

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

Speaker Fox

1839th Regular Meeting

Zoom Meeting

March 3rd, 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:

Hi everyone! Happy March! This past week, I've been focused on a few things:

-First-Gen Low-Income Student Advocacy: I'm working on finalizing the survey of access/knowledge of FGLI resources with FLIP leadership. Additionally, I've connected with my CASA (Committee of Academic & Student Affairs) committee chairs to find ways to discuss FGLI resources across the system at the committee meeting, which is coming up!

-Democratizing the Board: I ran on this platform and I strongly believe not only in expanding the voting block of the Student Trustees, but in ensuring increased representation for campus workers as well. We're establishing an inter-campus coalition to discuss strategy for this long-term goal, so if you would like to participate or know groups who would want in, send me an email/text/slack DM, etc!

-Survivors' Bill of Rights: I'm continuing to meet with some members of the SGA executive/legislative around these institutionalizing it at the Amherst campus and then hopefully the system level.

b. President Epstein sgapresident@umass.edu:

Hi everyone! I hope you're all doing well! Happy March and happy SGA election season!!

This week we had a cabinet meeting to discuss bylaw changes and goals for the rest of our terms.

I attended a meeting with administrators and GSS to discuss the elevated posture protocols-- mostly the use of the green checkmark and housing-- they have clarified the process for LMS access restriction for falling out of compliance on the FAQ page. The notes from this meeting can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t6H63Kq58xVoWYciJq5_lv0XrdtQBgCaA1IwzdnVfXg/edit?usp=sharing and in the shared drive.

Attorney General Latimer-Ireland, Secretary McKenna, and I met with Dean Cardoso-Erase and Dean Ashley to discuss the group conduct process and there was a meeting on Sunday where we shared with folks what was said and what discussed SGA's role in this. Secretary McKenna and I met with Vice Chancellor Mangles and Jim Roche about the HEERF money that is coming to UMass, how it will be split up, how grant money will be distributed to students, and their plans for the rest of the funding. We also discussed the student economic assistant grant-- the maximum given to students was raised from \$300 to \$600-- so thank you to everyone who helped us advocate for proper support from the university around this. I attended the Community & Police Advisory Board where we discussed the Annual Security Report, the rifles, and their new accountability/ transparency website. I also attended Gen-Ed Council. Speaker Fox and I attended a meeting about ~March weekend~ (what admin call Blarney) where they discussed the steps being taken to try and prevent large gatherings from happening.

I had the honor of speaking at CEPA's advocacy week kickoff event about student debt, state funding, and my experiences advocating around that-- definitely recommend singing up and checking out the rest of their events this week!! bit.ly/cepaadvocacyweek !

I've been working with a few folks around referendum questions they want put on the ballot for this election. So far there is the Index, the digital UCard, menstrual products, and the Survivors

Bill of Rights. If there is one you would like me to put on please send it to me by Wednesday-- the deadline for them is 3/4.

I'll be attending a SACL Student Leader Roundtable later today (Monday) and on Wednesday Speaker Fox and I will be meeting with Vice Chancellor LaBanc and I will be meeting with Johnny Tooson and Nancy Buffone to discuss a Student Union Opening Event.

Thank you all for all your hard work as always and if you read this whole thing please message/email me what your favorite zodiac sign is or what your favorite cereal is:)

Please reach out if you have any questions or need anything!

c. Vice President Chang sgavicepresident@umass.edu:

d. Speaker Fox sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Hi all! Hard to believe that we are in March. Since last senate meeting, I hosted an SGA elections info session to attract new and old interested students to running for a position on the ballot. I have been supporting the Elections Commission by ensuring all documents are in order and the "behind the scenes" logistics are taken care of. I met with Pete Smith of SACL Communications and Crystal Maldonado, who manages UMass social media to formulate a strategy for elections advertising. I am grateful for their help in elevating this cycle. I attended a meeting with SGA and GSS leaders with the Chancellor to discuss the green check, student employment, and overall consultation with SGA during high risk planning. I also attended the SACL SAB to discuss conduct, and student employment. A big win was in increasing financial support to students in need who were affected by high risk! I attended GSS Senate meeting where the motion regarding musicians practicing in res halls was passed by their body! I met with MassPIRG and advisor Washington to discuss their reaffirmation vote and their decision to postpone their referendum to next year. On 3/1, I attended a meeting organized by UMPD Chief Parham to discuss planning for the March event "that must not be named". This week, I will be making sure elections run smoothly on the logistical side, meeting with VC BHL + President Epstein, Attending SLSOAC, and continuing work around efforts with UMass CR to follow up

with our COTW last week. If you need anything, please let me know. *Also, Wellbeing Wednesday PondFire was a success! I am so glad that I got the chance to see Associate Speaker Gandhi for the first time in person in almost a year :)*

e. Associate Speaker Gandhi sgaspeaker@umass.edu:

