I. Attendance
Senators Duran and Ou have sent a proxy in their place.
Senators Boyle, Pustejovsky and Lantigua are out with no proxy.
All other senators are present.

II. Acceptance of the minutes
President Toy: “Motion to accept the minutes.”
The motion is seconded.
12-0-0
The minutes from the previous meeting are accepted and recorded.

III. Announcements
President Toy yields to William Weightman, the Chief of Staff, discusses the Co-Chair of Community Council elections. He states that there was a meeting last Wednesday where 4 possible candidates showed up. So far, as of Sunday night, none of them had submitted any of the necessary documents which will be due at 11:59 the same day. The voting process will begin on Wednesday at noon. The personal statements for candidates will go out Monday.

Weightman remarks that if only one person submits their personal statement and other necessary documents then the election will be pushed back. This is due to bylaws in the constitution. If this does happen the election will be held when the new Feb election is held in February. Weightman asks the Senate if there are any questions.

Senator Schoel asks if there is a way for candidates to fill out the necessary documents, like the signatures required, if they are not physically on campus.
President Toy remarks by stating that people can now electronically do it.

President Toy asks the Senate if there are any check-ins
Senator Wright discusses a meeting with Doug Adams and Bashinski Taylor about the decision to dismantle the CRA program. Senator Wright remarks that the had a great chance to see the process that lead to that decision and both Adams and Taylor’s hope to better include the student body in discussions next time. He states that there is a common discussion about student’s being upset and hopefully students can be better apart of this decision and process next time.

Senator Aaron states that she and Eli Sussman went to Community Council to speak about halls dedicated to just Febs and how this would be an ongoing process.
Senator Waddell states that he received feedback from his email regarding EatReal and will look into sending those responses to the EatReal group.

President Toy calls to ratify new additions to the cabinet. Sedge Lucas and Dan Klemons as the Co-Directors of Academic Affairs. Then Megan Mahoney as a Co-Director of Student Health and Wellness.
Motion to ratify the new members is made by Senator Cohen.
The motion is seconded.
12-0-0
The new members are officially ratified.

The Student Life Survey Questions were sent to the Senators to review the questions. There were also a couple of edits made to the old survey and the first edit reviewed is regarding the new gender options. The Senators begin debating adding the option of “Transgender.” One Senator asks why there even is a gender option for the survey. President Toy remarks about the history of the Student Life Survey being done every two years to try and get a comprehensive look at student life on campus. So they try and get an equal ratio of gender, too. The Senators come to the conclusion to take out transgender and have a fill in option.

There were also new questions added about President Toy’s campaign to “Take Back McCullough.” These include a question about a possible student lounge, having McCullough open 24/7. Also there is additional question about campus accessibility.

Senator Wright adds that with campus accessibility there should be a call to collect data in regards to dining, educational, and physical accessibility on campus.
Senator Aaron adds about the question regarding the Co-Chair of Community Council because that position has not been filled.
Senator Cohen about adding a question about racial and class inclusivity. She then also brings up about having a possible question about sexuality inclusivity.
President Toy states that the survey will be made available this week and then will run for three weeks. It will include prizes that will hopefully get students to take it. She then motions to approve the questions.
The motion is seconded.
12-0-0
The questions are approved.
President Toy remarks that the process of taking the quarter machines in bathrooms and filling them with the free tampons has been approved by facilities. SGA will pay overall 1,500 for this project which, President Toy remarks, as being “pretty low” for making tampons free. She then states that this is a process and there should be more discussion about adding more and talking about gender neutral bathrooms as well.

President Toy motions to approve the initiative

The motion is seconded.

12-0-0

The motion is approved.

Katy Smith Abbott introduces the Midd View discussion with the historical partnership between the SGA and the administration for MiddView. She discusses the collaborative funding that occurred but ended in 2015. In 2016, the college assumed all responsibility for funding the MiddView Trips. However, Abbot remarks that the college is in a tight spot financially due to the admissions at the Institute in Monterey, the growing need for Financial Aid at Middlebury, and high medical claims on health insurance has put the institution in a “tight spot.” The plan is to take three to five years to get out of this “tight spot.” Every department is having their budgets cut and the college is not in a position to fully fund the MiddView Trips in whole. 2017 marks the 30th year of MiddView Trips. The program began in 1987 as MOO and it was a “modest” but funded by fees and only accommodated a couple dozen student. The program began to become more popular. This is Vermont was added as a program, too. The program began to gain in size and in the early 2000s there began a long tradition of leadership training at the Bread Loaf campus. In 2007, the programs were extremely popular but did not have the capacity to accommodate every new incoming student. The wait list was long and many were turned away in 2007. Following this, there was a lobbying for increased resources. MiddView maintained the fee based program and never served more than 100 people until a student initiative, with SGA support, gave rise to agreement that would make MiddView mandatory for all incoming students in 2013. In 2013 there was an agreement that the SGA would do 50 percent of the funding for 3 years. Throughout the programing, the assessment data was very strong. The surveys sent out showed a valid response rate, over ⅓, and it marked MiddView as one of the most valuable events during orientation. On a scale from 1-5, the average was a 4.58. MiddView also allowed student new students a great avenue for making new friends, one of the biggest concerns of incoming students. The MiddView trips also allowed people to be introduced to something that connected them to the larger community, too. The campus impacts of MiddView have been great too. These programs have increased first year retention rates, improved GPAs, graduation rates, reducing stereotypes, emotional autonomy, confidence, and purpose. It also has guided many leaders, too. It gives students a great avenue to become a better leader. The Senators also look at last year's budget which states that overall it was 209,000 for the whole program. Approximately,
160,000 came from the college and 50,000 came from the President's Fund. For next year's trips, there is a need of 50,000.

Senator Cohen asks what is the situation like if the SGA does not vote to give money to MiddView.
The orientation schedule is already set and it would just have to be looked at different and would make MiddView impossible. So, they would have to take steps to rethink the whole orientation.

Senator Schoel asks if this is an all or nothing situation. Everything is helpful and would be appreciated but to put on MiddView as is would require 50,000.

Senator Wright discusses how MiddView should look at the division between the typical MiddView leader and the community. There has been a push to diversify MiddView all around and especially in the realm of the leadership because of trips. The hope is to add elements that improve the trips as a whole. The trips have also served as a way of breaking the barriers between student athletes and non-student athletes.

There has also been a push to venture out and discuss what is like to be gender nonconforming within the MiddView trips themselves.

Senator Hayes asks about the determination for how many trips there are and what trips are going. The amount of equipment, locations and group sizes really factor in the trips and their variations. Then student feedback also determines the trips and what they are.

Peter a member of the cabinet discusses with the Senators the financial revenue and sustainability for the SGA. He also states how humbling it is for the administration to come to the SGA and ask for funding. He introduces the annual revenue of the SGA at 1.01 million. There is also a reserve account that is around 110,000. Options are that the SGA could not fund it, increase the SAF, decrease spending or deplete the reserves. The increasing of the SAF would be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees and while it would relax the burden on incoming students to not pay a fee for MiddView. It does put a burden on the financial aid budget.

The integrated solution would be to increase the SAF to $430 and then deplete the reserves to cover the rest while also decreasing the SGA spending by .3 percent. The reserves are used to fund things that the SGA can’t anticipate but there is a push to deplete the reserves to 90,000.
President Toy asks the Senators to think about “is it worth it.” It would also be possible for the Senators to look into other situations for funding the MiddView Trips and the other situations they were presented by Peter to help them make a decision. The decision should be made by the end of J-Term. If the vote is no then it is not the end of MiddView because the administration really loves the program. It would be the beginning of a slightly different program.

There is a motion to table.
The motion is seconded.
12-0-0

Motion to adjourn
The motion is seconded.
12-0-0
The meeting is adjourned.