

**Minutes of the  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Undergraduate Student Senate**

Speaker Sheedy 1894th Regular Meeting Student Union Cape Cod Lounge May 10th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. **1. Call to Order:** This meeting is called to order at 6:38 p.m.

**2. Announcements:**

**President Raza:** Yes. There sure are. Hi SGA. So great to see everyone at our last substantive SGA meeting. We figured we would start a tradition where the cabinet shares everything we accomplished this semester. We are going to go through some of these things. We also have a guest today. Lydia Washington.

**Lydia Washington:** Hi everyone, I miss you all dearly and will see you at graduation. **Vice**

**President Gandhi:** When we were making this presentation we were going to go position by position but we decided to make three categories, ESOs, equity, and legitimacy. **Secretary**

**Gauthier:** Hello everyone, I will be going over club sports later tonight in a much more in depth presentation. This was a project that was supposed to happen before COVID. This is a project we have been working on for a long time.

**Attorney General Rindani:** This past year I started working on the Greek life transition. There are sororities and frats on campus. SOME are RSOs and some aren't'. We are going through a transition and transitioning all Greek life to GLSOs. We are in convo to discuss the logistics and finances. And this summer we are starting that transition.

**Secretary Weisman:** As SOUP a big part of my job is RSOs and agencies. When I first came into this role I thought they needed more support. I hosted the first ever meet the agencies event. Students got to come in and get familiarized with other agencies. We assisted campus design and

copy with their reopening. We also helped out UMass EMS with their handbook and charter.

Thank you.

**Secretary King:** I worked a lot with my co sec Jack on these things. A lot of work this past semester was planning and hosting Earth day. We collaborated with the physical plant to reup the sustainability fund. We also held a lot of sustainability round tables.

**President Raza:** In terms of general RSO operations. The RSO app process was a big highlight of our administration. Zach ran the fastest ever RSO application process. It was faster and easier, with a lot more hands on support. The other big thing is RSO space. There is a concern that the Student union did not have enough space. We secured three large spaces in Bartlett Hall and in Goodell hall. We want to talk about accessibility, the equity fund, and other things **Secretary**

**Gabriel:** One of the biggest things I was tasked with as sec of health and wellbeing was addressing accessibility. Student activists really had the floor in a lot of these productive meetings which were put in a memo to the chancellor addressing various reforms. This will be revisited every year by the accessibility advisory committee. Finally, when talking about ableism and talking about how it's built into university. We also passed language taking involuntary withdrawal out of the university.

**Secretary Kelly:** We are talking about DEI programming. Sunday Sundaes. Cookies and Conversations. We are hosting a Cookies and Convos next week. Multicultural night as well. VP Gandhi and I had the idea from this based on all of the cultural nights that people attend from their own cultures. We created a task force with over 20 cultural RSOs and with the help of all of these members we put together a diverse menu of dishes. We sold over 450 tickets and they sold out in over 2 minutes. It was the first SGA event of its kind and was a great success. **President**

**Raza:** You probably heard about the SLSO litigation requirements. Every 10 years we have to renew SLSOs authority to go to court to defend students. We faced a lot of challenges this year because the university had a lot of concerns and hurdles we had to jump through. We

led the student advocacy to get this passed. The litigation authority was confirmed in dec of 2022.

**Secretary Gabriel:** Bringing it back to the survivors bill of rights. This year we got to see some of the recommendations that we made as edits to the doc. Having an addendum to the syllabus . So when Roe v Wade was overturned providing UMass with feedback regarding what we wanted to see in terms of reproductive justice

**Vice President Gandhi:** Back in fall 21 there were racist emails sent to black students on campus. One of the demands of the NAACP was to give more money to black orgs on campus. Shayan and I worked with Lydia to come up with the idea for the equity fund. Any RSO can apply for it but the money has to go towards something DEI related. Any club that you're a part of can request equity fund money for initiatives. We piloted the fund at 50 k this year **President**

**Raza:** We had 7 committee members part of the equity fund committee. We had 71 thousand dollars in requests. We have well exceeded the demand we expected from the equity fund. Clearly students took advantage of it. 14 events and programming events were put on because of the fund. Here are some testimonials. The code black party, an event by the ACA, and Asian night. We have the S1 going up tonight, with a lot more money in the fund. It's a lot more than equity, it's about diversity, inclusion, and advocacy. We decided to rename it the Dia fund, for diversity, inclusion, and advocacy.

