

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA**  
**April 11th, 2023**

- I. ROLL CALL: Cade Leavens, Kaitlyn Egan, Lukas Apel, Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald were absent.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: April 11, 2023
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Aaron Lessing**

Hi everyone, no guest speaker tonight but I did want to give some updates for you all.

Next week, State Senator John Velis will be our guest speaker, I have also invited President Thompson but have not gotten confirmation as to her attendance yet. This will be a dress code meeting so please be aware of that.

Next, is anyone available to sell tickets this Saturday at 11:30 am and 6:30 pm for Dance Company's recital. We do need at least two people to volunteer, please let Laura know if you are able to as you will need the process for cashboxes.

Other quick updates, Fresh Check Day is Thursday, go to it. Also, this Thursday, the CARE center is putting on a Financial Care Package Presentation for graduating seniors this Thursday at 4:00 pm in the CARE center to discuss student loans and payment plans. Friday is Owl Appreciation Day from 1 pm - 3 pm, check it out. Student Government has been invited to attend the Leadership Summit that the Interfaith Center is leading, it is this Saturday from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, in the Owl's Nest, I will be attending for the morning portion, but I do know that Rodney will be presenting in the afternoon if you are planning to attend!

Next, I have sent you all an email to the SGA group on Outlook with a link to a quick form for the review of the executive board, it should be anonymous but please let me know if it is not! I appreciate you all filling it out as soon as possible.

Finally, in the same email I did send you a draft of the common hour policy that I am looking to approve the final draft next week if possible. Please look at the policy and let me know what suggestions you have. Currently, the executive board looked at it yesterday and we decided we need to find a time to suggest, and we will also be looking at our sister schools to have backing for additional common hours.

A. Presidents Council: No Report

B. Items not listed on Agenda: No Report

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Chloë Sanfaçon**

A. All University Committee: No Report

B. Student Advisory Council: No Report

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Aaron Lessing**

Hi everyone, I am up here to ask for feedback about the housing process and how it went for you all so hit me with it. Jack is going to be meeting with John Zocco on Thursday so any feedback can be passed on then.

Next, I want to bring up the conversation regarding locking bathrooms and get your opinions on it.

- i. Daniel Lyons: For those who were in like the honors program and want to choose honors housing. They had to respond to a separate email and also for some reason those who were in the honors program couldn't see what rooms were already taken. But other students could like on the floor plan while the honors students couldn't. So that was kind of confusing. And also you had to choose like a backup room in case for whatever reason you couldn't get in the room. I wonder is that messed up with other

- people who could have chosen it. It seemed like it was kind of just disjointed.
- ii. Sarah Harrington: I had a roommate group of 5 and one of my roommates was going to buy out a double and she had accommodations and the only way that she would get the accommodations was if she was forced to live with random people. He sent her an email saying that. When we went to go sign up, there was only Uni available and three doubles so we couldn't sign up at all because we had an odd number of people in our roommate group. When we called John Zocco, he was just blatantly rude and when I talked to other people he was rude to them as well. I know that we were all frustrated because it was a hard process but I don't think that it was really necessary to be rude.
  - iii. Aaron Lessing: Can I get you to readdress on that. So I've heard that from a few people saying that there was more rudeness coming from them. I know that there has been some tension with students also being rude which I am not happy about but he was being rude personally.
  - iv. Sarah Harrington: We got through to him eventually and he was like cutting us off. We were trying to tell him our situation and he was like well you can't sign up with the group of 5. And just being aggressive for no reason.
  - v. Ethan Haynes: Mainly just as a point of information. I had a conversation with John Zocco where he said that buying out a double is not going to happen for fall semester. That was based on my conversation with John, I don't know if he was just telling me that to satisfy my needs but that is what I was told.
  - vi. Chris Lannan: I would just say, I understand that it is a very stressful situation. But I would like in the future if they could be less agitated or aggressive about it because that kind of rubbed off the wrong way especially when I was down there yesterday talking to him and the girl in front of me got totally shouted at and that doesn't feel right.
  - vii. Aaron Lessing: Yeah, I'm sure that he has been going through it with the housing process but it is still inappropriate and thank you for telling me about it.
  - viii. Alexandria Mallios: It's just been weird because a lot of the people that I have been talking to that have accommodations never got a different pick time. They would try to connect to housing and nothing. Two of my roommates right now had a meeting with John Zocco and he kind of just made it seem like some accommodations aren't as important as some other accommodations. I think that for that it kind of screwed people. For the people that didn't get the accommodation time, they got later times and then they got like 8pm when there were like no rooms available. Like she didn't get a room that accommodated her and it still hasn't gotten able to be moved.
  - ix. Levi Ekstrom: Since when has there been a limited number of coed dorms. Like was that given at the presentation that there were a certain amount.
  - X. Aaron Lessing: Of coed dorms? I thought that all dorms were coed.
  - xi. Levi Ekstrom: There is coed room caps apparently. So I had a situation with a group. They are my residents. There is only 4 of them and they were told that all of the coed rooms were taken and that they had to disband their group and then they had to get into a room with girls that they didn't know. One of these friends is going through transitioning so they are now in an awful situation where they need to come out when they shouldn't have to and there is all those risks which led to a lot of emotions. It individually got solved I'm assuming maybe because of that honors thing where rooms were only taken for backups and maybe there was a debacle there but a room opened up and it was

