

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

December 10, 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) Haley Mallett (2020) Josh Rizzo (2020) Cobbina Appiah (2021) Abigail Hooper (2021) Alexandra Gioia (2023) Alex Thelusma (2020) Cailey MacEachern (2023) Dan Hansen (2020) Erika Torkildsen (2021) Freddy Monroy (2023) Haley Taing (2021) Helen Vasquez (2023) Jenna Stanish (2022) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Kaylee Pliszka (2022) Kiley Martel (2023) Leena Ali (2021) Luke Groder (2022) Matthew Cavoli (2023) 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: Adrian Cintron (2022) Liam OCearuil (2022) Maria Kamenias (2021)

Students in attendance: Angie Wasi, Ashley Greene, Evan Bowie, Jake Russell, Joe Gonthier

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: November 19, 2019
 - A. The minutes were approved.

- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Amanda Gallagher '20**
 - A. Kappa Sigma
 1. Jake Russell and Joe Gonthier introduced themselves as members of Kappa Sigma's new Executive Board.
 - B. Statements of Intent
 1. Angie Wasi '21 and Ashley Greene '23 were approved as new Senators.
 - C. Indigenous Peoples Day Process
 1. The Faculty Senate is voting on the Indigenous Peoples Day motion tonight, December 10, 2019.
 - a) If the motion passes, it will be sent to President Hopey for him to approve or deny.
 2. SGA plans to poll students on the motion as a part of the Pizza with the President polling next semester.
 3. Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare asked if SGA will vote on the motion next semester.
 - a) Gallagher '20 said if SGA receives a significant amount of student feedback then yes, SGA will vote on the motion.
 4. Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen asked if Senators can be provided information about Columbus versus Indigenous Peoples Day to relay to students.
 - a) Yes, Gallagher '20 and Class of 2021 Senator Leena Ali are working with history Professor John Coakley to create a resource.
 - D. Fresh Check Day
 1. SGA will volunteer at a booth on Fresh Check Day on Thursday, January 30, 2020.
 2. This will count as a tabling event.
 - E. Next Semester
 1. The SGA retreat will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2020.

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2. The retreat will also include diversity training.
3. If Senators know they cannot attend the retreat, they should let Mallett '20 know as soon as possible.

F. **Career Affairs Committee**

1. The Career Affairs Committee was approved as a permanent committee on SGA.

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

A. **Student Organization Update**

1. The American Sign Language, Sexual Wellness, and Powerlifting clubs are working with the Committee to become SGA recognized student organizations.
2. The Committee is in the process of determining a meeting day and time for next semester.

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

A. **Committee Attendance**

1. Chairs will be sent a committee attendance spreadsheet for next semester toward the end of winter break.

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

A. **Finance Update**

1. MC3D submitted an initial budget request for \$977.76.
 - a) The Committee partially approved the request for \$500.
2. Budget pullbacks have been recommended and approved.
 - a) Student organizations will be notified this week.
3. The remaining unallocated student organization budget is \$20,241.54.

VII. **PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT: Josh Rizzo '20**

A. **Committee Updates**

1. Next semester, if committee updates are sent late, consequences will follow.
2. Chairs should reach out to their point persons to set up a new meeting day and time for next semester as soon as possible.

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

A. **Recycling Flyer**

1. SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21 created a recycling flyer, which will be posted on SGA's social media.

B. **Senator Takeovers**

1. Senator Takeovers will continue next semester.
2. Hooper '21 asked what is supposed to be documented during the takeovers.
 - a) Appiah '21 said Senators should record their days and include the SGA meeting.

IX. **GRADUATE FELLOW'S REPORT: Hanna Christ**

A. **Donate a Swipe**

- a. Students can donate one swipe a week.
- b. Students in need of meals can email the Dean of Students to request them.
- c. Class of 2022 Senator Sam Mathews asked why students can only donate one swipe.
 - i. Gallagher '20 will follow-up on this.

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

A. **Nothing new to report.**

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XI. CHAIR REPORTS:

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

1. Class of 2020 Senator JP Haley-Read asked Senators to encourage students to share as much information as possible in their IT tickets.
2. Hooper '21 asked if there are plans to improve the WiFi over winter break.
 - a) Yes, an additional 140 routers will be installed across campus over break.
3. Hooper '21 suggested adding printers to the residence halls to avoid students bringing their personal printers.
4. Hooper '21 added that the Apple computers in McQuade Library load very slowly.
5. Class of 2020 Senator Alex Thelusma asked if there are still plans to install a printer in the 47 Lounge.
 - a) Haley-Read '20 will follow-up on this.

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

1. The Committee is in the process of preparing Dean spotlights for social media next semester.
2. The Committee is meeting with Kristy Forrest this week to debrief Desserts with the Deans and discuss how it can be improved moving forward.
3. The Committee will meet on Thursdays at 3 p.m. next semester.

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

1. The Committee is working to finalize the objectives of the Hair Show.
 - a) Objectives include learning about the history of hair, hair as a form of activism, and student engagement.
2. The Committee is also in the process of filtering through and contacting the volunteer who signed up during tabling.
3. The Committee is discussing potential vendors with Peter Rojas.

D. Campus Infrastructure Committee: **Sam Mathews '22**

1. The bridge in the senior apartments is being looked into as well as repairing its floorboard.
2. The blue fence around the Nursing Building will be removed soon.
3. The Committee is looking into how to prevent all feminine hygiene products from being taken from the restrooms.
 - a) Class of 2020 Senator Tiana Lawrence asked how the Committee can be sure they are being stolen or if they are all being used.
4. Swipe access has been added to the Unity House for all students.
5. Pods in North and South Residential Villages are regularly cleaned.
 - a) Houses 6 and 7 in North Residential Village are cleaned on Wednesday mornings.
 - b) Houses 1 to 5 in South Residential Village are cleaned on Friday mornings.
6. The Committee is looking into putting smaller trash bins in the laundry rooms to prevent students from throwing all of their trash in them.
7. There are currently no plans for an on-campus parking garage.
8. The Committee is looking into installing blue and gold lights outside of Palmisano Hall.
 - a) Haley-Read '20 asked if the lights can be solar-powered.
9. Hooper '21 said the walkways need to be salted more.
10. SGA Vice President Bia Kerr and Hooper '21 said there are a lot of puddles across campus because of dips in the pavement.
 - a) Haley-Read '20 suggested installing storm drains.

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

1. Dining purchased 90 turkeys for Campus Ministry's Thanksgiving Drive.
2. The Simply to Go program has been successful in the Sanctuary.
 - a) Dining is looking to expand this program at other dining locations.
 - b) Ali '21 asked if food can be labeled, specifically those containing meats.
3. The hours for the Warrior's Den and the Food Truck will be reviewed next semester.
4. Dining is discussing hiring student employees through Handshake.
5. Dining is looking into adding a water jug or fountain near the Library Cafe.
6. Dining is looking to add salami to SubConnection in the Warrior's Den.
7. If students would like their food cooked a specific way, they should ask the employee working at the station.
8. Based on the similar square footage of the Mongolian Grill to the current omelet grill, the station will remain where it currently is.
 - a) Hansen '20 said that adding a second omelet station at the Mongolian Grill will help supply meet the demand.
 - b) Hooper '21 said students leave requests on their omelet orders, which are not followed.
9. If students find empty condiment dispensers, they should inform an employee.
10. Dining is looking into how Sparky's limited hours affect other dining locations' traffic on campus.
 - a) Dining will report back to the Committee next semester.

F. Residence Life Committee: **Erika Torkildsen '21**

1. If students are experiencing problems in the residence halls, they should contact Residence Life.
2. Students reported areas that were not plowed well, including the entrance to O'Brien Hall, the walkways to McQuade Library, the stairs of Ash Centre, and so on.
 - a) Hansen '20 specifically noted the stairs to McQuade Library as well as the entirety of North Residential Village.
 - b) Gallagher '20 added that there is a new system of student employees shoveling snow, which might have impacted this past snowstorm.
 - c) SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20 and Gallagher '20 recommended that the Residence Life and Campus Infrastructure committees collaborate on this issue.
3. The Committee is still looking into installing swipe access to the trash door on O'Brien Hall.
 - a) Mallett '20 expressed concern over freezing pipes from that door being regularly opened.
 - b) Mallett '20 added that residents are already experiencing cold water and lack of heat because emergency exits are being regularly used.
 - c) Class of 2021 Senator Haley Taing asked if a notice could be sent to O'Brien Hall residents to ask them not to use the emergency exit.
 - (1) Mallett '20 said she can talk to her Area Coordinator and Graduate Resident Director because she is a Resident Assistant (RA) in the building.
4. The rear entrance of Ash Centre will be salted more from now on because it was extremely icy after the snowstorm.
5. The Committee is looking into hand sanitizer dispensers in the dorms.
6. Residence Life is in the process of planning events for potential roommates to meet next semester.
7. The Committee is in the process of determining a new meeting time.

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- G. Environmental Affairs Committee: **Morgan Proko '20**
 - 1. Five electronic vehicle (EV) spots will be installed on-campus.
 - a) These spots will be reserved only for EVs.
 - 2. The Committee's meeting time will remain on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. next semester.
- H. Career Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee: **Liam OCearuil '22**
 - 1. Nothing new to report.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Class of 2023 Senator Matthew Cavoli spoke on the Saint Louis School in Lowell, which he volunteers at, and the high percentage of its students living in poverty.
- B. Cavoli '23 has started a fundraiser to collect donations of gym and recess equipment as well as school supplies for the school.
 - 1. Cavoli '23 plans to sell bracelets to students at Merrimack in January to raise more money for the school.
 - a) Some of the bracelets will also be sold to students who attend the school.
 - 2. Cavoli '23 is asking for \$60 from SGA to buy the bracelets because the school cannot afford it.
- C. Kerr '22 expressed concern about this opening a door for other students who are seeking funds from SGA for their personal fundraisers.
 - 1. Hare '20 said the budget request is insignificant in comparison to the budget SGA allocates.
 - 2. Hansen '20 added that this should be open for discussion and be decided on a case-to-case basis.
- D. Class of 2020 Senator Morgan Proko expressed concern over the likelihood of Merrimack students buying the bracelets.
- E. Cavoli '23 added that students may be more willing to buy bracelets because they will see the impact of the donations.
- F. Gallagher '20 suggested holding a fundraiser at Chipotle or Panera instead.
- G. Rizzo '20 moved to open a discussion.
 - 1. It was seconded.
 - 2. Class of 2020 Senator Tiana Lawrence asked how the money collected from the fundraiser will be used.
 - a) Cavoli '23 said it will first be used to fill potholes in the school's field. It will also be used for academic purposes such as buying textbooks.
 - 3. Taing '21 expressed concern because the school is private so students already pay tuition whereas many public schools are underfunded.
- H. SGA voted on supporting a fundraiser for the Saint Louis School, which passed by majority vote.
- I. Hooper '21 called a hand vote on SGA funding the bracelets.
 - 1. The motion passed by majority vote.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Office Hours in the Den
- B. Cram Jam 12/16

XV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

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- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until January 21, 2020.

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.