

Student Senate Agenda
Gustavus Adolphus College
December 11, 2017

I. Attendance

II. Approval of the Minutes 12/4/17 - APPROVED

III. Community Comment

Melinda from the PA's: would like us to help spread the word about the 100 hour challenge. This originated in Colorado when a man's family was killed by a drunk driver. There will be events all week and it is mainly about education on binge drinking it is not signing up to abstain from drinking. There are gift cards if you sign up

Schugel and Sheila are here from the curriculum committee: The proposed curriculum changes will not affect anyone who goes to Gustavus currently and their graduation status. This is being done to revamp our curriculum to give GAC something to show students that we have a special curriculum. Every student would choose a challenge concentration and all of your area requirements would go along with that concentration. FTS would become a first year seminar, and the language requirement would be changed to require all students to take at least one semester here, and there would be a larger hands on experience. There are three proposed concentrations and each student would need to take one course in each of the 5 areas for gen eds. Gustavus Experience Credits are new and they include a variety of ways to be fulfilled. This a practice that makes learning much more beneficial. J-term will remain but it will have reduced offerings. We are doing this to differentiate GAC from other liberal arts schools, and instead of taking 8 random classes you are taking 4 that relate more and will hopefully result in further integration. Please let us know any thoughts or concerns because we would like to know the students perspective. I would appreciate an email.

IV. Committee Updates

Schugel: I move to move to new business

Second: Wicklund

Chair Harbeck: we have done take your prof to lunch, and we are currently working on designing a board.

Ha Nguyen: we have gotten pork out of the chili, needle dispenser boxes, and free menstrual products will be places in the gender neutral bathroom in the library which is coming this January, and also in Lund, campus center. Custodial will bear all costs and upkeep.

Director Keeley: We have passed 7 budgets and our contingency is \$53, 204.43

Chair Mir: we got our first round of diversity posters out and they show that diversity transcends race. We are also working on the wording for a zero tolerance policy for sexual assault. We have adopted this to create just stricter consequences for specific violations. We will also be working with language for how to deal with students who want to join senate

Tram Nguyen: we are working to link student ID cards to their nine lines. There is also a speaker series being planned for the spring, we will invited profs and students and have a discussion of various topics.

O'Neil: we ran the fall elections and it went smoothly. We changed the bylaws for the election time table. We will have new constitutional wording coming to you in the spring.

Chair Andersen: social at JoNes', we are reaching out to SAVE and CAB to do something over j-term and we will be reviving the tell me about your day program. We are also working with the D-center to create an event and I am working with the department heads on alumni engagement.

Director Pham: I work on our voting system our website, and the charging stations

Edholm: parliamentary procedure

Wicklund: please consider having a trial within a dorm to see how that affects cost because the locations listed are also traveled by non students. Also what type of menstrual products would be left out.

Chair Ha Nguyen: I believe they are getting all new products

VI. Old Business.

a. Parliamentary Procedure

Edholm: I have one slide. And this is an appeal so when something gets passed you can appeal it whether the floor was open or not and this takes precedence over most others. It requires a second and in order to pass it needs a majority negative vote.

VII. New Business

Schugel: I move we talk about what the education committee has brought to us

Co-President Svendsen: Discussion

O'Neil: So will there be more students just doing nothing over j-term or forced to take one of the fewer j-term classes.

Schugel: there would be less students on campus if this went into place

Young: would the FYS be two profs or one and would it be like two separate classes

Schugel: Two separate is where we are leaning

Keeley: Fit and ACT credits?

Schugel: they are gone there would be a wellbeing credit instead

Kalyani: would FYS impact how students coming in in the spring semester?

Schugel: we talked about making a course that would fit all in for the transfers

Kalyani: would they have to overload?

Sheila: that is up in the air, they would start the transfer track

Schugel: We haven't talk much about students starting in the spring

Kalyani: because you said it won't affect students what about the limited j-terms wouldn't that affect students

Schugel: you are not required to take a j-term in this system

Wicklund: Is there a challenge that could be open so people could take whatever classes they want?

Sheila: the idea is that you pick one and stick with it, so if you switch you'd need to start over. That is my highest concern

Wicklund: have any costs been discussed for j-terms

Schugel: i have not heard anything about cost

Wicklund: I think sticking to the concentrations detract from a liberal course because it takes away the beauty of being able to take classes from a wide variety of departments. Also the j-term idea sounds like they may want to charge for it at some point, and it adds to the liberal arts experience here. Also not being able to stay on campus over j-term could be bad.

Chair Andersen: Do you all have a goal for how many challenges there will be? Only having three concerns me and may deter prospective students. I echo sentiments of previous speaker, and I think this plan breaks down what liberal arts means, and the interdisciplinary route is great, but this is emphasizes global and real world experience.

Co-President Ngabirano: Since there is not a j-term requirement would they be counted as a credit?

Schugel: I believe so?

Co-President Ngabirano: there are two credits needed to graduate and those come from j-term so it will need to be looked at. Also the FYS, sounds great but I never took a FTS and i like the idea of having one class that encompasses it all.

O'Neil: What is the senior capstone

Schugel: we are going away from capstones

Sheila: It depends on department, some cannot find capstones so it is controversial right now. It doesn't look like this will make it based on faculty feedback.

