



MARIST
UNIVERSITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE MARIST
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2025, IN
DONNELLY ROOM 225

Order of Business:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 11:04 by K. Syrota.
- Members present:
 - Assembly:
 - Karina Syrota - Student Body President
 - Matt Fox - Executive Vice President
 - Ananya Andrare - Deputy Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Alex Murphy - Interim Vice President of Club Affairs
 - Brianna Perez-Quiroz - Vice President of Safety and Security
 - Ethan Solury - Representative of the Athletic Affairs Board
 - Amanda Gracia - Vice President of Student Well-Being
 - Megan Connor - Vice President of Sustainability
 - Noelle Stamm - Chief Communications Officer
 - Griffin Carey - Chief Financial Officer
 - Emily Ramirez - Deputy Chief Information Officer
 - Class Boards:
 - Vi Geraci - Class of 2026 President
 - Noah Yurasko - Class of 2028 President

- Associate Members
 - Neil Palmieri - Parliamentarian
- Representatives:
 - Alexa McPadden- East End Representative
- Assistants:
 - Grace Intel - Administrative Coordinator
 - Katie Marrin - Administrative Coordinator

II. Reading of the Minutes

- There were no minutes from the previous meeting to approve.

III. Open Floor

- Student Concerns
 - M. Connor brought up a concern about student drivers on campus. Students who have a 6:30 class in Dyson are rushing to get to that parking lot, and it is causing unsafe conditions for students who are walking on campus. D. Gough asked if it was specific to a certain time, and promised to send officers to that intersection. Usually, there are officers at every intersection, but not at that hour.
 - N. Yurasko brought up how the activity hour has a lot of events that occur during the same time. He is concerned that students have to pick and choose where to be during activity hours.
 - N. Stamm wanted to bring up a video she saw on TikTok, where Greek Life was associated with the Women's Club Rowing account. She explained that when an organization gets new members, they have a “pledge-tok” account. Some new members are claiming to be part of a different organization. R. Lynch said that this should be brought to the marketing department, because if an account is using Marist in the account

name inappropriately, then it can be reported and removed.

- A. Gracia brought up how students heard in the town hall that students would be able to park in handicap spots, but are concerned if that is correct. D. Gough replied that he was working on removing the handicap signage and blue paint on the pavement so that students may park there
- G. Carey asked if students are allowed to park on the grass in the lower hoop lots. G. Carey mentioned how some students claimed they got ticketed in those spots. He asked if there could be another announcement regarding this update on parking. D. Gough said that there was a reminder sent to officers not to ticket down at the lower hoop lot in those spots.
- B. Perez gave a point of information that for students who are getting tickets there, they have been getting appeals after reviewing the citation. D. Gough mentioned again that only students who have access to the parking lot will be ticketed.
- V. Geraci brought up the concern that North End is substituting again, and it is dangerous for students with allergies. She believes that these substitutions should be communicated to the students before making the decision. R. Torres wanted to speak about ingredient awareness and mentioned that you can see all the ingredients on the GrubHub app. She mentioned that this is a very important issue to be brought to Gourmet's attention. M. Connor brought up how, on the app, it has an allergy tab where students can enter their information.
- A. Murphy motioned to recognize I. Serano, A. Bova, and R. Harvey to the meeting. N. Stamm seconded this motion.

IV. Announcements

- Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. today!
- There is now an SGA group chat for all members
- The dining hall takeover is on October 13th. K. Syrota reminded people to fill out the shift form as well.
- Puppies for Midterms is happening in the Student Center
- G. Carey motioned to recognize L. Spoon. E. Solury seconded this motion.

V. Board Reports

- Advisor Reports
 - Robin Torres - SGA Advisor
 - R. Torres thanked assembly members for working so great with appointments and other deadlines. She reminded students to put their school assignments first and to take care of themselves.
 - Robert Lynch - SGA Advisor
 - Family weekend had about 3,500 people, and a special thanks was given to D. Gough and the Office of Safety and Security. The shuttle helped out a lot. He expressed interest in knowing more about the water fountain and signage issue. He met with G. Carey and other people from the Student Activities Office to review club bylaws. He also complimented assembly members on their board reports.
- Guest Reports
 - Safety & Security Report
 - D. Gough mentioned that the family weekend was very busy but very successful. There is another busy weekend coming up this weekend in terms of sporting events, as well as the Admissions Open House happening on Sunday. Over the past month,

there have been a lot of bicycle and scooter thefts, which have been reported to the Poughkeepsie Police Department. Someone has been charged and is being held in custody.

- B. Dolansky mentioned that if you see something in terms of reckless driving, please report it to the Office of Safety and Security with specifics of date, time, and model of the car. Reports can be made through the app.

- Leadership Reports

- K. Syrota - Student Body President

- K. Syrota mentioned how she has been meeting about the new change in the Office of Community and Belonging. She mentioned that dining hall concerns have also been a topic of discussion with Andrea Connor. St. Jude's and SGA involvement is also a part of their plans for their meetings in the rest of the week.

- M. Fox - Executive Vice President

- He met with Marist Spark, which is a funded research group for faculty. There will be more updates on that as progress develops.

- Cabinet and Senate Reports

- I. Serano

- I. Serano emphasized that she is open to questions and concerns about the new changes on campus. She is planning to stay firm on her beliefs, and ticket sales will be on sale tomorrow for the cultural dinner dance. R. Torres asked why the name was changed from Collective Community Leaders and how that can be differentiated from other groups on campus. I. Serano explained that

the name community leaders are representative of the different communities on campus, and when they come together, they represent leadership on the Marist campus.

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ A. Murphy

- Extended gratitude to everyone who helped out at the Leadership Conference.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ B. Perez-Quiroz

- If students don't feel comfortable contacting Security directly, they are free to reach out to B. Perez.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ E. Solury

- Encouraged members to come to the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K this weekend.
- Referenced S. Mazzella's board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ A. Gracia

- A. Gracia also encouraged students to come to the 5k.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ M. Connor

- She mentioned how there is a lecture event that she encouraged assembly members to participate in. She also mentioned how she will be meeting with various administrators to go over the action plan.

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Stamm
 - Wanted to remind everyone to send any marketing and communications material to her as far in advance as possible.
- G. Carey
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- E. Ramirez
 - Referenced J. Kerin's board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Bova
 - Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. today! Voting booths have been going very well.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- V. Geraci
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Yurasko
 - He mentioned he is now able to use the computers in Hancock to open the Marist Minecraft server.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - R. Harvey motioned to recognize A. McPadden at the meeting. I. Serrano seconded the motion.
- L. Spoon
 - Thanked assembly members for their help with elections.
- N. Palmieri
 - He mentioned how assembly members should come to him if they have any issues with their

bylaws, and for assembly members to come to the show this weekend.

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- R. Harvey

- 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

- **Bill to Charter the Public Speaking Club**
- A. McPadden asked about some of the events that they have been holding in previous semesters. Club members explained that club meetings would focus on various topics, rather than specific events.
- N. Yurasko asked how they intend to differentiate themselves from other clubs that may focus on aspects of public speaking. Members explained that there are many clubs that have public speaking, but the club is more versatile because anyone can join the club and gain the skills that they can roll over into the many different majors and interests that students may have on campus.
- A. Murphy made a note that, as members of the Marist Model UN club, they would be happy to collaborate.
- G. Carey asked if they would open up the club to students who are just worried about specific events they may have. Club representatives said that there is the intention to hold club meetings weekly, so that for those students who do need help with a specific presentation, there is help available for them.

Their focus is on a four-year involvement plan. G. Carey followed up, asking if they would actually need 30 a week or a year for the club. Club members explained that they would be willing to work with SGA to get the cost down, as well as with the suppliers at the food supplier company.

- R. Torres mentioned that this is an all-encompassing club; however, it does take root in the school of communication and the arts. She wanted to know if they have any connections or have made contact with any representatives from that school. Members explained that they have worked with faculty to ensure that the Marist academics are integrated with the club.
- R. Torres asked for the difference between Toastmasters and the Public Speaking Club. Members explained that Toastmasters was a very big club and one that charged students for participation. They wanted to move away from that model because they wanted to be more inclusive with what students can join and who can not.
- V. Geraci asked how many active members are in the club. Members explained that last semester, there would be 15-20 students who would come to club meetings. V. Geraci asked if the budget was based on that attendance, and club representatives confirmed that.
- M. Connor asked what some events might be that they may put on for students who are too nervous to present in front of bigger crowds at first. Club representatives explained that they have smaller presentation groups for 4-5 people to include those people who don't feel comfortable enough speaking in a large group.
- A. Bova asked how this club would differentiate from the public speaking classes that Marist offers. Club representatives explained that this club would be a lot more community-involved. For the class, you may not have to talk for a while due to the nature of the curriculum. The club would have a higher frequency of involvement and a higher level of

engagement. Representatives also explained that the class is filled with a lot of lectures and presentations for the midterm and presentations for final presentations. The club allows you to speak in front of a group without the weight of trying to get a good grade.

