

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

Speaker Fox

1840th Regular Meeting

Zoom Meeting

March 10th, 2021 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:**
 - c. Vice President Chang sgavicepresident@umass.edu:**

Hi everyone! I hope you are well and staying strong through mid-terms!

What I have been working on and will work on:

- Had my meeting with the student seeking to start a new student business! (exciting!) We discussed how to get started, provided the by-laws, and created next steps for them and myself to help move the process along. I plan to support this student throughout the process until my term ends.
- I attended the DEI SAB mtg, the SGA/GSS mtg with the Chancellor on Monday.
- I met with the Title IX group to go over the interim Title IX policy on Sunday.
- We have another cabinet mtg this Tuesday.
- There is another Flexible Learning Subgroup mtg this Wednesday that I will attend.

- A mtg with Associate Speaker Gandhi, President Epstein, and Secretary Abramson to start the discussion over UMPD at RSOs' events and how students are expected to pay for UMPD (at an overtime rate) to have their event and see if this cost can shift so students do not need to pay for it and can use that money to invest in their RSOs on Monday.

d. Speaker Fox sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Good evening everyone. I have been very busy this past week with attending meetings, coordinating logistics behind our current events such as elections, and unpacking the new SGA office! I want to remind you all that I am here for you and will be open to hearing/working on any of your concerns. I also would like to remind you all on communicating with respect and kindness, while upholding professionalism in and out of SGA spaces. I have addressed instances brought to my attention with the following steps: 1. direct communication with the SGA member involved 2. Conversation on changing behavior and taking ownership for unproductive behavior. 3. public notice if the situation further warranted it. I am happy with the outcome of this process and will continue to stress the need to have respect in this body.

Meetings:

- SGA/GSS/Chancellor Leadership - minutes here.
- Meeting with President Epstein, Secretary Ngo, Chair Kendall, and EC reps about FY21 budgeting/spending as well as EC compensation.
- Meeting with the Student Union Management Board
- Fall Academic Affairs planning group
- Meeting about presenting student roles on CPARC
- Elections advertising

I am looking forward to receiving clarity around the Judiciary's decision to issue a temporary injunction. The transparency of the elections process is now severely lacking, and as a student I am worried about where we stand on having a successful election for students to participate in.

I also want to say, the SGA office is beautiful! I am working with the Chief of Staff to get our leadership group situated for a reduced in-person presence in the office. Lastly, I will be touching base with all chairs this week for one-on-ones.

Jk - last thing! We will be having an SGA Monthly training this weekend! Sunday at 11 AM. I will send a Zoom invite before then.

Questions? Let me know! Thanks :)

e. Associate Speaker Gandhi sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Hi SGA! I hope you're all taking care of yourselves this week. If you need anything at all, always feel free to reach out to me :) This week, I attended a meeting with SGA members surrounding Title IX policy revision to go over questions and concerns that we would bring at our next meeting. Had a preliminary meeting surrounding UMPD at RSO events. I also got to see the SGA office! Let me know if you have any questions.

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 Abramson sgaregistry@umass.edu:

Secretary Bennett sgapolicy@umass.edu: Hi everyone, I hope you're doing well.

- I've been dealing with some issues in my personal life so I was unable to accomplish as much this week as I was planning.

- Nonetheless, on Tuesday I continued my advocacy around college affordability and higher education advocacy by participating in a Statewide Higher Education Advocacy Panel featuring speakers from UMass Amherst Massachusetts Society of Professors, Columbia Young Democratic Socialists of America, The Center for Education Policy and Advocacy, UMass Boston Staff, The Debt Collective, and PHENOM.

- I also attended the executive branch's regularly scheduled cabinet meeting.

Chief of Staff Cohen sgachiefstaff@umass.edu: Hi all! Hope everyone is holding up well as we move through the stressful period of elections and midterms. Below is the list of everything I worked on this week. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy week!

1. Met with Chair Carino to discuss the Iclicker program

2. Coordinated with Speaker Fox on setting up the SGA Office in Student Union

3. Sent out Legislative/Executive Conference meeting When2Meet for March meeting

Secretary Duddy sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu: I have been brainstorming and gauging interest for possible events to bring student veterans together. At this time the focus remains on online events however I am optimistic that we can begin shifting to in person, outdoor gatherings as restrictions start to get lifted. I am hoping to put a survey out shortly to allow the community to provide their input.