**Lydia Washington:** I am so honored. Thank you all so much I want to cry. While i was advisor UMass has kind of missed the mark for DEI.

**Vice President Gandhi:** The last thing we wanted to talk about was legitimacy. We wanted to mend relationships with faculty, and students. Like I mentioned, we wanted to increase our relations with admin, and town council, and we also have the bike share

**Secretary Iftikhar:** As Secretary of PR we really implemented the SGA tik tok. I have been working with the SGA on the UMass app.

**Secretary Weisman:** Something I worked on is the faculty senate. Student consultation is a really big thing with the SGA. Me and Chris were able to have an academic calendar survey sent to first and second year students. We were able to share this at the faculty senate meeting.

**Attorney General Rindani:** A lot of people didn't know about the student conduct advising program. I increased outreach for that. I have a relationship with a dean and so we worked on detailing info on the conduct advising program on the conduct advising website. So far we have had 154 cases and we will probably have more.

**Secretary Weitz:** I got to work a lot with the town of Amherst. Coming into this year there were a bunch of housing concerns. There were a lot of very passionate initiatives to improve the housing initiative. A lot of the work done was to unite multiple efforts. We want these to continue long after we are out of cabinet. We wanted to improve students' relationship with university relations. We started the Know Your Rights campaign. The Impact Conference. We are doing a student housing survey with the mutual aid project.

**Chief of Staff Carroll:** This is the first senate meeting I have been actually present. I am in one of my final weeks as chief of staff. I am now also scuba certified. So the bike share. I haven't been chief of staff as much as I've been czar of bikes. We now have 24 bikes going out next fall going out at no cost. Students who otherwise couldn't afford bikes are able to get bikes with fully funded repairs with helmets and bike locks. I was really excited to bring this project to life and get these bikes into the hands of students.

**Secretary Gokey:** This year one of the biggest things we've done is get veterans a chance to get priority parking passes through the online portal. We have also established a 10 percent discount at the UMass store. We have also established a student veterans of America RSO which is very exciting. I hope to kind of continue this next year even though I'm graduating. We are working with UMass dining and athletics to see if there is some potential for engagement next year.

**President Raza:** Agreements and MOUs. Now we have a codified end date on the student union

renovation payment. Student Union revenue sharing. SGA x UPC spring concert. Daily collegian loan forgiveness.

**Secretary Gauthier:** We built a table, installed an office phone, got a functional printer. Modern tech upgrades.

**Secretary Cesar:** The printer now works. In my report you will find the website now works again. I was able to get that active with UMass IT.

**Vice President Gandhi:** I want to give a shoutout to our former chief of staff Ibe. The holiday party was one for the books. Pumpkin carving. Ibe put a lot of time and effort into the events. And also flag football.

**President Raza:** We are talking about Cabinet. We want to give a big shout out to Jackie Fallon and Clare Sheedy and Carol DeRose and all of the chairs. Give yourselves an entire round of applause. And all of our wonderful advisors. Thank you for letting us serve you, cabinet out. **3.**

**Roll Call:** With 29 voting members we do have quorum.

**4. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes are approved.

**5. Officer Reports:**

**a. University Student Trustee Lechowicz** [studenttrustee@umass.edu](mailto:studenttrustee@umass.edu):

**b. President Raza** [sgapresident@umass.edu](mailto:sgapresident@umass.edu): I'm really proud of Chair Harvey. Now

I'm going to quickly go through this. This is my last report out in this role.

Tasneem and Abdul. Thanks for being my first friends in SGA. Julia Fox, Andrew Jensen. Thank you legislative partners and cabinet. You guys were the best team I could have ever had. Advisors, thank you for advising the dream team. Thank you Meher, my lovely VP. Or as Julia likes to say the real president. Thanks for putting up with me for 2 years. And above all thanks for not impeaching me. Meher is one of the most humble people. Last thing. I kind of rushed through this for a reason.

When I first came here freshman year I didn't think I would be

graduating from UMass. I wanted to transfer immediately. After sophomore year transferring didn't really work out so thank you all for being a reason I stayed. Thank you all for everything, it's been a pleasure, go UMass.

