

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

March 3, 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) Liam OCearuil (2022) Haley Mallett (2020) Josh Rizzo (2020) Cobbina Appiah (2022) Abigail Hooper (2021) Alex Thelusma (2020) Ally Gioia (2023) Angie Wasi (2021) Ashley Greene (2023) Brandon Ellsworth (2022) Dan Hansen (2020) Freddy Monroy (2023) Geena Levine (2021) Jackie Jordan (2022) Jenna Stanish (2022) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Kiley Martel (2023) Leena Ali (2021) Lillian Schaefer-Calderon (2023) Melissa Driver (2023) Morgan Proko (2020) Nicholas Barber (2023) Sabella Fabiano (2021) Sam Mathews (2022) Sophia Alpert (2023) Tayleigh Tierney Honan (2021) Tiana Lawrence (2020) Tiffany Vo (2022) Tim Hare (2020) Victoria Ponte (2021)

Non-Voting Members:

Members absent: Adrian Cintron (2022) Bia Kerr (2022) Matthew Cavoli (2023) Natalie Pagliocca (2021) Olivia Faulker (2022) Sam Grenier (2023)

Students in attendance:

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: February 18, 2019
 - A. The minutes were approved.

- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Amanda Gallagher '20**
 - A. Student Organization Presenters
 1. Mountain Biking Club
 - a) The Mountain Biking Club wants to give students the opportunity to go mountain biking, skiing, and snowboarding.
 - b) The Club would like to have these trips every or every other weekend.
 - c) The Club seeks SGA recognition for funding so students are able to attend these events at little to no cost.
 - d) The estimated cost per trip is between \$40-54 per person for groups of 15 or more.
 - (1) Students will be asked to bring or rent their own equipment.
 - e) Class of 2020 Senator Morgan Proko asked if the Club will work with Fitness and Recreation.
 - (1) No, the Club and its trips will be separate from Fitness and Recreation.
 - f) Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen asked if any current members are van certified.
 - (1) Only one member is currently van certified, but the Club is working on certifying more of its members.
 - g) The Mountain Biking Club was denied by majority vote.
 2. Athletic Training Club
 - a) The Athletic Training Club wants to grant students the opportunity to enrich their academic knowledge in Athletic Training while engaging the entire Merrimack community.

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- b) The Club also wants to engage the community outside of Merrimack, such as communities in Lawrence and Methuen.
 - c) The Club plans to host guest speakers related to health, wellness, and injury prevention, including graduate student speakers, resume workshops and events, academic support sessions, shadowing opportunities, and other professional networking and development events.
 - d) Class of 2022 Senator Tiffany Vo asked if the Club will be too similar to the Health Science Club.
 - (1) Health Science and Athletic Training are very different, so this Club is focused on empowering students in or interested in the Athletic Training program.
 - (2) For example, Health Science students are required to have internships whereas Athletic Training students are not allowed to.
 - e) Hansen '20 asked if the Club plans to collaborate with the 21C tutoring program on campus.
 - (1) Potentially, but since all students in the Athletic Training program take the same classes, upperclassmen will be able to tutor underclassmen.
 - f) The Athletic Training Club was approved by majority vote.
- B. Pizza with the President Debrief
- 1. Committee Chairs should email all polling respondents to introduce themselves and SGA as a resource.
 - a) Class of 2021 Senator Abigail Hooper suggested sending one email from all of the chairs to the respondents.
 - (1) Gallagher '20 asked all Chairs to send her information they would like to be included in the email so she can send it from the SGA inbox.
 - 2. Class of 2020 Senator JP Haley-Read expressed concern about the lack of answers surrounding environmental issues and questions during Pizza with the President.
 - a) Gallagher '20 encouraged Haley-Read '20 to work with the Environmental Affairs Committee on putting together information regarding solar and wind power.
- C. Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 1. The Indigenous Peoples' Day ballot has been sent to all students by the Dean of Students Office.
 - a) The readership of this email has increased from 16% on average to 60% for this particular email.
 - 2. Flyers with QR codes to the survey will be hung across campus.
 - 3. Class of 2021 Senator Tayleigh Tierney Honan asked if the flyers can be advertised on TVs in the Sakowich Center.
 - 4. Class of 2020 Senator Tiana Lawrence asked if student responses are required for the College to approve this motion.
 - a) Yes, it is important for SGA to reach as many students as possible to prove that students support the motion.
 - 5. Hansen '20 asked if there is a target number of students SGA would like to reach.
 - a) SGA would like to reach as many students as possible to accurately represent the student body.
 - 6. Lawrence '20 also asked why Merrimack administration is hesitant to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day even though SGA and the Faculty Senate have passed motions.
 - a) The administration is hesitant to make this change without fully understanding its repercussions.