Attorney General Latimer-Ireland sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu:

Secretary Lechowicz sgatechnology@umass.edu: Website Updates

- Have been doing my utmost to complete my duties correctly and legally despite multiple obstacles in my way over the past week. As elections have unfolded I've strived to keep the two

primary websites (Elections homepage and “Meet the Candidates”), up to date, but things have absolutely fallen through the cracks. Please email me if there’s a mistake/error that you’ve encountered!

- Need to give a huge shoutout to my undersecretaries, Shreya Khettry and Himanshu Padnani, who have done an incredible job stepping up into their roles despite my very limited capacity to onboard them. I really am not sure what I would’ve done this week without their help, they deserve all of the applause in the world right now!!

Meetings

- I have been attending the Chancellor’s Flexible Learning Task Force Steering Committee - the task force is exploring the future of multimodal and so-called “hybrid” pedagogical approaches at the University and related fields.

--- There was recently an article about this committee in last week’s update of the “Inside UMass” newsletter:

<https://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/article/chancellor-appoints-flexible-learning-task>

- I attended the first meeting of a “Fall Academic Affairs Planning” group with admin to discuss calendar, curriculum, and course modality concerns regarding this upcoming fall semester.

- Have been meeting with my undersecretaries regularly throughout the week to debrief our responsibilities and necessary updates

Secretary McKenna sgapolicy@umass.edu: Hi everyone! I hope you are all taking time to relax amidst a stressful few weeks. If I can support you in any way, please send me a message! Also, feel free to email me with any questions or things you’d like to work on sgapolicy@umass.edu.

Internal

-Finishing up Title VII bylaw changes w/ Secretary Abramson

-Met w/ SGA members working on Title IX policy revisions to discuss our preliminary questions

-Continuing to examine: Consultation, SGA-Greek life relationship

Admin Relations

- Met w/ Bill Brady & Ryan Morse, along w/ other SGA members, to begin Title IX policy consultation
- Met w/ Dean Cardoso-Erase and AG Latimer-Ireland re: ongoing conduct concerns and general conduct process questions
- Attended the weekly Testing subgroup of the Health & Safety working group
- Will be working w/ Jeff Hescok to improve the email students receive when they enter Q/I

Agencies/Councils/SGBs/Faculty Senate

- Secretary Abramson, Secretary Montilla, and I will continue presenting SOJEC's anti-racism training to RSO Councils this week
- Met w/ CSB last week re: financial concerns for Fall 2021 opening
- Attended the SLSO AC Meeting

Misc.

- Attended a weekly Commencement planning meeting
- Met again w/ Student Trustee Scalona, Secretary Montilla, Chair Gabriel, and Attorney General Latimer-Ireland re: the Survivor's Bill of Rights (also seeking feedback from RSOs and groups on campus)

Secretary Montilla sgadiversity@umass.edu:

Secretary Morel-Paletta sgasustainability@umass.edu: Hi everyone! This week I came up with

3 main goals to complete by the end of my term:

Host a virtual Sustainability Slammer event.

Complete the "educating the public" portion of racial justice plan.

Set up a meeting with the Waste Subcommittee team to discuss clear and updated signage regarding the proper way to dispose dining hall waste.

Secretary Ngo sgafinance@umass.edu:

Secretary Yee sgapublicrelations@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: USC met with Kathy Wicks (Director of Sustainability) and Laurie Simmons (Sustainability Coordinator) on Monday. We learned that compostable containers are not an option unfortunately because there is not a proper place to dispose the compost in the Amherst area. However, Dining is willing to supply all RAs with a set amount of reusable bags to distribute to students on campus. We are currently working on getting a cost breakdown figured out before sending a proposal over to Kathy and Laurie. Additionally, USC will be meeting with Darell Troie this week to discuss paperless receipts. Lastly, our Swipe Out Hunger motion is up on the agenda for this week.

Chair Carino sgaacademic@umass.edu: hello everyone! This week attended the SGA/GSS meeting with the chancellor and discussed getting tent space to allow arts majors to more effectively rehearse and practice, so watch this space! I also am meeting with Chief of Staff Cohen on Tuesday (3/8) to talk about iclickers. I also attended the Flex Learning subgroup on Tuesday and the meeting notes are in the drive. Later this week I hope to collaborate with SoJEC on a panel event!

Chair Curto sgaoutreach@umass.edu: Hey everyone! I hope you all are having a great week so far! I have generally been working on different things regarding elections and working with our Secretary of PR to get posts made about elections. We worked on the newsletter that we got pushed out very fast. I know this is a very stressful time and tensions are high but try and take

some time for yourself and take a step back and breath. I also have been working with Senator Laurent on Title 2 bylaw amendments! Other than that I have started to look into stuff for SGA Merch so I am excited to get that going!! As always if you have any other questions please feel free to let me know! Have a great week everyone!