**c. Vice President Gandhi** [sgavicepresident@umass.edu](mailto:sgavicepresident@umass.edu): I started off this journey with John Dacey. It was the fall activities expo and I got my nomination form with John . We filled it out by going around knocking in Gorman and Wheeler. When we were freshmen we were on Ways and Means and I never thought I would be here at the time. Each one of you is super committed and thank you all for all of your work.

**d. Speaker Sheedy** [sgaspeaker@umass.edu](mailto:sgaspeaker@umass.edu): Hi all, didn't write a report out i had pneumonia and whooping cough so really down bad. I will say a lot more at the banquet. My thanks tonight is specifically for the chairs. Please stand. I am so lucky to have worked with you. My next thank you goes to the senate. If anyone needs letters of rec I'm a great writer. No one truly knows what it's like to be in the role of associate speaker. Thank you Carol.

**e. Associate Speaker DeRose** [sgaspeaker@umass.edu](mailto:sgaspeaker@umass.edu): Hi all! I hope everyone isn't too overwhelmed with final projects/studying this week. I had the last 5 college consortium meeting on Friday where I met some new members of student gov from the surrounding colleges. Other than that I've been working on organizing the chair applications we've received and Jackie and I are figuring out how interviews will be proceeding. That is all!

**f. Chief Justice (if requested)** [sgajudiciary@umass.edu](mailto:sgajudiciary@umass.edu):

**g. Residence Hall Association President** [rha@sacl.umass.edu](mailto:rha@sacl.umass.edu):

**h. RSO Council Presidents:**

**i. Agency Reports:**

**j. Cabinet:**

**Chief of Staff Carroll** [sgachiefstaff@umass.edu](mailto:sgachiefstaff@umass.edu): Good evening! Very brief report out: Bike share: Meeting with Tess, Josh and Anthony to discuss Bike Share next steps. Following up with SLSO and the Coop about loose ends before the end of the semester Chief of Staff Transition: Continuing to transition Anthony!

**Secretary of the Registry** [sgaregistry@umass.edu](mailto:sgaregistry@umass.edu):

**Secretary Gokey** [sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu](mailto:sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu): It has been an excellent time. **Secretary Gabriel** [sgahealth@umass.edu](mailto:sgahealth@umass.edu): Been here for a minute. Shayan, Meher you guys are my favorite cabinet. Go seniors.

**Secretary Gauthier** [sgafinance@umass.edu](mailto:sgafinance@umass.edu): We are talking about club sports transition. Full operation will be piloted by campus rec next year. We are going to create transition documents that codify what club sports rights are. We are going to create a new club sports council to make sure it enumerates certain rights.

**Secretary Iftikhar** [sgapublicrelations@umass.edu](mailto:sgapublicrelations@umass.edu):

**Secretary Kelly** [sgadiversity@umass.edu](mailto:sgadiversity@umass.edu): Hey everyone. I discussed cookies and convo with Hewan this week. Thanks! Thanks this was the best cabinet.

**Secretary King** [sgasustainability@umass.edu](mailto:sgasustainability@umass.edu):

**Secretary Cesar** [sgatechnology@umass.edu](mailto:sgatechnology@umass.edu): Hello everyone! As promised, the SGA website is now back in working order! If you'd like any changes to be made, or have announcements to post, please email me. I'm also happy to schedule a meeting for anyone who would like to look at more significant changes. Thanks! I'm glad Shayan plucked me out of senate and made me secretary of tech.

**Attorney General Rindani** [sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu](mailto:sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu): Hi everyone. I've been working on my transition binder and other materials for the incoming Attorney General, as well as meeting

with Bernie.

**Secretary Weisman** [sgapolicy@umass.edu](mailto:sgapolicy@umass.edu): Hi everyone, I hope everyone's week is going well so far! Tonight, Josh and I will be bringing the remainder of our cabinet appointees to be confirmed. I'm excited for you all to get to know them in relation to their positions. The Faculty Senate denied the adoption of the calendars that we conducted our survey on. Over the weekend the calendar committee led by the Registrar created a new draft of the calendars that looks like this:

- Rather than starting five days before Labor Day, we will start on the Tuesday after Labor Day
- Winter break will be cut down to 26 days instead of 30.
- Commencement will stay where it was: the weekend prior to memorial day. - We are keeping the Election day holiday.

