

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA

April 7, 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) 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) Haley Taing (2021) Jackie Jordan (2022) Jenna Stanish (2022) John-Paul Haley-Read (2020) Kiley Martel (2023) 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:** Bia Kerr (2022) Leena Ali (2021)

**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 31st, 2020

- A. The minutes were approved.

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

- A. Meeting with President Hopey
  1. SGA met with President Hopey on Zoom this morning to discuss the College's plans for COVID-19 moving forward.
  2. There is currently no clear timeline for room and board reimbursements, but it will most likely be credited to non-seniors' accounts for next year and given to seniors in the form of checks.
  3. Sign-ups to move out are going to start within the next few weeks.
    - a) However, the College cannot start move-outs until the stay-at-home order is lifted and it is safe to be on-campus.
  4. The College believes Commencement and Senior Week will be held in late July or early August, but this could change.
  5. Campus infrastructure projects have been put on hold.
    - a) The Church renovation is likely to open during the spring 2021 semester.
- B. SGA Meeting April 14th
  1. On Tuesday, April 14, SGA will meet from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.
  2. At 5:30 pm, Executive Board candidates will deliver speeches to the student body via Zoom.
    - a) The attendance policy will be in effect.
  3. Class of 2020 Senator Tim Hare asked if the speeches are open to all students.
    - a) Yes, speeches are open to the entire Merrimack community and will be advertised through email and social media.

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4. Class of 2021 Senator Sabella Fabiano asked if speeches should differ from the statements previously delivered during an SGA meeting.
  - a) Gallagher '20 suggested writing a new and longer speech addressing the student body.
  - b) Mallett '20 said this speech does not have to be submitted. However, if candidates would like an updated Statement of Intent on the ballot, they should submit this by tomorrow at 12 pm.
5. Class of 2020 Senator Dan Hansen asked if the SGA Constitution requires a specific voter turnout to legitimize the vote.
  - a) There is no requirement for turnout in the SGA Constitution.
  - b) Rose McCarthy said if turnout is poor, SGA can continue to push the elections on social media and extend the deadline.

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

### A. Student Organization Update

1. The Student Organization Committee is working on reaching out to all student organizations to support them during this time.
2. The Committee has drafted an email to all Executive Boards that it is preparing to send out.
3. A new club, BRASA, Brazilian Student Association, has been proposed to the Committee.
  - a) This club is for Brazilians studying in the United States, but is open to all students.
  - b) The club would like to start next year, but is working with the Committee to prepare its materials.

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

### A. Elections and Speeches

1. Speeches will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 pm.
2. Ballots will be sent out after speeches and remain open until Friday, April 17 at 12 pm.

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

### A. Finance Update

1. The Finance Committee is working on loading all of the finance forms for student organizations into Warrior Network.
2. The Committee would like to demo the forms in an upcoming SGA meeting.
3. The Committee is also creating a pamphlet to explain the Finance Bylaws.

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

### A. Dishes with the Dean

1. Students in attendance expressed concerns about online learning, but said their professors have been flexible and understanding.
2. Greek Life is staying in contact with its members and preparing for the next academic year.

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

### A. Senator Takeovers

1. There are two Senator Takeovers left: April 14 and 21.
2. If Senators are interested, they should email SGA Publicist Cobbina Appiah '21.

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

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- A. Nothing new to report.
  
- X. **ADVISOR'S REPORT: Rose McCarthy**
  - A. Nothing new to report.
  
- XI. **CHAIR REPORTS:**
  - A. Information Technology Committee: **John-Paul Haley-Read '20**
    - 1. IT can still be reached by email or phone to open a ticket.
      - a) This will automatically open a ticket.
    - 2. IT is mainly focusing on classes and online labs for the time being.
  
  - B. Diversity Affairs Committee: **Tiana Lawrence '20**
    - 1. The Diversity Affairs Committee is working with Peter Rojas to improve the Unity House's diversity training.
    - 2. The Committee is also planning for what it could improve on next year.
  