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7. Lawrence '20 said current Merrimack students are the future of this institution. One day, the current students will be donating funds to Merrimack, so it is "frustrating" to see so much caution being taken.
 8. Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare said SGA should have more power and say in changes that happen at Merrimack, especially because other institutions' SGAs have this power.
 9. Hooper '21 said SGA should be able to send mass emails to all students and should work with Communications to have access to this.
 10. Class of 2021 Senator Angie Wasi asked if there are any students at Merrimack with indigenous ancestors.
 - a) Class of 2021 Senator Leena Ali said she knows a student.
 11. Gallagher '20 encouraged SGA to turn this into a grassroots movement. After spring break, if SGA needs to poll students, Senators will poll.
 12. Gallagher said "Student Government is the voice to and from the students and needs to be able to communicate with the students without controls and restrictions. We are elected to represent the students and cannot do that without being able to freely communicate with the student body."
- D. SGA Jackets were approved and have been ordered.

IV. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Sabella Fabiano '21 presented for Bia Kerr '22

- A. Student Organization Update
 1. The Committee is in the process of reaching out to all student organizations to make SGA an accessible resource.

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Haley Mallett '20

- A. Committee Attendance
 1. Chairs should update their committee attendance by 10 p.m. on Sundays.
- B. Blood Drive Tabling
 1. Pre-Blood Drive Tabling will run from Tuesday, March 3 to Wednesday, March 17.
 2. Senators will register donors for the Blood Drive on Thursday, March 18.
 3. If an individual signs up to donate blood, he or she will receive an SGA cup.
- C. Polos
 1. SGA polos have been ordered for new Senators who have not received one yet.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT: Liam OCearuil '22

- A. Finance Update
 1. Automotive Club requested a supplemental budget of \$400.
 - a) This was approved by the Finance Committee.
 2. Austin Scholars requested a supplemental budget of \$250 for a Nahant Retreat.
 - a) This was approved by the Finance Committee.
 - b) However, Austin Scholars has already submitted four supplemental requests this semester, so they will be more restricted moving forward.
 3. DREAM requested a supplemental budget of \$304.93 for programming events.
 - a) These events include a mini golf trip, cookie decorating event, St. Patrick's Day event, and senior send off event.
 - b) This was approved by the Finance Committee at \$350.
 - c) DREAM will be required to purchase pre-made cookies. They cannot bake their own.
 4. Atoms Family requested a supplemental budget of \$800 for swag and programming events.
 - a) These events include a liquid nitrogen ice cream party, other food, and snacks for game nights.