I have a meeting with calendar committee on monday, AMC on wednesday, and if all goes well then the Chancellor will call a special meeting of the Senate to put these up for a vote on May 18th.

I know this is long but this is all very important information and i would like as much feedback from you all as possible!!

Thank you!

**Secretary Weitz** [sgaexternal@umass.edu](mailto:sgaexternal@umass.edu): Meeting with the mutual aid project this week. I'm still nervous to give reports so I'm shaking right now.

**k. Faculty Senate Representative:**

**l. ESO Event Representative:**

**m. Vice Chancellor's Student Advisory Board Representative:**

**6. Senate Committee Reports:**



**Chair Brady** [sgaacademic@umass.edu](mailto:sgaacademic@umass.edu): Hi everyone. This week, I've been working on transition stuff, iClicker returns, and academic calendar fallout. Also wrapping up faculty senate meetings and am waiting for a response from IDEAS. Let me know if there's any interest in points of collaboration.

**Chair Bruce** [sgaugradexperience@umass.edu](mailto:sgaugradexperience@umass.edu): Hi everyone, I hope you all had a great weekend. Today we had our Parking Ticket Giveaway which went great! USC also had our last meeting today (so sad) and I attended the last PTAB meeting of the semester today. I hope you all have a great week and if you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out!

**Chair Collins** [sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu](mailto:sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu): Hi everyone, this past week AA voted to confirm the rest of the cabinet appointees which you will see tonight. Earlier today I also sat on the academic matters council to approve the calendars for the next few years before it goes back to faculty senate. Today is gonna be my last big report so I would like to say a few words. SGA has very much been my thing while I've been at UMass. It's given me some excellent experiences but also some amazing mentors like Lydia and Bernie and also some of my best friends. I feel like I can say that I've kind of seen a lot here alongside all of you, there have honestly been some days where I've been worn out by things here and gone home thinking "fuck it's still not over". But for me it seems that it's just about over and that makes me pretty sad because of how big a part of my life this silly little club has been to me, but I also know that it's being left in very good hands. Even in the more tumultuous moments, like an impeachment, doing a whole year over zoom where people would fight in the chat, a rough start to last year for reasons I won't get into right now, I have had such a great time and I thank you for letting me apart of it. Thank you to the chairs and cabinet members I've worked alongside since last year who made my work a whole lot easier, thank you to my committee this year for the work you guys have put in, and of course thank you clare, carol, and Jackie who isn't here for giving me the chance to finally chair the best

committee after 3 whole tries. Lastly, thank you to everyone here for letting me be a part of this chaotic group. Any questions?

**Chair Garcia Jalil Melendez** [sgauroc@umass.edu](mailto:sgauroc@umass.edu): Hello everyone! Vice President Gandhi and I went to AA on Friday, 05/05, for the 2023 S-2 Space Allocation. UROC met on Sunday to review an RSO's constitutional amendments and our last UROC meeting will be this upcoming Sunday, 05/14. As of Monday, 05/08, we have received over 40 New RSO Interest Form submissions, and 15 Preliminary Applications (Constitution and Strategic Plan). I am meeting with 6 applicants so far this week to discuss their preliminary applications. I will be reviewing more preliminary applications as well before scheduling the next batch of meetings. **Chair**

**Harvey** [sgawaysmeans@umass.edu](mailto:sgawaysmeans@umass.edu): Good evening SGA, and happy Budget Hearing night! Tonight myself, the Ways and Means Committee, and six other Senators are putting up 2023-S1, the budget act which would adopt the recommendations submitted by the Ways and Means Committee. This has been an extremely intensive process that has required hundreds of hours of work from myself and several Senators. Should the Senate vote to adopt these recommendations, it would be the highest amount the SGA has ever funded ESOs. I'm looking forward to discussing this motion with you all at our meeting. Should any of you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any point before the meeting! Thanks everyone! Ways and Means will be meeting this week, likely on Thursday.

