



MARIST
UNIVERSITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE MARIST
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ON FEBRUARY 18, 2026, IN STUDENT
CENTER ROOM 3101

Order of Business:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 11:05 by K. Syrota
- Members present:
 - Assembly:
 - Karina Syrota - Student Body President
 - Matt Fox - Executive Vice President
 - Chella Calcagni - Vice President of Student Life
 - Itati Serrano - Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Alex Murphy- Vice President of Club Affairs
 - Brianna Perez-Quiroz - Vice President of Safety and Security
 - Abigail Oliveros - Deputy Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - Amanda Gracia - 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
 - Grace Vrato- Deputy Director of Elections Commissions

Syrota - Fox Administration

- Class Boards:
 - Vi Geraci - Class of 2026 President
 - Noah Yurasko - Class of 2028 President
- Judicial Board:
 - Lillian Spoon - Chief Justice
- Associate Members
 - Neil Palmieri - Parliamentarian
 - Cole Harvey - Chief Archivist
 - Veronica Vogelmann - Event Planning Chair
- Representatives:
 - Joseph McCormack- North End Representatives
 - Clifton Wise - South End Representative
 - Sophia Pechenko - South End Representative
 - Alyssa Comolli - East End Representative
 - Janel Sarpong - International Representative
 - Lauryn Trader - Commuter Representative
 - Emily Speno - Commuter Representative
- Assistants:
 - Grace Mintel - Administrative Coordinator
 - Katie Marrin - Administrative Coordinator

II. Reading of the Minutes

- J. Kerin moved to approve the minutes from the February 11th 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
 - C. Calcagni said that the dining hall should have a rating system for meal plans.
 - N. Stamm brought up the concerns that were on the form given out at cookies and concerns. The first concern was

about student involvement and changes being made on campus. Students wished that they were more involved in new proposals and initiatives. N. Stamm explained that SGA represents the student body well, but it could be beneficial to have a student focus group and possibly even conduct surveys and host table events.

- N. Stamm also raised a concern that a student had about Gourmet charging students more for food items compared to the prices students could purchase the same items for at the grocery store. B. Perez expressed that Gourmet should be consistently updated with these concerns and be more open to the suggestions made by students. C. Calcagni explained that she meets with Gourmet bi-weekly and that they were invited to cookies and concerns for that exact reason.
- R. Torres mentioned that it may be beneficial to have them come to the assembly and offer them questions and student concerns before they come. She said that this could help students get the answers they want.
- C. Pascucci explained that they have been meeting monthly with Gourmet, the way they were able to get through to Gourmet was with a third party being involved.
- N. Stamm said that perhaps having Andrea Connor come into the assembly, who can represent students, may be helpful. She asked if dining contracts are three years, and then asked if the school would be open to changing contacts. K. Syrota explained that they had a meeting yesterday and had the chance to give their feedback on the dining services, but the contract is still on.
- J. McCormack added that this concern was brought up last year regarding their catering prices. R. Torres brought up a point of information explaining that

students can bring in catering from outside sources, and there is nothing in the contract limiting that.

- N. Yurasko asked if there was a process to have catering brought to campus from a provider other than Gourmet. R. Torres explained that the only steps needed are the ones needed to get petty cash and check requests.
- N. Stamm explained that the last concern was about the shuttle and thought it would be best for B. Perez to discuss it with security as they are not in attendance. B. Perez mentioned that she did meet with security, and they mentioned that if a student has a specific issue then it would be important for them to communicate that with security. In regards to shuttle service times, those are the issues that are important to bring forth because security would be willing to work with students to find times that work for them. B. Dolansky explained that the stop times are not guaranteed due to traffic, but it is very easy to check with the drivers, as they are tracked by a GPS. He explained that it is easy for them to look into irregular delay issues.

IV. Announcements

- Congratulations on Cookies and Concerns!
- Security Student Council will have another event in the Student Center
- Class of 2027 is planning a food for thought Acai bowl making event, where students can make their own bowl and fill out a survey regarding the new meal plans
 - N. Stamm mentioned there is already an event for the Academic Affairs board named “food for thought” happening this Friday.
- The Marist Minecraft server is running hardware and software to make sure that everything is working.

