



1-24-2024  
5:30-7:00  
Great Room

## Minutes

- I. Welcome**
  - II. Roll Call Attendance**
  - III. Approval of Agenda**
  - IV. Approval of Minutes**
  - V. Constituency Comments**
  - VI. Committee Report**
    - A. Standards**
      - Standards will be having a discussion about having freshman seats on SGA and we will be having the vote in two weeks
    - B. Finance**
      - Finance met with MTA and Rock Climbing club this week, and votes will be happening today.
      - Finance also spent some time going over the Uber College program and there will be further discussion about bringing that to Muhlenberg
    - C. Campus Engagement**
      - Thank you for everyone who came to the student life open house tabling, and there are still some open spots for Friday so if you have time please sign up for those slots.
      - The first round of Club Approvals will be happening next week
- Jan 31, 2024

- Campus engagement is in the process of planning events for the Spring semester

#### **D. DEI&B**

- DEI&B met Monday and worked on some of their goals for the semester
- The president of SASA came to DEI&B came to the committee about collaboration for their HOLI event and SGA wil most likely be partnering with them

#### **E. Institutional Committees**

- Nothing to report

#### **F. AD-HOCs**

- The commuter lounge will be having a grand opening Friday, February 9th from 2-4pm

#### **G. Recording Secretary**

- Noah will be assigning the new representatives (both those elected from the end of last semester and the about to be elected) ambassador assignments so that we are staying engaged with the committee.
- If you know that you are going to be absent, please let Noah and Jake know for GA, and your committee head if you anticipate missing a committee meeting.

#### **H. Director of Communications**

- Margery has a few graphics in the works including meet the committee posts, so new reps will be sent a form

#### **I. President**

- Ellen and Jake met with Dean Williams about the goals we came up with last week, and Dean Williams said she thinks all the goals are achievable and that we just need to focus
- In terms of the parking, we will be working on utilizing the Hoffman House for more student parking, as it is indeed allocated as a student parking location.
- Board of Trustees meetings will be beginning on Monday, and Andrew and Jake will be attending.
- The Executive Board will have their senior staff meeting this Friday 1/26.
- If you are a SENIOR on SGA and DO NOT want to be on the Election Committee, please text Jake!

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. MTA Vote**

- THE MTA is requesting \$2544 for their Spring 2024 Studio season and they will be putting on three shows, and each show will have three performances each, with free attendance for students
- The request will cover production costs as well as rights for the show.
- About 90 students are involved in putting together the studio season productions.
- The studio season is a good opportunity for students to showcase their talents and abilities in the type of studio format.
- The finance committee recommends that we approve this request as they see these performances to be valuable learning experiences for students working on the projects as well as a great way of engaging within the community.

- They do not anticipate any extra requests as the \$2544 should cover all expenses for the Studio session.
- **VOTE: PASSES**

#### B. Rock Climbing Club Vote

- Move your mouse to parking lots please!!
- Katie Raab is representing the Rock Climbing club.
- They are requesting \$3300 and this includes 17 memberships for students to use at the rock climbing facilities near campus
- They are open to all students with over 300 students on the email list and they go every week with a priority for the new climbers.
- They are expecting an increase in participation compared to the last two semesters.
- They have been at this particular rock climbing gym for like four years and they all love it.
- The club advertises their club and trips through Instagram so that the club can reach as many members of the Muhlenberg community as possible.
- The Finance Committee recommends that we do approve this request as it makes a very fun sport accessible to students.
- The current budget after the approval of the MTA vote is about \$61,000.
- **VOTE: PASSES**

#### C. Special Election Speeches

- All information regarding the election and candidate information has been distributed via Email.
- Candidate names in alphabetical order by last name below:
  1. Rachel Alexander

2. Juliette Amram
3. Asher Bejar
4. Maddie Davidson
5. Ben Hennig
6. Pamela Najm
7. Jason Rackas
8. Esch Sage

#### D. Freshman Seat Discussion

- Standards are coming to GA with two options. Last semester, on SGA there were not freshmen as representatives, which is about 1/4th of the population.
  1. Option 1(FALL): Two seats will be set aside during the General Election for incoming First Years. They shall run in a Fall Special Election. If there are more than two open seats, the two First Years with the highest number of votes will win the seats reserved for First Years, and the remaining seats will go to those who received the most votes. If there are more than two First Years in the top-voted candidates, more than two First Years may be elected into representative seats.If no First Years run, the seats will be opened up to the rest of the student body.
  2. SPRING OPTION: If there are open seats following the conclusion of the fall semester, a special election shall be held with up to two seats reserved for First Years. If there are more than two open seats, the two First Years with the highest number of votes will win the seats reserved for First Years, and the remaining seats will go to those who received the most votes. If there are more than two First Years in the top-voted candidates, more than two First Years may be elected into representative seats. If no First Years run, the seats will be opened up to the rest of the student body.
- If there are two or more first year running, and one has great ideas, but the other freshman may need to work on their ideas, we would still prioritize the freshman

- Whichever proposal we vote on and agreed to, it will be framed as a special election for the entire student body.
- Is there a way to have a “freshman delegate” who does not have a voting seat? This is a potential idea that we could potentially explore.
- The potential spring proposal is contingent on members leaving SGA at the end of the fall semester whether it be abroad, scheduling timing, etc. If nobody leaves SGA from Fall to Spring, there will be not freshman representation
- The potential fall proposal would mean that we would elect 14 representatives in the Spring, with the promise that we would hold two spots for freshman so there would be 16 representatives in the fall.
- There is also the potential of increasing the members of SGA.
- It is important for every student to have an equal opportunity when running for SGA, but we recognize that it is important to have the freshman voices
- If we do it for the Spring, we run into a whole issue of having no freshman voice for a whole semester, but there is also some worry that if we do the fall proposal, they may not have the time to fully adjust accordingly
- The reason we thought of 2 representatives is so that the Freshman can have another person who is in their same class year that is able to support them, in times of good and times of bad while serving on SGA.
- If we have to vote on one, we should potentially vote on Fall or nothing, given that everyone has the equal opportunity to run in the election that takes place in the Springtime of each academic year
- If we are passionate about freshman perspective, let’s have it for the entire time so they can a whole year of experience
- Adding two new spots to SGA would increase the number to 25 representatives, from the previous number of 23, and **25 is a better number than 23**
- If we were to do a special election in the fall, it is important for freshmen to have time to adjust either way, so ideally we would want to have the election about 2-4 weeks into the semester

- Currently, we do our fall special election about 2 week into the semester, and there is possibility that doing a special election a month in could be way too long, and we need quorum to have meetings
- What happens if both the freshmen elected in the fall leave for various reasons? If this were to happen, we would do another special election, and anyone could be eligible to run
- The freshman who were elected(and the current SGA members who were elected as freshman) were elected because they felt passionate about wanting to make a change on Muhlenberg's campus
- We could have a special election, and incorporate into our bylaws that we are having a special election for freshmen to ensure that we are having their perspective on SGA, and ensuring that their voices are heard. The timeline will be decided later on, but it is important for freshmen to have a voice.
- One of our biggest jobs as SGA is to represent our student body. We want to ensure that all years are represented, and this would only happen if we were to have the special election for freshmen.
- At this time, SGA is senior-heavy and it is important that we are giving a voice to freshman on campus so we can give a voice so that everyone can have an opportunity so that we are being as equitable as possible.
- We could do something with an ad-hoc to add transfer students to this potential bylaw change. Despite upperclassmen having more experience, we should make sure we are including and prioritizing voices of all class year
- Let's make SGA 25 MEMBERS SUPREME

## **VIII. Adjournment**

### **Cursor Parking Lot!**

\*Click in one of these "parking spaces" so that your cursor stays here and out of the way during the meeting\*