O'Neil: what about the portfolio

Sheila: that is not a thing anymore

O'Neil: IEX dilemma?

Sheila: some hate j-term and some love it so there is a lot of faculty indecisiveness so that's the dilemma. They also do not like that there is an inequality of the experience students get over j-term. I like the real world experience aspect and it could set us apart

Wicklund: when talking about real world experience what are you referencing

O'Neil: the experience credits

Wicklund: with the well being credit being a full credit, I suggest being able to make that two seperate classes, so they could still take four full credits if desired. Going back to the FYS, it may be helpful to have a few FYS that start in the spring, but then we need to think about if there would be a high concentration of international students in that class. Is the language credit the one talked about earlier.

Schugel: students would need to take a language here

Wicklund: I think there needs to be more integration for understanding of diverse and cultural backgrounds. The capstone idea is great and you should say that if a department wants to do a capstone and they cannot reach a student level that the class is not cancelled. I'd like to encourage you all to consult the president's council for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Co-President Svendsen: labs can be a lot of time and sometimes they are worth credit and sometimes there aren't. With that and the requirement for the classes how will the students with a large course load or those taking courses for no credit but take up time deal with these scheduling problems.

Schugel: what in particular?

Co-President Svendsen: will every class fulfill these areas?

Schugel: the goal of this is to cut down on classes, and they will just need to address these areas.

VanHecke: right now you would actually have fewer requirements. It would go from 8 to 4.

Co-President Svendsen: considering how much students get involved and all the requirements for classes, in the end it's a lot of scheduling.

Allen: I like that the amount of gen eds is being cut down. As a first year if I had seen these concentrations I would not have applied. I feel like the FYS should remain a semester, and this next semester I want to take classes that would help me pursue my major. Personally I feel like I've learned what I can and I would not want to take if for a year.

Lang: how would these requirements treat transfer students. How would the transferring of other liberal arts credits be addressed to fit into this curriculum.

Sheila: it is unknown right now.

Schugel: they would not want to have the five course be fulfilled by transfers because those five courses are what would make the curriculum

Chair Andersen: the five requirements, can they have major overlap.

Schugel: Yes

Chair Andersen: what about the need of substitution? In crowns some students need waivers so they do not take all 7 of the courses?

Schugel: you would need to take all 5 and there would be no waivers. Three crowns is also revamping their curriculum

Wicklund: there has been a lot of work put into this, but I echo a previous speaker on the topic of transfer credits and how that deters. I think this plan is aimed at increasing people graduating in 3 to 4 years. The j-term seems like it is all about money.

VanHecke: I am going to ask you questions. How many of you think you will take more j-terms than you are required to take before you graduate - majority. How many of you feel more positive about j-term - majority feel more positive. Do you feel positively about current j-term classes - majority. On fit act, do you love or hate fit/act model - majority like.

Edholm: is the problem with the science department the fact that they do not have enough professors to teach all the classes.

Sheila: the science and mathematical reasoning is a gen ed science course.

Edholm: so there would be new math and science courses created

Schugel: maybe not. We are still figuring it out

Co-President Svendsen: If you were to take a gen ed class would there be three different gen ed courses and each would be offered at a different time, or is the theme brought into every class then the time wouldn't matter.

Schugel: gen chem is something first years take and you would not be in your challenge yet. You take your FYS your second semester and that is when you figure out which challenge you would want to be in.

Co-President Svendsen: so you wouldn't have students worrying about that until after their first year, and that sits with me better.

Director Pham: do we not get to take gen eds then our first year if we do not know what we would want to do?

Schugel: you will have credits to fill that you could take outside your major. Or you could take your language.

Kalyani: does it affect students who have a packed four year plan.

Schugel: it would make it easier and in theory free up more time for you. Two extra free credits.

Kalyani: Does this mean if I really know what I want my major to be that I cannot declare until sophomore year.

Schugel: that is how it is now.

Kalyani: so my classes could count towards my major but not fulfil my challenge requirements

Sheila: this is where have a FYS would be helpful to walk you through how all this works.

Kalyani: so would we choose our FYS? And what if I do not like my program.

Schugel: right now FYS would be two different classes and whether that is the same advisor is up in the air if they are the same

Abby Anderson: I am concerned about this gen ed situation, you'd be taking 6 classes that cannot count for anything.

Schugel: you would probably be advised to take their language and your FYS. so your gen eds would still count towards the total credit load.

Sheila: Classes are split thirds and if you go off of that than students would have time to take electives to figure out what major you want.

Concepcion: how would ap credits fit into this?

Schugel: they would could towards something so maybe electives or into your major. They just would go towards your challenge

Sheila: Our co-chair was wondering if any students would host student focus groups. If you are interested email me! I will make sure to bring up your concerns.

Wicklund: I would like to bring up the idea of nostalgia room, where people can take naps or play games from childhood. We can bring it up now or not.

VIII. Announcements

Co-President Ngabirano: thank you all for showing up every monday. If you are here j-term we need you to show up, good luck on finals

Wicklund: Kate knutson won the cookie bake off. I know j-term quorum is tight and I know some orgs are stressed about their ability to get funding over j-term so please be here

Chair Andersen: BB is having a relaxation event in the boardroom this Wednesday