

GSU Meeting 1/27/2021

Meeting Begins 3:05

Rollcall:

Melinda Bratsch-Horsager (she/her) VP of External Affairs
Trygve Vandal (he/him) VP of Internal Affairs
Rayni Lussier (she/her) Communications Liaison
Demetrius Romero (he/him) Chief Justice
Zach Lynch (he/him) Legislative Liaison
Sophie Parker (she/her) Director of Legislative Affairs
Kayla Mahnke Hargett (she/her) Advisor

3:07 - Acknowledgement of the Medicine Creek Treaty

Public Comment 3:08 - N/A

3:08 - approval of GSU board of reps. Minutes from 1/20/2021

- Motion by Sophie
- Seconded by Zach
- Passes by 5-0-0

3:10 - GSU Historian & Policy Analyst

- Trygve: Last 2 board meetings we discussed the position vacancy for historian and policy analyst, and decided on the 20th to open the position and adopted bylaws for hiring committees and interim appointments for the position. As a result, we have the ability to fill the spot on an interim basis, and we have at least one submission request for the appointment (Abbey).
- Kayla: How was this position opening made known to the public.
- Trygve: The opening was made known to people by word of mouth. To officially apply for the position, one must go through the whole hiring process, which is not required to fill the interim position. It is easier to have someone who is already or has already been engaged or a part of the GSU is beneficial to the interim positions. Abbey has previously been a part of the GSU, has attended several of our board meetings in the past, and would need minimal training due to their existing knowledge of the functions of the GSU. I recommend that you all take into consideration Abbey's request to fill the interim position.
- Melinda: I would like to vouch for Abbey. When the pandemic hit last year and sent us all scattering, Abbey was very helpful in organizing campus events in the

midst of many struggles. They were very productive and helpful for our community. We need people who are focused on community, and I'm hoping that Abbey will apply to go through the interview process because we really need students who are community centered to be a part of the GSU. I have zero complaints or concerns about Abbey's participation in the GSU, and encourage them to apply for a permanent position.

- Abbey: Thank you for that raving review Melinda! When I worked for the GSU I generally was sustainability liaison and ran community events, coordinating with the black student union as well.
- Zach: How much time do you (Abbey) have left at Evergreen
- Abbey: technically I should graduate by the end of summer quarter but will be here through the end of fall quarter due to my work with the organic farm.
- Trygve: Some of the critical functions that we would want to see filled are assistance with archiving and recording documents, minute taking, maybe some editing and there are definitely opportunities to do things like sit in on committees and work on social media or programing, but the core focus is record keeping (minutes), editing and being present on several committees. Do you feel confident that you could do that successfully?
- Abbey, yes I feel confident, I did a lot of note taking last year and am fairly familiar with GSU documents from past experience. I do believe I have the skill and capability to do such work.
- Trygve: do people want to hear the procedural process to appoint someone or are there more discussion questions?
- Melinda: procedure process please
- Trygve: we can appoint any current Evergreen student to a board of reps. Position, but The GSU Board of reps cannot fill a GSU executive board position by the same process without using loopholes. The executive board could appoint someone and then as long as the board of representatives don't overturn it with a vote, then it is fine. The other option is to have the GSU board of reps. Officially do two votes. The first step is to appoint Abbey to the treasurer position or student life position, and a second vote to appoint Abbey from one of those two positions to the historian and policy analyst role. I would have no problem appointing Abbey to student life and then having a vote that transfers Abbey to historian and policy analyst role.