- sorted individually but I'm just confused where this coed cap came from and if it even is a thing and why it is a thing. How groups can get disbanded like that? It just seems like there is way too many issues with housing selection process and some of them we didn't even know existed.
- xii. Adam Carpenter: I know this is more of a question for Jack to ask John but did they change the housing system because it wasn't working the same way that it did in the past? Issues that haven't happened previously were happening. I know that a lot of people had a situation where you could only pick one room where there weren't options for selecting rooms. They just gave you one option and then kind of just said to deal with it. I had to call housing and they placed me in a room after giving me options over the phone but from what I heard that happened to a bunch of people especially on the first night. It sometimes worked out for them where it was what they were looking for but I was told that me and my friend could have a double in Courtney and that was our only option in the system. It's not going to really be productive, especially in a short-staffed department as it is to have to individually place a million people from individual calls.
- xiii. Alexandria Mallios: There is just one more thing that came to my mind where a lot of people needed to end up in New Hall for the bathroom situation but there were no more rooms available. The people are now being forced to live in dorms where there were communal bathrooms and they are just not comfortable with it. So if they could just keep that in mind for the future.
- xiv. Levi Ekstrom: Point of information. So all of the halls have gender neutral bathrooms. It is just an issue of how accessible they are. So it isn't that the buildings don't have any it's just that you don't want to live there because it is impossible and ridiculous.
- xv. Aaron Lessing: Yeah and there are some buildings that only have one.
- xvi. Chris Lannan: I was told by one of my friends that if space runs out in Courtney that Dickinson will be open to Sophomores. But I was also told by my RD that Lammers would open up. So is there like enough spaces available for upperclassmen to be able to live in New hall, Uni, the apartments, or Courtney?
- xvii. Aaron Lessing: I'm seeing a yes.
- xviii. Maggie Balch: There is room for everyone to have a room if they want one. WE have rooms popping up everywhere. You may not like the room that you get and then we encourage you to join the waitlist that will be open on April 14<sup>th</sup> and you can sign up and we will start to shuffle the puzzle pieces as soon as we can.
- xix. Chloë Sanfaçon: Just a point of information that when you talk stand up and project just so that Adam's phone can pick up your voice for his minute's purposes. *Thanks Chloë* ☺
- xx. For your first question, I think that the biggest frustration for upperclassmen was with New Hall and that a lot of students took New hall very early in the process with accommodations and that is just how it is going to be. I think with Lammers closing, that was the greatest frustration because with all of the student with accommodations from Lammers moving over to New Hall there wasn't much space left and there were very few rooms for the general population. With the unlocking the bathrooms, I think that for a lot of us it would be more convenient if the bathrooms were unlocked. The one point that I will make in favor of the locking is that when I go on tours and we talk about the security system and the bathroom situation they seem to like it. That is kind of a driving factor for that so it is one thing to consider. I think for current students it is good to unlock it but there is

the point that locking it is a benefit for parents that were on the tour.

