

**Agenda of the
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Undergraduate Student Senate**

Speaker Fox

1834th Regular Meeting

Zoom Meeting

November 18th, 2020 at 6:00 PM

- 1. Call to Order:**
- 2. Announcements:**
- 3. Roll Call:**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes:**
- 5. Officer Reports:**
 - a. University Student Trustee Scalona studenttrustee@umass.edu:**
 - b. President Epstein sgapresident@umass.edu:**

Hi everyone!! Happy last week of classes and last senate meeting of the year!! Super super proud of all of you for making it this far and I hope you're all proud of yourselves as well-- being a student and in student government during a pandemic is wicked impressive so don't forget that!! This week I attended the Student Union Management Board meeting where we discussed the current standings around space in the Student Union and the policies and procedures around that. Secretary Lechowicz and I met with Lydia and Secretary Ngo about finances for the Index. Secretary Abramson and I met with Johnny Tooson to discuss space for MSA. We also attended a meeting with Chair Jensen and the Parliamentarian of the Worcester State University SGA about their RSO application process, which was really interesting (thank you Andrew Jensen for setting that up!!:)) I also attended a Public Safety Infrastructure meeting with Secretary McKenna, members of the RJC, and representatives from UHS, CCPH, CWC, EMS, and Res Life to continue discussing the transfer of responsibilities from UMPD to these other groups. I

had my biweekly meetings with VC BHL & Speaker Fox and with Attorney Stark. On Tuesday, I will be attending the Spring Implementation Group meeting to discuss the UMass Community Pandemic Policy, COVID-19 Alert Levels, Event Protocol, and Campus housing takers and invitees. I'll be talking about the pandemic policy in committee of the whole to get feedback from you all around it. I worked with Secretary McKenna around updating two motions that I wrote last year around Student Business/ SOUP bylaws (I had brought it to AA literally right before (like in the same meeting) that they heard about impeachment for the first time so it got a bit lost after that lol).

Andrew and I have been in Bartlett pretty much all day Wednesday-Friday last week and will be this week as well to help RSOs with packing up their things and explaining the moving process and space allocation process to them.

Jennie and I have been planning with cabinet around their plans for winter break.

There is a motion up tonight from me for the creation of the "Advisor to Mental Health" position, which is a temporary (until the end of my term) that will be focusing on mental health concerns and supports for students. There is also a motion about creating an Executive Task Force to work on the Index that Secretary Lechowicz and I will speak more about when we get there.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns!!:) <3

c. Vice President Chang sgavicepresident@umass.edu:

d. Speaker Fox sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Happy last day of classes! I want to thank you all for a wonderful Fall semester full of hard work and a great deal of learning. From Sunday's training, hearing some feedback and talking about past SGA history was really helpful and informative. I hope that you all got something out of it! Since last week, I sat on the Student Union Management Board meeting where we continued discussion around MSA and finding equitable accommodations as well as researching peer institutions on their management of their student centers, Wellbeing Wednesday Task Force meeting to plan for the goals/programming for next semester, and a Research and Libraries

Council meeting on updates to library and research functioning for next semester. Over the weekend, we had our second full group Chair meeting and the training! This week, I attended a leadership meeting with VC BHL and spoke about ESO operations and COVID-19 policies and sanctions. Later, I attended a Status of Women Faculty Senate Council meeting and I will be attending meetings to have open dialogue to address students' concerns as a follow-up of what I voiced at our November 4th meeting on Tuesday. For the rest of the week, I will attend a Teaching and Learning working group meeting, a meeting with the RHA President and Exec Leaders, and University Relations Advisory Board. Next week, I will be attending an SGA & GSS leadership meeting with the Chancellor. This winter, we will have Coordinating Council as well as infrequent committee meetings. Please check your emails and check in with your Chairs. I ask that Senators use this [link](#) to schedule a brief time to meet with me! I want to talk with each of you one-on-one. Lastly, thank you to our two seniors who are graduating this semester. Aaron Terentiev and Lauren Musshorn, congratulations! You have been great assets to the SGA and I am very glad that I had the chance to meet you and work with you this semester. Thank you!

e. Associate Speaker Gandhi sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Hi everyone! I hope you're all getting through the last week of classes. Last Friday, I attended a weekly finance meeting, where I received some updates about our finances at the end of this semester and some thoughts for next semester. On Sunday, we had our Chair Meeting and of course Senate Training. On Monday, I attended the Academic Affairs SAB, where I got to hear some updates on next semester planning, specifically to some international student concerns. Next week, I am attending an SGA/GSS Leadership meeting with the Chancellor. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you all for your hard work this semester!

f. Chief Justice (if requested) sgajudiciary@umass.edu:

g. Residence Hall Association President rha@sacl.umass.edu:

h. RSO Council Presidents:

i. Agency Reports:

j. Cabinet:

Secretary Bennett sgapolicy@umass.edu:

Hi everyone, I hope you're doing well.

- This past week was pretty mellow for me:
- I submitted my winter break plan to the executive leadership.
- I reached out to Chris Dunn, Executive Director of Government Relations and Special Advisor to the Chancellor, to set up a meeting to introduce myself and discuss any possible areas of collaboration in the coming semester.
- As of writing this, tonight I will be attending an Amherst Town Council meeting, and I hope to be able to provide more details after I have attended.

Secretary Lechowicz sgatechnology@umass.edu: I hope everyone is doing great and having a good last week of their semester! The next couple weeks are my favorite time of the year, ~finals week~, so just as a blanket warning, I might be less responsive to requests than usual.

Website Updates

-About half of the homepage redesign is complete. Most of the visual stuff is done. Currently I still need to reconfigure the About Us page, create the new "What We're Doing for You" feed to supplement the existing News & Updates feed, and refine the connection between the "Student Organizations" section and our RSO/Agencies pages. Again, bigger project, will be done by Spring semester, but not quite there yet.

Meetings

- Starting this spring I am being looped into a broader conversation that the Chancellor and the university at large are having about the future of multimodal learning at UMass, best practices, and priorities that the university should focus on in order to do that.
- I have continued attending the Chancellor's Teaching, Learning, Technology and Student Success planning group meetings for the Spring semester; now that the plan is publicly available, we are looking at potential tech and plan implementation issues that could come up this spring.

-Over this winter break, I will be working heavily on the UMass Campus Tour project that I have been teasing for months. I have a meeting scheduled over Thanksgiving break with the same administrators as last week to discuss the “to-do list”, so to speak.

Misc

-I hired two great undersecretaries over the weekend, Himanshu Padnani and Shreya Khettry! I am super excited to work with them and bring them into the fold of SGA Tech.

Chief of Staff Cohen sgachiefstaff@umass.edu: This week I mainly focused on transition stuff for the end of the semester. I scheduled a joint meeting for the Legislative and Executive branch set for this Saturday, kept working on the creation of a reporting system for University Boards to take effect next semester, and made a system for SGA office hours for next semester. Looking forward to continuing my work into next semester.

Secretary McKenna sgapolicy@umass.edu: After being confirmed through Senate last Wednesday, I have begun to develop goals for the end of this semester, as well as long-term goals I would like to accomplish during my term. I have begun to reach out to administrators to explain the new role and how I would like to work with them. I have also been deciding what is the most effective way to meet with the various parties I am responsible for connecting with. As I have only had a few days in the role, I plan to send a more detailed report in the Slack towards the end of finals to explain the progress I have been able to make for this semester.

Secretary Montilla sgadiversity@umass.edu: -Met with Wilma Crespo and will be working together on a CMASS/SGA Panel about the importance for BIPOC students to be involved in SGA

-Met with Shelly Perdomo and discussed our and projects for the year

-Met with Emmanuel Adero from the office of DEI

-Connected with the presidents of cultural and religious councils

-Started working on a presentation about sga and my projects to present at different councils

Secretary Morel-Paletta sgasustainability@umass.edu:

Secretary Abramson sgaregistry@umass.edu:

Secretary Duddy sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu:

Secretary Yee sgapublicrelations@umass.edu:

Secretary Ngo sgafinance@umass.edu:

Attorney General Latimer-Ireland sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu:

k. Faculty Senate Representative:

l. ESO Event Representative:

m. Vice Chancellor's Student Advisory Board Representative:

6. Senate Committee Reports:

Chair Antinori sgaugradexperience@umass.edu: Hi everyone! USC will be attending a meeting with Betsy Cracco and Diane Fedorchak this Friday to discuss Project Connect and provide feedback forms for both students and facilitators of Project Connect. We will also begin outreaching for the Mutual Aid Network this week. I am attending PTAB and the Athletics student advisory board this week as well.

