

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

October 1st, 2019

*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 (2021)

**Advisor:** Rose McCarthy, Hanna Christ



**Members present:** Amanda Gallagher (2020) Bia Kerr (2022) Liam OCearuil (2022) Haley Mallett (2020) Josh Rizzo (2020) Cobbina Appiah (2021) Adrian Cintron (2022) Alexandra Gioia (2023) Alex Thelusma (2020) Cailey MacEachern (2023) Dan Hansen (2020) Erika Torkildsen (2021) Freddy Monroy (2023) Geena Levine (2021) Haley Taing (2021) Helen Vasquez (2023) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Kaylee Pliszka (2022) Kiley Martel (2023) Leena Ali (2021) Luke Groder (2022) Maria Kamenias (2021) Morgan Proko (2020) Raquel Perez (2020) Sam Mathews (2022) Tayleigh Tierney Honan (2021) Tiana Lawrence (2020) Tiffany Vo (2022) Tim Hare (2020)

**Non-Voting Members:**

**Members absent:** Abigail Hooper (2021) Caterina Polito (2020) Jenna Stanish (2022) Julia Matter (2021) William Ellis (2023)

**Students in attendance:** Evan Bowie, Matthew Cavoli, Nicholas Barber

**Staff in attendance:** Mike Kennedy

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: September 17th, 2019

- A. The minutes were approved.

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

- A. Welcome New Senators
- B. Student Organization Presenters: DREAM
  1. DREAM is a nationwide organization that stands for Disability Rights Education Activism and Mentorship.
  2. DREAM advocates for student rights and inclusivity on campuses, and invites all individuals, including allies, to join.
  3. Its goal is to make Merrimack a more accommodating and inclusive campus.
  4. DREAM wants SGA recognition because it wants to spread awareness of the organization across campus.
  5. Future plans and events for DREAM include:
    - a) A mentorship program designed to pair new and current students together to establish support systems.
    - b) Disability education trainings to address topics such as accommodation and inclusivity.
    - c) Attending FYE classes to speak about disabilities and services on campus through the Office of Accessibility Services.
    - d) All Abilities Awareness Week to raise awareness for disabilities and advocate for disability rights.
  6. DREAM was approved by majority vote.
- C. Statements of Intent
  1. Matthew Cavoli and Nicholas Barber gave statements of intent for the Class of 2023.
    - a) Cavoli and Barber were approved by majority vote.
- D. Registered Events in O'Brien

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1. Recently, the lightbulbs in the O'Brien Hall elevator were stolen.
  2. It is the responsibility of students to say something if they see something.
  3. Mallett '20 said O'Brien resident assistants (RAs) are stationed in the lobby until 2 a.m. on weekend nights.
  4. Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare asked if there are cameras.
    - a) Rose McCarthy said no, there are no cameras in the elevator.
- E. Technology in SGA
1. Next week, senators are invited to use technology to record notes during the meeting.
  2. The following week, SGA will discuss whether senators should be allowed to electronically take notes during meetings.
- F. Pizza with the President Polling
1. Pizza with the President will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd.
  2. SGA will poll students in the Sakowich Center from Thursday, October 3rd to Friday, October 11th.
  3. Senators will ask students for feedback, both for their specific committee and more generally SGA, while polling.
  4. There will be a Google Form to submit each students' feedback.

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

- A. Blood Drive
1. There are open donation slots tomorrow, October 2nd.
  2. Senators should encourage students to book an appointment or walk-in to donate blood.
- B. Student Organization Update
1. There are two student organizations interested in receiving SGA recognition: MC 3D Printing and the Nursing Club.
    - a) These two student organizations are planning to meet with the committee soon.
  2. The Sexual Health Alliance Club is also potentially meeting the committee soon.
  3. The meeting time for the committee is changing. If senators are interested in serving on it, they should contact SGA Vice President Bia Kerr '22.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT: Haley Mallett '20

- C. Blood Drive Tabling
1. Tabling pre-Blood Drive and the first day of the drive have been extremely successful.
- D. Polling
1. Mallett '20 will be sending out polling shift sign-ups by tomorrow, October 2nd.
  2. In addition to polling, senators will also hand out SGA cups and magnets as an incentive to students who provide feedback.
    - a) The SGA cups provide a 70 cent discount on iced coffee.
    - b) Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen asked where the discount is honored on campus.
      - (1) The SGA discount is honored in the Warrior's Den, Library Cafe, and the Sanctuary.

### V. TREASURER'S REPORT: Liam OCearuil '22

- A. Finance Update
1. IEEE requested a supplemental budget of \$60 for pizza at their meeting.
    - a) The budget request was approved.
  2. Class of 2020 Senator Tiana Lawrence said Step Club is having trouble purchasing their costumes with their budget.
    - a) SGA Treasurer Liam OCearuil '22 said SGA typically funds 50% of apparel, but SGA works with organizations on a case-by-case basis.

