SGA Minutes 3/7/17

I. Attendance
Senator Wright was not present at the time of attendance but arrived at 7:10. Senator Ou was not present at the time of attendance but arrived at 7:08. Senator Cohen was not present at this meeting and did not send a proxy in her place. All other Senators are present for today’s meeting.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes
Senator Pustejovsky motions to accept the minutes from last week. The motion is seconded. 15-0-0 The motion passes and the minutes from the previous meeting are recorded.

III. Announcements
President Toy makes a “serious” announcement about “email etiquette.” She states that there was an incident where a student wanted to be taken off their grade email list due to a subject header emailed by one of the body’s senators. The subject line “made light of suicide” in reference to a Sean Kingston song. She states that there is no current protocol for emails but she thinks it would be beneficial to continue this conversation onto next year.

Senator Aaron apologizes and states that her intent was “not to make light of suicide.” She has spoken to a constituent about their discomfort with the email’s subject header. She vows to “pay more attention next time” and she also reiterates that the body should have a discussion about emails in the fall.

Co-Chair Sanderson states that he too heard some complaints about the triggering subject header of the email.

Senator McCormick asks the senator about the subject header line.

Senator Aaron states that the line and agrees that it “was not appropriate.”

Senator Pustejovsky agrees that there should be a conversation in the Senate about emails and “how we represent ourselves.” She would consider “writing some formal agreement” on email etiquette in the Senate.

Senator Wilson states that she runs each email by her co-senator to have a sort of “vetting” process.

Senator Duran agrees with Senator Wilson’s comments.

EatReal now presents their bill. They again emphasize that they are “not trying to force a vegetarian diet” but presenting more options for those who do not eat meat and “more high quality” meat options. They that people “want higher quality meat” and they show statistics from their survey about this. They also show that “people recognize the benefits of reducing meat consumptions and the collective change” this can result in. They also state that the comment that “there was zero input from the athletic community” is false because they met with the student athlete advisory committee and maintained an “open door” throughout this process. They shared their form with Erin Quinn and they tried their best to spread the word about the bill.

Senator Pustejovsky questions the next steps for this bill.
EatReal replies and states that their goal is to “work directly” with Dining also to “reflect what people said what they wanted in the survey.”

Senator McCormick asks if the SGA Dining Committee was involved in the talks.

Senator McCarthy answers that “yes” the Dining Committee was involved and they had many conversations with Dan Detora about the proposed bill.

Senator Pustejovsky poses two questions to EatReal. She asks about if the survey discussed “demographics and general energy input.” She also questions “how the meat will be better” in terms of it being implemented in the Dining Halls.

EatReal states that they did include gender and general demographics. Then on the latter question, they respond by stating they will work with Dan Detora on “how we can source our meat” and the ongoing process for the next couple of years.

President Toy remarks her support for the bill but states that she would like for “plain meat will continued to be offered” specifically stated in the bill.

The body then has a conversation with EatReal about the option of “plain meat” at every meal.

President Toy remarks that she just wants to emphasize that there will still be “plain meat” options for those who want it especially athletes.

EatReal agrees with the sentiments of President Toy’s comments and agrees that the “distribution of meat is weird.”

Senator Wilson agrees with President Toy and cites “a lot of fears people are having.” The more specific to add to the bill so the process works smoothly. People do not want “clam strips” as their meat option substitute.

Senator Duran states that Ross usually has an isolated one meat option in the dining hall. The one “under the light.”

Senator Andrews asks EatReal how the staff responded during their conversation with them.

EatReal responds and states that they gave the quick presentation before they broke off into groups. They had the same concerns about a plain meat option and sugary sauces.

Senator Goldfield follows up from a question he asked last week about the emails sent out earlier this year by Dan Detora and Bill Berger which stated that this bill “would not be happening.” He questions how EatReal would confront these concerns and past emails.

EatReal states that the email was trying to convey that the meat reduction would not “happen right now.” They have been working with Dan Detora this whole time and know that Dan is aware that there might be pushback. However, they do have statistics that state that most students support the resolution so they can’t imagine too much pushback.

Senator Goldfield understands the miscommunication but reiterates that it should be mentioned to the student body before it is enacted to keep an open dialogue, and hopefully dilute any pushback.
Senator Fleischer states that we should not “shoot down a bill” because of the past emails sent by the administrators. He cites that EatReal has been open about their work and that this “was not done in the shadows.”

Senator Duran goes back to the ordering of the “one plain meat option.” He states that the wording should guarantee this without any worry of mixing in the meat option and possible allergens.

