I. Attendance
All Senators present except Senator Aaron who sent a proxy and Senator Cohen who also sent a proxy.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes
Speaker Lantigua: Motion to accept the minutes from the previous week.
Motion seconded.
(13-0-4)
Abstained by new Senators Goldfield, Schoel, Hayes, and Waddell.’

III. Announcements
President Toy: I want to welcome the new Senators and have them say their name, where they are from and a fun fact.
Senator Waddell is the new sophomore Senator from California.
Senator Schoel is the new feb Senator from Sante Fe, New Mexico.
Senator Goldfield is a new first year Senator from Tampa, Florida.
Senator Hayes is a new first year Senator from Beverly, Massachusetts.

IV. New Business
Katy Smith Abbott starts off with her introduction as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College. She is also an Assistant Professor of the History of Art and Architecture here at the college.
Abbott: “I am grateful for the opportunity to be here representing the faculty and am also thankful for Karina for inviting me here today. I am eager to hear about the work you all will be doing and putting it into use. Last year, we (meaning the administration in Old Chapel) worked hard to help exchange information between the SGA, the Community Council and the Senior Leadership Group (SLG). The SLG convenes every month… Recently we collected data from Seniors (from the SLG) that talked about student social life on campus and from this survey students stated that they were very dissatisfied with their social life here on campus; that is not a great thing. We want to sustain the happiness of the students and talk about student engagement, as well. We are eager to hear from you all about this topic.”
Abbott explains how this conversation today will be apart of an ongoing conversation with other organizations like the Community Council which is meeting this Tuesday. She goes on to say that she is “hopeful to hear and learn from our conversation today.”

Abbott goes on to talk about the administration in “Old Chapel.”

Abbot: “Something we try to do is to demystify the way students see us. What I do in particular is to oversee the student experience outside of the classroom…”

Abbott talks about the various other faculty members she works with frequently and how this conversation will be ongoing with them as well.

President Toy: Could you possibly talk about the Clery Act?

Abbott explains the Clery Act as an “annual security report” that is really a “federal report” that every institution has to do. Middlebury must also do the report for the Monterey Institute, Language School, School of Environment and Bread Loaf. However, there was a change in 2015 which affected the way the school has to report sexual assault and alcohol refractions. On sexual assault, Abbot clarifies that all sexual misconduct that is perpetrated and reported is now bundled under rape. There is no way to split apart other forms of sexual assault and violence from the Clery Act now. So, Abbott clarifies that is why the statistics went up from 9 to 15. Abbott states that this is the number from the year of 2015 not semester, so it is the spring semester into the fall semester of 2015.

Abbott states that these are “complex statistics to wrangle with” for two reasons. The first being that sexual assaults are vastly underreported statistics and so the administration has to suspect that the number is high. Also, if the report is received and pertained to another act a previous year it must be reported. “This data is the acts that are reported…” These are not acts that perpetrators are found “guilty” which is reported by the campus in a separate judicial report.

There was a question on the data for the Senior Surveys if that is available publicly?

Abbot: “That data is not publicly available…” Due to the data sharing community they are apart, the COFHE Senior Survey, there are strict data reporting rules that they have to abide by.

There is also a comment on the way that things get reported and the mandatory reporting from faculty, faculty heads and common heads. Also the way in which Midd Safe has to deal with reporting and the legality of not using their names and/or specific details.
Abbott talks about the national conversation of sexual assault and how the institution is seeing annual changes on the way things need to be reported and how somethings are classified. “One thing that is hard to do is intersecting and sanctioning the data here on campus. We are trying to see how much progress we are making here at Middlebury.”

Senator Schoel: How has the change affected the way we report drinking?
Abbott explains how there was a miscommunication between the government and institutions on how they needed to report alcohol misconduct on campus. So, now the campus must report every time a citation was sanctioned and a disciplinary act took place. That is why the number was around 68 last year and is above 300 this year. Anytime a student had to talk to a college official they were recorded. This jump is being seen in similar institutions, too. The college will continue to look into the other numbers of other institutions as they come out over the next week.

President Toy: Let's shift the conversation to social life and aspects here at Middlebury… we will continue to have this conversation as the year goes on, too.

Question about a change in policy and the way that Public Safety monitors campus?
Abbott: “No… but yes.”

The school is now looking to introduce a clear matrix that will help clarify to students specific guidelines on alcohol and drugs as sort of protocols the school has. Abbott explains how this matrix will be seen in possibly published in the student handbook but will also be brought to the SLG and the SGA shortly and hopefully will be made public very soon.

There was a question about a hard liquor ban on campus.
Abbott explains how she has not heard any current conversation about it. However, in 2011 there was a group on Alcohol and Social Life that looked at this as a possibility and moved not to recommend it which can be found in their report of that year.

Senator Pustejovsky: So, will these changes in the language be noticeable on campus?
Abbott explains how this is not Public Safety generated rather it is looking at the expectations of these different acts and helping to clarify with students the disciplinary acts of the school.

Matthew Witkin: So what are these plans to go forward and address these issue with student life? What would work? Are there meaningful ways for students to get their input in. We hope to make Middlebury a more inclusive, fun, and safe place but I think the current policies we have
now don’t allow us to have all of those. Let’s look at the power and authority as students as to look at changing things on campus.

There was a comment about the possibility of another task force on Alcohol and social life like in 2011. Abbott comments on how that task force allowed for Barbara McCall to become the new Director of Health and Wellness Education here at Middlebury. She also talks about how somethings did not work out well like a party assistant program that would allow students to be onsite at parties to make sure they stayed safe so Public Safety would not always have to be there. Abbott also comments on how it would be good to look at the way student culture has changed since that 2011 taskforce.

Senator Pustejovsky: Looking at the party registration system it is built for the social houses and it is not there for other parties and small gatherings. We should talk about the regulations between the different parties we have here on campus.

There is a comment about how there is an unrealistic expectation from most first years who come to Middlebury. There is also a comment on how we should explore the idea of the drinking age here on campus and the way smaller party scenes change. Also an emphasis on the why aspect.

Matthew Witkin: As a former FYC and president of Chromatic, I believe we should look at the first year experience and the way first years struggle with the social scene. It mainly promotes secret drinking in your room, which is the most dangerous, and we should be promoting safe drinking and talking about solutions. For those first years, we should safely engage and talk about coming to a solution for this.

There is also a comment on the problematic relationship with small parties on campus getting shut down and how this creates a lot of problems too. We should look at creating a balance with small gatherings too.

Abbott explains how the data is interesting because it is hard to understand if someone is unhappy with just the social life or frustrated with the drinking on campus.

Senator Wright agrees with the conversation on the first year experience and the different cultures here at Middlebury. He defined the three parties as: smaller “pre-games”, interest house and then Atwater. Not much happens that isn’t some sort of annual sponsored event and that the First Years are truly dependent on those scenes to help find their place on campus.
Senator Ou brings up the conversation about introverted people on campus and how they usually hang out in their room on the weekends. Possibly having more introverted events and benefit those too.

Senator Boyle thinks there is enough events but the programming is not creative or inspiring and we should look at funding more events like this.

President Toy: Possibly through the Commons?

Senator Wright: There is really not enough funds for that.

Senator Schoel recounts the way her CRA was a good sober and safe resource to have at the end of the night. She also states that we should make FYCs more of a resource for first year students.

Senator Boyle explains how the experience changes from one’s first year to their second year as they become more involved in clubs.

President Toy: Okay so now we have to ratify the new members of the Community Council and Dining Hall committee.

The names of the new members are stated.

**President Toy motions to ratify the new members of these committees.**

**Motion seconded.**

**17-0-0**

**Motion passes and these new members are ratified.**

The head of the Finance Committee states that they will be holding their application process next week and is focusing on spreading the net as wide as we can to get all kinds of people. He wants the SGA to help with that by sending out an email out to their constituents telling the to apply.

The application will be emailed and those will be due on October 14. He will hopefully be sending out a blanket email that can be sent to one’s constituents.

Andrew: Wants to form an Ad- Hoc committee on Constitutional and Bylaw reform and propose a list of things to change to the SGA.

**Motion to form the committee by President Toy.**

**Motion seconded.**

**17-0-0**

**Motion passes and the Ad- Hoc committee is formed.**

The BSU is here to continue the conversation on the Black Lives Matter flag at Middlebury and other steps we can make as a community.
Nia Robinson: A week ago, the BSU had a board meeting on the things we can do as a community. We came up with some ideas like hosting a teach in and advertising this through wristbands with a possible table outside of Proc or Ross. Also, flyers and to do chalking. We also looked a having a flag up outside the athletic center so the whole town could see or off Mead Chapel.

Senator Pustejovsky: Could you explain more about the teach in?
Ms. Robinson explains how teach ins try to talk about issues and make sure we have some sort of common ground. Usually we don’t have the same definitions on things and it would be the teach in that informs people and the issues and how to get involved.

Senator McCormick: Could you explain a little more about the flag?
Ms. Robinson clarifies that the flag would be used as a way to have people get aware and stay aware.

Senator Wright proposes possibly having the teach in being something the commons could do and to have the First Years involved in that.

Senator Duran: So is the flag just an internal Middlebury thing?
Ms. Robinson explains how it would be inspired by UBM and in support of the national movement.

Senator Cohen (proxy): So, what does the SGA hope to do in response to possible backlash and strong opinions to thi?
President Toy: I don’t want to speak for all the Senators but as body we should come up with some sort of agreement so we can avoid backlash but not really overtake the voice of the movement, too. Also we should look at the actual logistics of putting up a flag too.

Ms. Robinson explains how the BSU talked about putting it underneath the American flag or another location like around the Athletic Building. The want the movement to make people aware and not get lost in some backlash commentary.

Senator Boyle: What are we going to do right now? Can anyone do it?
Senator Pustejovsky: What about the administration? Are there any limitations? Do we have to get permission first?
President Toy urges the Senators to work as a group to talk about getting something down and that this is totally new ground to figure out. There can always be a resolution that could be passed but she will try to do her background research on it and look into it.

Senator Wright proposes the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to look into the further development of this process.

**Senator Wright then motions for the formation of such a committee.**
**The motion is seconded.**
**17-0-0**
**The motion passes and the committee is formed.**
Co-Chair Pesqueira talks about the formation of this committee and working with the BSU to steer what this is going to look like and support it.
Co-Chair Pesqueira motions for 4 SGA members with a chair from the BSU.
Motion is seconded.
17-0-0
Motion passes.
The members of the Ad-Hoc comprise of Senator Wright, Senator Pustejovsky, Senator Cohen
and leading things will be Co-Chair Pesqueira.
The Ad-Hoc committee will meet and address these topics and then bring back suggestions and a
possible resolution document for the SGA to vote on.
Caleb Green from the BSU speaks about possibly collabing with justalks which is now required
in the first year experience.
The BSU thanks the SGA for including them in the conversation today and working with them.
Senator Goldfield mentions the debate from last year and ignites the question about how we can
get the whole student body involved.
President Toy mentions possibly sending out a poll, but reiterates to check wording with groups
like the BSU. She also mentions the backlash from an email sent out by the SGA in regards to
former Supreme Court Justice Scalia. She also brings up the philosophical question of the SGA
involving themselves in student activism.
Senator Boyle: Actions mean a lot more than words. I believe we should help activists with
connects rather than removing their power and putting it in our hands.
President Toy motions to adjourn.
Motion is seconded.
17-0-0
Motion passes.