

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

Speaker Fox

1843rd Regular Meeting

Zoom Meeting

March 31st, 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:**

Hi all! I hope you're all doing well! Happy Aries szn:) This is my last report out for you all </3 I'll have a ~dramatic & emotional speech~ for y'all on Wednesday so get excited !

I've attended a few meetings over the last week. Secretary Montilla, Secretary Abramson, and I attended a planning meeting for the land acknowledgment event with GSS, JWECC, and the Intertribal Coalition. I went to Gen-Ed Council. Vice President Chang, Speaker Fox, and I met with the Chancellor to discuss sustainability, elections, finances, restorative justice, and the COVID postures. I attended the SACL/ Student Leaders Roundtable. Speaker Fox and I will be meeting with VC BHL on Wednesday. Finally, Secretary Abramson and I will be helping RSOs finish packing their things in Bartlett to move into the new Student Union over the next couple of weeks.

Apart from that I've been mostly focused on transition things-- wrapping up communications & projects, organizing my email and drive, and other fun things.

I will miss you all a lot and am honored have gotten to work with y'all!! Please stay in touch (my personal UMass email is sophiaepstei@umass.edu and I think most of y'all have my social media lol) and hopefully we'll all be able to meet in person one day. Much love, light, & solidarity <3

c. Vice President Chang sgavicepresident@umass.edu:

d. Speaker Fox sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Hi all! I have been focusing efforts on getting transitions in order. I would like to thank President Epstein for their work this year. Wishing you a bright future at UMass! I attended a meeting with the Chancellor and SGA leadership and discussed sustainability, tuition, operational postures, Restorative Justice, and SGA elections/transitions. Last week, I met with Pete Smith from SACL Communications to discuss an exciting new opportunity for SGA communications with students - a channel on the MyUMass App. I will be following up this week. I also attended the Fall Planning Group and we went over the priorities of each area for compiling recommendations for the Chancellor in April. We had a Chair meeting on Sunday evening and we will be working to wrap up work this semester and get set for the summer. With new changes coming up, I will work to my best ability to transition and help new leaders coming in to make sure the SGA is in good standing internally and externally. Let me know if you have any questions! Thanks :)

e. Associate Speaker Gandhi sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Hi everyone! I wanted to give a huge thank you to President Epstein and Vice President Chang for all their hard work this year!

I attended the SACL Finance Matrix Meeting last week where we discussed about the stimulus and some other general updates. I attended our chair meeting on Sunday night where I heard updates and we talked about transition materials. I attended the lovely Student Bridges SAB on Monday. I will be attending the Academic Affairs SAB on Tuesday. Please reach out with 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:

- activation period for all RSOs will be April 1 to April 28th. If you're in an RSO, register ASAP: it's on Campus Pulse and it's super easy!!
- Moodle trainings open May 3rd for the groups that re-activated; deadline for Moodle trainings (if you don't do Moodle trainings, no stimulus checks!) is Sunday, June 13th!
- Second round of trainings in August
- Western Mass Bouldering Club and Climbing Team are looking to merge clubs
- Locks are arriving to campus next week
- If you're in a new RSO, sign up for UMass Gives!!
- THANK YOU to Secretary Yee for sending out the new RSO newsletter
- THANK YOU to President Epstein for your help with new RSO packing (that's what we're up to this week)

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

- This week I attended my final cabinet meeting and started planning for the transition.
- I've also been working on my transition binder the past week.
- I'm working on finalizing my projects for this semester, including continued advocacy around public higher education funding and protecting student workers.

Chief of Staff Cohen sgachiefstaff@umass.edu: Focused mostly on getting my transition binder squared away and getting everything tidied up for the end of my term. Looking forward to working through my last two weeks as Chief of Staff. As always any questions don't hesitate to reach out. Best wishes everyone!

Secretary Duddy sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu: Continuing to work on the transition binder and answering various questions from constituents. Planning meetings to discuss potential events in hopes that UMass will continue to relax its covid posture.

Attorney General Latimer-Ireland sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu: Continued Title IX work - met with Bill Brady and Ryan Morse to discuss UMass Title IX policy. Began discussing SBoR implementation and will be hopefully attending a meeting with admin around that. Continued working with CAs to re-evaluate and plan for next year. Working on transition stuff - please reach out if you're interested in this position.

Secretary Lechowicz sgatechnology@umass.edu: Website Updates

- Now that we're past elections, the website has returned to "business as usual" mode; the elections page is still accessible, but it is no longer the homepage.

Besides that, I have been doing a lot of "spring cleaning" in addition to the usual updates, mostly to get it prepared for a transition in leadership.

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, and will likely be presenting at Senate in April to discuss the committee's work

- I attended another meeting of the "Fall Planning Committee" group with admin to discuss operating plans for next Fall.

- I met briefly with a reporter from the Collegian to do an interview about the Index referendum and the Digital UCard action referendum.

Misc.

- Have been adding to and refining my transition binder from my first term as Secretary.

Secretary McKenna sgapolicy@umass.edu: Hello everyone! I hope you are all well! If you're interested in this position for the upcoming year, please reach out to me! If you had any

assignments due on this past Wellness Wednesday, please send me a Slack message or email. As always, also feel free to email me with any questions or things you'd like to discuss at sgapolicy@umass.edu.

