



MARIST
UNIVERSITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE MARIST
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 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
 - Itati Serrano - Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Alex Murphy - Interim Vice President of Club Affairs
 - Brianna Perez-Quiroz - Vice President of Safety and Security
 - Abigail Oliveros - Deputy Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - Sarah Mazzella - President of Athletic Affairs
 - Amanda Gracia - Vice President of Student Well-Being
 - Carina Pascucci - Deputy Vice President of Sustainability
 - Noelle Stamm - Chief Communications Officer
 - Sampurna Bose - Deputy Chief Financial Officer
 - Jared Kerin - Chief Information Officer
 - Alyssa Bova - Director of Elections Commissions

- Class Boards:
 - Gio Martinez - Class of 2026 Vice President
 - Noah Yurasko - Class of 2028 President
 - Adrianna Darosa- Class of 2029 President
- Associate Members
 - Neil Palmieri - Parliamentarian
 - Veronica Vogelmann - Event Planning Chair
- Representatives:
 - Joseph McCormack- North End Representative
 - Natalie DiLena - Distance Representative
 - Chella Calcagni - Commuter Representative
 - Caitrina Kiel - Transfer Representative
- Assistants:
 - Grace Intel - Administrative Coordinator
 - Katie Marrin - Administrative Coordinator

II. New Business

- J. McCormack motioned to move new Business to first on the agenda. C. Kiel seconded this motion.
- **Official SGA Statement on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Name and Structure**
- I. Serrano explained to assembly members that she will help to explain the change of DEI, and encouraged members to express their feelings on how SGA should respond to this campus change. N. Palmieri explained that until someone forces us to change the name of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion board, we should keep our name the same until there is pressure. And even then, we should still fight back. R. Torres asked if members had already voted on the name change, and members explained that they had not. J. McCormack asked a clarifying question, that it would only be the name that would be changed. I Serrano clarified that the name would not change, and she claimed that it would not be a wise decision to release this statement on behalf of the Syrota-Fox

administration, but rather demonstrate the values of diversity, equity and inclusion in our work. She made a point that any name change would not change the value of the work we are doing.

- R. Torres asked the group whether the assembly is quiet because it is uncomfortable, or because the group has already decided that they do not want to change the name of the board. She wanted to encourage a beneficial discussion during this time for the benefit of the group.
- N. Stamm brought up I. Serrano's tabling event, and asked if there is anything that assembly members could do to reassure students that there are still DEI initiatives on campus.
- I. Serrano explained that she knows not everyone will support the work that she is doing. She gave direct quotes from her tabling events explaining how students were confused and felt the lack of explanation for the name change, while also finding out that students were not aware of the Office of Community and Belonging at Marist. She brought up the idea that maybe there should be a town hall for the answers that students are seeking. She asked the group if they believed this town hall would be beneficial for this administration. N. Stamm explained that a town hall would be a good idea because it would give students a chance to engage with the office of Community and Belonging.
- N. Palmieri agreed and said a town hall would be a good idea. He asked for some clarification about why the assembly is choosing not to release the statement. M. Fox explained that a statement could bring unwanted consequences, such as not being able to preserve DEI, because there could be negative attention brought to SGA.
- A. Connor introduced herself and explained that she, M. Fox, and I. Serrano have been meeting frequently. She supports our decision to keep the name "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." She reaffirmed to the assembly that there would be no pressure

from the president's office to change the name. She wanted the group to know that she has not raised any concerns against this statement, and she supports our decision. She closes off that it has been a hard reality for her to face that DEI can no longer mean what the community wants it to mean. She explains it is reasonable to seek a diverse and equitable experience while feeling included at Marist. She hopes that our good work will continue.

- V. Vogelmann asked how many SGA members are allowed to speak on the decision made by the assembly to keep the DEI title. A. Connor said that we are absolutely able to have free speech, and being part of a leader means using your voice. She encourages us to represent our individual concerns and questions, as well as concerns from the student body.
- R. Torres agreed that the town hall is a good idea and that it is important to understand the job I. Serrano does, and what DEI does as a whole. She encouraged assembly members to continue to spread the importance of DEI to their peers. I. Serrano explains that she is always available to have conversations with anyone and everyone about why the work centered around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is so important.
- A. Connor thanked assembly members and encouraged students to reach out with any questions.

III. Reading of the Minutes

- B. Perez moved to approve the minutes from the October 15th assembly meeting without reading them out loud. N. Stamm seconded the motion.
- Minutes approved without reading upon voice vote in the affirmative.
- N. Stamm motioned to recognize R. Harvey at the meeting.

IV. Open Floor

- Student Concerns
 - A. Bova brought up how students have mentioned how parking is better.
 - C. Pascucci mentioned that someone over the weekend was working late in the Steel Plant, and explained that there was a local man who was walking around the building and asking students questions. B. Dolansky responded by explaining that there is a card swipe in the building already, but they will be locking the building soon. They will be getting a list from fashion professors of students who will be able to have swipe access to the building after closing hours. He also encouraged students to report incidents like this in the future because they will be able to deal with them correctly.
 - N. Stamm mentions the TikTok she brought up a couple of weeks ago, the one about “Marist Women’s Rowing Team,” but it is a Fraternity pledge account, and she is concerned about the implications that this could have on the university’s reputation. C. Pascucci explained that she is on the rowing team, and it was uncomfortable and weird to see the account. R. Torres explained that N. Stamm has the right to send the email to marketing and express her concern over the video. B. Perez mentions that she thinks it would be helpful to include Megan Dwyer on this email chain. A. Bova explained that she has seen it too and agrees that the videos are weird. R. Lynch asked for clarification on the name of the social media account and whether or not the Athletic Department has been contacted.
 - K. Syrota wanted to open a discussion about accessibility on campus. J. Kerin expressed that he thinks it is pointless that there are accessibility buttons in Ward that are only card-activated. N. Palmieri agreed

that the first door in North End also closes too quickly, and students get stuck.