Melinda motion to appoint Abbey on an interim basis to the student life representative position seconded by Zach
Vote passes 5-0-0

- Abbey Maroney fills the student life representative position on an interim basis--- Abbey is now a voting member
- Trygve: the next motion would be to make Abbey Maroney the historian and Policy Analyst position

Trygve: Motion to appoint Abbey Maroney the GSU student life representative to the GSU Historian and Policy Analyst position on an interim basis

Seconded by Melinda

Vote passes 5-0-1 --- Abbey abstaining as the impacted party

3:34 - GSU budget update

- Trygve: student wages, benefits, and learning allotments are currently listed at 25,047 however they don't take into account those that will be paid this winter quarter which should be somewhere around 22,000 dollars. This leaves us with an end of winter quarter balance of 2.3-3 thousand dollars. I anticipate over winter quarter we will be paying 19.3 thousand dollars. We have around 3 thousand dollars at the end of winter quarter that will rollover to spring. How much revenue we generate in Spring is an expected 11.5 thousand to 12 thousand dollars. This means we will have about 14,500 but won't the budget to cover all of our positions. We are working on alternative options, and if we have no other funding options, our deficit will look somewhere around 12 thousand dollars, and leave summer quarter without any money.
- Zach: What are the alternatives?
- Trygve: the GSU fee is coming along pretty well, but I'm not sure if it will be enacted by spring quarter, but our hope is that it will, but we have contingency plans. For example, we could go to S&A to get money to cover our deficit, and if necessary, we can pay them back some or all of the money that is generated by the GSU fee when it is enacted. We could additionally do cost saving measures to work it out, and there might be part of budgets that could theoretically be reallocated.

3:45 - Motion to amend the agenda and remove process review for hiring committee formation

Melinda Motions to approve

Seconded by Zach

Motion passes 4-0-0

3:47 - Discuss Student Health Services on Campus

- Sophie: When I asked students about their experiences with student health services on campus, the feedback was alarmingly negative. There were complaints about lack of services, students being turned away, told their mental health problems were not bad enough to treat, or that they wouldn't treat them, and others said that staff did not even seem qualified to provide the services they were receiving. My question is what can we do to improve health services for

students at Evergreen? Do we need to connect students with the admin to testify on this issue?

- Trygve: I would suggest that the first step regardless of any action would be to set a meeting up with the director of student wellness services. (Elizabeth McHugh or Barbara Krulich is the PA-C for SWS)
- Zach: I can bring this up at tomorrows basic needs meeting with Melinda
- Trygve: Include Melinda and/or I in on these emails and conversations. Is there anyone that really wants to be involved? -- CC Kayla on this
- Zach: I would be happy to help since I am working primarily on Basic Needs stuff as this is one need on campus, separate from the basic needs center.

3:53 - Motion to amend the agenda to include the proposal for video camera usage in the Evergreen learning community

Melinda Motion to approve
Seconded by Zach
Motion passes 4-0-0

- Trygve: Many large schools (and even research universities) are sharing that mandatory camera usage is an issue with online classes. UW had a recommendation and there have been informal advisory statements from colleges regarding student camera usage for class lectures. The general idea is that our private living spaces have become public domain for all students to view, and those who are underprivileged often face the harshest implications. There doesn't seem to be a lot of reasons to mandate why students would need to have their camera on unless it was required to see if the student is able to accomplish the key course objectives. It makes sense, and the only argument I can see to allow instructors to make it mandatory to keep cameras on is because they believe that means a student is paying closer attention, which we know is not always the case.
- Motion to endorse that camera use should not be required during class time

4:01 Sophie left the meeting

- continued discussion on mandate that students can't be forced to have cameras on during class.

4:03 Melinda motions, "GSU endorse adopting a policy equivalent to Brown University's or Pennsylvania State University's policy on web camera usage in remote learning environments."
Zach seconds. Vote passes 4-0-0

4:05 Kayla Mahnke says a resolution with the SLAR will be resolved by next week

- she met with WASHPIRG who is curious about the winter referendum
- will there be more than one motion?
- question of how naming of the basic needs center will be done.
- Jeanette should be back as advisor in the coming weeks
- Melinda asks about how we can collect data from students without being able to email the whole student body because surveys had low response rates through myevergreen.

4:07 Zach left and GSU lost Quorum