

Student Senate Meeting Minutes
Gustavus Adolphus College
Monday, October 11, 2010

- I. **Call to Order** by President Emily Thayer 7:03
- II. **Attendance by Administrative Director, Alison Hoffman**
- III. **Approval of Minutes from October 04, 2010**
 - a. Discussion- none
 - b. Move to vote, none nay motion passes
- IV. **Community Comment**
 - a. Laura Baden, Kelly Brody, Anna Johnson Q&A DLC
 - i. This week is “Coming out week”. Last night, their group spray painted rock a rainbow color as they do every year during Coming Out Week, this morning (around 8:00 am) found it painted all black with “roman 1:27” written on it
 - Romans 1:27 – “In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”
 - Upsetting verse for coming out day, deliberately painted, especially with current GLBT climate with the recent suicides
 - Looked at Gustavus’ policy on harassment, college will not tolerate harassment
 - We believe that sexual orientation follows under this policy, painting the rock is a message posted on college policy, we believe something needs to be done and a statement needs to be made
 - On November 3, 2008 campus received an email from Hank Toutain, college will not condone hateful acts, college has made statements like this in the past and should do it again
 - ii. Drafted a couple resolutions for consideration, open to editing:
 - *“We, the student senate of Gustavus Adolphus College, as representatives of the student body, denounce the act of hate that was performed against GLBT people and Q&A as an organization between the hour of 10:00 pm on October 10, 2010 and 8:00 am on October 11, 2010. We maintain that hate, in any form, has no place in our community and will not be tolerated”*
 - *“We, the student senate of Gustavus Adolphus College, urge the College to launch an investigation into the hateful incident which occurred between the hours of 10:00 pm on October 10, 2010 and 8:00 am on October 11, 2010. An isolated phrase was used to denigrate a specific group of people, an act which is in violation of the Colleges “Policy Against Harassment”. We ask that the college continue its practice of*

informing the community about instances of hate and clearly stating that they will not be tolerated.”

iii. Questions/ Comments:

- Fogelberg: fully supports issuing a statement, everyone is really upset, things like this cannot happen
- Gust: Any other acts or just the rock?
 - a. Community Comment: Just the rock
- Russell: was the only text “romans 127”?
 - a. Community Comment: Yes
- Community Comment: The bible should not take precedence over college policy.
- Adams: Last year we passed some laws that say we are not a governing body used to punish anyone, does this fall under that? How do we go about doing something like this? Address the Dean of Students?
- Barnard: a motion has to be made during new business
- Erik: I don’t think we’re in the position to take action but can point you in the direction you need. Senators/ members of Senate should discuss how we handled the situation in 2008
- Kunkel: The important line to consider in the proposed statements is “as representatives of the student body”

iv. Motion to suspend the rules and move on to new business in order to move to adopt the resolution by Kunkel, requires 2/3, all in favor, motion passes

v. Motion to discuss first resolution by Kunkel, Prince seconds

- Tessmer: likes it a lot
- Kunkel: Friendly amendment to capitalize “Student Senate”, seconded by Skjerping
- Gust: How will this statement get out? Email?
- Fogelberg: In the weekly?
- Barnard: Disagrees with issuing a statement, rock is there for dialogue, this is what happens when someone puts something on the rock, this is a different circumstance, right to speech, can’t consider it a biased incident
- Stetson: We should move on this because of the context of the bible verse, it wasn’t just expressing opinion but a death threat
- Bryz-Gornia: Their opinion/ beliefs were censored by painting over it, take it with a grain of salt
- Ostendorf: Understands how it can be taken as a threat, it is freedom of speech. Harassment on this issue occurs in far more intense ways, it is a rock, it is someone’s opinion to paint over, if we disagree you can continue to paint over. You can put your opinion on the rock.