**Chair McNeil** [sgaoutreach@umass.edu](mailto:sgaoutreach@umass.edu): Hi, everyone! First, congratulations to all of the new members of the executive branch for this upcoming year! As far as ODC goes, we had our last meeting of the year yesterday and we made an end of the year SGA survey. PLEASE fill out this survey as it really helps in giving SGA feedback so we can improve for next year. **Chair**

**Heavlow** [sgafinancecommit@umass.edu](mailto:sgafinancecommit@umass.edu): Hey guys, not too much happened last week since the semester Emergency funding process is done due to purchase requests being done. I met with SACL Finance where we discussed closing subcommittee reports amongst other things. I am

also the vice chair of the ways and Means committee where the chair can explain what happens there. If there are any questions about the Finance Chair position please let me know. **Chair Weldai** [sgasojec@umass.edu](mailto:sgasojec@umass.edu): Hi everyone! I hope you all are doing well and starting to unwind as this semester comes to an end!! Sojec got the chance to have a really chill meeting on Monday. We are also trying to wrap up all of our projects that we have been working on throughout the semester. Since this is one of the last times I'll be able to give a report-out I just wanted to say that I have loved working with all of you! The SGA has been such a huge part of my undergraduate career and I would not be the person that I am today without this experience! I am so excited to hear about all the wonderful things this body does in the future! Special shout-out to Ellie, Keith, Annishka, Hallie, Ambika, and Ruchi for being an amazing committee! There have been so many insane moments in the SGA but overall I am so glad that I stuck with it and got to know you all! If you guys have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to email me at [sgasojec@umass.edu](mailto:sgasojec@umass.edu). Peace out.

Ellie, Thank you for riding with me for two years. It has been awesome to see you grow into this person. Thanks Clare and Carol. I know you guys will miss me when I'm gone. **7. SGA**

**Advisor(s):**

**8. The Committee of the Whole:**

**9. Special Orders:**

**2023-S1**

**Whereas**, Article V, Section 4.J of the UMass Student Government Association Constitution grants the Senate the power to “Recommend the Student Activities Trust Fund Operating Budget by enactment of the Annual SGA S-1 Budget Act”, **and;**

**Whereas,** Under the provisions of Title II, Chapter 28, Section 2.3 of the Bylaws of the SGA, the power of formulating the Annual SGA S-1 Budget Act is delegated to the Senate Standing Committee on Ways and Means, **and;**

**Whereas,** Under the provisions of Title VI, Chapter 9, Section 8 of the Bylaws of the SGA, the Senate Ways and Means Committee is required to submit the S-1 to the Senate no later than the Senate's third to last meeting of the spring semester, **and;**

**Whereas,** Under the provisions of Title VI, Chapter 9, Section 10 of the Bylaws of the SGA, the S-1 is to be placed as the first motion on the Senate's agenda for its second to last meeting of the regular period, **and;**

**Whereas,** The recommendations submitted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee for FY24 include an additional over \$361,000 to better financially support RSOs, Agencies, and the Student Government, as compared to FY23, **and;**

**Whereas,** The recommendations submitted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee for FY24 include an increase to six of the nine RSO Councils as compared to their FY23 allocations, those being the Academic, Advocacy, Arts and Media, Club Sports, Cultural, and Recreation RSO councils, **and;**

**Whereas,** Should the recommendations submitted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee for FY24 be adopted by the SGA Senate, FY24 would represent the most the SGA has ever allocated to ESOs to benefit the campus community, **and;**

**Whereas,** The FY24 allocation process conducted by the Ways and Means Committee was fully in compliance with the guidance established by *Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth*, 529 U.S. 217 (2000), **therefore;**

**Be it hereby resolved,** the SGA Senate endorses the process and methods used by the Ways and Means Committee during its FY24 allocation process, and recognizes that it was viewpoint-neutral in nature, **and;**

**Be it hereby enacted, effective immediately,** under the power granted to it by Article V, Section 4.J of the UMass Student Government Association Constitution, that the SGA Senate approves the recommendations of the Senate Ways and Means Committee of the Student Activities Trust Fund Operating Budget for FY24

[The Annual SGA S-1 Budget Act - FY24](#)

*Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee, Chair Harvey, Chair Heavlow, Senator Dacey,  
Senator Joshi, Senator Sinha, Senator Clewis, Senator Curto*

APPROVED BY THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

5/2/23 9:46PM

**Chair Harvey:** Good evening SGA I'm just going over the process. We have a few groups coming up. I just want to remind everyone how we did the process. Agencies and RSOs had different deadlines. We enforced eligibility criteria. That's most of what I have. **Chair Heavlow:** everything we've done is viewpoint neutral, a very tedious process. Everything was handled

with care.

