



<b>Resolution Number:</b>	<b>W-19-04</b>	<b>Sponsored By:</b>	<b>President Jenkin</b>
<b>Introduced On:</b>	28 March 2019		
<b>Voted On:</b>	28 March 2019		
<b>Result:</b>	Passed		
<b>Vote Count:</b>	Unanimous		

**A RESOLUTION TO: Establish a student voice for deliberation and visibility in Board of Trustee meetings in light of accountability towards our strive to be a more student-centered university**

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**Recognizing**, GVSU prides itself in being student-centered and aims to have students shape their lives, their professions and their societies, however, students cannot impact their society if they are not given the proper channels to communicate their concerns<sup>1</sup>,

**Recognizing**, There is currently no designated role to serve as the official channel of communication between the board of trustees and the student body,

**Whereas**, The Student Senate President is currently the representative voice of all Grand Valley State University students to the Board of Trustees<sup>2</sup>,

**Recognizing**, Student voice, comment, experience, involvement, and presence is crucial to every part of a university's success and operation,

**Whereas**, The board continuously votes on action items that directly impact the student body such as tuition rates, leasing and or disposing of property, appointing university personnel, and more; however student input on many of these items is rarely communicated due to the lack of an official channel of communication for students<sup>3</sup>,

**Recognizing**, The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees Bylaws section 6.206 states that it is the President's role "to act as the official channel of communication between members of the university faculty or staff and the Board, and keep the Board informed of known material matters that may reasonably concern the Board,"<sup>3</sup>

**Recognizing**, The entire Board of Trustees Bylaws document does not once state the word 'students' and there is no established channel for communication between the student body and the board of trustees<sup>3</sup>,

**Recognizing**, The Grand Valley State University student learning outcomes shape students to value and actively participate in collaboration, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning<sup>4</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A5DE65F-DEAD-F53F-8DD204667872FDD3>

<sup>2</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oWoEu58wwminUk\\_Uwd1Js19002S49mLE/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oWoEu58wwminUk_Uwd1Js19002S49mLE/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=73BFBA1D-C833-7080-6B6AE509E80EC793>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/spaa/student-learning-outcomes-10.htm>

**Whereas,** The highest operational levels of our university do not display these values to the best of its ability given the lack of student representation, transparency of subcommittee locations and meeting minutes, as well as a lack of public comment,

**Recognizing,** Peer institutions such as Central Michigan University<sup>5</sup>, Western Michigan University<sup>6</sup>, University of Michigan<sup>7</sup>, Michigan Technological University<sup>8</sup>, Lake Superior State University<sup>9</sup>, Eastern Michigan University<sup>10</sup>, Ferris State University<sup>11</sup>, and Saginaw Valley State University<sup>12</sup>, have a regular student report, or student commenting session, at each meeting,

**Recognizing,** Student's voice is trusted and guaranteed a seat on many university Boards of Trustees across the country including but not limited to University of Illinois<sup>13</sup>, Rutgers University<sup>14</sup>, Penn State University<sup>15</sup>, University of Oregon<sup>16</sup>, California State University<sup>17</sup>, Cornell University<sup>18</sup>, University of Connecticut<sup>19</sup>, New York University<sup>20</sup>, and much more,

**Whereas,** In order to continue our goal of a student-centered university we must have student presence as well as space to speak in all places where decisions that could impact students are being made,

**Recognizing,** A regular agenda item of Comments by the Student Senate President on the agenda for the Student and Academic Affairs sub-committee will ensure that student's voice is heard and accounted for in real time on the discussions of action items that impact our student body,

**Recognizing,** A regular agenda item of Report by the Student Senate President on the agenda for the formal public Board of Trustees meetings will ensure necessary symbolic student representation and documentation of student's voice in the discussions of action items that impact the student body,

**Whereas,** The Grand Valley State University Student Senate is open to discussion on various forms of real-time commenting on Board of Trustee action items as well as visible student representation,

**Recognizing,** This resolution is the first step in creating the necessary channel for student representation on all levels of university deliberation and functioning,

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cmich.edu/bot/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> <https://wmich.edu/trustees/procedures/comment>

<sup>7</sup> <http://regents.umich.edu/meetings/minutes/minutes18.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mtu.edu/bot/meetings/minutes/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.lssu.edu/board-of-trustees/#toggle-id-7>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.emich.edu/regents/board-documents/2019/02-07-2019.php>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/Trustees/minutes.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <https://boardofcontrol.svsu.edu/pages/search.php?search=%21last1000>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.bot.uillinois.edu/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.dailytargum.com/article/2018/10/rutgers-is-accepting-nominations-for-student-seat-on-board-of-trustees>

<sup>15</sup> <https://news.psu.edu/story/420659/2016/08/11/administration/student-representation-expanded-board-trustees-committees>

<sup>16</sup> <https://around.uoregon.edu/content/student-nominations-needed-uo-board-trustees-seat>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees>

<sup>18</sup> <https://assembly.cornell.edu/elections>

<sup>19</sup> <https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.nyu.edu/about/leadership-university-administration/board-of-trustees.html>

**Let It Be Resolved,** The Grand Valley State University Student Senate representing the voice of all 25,000 students calls for an establishment of student representation through real-time deliberation as well as symbolic visible representation through a regular report on the formal agenda; hereby holding accountability and student representation on all university levels.