

Student Senate Meeting Minutes
Gustavus Adolphus College
Monday, January 10, 2010

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Attendance**
- III. Appointments**
 - a. Prairie View Apartments – none
 - b. International Representative – none
- IV. Community Comment**
 - a. Gus Bus concerns from trial run
 - b. People have been waiting for over 40 minutes for the bus without knowing where it's at
 - c. Discussed possibility of having a calling system with the bus where people could call to see where it's currently at
 - d. Number of people on the bus was also a concern
 - e. There have been problems with the drivers
 - f. Driver's don't like the new route
- V. Finance**
 - a. Society of Gustavus Geologists**
 - i. Requested \$2,380, Finance Committee Recommends \$247.70
 - ii. Brandon Hirdler – Finance Committee Chair
 - The Society of Gustavus Geologist came to Finance a few weeks ago with a newly proposed budget. Received nothing last spring from Senate.
 - Want to bring a Spring Speaker originally but had no details initially, came back with them this last time.
 - Gave an exact location of their spring field trip and miles, came up with numbers for gas. Between gas and campsite for two nights, \$20 a night.
 - Asked for food, but committee recommends doing nothing.
 - Currently have math that says \$92 over budget.
 - iii. Budget Discussion
 - Nowariak: why are we giving them 2 cars?
 - a. It's a trip for 15 people, they didn't know the travel policy, thought they had to rent the vehicles, so that number is wrong. They need that funding now, they are going in January.

iv. Nowariak: motions to change parking funding from \$20 to \$0, Skjerpung seconds

- Discussion:
 - a. Nowariak: a previous trip he took one car parked on street for free and another parked in a ramp for \$5
 - b. Skjerpung: science museum may validate parking
 - c. Gust: we should confirm that before we allocate zero
- Gust motions to amend to \$10, Claire seconds
 - a. Gust: parking on street is hard to find
 - b. Claire: point of info: parking for over 4 hours is \$10/ car.
 - c. Nowariak: other groups we haven't allocated for parking, shouldn't start now
 - d. Gust: nothing in the bylaws about parking
 - e. Phil: its still in the admission, its scary to park the school vans on the street
 - f. Gust: they are planning on taking one van and one car
 - g. Move to vote, division, passes
- Discussion Continues
 - a. Prince: parking costs is part of the cost of going, it isn't cheap, thinks we should keep it at \$20 so they don't have to worry about it. If it costs less, we can get the money back. Seems like it's a part of transportation.
 - b. Gust: you can find parking for cheaper than the science museum charges.
 - c. Jessye: theyre already paying for half of their ticket price, we should pay their transportation costs, which includes parking. Its expensive and they shouldn't have to walk several blocks in the cold. They should be given the full \$20.
 - d. Erik Bryz-Gornia: will a van fit in the parking ramp?
 - e. Phil: are they going after 5 pm on a Thursday, they could only spend 4 hours there, so \$18. They are paying for a lot of stuff already.
- Move to vote, motion fails, remains \$20

v. Budget Discussion Continues

- Claire: when we made the gas prices, was that taking into account the significant inflation in price?
 - a. Tessmer: its standard IRS rates
- Bryz-Gornia: that is not half the price for tickets, that would be 127.50
 - a. Thursdays after 5 pm admission + omni: \$11 per person - \$82.50

vi. *Flannery motions to change gas for field trip \$0 to 361.60, Nowariak seconds*

- Discussion:
 - a. Gust: don't disagree with this idea, problem is that in the midyear requests and new bylaws you need to provide a lot of details. I believe this type of thing belongs in a spring allocation if they come back with more information about where they are going, how long, costs, etc. I see this as us not being against it, but we want them to come back with a better idea about what is going on. We require a lot from other people.
 - b. Hirdler: They did give a little more info when we asked
 - c. Sean: Do they have a date?
 - i. Hirdler: No
- Move to vote, none nay, motion passes

vii. *Nowariak motions to add camping fee of \$40, Skjerpig seconds*

- Move to vote, none nay, passes

viii. Budget Discussion continues

- Hirdler: Transportation and lodging were recommended at 0 because they provided no details, currently sits at \$546, under the \$600 limit that finance can recommend for transportation and lodging

ix. Move to vote on budget as a whole, none nay, motion passes

VI. Old Business

- a. Helt: has a meeting with Charlie Strey on Wednesday at 4

VII. New Business

- a. **Gusbus:** Skjerpig moves to open discussion on Gusbus Trial

i. Gusbus Discussion

- Skjerpig: Was on the gusbus with the gentleman from community comment, really did not enjoy it. Talked to driver and he thinks its very inefficient.
- Gust: Has also ridden the gusbus, has heard a lot of concerns. People aren't exactly happy. I would personally like to see a compiling of emails, etc. from our constituents that have been coming in.

ii. *Gust motions to have a survey created to see where students are at now, McAdams seconds.*

- Discussion
 - a. Prince: Who is going to do it? Whats on it? Do we want to do this during Jterm? Courtney isn't here during Jterm