- G. Carey asked if they plan on helping students prepare presentations for their classes. Club representatives explained that this has been a main focus of the club curriculum as well. It is being communicated that the visual aid is just as important as the speech you are delivering as well.
- N. Yurasko asked what a regular club meeting looked like for the club. Members explained that they usually have their meetings last just over an hour. They ensure that all students have a chance to speak if they would like and try to rotate who is speaking during the meeting. They also try to make sure students get feedback and practice.
- B. Perez motioned to move to an informal discussion. N. Stamm seconded the motion
- N. Yurasko motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. R. Harvey seconded this motion
- The Public Speaking Club was appointed with 12 affirmatives, 0 negatives, and 1 abstention. The bill passed, and the club was chartered.
- **The Appointment of Chloe Montgomery as Deputy Vice President of Club Affairs**
- C. Montgomery began by introducing herself and her previous experiences with club involvement on campus.
- K. Syrota asked what the most exciting part of the Club Affairs board is for her. C. Montgomery explained that her favorite event is the club fair because students at Marist can explore different clubs and find their place on campus.
- C. Harvey motioned to move to an informal discussion. G. Carey seconded the motion

- N. Stamm motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. I. Serano seconded this motion
- Chloe Montgomery was appointed with 12 affirmatives, 0 negatives, and 1 abstention. The Bill passes.
- **Amendment to Fix the Faculty of the Year Awards Bylaws**
- G. Carey Motion to add back VII to the Bill.
- R. Torres gave the context that this award is very coveted among the faculty. It was also noted that there is a difference between part-time and full-time faculty members.
- G. Carey added that there would be an inherent contradiction in Section III of the bill.
- N. Palmieri noted that there was some confusion regarding the terminology of the bill, and it would be better addressed by J. Genoni, Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- R. Torres and R. Lynch asked if there was an overall faculty of the year award, and N. Stamm clarified that there is not; there are awards for each school and one for adjuncts.
- N. Yurasko motioned to table the Amendment to Fix the Faculty of the Year Awards Bylaws. G. Carey seconded this motion.
- **Amendment to Prohibit Communications Devices During Voting**
- N. Stamm motioned to recognize J. Genoni at the meeting. G. Carey seconded this motion.
- M. Connor asked if this includes informal discussion as well. N. Palmieri explained that you're allowed to talk during an informal session, so there is no security concern.
- J. Genoni explained that he does not believe there should be a bill that can explain how he can or cannot use his phone during parts of the assembly. N. Palmieri explained that there is trust, like during informal discussion, and that voting is one of the rules that should be controlled to ensure security.
- G. Carey explained that in informal discussion, the nature of that is that there should be no record of it, so it would make

sense to include it under this bill as well. N. Palmieri explained that this bill is just specific to voting and a separate bill could be brought to the Assembly.

- B. Perez added that another part of the confusion could be how deputies may be texting their VPs during voting or informal discussion, when it should just be a decision for the deputy to make. J. Genoni mentioned that he and his deputy have never had texting discussions during voting, and he doesn't see it as an issue.
- M. Connor explained that this is not directed toward everyone. She thinks that although we trust everyone not to be texting during voting, it would still be a good idea to have this bill to ensure everyone can be focused.
- A. Gracia asked where this idea came from and what the reason was behind introducing this bill. B. Perez explained that this bill came from her suggestion because there should be no communication during voting, and this bill would ensure that. N. Palmieri agreed and explained that it would make sure to cover the concept of electronic communication about voting.
- G. Carey agreed that the SGA in the future may need this bill to ensure that trust is something that is ensured in future voting sessions. R. Torres mentioned that in the past, there have been examples of when there have been texts about pressure during voting.
- J. Genoni explained that there is an option to motion to a secret ballot so that there is no pressure to vote one way or another. Palmieri explained that the concern is more about this communication being a future issue. J. Genoni argued against the point that there should not be a bill determining what can or cannot be done with someone's belongings.
- N. Stamm explained that voting is very fast, and she believes this bill would be more effective to be put in place during the informal session. N. Palmieri explained that the informal

session was not what came to his mind, and was more concerned with Robert's Rules of Order during voting.

- A. Bova asked for a point of clarification that the bill will only cover voting. N. Palmieri confirmed.
- A. McPadden claimed that she has seen people typing on their laptops during voting in the past, and she believes that shutting down laptops during voting is appropriate. A. Murphy added that the voting process is one of the most important functions, and it is where most of the change happens. He added that another layer of security is never a bad thing.
- L. Spoon added that she doesn't believe this bill should not necessarily change anything, because members should not be communicating during voting regardless of if this bill is passed. G. Carey argued that laws being passed like this one are for the future SGA and not just the current assembly. He explained that this is more of a preventative measure rather than a direct attack on something that is going on right now.
- J. Genoni mentioned that if there is communication happening with assembly members, then the issue would fall onto them rather than the structure of SGA. Furthermore, the passing of this bill could be seen as passing a boundary to the autonomy of assembly members. N. Palmieri explained that this is not an overstepping of the boundary, as you are already restricted during voting. He explained that this is just a preventative measure.
- J. Genoni motioned to move from formal discussion to voting. G. Carey seconded this motion.
- The Amendment to Prohibit Communications Devices During Voting Bylaw Change was brought into fruition with 13 affirmatives, 1 negative, and 0 abstentions. The Bill passes.

VIII. Miracle of the Week

- **Leadership Conference**
- **SGA Website looks amazing**

- **Thank you, Noelle, for the Comms Material**
- **Thank you to Alyssa and everyone else for all your hard work during elections!**

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Mintel & Katie Marrin

Administrative Coordinators