having students starting being involved from level1. How to encourage new students to start being involved earlier.

AbuEid: We talked about to be more rounded education-wise. And how to build a stronger alumni network.

Singh: The Current vision is: “To lead in using liberal arts to address the root causes of the world’s most pressing challenges”. Any ideas on this?

Gladitsch: I think we don’t talk about securing employment a lot.

Sweet: I also think it should be securing employment in what you want to do. Thinking about what it means to be in “a liberal arts education”.

Singh: What you have is the outcomes we already have. That’s what we already have as an action plan of where we are going.

Muganga: I think we should be focused on the world but at the same time including and not forgetting the Gustavus (local) community where we are.

Panzer: Senator Gladitsch, were you saying that employment is not incorporated in the vision?

Gladitsch: I was thinking on why people go to school. We talk about most pressing problems but there are many reasons why people go to school.

Dix: We try to explore all the academic venues where we can change the world. We don’t have to limit ourselves on what we learn. We’re in a liberal arts college.

Singh: We are still in the big picture.

AbuEid: What’s in there for me now? I’m graduating soon.

Rasmussen: I think there are different levels of improvement. This program is for big changes in the years to come.

Panzer: It will have an impact on alumns as well because they will be working with the student body on campus.

Singh: We want people to give value to a Gustavus degree.

AbuEid: I like the idea.

Dix: We have many avenues for change here. Even if I won’t be here when all these changes will happen, I want Gustavus to be the best place it can be.

Luing: I like the vision. I’ve seen a lot of liberal arts schools emphasizing different things because of financial reasons. I like that this seems unique and we are addressing issues as a whole.

Hinnenkamp: Do the “global challenges” include national and even local ones.

Singh: Right. We just want to emphasize also the fact of looking beyond the campus, beyond where we are.

Singh: Are there any Gaps that you find in this action plan?

Gladitsch: It’s hard to justify this academic expense when you can’t make a living out of what you learn. We should keep this in mind and work toward having a clear action plan after College.

Luing: I don’t see anything pressing the campus right now but I think we should include accomodating people’s physical needs especially by renovating buildings and emphasizing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Muganga: The vision should include the empowerment of the Gustavus Community.

Sweet: I don’t feel these outcomes point out the changes we need to see on this campus. How are we going to fix these changes? Diversity, ethnicity should be more specific.

Nelson: I fear that having a percentage goal of international students would lead to just filling the quota without being attentive of the College standards.

Singh: A clarification that we don’t just want international students to come here, we want students to go to study abroad too.

AbuEid: We should also include to enroll and retain international students. Another point is that we should do things because we care about them and not just for a résumé.

Ostberg: We should have more abroad programs that last longer. Why “Upper Midwest”?

Singh: This is still in process: the wording. Ideas on what the wording should be are welcome.

Hinnenkamp: I think the study away program should be improved.

Ostberg: I think it would be really helpful to have more connections with other universities abroad.

Singh: Thanks everybody! Please do the survey that will be e-mailed to you soon.

Rasmussen: Thanks for your cooperation in this discussion.

1. **Announcements**

VanHecke: There are interviews for the D-Center Director where students are invited to participate in the process.

Rasmussen: Welcome to our new off-campus senator Jeffrey Nelson. Thanks for your composure during the Hill Crew Time.

Singh: Thanks for our productive conversations. Fill out the survey please. There will be more sessions: one tomorrow in Beck 113 at 2:30pm and another on Thursday in the Board room from 6-7.

Gunnigle: This Friday you’re welcome to Russian tea event.

Hinnekamp: Bingo with prizes in the dive at 10pm this Friday.

Sweet: We were selected to be here.

Luing: This Wednesday at 6pm: Epi Awareness.

Panzer: I’ll be facilitating my first session tomorrow. Encourage other students to attend these sessions. We want this to work for as many students as possible.

VanHecke: The College on career; I would love to have a discussion about how to improve Career Center.

Singh: Saint Lucia on Thursday during Chapel Break.

**\*Meeting Adjourned**