- Prince: These are our constituents, there is an overwhelming opposition regarding what happened last night, it is a hate crime, to have any sort of legitimacy as representatives need to make a statement.
 - Lundborg: as much as he likes ability to exercise free speech, the statement condemns what the action said, as Senate we are capable of saying that what people say is not in line with what Senate believes or what we believe the student body believes
 - Gust: confused with wording “entire student body denounces it”, by acting on this, we need to start looking at what we define as a crime of hate, this could be a stepping stone, are we prepared to handle every disagreement of opinions? Bible verse vs. lifestyle, there are different interpretations of bible verses.
 - Krahulec: Does GLBT community have plans to paint over rock again? Steps should be taken on their part.
 - a. Community Comment: talking to Senate is their first step, will be repainting rock and moving forward
 - Thayer: the rock is a freedom of speech place, civil discourse is good, but dissenting opinions should not be presented in a way that degrades other people. What kind of discourse are we talking about? The reason we have people in front of us to bring our attention to the incident is because they are concerned the school didn’t notify/ address the student body about this.
 - Adams: Off campus representative, these are our constituents. If you look at it like a swastika being put there, or KKK, we did something about swastikas in the past, it is a symbol that represents something, so does the verse. The students have spoken, we should move forward, students don’t like it neither should we.
- vi. Call to question by Adams, Seconded by Prince
- Move to voting on calling to question, one nay
 - Move to vote to adopt first resolution, none nay, first resolution adopted (first paragraph)
- vii. Prince moves to consider second resolution, Adams seconds
- Kunkel- friendly amendment to change word “college” to “Gustie Guide” in line 4
 - Nowariak: We have already adopted the first resolution and put our weight behind it. We don’t support what happened and we support the groups affected. It is not our business to ask another department to investigate.
 - Kunkel: It is absolutely in our realm to ask for further investigation
 - Prince: We ask people/ other departments to investigate/ take action on a number of issues, why is this any different?
 - Adams: Thanks to Senate for acting so fast on this issue and taking responsibility

- Tessmer: Is the second resolution meant for whole student body or just the Dean of Students office?
 - a. Community Comment: we would like to see Dean of Students office address student body
 - Bryz-Gornia: This is good the way it is, motion should be passed
 - Kampfe: This will make us look good, we have passed a resolution that empathized with groups on campus that felt wronged.
- viii.** Prince moves to adopt second resolution, Adams seconds
- Discussion: none
 - Move to vote, none nay, motion passed
- ix.** Kunkel motions to return to community comment on the agenda, Adams seconds, none nay, motion passes.

V. Appointments

- a. Uhler Representative nominations- none
- b. Prairie View Representative nominations - none

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. New Business

a. Nominations for Committees

- i.** Martin Barnard (Academic Tech Committee)
 - Kampfe moves to nominate, Skjerpig seconds
 - Discussion
 - a. Kampfe: He's already serving, lets finalize it
 - Move to vote, none nay, motion passes
- ii.** Kate Redden (Program Assessment Development Committee)
 - Kate: served on it last year
 - Adams moves to nominate, Skjerpig seconds
 - Discussion: none
 - Move to vote, none nay, motion passed
- iii.** Megan Nelson (Program Assessment Development Committee)
 - Adams moves to nominate, Skjerpig seconds
 - Discussion – none
 - Move to vote, none nay, motion passes
- iv.** Tasha Ostendorf (Curriculum Committee)
 - Committee to approve changes to curriculum
 - Adams moves to nominate, Fogelberg seconds
 - Discussion – none
 - Move to vote, none nay, motion passes

