Gender Initiative Mission Statement

Student Senate is striving to overcome misunderstanding and disrespect among men, women, and trans* people on campus. We plan to improve the campus culture by promoting positive interactions between people of all genders through Student Senate initiatives involving programs, media, and educational events. We will do this in collaboration with relevant clubs and groups on campus.

How does the Senate mission of creating a community of equality for people of all genders fit into the broader identity of Goshen College?

*All information in quotes is taken from the GC website*

GC’s mission statement:
“…As a ministry of the Mennonite Church, we seek to integrate Christian values with educational, social and professional life. As a community of faith and learning, we strive to foster personal, intellectual, spiritual and social growth in every person…”

Core values:
- Christ-centered
  - “a reflective faith that nurtures spiritual growth”
  - “an active faith that informs all life’s choices”
  - Christ welcomed all people to be part of God’s Kingdom, and he fostered a community on earth that was all-encompassing, inviting young and old, rich and poor alike to take part. Today, we strive to create community which reflects the inclusive nature of Christ, recognizing that equality amongst people of different genders is fundamental to this goal.
- Passionate learning
  - “life-long learning, service, relationships, and work in a socially and culturally diverse context”
  - We know that learning does not just happen in the classroom, but that much education is also a product of daily interactions. It is very important to us that all people of the GC community be part of a healthy environment, where all are free to learn, and encouraged to understand one another better.
- Servant leadership
  - “a healthy understanding of self and others that is reflected in relationships of interdependence and mutual accountability”
  - “empower self and others”
  - We believe that being servants to one another requires respect and the pursuit of equality. Our hope is that students, staff, and faculty alike will feel empowered to be active participants in a community where people of all genders serve one another in love.
- Compassionate peacemaking
“a personal integrity that fosters the ability to resolve conflict and to promote justice”
“a commitment to diversity in all of its forms both conceptually and in practice”
“As Christian peacemakers, we embrace “shalom” – the peace that God intends for humanity. We are committed to build the “peaceable kingdom” by practicing loving kindness, restoring justice, practicing anti-racism, loving our enemies and advocating for the dispossessed. We renounce the oppressive, violent destructive powers of this world – and are willing to live our lives as examples of God’s peace.”

We are committed to seeking peace in the GC community. Such peace will come only through the collective embrace of diversity on our campus, specifically gender diversity.

Global citizenship
“an intercultural openness with the ability to function effectively with people of other world views”

We recognize that, in many parts of the world, gender stratification exists as a force deeply rooted in history, social institutions, and culture. At Goshen College, we have the privilege of being able to engage this reality in constructive ways. We hope the opportunity will not only lead to healing within the GC community, but encourage us to examine issues surrounding gender and to advocate for positive change as we become part of many other communities around the world.

Commitment to Community Standards:

“Goshen College is dedicated to fostering a spirit of hospitality on our campus, including all students, faculty and staff and college guests, as part of maintaining a healthy living and learning community. We welcome all students as God’s creation regardless of color, gender, religion, ethnicity or nationality, sexual orientation and social or economic class. In order for a diverse community to thrive, we must recognize our differences and seek understanding and integrity in our relationships. Students and faculty at Goshen College are expected to support an environment of mutual respect and accountability, to care for the personal dignity of others and to have integrity in their conduct and communication.

The spirit of respect and hospitality at Goshen College reflects our character as a Mennonite-Anabaptist liberal arts community of scholarship, teaching, learning and service. We believe that the expression of hospitality is best understood in the life and character of Jesus Christ, who welcomed the Gentile and the Jew, women and men, the poor and the wealthy, the slave and the free, the sick and the healthy. The Mennonite Church promotes a community founded on love and justice in which all persons possess inherent dignity as children of God. Our search for truth and our understanding of complex modern challenges is informed and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus and the tradition of Anabaptist Christians to be accountable to each other in the context of the church.”