



MARIST
UNIVERSITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE MARIST
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH, IN
DONNELLY ROOM 225.

Order of Business:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 11:03 by K. Syrota
- Members present:
 - Assembly:
 - Karina Syrota - Student Body President
 - Matt Fox - Executive Vice President
 - Itati Serano - Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Alex Murphy - Interim Vice President of Club Affairs
 - Brianna Perez-Quiroz - Vice President of Safety and Security
 - John Genoni - Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - Sarah Mazzella - President of Athletic Affairs
 - Megan Connor - Vice President of Sustainability
 - Noelle Stamm - Chief Communications Officer
 - Griffin Carey - Chief Financial Officer
 - Jared Kerin - Chief Information Officer
 - Alyssa Bova - Director of Elections Commissions
 - Class Boards:
 - Vi Geraci - Class of 2026 President
 - Noah Yurasko - Class of 2028 President
 - Associate Members

Syrota - Fox Administration

- Neil Palmieri - Parliamentarian
- Cole Harvey - Student Body Historian
- Veronica Vogelmann - Event Planning Chair
- Representatives:
 - Alexa McPadden - East End Representative
- Assistants:
 - Grace Mintel - Administrative Coordinator
 - Katie Marrin - Administrative Coordinator

II. Reading of the Minutes

- There were no minutes from the previous meeting.

III. Open Floor

- Student Concerns
 - N. Stamm voiced that a student came forth about a recent Marist University TikTok video with a flag that caused some students to be uncomfortable. R. Torres thanked Noelle for bringing this concern to her attention. She communicated with Daryl Richard about the intent of the video. The ultimate decision was to continue to monitor the video and leave it public on Marist's TikTok page.
 - A. McPadden voiced that there were students who felt that they were not able to afford food under the new meal plan. Students were spending money to enter the dining hall when there was little to no food available in the dining hall. J. Genoni responded, stating that there are various options in the North End that are cheaper in price. He also explained that the money held in dining plan accounts is equivalent to the real money value. N. Yurasko agreed and shared that there were students who shared concern about the pricing of food options on campus. G. Carey added that the meal plans are less cost-efficient than in previous years. He explained that

because there is no longer money being carried over to the new semester, students are feeling slighted by the new meal plan. I. Serano proposed an idea for the Student Government to post on social media with Gourmet Dining to show affordable options for students. J. Genoni then added as a solution that a video explaining how to budget the money in your meal plan could be helpful to students who were struggling to budget.

- M. Connor noted that she read that Den Dollars would roll over on a semester basis, but Gourmet Dining was responding to students via social media that it would not roll over. M. Connor also mentioned students were upset that there were no healthy combination options on campus. G. Carey added that although students are paying a similar amount and have more flexibility, students are having to choose more cost-effective options. He mentioned the opportunity to use Thrifty Cash as well as a meal swipe to counter the cost of meals on campus. A. McPadden explained that Yella's is the only spot open on the weekends in North End, so that limits students financially when they only have more expensive options. M. Connor agreed and noted that she wants to have more dining options on the weekend, when it is just Yella's that is open.
- K. Syrota encouraged cabinet members to continue gathering student feedback and concerns on the topic of meal plans and other new initiatives on campus. A. Bova noted that Marist Money does not work at ShopRite currently. R. Lynch asked if there were any other vendors for whom Marist's money was not working. A. Bova explained that she was unaware of any other vendors that were not accepting it.