Hey SGA! Since our last meeting, I attended the SAACL SAB. I also attended the Student Bridges Advisory Board on Friday and got to hear some updates from them. I continued to vote with Ways and Means and possibly did our last budget! On Monday I attended the SAACL Leadership Roundtable that VC LeBanc hosts. I also attended the SGA Title IX meeting on Monday as well. I am going to try to make it to some Committee meetings this week. I hope you're all doing well, let me know if you need anything <3

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: - sent email to RSOs about COVID guidelines and to gauge interest in signing onto a statement. I also reminded RSO leaders about current restrictions and sent them some resources about Secretary Lechowicz's+Index Crew's yearbook work

- first racial justice trainings to RSO councils this week

- met with the Native American Student Association about updating their constitution since their last approved edits were made in 2002 and are out of date. I also met with SEL about this to make sure we're all on the same page with the group's active status

- met with chair/vice chair of ways and means with some cabinet members about the RSO membership requirement changes

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

- This past week I've been busy with Student Advocacy Week, which we are doing virtually this year.

- Over the weekend I attended the event kickoff which featured advocacy training as well as speeches from MA Rep. Natalie Higgins and other student stakeholders and organizers on the student debt crisis and the imperative of reinvesting in public higher education to create a debt-free future.

- On Monday night I participated in the legislator forum with Rep. Mindy Domb and Sen. Jo Comerford.

- On Tuesday I joined the phonebank and letter writing event to state legislators.

- I believe the Center for Education Policy and Advocacy is hosting another phonebank tomorrow night, and I would encourage everyone to join: bit.ly/cepaadvocacyweek

Chief of Staff Cohen sgachiefstaff@umass.edu: Hi folks! Hope everyone fared well through our first month back to classes. With elections rapidly approaching, the Cabinet is shifting towards wrapping up unfinished projects and preparing for the transition process. Here are a few things I'm looking to accomplish between now and the end of my term.

-Facilitate a smooth cabinet transition

-Keep the SGA office operating until the next Chief of Staff is appointed

-Assist cabinet secretaries in completing their last few end of term projects

As always my door is open for comments and suggestions. Wishing everyone well for the week!

Secretary Duddy sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu: Currently working on assembling an email list of student veterans in hopes of increasing communication. I also hope to use the list as an opportunity to gauge interest in potential virtual events or programs for veterans.

Attorney General Latimer-Ireland sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu: Hi all! Happy March!

I've continued assisting with bylaw revisions.

- I met with Senator DeFranco to review Title IV.
- I met with members of Cabinet to discuss their proposed changes.
- Continued work on Title VII, met with Chair Dacey and Vice Chair Marceau to talk about financial concerns.

Other Meetings

- SBOR meeting with Trustee Scalona, Secretary Montilla, and Secretary McKenna
- Met (and will meet again on Wednesday) with Dean Cardoso re: conduct concerns.
- Meeting with Ryan Morse and Bill Brady re: University Title IX policy.
- Attended the CPAB Meeting on Friday
- Attended/will attend the SLSOAC Meeting on Wednesday

Secretary Lechowicz sgatechnology@umass.edu: Website Updates

- The elections page continues to be updated daily to reflect where we are in Elections season. This week, at the start of the campaigning period, the "Meet the Candidates" webpage will be going live, which will include candidate-supplied information that conforms to the guidelines outlined here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aSspkrN21AjoGzMpEau7hjM7gJSg99qtJt8hCKiNsVE/edit>

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.
- Last Friday I attended the P3 Undergraduate Housing Project meeting with Secretary McKenna, which was a joint meeting with a representative of the private developer, Balfour Beatty.
- Met with my undersecretaries to discuss important elections responsibilities that we will be handling throughout the elections season
- I attended a meeting about group conduct on Sunday night to discuss recent developments on campus.

Secretary McKenna sgapolicy@umass.edu: Hi everyone! 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/ Senator Bhattacharjee re: Secretary of University Policy bylaw revisions
- Met w/ SGA members re: group conduct concerns
- Continuing to examine: Consultation, SGA-Greek life relationship

Admin Relations

- Attended the SACL SAB
- Met w/ President Epstein, Jim Roche (admissions), and Andy Mangels re: the federal stimulus package
- Met w/ President Epstein, Attorney General Latimer-Ireland, Dean Ashley, and Dean Cardoso-Erase re: group conduct concerns
- 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 start presenting SOJEC's anti-racism training to RSO Councils this week

Misc.

- Attended a weekly Commencement planning meeting
- Met w/ Student Trustee Scalona, Secretary Montilla, and Attorney General Latimer-Ireland re: the Survivor's Bill of Rights

Secretary Montilla sgadiversity@umass.edu:

- I attended the USC meeting last week and helped draft and I'm co-sponsoring two motions that are going up tonight.

-I've been working with Chair Gabriel on the cmass/Sga event.

-I attended the planning meeting for the antisemitism training and I've been talking to some jewish groups.

-I met with Trustee Scalona and AG HLI on Saturday and worked on the survivor's bill of rights.

-Drafted a ballot question about menstrual products on campus bathrooms in collaboration with President Epstein, USC and Project Period.

Secretary Morel-Paletta sgasustainability@umass.edu:

Secretary Ngo sgafinance@umass.edu:

Secretary Yee sgapublicrelations@umass.edu: Last week, I completed election graphics and published an external newsletter. Sorry about the internal newsletter, my team is swamped with work at the moment, but it will come out. I will be reaching out to all seniors in SGA for a senior spotlight in the coming week and am working with Secretary Abramson on a special edition newsletter spotlighting RSOs.

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! The main agenda item USC worked on this week was drafting the compostable containers/reusable bags/paperless receipts motion, which is up on the senate agenda and will be voted on shortly. We also reviewed the food pantry proposal motion and added our committee as a sponsor. Additionally, the Swipe Out Hunger group met last week and drafted a motion as well, which will be presented at senate next week. I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions about these motions and I also encourage you to sign on as a sponsor.

Chair Carino sgaacademic@umass.edu: Hi everyone! This is my first week back, so thank you all for your patience as I try to catch up with my emails and other obligations. This week at AO we discussed clickers (the chief of staff and I will be meeting soon to discuss these specifics, vice-chair Talreja is leading the charge on this and I'm so thankful). Additionally, later this week we're going to meet with SoJEC to discuss a racism in academia event we hope to host this spring. I also attended Flexible Learning Task Force Instruction, Pedagogy, and Technology Subgroup and I'll give more details in my report out and in the drive.

Chair Curto sgaoutreach@umass.edu: Hi everyone! ODC has been staying busy getting those individual committee outreach events under way. We have our candidates up for senate seats tonight. We are starting to get merch looked at which is very exciting. I have been working with our Secretary of PR to get out elections materials on the socials. I'm going to follow once again in my previous Chairs foot steps to see if people are actually reading these... if you see send me a message on slack with your favorite animal :). I hope you all are doing well and as always if you have any questions, feel free to reach out!!

Chair Dacey sgawaysmeans@umass.edu: Hi Everyone! Ways and means has virtually completed our process of reviewing nearly 200 budgets over 5 weeks! Can't say it enough that our voting members deserve huge recognition for the amount of hours they put in. In the coming days, Amelia Marceau and I will be crunching the numbers with our SACL finance matrix and initial allocations will be going out to RSOs by March 12th or earlier. Feel free to reach out with any questions!

Chair Gabriel sgasojec@umass.edu: Hi everyone! This week has been a little busy in terms of life so I'm sorry if I haven't gotten back to you immediately, I am quarantining at home so it's been hectic and I've taken a little step back from SGA but I'm back now.

Anyways, SOJEC had Tamar Stollman attend our meeting Monday and we learned more about food insecurity, which is our theme for the month, and we talked about ways that SOJEC can

collaborate with the Food Security Advocacy Group. We also voted to sponsor USC's motion surrounding the Swipe Out Hunger initiative which I'm very excited about. I also solidified a time to meet with Carla and Wilma from CMASS to discuss some final logistics for the panel on March 11th. In addition, I attended the Title IX meeting led by Secretary McKenna on Monday.

As always, please reach out with any questions.

Chair Jensen sgauroc@umass.edu:

Chair Kendall sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu: AA did not meet this week due to Monday being a Wednesday schedule. I attended my weekly one on one with SLSO to further discuss Bylaw amendments as well as the Constitutional amendments and lastly began to discuss the MassPIRG referenda question not being on the General Election Ballot and its implications. This conversation is ongoing and I am actively doing research into the fee and trying to track down the official language of the referenda that past many years ago to assist in this. Additionally, I attended the Commencement Student Advisory Group meeting as well as read through 138 responses to Commencement Concern Form that was emailed to all Seniors.

Chair Rajkumar sgafinancecommit@umass.edu: Last week, my committee and I met and discussed the ways in which we can best advertise our emergency funding guidelines.

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

8. The Committee of the Whole:

9. Special Orders:

2021-SO6

Motion to appoint Abdul-Rehman Iftikhar and Cameron Burkacki to the vacant class of 2023 seats.