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b) OCearuil '22 added if the club needs more funding, they can contact SGA.

### VI. PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT: Josh Rizzo '20

#### A. Committee Updates

1. In the coming week, SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20 plans to check-in with all committees and their respective chairs.
2. If chairs have any issues on their committees, they can always check-in with Rizzo '20.
3. Chairs are expected to regularly submit weekly updates by 10 p.m. on Sundays.

#### B. Dishes with the Dean

1. Rizzo '20 and SGA Graduate Advisor Hanna Christ attend Dishes with the Dean every other Friday to collect student feedback to bring to SGA committees.
2. Highlights from Dishes with the Dean on Friday, September 20th include:
  - a) The Interdisciplinary Institute is concerned about the lack of health science courses.
  - b) The U-Cook Station in Sparky's is being underutilized.
    - (1) Students believe the decline in students using U-Cook is due to an employee named Jose, who helped students cook at the station last year, being moved to another station in Sparky's.
    - (2) If it continues to underperform, U-Cook may be replaced with another station that offers healthy options.
    - (3) The concerns about U-Cook have been brought to the Dining Committee's attention.
  - c) Students are concerned about the MPR being used by local high school students at night.
    - (1) Class of 2020 Senator JP Haley-Read said building managers can be contacted to inform students they are not allowed to use the MPR.
    - (2) Lawrence '20 asked how these students are being identified as local high school students.
      - (a) Students at Dishes with the Dean said the students often say they do not attend Merrimack, but instead a local high school.

### VII. PUBLICIST'S REPORT: Cobbina Appiah '21

#### A. SGA Website

1. Widgets to SGA's social media have been added to the website.
2. The SGA minutes will be added to the website weekly.

### VIII. ADVISOR'S REPORT: Rose McCarthy

#### A. Resident Student Parking During Homecoming

1. The Parking Office will release more information about parking during Homecoming in the next few days.
2. Students who park in Lot K are expected to move their cars to Andover Landing at Brickstone between Thursday, October 3rd at 3 p.m. and Friday, October 4th at 12 p.m.
  - a) A shuttle will be running constantly to transport students between the lot and campus.
  - b) A schedule for the shuttle and map will be available to students.
  - c) If students move their cars between 5 and 10 p.m. on Thursday, October 3rd, they will be incentivized with a "We Are One" shirt and Homecoming hat.

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There will be buses transporting students back to campus from Andover Landing during this time.

- d) RAs will also be discussing the process of moving cars with their residents.
3. The Parking Office will accommodate the needs of medical parking in Lot J.
4. Class of 2020 Senator Morgan Proko asked when students can move their cars back to campus.
  - a) Cars can be moved back to campus on Sunday, October 6th.
  - b) The shuttle will run between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- B. Tailgating for Homecoming
  1. Tailgating behind Duane Stadium is sold out, and almost sold out in Lot K.
  2. If students are tailgating in Lot K, they will need to move their cars out of the lot by Friday, October 4th at 12 p.m., and the location will be communicated to those students.

### IX. CHAIR REPORTS:

- A. Academic Affairs Committee: **Tayleigh Tierney-Honan '21**
  1. The committee is interested in hosting another Desserts with the Deans.
    - a) There are three new deans, and the committee believes it is important they are able to attend to meet students.
    - b) The committee would like the event to be held during the second half of an SGA meeting so all senators are required to attend.
  2. Students have given positive feedback on using Apple Pencils, as well as the acceptance of technology more generally being used, this year in the classroom.
    - a) Hare '20 stated it is important that professors allow technology to be used in the classroom, especially because of the Mobile Merrimack initiative.
    - b) Lawrence '20 said it is helpful for some students to take notes on their devices.
    - c) Class of 2023 Senator Alexandra Gioia added that technology is especially important for students with accommodations.
- B. Campus Infrastructure Committee: **Josh Rizzo '20 presented for Julia Matter '21**
  1. A walkway outside of Hamel Health is being looked into.
  2. The empty hand sanitizer dispensers outside of Sparkys are being addressed.
  3. The Main Street clock is being fixed by an outside party.
  4. The committee is waiting to hear from the Bursar's Office on the status of the ZipCars.
  5. The mats on the walls of the MPR are going to be replaced with new mats.
  6. The Nursing Building is on track to finish on time.
- C. Career Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee: **Liam OCearuil '22**
  1. The O'Brien Center for Career Success specializes in:
    - a) Career development advising, Handshake, student resources, events including the Professional Development Retreat (PDR), employer relations, Get Hired Up, the Internship Institute (formerly Warriors at Work), and Outcome Path.
  2. The Career Fair held last Thursday, September 26th was extremely successful.
    - a) 280 students attended, which was more than double last year's attendance.
  3. On Thursday, October 3rd, the Liberal Arts Career Night will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Roger's Center.
  4. On Tuesday, October 8th, Ask an Employer for engineering majors will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Mendel Hall.
  5. The Warriors at Work program is now known as the Internship Institute.
    - a) It is open to all majors and guarantees an internship.
  6. Senators should encourage seniors to apply to the PDR.
    - a) A PDR for juniors will be held in the spring semester.