- S. Mazzella noted that she was unsure if the new parking plans were being enforced. She shared that she had a friend who had trouble finding a spot in North End, when that's where her residence hall is. B. Perez explained that she thinks that security as a whole is being more lenient this week because many students are still moving in this week. S. Komel brought up that people are being ticketed, but it mostly happens at night after classes. N. Stamm further supported that point, explaining that her friend had to park in an off-campus lot due to the limited parking spots available on campus. A. Bova agreed and said that most people who are parking in the congested lots are parking there during the day, and ticketing at night would not solve the problem. A. McPadden also shared a personal experience of her friends and other students they know needing to move their cars late at night to avoid getting tickets. R. Torres noted that security has been a little more lenient with students while there are still people picking up their parking passes. She notes that it could be helpful if there were parking passes available to students sooner. B. Perez explained that the parking passes are available before the academic year starts, and that she supports the idea of mailing the passes. B. Perez also vouched for security, explaining how they wanted to have students come in person for the parking passes in order to explain the map. R. Torres proposed an idea that in order for something to be considered endorsed by SGA, there should be legislation that is approved and voted on by the assembly, so everyone reaches a consensus together.
- A. Bova shared that she agreed that explaining the maps and shuttles was a good idea but she did not get that experience or information. B. Perez explained that she

did not get that information because it was an early move-in and that student workers were not the most reliable in being able to explain the situation, and that security was working to ensure that students get that information from workers. J. Kerin brought up that there were some students who felt unsafe by the shuttle moving through the Lowell Thomas area on the sidewalk, and asked if there was a guard who was located there. N. Yurasko suggested that a sign explaining the shuttle crosses through there could be helpful for students to be aware of the shuttle. M. Connor added that once the shuttle has been here a little longer, there will be better signage and direction for students. She shares that security may have been hesitant to put up permanent signage. B. Perez explained that the shuttle system is temporary and that suggestions are needed to help improve the system. B. Perez also explained that there is a guard present at this stop. A. McPadden mentioned that there were students who were unsatisfied with the running hours of the shuttle. There are students who feel that the shuttle should be running later so they can use it for their night classes. B. Perez said again, the system is still temporary, and if there is enough student feedback that security would work to extend the hours the shuttle runs. R. Torres noted that the faculty spots do become open to students after 4:30pm, and using those spots as a temporary solution may help. A. Bova explained that students who are on campus are not willing to move their car closer to buildings at night because they have a probability of not finding parking near their residence. M. Connor added that students are not really using the shuttle, and other students will just choose to walk to class.

- N. Yurasko brought up how card services were moved to 51 Fulton and voiced the concern that its location is not ideal for new students who may not be aware of where it is, which will make it hard for them to get a new card if needed. J. Kerin mentioned that the administration is working to move all of their tech departments to 51 Fulton. V. Vogelmann suggested that maybe the signs that were used previously to guide students to 51 Fulton could be put back in place. R. Lynch suggested talking to Andrea Connor to bring this issue to the President's Advisory Council.
- I. Serano brought up how students are having trouble getting access to temples on campus and how it would be beneficial to communicate between students and staff for students to be able to access these places of worship. A. McPadden mentioned she believes that communication could be the main issue. There is transport in place, but it is not widely advertised. R. Torress gives a point of information and thanks A. McPadden for her answer. A. McPadden also brought up the point that Marist actually hosts spiritual events every Friday that are open to students. R. Lynch mentioned that Spiritual Services would be available at the activities fair this Friday.

IV. Announcements

- SGA Syrota-Fox Brightspace
- Activity Fair this Friday 8/29
- K. Syrota mentioned if your deputy is ready to appoint then to email the Administrative Coordinators.
- N. Stamm asked the assembly to send short descriptions of their board for the activity fair.

V. Board Reports

Syrota - Fox Administration

- Advisor Reports
 - Robin Torres - SGA Advisor
 - She shares how she is proud of the current administration so far, and expresses her excitement about working together next year. She thanks SGA for all of their hard work during Welcome Week, and she wishes everyone a happy first week of classes.
 - Robert Lynch - SGA Advisor
 - R. Lynch thanked and welcomed all cabinet members back to campus. R. Lynch explained that at the activities fair, the members should make it a goal to look for candidates for the class of 2029. There is a Senior class meeting coming up for the Class of 2026, and he has a meeting with Kelli from Student Activities and A. Murphy about clubs interested in being chartered.
- Guest Reports
 - Safety & Security Report
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 - Physical Plant Report
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- Leadership Reports
 - K. Syrota - Student Body President
 - She is working to set up an extended conversation with James Snyder to talk about his lecture during Summer Session. She is also working on creating a campus-wide email for the Student Government, which will include information from all the boards. She asks the assembly to send her any information to include in this email.
 - M. Fox - Executive Vice President