- v. Stetson McAdams (Faculty Committee on Student Life)
 - Tessmer: they deal with all sorts of fun issues
 - Adams moves to nominate, prince seconds
 - Discussion: none
 - Move to vote, none nay, motion passed

b. Gusbus Update

- i. Courtney West: Has been working on Gusbus for a few weeks, PA's drafted an email of issues they have heard, compiled them:
 - Packed, very full, 2600 students
 - Drivers are answering phone while driving bus
 - Busy signal
 - Students don't know everything about Gusbus (especially freshman), we don't advertise, just word of mouth
 - Drivers stop wherever students ask, not at the designated stops
 - Having to wait when bar closes
- ii. Solutions Discussed:
 - Designing set route with certain stops, running 9 pm to 2am
 - Map with stops, chosen after talking to Residential Life, Dwile with St. Peter Transit, and students about where they would like stops
 - Two buses running on same route in opposite directions, no more dialing for a ride no one will answer, bus will not deviate from route
 - Dwile asked that buses run from Nicollet county bank to campus after 1:15 (home from bar). Buses will still do route on campus but no other stops.
 - Advertising – hope to implement for Halloween weekend, email students-l email, gradual emails (one tonight and one just before changes starts), facebook events, pamphlets in the PO's
- iii. Discussion:
 - Tasha: College is spelled wrong on the map (Dwile's error)
 - Fogelberg: What is stop closest to sohre and pitman? (Art parking lot)
 - Gust: PA's have been talking about this kind of formation, how long is this route?
 - a. West: they wont be stopping and waiting, probably between 20-25 minutes, longer with students at every stop)
 - Gust: Are we capable of a set schedule?
 - a. No, Dwile doesn't want it, not capable, can't guarantee, Dwile wont do it
 - Gust: What are the benefits?
 - a. West: there is no calling, gives drivers consistency, makes them more comfortable

- Gust: What about people who are underage and not at the bar after 1:15 in the morning? Those are the people who need help the most. Are there going to be signs at those corners? Students will be under the influence.
 - a. West: There are nine designated stops that by contract the drivers will only stop there
 - Bryz-Gornia: Two buses running from bar scene? Might be better to have one still running full route and the other driving to campus from bar. What about gas consumption for stops where there are no students, will we need to fund more?
 - a. Tessmer: No we don't fund the gas
 - Adams: likes the idea of calling the Gusbus if there is an emergency, has concerns about cutting the communication off to the drivers. Perhaps have the students vote on it or have a forum for their ideas. It isn't fair to completely cut off what they are used to and change the whole process. Props to Courtney.
 - Thayer: Thank you Courtney. Big concern is the separate route after 1:15 but we need to be careful about not using language that would imply we (Senate) condone under-age drinking. I like the sign idea brought up but we need to be aware of using businesses as Gusbus stops. This would eliminate the problem of people who do call for a ride but when the Gusbus comes, there is no one there to be picked up. Ask your constituents, put out a poster about your office hours to talk and get their opinions, this is a good way to interact with constituents.
 - Krahulec: The gusbus is situated to give kids proper transportation if they need it, not to rescue people if they are too drunk, call 911 or an ambulance. I don't think waiting 20 minutes at a stop is the worst thing, at least it is an option. Stops are great idea, process is simpler, makes things safer.
 - Hagadorn: has talked to some students, would like a set path, have problem with calling and Gusbus not showing up. This is a great thing to at least give it a try.
 - Ostendorf: will it be in the contract that they could not deviate from the stops?
 - a. West: yes there can be, there is a clause for dial a ride that was deleted, would be willing to put in an explicit cause that says they cannot deviate
 - Gust: buses moving in opposite directions, why? How to tell which bus goes which way?
 - a. West: originally tried them both going same direction in the past, did not work. Transportation people asked for this. Will be individually labeled with separate maps.
 - Tessmer: send this document to senators for their office hours
 - Adams: speaking on safety, standing outside in cold for potentially 30 minutes, it's a concern.