- xxi. Guest question: I already responded to this on the form that was sent out but for me, I think that if you are a resident on campus you should have access to all of the bathrooms. Like if you are a male, you should have access to all the male bathrooms in the residential buildings, but it should be locked to if you live on campus for safety.
- xxii. Chloë Sanfaçon: I think that Emily brought this up in Exec but she isn't here so I'm going to say it. Everywhere else that you go in life bathrooms are not going to be locked unless they just don't want you to use them unless you pay. I also think that having access to only one gender obviously leaves out Non-binary students. I think also if you don't have your key card on you and we've heard things happening at other schools where students are killed in mass-shootings because they were unable to get into a bathroom since they didn't have a keycard. That is a death that could have been prevented if they could have gotten into a bathroom and locked it so I am fully in favor of unlocking the bathrooms.
- xxiii. Adam Carpenter: On a much more cheerful note, I'm going to go with when you have a visitor and I have like a girl in my dorm for example I live in Courtney hall and I have a girl over then they can not use the bathroom because my ID only unlocks the boys room. So that is something that is very important for me just convenience wise because am I going to make them walk back to their room? No that's ridiculous.
- xxiv. Nick Palumbo: I am going to agree with Adam. They should be unlocked completely since it just makes logical sense.
- xxv. Aaron Lessing: So I'm just going to play the devil's advocate for a minute. I've heard the argument that especially female students are afraid of sexual assault having the bathrooms open. Any comments on that?
- xxvi. Adam Carpenter: I'm just going to say and this might not be the most eloquent way of saying this but it'll happen either way. It is also very bold to assume that you can not be assaulted by the same gender. I just want to throw that out there because I don't think that should be the full reason why we aren't going to do this. It is obviously a consideration but I don't think that it is the argument that we should stake that hat on.
- xxvii. Loïc Black: I think that it should be on the review that is sent out about how housing was. I think that the question should go out to the campus as a whole and see how they feel and then go off the majority as to how to move forward.
- xxviii. Aaron Lessing: What do you mean?
- xxix. Loïc Black: At the end of the year housing review the one where you like rate your RA.
- xxx. Aaron Lessing: I am seeing from Maggie that it is on there but I think that is a good point. We could maybe put it on as a ballot question for elections if we thought it would reach more people. This seems like it is more of a next year change so we could do that as well.
- xxxi. Levi Ekstrom: I just want to say that at the end of the day, assault is assault and a bathroom is a bathroom. They don't have to hold hands so I see no reason for a lock to be on the door for that cause. I don't think that it has to be more of a conversation than that. I think that we were all silent at the beginning when you asked it because it seems pretty straightforward. I don't think there is more debate to really be had.

- A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report
- B. Food Services Committee: No Report
- C. Substance Advisory Committee: No Report

- D. Student Athletic Advisory Board: No Report
- E. Veteran Affairs Report: No Report
- F. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Emily Fluet**

- A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
- B. Curriculum Committee: Sarah Harrington

Hi Everyone! I hope you had a good Easter if you celebrate. At the UCC meeting this past Friday, April 17th we started with the new psychology concentrations. We approved the counseling/clinical as well as forensic concentration to be sent to AUC. We approved the marketing minor and added more course options to the marketing program. We tabled the political science international studies and law concentration as well as some adjustments to the major due to there being no representative to answer questions regarding each, but we took out the prerequisite to political science 323 since this was clear. For biology, we removed some options to fulfill a requirement. Lastly, we approved changing the name of Educ319 Foundations of Teaching and Learning to Methods of Teaching 1 Through Mathematics

- C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): No Report
- D. New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Self-Study Committee: No Report
- E. Campus Academic Master Plan (CAMP): No Report
- F. Parking Control Board: No Report
- G. Parking Appeals Board: No Report

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT EQUITY: **Rodney Duteau**

- A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE: **Daniel Currier**

Hey everyone!

This past Friday, I had the opportunity to meet with Vice President for Administration & Finance Steve Taksar. We discussed a number of items, ranging from enrollment to electronic signatures.

As of our meeting, first-year deposits are sitting at 377 (compared to 343 this time last year) and transfer deposits are sitting at 94 (compared to 87 this time last year). We are on track to be at our budgeted full-time undergraduate day number of students, which is 2,960. This figure is a 1% reduction in overall enrollment year-to-year. As a result, we are anticipating Student Activity Fee revenues (less PVTAs expenditures) to be \$414,400.