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7. OCearuil '22 encouraged senators to ask students for career related feedback during polling.
8. Gioia '23 said the Handshake app will not allow first-year students to make an appointment with their career advisors.
  - a) First-year students have to meet with the O'Brien Center through FYE first, but if they need access beforehand, can reach out to their career advisor.
9. Proko '20 asked if a more diverse range of companies can be invited to career fairs.
  - a) The committee will address this in its next meeting.

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

1. Sparky's
  - a) Dining anticipates that Sparky's will be less congested now that September is over.
  - b) Late Night will be held from Sunday to Tuesday between 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.
  - c) Pancakes will be available at U-Cook for breakfast.
  - d) Dining wants feedback about the U-Cook station.
  - e) Rizzo '20 moved to open a discussion about U-Cook.
    - (1) It was seconded.
    - (2) Class of 2022 Senator Tiffany Vo said there is not much variety available at the U-Cook station.
      - (a) Hansen '20 agreed and said that there are only so many dishes that can be made with the ingredients available.
      - (b) Class of 2021 Senator Tayleigh Tierney-Honan added that students can bring food from other stations in Sparky's as well.
    - (3) OCearuil '22 said it is not worth the time to use rather than eat a pre-prepared meal.
    - (4) Gioia '23 said some students are unaware of where it is or how to use it.
    - (5) Hansen '20 suggested that Sodexo move Jose back to the station, and he lead students in cooking lessons for specific meals.
    - (6) Rizzo '20 moved to close the discussion.
      - (a) It was seconded.
  - f) The omelet station is busy in the morning, so omelets may not always look perfect because they have to move quickly.
    - (1) Dining is looking to change the cheese from sliced to shredded so it melts faster.
    - (2) Hansen '20 suggested the omelet station be moved to the Mongolian Grill because it has a larger grill.
  - g) SGA Vice President Bia Kerr said students are requesting more dietary restriction friendly options.
    - (1) The committee will address this in its next meeting.
    - (2) Class of 2020 Senator Alex Thelusma said MyZone has allergy friendly options.
      - (a) Hare '20 added that if students need swipe access to MyZone, they can reach out to the school's nutritionist.
    - (3) Hansen '20 said Simple Servings has been serving very large portions.
      - (a) The committee will address this in its next meeting.
  - h) Rizzo '20 moved to open a discussion on dining suggestions.
    - (1) It was seconded.

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- (2) Class of 2022 Senator Tiffany Vo '22 said the sneeze guard at the salad bar prevents students from reaching ingredients.
      - (a) Hansen '20 said students have the same problem at the deli bar.
      - (b) The committee will discuss adding longer tongs at its next meeting.
      - (c) Evan Bowie suggested changing the sneeze guards to lower horizontal coverings so students can see through them and more easily reach ingredients.
    - (3) Rizzo '20 moved to close the discussion.
      - (a) It was seconded.
  2. The Warrior's Den
    - a) Communication between the front register and kitchen is expected to improve.
    - b) The iPad software can not record the stock in the kitchen, but employees will be more careful to advertise what is out of stock.
      - (1) If students are told an item out of stock, they will be accommodated.
    - c) Dining is considering installing a hot plate for grab-and-go items in the Den.
      - (1) Their only concern is students stealing food off the plate.
      - (2) If students see others stealing, they should say something or tell an employee.
      - (3) If an individual steals from the Den, MCPD will be called.
    - d) There have been allegations made against Fairlife Milk, but there is not a plan to remove it from the school.
  3. The Sanctuary
    - a) There will be a stand up warmer added to the Sanctuary so hot food can be served in addition to refrigerated items.
  4. Food Truck
    - a) The location of the food truck may be changed depending on the popularity of the menu being served.
    - b) If the food truck is seen leaking, it is only water from the freezer.
- E. Diversity Affairs Committee: **Tiana Lawrence '20**
  1. The committee wants to support the Vagina Monologues.
    - a) The show typically takes place during the spring semester in February.
    - b) The committee will discuss the show during its upcoming meetings.
  2. Hair Show
    - a) The committee discussed having Dr. Debra Michals, the Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Department, to speak at the show to introduce its social justice component and address the issues of diversity and inclusion.
    - b) The committee wants student volunteers to participate in the show as models, as well as to do hair and makeup.
    - c) The committee is also considering t-shirts for the show.
  3. Working with DREAM
    - a) The committee wants to work with DREAM, which was just approved by SGA, to promote and encourage more involvement and advocacy for students with disabilities on campus.
  4. Lawrence '20 recently participated in a panel led by Professor Simona Sharoni for FYE students to address the issues of diversity through storytelling on campus.
    - a) The committee wants to explore ways this panel can be implemented on a larger scale across campus.

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- F. Environmental Affairs Committee: **Morgan Proko '20**
1. The blue tank outside of Sakowich Center is now being used to convert food waste, including grease, into energy.
    - a) It only has to be emptied every 5 to 6 weeks.
  2. Smaller recycling bins are being added around campus.
  3. More recycling bins have been added to Sullivan Hall and O'Brien Hall.
  4. A new trash and recycling added has been added between Ash Centre and Deegan West
  5. The committee plans to survey locations of water refill stations across campus to see where more can be added.
  6. The committee wants to encourage the use of reusable k-cups or coffee grounds over single-use k-cups across campus.
    - a) The committee also wants to compost the coffee grounds.
- G. Information Technology Committee: **John-Paul Haley-Read '20**
1. Over the summer, every WiFi access point in the dorms were replaced to provide better internet access.
  2. Xfinity is replacing Comcast as the college's service provider next year.
  3. The access point density will be increased over Thanksgiving or Christmas break to increase WiFi connectivity in dorms.
    - a) Last year, the density was increased in Ash and Monican Centre, and was proven to be beneficial to WiFi access.
  4. The data center in the library is being updated to accommodate increased traffic from the growing student body.
  5. Microtowers from Verizon will be added to the top of the Roger's Center as well as Monican Centre to help students with Verizon as their service provider.
  6. The committee wants to hold more programs with Residence Life and IT this year.
  7. If students have WiFi issues, they should try to provide as much specific information as possible.
  8. Haley-Read '20 moved to open a discussion about WiFi on campus.
    - a) It was seconded.
    - b) Thelusma '20 said the St. Thomas Apartments are having issues with WiFi connectivity.
      - (1) The committee will follow-up on what could be causing these issues.
    - c) Hare '20 asked if there is a way to improve wireless printing across campus, specifically in the library.
      - (1) The committee will address this in its next meeting.
    - d) Mallett '20 said residents in O'Brien Hall are having WiFi issues, so a program would be beneficial, especially because it was successful last year.
    - e) Ali '21 asked if the Verizon towers will provide better service to buildings technically off-campus.
      - (1) The committee will follow-up with an answer.
- H. Residence Life Committee: **Erika Torkildsen '21**
1. Exit signs may be replaced in the residence halls.
  2. If residents have outstanding facilities issues, they should reach out to Residence Life.
    - a) Royal Crest residents can contact Dave Golden.
  3. In lieu of an Area Coordinator, O'Brien Hall and Apartment residents can reach out to Matt Somerville, and Royal Crest residents to Dave Golden.
  4. The lightbulbs in the O'Brien elevator were recently stolen, so there will be an increased presence in the residence hall.

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- a) Class of 2022 Senator Sam Mathews recommended putting a sign up in the elevator.
- b) Hansen '20 asked if a security camera could be installed in the elevator.
  - (1) Rose McCarthy said this has been brought up in the past, but could be revisited if it is a persistent problem.
5. Trash rooms have been replaced with external dumpsters outside of residence halls.
6. If North Residential Village residents have questions about the Nursing Building construction, they can contact Residence Life.
7. If a room is interested in having a peep hole, they should contact Dave Golden, who can contact facilities.
8. Students should be mindful of who they hold doors open for in the residence halls.
9. RA selection process is in the process of happening.
10. Rizzo '20 moved to open a discussion.
  - a) Thelusma '20 suggested having a meeting for O'Brien Hall residents similar to the meeting held for the apartments.
  - b) Mathews '22 said she thinks its excessive to have a camera installed in the elevator at first, and signs should be hung up instead.
  - c) Kerr '22 said students still might steal the light bulbs with a camera installed.
  - d) Kerr '22 added that SGA can poll students on how they feel about the possibility of a camera.
    - (1) Gallagher '20 agreed and said senators should ask these specific questions during polling so SGA knows how to address the issue.
  - e) Mallett '20 said since different residents are living in O'Brien Hall and it is not a persistent issue yet, it should not be viewed as a continuation of last year's issue.
  - f) Rose McCarthy said the college is looking into installing a different type of ceiling in the elevator.

### X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

### XI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Ali '21 asked if Columbus Day can be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day on the academic calendar.

### XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Committee Feedback
  1. If senators have feedback for a specific committee, they should email its respective chair.
- B. Pizza with the President 10/22
- C. Office Hours in the Den
  1. Gallagher '20 holds office hours in the Den on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

### XIII. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

### XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until October 8th, 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*

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*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.*