

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

January 28, 2020

*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)

Adrian Cintron (2022) Alex Thelusma (2020) Ally Gioia (2023) Angie Wasi (2021) Dan Hansen (2020) Freddy

Monroy (2023) Geena Levine (2021) Haley Taing (2021) Jenna Stanish (2022) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Kiley

Martel (2023) Matthew Cavoli (2023) Morgan Proko (2020) Nicholas Barber (2023) Sam Grenier (2023) Sam

Mathews (2022) Sophia Alpert (2023) Tayleigh Tierney Honan (2021) Tiana Lawrence (2020) Tiffany Vo (2022)

Tim Hare (2020)

**Non-Voting Members:**

**Members absent:** Ashley Greene (2023) Leena Ali (2021)

**Students in attendance:** Emily Hoar, Lillian Schaefer-Calderon, Natalie Pagliocca, Olivia Faulker, Sabella

Fabiano, Sara Eglin, Victoria Ponte

**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: January 21, 2019

- A. The minutes were approved.

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

### A. Statements of Intent

1. Melissa Driver '21 was appointed as a Commuter Senator by the Commuter Student Association (CSA),
2. Natalie Pagliocca '21, Sabella Fabiano '21, Victoria Ponte '21, Olivia Faulker '22, and Lillian Schaefer-Calderon '23 delivered statements of intent for their respective classes.
  - a) All five students were elected as new Senators by majority vote.

### B. Fresh Check Day

1. Fresh Check Day is this Thursday, January 30, 2020 in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR).
2. Senators who are tabling will receive additional instructions from Gallagher '20.

### C. February Retreat 2/8/20

1. The SGA Retreat is next Saturday, February 8, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hub.
2. If Senators cannot attend the retreat, they should notify Mallett '20 as soon as possible.

### D. Weekend Warrior

1. Weekend Warrior is the tentative name for a campaign being run by the Office of Community Standards intern Emily Robinson.
2. This campaign will promote positive and respectful weekend behavior.
3. Gallagher '20 encouraged Senators to provide feedback for the campaign via the Google Form.

### E. SGA Tuesday, February 18

1. Tuesday, February 18, 2020, will meet on a Monday schedule because of Presidents Day.
2. SGA may or may not hold its meeting depending on whether it can reach quorum.

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

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- A. Student Organization Update
  - 1. The Adventure Club submitted its constitution and presentation to the Student Organizations Committee.
    - a) The Club is meeting with the Committee tomorrow at 1 p.m. to discuss its SGA presentation.
  - 2. The Committee has reached out to the Sexual Wellness Club to determine its future intentions for SGA approval.
  
- V. **SECRETARY'S REPORT: Haley Mallett '20**
  - A. Fresh Check Day Tabling
    - 1. Senators who signed up to table at Fresh Check Day are expected to complete their shifts.
    - 2. If Senators can no longer make their shift, they should contact Mallett '20 as soon as possible.
  - B. Warrior Network
    - 1. In the coming weeks, SGA will begin its transition to Warrior Network.
    - 2. Senators should join the SGA organization on Warrior Network by next Tuesday.
  - C. Admitted Students Day
    - 1. There are four ASDs this semester: February 1, March 1, March 29, and April 5.
    - 2. SGA will table at all of the ASDs and represent the majority of Merrimack's student organizations.
    - 3. If prospective students have questions pertaining to other student organizations, Mallett '20 created a directory with descriptions of each for reference.
  
- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT: Liam OCearuil '22**
  - A. Finance Update
    - 1. Austin Scholars requested \$477 to pay for t-shirts.
      - a) Half of the t-shirt cost will be paid by its members.
      - b) Austin Scholars does not have a remaining initial budget and this will be their last supplemental budget request.
      - c) The Finance Committee approved the request.
    - 2. Kappa Sigma submitted a supplemental request for \$4,500 for their initiation and chartering banquet.
      - a) The Finance Committee recommends \$3,500 because they still have \$999 left in their initial budget.
      - b) Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen asked if the request was intended to pay for their dinner.
        - (1) SGA Treasurer Liam OCearuil '22 said yes, but almost every student organization has an annual banquet.
      - c) The Finance Committee's recommendation of \$3,500 was approved by majority vote.
    - 3. Active Minds submitted a supplemental request for \$1,200 for their National Conference in Washington, D.C.
      - a) The Finance Committee recommends \$2,500. The organization currently has \$1,127.76 left in their initial budget. However, their remaining funds and supplemental budget are not enough to cover the conference fees.
      - b) Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare asked why this is the case.
        - (1) OCearuil '22 said they did not account for some expenses.
      - c) The Finance Committee's recommendation of \$2,500 was approved by majority vote.
    - 4. Step Club submitted a supplemental request for \$2,500 for their Upstaged Competition in New York.

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- a) The Finance Committee recommends \$2,300 because they have \$335.09 remaining in their initial budget.
  - b) The Finance Committee's recommendation was approved by majority vote.
  5. Class of 2022 Senator Nick Barber asked if student organizations can resubmit supplemental requests if they are denied.
    - a) The Finance Committee would often make a recommendation if it felt the organization needed funds, but not to the extent it requested.
  6. Hansen '20 asked what the remaining unallocated student organization budget is.
    - a) OCearuil '22 said it is approximately \$32,000.
- B. Finance Bylaws
1. The Finance Bylaws are in the process of being drafted.
  2. OCearuil '22 will present them at the next SGA meeting.
  3. If Senators have recommendations, they should email OCearuil '22 as soon as possible.
- VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT: Josh Rizzo '20
- A. Robert's Rules
1. Committee Chairs must send their committee updates to SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20 by 10 p.m. on Sundays to be presented at the following meeting.
- B. Committee Meeting Times
1. All Senators have been assigned to committees for the semester.
- VIII. PUBLICIST'S REPORT: Cobbina Appiah '21
- A. Senator Takeovers
1. If Senators are interested in doing a Senator Takeover on SGA social media, they should sign-up using the Google Form as soon as possible.
  2. This will count as a tabling credit.
- IX. GRADUATE FELLOW'S REPORT: Hanna Christ
- A. Nothing new to report.
- X. ADVISOR'S REPORT: Rose McCarthy
- A. Dining Updates
1. Grab-and-go options will be available in the Warrior's Den.
    - a) If Senators have any ideas as to what should be served, they should notify the Dining Committee.
- B. Lunch and Learn
1. The Office of Student Involvement is starting a lunch-and-learn program with student organizations.
  2. The February lunch will be about contracts and paperwork, March about Spring programming, and April about budget requests.
- XI. CHAIR REPORTS:
- A. Diversity Affairs Committee: **Tiana Lawrence '20**
1. Unity House Renovations
    - a) The following renovations were suggested for the Unity House:
      - (1) Repaving the main path to the Hub.
      - (2) Fencing around the patio.
      - (3) Installing more lighting in the front and back for safety.
      - (4) New paint and furniture.
    - b) Peter Rojas, the Coordinator of Multicultural Initiatives, is the main contact for the renovations.

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2. Women & Gender Studies Voter Registration and Iowa Caucus Viewing Event
  - a) The Department of Women & Gender Studies is holding a voter registration and Iowa caucus viewing event next week.
  - b) The Department wants SGA to co-sponsor the event as well as finance its food.
  - c) Rizzo '20 moved for a hand vote for SGA to sponsor the event.
    - (1) The motion passed by majority vote.
  - d) Class of 2021 Senator Abigail Hooper asked how the event will be advertised.
    - (1) The Gender-Equality Club at Merrimack and the Interdisciplinary Institute will be advertising alongside the Department.
  - e) Class of 2020 Senator JP Haley-Read asked if either College Democrats or College Republicans have been notified of the event.
    - (1) Yes, both organizations have been notified.
  
