

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA
September 10th, 2019

Vision: The students of Merrimack College, in hopes of protecting and ensuring the rights of all students and the Merrimack College community hereby establish The Student Government Association of Merrimack College, referred to as the SGA.

President: Amanda Gallagher (2020) **Vice President:** Bia Kerr (2022)

Treasurer: Liam OCearuil (2022) **Secretary:** Haley Mallett (2020)

Parliamentarian: Josh Rizzo (2020) **Publicist:** Cobbina Appiah (2022)

Advisor: Rose McCarthy, Hanna Christ



Members present: Amanda Gallagher (2020) Bia Kerr (2022) Liam OCearuil (2022) Haley Mallett (2020) Josh Rizzo (2020) Cobbina Appiah (2022) Abigail Hooper (2021) Caterina Polito (2020) Dan Hansen (2020) Erika Torkildsen (2021) Geena Levine (2021) Haley Taing (2021) Jenna Stanish (2022) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Julia Matter (2021) Kaylee Pliska (2022) Luke Groder (2022) Morgan Proko (2020) Raquel Perez (2020) Tiana Lawrence (2020) Tim Hare (2020)

Non-Voting Members:

Members absent: Tayleigh Tierney-Honan (2021)

Students in attendance: Leena Ali, Tiffany Vo, Timothy Flannery

Staff in attendance:

I. ROLL CALL:

- A. SGA President Amanda Gallagher '20 called the SGA meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- B. SGA Secretary Haley Mallett '20 took attendance. Quorum was met.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM:

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Amanda Gallagher '20**

- A. Welcome and Introductions
- B. President's Role
 - 1. Gallagher '20 said it is her role to:
 - a) Lead and facilitate SGA meetings.
 - b) Meet with the SGA advisor, who acts as a liaison between SGA and other campus organizations.
 - c) Support SGA senators.
- C. Committees
 - 1. Committee chairs and senators are expected to regularly meet with their respective point person.
 - 2. Gallagher '20 emphasized the importance of committee communication.
 - a) This includes committees communicating with each other, especially when student feedback spans multiple committees.
- D. Constitution
 - 1. Gallagher '20 and SGA Secretary Haley Mallett '20 edited the SGA Constitution in August.
 - 2. Many of the edits were to correct grammar and eliminate redundancies.
 - 3. Senators will vote to approve the changes to the constitution at the next SGA meeting.
 - 4. The most significant changes to the constitution include:
 - a) A table of contents.
 - b) Article III: SGA's Values
 - (1) Communication, accountability, advocacy, and inclusion.
 - c) Article IX, Section 5A: Convocation
 - (1) The SGA President will carry the college mace, and the senior with the most seniority on the Executive Board will carry the cross.
 - d) Article XI, Section 1: New Tabling Requirements

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- (1) The number of tabling events will be set at the beginning of the semester by the SGA President.
 - (2) 4 tabling events are required for the fall 2019 semester.
 - (3) Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen asked what a senator should do if they cannot fulfill the requirements.
 - (a) Gallagher '20 said they should communicate their concerns to the Executive Board as soon as possible.
 - e) Article XI, Section 2: New Dress Code Policies
 - (1) A dress code violation will result in an additional tabling requirement.
 - (2) Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare asked what the SGA dress code is.
 - (a) Gallagher '20 said it is still business casual, with the exception of boots in inclement weather.
 - f) Article XI, Section 3: Conduct Policies
 - (1) Senators can be removed for conduct violations on social media or in their representation of the college.
 - (a) Removal for a conduct violation is at the SGA advisor's discretion.
 - (2) Rose McCarthy said that senators must uphold themselves to the mission of the college because they represent the student body and SGA.
 - g) Article XII: Committees
 - (1) The Diversity Affairs Committee has been redesigned and the Environmental Affairs Committee added.
 - (2) If a new committee is approved, it will stand as an ad-hoc committee for a semester before being added to the constitution.
 - h) Article XIV, Section 4: Revising the Constitution
 - (1) The constitution will now be revised once per academic year.
- E. Accountability
1. Senators should give students the avenue to see change through SGA.
 2. Senators should also use SGA as a resource to make change on campus.
- F. New Senator Powerpoint
1. The New Senator Orientation presentation serves as an introduction to SGA and resource for new senators.
 2. It can be located in the SGA team drive.

IV. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bia Kerr '22

- A. Vice President's Role
1. SGA Vice President Bia Kerr '22 said it is her role to:
 - a) Serve as the chair of the Student Organizations Committee.
 - b) Maintain communication with all student organizations.
 - c) Help new student organizations receive SGA approval.
 2. Kerr '22 plans to highlight one student organization in a weekly spotlight.
 - a) The organization chosen will be randomly generated.
 - b) The goal is for all student organizations to be equally represented and supported by SGA.
 3. Kerr '22 plans to work with SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21 to advertise student organizations and their events on SGA's social media.
- B. Blood Drive
1. The Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 2nd from 1:30 to 7pm.

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- C. Student Organization Update
 - 1. Nothing new to report.

- V. **SECRETARY'S REPORT: Haley Mallett '20**
 - A. Secretary's Role
 - 1. Mallett '20 said it is her role to:
 - a) Maintain all clerical work, including minutes.
 - b) Maintain communication with SGA, especially email correspondence.
 - c) Maintain attendance and tabling records.
 - B. Involvement Fair
 - 1. The Involvement Fair was a successful tabling event for SGA.
 - 2. 35 students expressed interest in joining SGA.
 - C. SGA Elections
 - 1. SGA Elections will be held from Tuesday, September 17th to Friday, September 20th to fill vacancies.
 - 2. All materials are due to The Hub and the SGA email by Friday, September 13th at 2pm.
 - D. SGA Polos
 - 1. Senators will receive an SGA polo as part of their uniform.
 - 2. The polo will be considered business casual per the dress code.

- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT: Liam OCearuil '22**
 - A. Treasurer's Role
 - 1. SGA Treasurer Liam OCearuil '22 said it is his role to:
 - a) Oversee the overall budget, SGA's budget, and all student organizations' budgets.
 - 2. OCearuil '22 wants to make himself available to student organizations.
 - 3. OCearuil '22 also plans to work closely with Kerr '22 to address any student organization's needs.
 - B. Finance Update
 - 1. The initial budgets for student organizations have been sent out.
 - a) The majority of student organizations on campus requested funds.
 - b) \$483,740, which is 94.85% of the overall budget, has been allocated.
 - 2. The supplemental budget form is now live.
 - a) \$26,260, which is 5.15% of the overall budget, remains unallocated.
 - 3. The SGA budget for the year is \$20,000.

- VII. **PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT: Josh Rizzo '20**
 - A. Parliamentarian's Role
 - 1. SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20 said it is his role to:
 - a) Move to open and close discussions.
 - b) Keep discussions on topic.
 - (1) This includes stopping redundant statements.
 - (2) Gallagher '20 added that redundant statements will be struck from minutes for clarity and brevity.
 - c) Maintain the speakers list.
 - (1) Senators may raise their hand during a discussion to be added to the speakers list.
 - d) Ensure senators' phones are not being used.
 - B. Committees

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1. The Dining and Diversity Affairs committees are waiting to confirm their meeting times.
 - a) Their respective committee chairs should follow-up with their point person as soon as possible to set a meeting time.
 - b) Chairs should copy Rizzo '20 on those emails.
2. Committee updates will be due at 10pm on Sundays.

VIII. PUBLICIST'S REPORT: **Cobbina Appiah '21**

A. Publicist's Role

1. SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21 said it is his role to:
 - a) Communicate SGA updates through social media.
 - b) Help advertise student organizations and their events.
2. Appiah '21 encouraged senators to share SGA's posts on social media.

IX. ADVISOR'S REPORT: **Rose McCarthy**

A. Block Party

1. The Block Party will be held on Friday, September 13th from 4 to 7pm in Lot H.
2. Sparky's will be closed that night, so all dining will be outside.
3. There will be 4 food trucks, novelties, giveaways, and a cash bar.

B. Introduce Hanna Christ

1. Hanna Christ is a graduate fellow for the Office of Student Involvement.
2. She will serve as the co-advisor to SGA this academic year.

C. Senior Week

1. Class Council used to plan Senior Week, but no longer exists.
2. The Office of Student Involvement wants to form a Senior Week planning committee.
3. Seniors who are interested should contact Alyssa Cyr.

X. CHAIR REPORTS:

A. Academic Affairs Committee: **Tayleigh Tierney-Honan '21**

1. Nothing new to report.

B. Campus Infrastructure Committee: **Julia Matter '21**

1. Nothing new to report.
2. Hare '20 said the clock in front of the Sakowich Center does not work.

C. Career Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee: **Liam OCearuil '22**

1. The Career Affairs Committee was approved as an ad-hoc committee last semester.
2. Its point person is Ashley Archangelo, who works in the O'Brien Center.
3. The committee is looking for career services related feedback from students.

D. Dining Committee: **Tim Hare '20**

1. The Dining Committee is working to advertise the food truck's location around campus.
2. The Sparky's menu online and on the TVs outside of the dining hall do not match.
 - a) The Dining Committee wants to work with Sodexo to make sure they always match.

E. Diversity Affairs Committee: **Tiana Lawrence '20**

1. The goal of the Diversity Affairs Committee is to reflect inclusiveness on campus and make all students feel heard and seen.
2. The committee is planning a diversity training for SGA.
 - a) They want to invite faculty and staff to attend.
3. The committee is holding a Hair Show in February 2020.
 - a) More details will be provided at a later date.

F. Environmental Affairs Committee: **Morgan Proko '20**

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1. Nothing new to report.
- G. Information Technology Committee: **John-Paul Haley-Read '20**
 1. Nothing new to report.
 2. Hansen '20 said iPads are frequently losing connection to the WiFi.
 - a) The IT Committee will follow-up on this concern.
- H. Residence Life Committee: **Erika Torkildsen '21**
 1. Nothing new to report.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Hansen '20 asked if students will receive an email about the Block Party.
 1. Yes, students will receive an email about the Block Party.
- B. Class of 2020 Senator Caterina Polito asked if there will be food trucks on Friday night.
 1. No because the food trucks will be at the Block Party.
- C. Class of 2021 Senator Abigail Hooper asked if senators are allowed to take notes on their iPads.
 1. Gallagher '20 said she prefers senators take handwritten notes to prevent distractions.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. SGA Retreat 9/21
 1. The retreat will be from 10am to 2pm.
 2. The attendance policy will be in effect.
- B. Pizza with the President 10/22
 1. The event will be an open forum for all students with President Hopey.
 2. The attendance policy will be in effect.
- C. Office Hours in the Den
 1. Gallagher '20 will hold SGA hours in the Den to talk with students on:
 - a) Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30am.
 - b) Fridays from 12:30 to 1:30pm.
 2. The office hours will be advertised on SGA's social media.

XIV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until September 17th, 2019.

Mission Statement

The SGA seeks to be the voice for the Merrimack College Community through engagement and representation. The SGA will serve as an advocate for students, faculty, and staff. The SGA will inform the community of policy changes and promote campus events. The SGA will provide committees to be delegates for aspects of campus life. The SGA will create a platform for student leaders to engage and be a role model for the campus. The SGA will foster the values of the Institution and reflect them through the SGA's actions. Our Values as an SGA are as follows: Communication, Accountability, Inclusion, and Advocacy.