Chair Carino sgaacademic@umass.edu: Hi all! This week I attended the Academic Affairs Student advisory board where we discussed the pass/fail policy, support for international students, and academic flexibility/leniency. The minutes for this meeting are on the drive. Additionally, I met with Carol Barr and got more clarification on in person classes, the ad drop policy, and the social justice gen ed being worked on by President Epstein. At the committee meeting this week, we are going to discuss the working draft of that motion. We also reviewed survey responses and discussed action steps, as well as plans for over winter break. Additionally, the Center for Teaching and Learning is looking for three students to serve on the Distinguished Teaching Award search committees. Please let me know if you would like to participate. Have a good break!!

Chair Kendall sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu: AA met for another round of RSO appeals the ones that we are recommending for RSO status are on the agenda tonight. There were several motions

that we discussed during our meeting but were not voted upon due to the need for further conversation and discussion. These motions were also received well after the 48 hour deadline. AA will be combing through the by-laws over the Winter break. I will be sending out a copy of the by-laws to all members of each branch and ask that you offer comments or suggest amendments.

Chair Gabriel sgasojec@umass.edu: Hi everyone! Happy last week of classes, hope everyone is doing well. I just had a meeting with Student Trustee Scalona, and other members of the executive board and senate to talk about furthering our work on Title IX and the Survivor's Bill of Rights and we're gonna be continuing that through the break period. Tonight, SoJEC will be presenting during committee of the whole so if you have any further questions, feel free to email me. Other than that, have a happy break!

Chair Curto sgaoutreach@umass.edu: Hi everyone!! Last week at our committee meeting we discussed merch and new ideas to the interview process. We finalized which members will be working with which committees next semester! I have heard a lot of people talking about outreach and wanted to let anyone know. If you need outreach done on anything please either let me know or let the member of my committee that is working with you know! If you have any questions or ever want to talk email me at sgaoutreach@umass.edu

Chair Rajkumar sgafinancecommit@umass.edu: Attended the Finance team meeting where we discussed how finances will look next semester.

Chair Marceau sgawaysmeans@umass.edu:

Chair Jensen sgauroc@umass.edu:

7. **SGA Advisor Lydia Washington** lwash@umass.edu:

8. **The Committee of the Whole:**

9. **Special Orders:**

2020-SO53

Motion to appoint the following Senators to the 2020-2021 Winter Coordinating Council.

Michael Suchecki
Patrick Collins
Alec Laurent
Ivory Moulton
Renos Zabounidis
Adam Cook
Brandon Barker
Alicia Pedini
Ananya Talwar
Zach Bhattacharjee
Ben Katzman
Ian Harvey

Sponsored by Speaker Fox and Associate Speaker Gandhi

10. Unfinished Business - Main Motions:

2020-S11

Motion to recognize University of Massachusetts Film Discussion and Critique Organization as a Registered Student Organization.

Sponsored by the Administrative Affairs Committee

2020-S14

Motion to recognize Breaking Bread as a Registered Student Organization.

Sponsored by the Administrative Affairs Committee

2020-S15

Motion to recognize SMART Woman Securities as a Registered Student Organization.

Sponsored by the Administrative Affairs Committee

2020-S16

Motion to recognize Leading Women of Tomorrow as a Registered Student Organization.

Sponsored by the Administrative Affairs Committee

2020-S17

Motion to recognize The UMass Amherst Badminton Club as a Registered Student Organization.

Sponsored by the Administrative Affairs Committee

2020-S18

Motion to recognize Advancement of Diversity in Business as a Registered Student Organization.