- He explained what he and K. Syrota are working on and which includes setting up meetings with faculty to help voice student concerns. These faculty include President Weinman, Kelly Connor, and Gourmet as well.
 - A. Bova motioned to recognize H. Won to the meeting. V. Geraci seconded this motion.
- Cabinet and Senate Reports
 - I. Serano
 - Mentioned how she has set up a meeting with Jacob to set up information on the cultural dinner dance.
 - R. Torres made a point of information to acknowledge and recognize I. Serano's outstanding work.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - A. Murphy
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - B. Perez-Quiroz
 - She mentioned that she will bring up Safety and Security in her meeting with Daniel, and elaborates on her plans for a parking town hall.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - J. Genoni
 - Mentioned that he has set up a meeting with student advocacy.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - S. Mazzella

- She mentioned how there was a football game on Friday and encouraged everyone to attend the game.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- M. Connor
 - She has met with John Caputo to hopefully hold a sustainability event in the future.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Stamm
 - She has a meeting with the Dean of Communication and the Arts coming up, and a meeting with Rosa Emory to see how SGA can help students get in contact with Career Services.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- G. Carey
 - Mentioned that Michelle Williams was able to send out information to the School of Management for his board to recruit interested students.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- J. Kerin
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Bova
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- V. Geraci
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- K. Sevim

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Yurasko
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Palmieri
 - Wanted to start the Rules & Admin committee again, encouraged anyone who was interested to reach out to him.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- V. Vogelman
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. McPadden
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

VI. Old Business

- There was no old business from the previous meeting.

VII. New Business

- **The Appointment of Suzie Komel as Chief Justice**
 - S. Mazzella asked what made S. Komel wants to switch from Event Planning chair to Chief Justice. S. Komel explained that being an event planning chair was her way of getting her foot in the door of SGA. She also explained how Chief Justice aligns more with her long-term career goals as she plans to go to law school. I. Serrano asked how she plans to handle conflict within SGA. S. Komel mentioned that she has grown comfortable being impartial and putting her food down when she needs to, even to her friends. J. Genoni voiced the concern asking how she plans to balance her role as

Chief Justice. S. Komel responded that she is only taking four classes this semester, and she has narrowed down her workload a lot since last year. She mentioned that she will be completely dedicated to the role of Chief Justice. J. Kerin asked how her previous experience has made her have to delegate before and how she will use that in her new position in SGA. S. Komel responded and said that it has helped her realize how to communicate with different VPs and how to navigate herself in a role where a lot of the VPs already knew what they were doing when it came to planning events. G. Carey asked to give an example of how she has had to make a difficult decision in the past and how she went about making that decision. S. Komel mentioned her experience during her internship this summer. She mentioned how she took a leadership position in front of other students who were already in law school. She also mentioned her experience in Marist Model UN, and how she was able to mediate between her and her partner and take an organizational as well as a leadership role. A. Bova asked what skills S. Komel has and how those skills will lend to becoming Chief Justice. S. Komel said that she has learned communication and how to handle confidential information, as well as remaining professional.

- B. Perez motioned to move to an informal discussion. J. Genoni seconded the motion
- J. Genoni motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. N. Stamm seconded this motion
- S. Komel was not appointed with five affirmatives, five negatives, and four abstentions. The Bill did not pass.
- **The Appointment of Amanda Gracia as Vice President of Student Well-Being**
 - J. Genoni asked if A. Gracia is planning to collaborate with any clubs on campus A. Gracia responded and said

that she wishes to collaborate with counseling services, which will be her main focus. This is so that all students can be confident in the counseling services that Marist offers. I. Serrano asked if there are any ways that she can collaborate with A. Gracia on how she can help students experiencing isolation on campus. A. Gracia responded and said that the VP of Well-Being has the opportunity to collaborate with a lot of different positions, but she can collaborate with DEI by creating spaces of belonging and creating a space where everyone is culturally aware, because that can contribute to identity and wellness. V. Vogelmann asked if there are any policies and initiatives that A. Gracia is planning to take on this position. A. Gracia responded that there are three areas of focus for her, including mental well-being, physical well-being, and awareness. N. Yurasko questioned how A. Gracia plans to balance her various different roles on campus. A. Gracia mentioned that she is great at being organized, and she prioritizes being well rounded both socially and academically. She mentioned that since she is toward the end of her studies, she has a few difficult classes left that will take up her time. B. Perez asked what skills she has gained from leadership positions and how A. Gracia plans to use those skills to help SGA. A. Gracia responded that the biggest skill she has learned is where other people are coming from, and to see how they are feeling. She notes that this is helpful with conflict resolution and wants students to feel supported. N. Stamm asked what A. Gracia's thoughts are on improving the resource network for students who are seeking to improve their well-being. A. Gracia brings this back to her goal of generally feeling connected on campus, and she states de-stigmatizing counseling services and collaborating with DEI to improve the network resource.

- S. Mazella motioned to move to an informal discussion. J. Genoni seconded the motion
- A. Bova motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. N. Stamm seconded this motion.
- A. Gracia was appointed with fifteen affirmatives, zero negatives, and zero abstentions. The Bill passes.
- **Elections Bylaws Bill Change**
 - J. Kerin asked about Section V, and asked N. Palmieri to explain the rules and limitations for campaigning when it comes to group chats, GroupMe's, etc. N. Palmieri explained that there are specific rules regarding social media specifically but not group chats. These methods are both acceptable as they are open to all students. A. Bova added that this section was added to address "closed" group chats such as sororities, club group chats, etc.
 - N. Yurasko asked why there is a different number of commissioners for different times of the school year. A. Bova explained that the Fall semester is lower stakes compared to the Spring semester and so they increased the number of commissioners for the spring. R. Torres added to that point that volume and level of position plays a big role in the difference between the fall and spring elections.
 - J. Genoni asked how the new Bill would address the issues that arose during elections last year. A. Bova said the goal is to address the issues from last year and this is her first time in a position of leadership and how previously she held no leadership position so she had to learn as the elections were occurring. G. Carey asked to elaborate more about what the specific issues were last year. R. Torres mentioned that there was an issue with how some votes were garnered, and the use of social media, and what a fair or unfair advantage looked like.

This Bill would not just fix problems from last year, but it would improve upon elections as a whole. Timelines have been fixed, and there is a lot more freedom to be clear and humane in terms of announcement night.

- N. Palmieri explained the time for appeals has changed and it is now a three day period where the candidate has 24 hours to make an appeal to the different boards. N. Yurasko made a point to ask about the specifics with credits and class, and how that affects voting. This is because students with an increased amount of credits can be considered to be in the grade above what they actually are, and could not vote for their respective class officers. A. Bova explained that the new system is connected to Banner which allows for candidates to be more accurately represented. R. Torres offers a point of information that there is also work being done to the voting system itself, and there is work being done with the IT department. J. Kerin mentioned that IT is still in the process of finalizing the elections and voting software, and they are working on a functionality where the system will be based on different factors than just credits, including but not limited to graduation year.
- I. Serrano motioned to move from formal discussion to voting. V. Geraci seconded this motion.
- The Amendment to Rework Elections Commission Bylaw Change was brought into fruition with 12 affirmatives, zero negatives, and one abstention. The Bill passes.

VIII. Miracle of the Week

- Everyone submitted their board report!
- Successful Summer Session!

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Mintel & Katie Marrin

Administrative Coordinators