- b. Lundborg: Don't think we should send out a survey because don't think trial should continue
 - c. Redden: I could keep talking with Courtney and could generate another survey, agree trial should end
 - d. Ostendorf: My committee can help
 - e. Gust: I also don't think the trial should continue
- Gust moves to rescind motion, Stetson seconds

iii. Gust: motions to end Gusbus Trial, Stetson seconds

- Discussion
 - a. Prince: I love the gusbus trial so far, has ridden it three times, system works well, tuning needs to be done but system works. Longest has waited for gusbus has been 15 minutes. Not sure how the taxi system is any better, still has a problem with timing and crowding. Scrapping the entire trial would be sad at this point.
 - b. Helt: why end it now, we need to follow through on what we said. Has ridden the gusbus, the on-campus stops work really well but the off campus stops are where there are stops not getting used. Two individuals got on drunk at co-ed and were yelling about how the new system sucks and others in the back said to oshut-up and that they liked the new system. It doesn't look good on senate to stop trial now. Agree that we should compile the comments we've gotten, and then make a decision.
 - c. Hoppe: Can we potentially have one bus do the route and the other operate like a taxi?
 - d. Lundborg: How many people have spoken with their constituents? Personally, I don't have constituents but the people I've talked to have said similar things that the community comment said. It takes a lot of tact and class to admit that we screwed up, show that we are fallable and we realize it and we take the steps that we need to take to make things right
 - e. Kampfe: hearsay, anecdotes, would like to see the data at the end of it. We are getting the polarized voices. This is a trial period and we have always called it that from the get go and it will absolutely end at the end of the period, it doesn't show that we have some superiority complex.
 - f. Nowariak: like whats being said about not stopping. The biggest thing is to get this survey out as soon as possible. Everyone should make the effort to talk to constituents before we come to the conclusions. We don't want to find out after the fact that we made the wrong decision. We should make a permanent decision on it the last Monday in January. Make the transition as smooth as possible.

- g. Thayer: We shouldn't end trial yet because change takes a while to get used to , for example, women wearing pants – people didn't like that but stuck with it. We need to see if they like it once they get used to it, how we can improve it. Data, these conversations paired with data will be good.
- h. Gust: If people have made a decision they aren't going to change their mind in a two week period of time. I have personally gone out to talk to people, have talked to well over 100 people and the majority of the issues were with gusbus. One bus is always going the opposite direction that you want. We have this opportunity for two weeks to see whether people really do like the old way or if they realize that the new way is better. This way we get direct comparisons from people who have recently had it both ways, they don't have that opportunity if we make a decision in spring semester because then we don't have a new trial.
- i. Barnard: talking to Courtney right now and she says the only informed person isn't here so we shouldn't be making a decision. She also says that right now the results are about 50/50 for positive and negative feedback.
- j. Skjerping: call to end discussion, gust seconds, requires 2/3 vote
 - Move to vote to end trial, motion fails.

iv. Gusbus Discussion Continues

- Phil: I know people are frustrated. We made a plan, we need to stick with it. We had this discussion a month and a half ago. The trial was to generate discussion about what people like, what worked and that's exactly what we are doing. We should have an open forum when second semester when upper classmen and Courtney are back. That's us opening a dialogue with the student body. If we send out a survey now a lot of people especially studying abroad will not have access to email but will be affected.
- Thayer: A big issue that needs to be considered is that three years ago, we advertised the gusbus a lot but haven't really in the past few years and freshman barely know what it is. It's a weird dynamic that need to be taken into consideration. Also, about people not knowing where stops are, we should hand out the mini lists while pointing out you can put them in your wallet, maybe have them on the gusbus
- Kampfe: We haven't even had a legitimate full trial, we've missed days due to weather, we don't even have the data we expected
- Tessmer: as far as transition goes, Emily, myself and Courtney will be working on a transition period, like the open forum idea, maybe second Monday back.
- Gust: we have all the ideas bouncing around, when do we implement them? The idea to get the lists on to the gusbus is an easy fix that we should get done for the rest of the trial.

- Lundborg: surveys are all well and good, this is one of the best issues to go out and meet your constituents with, you can do real politic-ing on. This issue is one that is best served by going out and meeting with people.
 - Prince: no one thought that this trial run had a system is absolutely flawless, but making changes in the last few weeks doesn't seem like a good idea at all, people will be mad that we said one thing and are doing something else. We need to ask people WHAT they want, not just whether they like it or not and you cant get that out of survey. Its definitely worth looking into and improving the system.
 - Hoppe: thinks we need to get as much info as possible, we need to establish exactly what students think is wrong. If there are problems with the route, that's something we can deal with. If its advertising, we can get more pamphlets out.
 - Gust: how do we go about making sure that senators go out and talk to constituents? How do we enforce that we actually do it? Can we ask that everyone comes back with 20 opinions about the gusbus?
 - Helt: suggests that at the following Monday, before then cabinet creating a tentative plan of attack for spring semester. We need an idea about what we are going to do, a concrete idea, cabinet needs to be committed
 - Redden: talking to Courtney, recommends we do the survey now for mid-trial comments and then afterwards have the open forum.
- v. *Nowariak: moves to charge cabinet create a plan of attack spring semester concerning the Gusbus by January 24, when they will present to Senate.*
- Bryz-Gornia: no matter what, its going to change back at the end of the trial. Concerned to go back to the old way, find out the new way is better and then go back to the new way.
 - Helt: its going to happen either way, we need a plan of attack
 - Move to vote, motion passes
- vi. *Nowariak: moves to charge Kate Redden with a survey, Gust seconds.*
- Redden: could realistically get it done and sent out tomorrow
 - Tessmer: would personally like to see it sent out after next weekend
 - Nowariak: send it out next Monday because don't have a business mtg
 - Tessmer: Dierdre has to approve it first and doesn't check email on weekends
 - Move to vote, motion passes
- vii. *Gusbus Discussion Continues*
- Gust: How will we require senators to talk to constituents?
 - Thayer: Ten constituency reports will get reward?
 - Tasha: if you can't do your job you shouldn't be here

VIII. Announcements

- a.** Helt: finishing plans for next Monday night at Bowlero lanes. Meet at three flags, about \$6 for 2 hours unlimited.
- b.** Gust: Transport committee meeting after meeting

IX. Motion to Adjourn by Nowariak, Skjerpig seconds, 8:39