Chair Dacey sgawaysmeans@umass.edu: Hi everyone. Ways and means finished our voting process after last weeks senate meeting. We have been working since to find the cut that is fairest. We will have initial allocations out by Friday with appeals to follow. Reach out with any questions!

Chair Gabriel sgasojec@umass.edu: SoJEC is continuing with our RJ plans and meeting with various committees in the coming weeks. The date of our CMASS x SGA event has changed and that date is what is outlined in the motion. We also voted on the Project Period motion up tonight as well. In addition, the group of SGA members working on Title IX met to review the policy and we made a list of questions for clarification on certain wording in the document for our next meeting as a group.

Chair Jensen sgauroc@umass.edu:

Chair Kendall sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu: AA met tonight to discuss Title VII as well as looking into the Judiciary as whether they violated any bylaws and if so which ones and how.

Chair Rajkumar sgafinancecommit@umass.edu:

7. SGA Advisor Lydia Washington lwash@umass.edu:
8. The Committee of the Whole:
9. Special Orders:

2021-SO8

Motion to appoint Tanya Sinha to the vacant class of 2021 seat as a representative from the Class of 2023.

Sponsored by the Outreach and Development Committee

2021-SO10

Motion to appoint the following Senators to the Undergraduate Registry Oversight Committee.

Tanya Sinah

Abdul-Rehman Iftikhar

Sponsored by Speaker Fox

2021-SO11

Motion to appoint the following Senators to the Academic Oversight Committee.

Jay Gupta

Cameron Burkacki

Sponsored by Speaker Fox

2021-SO12

Motion to appoint Ava Amuso to the Undergraduate Services Committee.

Sponsored by Speaker Fox

10. Unfinished Business - Main Motions:

11. New Business - Main Motions:

2021-S19

Whereas, UMass Amherst is a Predominantly White Institution; **and**

Whereas, the Student Government Association is also a predominantly white body; **and**

Whereas, given the current campus climate, it is critical to actively continue working to make UMass Amherst and the SGA a truly diverse, inclusive, and anti-racist community; **and**

Whereas, the SGA represents all undergraduate students; **and**

Whereas, many students of color do not see themselves represented by the diversity of the

Student Government Association; **and**

Whereas, now more than ever it is important that the SGA demonstrates a willingness to commit itself to expanding its racial and cultural diversity given the ongoing social momentum seeking to eliminate institutional discrimination and oppression; **and**

Whereas, the Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success (CMASS) opened doors in 2011 to support the student success and sense of belonging of first generation, students of color, multiracial students, and low income students; **therefore**;

Be it resolved, the Student Government Association co-sponsors the “Know Your Government” event also co-sponsored by CMASS to happen online on Thursday, March 25th, 2021 at 7pm.

Sponsored by Secretary Montilla, Social Justice and Empowerment Committee, Chair Gabriel

2021-S20

Whereas, the University currently provides students with free toilet paper, which is a basic necessity, **and**;

Whereas, menstrual hygiene products are a basic and unavoidable necessity, **and**;

Whereas, the inability to access menstrual products can affect a student’s freedom to study, their physical and mental wellbeing, and their ability to participate in society with dignity, **and**;

Whereas, a significant portion of the student body at the University of Massachusetts Amherst menstruates, **and**;

Whereas; transgender students and non-binary students on this campus may feel alienated

because they experience menstrual periods yet have no access to period products in their bathrooms, **and;**

Whereas, 72% of all UMass Amherst students have reported that they have experienced financial stress sometimes or often during the school year, **and;**

Whereas, 1 in 5 people who menstruate struggle to afford menstrual products, or are not able to purchase them at all, **and;**

Whereas, the Student Government Association represents all undergraduate students and advocates for their needs, **and;**

Whereas, several universities provide free menstrual hygiene products on their campuses, including the University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, Saint Louis University, University of South Florida, James Madison University, Temple University, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, University of Arizona, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, University of California–Davis, Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, Florida State University, University of Washington, and The Ohio State University, **therefore;**

Be it resolved, the Student Government Association supports the following proposal.

