I. Attendance
   All Senators Present except Senator Boyle was in the Hospital, Senator Duran sent a proxy because of a previous engagement with Posse, and Senator Ou who was absent without a proxy.

II. Acceptance of Minutes
   President Toy: Motion to accept the minutes of the week previous.
   Motion seconded.
   Minutes accepted.

III. Announcements
   Speaker Lantigua yields to President Toy. President Toy yields to the treasurer for an introduction of the Finance Committee.

   Treasurer begins by explaining the layout of the committee. The committee plans on an internal meeting and then in a week to begin allocating funds to clubs. Finally, they will send a biweekly report to the SGA. The treasurer then asks the senators if they have any questions for him and also that after the upcoming election he will be sending out an application for new Finance Committee members. He is looking for 4 senators for a board for people who are interested in interviewing people.

   Senator Wright: How can a club get funding?
   Treasurer: If they are an established club then go/sgafc. They can find all the requests and other resources there and additionally if they have more specific questions then they can bring it up to the Student Activities Board.

   No more follow up questions and the Treasurer yields his time back to the President for more announcements.

   President Toy: On page 10 of the Constitution of the SGA, the Commons Senators are responsible for reporting to their Commons Council on a weekly basis. Also, they must report relevant Commons’ activity to the SGA as well as their weekly activity with relation to their job as a student Senator.

   The President urges the Commons Senators to read over these bylaws as the Senate will be checking in during the next meeting. The President also considers an online form to be filled out by the Commons Senators to report their weekly Commons’ activity.

   President Toy: A reminder that there is Elections coming up on the 26th. Two first year positions are available, one sophomore position, and then one feb position. The SGA has invited people who are interested in running to watch our meeting today. Also, all these positions are contested.
President Toy then reminds the Senate that Committee Applications are due on Saturday at noon and then next week the Senate will ratify new committee members. She then reminds the Senate that the applications for the Finance Committee will be emailed in a week and a half.

Co-Chair Pesqueira: Applications for Community Council are due next week at go/cc where one would find the application.

Co-Chair Pesqueira then explains that the Community Council is a body with student, faculty and staff where they will be deliberating a couple of things and sending out emails with reminders on important issues.

Senator Aaron asks a question about publicity and the upcoming election.

President Toy reminds the Senate that they can not send out emails to their class without permission from the Election Board Head in this next week before the election because of unfair publicity of some candidates. However, endorsements on facebook class pages and anything in that range are fine.

No more announcements.

IV. New Business

President Toy reminds the Senate to email her any topic and she will add it to her agenda. All topics need to be emailed to President Toy by Thursday at Noon.

President Toy on Forming Ad-Hoc Dining Committee: The leader of this Committee and asking students to help the dining staff to see what is up and to work with them on making dining halls better.

Motion to vote on Forming Ad-Hoc Dining Committee by President Toy.
Seconded by Senator Cohen.
All in favor.

The Ad-Hoc Dining Committee is officially ratified by the SGA.

President Toy then reminds the Senators that they can only be in, at most, 3 committees. President Toy then brings up the topic of a Rhetorical Resilience Discussion which she had talked to Laurie Paton about. The questions are:

I. What are our deepest values?
II. What is the future?
III. Where are we going?

President Toy motions to limit the discussion to 20 minutes. The motion is seconded. Following a vote… All in favor for the 20 minute discussion.

Senator Cohen: What we think of as Middlebury as a whole?
President Toy: It’s envisioning Middlebury and the future of Middlebury.
Senator Pustejovsky: One of our biggest values should be, and is, inclusivity and maintain this as an open space for everyone.
Senator Aaron: One of our values should be to challenge ourselves to explore the unfamiliar.
Co-Chair Pesqueira cites an article by Laurie Paton which states five guiding principles. One of these principles, he states, is the exercise of free speech and understanding. Co-Chair Pesqueira reiterates the idea that we are never done changing. Co-Chair Pesqueira cites JusTalks as an example of the way our community is ever changing.

Senator McCarthy speaks about a group she is apart of, an alliance for an inclusive Middlebury. This group stresses the point that inclusivity for everyone and that they will be sending out an email soon with all the events of the group and inclusivity is one of their main goals.

Co-Chair Pesqueira: Last year there was a lack of resilience and the conversations were always in small groups, in a divisive nature. There was also a lack of rhetorical resilience and platforms like that.

Senator Wright: It’s our duty to promote multilateral conversation and possibly the conversations can continue with the commons. We should utilize the commons system to promote conversations within.

Co-Chair Pesqueira: JusTalks within commons?
Senator Wright: Possibly, wherever the conversation leads us.
Senator Mange: As a feb, it is easier to be isolated within the commons system but if this was done in the right way it could allow them to become more of a part of their commons system.

Senator McCarthy: So we should include Febs more in these conversations?
Senator Mange: Yes. Like JusTalks was a part of the first year seminar it would be interesting to see how these conversations would help integrate febs better within their commons system.

Senator Wright also brings up the topic of Feb statistic and the admission process.
Senator Pustejovsky then brings up the scope of moving these conversations from just commons talk to a general conversation within the whole campus as a larger scope. The Senator is not sure of how to go about this but states it is an important aspect to think about.

President Toy changes the question: What is the future?
Senator McCarthy: It would be nice to see this “biddie and jock” versus everyone else aspect to be gone. It would be nice to not have this anymore.

Senator McCormick brings up the idea about inclusivity and having this division in the campus is not fair. He also brought up the idea that every year there seems to be something that divides the campus.

Senator Aaron: It’s natural for people to divide themselves. Something that could help with that is the possibility of a program to have a non-academic time within your class to see who is involved in what parts of the campus within your own class.

Senator Aaron speaks about the possibility of having this and making it into a club.
Speaker Lantigua then brings up the conversation of even divide between the majors and the different narratives we assign to these things. She also states that we should stop grouping everything together.

President Toy: So, where are we going?

Senator Wright: How many different communities do we exist in? It seems like the athletic community could have the conversations within varsity sport teams as they present an excellent team dynamic to continue these conversations. Hopefully, we will see “the binary” between biddie and jocks and everyone else stop existing. Also having these conversations within the commons team as I aforementioned. We need to see where we can have these conversations and to encourage and suggest these things to the community and have it sound like an effective one.

Senator Aaron reiterates the point of Senator Wright and urges that the community keep having conversations like these. “We must be more conscious of our time here at Middlebury and see where we are going and pose questions to see where we are headed and to have open conversation.”

President Toy then urges the Senators to bring one of these questions to a part of their community. “All small steps help.”

President Toy motions to adjourn.

Motion seconded.

All in favor.

Senate meeting adjourned.