

GSU Board or Representatives Minutes 1/6/2021

COMMENCE: 3:03 Trygve Vandal

Roll Call:

- Trygve Vandal (he/him) VP of internal affairs (present)
- Demetrius Romero (he/him) chief justice (present)
- Zack Lynch (he/him) legislative liaison (present)
- Rayni Lussier (she/her) communications liaison (present)
- Melinda Brastch-Horsager (she/her) VP of external affairs (present)
- Sophie Parker (she/her) director of legislative affairs (present)
- Amanda Crowson (absent) (E)

Medicine Creek Treaty: 3:04

Public Comment:

Kat Beck (she/her) from Washpirg update on Washpirg campaigns; campaign meeting on Thursday for hunger and homelessness campaign and a meet washpirg info session on Friday to update students, and core meeting tonight at 5pm. Kick off meeting on Jan 20th at 5pm to learn about Washpirg this quarter and engage with as many students as possible. Asking about weekly emails

Kayla taking on weekly emails -- Kat and Rayni are both interested in that.

Kat checking in on Washpirg contract signatures

Melinda is finalizing a signature page for Kayla which is ready and will be sent out today

3:11 Approval of GSU minutes:

Motion to pass by Sophie

Seconded by Melinda

Approved 5-0-0

3:13 Officer Reports:

Zach: both Sophie and Zach training with the WSA to prepare for the Legislative session on Monday. Picking back up later this week. Meeting with the Legislative office for Laurie Dolan has been secured. Reaching out to folks from the Basic Needs Center in regards to food security on campus.

Sophie: We had training today with the WSA, Will resume later and have communicated with admin in regards to COVID safety

Demetrius: Working on Bylaws and student technology fee agreement

Rayni: worked on analysis language from the health and safety committee for COVID newsletters and alerts, was able to attend the meeting on Monday the 4th.

Trygve: student advisory committees have happened and gone well, GSU fee agreement updates with Melinda to discuss it with the college admin. Spoke with Larry Gerry about new academic directions and sent out an email to everyone about opportunities to sit on the committee if interested... continue to reach out to students about this opportunity.

Melinda: Working on the GSU fee and with the student inclusion and academic progress. Communications with the executive leadership about independent communications for the GSU. What we need as a student government to effectively communicate with students. Also been the GSU rep working with the CCBLA on student needs center and food pantry.

3:22 Changes to program credits for Winter and Spring Quarter

Rayni: Shared how this decision has affected them personally. Lack of 16 credit programs due to new academic directions, so students are being forced to fit in classes where they didn't have to before in order to graduate on time, leading to lack of class availability and interfering with scheduling conflict and classes in certain areas of interest. Students unable to join 4 credit classes due to large waitlists showing that this system is not working, and lack of communication with academic advising so students can get out of those situations. Question of who students can reach out to in regards to their academic process.

Trygve: Before July the Board of Trustees and the Union representing faculty agreed to a MOU which includes a reduction in the number of credits that can be offered. This was due to financial challenges that affected both parties. Unfortunately we cannot do anything about an MOU that is already signed, but the end result and how students are being impacted is well within our domain. How do we want to focus on this?

Rayni: Working within what is already laid out is our best bet. Main issue is that there is no guidance or enough to pull from for students. Needs to be more classes.

Melinda: put a proverbial squeeze on the school, because many students are having to take classes at SPCC due to a lack of offerings. Should we be collecting stories to share with them?

Zach: have advising resources been overtly scaled back? -- YES

Rayni: currently working on writing something up for the administration because their decisions affect students at a very personal level. Changing quality of education and students educational experience.

Zach: this will definitely have a lasting impact on retention which we are already not doing well in. Put it in terms that would impact them.

Rayni: would be different if incoming freshmen weren't being promised a 16 credit model which is no longer being offered.

Trygve: next board of trustees meeting with constituency reports on the 26th. Get students stories to share with them. Try and make it so that this hopefully doesn't happen next quarter or gain better rationale as to why this is happening.

Melinda: set a deadline for stories and Rayni collect them and get that method of communication out. Give alternative emails for students to send their stories too. Then set a meeting to share this info with the Board of Trustees.

Plan to create a deadline for this project by the 19th or 20th of January to share with the administration.

3:38 COVID Communications:

Trygve: If there is anything that would help facilitate support for Sophie, Rayni and Amanda, we should have a vote on it. Ongoing topic for the GSU. Is there anything we can do to support you as a team to get anything done, and do we want to do anything else as a group in regards to COVID communication in general?

Melinda: how is it going to reassure students that we aren't just going to shut down the entire school, but keep the gravity that should be there in regards to COVID safety.

Sophie: can we share a list of contacts for students of people working on COVID related communications?

Rayni: sounds like something might be in the works. Brought it up at the last meeting. Students might get thrown around with a big list of people, so down size it or create a specific student support contact

Sophie it is a good idea to create a specific student support contact.

Trygve: COVID response says they are providing contact information in their email chains for students. Would be good to increase this and make it more visible for students. Zach to look into the governance guidelines on providing COVID contact info regarding policies and procedures for health and safety. Sophie and Rayni follow up and get that info available to students.

Rayni: utilize social media to create a bridge between COVID people (admin) and students, but admin was confused on the influence of social media; we should increase this push to utilize this resource. Rayni brought this up on Monday's meeting. Most concern is focused on students in housing on campus, but there is a lack of RA's or community building opportunities, which makes students living on campus feel isolated and out of the loop.

Trygve: need to reach out to RAD and RA's to get a feel for how things are going. Rayni and Sophie work on this possibly? Need a contact list for this.

Rayni: Possibility to increase resources for students living on campus??

Kayla Mahnke Hargett: is CBJ information being printed off and given to students in housing regarding COVID?

Rayni: Does not recall this information being shared... looks like there are some alternatives being discussed - Kayla.

3:54 Advisor Report:

Kayla Mahnke Hargett (stepping in for Jeannette Smith): moving forward with the student study space in student activities. Opens Monday week 3 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Must reserve study space in advance for COVID safety --- new COVID safety training to come soon. Reopening of in person services requires students to be trained on how to utilize resources on campus. 4 student employment positions on campus will be opening. Safe start program no longer exists -- new regional plan was released 1/5/2021. Curriculum challenges related to faculty furloughs.

4:02 Adjourn