- N. Stamm asked if the use of golf carts has decreased regarding accessibility. B. Dolansky clarified that the operators for the buttons on doors are changeable, and it can be integrated with the card swipe system. Each location is unique. The shuttle stops are not in great locations for everyone, and if somebody calls for transportation, they will still be able to be transported via golf cart. There are certainly fewer requests this year because of the shuttle system, but if someone needs help moving around, then they should reach out to Security, and they will provide transportation.
- R. Torres brought up how, during disability awareness month, there is currently a scavenger hunt, and the questions revolve around accessible locations in each building. She suggested that the results of the scavenger hunt could be a way to bring awareness to accessibility.
- N. Stamm brought up that at the town hall, there were mentions of changing the shuttle logistics. B. Dolansky explained that changes have not been made yet, as they are only two months into the process, but he encouraged students to keep giving feedback so they can further improve the service. B. Perez said that towards the end of this semester, there will be forms sent out to provide feedback. She mentions again that it is too early to send these forms out now.

V. Announcements

- Get your Cultural Dinner Dance Tickets!
 - Tickets are live on Hometown. It is on November 15th at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club, and transportation will be provided.

- N. Stamm mentioned that there will be headshots right after the assembly. Headshots will be first, and then the group will have lunch.
- K. Syrota asked new members to stay after the assembly to ask questions and get information.
- A. Oliveros explains that the academic affairs board got approved with Dr. Eckert and Dr. Antonio, and their “food for thought” event will be happening this Friday in the Kirk house. She encouraged assembly members to show up.

VI. Board Reports

- Advisor Reports
 - Robin Torres - SGA Advisor
 - Yielded her time to the chair.
 - Robert Lynch - SGA Advisor
 - R. Lynch explained that it was alumni weekend and that the show this weekend was a success, despite the power going out.
- Guest Reports
 - Safety & Security Report
 - B. Dolansky mentioned nothing new to report. There will be some parking restrictions this weekend around McCann because of Alumni Weekend.
- Leadership Reports
 - K. Syrota - Student Body President
 - Working to promote accessibility and awareness of the archives. K. Syrota mentioned that the large painting outside the office will be displayed in the library. Another update is that there was a meeting with A. Connor to discuss DEI efforts. There will also be a meeting held with MaryEllen

to discuss how to make Marist more accessible to everyone. There was a meeting with the Marist 100 implementation committee and with the Senior Legacy Committee.

- M. Fox - Executive Vice President

- M. Fox explained that Marist Spark did not meet, but they will soon.

- Cabinet and Senate Reports

- I. Serano

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- A. Murphy

- A. Murphy explained that he met with the leaders of a club and will be bringing them in next week.
- Yielded time to the chair.

- B. Perez-Quiroz

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- A. Oliveros

- Referenced J. Genoni's board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- S. Mazzella

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- A. Gracia

- Mentioned that there are two things she is working on. She wants better signage on how to get to the wellness offices. They also have an event coming up next Wednesday, which is a "going out" safety event.
- R. Torres gave a point of information and asked B. Dolansky, if the safety alarms are still helpful with

the new security app. B. Dolansky said yes, they are important, as they have different functions.

- C. Pascucci
 - Referenced M. Connor's board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Stamm
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- S. Bose
 - Referenced G. Carey's board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- J. Kerin
 - J. Kerin explained that if assembly members are being locked out of their email, to contact him.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Bova
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Yurasko
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Darosa
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Palmieri
 - Wanted to clarify that there is no limitation on what you can or cannot say during an informal session. He wanted assembly members to be precise with what they say when it comes to relevance and how they choose to frame their words. R. Torres expressed that, according to Robert's Rules, that intention should not be discussed.

- R. Harvey
 - Explained that he met with J. Kerin. He helped update the archive folder and mentioned that he has been gathering information from 2016 and has been working with his board to organize the archives in a way that makes sense.
- V. Vogelman
 - Mentioned that if anyone is planning an event that does not go through her, she would like to know so she can add it to the event calendar. Because there are events that are being scheduled on the same day it could potentially be decreasing visibility. Yielded her time on the chair.
- J. McCormack
 - J. McCormack explained that his event is now being extended to November 9th, and he asked members to continue to give donations.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. DiLena
 - Decided what she wanted to do for her first event, and will speak with K. Syrota after the meeting.
- C. Calcagni
 - C. Calcagni brought up how it is commuter appreciation week.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - N. Stamm motioned to recognize H. Won the meeting.
- C. Kiel
 - C. Kiel brought up how it is transfer week.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

VII. Old Business

- **Amendment to Allow Cabinet Members to Appoint at Least Two Deputies**
- N. Palmieri introduced the bill, explaining that currently, there are only a certain number of cabinet positions that can have two deputies. The approval of this bill would allow it so that there may be two appointed deputies per cabinet member.
- B. Perez motioned to move from formal discussion to voting. Oliveros seconded this motion.
- The Amendment to Allow Cabinet Members to Appoint at Least Two Deputies Bylaw Change was brought into fruition with 19 affirmatives, 0 negatives, and 0 abstention. The Bill passes.

VIII. Miracle of the Week

- **Rearranged the office! It looks so nice :)**

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Mintel & Katie Marrin

Administrative Coordinators