Sponsored by Secretary Montilla, Undergraduate Experience Committee, Chair Gabriel, Social Justice and Empowerment Committee

2021-S21

Whereas, food is a fundamental human right and hunger is a global injustice, **and;**

Whereas, due to the high costs of UMass due to lack of state funding, 1 in 4 Pell eligible students at UMass have reported difficulty affording eating three meals a day, and 24% of undergraduate students worried “often” or “sometimes” about their meal plans running out, according to the Student Life Survey of 2015, **and**;

Whereas, all members of the UMass community deserve to eat healthy and adequate food to allow them to be successful and productive; **and**;

Whereas, COVID-19 has caused a huge decrease in food availability and access around the country, **and**;

Whereas, systemic racism and classism disproportionately causes food insecurity among BIPOC members of UMass community, **and**;

Whereas, UMass Amherst currently has a guest swipe program that limits the number of food swipes students can give out, creating less accessibility for students in need, **and**;

Whereas, UMass Amherst lacks concrete initiatives and infrastructure to ensure that every community member has access to food, **and**;

Whereas, Swipe Out Hunger is a national nonprofit committed to ending college student hunger. It would allow students to donate their meal swipes/dining dollars/YCMPS/guest swipes back to UMass Dining through the UMass Dining website, so food insecure students who apply for meal swipes would be able to have more available to them, **and**;

Whereas, The University of Vermont, The University of Delaware, The University of Connecticut, The University of Rhode Island, and The University of New Hampshire have already implemented a Swipe out Hunger Program, **and;**

Whereas, the Undergraduate Services Committee created an [outreach survey](#) and gained feedback from almost 300 students from the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. A majority of students reported having leftover meal swipes/dining dollars at the end of the semester. Additionally, about 90% of students not only supported starting a Swipe Out Hunger program but would also be willing to donate their extra swipes/dining dollars as well, **therefore;**

Be It Resolved, the Student Government Association hereby endorses the attached proposal to implement a Swipe Out Hunger program that would reallocate meal swipes to undergraduate and graduate students in need as a preliminary step to ensuring food security on campus.

Be It Further Resolved, the Student Government Association formally requests that the University transition to using the Swipe Out Hunger program by the start of Fall 2021.

Sponsored by the Undergraduate Services Committee, the Social Justice and Empowerment Committee, Senator Bloom, Senator Murray, Secretary McKenna, Secretary Montilla, Trustee Scalona, Attorney General Latimer-Ireland, Senator Harvey, Senator Bhattacharjee, Secretary Abramson

Proposal:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18IKRg9ZLTI-AKDi67VuSrOSSoVwhTqwSmL5y-EBB1n0/edit?usp=sharing>

Survey Response Data:

https://umass-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/melemieux_umass_edu/ESn0Vv06YtlHuwRKpG9eUUcBbG9Q6AalfRI3qX0zM9CTrQ?e=bkXvHq

2021-S22

Whereas, food is a fundamental human right and hunger is a global injustice, **and;**

Whereas, due to the high costs of UMass due to lack of state funding, 1 in 4 Pell eligible students at UMass have reported difficulty affording eating three meals a [day](#), and 24% of undergraduate students worried “often” or “sometimes” about their meal plans running out, according to the Student Life Survey of [2015](#) **and;**

Whereas, all members of the UMass community deserve to eat healthy and adequate food to allow them to be successful and productive; **and;**

Whereas, COVID-19 has caused a huge decrease in food availability and access around the country, **and;**

Whereas, systemic racism and classism disproportionately causes food insecurity among BIPOC members of UMass community, **and;**

Whereas, UMass Boston, UMass Lowell, UMass Dartmouth, and various Massachusetts state schools and community colleges already run food security programs for students, **and;**

Whereas, UMass Amherst lacks concrete initiatives and infrastructure to ensure that every community member has access to food, **and;**

Whereas, the current student-run food pantry is inadequate, limited in supplies, unsustainable, and has not been open since last March because of COVID, **therefore;**

Be it resolved, the Student Government Association hereby reaffirms our commitment to food security by endorsing the attached proposal to implement a Food Pantry for all UMass community members, including undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty and staff, funded by the University and jointly run by administration, students, faculty, and staff as a

preliminary step to ensuring food security on campus. This proposal reflects student input for wider food security initiatives to be planned and implemented by the Dean of Students Food Security Working Group.

Sponsored by Undergraduate Services Committee, Secretary Montilla, Attorney General

Latimer-Ireland, Secretary McKenna, Senator Bloom

Proposal:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Q0TWuITW-TXodaEfVrFKe4vI4FaJyQZSuxYXf8tBuE/edit>

Slideshow:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VTzGIefuTSzFDxMYRUofL-wHDsZ2TreQ-xq-_nrKw0k/edit#slide=id.gbde49c305d_0_59

Consultation:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eOtrU9T11rE2umRIWz7FGX68r3RrM0Tjrk-dLTDFz0/edit>

12. Business Not Anticipated 48 Hours Prior To: