



MARIST
UNIVERSITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE MARIST
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 IN
DONNELLY ROOM 225

Order of Business:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by K. Syrota

Members present:

■ Assembly:

- Karina Syrota - Student Body President
- Matt Fox - Executive Vice President
- Alex Murphy - Interim Vice President of Club Affairs
- Itati Serano - Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Brianna Perez-Quiroz - Vice President of Safety and Security
- Abigail Oliveros- Deputy Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Sarah Mazzella - President of Athletic Affairs
- Gabriella Meir - Deputy Vice President of Student Well-Being
- Carina Pascucci - Deputy 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
 - Adrianna Darosa- Class of 2029 President
- Judicial Board:
 - Lillian Spoon - Chief Justice
- Associate Members
 - Neil Palmieri - Parliamentarian
 - Cole Harvey - Student Body Historian
 - Veronica Vogelmann - Event Planning Chair
- Representatives:
 - Alexa McPadden - North End Representative
 - Joseph McCormack- North End Representatives
 - Chella Calcagni - Commuter Representative
 - Emily Speno - Commuter Representative
 - Caitrina Kiel - Transfer Representative
- Assistants:
 - Grace Intel - Administrative Coordinator
 - Katie Marrin - Administrative Coordinator

II. Reading of the Minutes

- A. Bova motioned to approve the minutes from the October 8th Assembly meeting without reading them out loud. N. Stamm seconded the motion.
- Minutes approved without reading upon voice vote in the affirmative.

III. Open Floor

- Student Concerns
 - Ward Accessibility Button
 - A. McPadden explained that the button by the elevator does not work to open the Ward door. J. McCormack clarified that the accessibility button is based on swipe access, so only students who

request access will be able to use it. A. McPadden explained that if you are injured, it is inconvenient if you are on crutches. She believes all students should be able to have access to the button. R. Torres clarified that she is not aware of that, and said that was something to talk to the office of Safety and Security about. B. Perez said she will be able to speak to Security about it and if there are students who need access, Brian Dolansky would be a good contact to reach out to because he has access to all the cards and their abilities. J. McCormack agreed, and said that accommodations would also be helpful if you reached out.

■ Moving handicap spaces

- A. McPadden expressed some concern about handicap spaces not being in the front of the parking lot. For example, the handicap spot in Fontaine is in the middle of the lot. N. Stamm clarified that the spots there are for entrance into that specific building. But agreed that there should be more options. B. Perez said she will be able to bring up the handicap concerns with security. She explained that the St. Anne's spots are in that location because there are no other options for handicap spots.

■ Financial Services email responses

- A. McPadden mentioned that the response time for Financial Services is over two weeks, which has become frustrating for some students. A. Bova agreed that they should be responding quicker, but calling is a quick way to get a response.

■ Hoop Lot parking tickets

- G. Mintel explained A. Gracia brought up in her board report that the Lower Hoop lot spots that should not be ticketed are being ticketed. B. Perez answered that she had been dealing with appeals, and those tickets have been getting voided. A. Bova asked if the grass area is okay to park in. B. Perez answered and said that it was allowed.

IV. Announcements

- **Welcome all new and returning members of SGA!**
- **Homecoming**
 - October 25th at 11 a.m. in the Student Government Office, come hang out with SGA Alumni!
- **Get your Cultural Dinner Dance tickets!**
 - I. Serrano encouraged members to buy their tickets for the dance.
 - A new flyer for the Cultural Dinner Dance is coming out every Thursday.
- **St. Jude's SGA Link**
 - The closing event is on November 7th in the Cab at 9:00pm.

V. Board Reports

- Advisor Reports
 - Robin Torres - SGA Advisor
 - R. Torres began by wishing all members peace and good luck while going through midterms. She also mentioned student concerns, and it's important to bring up concerns from all students, not just your own. They are taken very seriously, and not to just be personal experiences that can be settled on your own. She also wanted to reaffirm what she saw in the Diversity report. She appreciated the written statement about the

intention of the Cultural Dinner Dance, as it is a celebration for everyone by everyone. She mentioned she also thinks the CLC (Community Leaders Collective) should rethink their name, as it may not align with the goal and purpose of the committee.

