

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

October 29th, 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) Abigail Hooper (2021) Adrian Cintron (2022) Alexandra Gioia (2023) Alex Thelusma (2020) Cailey MacEachern (2023) Caterina Polito (2020) Dan Hansen (2020) Erika Torkildsen (2021) Freddy Monroy (2023) Haley Taing (2021) Helen Vasquez (2023) Jenna Stanish (2022) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Julia Matter (2021) Kaylee Pliszka (2022) Kiley Martel (2023) Leena Ali (2021) Luke Groder (2022) Matthew Cavoli (2023) Maria Kamenias (2021) Morgan Proko (2020) Nicholas Barber (2023) Raquel Perez (2020) Sam Grenier (2023) Sam Mathews (2022) Tayleigh Tierney Honan (2021) Tiana Lawrence (2020) Tiffany Vo (2022) Tim Hare (2020)

**Non-Voting Members:**

**Members absent:** Geena Levine (2021)

**Students in attendance:** Haley Norris

**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: October 15th, 2019

- A. The minutes were approved.

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

- A. Costume Contest
- B. Indigenous People's Day
  1. SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20 moved to open a discussion on whether SGA should support the initiative to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.
    - a) It was seconded.
    - b) Class of 2020 Senator Tiana Lawrence said the Diversity Affairs Committee thinks it is important for indigenous people to take ownership of the holiday.
      - (1) Class of 2020 Senator Caterina Polito added that changing it is about changing people's historical perspective.
      - (2) Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen added that changing it is a sign of progress.
    - c) Class of 2021 Senator Leena Ali said indigenous students, faculty, and staff will not feel included unless it is changed.
    - d) Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare asked about the logistics of changing it.
      - (1) Gallagher '20 said SGA will start by polling students to gauge the student body's perspective on the change.
      - (2) Hare '20 added that it is also important to educate students on why the change is being addressed.
    - e) Polito '20 asked if it would be possible for SGA to present the initiative to classes.
      - (1) Gallagher '20 said SGA can use professors as a resource to spread the initiative.

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- f) SGA Treasurer Liam OCearuil asked how changing it would also change people's habit of calling it Columbus Day.
    - (1) Ali '21 said many people are not aware that calling it Indigenous People's Day is an option.
    - (2) Lawrence '20 said Merrimack is not a very diverse campus, so students need to understand the implications of calling it Columbus Day.
  - g) Gallagher '20 said the town of North Andover has already changed it to Indigenous People's Day.
  - h) Ali '21 suggested using the Warrior Network as a method to poll students.
  - i) Rizzo '20 moved to close the discussion.
    - (1) It was seconded.
  - j) Rizzo '20 moved to vote on whether SGA should purpose polling students on changing the holiday's name.
    - (1) The vote passed by a majority.
  - k) Gallagher '20 said an ad-hoc committee can be formed to address the initiative.
- C. Pizza with the President Debrief
- 1. New Diversity Space on Campus
    - a) Rizzo '20 moved to open a discussion.
      - (1) It was seconded.
    - b) Hare '20 suggested that SGA evaluate the Unity House before pursuing a new diversity space on campus.
    - c) Ali '21 said the Unity House has worked very hard to be in the position it is today and should not have to compete with another diversity space on campus.
      - (1) Ali '21 added that a new coordinator for the Unity House was recently hired.
    - d) Lawrence '20 clarified her comment at Pizza with the President by saying there should be a department with administrators and staff who specifically address diversity and inclusion on campus.
    - e) Polito '20 said there should be better representation in faculty and staff who represent diversity and inclusion on campus.
    - f) Gallagher '20 suggested drafting two proposals:
      - (1) First, a proposal regarding the renovation of the Unity House.
      - (2) Second, a proposal asking for diversity and inclusion administration.
    - g) Rizzo moved to close the discussion.
      - (1) It was seconded.
  - 2. Tap Access
    - a) SGA's Campus Infrastructure, Dining, and Information Technology (IT) committees will work together to pursue tap access in Sparky's.
    - b) Tap access in Sparky's will make the line into the dining hall move more efficiently.
  - 3. Other Topics
    - a) Class of 2020 Senator JP Haley-Read asked if there could be more preparation in advance to address environmental issues on campus such as solar panels.
    - b) Polito '20 said Gender Equality at Merrimack is working on developing a sexual health committee.
      - (1) Class of 2021 Abigail Hooper said SGA should promote a sexual health initiative.
    - c) SGA Vice President Bia Kerr '22 said a sexual health student organization is preparing to present to SGA.

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- D. From the Dean's Desk Readership
  - 1. Senators are encouraged to talk to students about why they read or do not read From the Dean's Desk emails.
  - 2. Hansen '20 said the email typically goes out early in the morning with many other emails, so it gets lost in the mix.
    - a) Gallagher '20 asked what times would be the most effective for students to read it.
      - (1) Hansen '20 suggested Sunday afternoons.
      - (2) Polito '20 suggested afternoons when most classes are over.
- E. SGA Conference Debrief
  - 1. Changes from the SGA Conference that will be implemented include:
    - a) A rotating order of chair updates to give each committee an opportunity to present first.
    - b) If a discussion is no longer focused on student feedback, it will be tabled to the following meeting's unfinished business.
- F. Diversity Training
  - 1. The Diversity Affairs Committee is in the process of coordinating a diversity training with the Unity House.

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

- A. Student Organization Update
  - 1. The Committee is still waiting to hear back from all student organizations to update their executive boards, meeting time, as well as short and long term goals.
  - 2. The Committee plans to attend student organizations' meetings to provide support and hear their concerns.
  - 3. MC3D has met with the Committee and will present once clarifying some of its information.
- B. Warrior Network
  - 1. The Warriors Network is a new web based resource for student organizations.
  - 2. It will have a list of clubs on campus, executive boards, their purpose, and their goals.
  - 3. The forms to start a new student organization will also be available on the site.
  - 4. Polito '20 asked where the Warrior Network can be accessed.
    - a) Gallagher '20 said the website is called Campus Labs.
    - b) <https://merrimack.campuslabs.com/engage/>

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

- A. Committee Attendance
  - 1. Committee Chairs are expected to update their committee attendance weekly.
  - 2. The Academic Affairs and Campus Infrastructure committees have not submitted their committee attendance.
- B. Hair Show Tabling
  - 1. Hair Show tabling starts tomorrow, October 30th and runs until Friday, November 1st.
  - 2. Senators are encouraged to sign-up to table.
  - 3. SGA's goal is to gauge students' interest in modeling, doing hair or makeup, and leading scenes.

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

- A. Finance Update
- B. DREAM's initial budget request of \$500 was approved.
- C. Kappa Sigma's supplemental budget request of \$2,364.97 for an event to benefit disabled veterans was denied.

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1. SGA does not directly fund philanthropy, so it offered \$500 to help Kappa Sigma hold a fundraiser for the event funds.
  - D. National Society of Black Engineers' (NSBE) supplemental budget request of \$4,634.04 for the NSBE Regional Conference was deferred for more information and a new plan.
  - E. American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) supplemental budget request of \$2,300 for a conference was denied because they already attended a conference.
    1. The Finance Committee's bylaws prohibit more than one conference for each student organization being funded.
  - F. Interfaith Alliance's supplemental budget request of \$900 for the Diwali Festival was approved for \$450.
    1. The Interfaith Alliance is able to fund half of the festival through its existing budget.
- VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT: Josh Rizzo '20
- A. Committee Updates
    1. Senators are expected to put their phones away before the meeting starts.
      - a) If there is an emergency, Senators should inform Rizzo '20 so they can keep their phone nearby.
    2. Redundancies
      - a) Senators should avoid making redundant statements.
      - b) They will not be reflected in the minutes.
    3. Committee Updates
      - a) Committee Chairs need to send their committee updates to Rizzo '20 by 10 pm on Sundays, with the exception of committees that meet on Mondays or Tuesdays.
- VIII. PUBLICIST'S REPORT: Cobbina Appiah '21
- A. SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21 said students have concerns about the new recreational space being built in the church.
    1. Rizzo '20 called the statement out of order and moved to table the discussion to unfinished business next week.
- IX. GRADUATE FELLOW'S REPORT: Hanna Christ
- A. Dishes with the Deans
    1. At last Friday's Dishes with the Deans, the following was discussed:
      - a) Healthier options in Sparky's.
      - b) Sustainability on campus.
        - (1) Recycling is zero-sort.
        - (2) It is sorted off-campus, which is why it may be combined with trash.
      - c) Security on campus on weekends.
        - (1) The security officers are outsourced.
        - (2) If a security officer is not being diligent in checking Mack Cards and guest registration, or is being too difficult, students should call MCPD.
- X. ADVISOR'S REPORT: Rose McCarthy
- A. Nothing new to report.
- XI. CHAIR REPORTS:
- A. Diversity Affairs Committee: **Tiana Lawrence '20**
    1. The Committee has discussed its short and long term goals for its impact on campus.

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### B. Information Technology Committee: **John-Paul Haley-Read '20**

1. If there are problems with technology in classrooms, students and professors should call IT as soon as possible to resolve the issue.
2. Students need to remain in contact with IT to resolve reported issues.
  - a) Class of 2020 Senator Morgan Proko said responses from IT can take a long time.
  - b) The Committee will follow-up on this.
3. Students also need to be specific in their complaints, including times, places, and as much detail as possible.
4. Hot spots are still the largest interruption in WiFi on-campus.
  - a) Hooper '21 said students turn their hot spots on when the WiFi already is not working.

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

1. Nothing new to report.

### D. Residence Life Committee: **Erika Torkildsen '21**

1. Residence Life and IT are working together to address WiFi in the residence halls.
2. Loud outdoor work normally happens after 8 am, but sometimes circumstances require it to start earlier.
  - a) Hansen '20 said work outside of North Residential Village starts as early as 7 am.
  - b) The Committee will follow-up on this concern.
3. Residence Life is considering security cameras in the laundry rooms.
4. Residence Life and Facilities are working to address doors without peepholes.
5. Issues that require cleaning in common areas of the residence halls can be submitted through work orders.
  - a) Resident Assistants (RAs) can help students file work orders.
6. The Thanksgiving Break Housing application goes live tomorrow, October 30th.
7. RA applications close on Friday, November 1st.
8. The Committee is pursuing adding a swiper to the door near the dumpsters in O'Brien Hall.
9. Class of 2022 Senator Tiffany Vo said some work orders are approved by Facilities, but not completed.
  - a) Mallett '20 said in these cases, students should reach out to their RA who can contact his or her supervisor about the facilities issue.

### E. Environmental Affairs Committee: **Morgan Proko '20**

1. The Committee is designing a poster to inform residents where the nearest recycling dumpster to their residence hall is.
2. The Committee is also looking into other alternative energy sources for campus.

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

1. Dessert with the Deans will be held next Tuesday, November 5th in the Hub following the SGA meeting.
  - a) Four deans have confirmed their availability and others will send their assistant deans.

### G. Campus Infrastructure Committee: **Julia Matter '21**

1. The College announced its plan to renovate the church for a student recreation center.
2. More lighting and security patrolling will be implemented at Royal Crest.

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3. Feminine products are available in 14 bathrooms across campus, including all academic buildings, McQuade Library, the Sakowich Center, and the Unity House.
4. The College is considering installing tap access in North Residential Village.
5. Gallagher '20 has reached out to David Martinez, the coordinator of parking, to invite him to an SGA meeting.
6. Vo '22 asked where registered guests are allowed to park on the weekends.
  - a) The Committee will follow-up on this.

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

1. Sparky's
  - a) There was an ordering issue with ice cream variety this week, but it has been resolved.
  - b) The menu outside of Sparky's and online have not matched, so working to ensure they are consistent.
  - c) Calorie counts on menus in Sparky's are accurate.
  - d) There will be a pumpkin carving contest in Sparky's.
    - (1) Voting will take place on October 30th and 31st online.
  - e) Alternative cutlery, plate, and cup options are being looked into to move away from plastic.
    - (1) This could be paper or compostable rice, bamboo, or potato.
  - f) Possibly adding recycling to Sparky's for plastic, but Dining does not make this decision.
  - g) Changing U-Cook is a long term project, so Dining will implement a pre-set menu and cooking instructor.
  - h) In the future, there will be a second soft-serve machine with vegan or dairy-free soft serve.
  - i) The Mongolian Grill cannot be used to cook eggs and omelets because its minimum temperature is too high.
  - j) Omelets look "bad" because students ask for too many ingredients and the eggs cannot incorporate them.
  - k) Polito '20 asked for more variety in fruit in Sparky's.
2. The Warrior's Den
  - a) Syrup shots have been restocked in the Warrior's Den.
    - (1) If they run out, please inform a Sodexo employee.
  - b) The mangoes in the Warrior's Den are frozen, so Dining will start ordering more.
  - c) Dividers have been added to keep the Warrior's Den lines organized and run more efficiently.
  - d) Dining is working on implementing grab-and-go options in the Warrior's Den.
  - e) A pop-up smoothie bowl station will be tested in the coming weeks.
  - f) The value of a swipe for a sub is being reevaluated.
  - g) Pre-prepared salads are available in the Warrior's Den until closing.
  - h) Vegan and dairy-free Ben and Jerry's ice cream is going to be ordered for the Warrior's Den.
3. The Sanctuary
  - a) The warmer box is open in the Sanctuary.
  - b) Dining is looking to add take home and cook meals to the Sanctuary.
4. The Food Truck
  - a) The Food Truck is now periodically serving Dominican Food.
    - (1) Sodexo is open to serving more types of food.
  - b) Dining is considering expanding the Food Truck's hours.

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5. General Dining Updates

- a) Sodexo has a new program in which students can text in their dining concerns.
  - (1) Text "Merrimack Dining" with a message to '82257.'
- b) Menu redundancy will be reviewed so there is a greater variety of food served across campus.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Office Hours in the Den
- B. Date with the Deans 11/5
- C. Light and Hope 12/3

XV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until November 5th, 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.*