

15 March 2021 Student Senate Meeting
Meeting Called to Order at 7:04PM
Quorum is met

Approval of the Minutes

- I. Minutes are approved.

Community Comment

- I. Brenda Kelly - Provost

- A. The Provost Office is working with faculty in DEI education. There is a committee in place for the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion. Honors Day and Commencement will be happening this year with in-person components, adapting to the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. The Office has started planning for the Fall 2021 semester, following the Minnesota Department of Health guidance, with more in-person classes. They are hiring visiting faculty for the upwards of 30 faculty that will be on sabbatical.

B. Q&A

1. Fall semester is looking like a normal academic calendar with the regular breaks. This includes coming back to campus after Thanksgiving Break. It does not look like it will change unless there is a large outbreak during the summer.
2. The Provost's Office has been adapting its search parameters in order to be more inclusive when looking for new professors (visiting and tenured positions). This has included anti-bias training and DEI education.
3. Provost Kelly is on a call with the MN Department of Health, every week and Gustavus is a vaccination site for when there is supply for a vaccine clinic.
4. Aside from COVID-19, the biggest challenge for the College is how we are going to take the opportunities we learned from COVID and create innovation in our regular practices. Within the academic program, the challenge is being loyal to the liberal arts foundation but offering the classes in majors and minors that students want to take and will help them in the future.
5. *A motion is made by Senator Axtman to extend speaking time. Seconded by Senator Chheng. It passes.*
6. For the rest of the semester, the campus will follow the same rules for COVID safety despite vaccinations.
7. There have been conversations to make Election Day a holiday for the College so that students have the opportunity to vote.

8. One of the reasons Commencement was shifted indoors was because they were concerned that if the ceremony was outdoors, more guests would gather to try to watch the ceremony through fences, etc.
9. There is planning for Senior Week guidelines happening.
10. Gustavus, in order to retain faculty of color, is recognizing the invisible workload of faculty. It has formally implemented course release, which means one less course per year, for incoming faculty. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is in conversation with faculty of color in order to provide them assistance, both monetary and relational.
11. If you are concerned about the indoors Commencement ceremony, you can reach out to Provost Kelly, the Faculty Senate, or the COVID Cabinet with your concerns.
12. The course options for Fall Semester will hopefully not be affected by the new hires' lessened course load. There should not be any important course lost, if any.
13. There have been some discussions of a continuing Pass/Fail implementation even after COVID in order to promote exploration of courses. The idea has not yet been thrown out.

II. Kareem Watts - Assistant Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence

- A. Kareem Watts has been at Gustavus for just over 2 months. The Center just held its first lyrical cafe, which will continue through the semester. He is a facilitator of the book club sponsored by the CIE. If you have any suggestions, please send them his way. He is originally from the West Coast, but moved to Minnesota from Illinois.

B. Q&A

1. Humanize My Hoodie is a movement created by a Criminal Justice Professor and a Fashion Designer. It is a fashion line and has different trainings that are offered. One of the things they do is a 90-minute program where they show their documentary, explain the Humanize My Hoodie program, and share their stories.
2. In his past position, he worked directly with the student government and the diversity educator, which has prepared him for his current role because he has experience with educating on DEI. He has worked in higher education before as well which also helps his position here.
3. The First Forward and Gain programs connect the CICE and the CIE. He has met the team at the CICE. He also works with the Academic Support Office in order to help international students and students of color.
4. He is very open to our ideas as a Senate, especially since we are more in touch with students and what they want. He is excited about working with and meeting students and bringing various art forms to campus.

5. Kareem is really excited about the social justice and racial justice programming around campus. He has joined the Justice team of faculty in a program that different teams focus on the core values of Gustavus. He has joined the President's Council for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
6. *Senator White motions to extend speaking time. Seconded by Hadjiyanis. The motion passes.*
7. The upcoming lyrical cafe will be themed around Women's History Month. If you have any suggestions for upcoming lyrical cafes, please send them his way.

Committee Updates

I. Administrative Director

- A. Director Bluhm announces the resignation of Senator Hietpas from his position as one of the Complex Representatives. She also announces that Senators Hadjiyanis, Nduwayezu, Podznyakov, and Speaker Baring need to set up their office hours for the month or semester. Remember to get going on your faculty report.

Old Business

- I. No old business.

New Business

- I. No new business.

Announcements

- I. No announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01PM