Internal

-Met w/ Bernie re: Title VII bylaw changes

Admin Relations

-Attended the weekly Testing subgroup of the Health & Safety working group

-Met w/ Vice Chancellor Brady, Ryan Morse, and other SGA members for 2nd Title IX policy revisions meeting

Agencies/Councils/SGBs/Faculty Senate

-Conducting Agency check-out meetings this week (Mon-Wed: met w/ WMUA, UVC, CSB, Collegian, SU Craft Center, SLSO)

-Attended the weekly Agency Directors' meeting to hear Ways & Means present about the Agency stimulus!

Racial Justice

-Met w/ HR staff re: the RJC's proposed anti-racism training

-Met w/ Shelly Perdomo and Dean Ashley re: the RJC's proposed Racial Justice Hearing Board

-Attending another Data Subcommittee meeting re: an RJC data transparency demand

Misc

-Attended weekly Commencement meeting :) and will attend again

-Attended the 1st Democratizing Board of Trustees meeting led by Student Trustee Scalona

Secretary Montilla sgadiversity@umass.edu: -I had a meeting on Monday with Shane Conklin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities & Campus Services and Dawn Bond. And I've been doing research on other institutions with programs that we could recreate.

-Health council voted to endorse the free menstrual product proposal.

I attended a meeting with grad and undergrad students to organize an event to talk about the importance of land acknowledgments.

-I was at the CMASS/SGA event that I helped organize. Big shoutout to SOJEC, CEPA and SLSO.

-And I've continued to work on the survivor's bill of Rights with other sga officials, in particular next steps after the support we got on the ballot question initiative.

Secretary Morel-Paletta sgasustainability@umass.edu: Hi everyone! This week I've been collaborating with MASSPIRG and Shelly to coordinate the multiple Earth Week events going on. Our event is almost finalized and now we just need to focus on promoting it!

Secretary Ngo sgafinance@umass.edu:

Secretary Yee sgapublicrelations@umass.edu: Hi everyone, this week I made a couple social media posts and sent out the senior spotlight forms. Seniors, please fill it out!

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 continues to work on our two main group projects, which include the Swipe Out Hunger initiative, as well as distributing reusable bags to students. Regarding Swipe Out Hunger, we are in the process of setting up a meeting with UMass Dining, preferably Garrett Distefano. Multiple emails have been sent to UMass Dining asking to meet, so once they respond back we can continue the negotiation process. Once Dining agrees to work with our committee/the Swipe Out Hunger group with this project, we will start drafting an in depth proposal for the program this summer so it can begin next fall. Additionally, regarding the reusable bag initiative, our proposal has also been sent in to Kathy Wicks and Laurie Simmons from the Sustainability Dept. They will be reviewing the

proposal shortly to see if it is feasible to distribute reusable bags to all students using the extra SIEF Fund money.

Chair Carino sgaacademic@umass.edu:

Chair Curto sgaoutreach@umass.edu: Hey everyone! ODC has been up to some good stuff this past week. I'll save the best announcement for last! Anyways we have started to look through the SGA Handbook and are going to basically re-write it. This will be used by new and returning senators and not just as something that they look at once, it will be used throughout their 4 years as a senator. With that I have finally gotten to look at the Consultation Policy again and will be bringing that up to senate soon, I am going to bring it to my committee first this Thursday at our meeting so if you would like to be there to talk about it, feel free to join us on Thursday @7. For my final and best announcement... if you are reading this before Wednesday @ 1 am, (congrats you are awesome for being so ahead of the game) if you are reading this after Wednesday @ 1 am, merch is live!!! I will be sending the link to the store soon. The store will be open for 2 weeks and then everything will be processed and sent! I am so excited for you all to see everything! It will be individually shipped to your house. Shipping will depend on what you buy. If you are one of our international students contact me as the company doesn't automatically process international shipments so they will have to put it in manually. I should have more info on that before Wednesday's senate meeting. I hope you all are as excited as I am for all of this!! Anyways, I hope you all have a great week and for those who celebrate, Happy late Passover and Happy early Easter! As always, if you have any questions feel free to email me!

Chair Dacey sgawaysmeans@umass.edu: Hi everyone! On Thursday I attended my usual SACL finance matrix meeting where we talked about the stimulus and next steps. On Monday I attended a GSS/SGA/SEL meeting where we talked about moodle training for the next academic year. AA granted an appeal for an RSO on Monday night and WM will be voting on that budget tentatively tonight after senate. Reach out if you have any questions!

Chair Gabriel sgasojec@umass.edu:

Chair Jensen sgauroc@umass.edu:

Chair Kendall sgadminaffairs@umass.edu:

Chair Rajkumar sgafinancecommit@umass.edu:

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

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

9. **Special Orders:**

2021-SO16

10. **Unfinished Business - Main Motions:**

11. **New Business - Main Motions:**

2021-S28

Whereas, open education resources are often the same quality as information behind a paywall, and

Whereas, purchasing textbooks from companies places an undue financial burden on students, increasing student stress and decreasing student success, and

Whereas, students have already paid tuition to the university to have access to its courses, and

Whereas, in a referendum question posed in the [Fall 2020 SGA Election](#), 98.7% of students supported OER measures including urging UMass administration to “encourage campus and national leaders to expand programs that promote open educational resources,”

Be it resolved that the University of Massachusetts Amherst Student Government Association formally endorses the following petition by MassPIRG

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejXrzlXnipsGzJ4r6fhXgb1MZboVQlgAGwX8zdS-wvzmmfLHA/viewform?gxids=7628>

*Sponsored by Chair Carino and the Academic Oversight
Committee*

12. Business Not Anticipated 48 Hours Prior To: