**Student Senate Minutes**

**Gustavus Adolphus College**

**March 20, 2017**

Co-President Herchran calls the meeting to order at 7:04

1. **Attendance**

Question of the day: What does justice look like for you?

1. **Approval of the Minutes from 3/13/2017**

Approved

1. **Community Comment**

None

1. **Budgets**

Choenyi: Geology doesn’t need money anymore

* Eta Sigma Phi wants to host a dinner, Cassandra their treasurer is here

Cassandra: Every year they hold an ancient Greek dinner, short lecture on the history, music, open to whole campus.

Requesting to pay for food and other things to cover event

Choenyi: Typically don’t fund food, but allocated $263.53 since it is an educational event

Haberman: Is it open to everyone?

Cassandra: Yes, advertising to everyone

Haberman: Are there vegetarian options?

Cassandra: Yes, as a vegetarian I got us covered.

Ward: We actually always fund educational food

O’Neil: When is the event?

Cassandra: Unsure, in April sometime

Edholm: I saw ingredients, what will it be?

Clark: I think we should do this, sounds like a great event

Facendola: As a classics major this is a great event, super relevant

Vote

Approved

**V. Appointments**

1. Ombudsperson

Herchran: Anyone who wants to appoint someone raise your placard and once we have a full list we will discuss and figure it out from there.

Clark: I would like to nominate Henry Adebisi, I think he would do a fine job; he is a great leader, honest, good for the job.

Herchran: Any other nominations? Do we have to second the nominations?

VanHecke: Yes, because it doesn’t go through the committee.

Archad: I would like to nominate Adam Bakken. I have known Adam for a while now; really good team worker.

Herchran: Any other nominations? Seeing none, we will let them speak and have Adam step out of the room to be fair.

Adebisi: I would like to be Ombudsperson. From running for Co-President I am very familiar with the bylaws and constitution. As for the post election stuff I also got to know that all really well. As part of the diversity committee, I would like to refine the president election process, contribute to senate in a meaningful way. I want to update the bylaws and make sure they’re clear.

Haberman: Expand on how you want to change the bylaws

Adebisi: I want to make the voting margin very clear as well as election day stuff making it very clear of what’s supposed to happen.

Haberman: Being the ombudsperson, you need to make decisions on punishments, do you think you could do that?

Adebisi: I like to get to know people but if they do something wrong then it’s my job to make sure you’re punished appropriately and that they can learn from it.

Edholm: What are some of your virtues that would contribute to this job? Before this year, I didn’t have a good understanding of bylaws and constitution, but I sat down and learned it so that I could make a good contribution to you guys.

Herchran: Any other comments? Seeing none, please step outside and send Adam in. So we’ll just have you share why you want to be the Ombudsperson.

Bakken: The main thing that attracted me to this position was that I am very into long conversations of ethical merit; I’m a poli sci and philosophy double major. I have wanted to get involved in student senate since freshman year, but have always played close attention and am a good neutral party. I am in a cool spot because I’ve been very engaged in student senate but am still an outside party.

Haberman: Do you have any plans for the ethics committee?

Bakken: I have to speak to some of my inexperience, I know that the election has been an important issue but I don’t know if I have any changes I would make.

Haberman: What do you think the job of the ombudsperson is?

Bakken: To me it’s important that we’re doing everything in a good way and that we’re executing in the utmost respect of what we’re doing.

Edholm: Have you had a chance to look over the bylaws?

Bakken: A little bit but not a ton.

Edholm: What virtues would you bring to the job?

Bakken: Being level headed and neutral.

Schwartz: How would you go about dealing with an ethical problem or a non-ethical problem?

Bakken: I would talk to as many people as possible until I had a good idea of the problem.

Herchran: Any other questions? Seeing none, please wait outside with Henry and we will discuss and vote.

Haberman: Henry is the best option: he has a plan and experience with the bylaws. Then I have a question: Do we have to go through another process of electing a student at large for the ethics committee?

VanHecke: No, two weeks ago you elected a student at large and that person stays in place no matter what.

Ngabriano: As someone who came to senate with no experience, you have to learn and grow. I would like to speak on behalf of Henry, I know him as a friend, as a CF. He is a very well spoken person and is a great listener. Would make very informed decisions.

Lamberty: Appreciate how Henry already has a plan laid out, best way to go for our student body.

Clark: Speaking as someone on the ethics committee, we’re already going through a lot of the things Henry talked about and it would be nice for him to just jump in.

