

Minutes

- I. Welcome**
- II. Roll Call Attendance**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
- V. Constituency Comments**
- VI. Position Reports**
 - A. Standards**
 - B. Finance**
 - Finance had a discussion about ATR and they met with ATR in September
 - They have most of the things planned out, and we will most likely be having a vote during next GA meeting
 - C. Campus Engagement**
 - Udder Bar challenge is next Friday Oct 27 from 3-5pm
 - CE will need a lot of help
 - We are having discussions on new campus outreach projects
 - D. DEI&B**
 - Next GA the DEI&B will be holding DEI training for SGA, and if you have something you wanted covered during training, please let Bethany know

- Tens Across the Board is Sunday November 12th at 7pm. If you cannot attend the event, you must table!

E. Institutional Committees

- APC has continued to talk about the new curriculum and working with CC while incorporating student feedback; When this curriculum gets implemented, what is the necessary cut off

F. AD-HOCs

- Vish met with Meg Ryan and Kurt Topper and Vish and Andrew will be getting an email from them about the tiered system
- Vivian is still working on getting the lounge figured out, but hope is that it is opened by the end of the month. In terms of getting people to join the AdHoc, Vivian got a lot of interest and is having their first meeting at 5:30pm this Thursday

G. Recording Secretary

- If you are going to be absent from GA please email Noah and Jake, if its a committee meeting then talk to your chair → any questions about attendance talk to Noah
- Ambassador program tracking sheets should be getting filled out as you are meeting with clubs
- EBoard is going to be talking about publishing minutes from our GA meetings

H. Director of Communications

- In an effort to streamline Margery's role, we have a new process for graphics. This new process includes accessibility requirements

- The new system allows the ability to make your own, but also have Margery help you if you desire
- Please make sure to fill out the form at least 1 week in advance if you are seeking help from Margery
- Margery will be sending out an email tonight to the entire GA detailing the graphic requirements

I. President

- Town Hall was very successful, and we are hoping for more administration and constituents at future events
- Jake has been meeting 1 on 1 with admin and committees in an effort to have more productive conversations in the future
- We want to find ways for SGA to move forward

VII. New Business

A. Board of Trustees Appointment- Andrew

- The entire school is overseen by the board of trustees and this Friday is the first meeting
- As President, Jake is one of the people who automatically goes and he is nominating Andrew to be the second representative
- The assigned representative is something that can change throughout the year, however we have to have a vote to officially assign Andrew as the second representative
- The vote passes

B. Regular Meetings bylaw vote

- We are amending bylaw 8.1.1
- The bylaw previously read that SGA will meet at least 10 Wednesdays during the semester
- Standards feel that it is not necessarily require that we meet on Wednesdays, as long as we meet 10 times a semester

- The new bylaw would state that “meetings shall be held at a consistent weekly time which shall be determined prior to the election.”
- There is a potential element of exclusion due to the certain majors, extracurriculars
- With the new curriculum be rolled out, we want to potentially make the perspective more open
- This does not mean we cannot meet Wednesdays, however it is stating that we must be at least 10 times during the semester as specified in the election manual
- APC has proposed a new hypothetical schedule that would include a 2 hour block in the middle of the day which could be a potential new meeting time for SGA
- We want to have a time that would potentially work for every student on campus who is potentially interested in running for SGA
- The outgoing seniors make up the election committee and they would decide on the time for the meetings for the upcoming academic year
- Given that seniors will plan the meetings for the next year, will there still be people who cannot run and be on SGA?
- The point of the bylaw is to give leeway in case things change and have a more open minded approach and cover all bases
- The new bylaw would be a proposed change that would take place over the entire academic year, it is about the time that is specified in the election manual in the Spring
- It is up to the graduating seniors to work and create a time within the new election manual
- The idea behind having the seniors decide this is so that people know what they are running for. The seniors are not running again given that they are overseeing the entire election
- VOTE: PASSES

C. SGA Statements and Open dialogue conversations

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- (In the minutes: R refers to a comment by a representative, C refers to a comment made by a constituent)
- Andrew is mediating the conversation about SGA and our open dialogue conversation and we will be taking breaks if necessary
- R: If we put the SGA name on any document, it refers to SGA as a whole and not individual reps. Many comments left on our vote showed that we may have created an unsafe manner. In the future, we need to be more careful about the statements that we are sending out, so that they are not perceived as a statement from the entire GA.
- R: Has there been discussion in standards to ensure things like this in the future are handled differently? There is a bylaw called crisis response which says the Eboard is allowed to make a statement with 5/7th approval of the Eboard. It does not typically get used in a situation of this circumstance, but rather for election manual type manners. Standards have looked at these bylaws, and further breaking up the bylaw so that the crisis response is handled differently than normal publicity. Crisis statements clearly will say “This is just from the eboard and not from SGA as a whole” which would alleviate that the worries came from SGA as a whole
- C: The EBoard is recognized as a higher power in SGA, and saying that a statement is from the EBoard as a whole does not distinguish it enough from a statement from GA. If it is from SGA at all, members of the community will think it is from the entirety of SGA.

- C: How does Eboard decide what is worthy of a statement? It is a very case by case situation, and in this specific situation, it was very clear that a significant portion of the student body was being affected. We had a conversation about if we are doing this, why are we not making a statement about every worldwide event? We judge based on what is impacting our entire campus and since we are here to serve the student body and not solve global issues, we judge based on what our campus climate is. In the past we have made statements on other issues that greatly were impacting the campus.
- R: The issue of not taking down the post versus keeping it has its issues. Many representatives felt that there was a power imbalance between E-board and the reps. In situations like these, can we think about ways to have an emergency response where all reps have the opportunity to give a response to what is going on?
- R: When reps signed up for SGA, they were aware that voting takes place and passes by the majority. Could we potentially change the bylaw of the 5/7th Eboard approval to something that allows for the input of the entire GA.
- R: The two statements sent out by the school had different intentions. In the future, doing it through email rather than social media, could potentially be more effective as many reps felt uncomfortable with what was going on based on conversations that took place in the comment section on Instagram.

- We need to have policies in place for what constitutes a social media post versus just an email.
- R: It would have been a mistake if we took the post down, as nobody said anything within the GA groupme until the inflammatory comment was posted. Would it be potentially seen as “hiding as SGA?” Do we want to create posts in the future that have comments turned off in order to promote a safer community environment?
- C: The idea of being an email is good, however it potentially limits the ability of free speech if the comments were limited or turned off. So far, there have been a lot of emails sent to administrators to which the responses have been rather emotionless. This lack of care is blatant, and Instagram posts allow for people to better be able to express their feelings in the comment section.
- R: On Thursday, after we got feedback from Instagram, Jake had a meeting with Dean Williams where she expressed concern about what was going on over the Instagram. Her advice was that we should have never made an Instagram post in the first place, however given that it was already posted she advised us to absolutely not take it down.
- R: When something that has to be sent out that is very time sensitive, it is typically the E-Board who would approve the statement, however this was a situation where perhaps we could've voted on in the GA chat.
- R: What are the thoughts on a bylaw change so that DEI&B committee is approving the statements made in crisis response?

- R: The idea of having the DEI&B committee being involved is something that we will be exploring.
- R: Overall, this conversation is difficult to have. Having EBoard approve the statement is potentially isolating, and could show that the rest of SGA does not care to be involved, but that is rather far from the truth. Every opinion on SGA matters and it is important for us to realize that more. There may not be one right answer to what we do, but what are ways we can minimize that.
- R: Everyone in this room can agree that having 23 people trying to write an email would not necessarily work out well. Could E-board potentially write a statement and then give a mandatory 24 hr period where the statement is sent out to GA for them to be able to respond and give feedback.
- C: The critiques of Eboard and having DEI&B review a statement could lead to the same biases if we are necessarily representing the entirety of all voices. The post could have advocated for support services rather than just advocating for one group. Support services on campus need to be catered to all students. It is important to create more opportunities for support for all members of campus. SGA's priority should have been just support services as a whole.
- C: We want to make sure students on our campus are supported and SGA needs to do a better job of voicing their support for all students on campus. In the future, we may want to make our statements more neutral and emphasize student support above all else.

- C: SGA as a whole always emphasizes that we are here for all students, however we need to come across that way when we are making statements and decisions.
- C: Jake has almost talked to everyone on GA, and the original statement was not intended to support one group of students, however we are aware that for many it came across that way. This was the reason that the SGA president decided to put out a second statement. Within the statement, the support of Hillel was mentioned because Hillel is a large institutional based and funded and it is not necessarily fair that MSA does not receive the same level of support, however SGA was not aware of the other support resources that were available. As we learn about resources that are available to students, we should then be advertising the support resources even more on our social media.
- C: How can we make sure that all students are being supportive in every way possible?
- R: By having a DEI&B committee, the point is to create a sense of inclusion about certain issues. During next week's DEI&B training, we will make it inclusive of all identities on campus, and ensure that SGA is equipped as representatives to have these conversations and be aware of what is going on.
- R: We need to stress support and some issues are obviously more complicated than others, but having DEI&B play a role could potentially ease some of the concerns. We want to offer support to ALL STUDENTS!

