

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

March 24, 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) 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) Matthew Cavoli (2023) Melissa Driver (2023) Morgan Proko (2020) Natalie Pagliocca (2021) Nicholas Barber (2023) Olivia Faulkner (2022) Sabella Fabiano (2021) Sam Grenier (2023) 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: Nick Barber (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: March 3, 2020

- A. The minutes from March 3 will be sent to Senators with this meeting's minutes. They will be approved at next Tuesday's meeting.

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

- A. Function of Online SGA
 1. Mute
 - a) All Senators should be on mute unless they are speaking.
 2. Speakers List
 - a) If a Senator would like to be on the Speaker's List, they should send a private message to SGA Parliamentarian Josh Rizzo '20.
 3. Committee Updates
 - a) Committee chairs will share their screens when presenting their updates.
- B. Check-In
 1. SGA should not be a burden on Senators during this difficult time.
 2. If Senators are having trouble making the full commitment to SGA, they should communicate with the Executive Board.
- C. Statement of Intent
 1. Haley Taing was approved as a Senator for the Class of 2021.
- D. Student Feedback
 1. SGA may send an email to all students in the coming weeks, but Senators are encouraged to reach out to students and support them for the time being.
- E. SGA Jackets
 1. The SGA jackets arrived on campus. It is to be determined how Senators will receive them.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

March 24, 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.

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

A. Student Organization Update

1. The Student Organizations Committee is meeting at 3:30 pm this Thursday.
2. The Committee wants to support all student organizations during this time and ensure that they have plans moving forward.

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Haley Mallett '20

A. Elections

1. SGA Executive Board nominations are open until the end of today's SGA meeting.
2. Once the nomination form closes, emails notifying Senators of their nomination(s) will be sent.
3. Nominees have until Monday, March 30 at 12:00 pm to accept or decline their nomination.
 - a) If nominated for multiple positions, Senators can only accept one.
 - b) Failure to respond to the nomination results in an automatic decline.
4. On Tuesday, March 31, SGA will vote to approve nominees on the ballot.
5. Nominees are encouraged to review the requirements to serve on the Executive Board so they run.
 - a) Requirements per the SGA Constitution include:
 - (1) Be a full-time registered undergraduate student of Merrimack College.
 - (2) Each candidate must have served one (1) full 'term' on the SGA in order to run for an Executive Board Seat ("Term" is defined as serving as a Senator for $\frac{2}{3}$ of the SGA meetings per semester, so the nominee must have joined SGA before February 11, 2020).
 - (3) Have a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or more.
 - (4) Have good student conduct as defined by the Merrimack College Handbook.
6. Mallett '20 stressed that serving on the Executive Board is a significant commitment that many of its members view as another job.
7. Mallett '20 also encouraged nominees to reach out to the Executive Board member currently in the position they are interested in. Nominees can also shadow Executive Board meetings.
8. If nominees are not ready to run for the Executive Board but want a greater role on SGA, chair applications will be released by the newly elected Executive Board toward the end of the semester.
9. More information about Senator elections will be shared next week.
10. Mallett '20 is coordinating elections, so all questions should be directed to her or the SGA inbox.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT: Liam OCearuil '22

A. Finance Update

1. Budgets are currently frozen for all student organizations, including SGA.
2. The Finance Committee is planning to work on budgets for next year and uploading all of that information onto the Warrior Network.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT: Josh Rizzo '20

A. Committee Meetings

1. Chairs must send an email to their committee point person, with Amanda, Josh, and Rose copied on it, by 8 p.m. tonight.
2. Committee updates will be shared with Senators in advance.

B. Robert's Rules

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

March 24, 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.

1. Senators need to be muted when they are not speaking and abide by the order of the Speaker's List.
2. Senators should be present in the meetings and not have their screens paused.

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

A. Senator Takeovers

1. Senator Takeovers will continue to showcase Senators' lives with the transition to online classes.

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

A. Nothing new to report.

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

A. Virtual Programming

1. This week's virtual programs are posted on the Office of Student Involvement's (OSI) Instagram.
2. OSI will be posting polls on their Instagram about virtual programming.
3. Senators are encouraged to talk to students about what they would like to see in virtual programming.

XI. CHAIR REPORTS:

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

1. There has been a disconnect between students who open IT tickets and the IT Office.
2. If students do not reply to the IT Office, their tickets are closed.
3. The Committee would like to determine why students do not respond to emails from the IT Office and how they can be encouraged to respond.

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

1. The upcoming Hair Expo has been canceled due to the College being closed.
2. The Committee is discussing if an online event is possible.

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

1. Nothing new to report.

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

1. Nothing new to report.

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

1. If Senators have any student feedback regarding online classes, they should send it to Class of 2021 Senator Tayleigh Tierney-Honan.

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

1. Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare emailed Bob Wilkey, the General Manager of Sodexo, last week asking about the job status of Sodexo employees.

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

1. Nothing new to report.

H. Career Affairs Committee: **Alexandra Gioia '23**

1. The O'Brien Center for Career Development has gone virtual.
2. Students can meet with their advisor online through Zoom.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

March 24, 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.

3. The O'Brien Center encourages students to continue their job and internship hunt because "90% of companies are still hiring."

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Class of 2022 Senator Olivia Faulkner said that hospitals are currently short on blood and recommended that SGA promote blood donation since its blood drive was canceled.
 1. Gallagher '20 asked SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21 and Faulkner '22 to work together to create a flyer.
- B. Hare '20 said SGA needs to discuss room and board reimbursements with the College administration moving forward.
 1. Hare '20 calculated that a month away from school can equate to \$3,000.
 2. Hare '20 added that students have posted on social media inquiring about reimbursements.
 3. Honan '21 said other institutions are taking the reimbursements off next year's cost of attendance.
 4. Class of 2021 Senator Abigail Hooper said she attended President Hopey's Town Hall meeting last week and the College said they will have an answer until May.
 - a) Hare '20 said he wants to ensure that this is not used as an excuse.
 - b) Hare '20 added that if a decision is made in May, SGA may not be meeting, so it is important for SGA to take action on this now.
 - c) Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen added that it would not hurt SGA to address this issue, even if a decision will not be made immediately.
 - d) Hooper '21 said she thinks SGA should plan to work with the College instead of against it to achieve our common goal.
 5. Class of 2022 Senator Ashley Greene asked if the cost of living and meal plans are combined.
 - a) Yes, room and board includes the cost of living and meal plans.
 6. SGA Treasurer Liam OCearuil '22 said having more time to address this issue allows SGA to more adequately prepare.
 7. Gallagher '20 said SGA will have an email drafted to the College in the next two weeks that works with the administration but also addresses what the student body needs and wants.
 8. OCearuil '22 proposed forming an ad-hoc committee to research and address reimbursements.
 - a) Rose McCarthy said this will be difficult because every school works differently. SGA should try to work with the administration while they are preparing a plan so we are helpful but still address students' needs and wants.
 - b) Class of 2021 Senator Sabella Fabiano said working with administration will help SGA reach its goal much more efficiently while maintaining a relationship with them rather than demanding reimbursements.
 - c) Gallagher added that the SGA Executive Board and its advisors will communicate with the administration on this issue. If Senators want to be a part of this communication, they should reach out to her.
- C. Hooper '21 asked if tabling is still required of Senators.
 1. Tabling is no longer a requirement this semester.
- D. Hooper '21 also asked about creating a form for students to submit responses to SGA during this time.
 1. Gallagher '20 said Mallett '20 and Appiah '21 are creating a feedback form to put on SGA's social media and website.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

March 24, 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.

- E. Class of 2022 Senator Jenna Stanish said students have asked about implementing a meal swipe option in the Library Cafe.
 - 1. Hare '20 said he has discussed meal swipe options in the Library Cafe and the Sanctuary with the Dining Committee. However, Dining wants to maintain some retail areas on campus.
 - 2. The Dining Committee will readdress this in its committee meeting.
 - 3. Vo '22 suggested having meal swipes available at certain times of the day.
 - a) Hooper '21 said the Warrior's Den was set up similarly last year and it caused infrastructure issues and resulted in poor student feedback.
 - 4. Hooper '21 asked if the meal swipes are worth \$12 and if that would be more profitable for Dining.
 - a) Hare '20 said there is not a set dollar amount on meal swipes.
- F. Gioia '23 asked if the College can change this semester's grading scale to a pass or fail option.
 - 1. Vo '22 said this was addressed in the Town Hall meeting last week and would negatively affect students' GPAs.
 - 2. Hooper '21 added that a lot of students would have to retake classes because they would not count for their major, minor, or general education requirements.
- G. Hansen '20 recommended that SGA promote social distancing on its social media so students are aware of the CDC's guidelines.
- H. Mallett '20 said the New Business submission form will be reopened after the meeting and available until next Tuesday, March 31 at 3:30 p.m.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. If Senators would like to include any announcements in the minutes, they can send them to Gallagher '20 or Mallett '20.

XV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until March 31, 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.