- a. Thayer: point of info, biggest concern brought to us is that answering calls distracted drivers away from focusing on the road and operating a bus that is full of students.
 - b. Adams: they answer calls during the day, why can't they at night
 - c. West: because you are capable of talking and driving at the same time doesn't mean it is safe and they should do it.
- Ostendorf: We are in conflict about making sure that everyone is safe, we know who uses the bus and what they use it for, we don't need to condone it but be aware this. We don't need to baby people too much, people are choosing to behave the way they do when they go out, it doesn't need to be a safety net. It's in danger of turning into turning personal responsibility into acting unhealthily because they know they will be able to fall back on the Gusbus.
 - Gust: a lot of people don't know the streets of St. Peter that well, what about people who get turned around? Don't know how to fix it, it is personal responsibility.
 - Tessmer: Part of problem with current system is that you are outside calling for a half hour until you get through and then another 30 minutes until Gusbus shows up and walking would have been faster anyways. Would rather have to wait at set stops when you know they will be there. This new system also removes some liability issues associated with dropping off underage people in front of parties.
- iv. Nowariak moves to table discussion of routes until next week and have more discussion with constituents this week, Gust seconds, none nay, motion passes
- v. Date changes:
 - Gusbus will run every Friday and Saturday 9:00 PM – 2 AM
 - Except:
 - a. October 22, 23 (fall break, Gusbus is not needed)
 - b. Nov 26-27
 - c. Dec 24-25
 - d. Dec 31- Jan 1
 - e. Jan 28-29
 - f. March 25-26
 - g. April 1-2
 - h. April 22-23
 - Add:
 - a. October 31st (Halloween)
 - b. November 2 (election day, 3 flags to community center, noon-4)
 - i. Nelson: College democrats will be shuttling on election day
 - ii. Tessmer: Who is funding that?
 - iii. Lundborg: Hesitant to step on toes of another organization
 - iv. Kunkel: bus on election day is a good thing to do
 - c. December 14
 - d. March 17

e. May 5

f. May 18

- Kunkel moves to approve date changes, Skjerping seconds
- Move to vote, none nay, motion passes

c. Civil Discourse

- i. Tessmer: last week was approached to have a civil discourse event about what it is and how to do it, it's a giant mess where people get hurt and offended arguing about things. Judy Douglas thought it would be a good event for senate to put on, we have the most experience with this on campus perhaps. Possible program/ event/ idea to do. Whoever takes this over would be working with Pas, good opportunity to co-sponsor something with the PA's
 - Blake: willing to go between us and PA's (he's a PA), people are unsure about how to voice their opinions, it is definitely an issue we should look at, one person acts, another reacts and discipline comes in
 - Gust motions to create committee to discuss civil discourse, Adams seconds
 - Adams: would like to be involved, would benefit from a formal course or event about how to go about having civil discourse, there is a lack of communications about conflicts, we want to get our name out there this is a great way
- ii. Move to vote, none nay motion passes, Gust to Chair, report to Tasha

d. Food Waste in the Caf

- i. Skjerping: constituent approached him about food waste in the cafeteria, had an idea to put compost trashcans in place, can't find the policy
- ii. Skjerping moves to form a Compost Committee, Gust seconds
- iii. Discussion
 - Krahulec: worked for dining services for 3 years, no formal compost policy that they follow
 - Gust: forming a committee will help inform Senate
- iv. Move to vote, none nay, motion passes (Skjerping to chair)

VIII. Announcements

- a. Nowariak: Outdoor Recreations Committee update
 - i. Senators need to start think about funding issues, committee is trying to build partnerships with other departments on campus, we need to think about whether these things should be funded
 - ii. ORC meet after the meeting
- b. Tessmer: Congratulations everyone on debate and parliamentary procedure tonight
- c. Hoffman: Office hours needed from Krahulec, Gust, Russell and Chang
- d. Ostendorf: Women's rugby killed St. Olaf, thanks to Senate for funding
- e. Dierdre: Stepped outside to make a phone call and was approached by two students in tears hurt by the rock incident, some felt hurt that their faith/ religion is being considered a hate crime

- f. Fogeberg: equestrian team did well this weekend
- g. West: Wednesday night, 7 pm in Confer Vickner, federal circuit court judge Diane Sykes will be having a discussion

IX. Motion to adjourn, Anthony Adams, Skjerpig seconds, motion passes 8:37