- Robert Lynch - SGA Advisor

- R. Lynch thanked everyone for the puppies and goats last week. He also brought up the E-Waste event that is coming up and how members should take a look at the office and see if there is anything that needs to be recycled.

- Leadership Reports

- K. Syrota - Student Body President

- Met with MaryEllen about St. Judes and involvement with St. Judes. She invited and asked all members to get involved. She also met with Kevin Weinman and will share more details later. Next week there is a meeting with the Marist 100 implementation committee and asked for members to share any concerns or comments they want to be brought up.

- M. Fox - Executive Vice President

- M. Fox explained that he is working with Marist SPARK and how he is planning to help them revise their plans.

- Cabinet and Senate Reports

- I. Serano

- I. Serrano mentioned how there was a tabling event yesterday in Dyson and if any students have concerns, they should reach out.

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Murphy
 - A. Murphy hopes to bring more clubs to assembly soon.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- B. Perez-Quiroz
 - Met with Security and Physical Plant yesterday. Discussed communication regarding ticketing with security. B. Perez also addressed the Class of 2028 initiative for Grub Hub stops as well. Also spoke to Physical Plant about the outage and maintenance service complaints. Reinforced students to come to her with issues and concerns for her to forward to safety.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Oliveros
 - Referenced J. Genoni's board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- S. Mazzella
 - Expressed thanks to everyone who came to the Breast Cancer Awareness 5k.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- G. Meir
 - Referenced A. Gracia's board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- C. Pascucci
 - There have been meetings with Gourmet and Security this past week to discuss water accessibility. The board also has two events coming up and urges members to attend. R.

Torres asked what had been learned during the water meeting. C. Pascucci clarified that there were more filters on one side of the campus, possible new fountain stations, and the concern with water being in the dining hall and having to pay for it.

- Referenced M. Connor's board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ N. Stamm

- N. Stamm reminded the assembly that she will be doing headshots today.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ G. Carey

- G. Carey mentioned how he had the opportunity to try gourmet's new pizza truck. He also explained that there is a paper form in the office for budget requests. G. Carey mentions how he is working to make the form digital in order to simplify the process. He is also working on a FAQ sheet to post.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ J. Kerin

- He encouraged members to smile for their headshots :)
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

■ A. Bova

- Gave thanks to everyone who helped elections. R. Torres expressed gratitude and thanks for A. Bova's hard work.
- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- V. Geraci
 - Announced that board meetings are on Tuesday, and said if anyone wants to join the Senior Legacy committee then to reach out to her.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Yurasko
 - N. Yurasko explained that he is going to be introducing a Marsit Minecraft server. He also offered help to the Class of 2029 president.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Darosa
 - Introduced herself to the assembly.
- L. Spoon
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Palmieri
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- R. Harvey
 - Added that he is meeting with John Ansley from the library, and he is going to meet with Jared to add the minutes from last year on the website.
 - 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.
- J. McCormack

- Introduced himself. Said that he has an idea about an event, about working with the sustainability board for a bottles and cans donation event for breast cancer awareness. Will follow up with more information later.
- C. Calcagni
 - Introduced herself to the assembly.
- E. Speno
 - Introduced herself to the assembly.
- C. Kiel
 - Introduced herself to the assembly.

VI. Old Business

- **Amendment to Fix the Faculty of the Year Awards Bylaws**
 - N. Palmieri brought the bill up again, mentioning that it should have resolved some of the issues that arose during the bill presentation last week.
 - G. Carey motioned to move from formal discussion to voting. N. Yurasko seconded this motion.
 - The Amendment to Fix the Faculty of the Year Awards Bylaws Bylaw Change was brought into fruition with 18 affirmatives, 0 negatives, and 1 abstention. The Bill passes.

VII. New Business

- **Conversation about Student Center with Hannah Epstein**
 - H. Epstein began by introducing herself. She began introducing her Honors Thesis project, by mentioning that the Student Center is lacking the physical appeal, and is failing to create a sense of belonging. She wanted to lead an open discussion to hear Student Government feedback.
 - H. Epstein asked what does the Student Center and campus spaces do well in terms of creating a sense of

belonging. N. Stamm mentioned that she noticed the newer buildings draw in students because they are nicer. Having the option of food also draws in students. Students get bored of the older buildings.

