**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**December 5, 2016**

Co-President Singh calls the meeting to order at 7:01

1. **Attendance**

Question of the day: If you could have lunch or dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be?

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Minutes from 11/28/16

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

None

1. **President Bergman**

Bergman: I’m grateful for you. You’ve been working hard on behalf of the student body. I monthly hear through your co-presidents about your initiatives. Thanks for all your hardwork and your commitment to government. This is how you get to represent and advocate for the student body.

* 1. The Strategic Plan is moving and we’re excited to see that happening across campus. We’re thinking about implementation. The implementations plans will come in January and we will be prioritizing things in the Spring. Tons of people are involved. If you want to be involved, let JoNes know.
  2. We are continuing to work on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative.
  3. We’re also continuing our work on the Sexual Misconduct Taskforce. We hired recently a Title IX person. They are starting after the holidays. After candidates’ interviews, we took a pause to evaluate our search methods. In the search, no other candidate came forward and I’m quite confident that the person we have chosen is someone who is capable.

A Title IX must have the following:

-Compliance with the law

-More pro-active work in education

Right now we can afford these two aspects of the job. We believe this person will be able to dig in and help our organization go forward.

**Questions:**

Choenyi: Five years from now, where do you see the Strategic plan?

Bergman: That will be half-way through the plan.

1. I would like to see a revised general education curriculum. The general education curriculum is seen as a check-the-box strategy and at the end of the day there’s no story to tell. This will help students to be able to articulate the benefits of the general education curriculum.

2. I would like to see more diversity. A multicultural curriculum and co-curriculum work. We are envisioning projects that will gather people with diverse perspectives to solve a particular issue together.

Shaw: How is sustainability incorporated in the plan?

Bergman: It’s there as one of the strategies. We have included it because we are indeed committed to sustainability as an institution.

Clark: What’s the biggest challenge are we facing as an institution in 2016?

Bergman: In today’s world, affordability and accessibility to higher education is a real concern. Because of our heritage and our values, we believe that the best institutions offer an education to any student with the potential to succeed. The challenge is a financial one. Endowment doesn’t carry us to offer free tuition.

Shaikoski: Any updates on remodeling buildings?

Bergman: We are nearly finished with Anderson Hall. We are expecting the keys in about 3 weeks. We’re fundraising for Nobel Hall. Full construction documents are being developed. Fundraising will be most likely finished in about 12 months. I have endorsed the possibility of a renovation in Lund. We will be fundraising for that as well. Lund needs two phases. Beyond that, there will be plenty of other opportunities to keep remodeling our infrastructures.

Shaikoski: Is there anything you would like us to broadcast to the student body as a whole?

Bergman: If students have concerns, they can go to different safe spaces on campus. I value the importance of people being heard. It’s in understanding each other that we can pursue a great future together.

Edholm: How do you go about fundraising?

Bergman: It’s about building relationships. Finding people who care about Gustavus and inviting them to be part of the project. All of you will be Alumni someday and you will be able to give back to your alma mata.

**V. Unfinished Business**

a. Senate Social

Singh: Social this Thursday at 6pm.

Clark: If we can’t make it…

Shaikoski: Take your name off the list.

1. Toeben: With the DAPL Panel, professors would like small group discussions. I would like to ask the senators to be the facilitators of the small groups. See me at the end of the meeting if you can make it.

**VI. New Business**

a.  Finance Budgets

1. Women’s Lacrosse Club Sport

Choenyi: We have Anna and Rachel representatives of the club. Last week, we recommended part of the budget. Over the week, we got all the documents. We allocated the money in full.

Ward: We looked everything and all was good to go.

**Discussion:**

Clark: Zoom in?

Cella: Yes

Ward: With the addition, is the full amount close to $4,000?

Choenyi: No

Ward: We agreed in the committee that the documents were enough

Toeben: Travelling and lodging can’t exceed 1.100 according to the by-laws.

Ward: That’s not accurate. In general it’s $4,000.

Shaikoski: I feel like we should pass this forward

O’Neil: I’m all for it

**Vote**

**Approved**

1. Gustavus Unites

Singh: Everyone received an e-mail about this.

VanHecke: Gustavus Unites is aimed at appreciating both what we have in common and our differences. It’s a pledge that you make and you get a pin or sticker to keep with you.

O’Neil: Are we just being informed?

Singh: Yes. And also you should share it with your constituents.

Edholm: What’s the pledge?

Toeben: “As a campus, we will unify against acts of discrimination, bias, and hate in all forms. We agree to uphold our five core values of excellence, community, justice, service, and faith by supporting one another, speaking up and out against injustices, and respecting the uniqueness we all bring to our community. This is my commitment as a member of the Gustavus community, because I know that when we UNITE we are stronger, we are better, and WE ARE GUSTAVUS”.

1. Clark: Why senators aren’t allowed to use their laptops?

VanHecke: Back in the old days, people would check their facebooks and be distracted.

Singh: This for a more respectful process and orderly meeting.

Clark: How can we change that? I feel like I need a computer to better take notes that I send weekly to my constituents and for an easier access to the budget since the screen is too far to see.

Singh: Come talk to Alex and I.

Robbins: Is the rule written?

Singh: It’s not a solidified rule.

**VII. Announcements**

Hinnenkamp: Thanks for everyone who was in and attended CinCC. I’m on the Panel, please come.

Shaw: Screening of a movie this Thursday.

Singh: Remember to fill the Google Sheet for the social. Saint Lucia Day on Thursday.

Toeben: This Wed 6pm in the Dive is the Panel.

**\*Meeting Adjourned**