SGA Minutes: 11/06/2016

I. Attendance
Senator Boyle is out with no proxy.
All other Senators present.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes
Senator Lantigua: “Motion to accept the minutes.”
Motion is seconded.
15-0-1
Senator Wright abstained.
The motion is passed and the minutes from last week are accepted, and recorded.

III. Announcements
President Toy: “This Friday from 2 to 5 in Axinn 219, JusTalks will be holding something for just the SGA. They were kind enough to offer this to us so I will hold you to that and come.”
No more announcements.

IV. Senate Checkins
Senator Cohen: “Nikki (Senator Lantigua) and I got an email from EatReal about wanting to reduce meat consumption in the Dining Halls by thirty-percent.” Senator Cohen goes on to ask if any Senator has heard from the student group.
Senator McCarthy talks about how she received an email from the group as well and they asked her to sponsor a bill.
Senator Cohen states that Senator McCarthy should follow up on the EatReal email.

Senator Pustejovsky stated that she met with Doug and is now working, and talking about the philosophy, and the college stances towards cars on campus. Also they had a conversation about what violations truly entail.

Senator Waddell talks about many of his constituents about the laundry expenses rising recently. He is directed to talk to Tim Corbin and to “both him a lot” so he can respond. President Toy responds to updating the system as it has not been done in a while and with inflation and everything it had to occur.

Senator Duran states that he has a letter of intent and should be ready to present a resolution soon on making ASL an integral program of the American Studies program.
Senator Goldfield states that he is working on the first year committee. Also he was asked by a constituent about where to get pregnancy tests on campus. Senator Goldfield is told that they are available in Parton and also local drug stores.

Senator Andrews talks about some concerns about who is buying the flag for BSU. Her statement was confirmed that BSU will be buying the flag. Also, if there are anymore concerns she can speak with Co-Chair Pesqueria about the Black Lives Matter flag.

Senator Wright spoke about the funding for Commons Council again and also about the necessity for condoms to be available even on floors that are “all-female.” Senator Wright is told by President Toy to email the CRAs to look into making ResLife staff providing that opportunity on all floors.

Senator McCarthy speaks about Midds Got Talent and tells the Senate to “mark your calendars.” The event is November 12th at 8 in Wilson Hall.

V. Special Guests
Miguel Fernandez the Chief Diversity Officer
Roberto Lint Sagarena the Director of the Anderson- Freeman Center and CCSRE

Lint Sagarena begins the conversation by talking about his role. He stated that he was hired with Susan Birch and they facilitate different events like the Sean King speech on Meet the Press. The Anderson- Freeman center too and how they are going to student focus but also serve faculty to have this perfect marriage between them. With the help of President Paton, they have helped maintain this important part of the community.

Miguel Fernandez’s role is to look at inclusion and equity across the institution. He sits on a couple different committees with the President. A lot of the policies go through him and he is there to raise a voice to those who might not have a voice. He talks about a couple different committees he has a played a role in. He also talks about the C3 program and how into their third year they are still seeing the ways in which the program plays into the institution. He also spoke about the Bold Program that Junior women should be receiving an email about soon. He also speaks about how their is a photo contest to look at the photos in the Kirk Alum Center and to update that a bit because it is quite out of date. He also talks about the importance of the continued actions to diversify the faculty and he “feels fortunate to work with the people in the administration who allow change to occur on this campus.”

President Toy asks the Senate if there is any questions for the guests.

Senator Cohen asks about the reaction and updates about the Black Lives Matter flag.
Fernandez answers by stating that they will be hanging a banner in the next week and he states the way that the SGA went in doing so to pass to resolution was the right thing to do and to open these conversations. Finally, he states that they are working with the BSU to find a place on McCullough that will parade the banner.

President Toy asks about the administration and their view on the Fox News broadcast, and Campus Craziness.

Fernandez answers by stating that the phone was “ringing off the hook” to the Dean of the College. They were people who had no relation to the college and old alum who were calling to state “what awful people weare.” Fernandez notes that with actions like this they were going to have consequences. The administration believes that this was the right thing to do so they will stand by it but also the administration thanks the continued conversation that the BSU and SGA had. Fernandez reiterates that holding conversations with BSU and then passing a resolution as so was really beneficial to the cause. He also states that he wishes the process could have gone faster but that is how bureaucracy works.

Senator Lantigua asks about how long will the banner be up and when will it be taken down.

Fernandez answers that it will be taken down at the end of semester as that was outlined in the resolution passed.

Co-Chair Pesqueira then begins to speak about the student initiative poles and the possible reaction it might have on the administration.

Fernandez spoke about how the resolution that was passed by the SGA brought a good discussion to the administration about how their might need to be a space for this kind of thing. The flag poles near the Athletic Center are “not the place for that.”

Both special guests asks if the Senators have anymore to say to email them and they will be available to talk.

The MiddSpeaks Flag Poles Resolution is put up and President Toy introduces it as old business.

Co-Chair Pesquira begins by stating that the resolution would fundamentally put into the SGA bylaws all the ideas of the physical space. The space will be put in between Wilson Terrace and the street so it is visible by the campus and Old Chapel. Co-Chair Pesqueira asks if their are any questions or changes.

Senator McCormick brings up the idea about utilizing the flagpoles outside of the Athletic Center.

Miguel Fernandez reiterates that it is not the place for that as they spoke about the comparison to UVM. The student government actually controls the flag pole and so this would be the idea of the students having a flag pole.

Senator Aaron states that her and Senator Schoel were speaking and they spoke about the Black Lives Matter flag and how that might just be an isolated thing. Also it is quite vague about what is not allowed and she feels as it might fuel, and create high tension. It also might
create high tension and alienate groups. She finishes by speaking about people hanging out their windows flags.

President Toy answers by stating that we should be wary about how we talk about free speech places because every space on campus should be a free speech area. Also, President Toy talks about the way we look at possible retaliation. President Toy also talks about how that the idea would have to come to the senate and be approved by a simple majority. She also states that she will not be anticipating many people utilizing this idea. Also, with community standards people will know what will and what will not be passed.

Senator Duran asks about when the program will be launched.
Senator Toy states that it will be launched when the flag pole is put up.
Senator Pustejovsky speaks about the responding the retaliation that students always have the option to hang flags outside their windows and having that option doesn’t really have the contention that the Student Initiative Poles does have.
Senator Wright agrees with those points and talks about his work with activists and the importance to allot spaces for activism and expression.

Senator Aaron thanks the rest of their Senators for their statements but still states her concerns about having the conversation starting by just hanging a flag on campus. She also talks about when students come to visit campus and what they will see and what kind of environment it might create.

Senator Schoel speaks about the difference of the Black Lives Matter banner and the student initiative poles. The banner sends more of the school stands behind this ideal and then to have the statement creates more of that atmosphere. Also she brings up the way that student representation might the flag pole send to the community she brings up examples like a Divest Middlebury flag.

Senator Goldfield voices his support for the resolution but also agrees that they should look at the possible retaliation. He also brings up the point about this body becoming too political as the Senate would be choosing what is appropriate and what is not. Also, just because their is a disagreement on their flag how that might start conversation in the Senate.

Senator Duran responds to Senator Schoel by stating that the Senate is here to hear about the flag and that is why the Senators are elected.
Senator Pustejovsky asks about the possibility of making a committee.
President Toy responds to this by stating that the idea of a smaller committee makes her feel uncomfortable. Rather the 17 people here can have more of a conversation and represent the whole student body.

Senator Schoel talks about how she would like to have more conversation on some of the wording and how we look at things.
Senator Wright again talks about his support for the sentiments of the resolution and might want to add a clause about the ordinances of the town of Middlebury.
Senator McCarthy talks about the idea if their are multiple flag proposals.
President Toy states that the proposals will be on a first come, first serve basis.
President Toy also states that it can be a group or individual as long as a Middlebury student is behind it.
Senator Pustejovsky talks about possibly the vagueness of J-Term.
President Toy states that it would be implied by the bylaws. President Toy also takes a straw poll for who would be in favor of voting on it tonight. The majority of Senators are for it.

There is the idea and possibility about limiting the time limit of the flags to only two weeks and then possibly adding the Community Council. While there is discussion about the possibility of the two. The Senators do not change the resolution.

There is a motion to table discussion until next week.

The motion is seconded.

16-0-0

All in favor of tabling discussion.

President Toy brings up the J-Term Workshop Fund resolution and states that it will be taking 2,500 dollars from the SGA Budget and allocating the funds to students in need to the fees of J-Term workshops. This fund would be reserved for students in the highest need bracket of financial aid. President Toy talks about the ways in which this proposal will work to maintain the anonymity of students who need the money. Also, she talks about the way the Estimated Family Contribution of a student is factored in. Also, President Toy talks about how the funds will not have any effect on the Budget or any of the other programs as it will becoming out of the newspaper subscription fund.

Many Senators like Senator Cohen and McCormick voice their support for the resolution.

Senator Ou asks about how the program will work.

President Toy states that it students would have to pay and successfully register for a workshop but would be reimbursable by December 11th.

Motion to vote.

The motion is seconded.

16-0-0

All in favor and the resolution passes.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion is seconded.

16-0-0

The meeting is adjourned.