- B. Environmental Affairs Committee: **Morgan Proko '20**
  1. Nothing new to report.
  
- C. Information Technology Committee: **John-Paul Haley-Read '20**
  1. Haley-Read '20 asked if there are any issues Senators would like him to bring to the IT Committee meeting.
    - a) Hooper '20 said the WiFi in O'Brien Hall has been down numerous times.
  
- D. Dining Committee: **Tim Hare '20**
  1. Nothing new to report.
  
- E. Academic Affairs Committee: **Tayleigh Tierney-Honan '21**
  1. Nothing new to report.
  
- F. Campus Infrastructure Committee: **Sam Mathews '22**
  1. The Campus Infrastructure Committee is looking into placing water dispensers near the Library Cafe.
    - a) Hooper '20 said the dispensers used to be on the counter of the Library Cafe.
    - b) Hare '20 discussed this with the Dining Committee last semester, so he believes SGA should push to bring these back.
  2. If there are places on campus that are icy and not well-salted, Senators should reach out to Class of 2022 Senator Sam Mathews.
  3. Students should not be using the exit door near the trash dumpsters in O'Brien Hall.
    - a) The Committee is looking into potential solutions, such as an alarmed door or camera system.
    - b) Mallett '20 said the alarmed door on the other emergency exit does not deter students from using it, so it would most likely not be an effective deterrent.
    - c) Hooper '20 said she believes opening the door should alarm the entire building to deter students from using it.
  4. The Committee is looking to add furniture to South Residential Village Common Room in House 5.
    - a) Class of 2022 Senator Tiffany Vo said students would like more tables to do homework on.
    - b) Rizzo '20 said not a lot of people use the common room, so there is no need for additional furniture.
  5. SGA Vice President Bia Kerr '22 said there are specific spots of pavement in the Apartments that flood.

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### G. Residence Life Committee: **Nick Barber '23**

1. Nothing new to report.

### H. Career Affairs Committee: **Ally Gioia '23**

1. The following O'Brien Center events are upcoming:
  - a) Professional Development Retreat applications for juniors closes Sunday, February 9 at midnight
  - b) Marketing Networking Brunch on Tuesday, February 9 from 9-11 a.m.
  - c) Sports Management Networking Brunch on Wednesday, February 5 from 10-12 p.m.
  - d) Ask an Employer Life Sciences on Thursday, February 13 from 4-6 p.m.
  - e) Spring Internship and Career Fair on Wednesday, February 26 from 2-4:30 p.m.
2. Class of 2020 Senator Morgan Proko encouraged the Committee to advocate for greater diversity in employers, specifically at the Spring Internship and Career Fair.

## XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

## XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. SGA is looking to incorporate Senate seats to represent more students on campus.
- B. Class of 2021 Senator Angie Wasi inquired about filling the SGA athlete seats.
  - a) Gallagher '20 said she has talked to Athletics throughout the year but has not had luck filling the seat.
  - b) Gallagher '20 suggested sending an SGA representative to Athletics' meetings.
    - (1) Kerr '22 suggested that this be a Student Organizations Committee member.
- C. Rizzo '20 said students have complained about slippery floors in the MPR.
  1. Mathews '22 will follow-up with the Campus Infrastructure Committee.
- D. Hansen '20 suggested that SGA invite more professional staff to its meetings.
  1. Class of 2020 Senator Tiana Lawrence suggested Peter Rojas.
  2. Kerr '22 suggested inviting a wide range of professors.
    - a) Gallagher '20 said she will reach out to the Faculty Senate.
      - (1) Lawrence '20 specifically suggested Simona Sharoni.
    - b) Hooper '20 suggested that SGA invites professors to the first meeting of every month.
    - c) Class of 2023 Senator Ally Gioia suggested inviting the committee point people to meetings to be more informed about SGA.

## XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Fresh Check Day 1/30
- B. Retreat 2/8
- C. Pizza with the President 2/25

## XV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

## XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until February 4, 2020.

**Mission Statement**

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*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.*