- A. Oliveros brought up that they have their food for thought with the faculty on Friday, discussing ICE. St. Balderick's fundraiser is also coming up!

V. Board Reports

- Advisor Reports
 - Robin Torres - SGA Advisor
 - R. Torres announced as we are coming to the end of Black History Month, there is a travelling museum happening currently in the Student Center. It is important for students to stop by. She also wanted to acknowledge that there may be people fasting for Ramadan, and wanted to congratulate them. Furthermore, she wanted to recognize that students are celebrating Ash Wednesday today.
 - Robert Lynch - SGA Advisor
 - R. Lynch brought up how senior portraits begin on February 23rd and there will be an announcement soon. He said an NPR podcaster will be coming on Tuesday to speak in Dyson. He encouraged students to come, especially if they are interested in journalism.
- Guest Reports
 - Safety & Security Report
 - B. Dolansky reported there were no particular updates for this week. They wanted to express that they appreciate everyone's help.
- Leadership Reports
 - K. Syrota - Student Body President
 - K. Syrota explained how she has been working with Marist 100; they have been collecting data

and will release a report on whether they are staying on track with the proposed plan.

- M. Fox - Executive Vice President
 - M. Fox said he and K. Syrota are speaking with President Weinman this Friday, and wanted to urge students to reach out if they have any concerns they want to be brought up.
 - Chella Calcagni - Vice President of Student Life
 - C. Calcagni explained that she has been meeting with hospitality and Gourmet.
- Cabinet and Senate Reports
- I. Serano
 - Today starts the month of Ramadan and the start of Lent. She urged student leaders to observe and be accommodating to others. She has also begun her series “Belonging Spaces” again with her board. All members of the assembly are invited.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - A. Murphy
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - B. Perez-Quiroz
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - A. Oliveros
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
 - A. Gracia
 - The wellness survey reached a 20% completion rate from the student body!
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

- C. Pascucci
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Stamm
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- G. Carey
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- J. Kerin
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- G. Vrato
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- V. Geraci
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Yurasko
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- L. Spoon
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- N. Palmieri
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- R. Harvey
 - Mentioned the archival report 2 should be done by Friday, and the archival report 3 should be done within the next two weeks.
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- V. Vogelman

- Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- J. McCormack
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- C. Wise
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- S. Pechenko
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- A. Comolli
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- J. Sarpong
 - Mentioned that she has begun creating a board and gathering student concerns and interests.
- L. Trader
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.
- E. Speno
 - Referenced board report. Yielded time to the chair.

VI. Old Business

- There was no old business from the previous meeting.

VII. New Business

- **Charter of the Marist Burst Club**
- Club representatives gave their presentation and asked the assembly if there were any questions.
- G. Carey asked if monthly meetings are enough to plan these events in depth or if they meet more frequently. Club representatives explained that meetings would be twice a

month for general members, and there would be more frequent e-board meetings. They claim that the general member meetings would be enough, alongside the e-board meetings, where most of the planning would be done. They also explained that if there were to be trouble scheduling an event, they are open to extending the window for planning events.

- N. Stamm asked how many school districts they were planning to work with. Club representatives explained that, for right now, they are only working with the Poughkeepsie school district because that is where most of their contacts are from. In the future, they hope to expand their reach and work with other school districts, but for now, they see themselves only working with the Poughkeepsie middle school and high school. They also mentioned that an underclassman mentioned that Marist Burst could work with an orphanage program to work with those children, and other children in group homes as well. Representatives also brought up how campus ministry volunteers at private Catholic schools and how this involvement in public schools would be important.
- G. Carey asked if there was a plan for succession, and that there have been clubs in the past that had high underclassmen attendance but still had no leadership to take over. Club representatives explained that there are a few underclassmen they have been working with who expressed interest in taking over the club once the current e-board graduates. They explained that once there are events that are hosted on campus, they plan to have more engagement to host elections.
- N. Yurasko asked to what degree members of the club are responsible for the visiting students who come onto campus. The club representatives explained that this process has been the most difficult to address. They have spoken with faculty, and the expectation is that the students who are a part of this

club would be responsible for the well-being of these children, and in group settings only.