Sponsored by the Outreach and Development Committee

2021-SO7

Motion to appoint Jay Gupta to the vacant Class of 2022 seat as a representative from the Class of 2023.

Sponsored by the Outreach and Development Committee

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-SO9

Motion to appoint Ava Amuso to the vacant class of 2021 seat as a representative from the Class of 2024.

Sponsored by the Outreach and Development Committee

10. Unfinished Business - Main Motions:

11. New Business - Main Motions:

2021-S17

Whereas, the University is committed to sustainability, **and**;

Whereas, current university values are already aligned with environmental consciousness and working towards a more sustainable campus, **and**;

Whereas, students are living on campus this semester and using the dining facilities on campus, especially grab and go locations daily **and**;

Whereas, polypropylene reusable bags are more durable than paper bags with less environmental impact after 3.5 uses

(<https://plastic.education/reusable-vs-disposable-bags-whats-better-for-the-environment/>) **and**;

Whereas, with the increase of frequency at grab and go locations, there has been an increase in the use of non-reusable containers and bags, as well as the amount of trash produced **and**;

Whereas, plastic containers are not as sustainable as compostable containers, **and**;

Whereas, receipts contain an environmentally harmful chemical known as BPA (which is known to cause cancer) and are often thrown out, **and**;

Whereas, the Undergraduate Services Committee of the Student Government Association is willing to create outreach materials to teach students how to properly dispose of compostable containers, **and**;

Whereas, the Undergraduate Services Committee created an [outreach survey](#) and gained feedback from almost 200 students from the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes on whether they would prefer compostable containers instead of plastic containers, reusable bags instead of paper bags, and paperless receipts, **and**;

Whereas, almost all students indicated on the outreach survey that they would prefer compostable containers instead of plastic containers, reusable bags instead of paper bags, and paperless receipts, **therefore**;

Be It Resolved, the Student Government Association formally requests that the University immediately transition to using compostable containers instead of plastic containers in the dining facilities, as well as provide compostable bins across campus for students to properly dispose of compostable containers. Specifically, compostable containers that are free of all chemicals labeled by the EPA as PFAS as well as suspect PFAS and PFOA chemicals.

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/pfas_action_plan_021319_508c_compliant_1.pdf), **and**;

Be It Further Resolved, the Student Government Association formally requests that the University immediately eliminates paper bags in dining facilities and distributes non cotton-based reusable bags to all students by delivering them outside each on-campus student's dorm room door, **and**;

Be It Further Resolved, the Student Government Association formally requests that the University immediately transition to using paperless receipts by emailing and/or texting students their receipts.

Sponsored by the Undergraduate Services Committee, Secretary Montilla Jaimes, Chair Gabriel, Senator Bhattacharjee, Senator Rubin, Senator Harvey, Senator Murray, Senator Suchecki

2021-S18

Whereas, an eleven dollar per semester fee is assessed to each student's tuition bill and,

Whereas, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 15A Section 29 requires any "Waivable fee" described as any amount payable on a student tuition bill, but not a mandatory charge, appearing as a separately assessed item, accompanied by a statement as to the nature of said item and that said item is not a charge required to be paid by the student. Preceding each waivable fee shall be a statement in bold print stating that if the student does not want to contribute to the following nonpartisan organization, a mark must be placed in the respective box for said nonpartisan organization. If the student does want to contribute, said box should not be marked. The student tuition bill will also provide the student with the total amount due including the waivable fee and the total amount due excluding the waivable fee, and that said item appears on the bill at the

request of the student body and does not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the board of trustees. And,

Whereas, MGL C 15A s29 requires any "Optional fee" described as any amount payable on a student tuition bill, but not a mandatory charge or waivable fee, appearing as a separately assessed item, accompanied by a statement as to the nature of said item and that said item is not a charge required to be paid by the student but rather the student may add said charge to the total amount due, and that said item appears on the bill at the request of the student body and does not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the board of trustees and,

Whereas, according to the Bursars' website the fee is an optional fee and,

Whereas, SPIRE only states " To waive your MassPIRG and/or Child Care fees, please check the appropriate boxes below" which is not fully compliant with the requirements of a "Waivable Fee" and,

Whereas, at present neither of the statues are being met by the current structure,

Be it enacted, the following appear as an Action Referenda in the Spring 2021 General Election:

Do you support changing the Mass PIRG fee from an opt-out fee (Waivable) to an opt-In fee (Optional)?

---Yes

---No

A **YES** vote would mean that you would no longer be charged \$11/ semester unless you logged into SPIRE and chose to pay the Mass PIRG fee.

A **NO** vote would not change anything and you would still be required to log in to remove the Mass PIRG fee from your bill.

Sponsored by Chair Kendall

12. Business Not Anticipated 48 Hours Prior To: