

Grand Valley State University Student Senate

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

Kirkhof 2250, 5:15 p.m.

Chair: Evan Jackson

Vice Chair: Ty Vanlerberghe

Parliamentarian: William Laurin



Agenda

1. Call To Order

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Previous minutes stand approved.
- b. Passing of the Papers
 - i. There were no papers to be passed at this time.

2. Public Comment

3. Executive Reports

- a. President - Evan Jackson
 - i. Good evening, everyone. I hope you're all doing well after the short week and fall break. It's been a relatively quiet stretch for Senate, which makes sense given the shorter academic week. There aren't many major updates at the moment, but a few quick notes:
 1. We will not be meeting next week due to Halloween, so enjoy the night off and take that time to recharge a bit. When we're back, we'll start shifting toward wrapping up semester projects and preparing for transitions going into winter.
 2. That's all from me this week. With that, I'll turn it over to Vice President Vanlerberghe.
- b. Vice President - Ty Vanlerberghe
 - i. Happy Thursday! I hope you all had a fantastic fall break. Because of fall break, a short update from me!
 1. First, tomorrow, Senator Rodgers, Senator Finley, and Senator Dykhuis and I will be attending a meeting with the Provost's office to continue our efforts for the Course Marking Initiative. If anyone

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has any thoughts that they would like communicated, please let me know and we will be sure to mention them then.

2. Second, also tomorrow, Evan and I will be attending another University Academic Senate meeting from 3-5 PM in Zumberg Hall. We have two available seats left, if you are interested in attending with us, please Slack me. This opportunity is first-come first-served.
3. Third and finally, next week, Evan, Will, and I will be participating in Reach Higher Together explainer sessions with the Reach Higher Core Team, the Provost's Office, and members from the AP Committee to share with students, staff, and other members of the GV community the highlights of Reach Higher and how we see the plan incorporated in our constituent communities. If anyone has anything from last week's presentation that they want included in our involvement, please let me know. If anyone has any questions, please Slack me.
4. I yield to Chief of Staff Laurin.

c. Chief of Staff - William Laurin

- i. Good afternoon everyone, I hope we all had a relaxing fall break and are ready to continue our wonderful work together! I really don't have a lot for you all today, just be sure to continue working on your events requirements!
 1. As you all should have seen in Ty's weekly email, I have put together a list of where you all stand in regards to your events completion. If you notice a discrepancy or otherwise think I made

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a mistake when counting completions, don't be afraid to reach out and inform me of this and we will figure out where you're supposed to be.

2. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all that you are allowed to submit requests for events to be counted through the form found at the bottom of the events requirement sheet. While not every submission may be accepted, I am still happy to review and apply them as seen fit.

3. That's all from me, I yield back to President Jackson.

4. Department of Public Safety

- a. Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety, Daniel Lindstrom
 - i. Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety, Daniel Lindstrom, began a presentation to the Senate discussing concerns from students regarding public safety on campus, and then opened the floor to questions.
 1. Theakston: What are your goals so far for the year?
 - a. Lindstrom: I believe the police department is terribly understaffed. There is one police officer on our force per 900 students. One of my priorities is to get to a staffing level to provide the kind of service students expect of us.
 2. Stang: Can you discuss what your day-to-day looks like?
 - a. It changes every day bit by bit. I oversee more of the strategic planning of the police department and acquiring resources and tools for our force.
 3. Robinson: Where do you feel the police department is lacking? How are you wanting to fix that?

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- a. Lindstrom: The main hope for us is to provide the best service for students on campus. We feel as though there is a lack of resources, and I am working with the university to get us back on track.
 4. Schwallier: What should we expect for the Pew Campus? Where could we expect officers there?
 - a. Lindstrom: Pew Campus security has become very important on our radar. We are trying to have increased security and visibility, and improvements will be seen soon.
 5. Gemmen: What is your goal for communication with the PD?
 - a. Lindstrom: We are hoping to get better ahead of the curve. Being able to announce a threat faster than we do now, being able to provide faster updates for news coverage, and vocalizing our decision-making with students, staff, and faculty on campus.
 6. Eschleman: Do you know any opportunities for volunteers or extra staff on campus that only really focus on clerical work to get involved with campus safety?
 - a. Lindstrom: For staff that maybe want to focus more on operational work, we do utilize any help we can get. Students can help through our cadet program.
 7. VanDyke: How do you get new officers transitioned into their new positions?
 - a. Lindstrom: We help them to navigate them during their new pathway at the university. Some training for those coming right out of the academy can take up to 4 months.

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8. Dykhuis: You mentioned 1 officer per 900 students. How does this compare to the past?
 - a. Lindstrom: I can't rightly know, as I am myself relatively new. I do know we've been getting by with what we have. Moving forward, with our growing incoming classes, we hope to increase our resources to better accommodate.
 9. Taylor: Do you have a current timeline for increasing staff?
 - a. Lindstrom: I'm trying to utilize every opportunity possible. Constantly pushing this, we have meetings with the board of Trustees, meetings with university executives, and more to increase our access throughout both campuses.
 10. Robach: With on-campus security, how can we get maybe more private security for residence halls?
 - a. Lindstrom: DK Security has been very helpful, but I believe we can and should be doing more to increase student safety. Take guests as an example. It could be a huge liability for the university for being unaware of what is truly going on in residence halls. DK Security is a current solution, but we are looking into other avenues.
 11. Potter: I know you talked about partnerships. I was wondering if you could expand more on that.
 - a. Lindstrom: I mentioned only just a few partners, but we work across every department and every campus. I am certainly open to working with new groups to create new solutions and ideas for the police department.

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12. Robinson: Does GVPD have a pipeline for students interested in public safety? Are there after-college opportunities?
 - a. We always reach out to criminal justice majors to see if they have a desire to work in police and safety enforcement. We also highly encourage students to join our cadet program.
 13. Taylor: In regards to parking, I used to get a ton of timely warnings about break-ins. I have seen a huge decrease in those recently. Is there less patrolling at night?
 - a. Lindstrom: Some of the reason is that criminality has gone down. News coverage of what has been happening, extra security tool usage also has helped to deter criminal activity at night.
 14. Dykhuis: Would you ever consider working with social workers?
 - a. Lindstrom: Social workers tend to be on an on-call basis with their own companies or employers. Having someone readily available is hard, the practicality of social workers hasn't bode well for our department emergencies.
 - b. Haight: There are also on-call counseling services readily available for students daily.
 15. Dodaj: Do you plan on having more policing on the health campus?
 - a. Lindstrom: The statistics of the health campus does not often support the fear of students. There is no rampant criminality. However, we do like to check-in on our downtown campuses often. With security camera usage and

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other security measures, we are just trying to stay up to date.

16. Mulvenna: For immigration enforcement, do you intervene on events like that?

a. Lindstrom: Thankfully, we have not yet. We have assurances that they will not come onto our campus without a warrant or correspondence. It is a complicated issue, but we are trying to stay as updated and vocal as possible.

5. Last Lecture

a. Honoree Selection

- i. Theakston: Last Lecture will be happening in Kirkhoff on November 18th. These lectures provide fun lectures to students from different departments to share more about what they do. I will go through each professor that was nominated and explain their credentials and rationale, and will give the student who nominated them time to provide your rationale as well.
- ii. The Student Senate body then moved into voting for an honoree. Voting occurred by secret ballot.

1. The Senate officially voted for Professor David Austin to be the honoree at Last Lecture.

6. Call for Announcements

a. Advisor Reports

- i. Haight: You have some amazing faculty members. For those who weren't a winner for Last Lecture, sending an official letter to other nominees could be really amazing recognition. I hope you all had a great Fall Break. Have a very safe Halloween!

b. Chair Reports

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i. Allocations - Lukas Hartley

1. Hi everyone, hope you had a good break. Last week, Allo approved the following requests:
 - a. ASU for an ASuxLSUxBSU Halloween Event Ignite Dance Co for a Bonfire Event & Delta Phi Lambda for their Global Gala.
 - b. This week we're hearing 5 requests.
 - c. Aux Wars will also be happening on Nov. , please attend that event!
 - d. As always, if you have any questions about approvals/denials and the remaining budget, let me know. Also, Homecoming Voting opens tomorrow! Me, Anna and Lasiya are all on court!

ii. Public Relations - Sophie Gemmen

1. Hello everyone, and happy Thursday.
 - a. Not much from me today, but I wanted to say that, especially after our conversation about tabling last week, I am always taking notes of the ideas you all bring to the table regarding what we want PRC to do and look like. While not everything is immediately implementable, please never hesitate to reach out to me or anyone in my committee about ideas you have or opportunities you find.
 - b. Have a great weekend, and if I don't see you before then, have a great and safe Halloween.

iii. Advocacy - Genna Wright

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1. Hi everyone. Happy Thursday! I am sad I am not here today with you all but I'm here in spirit!
 - a. This week the advocacy committee will be having our Disability Expression Forum Event October 28th from 5-6 in Kirkhof Room 2270, partnered with the Student Accessibility Center! This event is super important because there are few spaces on campus where students can openly discuss their experiences with accessibility needs. This event gives them a platform to share their perspectives, raise awareness about existing barriers, and help the university build a more inclusive and equitable environment for everyone, so I am hoping you all will be there and also help spread the word! We are partnering with the events committee for disability awareness tabling which will be taking place October 22nd from 11-2, and as Senator Rodgers sent over slack, please feel free to sign up for any time slots you have available!
 - b. Just a reminder that the teach-in submission deadline has closed but the Teach-In itself will be taking place November 12th and 13th and since we will not be having senate that thursday, I strongly encourage you all to attend!
 - c. With that being said I hope you all have a great weekend and please feel free to slack me with anything questions!
- iv. Policy - Cera McDonough
 1. Good evening everyone, I hope everyone had a great relaxing fall break.

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- a. Currently, the policy committee is in the process of gaining a connection with the IT department to gather information about their role on campus.
 - b. Furthermore, in the last two months policy has met with the laker store, laker food co., athletics, facilities services, replenish, and sustainability. The notes for these meetings are posted in the policy folder in google drive. Please reach out to me or any of the senators in policy if you're interested in learning more.
 - c. Once again, if you're interested in volunteering @ the zero waste football game on 11/08 @ 2pm and 11/15 @ 1pm. Please reach out to me on which day you're available and give me your tshirt size. We will be provided tshirt and custom made student senate pins that the office of sustainability went out of their way to make for us. As well, these are event requirements.
 - d. Finally, but definitely not least...a HUGE congratulations to Senator Taylor and Senator Robinson in getting into GVSU Nursing program.
 - v. Events - Karen Theakston
 1. Happy national horror movie day!
 - a. First off I figured I would address the bonding event, due to some personal issues within my committee communication was poor on our planning. We will still be doing the event from 4-6pm and I will send a message in the bonding

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channel, if you have any questions about the location please message Senator Schwaillier.

- b. Additionally, CAB is doing the haunted library tomorrow and would love it if people joined me and Chair Mcdonough to go to that at 9pm! I will send a thing out in slack and if you plan on or want to go hear my message. Last reminder, our Last Lecture will be November 18th from 5-6:30pm in Kirkhoff room 2270!

- c. General Announcements

- i. No general announcements were given.

7. Public Comment

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.