- N. Stamm asked what representatives think about the board members who are involved now and what connections they may have. Club representatives explained that there are a lot of connections with the social work department, so a lot of students are already working within that department and getting internships, so there are connections that are formed that way.
- J. Kerin asked how many non-board members were planning on attending the event. Club representatives said they do not have an RSVP yet, but they are expecting to have a turnout of about 10 non-board members.
- A. Oliveros asked how representatives are planning on evaluating members on their ability to supervise the students who would be coming on campus. Club representatives explained that they hope to operate under the same sort of procedures as LPP, and there is no formal training session; however, there are trainings that are informal and non-mandatory. Club representatives explained that they would be willing to make these events mandatory. Furthermore, they explained that the HR department does go through the members of this club, and they would let the club know if background checks are necessary.
- N. Palmieri asked if they have all the forms and legal processes needed or if it is still in the works. Representatives explained that they are still in the process. They have the necessary forms, but are still in discussion about their implementation. They also explained that they received confirmation from the office of Student Activities that the finalization of these forms would not be necessary for the charter of the club.
- R. Torres asked if it was true that Daria was on step down and if representatives had a plan in place if she steps down.

Representatives said that they do not have anyone in mind for the advisor, but they explained that Daria would help them.

- G. Carey asked if there is any history of Campus Ministry vans being used to transport children onto campus. He also explained that it could be an additional layer of liability if it were students driving these children. He also wanted to know how committed the club is to bringing students to campus right away. He offered insights that it may be more helpful to create a plan for on-campus events this semester, then bring students on campus at a later time. Representatives answered and explained that they have had students drive the children from campus to other locations. Members hoped that their club would be able to do the same as LPP. They also explained that they would be willing to take more time to iron things out, as it is their last semester.
- J. Kerin asked if the liability follows the clubs that they collaborate with in terms of student safety. He also asked what the responsibility of Marist Burst is when it comes to collaborating with other clubs that are already hosting these events. Representatives explained that the clubs would fall under their burden of liability. They explained that they are the bridge between clubs on campus and student outreach. They hope to make the process easier for these clubs to be involved in the campus community. They also expressed that when the children see recurring faces it is important. They explained the importance of taking care of all the “dirty work” that other clubs do not want to do.
- A. Oliveros asked if they have explored the option of using school buses to transport the students back and forth.
- R. Lynch explained that in reference to campus vans, there are other vans that club members would be eligible to use. The other vans are through the McCann center, and as long as you are 21 years old and sign off, you would be able to drive those

vehicles. That said, he also explained that these vans are in high demand.

- Club representatives explained that they have already been looking into transportation from school buses, and that is where they have gotten the price from that was mentioned in the presentation.
- A. Garcia asked if representatives had any upperclassmen members because many underclassmen can not have cars on campus. Club representatives explained that currently, most of the board members have cars, but there needs to be a conversation that needs to happen about figuring out something for next semester. They also mentioned that there are a few juniors on the board who will have cars next year.
- N. Palmieri asked if there are other activities for students of an older age demographic. Representatives explained that they have other ideas for activities, such as sports with the club teams on campus. He also brought up the point that many students like arts and crafts, and that Burst has the goal of catering to all these different interests. They explained that they plan on reaching out to clubs first.
- N. Stamm asked club representatives to go back to the budget slides and then asked club representatives to walk through their budget plan again. Representatives explained the breakdown of their budget. They also explained that many activity costs could be carried by clubs. Liberty Partnership has also been helpful with supplies.
- J. Kerin asked if they think that the high school class schedules could be a barrier at some point for college students going to events. Representatives agreed that this may be a barrier for the club, but they are hopeful that with more members, there will be more people available during the limited hours of the day when the children would be available. Representatives explained that many events will happen during the night as well.