Parenzo Hall remains on track for occupancy in early August. The area occupied currently by the Mail Room will be vacated at that time in order for crews to perform work on the space and allow for the Banacos Academic Center to occupy it by next spring.

President Thompson has confirmed that the next major capital project will be the complete restoration of Bates Hall. I had the opportunity to connect with her yesterday and she indicated that she is interested in creating a Human Development Center that will be interdisciplinary in nature and bring students through various aspects of the human life cycle. This will be a great opportunity for collaboration between students in nursing, health sciences, education, and beyond. Other capital projects include upgrading technology and adding more gender-neutral bathrooms. A full list of projects will be made public during the Board of Trustees meeting later this month.

The campus is currently undergoing a space utilization study that will help to inform our next campuswide master plan. A final report is expected by the end of the semester or early next semester. In addition, the state is in the process of conducting a study on fossil fuel use by public institutions of higher

education, particularly with how we heat and cool all buildings across campus. This study is in the early stages and more information will be available soon.

The Sustainability Committee is currently putting together a proposal for a part-time sustainability coordinator position. This proposal will be sent to Finance Cabinet and the President for approval.

We also discussed electronic signatures. For those that don't know, many companies utilize software such as DocuSign and Adobe Sign in order to expedite form workflows and allow for a seamless user experience. This would be particularly beneficial for offices such as the Registrar's Office who have large volumes of paper and fill-in PDF forms in a shared mailbox. A pilot had been ongoing for the past year and a proposal will be made to the Cabinet to purchase a limited number of licenses for approximately \$60,000. Those licensed will be able to initiate forms, while any member of the campus community can fill out these forms.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

A. Finance Committee: Daniel Currier

The Finance Committee met yesterday to discuss and vote upon a new set of finance bylaws to be sent to the Rules & Regulations Committee for review. After discussing the proposed alterations, the Finance Committee voted 3-0 in favor of approving the proposed SGA Finance Bylaws and to transmit these changes to the Rules & Regulations Committee for review.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 3:30pm in Ely 020 (SGA Conference Room). Should you have any questions, please let me know.

B. Foundation Report: No Report

C. ITSAC Report: No Report

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - PUBLICITY: **Elizabeth Mercer**

A. Neighborhood Advisory Board: No Report

B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: No Report

C. Owl Ball Committee: No Report

D. Blue Key Committee: Elizabeth Mercer

Hi Guys,

Dan Lyons and Justin Wald, you were nominated for Blue key committee do you accept? Justin and Dan *accepted*

Jack Guindon and Constantinos Tasopolus, you were nominated for Blue key committee do you accept? *Constantinos and Jack accepted*

Haley Kane and Isabella Catao, you were nominated for Blue key committee do you accept? *Isabella and Haley accepted*

Cade Leavens and Aaron Lessing, you were nominated for Blue Key committee do you accept? *Aaron and Cade accepted.*

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: **Adam Carpenter**

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Liam Connor**

A. Rules and Regulations Committee: No Report

B. Constitutional Review Committee: No Report

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. Commuter Council: No Report

B. Senior Class: No Report

C. Junior Class: No Report

D. Sophomore Class: No Report

E. First Year Class: No Report

F. Apartment Complex: No Report

G. Courtney Hall: No Report

H. Davis Hall: No Report

I. Dickinson Hall: No Report

J. Lammers Hall: No Report

- K. New Hall: No Report
- L. University Hall: No Report

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened)

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Adam Carpenter: I just wanted to say that elections will be taking place next Tuesday and Wednesday and that you are free to campaign for a future position at this time. Check the campaign rules, that I sent to all those that are on the ballot, so that you don't break any rules and make me kick you out of election. That won't be fun for either of us.

Elizabeth Mercer: Reminder that we have the Thunderbirds game this Friday.

Rodney Duteau: Please go to the leadership summit, it is this Saturday at 8am-3pm. Use the QR code to register.

Mikayla Evans: 38 Days to Commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Cade Leavens, Kaitlyn Egan, Lukas Apel, Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald were absent.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm until Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Please also note that for accurate record keeping purposes, SGA meetings are recorded and kept on file by the SGA Executive Secretary.*