Sponsored by the Administrative Affairs Committee

11. New Business - Main Motions:

2020-S20

Whereas, a recent survey of undergraduate students at UMass found that 36% of students felt “nervous, anxious, or on edge” nearly every day and 24% of students felt that way over half of the days **and**;

Whereas, the same survey found that 23% students felt “down, depressed, or hopeless” nearly every day and 21% of students felt that way over half of the days **and**;

Whereas, the survey found that 62% of students would “rate [their] ability to cope with the stressors in [their] lives” as worse or much worse than usual, **and**;

Whereas, UMass students’ mental health must be a priority in SGA as it impacts every part of students’ lives, **and**;

Whereas, Title III, Chapter 1, Section 1, Subsection 1 of the bylaws states that the President is vested with the power “To authorize or establish whatever formal title, offices, departments, external Committees, divisions of labor, chains of command, or any other necessary structural bureaucracy, with the exception of the Executive Cabinet, may, in their discretion, deem appropriate for the efficient operation of the Executive Branch.

Whereas, Title III, Chapter 1, Section 3 of the bylaws states that “The President shall submit a job description to Senate for approval, including but not limited to weekly tasks, position goals, and responsibilities. If the position requires appropriated funds, the description will include those details as well. The position must have a specific task to carry out over one (1) academic year, not already assigned to an existing Executive Branch position.”

Therefore, be it enacted immediately, the following job description for the position of “Advisor to the President on Mental Health” shall be approved;

Weekly tasks: The Advisor will meet with administrators, student groups, individual students, faculty, and others to discuss mental health and mental health supports at UMass. They will also help with strengthening those supports through advocating to faculty and administrators for student needs and assisting in the creation of SGA motions. The Advisor will keep the President and Vice President updated regularly on their work, key concerns, and projects that they are working on.

Position goals: The Advisor shall work towards the creation of policies and practices that will help positively impact UMass students’ mental health. They shall ensure that mental health concerns are brought to the attention of the SGA and continuously worked throughout this session/ term.

Responsibilities: The Advisor shall work with administrators and be responsible for voicing student concerns and experiences with mental health supports, aspects of UMass culture that impacts students’ mental health, and how these can be improved. They shall meet with students to better understand their experiences and needs in relation to mental health. The Advisor shall

advise the President on how the SGA can better promote mental health resources to students and how the SGA.

Sponsored by President Epstein, Vice President Chang, the Administrative Affairs Committee

2020-S21

Whereas, the Index yearbook has been an integral part of the student experience throughout the one hundred and fifty-seven year history of the University of Massachusetts Amherst; **and**,

Whereas, [efforts are well underway](#) to begin publishing the Index yearbook once again, after a fifteen year hiatus, **and**,

Whereas, [initial circumstantial evidence](#) points to strong support from the undergraduate population for this initiative; **and**,

Whereas, in order to be financially capable of selling pre orders for the yearbook during the Fall 2021 semester, the Index yearbook team should ideally have access to a university-affiliated revenue account; **and**,

Whereas, in order for the Index to be able to use such an account to collect payments from the student body, an SGA-affiliated group must be accountable, on paper and in official documents, for the administration of such an account; **and**,

Whereas, Title III, Chapter 1, Section 1, Subsection 1 of the bylaws states that the President is vested with the power “To authorize or establish whatever formal title, offices, departments, external Committees, divisions of labor, chains of command, or any other necessary structural bureaucracy, with the exception of the Executive Cabinet, may, in their discretion, deem appropriate for the efficient operation of the Executive Branch”; **and**,

Whereas, the establishment of an SGA-affiliated group responsible for the outreach, planning, design, and collaboration work needed in order to publish a successful yearbook is a strong boost to the initiative's overall legitimacy; **therefore**,

Be it resolved, the Student Government Association officially establishes the Index Yearbook Task Force, to be charged with developing a plan to revive the university's 150-year-old yearbook by May 2022.

The Task Force will hold regular public meetings, and membership will be open to all undergraduate students.

The Task Force will be responsible for outreach to the student body and student organizations, collaboration with administrative units of the university and the broader SGA, short-term future financial matters specifically pertaining to the sale and production of the Index yearbook, and the future exploration of a permanent body responsible for publishing the Index yearbook, contingent on initial yearbook success.

Sponsored by Senator Moulton, The Index Team, Secretary Lechowicz, and President Epstein

12. Business Not Anticipated 48 Hours Prior To: