SGA Minutes 2/21/17

I. Attendance
   At the time of attendance, Senators Lantigua, Pustejovsky, Wilson, Schoel and McCormick are absent and sent no proxy.
   All other senators are present.
   Senator Lantigua arrives at 7:36

II. Acceptance of the minutes
   President Toy motions to accept the minutes.
   The motion is seconded.
   12-0-0
   The minutes from the previous week are accepted and recorded.

III. Announcements
   President Toy updates the Senate on the Dining Hall. She states that she recently spoke to Dan Detora and says that they will not start swiping cards until, the earliest, March 13th. Again, she reiterates, that the swipe is optional and it is being used to collect data on how many students go to the different dining halls. President Toy recommends that you swipe so they can collect accurate data. Also, President Toy states that parents can add cash to ID cards and this can be used to buy stuff from Middlebury-sponsored locations. She states that more information will be sent out in an email later. Also, she urges the senators to email their constituents about joining the Dining Committee, as of now there are no males on the committee. This committee will be discussing different meal plans and solidifying an option by the end of spring semester. She states that the committee will draft something and will be in constant contact with the SGA and hosting an open forum as well.
   Senator Aaron asks about the ID card having money and where that money can be spent. President Toy states that she is “not 100 percent sure” but that there will be an email sent shortly. Also, she reminds senators about the open forum that will be happening on Wednesday. She also reminds senators about the special elections for Juniors and Feb Elections coming up. She asks the body if there are any questions.
   Senator Aaron asks if there is a set agenda for the open forum.
   President Toy states that she has a meeting on Monday with Katy Smith Abbott and will discuss it then. President Toy also states that the Student Life Survey is closing today (Sunday February 19th). She states that there was a 34 percent response rate.

   President Toy has invited the Maren Gauldin from the Monterey Institute to talk about the program in California.
   Maren Gauldin states her title as the Assistant Director of Global Recruiting at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. She begins her presentation by stating the the Institute wants to do a better job of connecting students with resources and the
possibilities of studying at the Institute. The Institute was founded in 1955 and acquired by Middlebury in 2005. Part of President Patton’s vision is to connect students and make sure they know of the resources at the Institute. She goes into an overview of the Institute, there are about 800 students from around 64 countries and there are 42 first languages that are spoken. She talks about the different master's degrees options but that they are centered around the general theme of cultures and languages. She states that there is no PHD program so master students do not have to compete with others for faculty time. She then talks about the wide range of career paths that past alumni have gone down. Many of these careers are in: governments, NGOs, education, tech, and business. She states that, “the purpose is to work and look for careers that make a difference in the world.” In her presentation she states that the Institute is a nice compliment to liberal arts education and the 1 to 9 faculty to student ratio reflects the campus here in Vermont. She states that the master degree programs are some of the top in the nation and have generated many interpreters who work for the UN. The Institute is highly global too and offers many different international opportunities. She also talks about the MBA program which focuses on social impact and has been highly regarded in the MBA field as a first and second place winner in international case competitions. She ends her discussion by stating that there are many opportunities for Middlebury students to study at the Institute. Students have the opportunity of studying abroad in the spring, winter or fall. Also she states that many Middlebury professors are looking to use the Institute more in the upcoming years. She also states that every Middlebury alum is guaranteed a 10k scholarship to use at the Institution and that students can find out more by contacting her or another representative at the Institute.

Senator Duran asks about the DPMI program.
Senator Gauldin states that the program is available in DC and Cairo as well.
Senator Cohen asks about current stats about Middlebury alum.
Senator Gauldin states that every year there are about 10 to 20 alums that use the Institute and hopefully this number will only increase. Gauldin thanks the Senate and states that she will be giving an information section on Monday in Hillcrest for people who want more information.

Doug Adams talks to the Senate about the upcoming room draw. He states that StarRez will be used for room draw this year and will come into effect next week when some students are accepted for off-campus living. Sophomore draw will remain mostly the same but it will now be electronic. Instead of getting a lottery number, students will get a time which will place them in the order to get their room. The advantages with the electronic room draw is that people will be able to see them in real time. The biggest criticism, Doug states, was the lottery numbers. So, there will be no lottery numbers but it will be based on where you want to live and how many people you want to live with and you will be able to “enter the draw you want to enter.” He states that room draw will hold seniority still. People can look up the exact times of the room draws that occur before and after spring break. (go/roomdrawcalendar) There will also be a series of workshops that will help people choose. He states that he is excited and it will be a much more connected and internal process.

Senator Waddell asks about what determines the order.
Doug states that it is still a random selection but there is no lottery number. It’ll hopefully be a more transparent system for the first people going all the way until the end. He states it will take longer but there will be more transparency.

Senator Cohen about the process of off campus housing.

Doug states that there will be multiple draws and that it will hopefully be easier and a much easier system.

President Toy discusses a meeting she had with President Patton and wanted to convey a couple of points. She reiterates the continued and positive partnership between the SLG and the SGA. She states that there was a miscommunication and President Patton’s background at Duke, where they would do redo their budgets every year, but now there is a more understanding about the different ways Middlebury does it. They will find another way to fund MiddView and want to continue to keep communication at a good level. If anyone has any questions they are always welcome to come talk to her. President Toy states that she will be setting up a lunch soon with President Patton and that would be a great place to pose questions.

Senator Wright states, “It’s kind of funny.” He states that he is glad President Toy had a conversation with President Patton and that he is glad to continue a positive relationship with the SLG and administration.

President Toy states that there is still the possibility of proposing a bill that could contribute around 10k to MiddView to make a statement that the SGA, and student body, care about MiddView.

Senator Wright states that he would rather director those funds towards FOO to show some equity.

Senator Aaron states that she would feel more comfortable using the money for club sports.

President Toy withdraws the bill and changes the conversation

President Toy discusses 10 o’clock Ross and states that she met with a couple people about it. It is suspended to March 6th but she says that there is discussion about having 10 o’clock Ross and states that it is seemingly a lot of trouble for not seemingly enough benefit. She discusses the history of 10 o’clock Ross as an outlet for the SGA. She asks for the Senator's own comments.

Senator Aaron asks about the extended hours in Ross.

President Toy says that Ross is open until 8:30 now.

Senator Aaron brings up the idea about the possibility of making 10 o’clock Ross something special maybe associated with MCAB.

President Toy remind the senate that we do not pay for 10 o’clock Ross but just the monitors that watch over 10 o’clock Ross.

Senator Goldfield discusses 10 o’clock Ross as a great way for First Years to get to know one another and that we would advocate strong for it.
President Toy urges the body to talk to their constituents and that there is no formal bill yet about 10 o’clock Ross.

Motion to table discussion.
The motion is seconded.
12-0-1

Co-chair Sanderson abstained.
The motion passes and the discussion is tabled.

The chair for the Finance Committee presents a bill that would change the language about the Finance Committee from “guidelines” to “policies.” He states that it will require the committee to be a little more stricter on what is required. Also, it would give the chair the possibility to stroke items from the bills that do not fit these guidelines. He then states that the bill too also has a more controversial side that limits club sports to 8 weekend of competition per season that would be funded by the SGA. He states that this number is a large amount for club sports and that it would not have that big effect on club sports and that if they wanted to go on more competition they could do so but would have to fundraise on their own.

Rebecca, a representative from the sailing team, chimes in on the conversation. The sailing team would possibility be affected by this but they seem fine with it “as long as its not reduced anymore.”

Senator Cohen asks about the point about the committee chair having the ability to “slash” a bill.

He states that this is “an optics thing.” The chair doesn’t have the ability to vote but understands the policies of the Finance Committee and would be able see what was a legitimate expense. If any club had a problem with the “slashing” then they can always debate its legitimacy. He states it's a way to maintain transparency and engage in better conversations.

President Toy motions to table the bill.
The motion is seconded
13-0-0

The motion passes and the bill is tabled.
President Toy states that the senate should vote soon but it is not time sensitive.

The next bill is introduced as a conversation that continually goes on but that it is not about defunding club sports but setting a bound on the budgets of the club sports. There would be an upper bound and a lower bound which is based on the averages of the last few years for the club sports. Also if a club had an extraordinary expense they could apply for more funding, which is written into the bill, they would just need to make a new money request.

Senator Wright discusses the way the bill is painted and to make it equitable in light to non-athletic groups.

There is a motion to table the bill.
Motion is seconded.
13-0-0
The bill is tabled.

Motion to adjourn.
Motion is seconded.
13-0-0
The meeting is adjourned.