  - 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. The Faculty Senate approved a pass/fail option for spring 2020 courses.
    - 2. Major departments will decide what classes can be converted to pass/fail.
      - a) More information will come from Peter Ellard, the Dean of Student Success and Academic Support, in the next few days.
    - 3. The date to withdraw from classes is now May 7, 2020.
      - a) Students will be notified if they are failing a class by May 5, 2020, so they have the option to withdraw.
      - b) This will most likely lead to no failing grades this semester.
    - 4. Class of 2021 Senator Abigail Hooper asked how students would know if a class can be converted to pass/fail.
      - a) The College is not sure yet, but students will most likely have to inquire about specific classes.
    - 5. Class of 2021 Senator Sabella Fabiano asked if pass/fail courses will affect students' grade-point averages (GPAs).
      - a) No, pass/fail classes do not affect GPAs, but will show as a 'P' or 'F' on students' transcripts.
  
  - F. Dining Committee: **Tim Hare '20**
    - 1. Nothing new to report.
  
  - G. Environmental Affairs Committee: **Morgan Proko '20**
    - 1. Nothing new to report.
  
  - H. Career Affairs Committee: **Alexandra Gioia '23**
    - 1. The O'Brien Center is doing late-night sessions on Instagram.
      - a) Students can ask questions, which will be answered starting at 8 pm on Tuesdays.

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- b) The O'Brien Center encourages students to still look for internships and jobs. A list of companies still hiring can be found [here](#).
- c) Wellness Series: Mindfulness Training will be held on Thursday, April 9 from 4 to 5 pm.
- d) U360 Business Sustainability Internship Virtual Q&A will be held on Friday, April 10 from 12 to 1 pm.
- e) More information regarding seniors and employment will come after Easter Break.

### XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Nothing new to report.

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Class of 2021 Senator Angie Wasi suggested that SGA work with Hamel Health to promote physical and mental wellness on campus.
  - 1. Wasi '21 said habits they could promote include how to stay sanitary during flu season, how to stay calm during stressful times, and so on.
- B. Gallagher '20 asked Appiah '21 to repost Hamel Health's posts on SGA's social media.
- C. Hare '20 said President Hohey expressed interest in adding an infirmary to Hamel Health during SGA's meeting with him this morning.
- D. Class of 2021 Senator Abigail Hooper suggested that SGA work with Hamel Health to spread accurate information about COVID-19.
- E. Class of 2022 Senator Olivia Faulkner said Active Minds is starting a virtual campaign called 'Here for You' tomorrow.
  - 1. Faulkner '22 suggested that SGA participate in it.
- F. Hansen '20 said it never hurts to promote healthy habits, regardless of the public health situation.
- G. Class of 2021 Senator Haley Taing expressed concern about long wait times to visit or speak with someone from Hamel Health. Students are often told to call back unless it is an emergency.
  - 1. Hooper '21 added that there is a stigma around Hamel Health for this.
- H. Hanna Christ said Hamel Health is still working and offering teletherapy to support students during this time.
- I. Fabiano '21 reminded Senators that Hamel Health is not a full doctor's office, and more like a clinic, so their services are not as expansive as we might want them to be.
  - 1. Fabiano '21 added that students may respond negatively to Hamel Health for this reason.
- J. Class of 2023 Senator Ally Gioia said marketing Hamel Health would instill more trust in their services in freshmen.
- K. Gallagher '20 asked the Campus Infrastructure Committee to discuss working with Hamel Health since campus projects have been put on hold.
- L. Hamel Health is hosting an online interactive session about emotional wellness during COVID-19 on Thursday, April 16 at 1 p.m.
  - 1. This event will discuss how to lower anxiety, connect with others, manage stress levels, practice self-care, and recognize signs of distress.
  - 2. Registration is required. Students who are interested in attending should email [wintersm@merrimack.edu](mailto:wintersm@merrimack.edu) or [rizkl@merrimack.edu](mailto:rizkl@merrimack.edu).

### XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Kappa Sigma has started a campaign to raise funds for The Greater Boston Food Bank. The link to the fundraiser can be found [here](#).

### XV. ROLL CALL:

- A. Mallett '20 took attendance.

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### XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Gallagher '20 adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, April 14.

### *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.*