- H. Epstein asked what indicates a newer and nicer space. N. Stamm said because the inside looks much different than other buildings. The natural light, seating space, and open concept contribute to the attraction. C. Kiel brought up how the natural lighting in Dyson and Steel Plant are a big attraction, and that is what the Student Center lacks. B. Perez brought up how bright colors make these other buildings attractive and how the Student Center is too dull in comparison. C. Pascucci expressed that having updated rooms and spaces in older buildings can help to draw students into these buildings such as rooms in Donnelly that have been redone and STEM students enjoy now. A. McPadden mentioned that the events that are going on in Dyson are much more accessible to students and there are private and public spaces. S. Mazzella explained that she enjoys Dyson because it is so open and you are able to scan the room and see who is there. N. Stamm mentioned that in Dyson there are three different schools that have classes there, so there is a wide variety of students in that building. She also likes the centrality of the nice and new buildings , and mentioned that the Student Center feels out of the way if you are not a first year student.
- H. Epstein agreed that the location of the Student Center is a reason for there being less student traffic. She also asked if students have had the chance to be in the Kirk House. A. McPadden explained that she enjoys it because it is private and there is indoor and outdoor space, and students are able to spread out there. She

emphasized how there is a big open space but also nooks for people to go and have private conversations.

- H. Epstein asked if the SGA body had any thoughts as to why many students didn't know about this space. J. McCormack explained that the house itself is hidden and it is hard to find if you do not live near the area. J. McCormack said he doesn't necessarily think that it's a downside, because he noted that it was for more spiritual use. I. Serrano said that the JROTC works on the ground level floor, and that space has only been allowed to be reserved for only specific cultural groups.
- H. Epstein asked if for some of the cultural events, if that space should be used for some of those as well. For example, less represented groups on campus, such as international students or LGBTQ students. She asked the assembly if this space should be used for those kinds of events or just be reserved for religious events. A. McPadden mentioned that for events larger than 25 people the space becomes cramped. She said that she does not think that this place would accommodate groups that are larger than that. I. Serrano said she understands why it is just a religious space, but it can also make certain spaces feel like a silo. She worries that this space could potentially make students feel like they should only exist within themselves. She thinks of elaborating that event space for all. G. Carey mentioned he believed that having spaces available only to specific groups could cause legal issues. He feels like by creating a definition for "minority" it could create problems with segregation laws and inclusion. R. Torres mentioned that he is correct in the way that there is no space that is just open to one. There are groups that feel more comfortable in certain spaces, and gave a note to H. Epstein about moving to further questions.

- H. Epstein mentioned that she wanted to speak to commuter reps about the commuter lounge. E. Speno mentioned that the commuter lounge is an important lounge and space for that community. They feel like it is time for a major update, and the furniture is very outdated. Also mentioned that lockers could potentially be helpful for students to store things there instead of going back and forth to their cars. N. Stamm asked if she was talking about the one in the Student Center.
- R. Torres mentioned that there is no commuter lounge in 51 Fulton, it is just a waiting area, and the conversation would be focused on the only commuter lounge which is in the Student Center. B. Perez mentioned that she was also under the impression that the 51 Fulton lounge was a commuter lounge, and mentioned that she will talk to the Office of Safety and Security about this.
- B. Perez motioned to recognize H. Won to the meeting. A. Bova seconded this motion.
- A. Bova said she isn't a commuter, but the fact that it is in the basement is discouraging for students. She also mentioned that commuters don't really find the space to be "homey." C. Kiel mentioned that she is on the dance team so the commuter lounge is a shared space for her. She mentioned that a lot of the time the dance team and ensemble uses that space frequently. A. McPadden offered the idea that one of the houses on campus could be turned into a commuter space. J. McCormack said that he appreciates that idea, and from the perspective of Residence Life and Marist, Marist would not likely consider that solution. B. Perez adds to the point that it would not make sense to mix the community of Residential life with commuter spaces.
- H. Epstein mentions green spaces, and how she is looking at underutilized spaces on the East side of