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- b) This was approved by the Finance Committee.
5. After these four supplemental budget requests were approved, the current unallocated student organizations budget is \$21,009.52.
 - a) The Finance Committee will most likely not do budget pullbacks this semester.
6. Health Science Club requested a supplemental budget of \$2,720.
 - a) This funding would be used for the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) conference, guest speaker events, advertisement and promotional materials, a cookie decorating event, and club bonding activities.
 - b) The Club has a remaining initial budget of \$65.65.
 - c) Hansen '20 asked what the Club's initial budget was this academic year.
 - (1) The Club started with an initial budget of \$500.
 - d) Hansen '20 also asked what events the Club held last semester.
 - (1) The Club held a cookie decorating event and hosted guest speakers.
 - e) The Finance Committee recommended \$920.
 - (1) The Finance Committee's recommendation of \$920 was approved by majority vote.
7. Theta Phi Alpha requested a supplemental budget of \$4,100 to attend their Biennial Conference in July 2020.
 - a) This fund would be used for conference registration for three delegates, airfare, and travel to and from the airport.
 - b) Theta Phi Alpha is required to send three delegates to the conference to remain an active chapter.
 - c) The Finance Committee recommended \$3,125 to pay for the conference registration.
 - d) Hansen '20 asked if this request was recently made.
 - (1) Theta Phi Alpha submitted this supplemental request three weeks ago, but the Finance Committee needed more information before bringing it to SGA.
 - e) Hare '20 asked if Theta Phi Alpha attended the conference in the past when SGA did not pay for it.
 - (1) Yes, Theta Phi Alpha still attended the conference without SGA funding.
 - f) Proko '20 asked if other Greek Life organizations' conferences have previously been funded by SGA.
 - (1) Yes, Tau Kappa Epsilon's (TKE) conference was funded by SGA last year.
 - g) Class of 2021 Senator Sabella Fabiano asked if this specific conference warrants SGA funding because it is outside of the academic year.
 - (1) If funded, it would be counted as a supplemental budget taken out of Theta Phi Alpha's initial budget next year.
 - h) Hansen '20 proposed an additional recommendation of \$1,500 be added to the ballot.
 - (1) It was seconded.
 - (2) Mallett '20 moved for a hand vote to add \$1,500 as a recommendation on the ballot.
 - (a) The motion was approved by majority vote and added to the ballot.
 - i) Fabiano '21 asked if Theta Phi Alpha has any remaining funds in its budget.
 - (1) Yes, Theta Phi Alpha still has funds in its initial budget. They could also raise additional funds through fundraising.

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- j) Vo '22, who is a member of Theta Phi Alpha, said most of the sorority's fundraising profits go toward philanthropy, so most members would not be able to cover the remaining costs.
 - k) Class of 2022 Brandon Ellsworth suggested inviting the president of Theta Phi Alpha to an SGA meeting.
 - l) Hooper '21 asked how other Greek Life organizations fund events and conferences.
 - (1) Rose McCarthy said Merrimack, unlike other institutions, provides some funds to Greek Life organizations.
 - m) Class of 2021 Senator Geena Levine, a member of Theta Phi Alpha, asked if TKE's supplemental budget request for their conference was approved in full.
 - (1) Only TKE's registration fees were funded by SGA. It was also taken out of their initial budget for this academic year.
 - n) SGA's proposal of \$1,500 was approved by majority vote.
- B. Finance Bylaws
- 1. The Finance Bylaws will be a supplementary document linked in the SGA Constitution.
 - 2. Since the Bylaws were presented at the last SGA meeting, an amendment was made to ensure that all student organizations that seek funding will be guaranteed an initial budget.
 - 3. Hansen '20 asked if any other amendments will be made to the Bylaws.
 - a) OCearuil '22 said he believes this document will be amended on an as-needed basis.
 - b) A lot of the Bylaws already exist but are being codified through this document.
 - c) New rules in the Bylaws will not go into effect until the next academic year.
 - 4. Hooper '21 asked if the Bylaws can be linked to the SGA minutes.
 - a) The Finance Bylaws can be accessed [here](#).
 - 5. OCearuil '22 moved to vote on the Finance Bylaws and their addition to the SGA Constitution.
 - a) It was seconded.
 - b) The Finance Bylaws and amendment to the SGA Constitution were approved by majority vote.

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

A. Committee Updates

- 1. "Point of clarification" will no longer be used in meetings.
- 2. "I rise for a point of information" will be used instead to make a quick correction or statement.
 - a) However, there will be no responses made to this point.
 - b) If a Senator has a question based on the point of information, they can use "I rise for a question" for a further explanation from a Chair or Executive Board member.
- 3. Personal opinions should not be stated unless a Chair specifically asks for Senators' opinions.
- 4. Chairs should send their committee updates by 10 p.m. on Sundays.

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

A. Senator Takeovers

- 1. There are still openings for Senator Takeovers in March and April. Senators who are interested should contact SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21.
- 2. This will also count as a tabling credit.

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

- A. Nothing new to report.

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

- A. Dishes with the Dean
 - 1. This past Friday, Dishes with the Dean was a focus group with transfer students about their experiences at Merrimack.
 - 2. Transfer students expressed that they would like a shorter orientation more catered to transfers.

XI. CHAIR REPORTS:

A. Residence Life Committee: **Nick Barber '23**

- 1. Students expressed interest in more housing options through polling. More residence halls will be built on campus in the coming years.
- 2. Other major points of interest include more kitchens and laundry rooms, larger rooms, and different styles of rooms.
- 3. Many students do not understand why damage charges are divided amongst floors or entire residence halls.
 - a) This is part of the agreement students sign to live on campus.
 - b) It is intended to encourage students to hold others accountable.
- 4. Class of 2022 Senator Nick Barber asked Senators if they think additional cameras in the residence halls would be a good idea.
 - a) SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20 asked if cameras in the staircases versus cameras in the lobbies would cause varying levels of privacy invasion.
 - b) Hooper '21 suggested that SGA weigh the pros and cons of cameras.
 - c) Mallett '20 pointed out that cameras are in nearly every public space today.
 - d) Mallett '20 also expressed frustration that the Merrimack administration "often acts like fearmongers" because it tries to convince students that everything they do will be monitored on cameras and consequently sanctioned.
 - e) Hare '20 asked if students pay a security deposit for damages.
 - (1) Proko '21 said a lot of damages in communal spaces are charged to that floor of residents, unless they occur in public areas like lobbies.
 - (2) Barber '22 will follow-up on this with Residence Life.
 - f) OCearuil '22 argued it is an invasion of students' privacy to be monitored while moving throughout residence halls.
 - g) Gallagher '20 plans to invite MCPD Chief Michael DelGreco and Residence Life Director Dave Golden to the next SGA meeting.

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

- 1. Merrimack is speaking to Royal Crest about repairing puddles on its walkways.
- 2. The puddles in the apartments will be fixed over the summer.
- 3. The Nursing Plaza is now open.
 - a) Haley-Read '20 said many of the bricks are not set.
- 4. The side entrances of Crowe Hall have been fixed and should not be locked during the daytime.

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

- 1. The Hair Expo will be held on Thursday, March 19 at the Unity House.
- 2. The format of the original Hair Show has shifted to be more informal so students can discuss issues while celebrating hair.

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- a) There will also be food, music, and photos at the event.
- b) The Committee hopes to create a large collage of Merrimack students showcasing their hair to be hung in the Unity House.
3. The Committee met with a student regarding transgender rights and support on campus. More updates will come soon.

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

1. The freshman retention rate is on par with what it has been in the past few years, even with the growing student body.

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

1. A shuttle shelter is going to be installed at the shuttle stop by Dunkin' Donuts.

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

1. The Committee will open a discussion about IT tickets at the next SGA meeting.

G. Career Affairs Committee: **Ally Gioia '23**

1. Any feedback about the Spring Internship and Career Fair can be sent to Class of 2022 Senator Ally Gioia.

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

1. The Committee is working on implementing ideas from polling, such as expanding Food Truck hours.
2. The Committee is also following-up on an automatic swipe donation program, but there are concerns about students being upset.
 - a) OCearuil '22 asked if there can be an option for students to opt out.
3. Dining is considering adding a blender to Sparky's, but do not know if there is a significant student demand because of the smoothie station.
4. Sodexo has made it clear that no abuse or disrespect toward its employees will be tolerated after a student addressed this at Pizza with the President.
5. Brunch in Sparky's runs until 4 p.m. on weekends because of a significant decrease in inactivity.
 - a) However, the new dining facility will bring more options on the weekend next year.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

XV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until March 17, 2020.

Mission Statement

The SGA seeks to be the voice for the Merrimack College Community through engagement and representation. The

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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.