The senators discuss the wording of a new statement in the bill that the body would like for there to be one plain meat option for every meal. If the wording seems off the body will work with Dan Detora to discuss what they meant.

Senator Wright states his support for the bill and goes on to discuss “food accessibility” and his own disability which prevents him from eating some food in the Dining Hall. He states that he would want to “strongly consider” having a plain isolated meat option so there is more accessibility.

Senator Pustejovsky states her support for the bill and wants to make sure that the body stays involved in the next steps on what occurs in the Dining Halls after the passage of this bill.

Senator Aaron questions if there the bill can state “kosher options” too when it talks about the purchasing of hillel options.

EatReal agrees and states that they could add that to the bill.

President Toy motions to vote

The motion is seconded.
16-0-0

All in favor of voting.

15-1-0

Senator McCormick is opposed.

The bill passes.

President Toy yields to President-Elect Jin Sohn to introduce and ratify her cabinet for next year. She is presenting a slideshow with the names of the new cabinet members.

Chief of Staff: Ish Alam ‘18
Deputy Chief of Staff: Annie Cowan ‘18
Director of Membership (Fall ‘17 & J-Term ‘18): James Callison
Deputy Director (Fall ‘17 & J-Term ‘18) and Director of Membership (Spring ‘18): Diego Garcia ‘20

She states that Garcia will help with smaller elections to help the full role of Director of Membership.

Director of Student Organizations Oversight Committee: Trisha Singh ‘18
Treasurer/ Director of Finance Committee: Peter Dykeman- Bermingham ‘18.5
Co-Director of Publicity (Fall ‘17 & J-Term ‘18): Bridget Colliton ‘19
Co-Director of Publicity (Fall ‘17 & J-Term ‘18): Corey Sheeran ‘19
Sohn states that the body will ratify another Director in the spring.
Co-Director of Educational Affairs (Fall ‘17 & J-Term ‘18): Sedge Lucas ‘19
Co-Director of Educational Affairs (2017-2018): Dan Klemons ‘19
Co-Director of Educational Affairs (Spring ‘18): Gareth Cordery ‘20
Co-Director of Institutional Affairs: Leo McElroy ‘18
Co-Director of Institutional Affairs: Laura Castillo ‘19

The Institutional Affairs director will do more than just manage hiring and firing of employees and they will focus more on working with other offices on campus, and expanding their role.
Co-Director of Environmental Affairs: Haley Roe ‘19
Co-Director of Environmental Affairs: Angie McCarthy ‘19
Co-Director of External Affairs: David Dennis ‘18
Co-Director of External Affairs: Amosh Neupane ‘18
Co-Director of Institutional Diversity: Sandra Luo ‘18
Co-Director of Institutional Diversity: Abla Laallam ‘20
Co-Director of Athletic Affairs: Maddie Morgan ‘18
Co-Director of Athletic Affairs: Colin Boyle ‘18
Co-Director of Student Health & Wellness: Cicilia Robinson ‘18
Co-Director of Student Health & Wellness: Caroline Muggia ‘18
Co-Director of Sexual Relationship & Respect: Emma Schoblocher ‘20
Co-Director of Sexual Relationship & Respect: Vee Duong ‘19
Co-Director of Social Affairs: Adiza Mohammed ‘18
Co-Director of Social Affairs: Frank Gavilanez ‘20

President-Elect Sohn asks the body if there are any questions.

Senator Pustejovsky motions to ratify.
The motion is seconded.
16-0-0
**All cabinet members are ratified.**

President Toy makes her final speech and announcement to the body. She states that it truly has “been an honor to serve.” She says that being President was the best thing that happened to her at Middlebury. Even after an interesting year, she says that working with this body was great and she would “not want it any other way.” She states that there is a common narrative about SGA not doing much but she states that she believes this body proved them wrong. She reminds the body that there is more work to be done but that listening and being humble can create the great opportunity to make this a better place for everyone. She asks the body to rise above challenging times by not attacking one another but respecting and recognizing other people’s thoughts, and challenges. She also states that staying professional is important to her and she reminds the body to maintain a good and open communication with the Senate.
President Toy then quickly and individually states her remarks to all the other senators in the body. She cites the great leadership style, dedication and work ethic of all the senators in the body. After, she gives a remark to Doug, who is not present, at the meeting. She states that she will miss him and urges the body to stay open and communicative with Doug. Finally, she wishes President-Elect Sohn the best and finishes by stating that “they are all yours.”

Senator Aaron quickly thanks President Toy for everything she has done for the body and the countless amount of hours she has put into working with this body.

President Toy motions to adjourn.
The motion is seconded.
16-0-0
The motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.