campus in the outdoor areas. She asked the assembly how those spaces are currently being used and ideas for potential improvement. A. Bova mentioned that she doesn't see people using that space at all. V. Vogelman said the picnic tables keep disappearing by the tennis court, and it has been a space used by her and her friends for awhile. V. Vogelman also suggested more outdoor seating areas, and the possibility that some of them could be accessible in the winter. J. Kerin mentioned that a lot of people like the area behind Hancock, but there are not enough tables out there for students. He feels a lot more people would sit there if there was more seating for students. B. Perez gave a point of information that student voice is very important for Physical Plant and they are willing to listen to suggestions. N. Stamm said she does love the space by the tennis courts and it is a beautiful space, but not enough people go there. She wishes that students would use that space more. She does acknowledge it is a little bit of a strange area, mentioning it feels like more of a pathway to townhouses rather than a part of campus. J. McCormack mentions that at night that area is really dark, and suggests that there should be some outdoor lights in that area for students. I. Serrano said students may choose to go to the Marist Green instead because of the desire for social interaction and coming out of winter where students tend to isolate themselves. C. Kiel mentioned that from her old school, she missed fun outdoor seating. She mentions that interactive outdoor seating makes people want to spend time outside. V. Vogelman built on that point that all-weather seating could be helpful.

- H. Epstein brought up the point that a lot of the ideas the assembly is bringing up are also examples she has seen in her research.
 - R. Torres made a note that this discussion should stay private for now so H. Epstein can complete her research first.
 - J. McCormack mentioned that he thought that the old Cabaret brought people together in the Student Center. The new Cab eliminates human interaction. L. Spoon mentions that a lot of the dining spaces are similar to that, and they eliminate human interaction, and eating spaces have eliminated the community-feel. V. Vogelmann said that she misses hearing music in the Student Center, as she notices that this is something that Dyson has and does well to create community.
 - H. Epstein thanks everyone for their time and participation.
- **Appointment of Natalie DiLena as the Distance Representative**
 - N. DiLena began by introducing herself to the assembly.
 - G. Carey asked what kind of connections she has already made to the distance students on campus. N. DiLena mentioned that she has met some other people from Texas and how they are connected. N. DiLena said that she has not had the opportunity to meet a lot of other distance students yet.
 - R. Harvey asked what were some of her goals, and he said what are some ideas of things that bring the community together. N. DiLena mentioned hosting some open events would be helpful. She mentions that she has not had the opportunity to know the campus completely yet.

- B. Perez asked what event ideas or communication outreach ideas she had. N. DiLena mentioned she is still working on initiatives and brainstorming ideas.
- R. Torres asked what she feels like she is missing as a distance student, and asked what about being involved in SGA is of interest to her. N. DiLena mentions that she wants to be a voice for people, in high school she spent a lot of time working with special needs students, and she likes representing the underrepresented population.
- J. Kerin asked why she chose Marist as a distance student. N. DiLena said her dad grew up in New York and has family here. She said it is a big culture change.
- A. Oliveros asked if she had any ideas for her to connect with other distance students representatives. N. DiLena said she does not have any ideas yet.
- R. Lynch asked about the predicted amount of distance students, and said that there could be some open events for students to get together from distance states.
- C. Kiel said that she would be happy to work with N. DiLena and collaborating on events together. V. Vogelmann mentioned that she would be happy to work with N. DiLena about an event to specifically reach distance students.
- I. Serrano asks what it means for her to be a voice for students. N. DiLena answered that it's more about being a friendly face, and if she can make at least one student feel like they belong, then she would be happy.
- S Mazella motioned to move to an informal discussion. A. Oliveros seconded the motion.
- V. Gracia motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. B. Perez seconded this motion.
- was appointed with 10 affirmatives, 9 negatives, and 1 abstention. The Bill passes.

- **Amendment to Allow Cabinet Members to Appoint at Least Two Deputies**
 - G. Carey motioned to move the Amendment to Allow Cabinet Members to Appoint at Least Two Deputies Bill to next week. N. Yurasko seconded this motion.

VIII. Miracle of the Week

- **The Breast Cancer Awareness 5k**
- **Elections was successful**
- **Noah's Minecraft Server**

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Mintel & Katie Marrin

Administrative Coordinators