

Student Government Association Minutes
September 10th, 2013
Cascia Hall

President: Tony Bruno **Vice President:** John Ferraro
Secretary: Mackenzie Goebel **Treasurer:** Tim O'Leary
Member at Large: Max Zhang

Members present: Julie Salisbury, Sarah Connelly, Lauren Foster, Ariana L'Ecuyer, Jennie Votta, Allison Langone, Neil Gagnon, Danielle Trudel, Chris Hart, Katelyn Davis

Members absent: Cam Greenburg, Maria Russo, Lauren Folino, Brandon Shea, Madison Davis, Ashleigh Concetti

- Sarah motioned to start the meeting 5:05PM.
- Jennie motioned to approve the minutes from last week.
- Max announced new committees.
- Tony reminded everyone of the retreat, which is on Sunday.
- Tim talked about elections, time slots for tomorrow are all set. If there are spots left open for more members at noon tomorrow (9/18) elections will be extended if necessary.
- Mackenzie mentioned office hours, sign ups going around for Monday the 30th in the evening. This serves as time for SGA to be available and have a presence on campus.
- Mackenzie also talked about the open house next Saturday, need members to be present to talk about SGA. Sign up sheet also going around for volunteers.
- John talked about the Block Party, Tony wants to have a big SGA presence to support all the changes we have helped give momentum to. Donna sold the event and went into great detail about what is to be expected (dinner, fireworks, fun events).
- Tony brought up the New Resident Hall Petition. There is no official name but members of the petition feel that the name "warrior village" gives off a negative connotation and have asked that SGA joins their view. Tony read the petition out loud as well as provided each member with a copy. Tim motioned to open up for a discussion.
- Allison does not agree with the petition, feels like "warrior" embodies the spirit of the student body at Merrimack.
- Julie agrees, warrior can mean someone who has persevered, not necessarily been violent. She also points out the divide between warrior athletes and non-athletes if athletes can be addressed as warriors but a communal home cannot share the connotation.
- Tim claims the petition is disrespectful to veterans, that the petition puts the definition of warrior "in a square". The New Residents Hall also have never been given any other official name aside from New Resident Halls.
- Julie thinks that maybe the petition should be aimed at changing mascot all together, not something just related to the Res Halls.
- Allison points out that not every student here is of Christian faith so that the petition is not right in being inclusive of all students when they claim "warrior" is offensive given certain historical events.

- Donna said they are waiting for a donor before giving the New Halls an official name and that the faculty senate have no final say in naming the building.
- Julie made a point that most students take pride in being a Merrimack warrior, regardless of being an athlete or not.
- Tony shared that he has received emails regarding the petition and Donna said that we can either respond or choose to do nothing. No faculty member should be bullying or hazing any members of SGA to sway a certain way.
- Tim posed the question, do we want to respond to something that isn't even a thing?
- Tony elaborated on which ways we can react... He believes responding and taking a stance might legitimize the petition and isn't sure that's what SGA wants to do.
- E-Board says there are enough members present to vote
- Allison motioned to start a secret ballot about how to proceed.
 - Final Ballot:
 - Inaction: do nothing (13)
 - Response: email (2)
- Tony will send an email to the faculty senate saying we are choosing to be inactive at this point in time.
- Open Floor:
- Tony talked about the orientation banquet (Oct 15), for those members who were a part of the orientation committee they are excused from the meeting.
- Classes on 10/15 are meeting on a Monday schedule so we may move the meeting that week to Thursday. Further info to come once we get feedback about who is available to attend.
- Neil motioned to close the meeting at 5:43PM.