Toeben: Knew Henry since freshman year, I think he would be great, has wanted to get involved for a while now and wants to help make us better.

Herchran: We’re going to have to redo this process in a couple weeks for next year’s senate. This can be considered a trial run, you can vote this person back in.

Hannan: Agree with previous speakers, like that Henry will be able to jump right in. Concerning that Adam hasn’t looked into the bylaws or constitution much.

Clark: I think a lot of senators haven’t read the constitution or bylaws.

Vote

Approved

Henry is nominated and appointed.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

1. Committee Updates

None

* 1. Public Relations

None

* 1. Technology

None

* 1. Student and Academic Affairs

Anderson: We got people assigned to the slots to hang out with Becky. Right after spring break we’ll be starting the speaker series, which I’ll talk more about after spring break.

1. Co-Presidential Election

**Tabling:**

Herchran: People need to sign up for the week of Atonement because you wanted to do this so you need to participate.

Now onto the letter:

\*Reads part of letter\*

Now I’m going to open up the floor for discussion. Speaker Haberman has requested that you take your computers out so you can view the document.

Ward: Catchy title suggestion: Is it too late now to say sorry?

Hannan: I was kinda going for the more catchy and less professional because the professional is in the letter. No one really reads the emails anyway.

Edholm: Yes but at the same time the title should reflect the content of the email. I like the more professional yet still catchy.

Clark: I move to put the letter on the website.

Herchran: I think we can friendly that

Haberman: I don’t think we need to discuss the title that much, we should be discussing the innards of this letter. I also want to know if students respond to the email, I’d like to hear what they said.

O’Connell: I like this letter a lot and I think it did a super good job of touching on all the areas we wanted to address. Thank you for all the hard work that went into it.

Baron: Is this going to be copy pasted into an email?

Herchran: Yes

Arshad: I like the letter but I’m wondering if we can get a survey monkey onto the email so that we can get more feedback because we don’t even know if people will read it or respond.

Clark: I move to in this letter include a link that goes to a forum for suggestions or concerns.

Baron: In the minutes I suggested we put in a form and it was part of the charge.

Herchran: Okay cool, we don’t need to have this discussion at all then because you all already approved it.

Baron: My quote says, “Each senator sends a form to voice their concerns” I think

Toeben: I’m confused it sounds like you just said what Clark said.

Baron: It was part of the charge last week.

Toeben: So you just want an open ended question that asks their concerns?

Clark: My understanding of … I think we should include a google form in this letter and send it again to our constituents.

Arshad: We should be doing an anonymous survey, do we have to do it again or?

Herchran: I’m confused about this; Cabinet is going to have a link to an anonymous survey that we are going to send out and then Senators are going to send it out again?

Andersen: It seems like you’re looking for your constituents concerns, but we would just end up collecting them all?

Baron: It was a little vague, but if there was one survey that we could all see the results that would be good.

Asghar: My constituents are annoyed with all the emails, I think we should just stick to one email.

Ngabirano: I think I would support the idea of sending everything in one survey

Ward: I think the survey should be sent out in this email, people are sick of all the emails.

Hannan: I don’t think senators should have to send it out, but they can if they want to.

Clark: Last week we made a motion that was approved that we would all send out an email with a form so I don’t think we should be discussing this.

Herchran: From my understanding, cabinets job was to draft a letter and send it out. I think the senators were responsible for doing the survey but I just remembered that our webpage has a suggestions space that we can use instead of creating a separate forum.

Shaw: I second the Co-presidents idea of directing people towards the comments box so that people are aware and can use it in the future. Then students concerns can be heard other than when we’re tabling.

Haberman: Just curious, is the blog anonymous?

Herchran: Yes, the email is optional.

Clark: I don’t like the suggestion box because students don’t know about committees anyway. I think we should send out a google form; I move to call to question.

Vote

Approved

Vote

Division

Approved

Will be including an anonymous form at bottom of letter for students to share concerns.

Clark: Letter is great, addresses all my concerns and is a good first step. Move to send letter out with whatever motions we just had. Scratch what I said.

Ngabirano: The week of atonement started today- who was supposed to let the student body know? I don’t think this has been adequately publicized.

Joen: We should put the dates in.

Antes: Quick question with the google form: I already sent the email out. Were we supposed to create individual forms or what?

Baron: I think, to clarify, putting the link in the letter satisfys my charge.

Arshad: I already sent out an email but they don’t know about the link, do I need to send out another email?

Herchran: Once this letter is approved, Alex will send it out and you don’t have to do anything. If you haven’t sent out a letter to your constituents yet, then you still have to.

Clark: I think we should have two heart emojis in the title.

Herchran: Discussion?

Vote

Division

Approved

Anymore discussion?

Ngabirano: This came up in cabinet, we wanted to ask senate if, as co-president elects, we should table or not?

Clark: I think this is Senate’s mess so I think we should take care of it.

Ward: Can we finish talking about the letter?

Herchran: More discussion on the letter?

Vote

Approved

Letter will be sent out soon. Can continue discussion about week of atonement.

Ward: I think it’s nice of you guys to consider that but I don’t think you need to worry about it.

Clark: How many suggestions did we get today?

Asghar: We had 5 before senate, only two were legit.

Clark: I think we should be taking all student concerns seriously.

Asghar: I’ll clarify, “Where is the spinach in the God damn salad line?”

Baron: Send out the email sooner rather than later.

Herchran:Discussion? Seeing none, we’re done.

**Technology Director:**

Schwartz: This is the site, this is how a question is made. Not everything is perfect, it was made by a computer science student 8 years ago. It’s not perfect, but we try to hold legitimacy with this website. We can migrate but then we take the legitimacy away.

Clark: Who won?

Schwartz: To combat the problems we had, we sent an email to Swedish House and got their votes. Aaron won.

Haberman: I know nothing about software but could you show Gustavus tech services?

Schwartz: I don’t know why we don’t use GTS but a lot of questions need to be asked and a lot of answers that aren’t going to be answered tonight. I’m sure GTS said we should set it up and figure it out on our own.

Herchran: Anymore unfinished business?

Clark: There is still no spinach in the sandwich line.

Martinez: I talked to Kevin Burr and he said we would need to get rid of something else in the deli line.

**VII. New Business**

O’Neil: There was a sign posted on Beck today, I just want to open that up for discussion.

VanHecke: It’s part of an educational thing, it was an intentional sign for people to think about bystanders. Several more events that’s planned, co-sponsored by I Am We Are and the diversity council. Spoken word on Thursday to sum it up.

Toeben: I’m on the committee, don’t tell other people. We decided not to tell people because we wanted a chance to open up dialogue; There will be things every day, something happening tomorrow and Wednesday.

Herchran: Is it true that the statement that was put on the poster was a real thing that was said on campus? Someone said it was something someone at Gustavus said.

VanHecke: Not that I’m aware of. Not in the last 5.5 years.

Toeben: The incidents that are going to happen have been things that have actually happened on campus.

Clark: This is in poor taste, people have been freaking out because nobody knows what’s going on. Liberals outraged and conservatives getting blamed. Seems irresponsible and has real consequences.

VanHecke: Thank you for that feedback, but I’m wondering if we should wait to have this discussion until we get the letter so that we can get a full view of it. This is important feedback but I feel like we’re missing an important chunk of this project.

Clark: I’m just saying people were retroactively harmed from it and have had stressful days because of it. Perhaps it wasn’t the most thought out thing to do.

Andersen: I think how this polarizes our campus reveals a flaw in our campus climate.

Svendsen: I want to know the thought process on choosing that specific bias?

Herchran: I know there’s a lot of confusion about the actual event and I think the best way to get those answers is to wait to get the letter.

Haberman: Concerns over the actions that occurred by these orgs are valid but orgs like I Am We Are started by doing things like this, with putting on bias performances. They know what they’re doing and we should just wait.

Toeben: I was a part of the letter writing process and I think you will all understand it then but we talked about it extensively. Give us the benefit of the doubt until you read the letter and maybe look up invisible theatre.

Baron: Take notes if your constituents say anything because it will be two weeks before we meet again.

Barron: Take notes if you get any feedback from your constituents because it will be a while before we meet again.

Edholm: Why was the poster put up before the email went out?

Toeben: We talked for a long time about the executive order but we felt like we needed to actually do something on campus instead of just sending out emails. We talked about this for a long time about invisible theatre and the pros and cons of waiting or not waiting so we decided to wait. If you want to talk about that more, come to the DLC meeting at 5:30 on Wednesday in this room.

Shaw: I charge the tech director to change the office hours and to see if there are any changes that can be made to the voting system.

Schwartz: Sure. I can do that.

Ngabirano: Update the composition of student senate website.

Schwartz: Yeah I can do that too.

Vote

Approved

**VIII. Announcements**

Everyone should attend the speaker!

Meeting Adjourned