- G. Carey asked when Poughkeepsie school district students would be brought to campus. Representatives explained that anything they are planning would be after regular school hours. Weekends would be ideal.
- A. Commoli asked what the logistics would be for attending the Poughkeepsie school districts' events. Representatives explained that there is a charge for admission to events she suggested. They explained that they may use their class budget, but also that a lot of events are free.
- N. Yurasko motioned to move to an informal discussion. A. Oliveros seconded the motion.
- I. Serrano motioned to recognize Z. Trajan to the meeting.
- N. Yurasko motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. C. Calcagni seconded this motion.
- The Marist Burst Club was not appointed with 0 affirmatives, 18 negatives, and 2 abstentions. The bill was not passed, and the club was not chartered.
- **Charter of the Marist Climbers Club**
- J. Kerin asked how involved the club advisor is in the day-to-day operations of the club. Representatives explained that they have been in contact with Steven.
- A. Murphy added a point of information that the Marist Climbers would be separate from the club sports council.
- G. Carey asked if there were any ideas for dues for students who wanted to join the club. Club representatives explained they thought about having dues at the beginning of the semester, but the events are already in Hometown for students to purchase. It would be inconvenient if a student paid dues and could not make it to a specific event.
- A. Domenici asked what the changes had been made between the last time they presented. Representatives explained they have streamlined their process, and they only had one semester of experience. However, recently they have been selling out their climbing trips with 42 students for each one.

- Furthermore, they have let go of the idea of climbing outside, because it is a lot easier to keep students safer to climb in a gym, since there are already waivers in place for that process
- G. Carey asked if they have any plans to expand the size of the trips from 42 people to more. Representatives said as of right now, 42 students is the limit because of the capacity on the bus. If they were to expand the number of tickets offered, it would greatly increase the budget. Furthermore, other students take their own cars as well.
- J. Kerin motioned to move to an informal discussion. G. Carey seconded the motion.
- B. Perez motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. J. Sarpong seconded this motion.
- The Marist Climbers Club was appointed with 16 affirmatives, 1 negative, and 2 abstentions. The bill passed, and the club was chartered.
- **The Appointment of Drew McCauley as the Vice President of the Class of 2026**
- D. McCauley introduced himself to the assembly and asked if there were any questions for him. He mentioned that as a secretary, he already has experience on the class of 2026 board.
- A. Domenici asked how he plans on focusing on SGA with all his other commitments. D. McCauley said that through proper scheduling, he would be able to devote time to this board. His class load also allows him to.
- L. Spoon asked what one event in the spring he is looking forward to helping out with. D. McCauley said he is looking forward to senior week, and the board is working on planning those events now.
- N. Yurasko mentioned, if by line of succession, would already be VP. N. Palmieri responded and explained that the formal appointment was still necessary.
- J. Kerin motioned to move to an informal discussion. C. Calcagni seconded the motion.

- I. Serrano motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. J. Sarpong seconded this motion.
- D. McCauley was appointed with 19 affirmatives, 0 negatives, and 1 abstention. The Bill passes.
- **The Appointment of Lana Tomchuk as the Public Relations Officer of the Class of 2026**
- L. Tomchuk introduced herself to the assembly and asked if there were any questions for her. She explained that she is super organized and is taking a light course load this semester.
- A. Domenici asked if she was excited about graduating. L. Tomchuk explained she is scared, but she is also excited.
- A. Domenici motioned to move to an informal discussion. N. Yurasko seconded the motion.
- B. Perez motioned to move from informal discussion to voting. A. Commoli seconded this motion.
- L. Tomchuk was appointed with 19 affirmatives, 0 negatives, and 1 abstention. The Bill passes.

VIII. Miracle of the Week

- **Alex and the club affairs board!**
- **Noah's Minecraft Server**
- **Elections!**
- **St. Baldricks**

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Mintel & Katie Marrin

Administrative Coordinators