**Speaker Sheedy:** Rugby, you can go first.

**Mens Club Rugby:** I'm going to try to be short and sweet. So today I'm talking about my budget submission. We had our budget fully denied. I'm going to stand up here and attempt to reason with you all why this happened. And I'm excited about the club sports transition process. So, what happened for us, through campus pulse we apply for all of our budget. Club sports deals with our coaches pay through no communication to us. This led to our negative balance. This woman deals with our payment of coaches. Here you can see our head coach and assistant coaches pay schedule. We had 4k extra added to our accounts. It happened without communication. I sent a very stressful email to Ian, and I went to work. Extra money was paid to our coach and it was the reason we were pumped under our budget. Our coaches were paid 14k instead of 10k. We have 60 members on the rugby team. We pay dues to NCR (national collegiate rugby) and keep careful track of our dues. I believe our budget should have a chance of being restored. I know this isn't something you're used to. This is sort of my life, I'm the president of the team. We run fall and spring teams and play plenty of games. The most important thing I want to do is provide inclusivity. In order to move next year, without any money, we are going to have to charge dues to our players. It concerns me thinking about this next year. I believe that we deserve a budget to make rugby inclusive, and that's really why I'm so motivated to stand here today. If you ever want to speak about anything like this, or about the club sports process, come talk to me. That's my piece, thank you for your time. **Women's Club Ice Hockey:** Our budget was also denied due to a negative balance in the fee account. Several travel transactions depleted the funds right before the due date. This is a letter from our advisor, saying it was not our fault. Currently we have transferred funds from our revenue to our fee account. So, we don't actually have a negative balance but at the time that the budget was due we did have a negative balance. We have a lot of expenses as an ice hockey team. Ice time,

sharpening, and travel are the biggest expenses. Us and URI are the only two D1 women's club ice hockey teams in New england. Usually the away games are more than 6 hours away and we have to fly to our national tournament. We have currently started an action plan without a budget. We have tried to start sponsorships with dicks sporting goods. We are going to fundraise a lot but we need to make 120 thousand to keep our club afloat. Also, we would have to raise our dues to five thousand dollars which we don't really have.

**Chair Harvey:** The first option by the senate is to vote to recommend the recommendations or vote not to approve recommendations. If the S-1 is opened you have to vote to approve every line item.

**Chair Collins:** For the appeals process we acted as a second set of eyes for ways and means. If they said there was an incorrect cost breakdown for example, we reviewed it. This is different from how we usually operate as AA. We made sure the appeals guidelines were followed.

**Chair Heavlow:** For the three groups did you grant them appeals trials.

**Chair Collins:** No.

**Senator Lewis:** If we were to grant the appeals how would we go about that as a senate. **Chair**

**Collins:** We would vote on whether you believe it warrants them getting this money back. **Chair**

**Harvey:** If the vote were to fail, we would have to open the S-1

**Senator Raftery:** So by approving the S-1 are we essentially denying them the appeal?

**Chair Collins:** Yes.

**Chair Harvey:** Motions to amend are not in order unless the S-1 fails.

**Senator Dacey:** The bylaw prescribed appeals process has already been carried out by

AA. **Chair Harvey:** This is meant to give more power to the senate.

**Senator Farmer:** So if we were to approve this special order...?

**Chair Harvey:** If the S-1 were to fail, we have to go through line item by line item. **Senator**

**Hingar:** So if you approve the S-1 in its current form, ways and means would just do this

again next year.

**President Raza:** So you keep saying if you open the S-1 you have to go line item by line item, how many line items are there?

**Chair Harvey:** There are several thousand line items in the S-1. If the S-1 fails you will be looking at at least 200 votes.

**Senator Raftery:** So this is an appeal to your decision of your first appeal. **Senator Dacey:**

Questions to Ian. So number 5, the RSO must not have a neg balance in your fee account. How many times does this phrase appear in the funding guidelines? **Chair Harvey:** A good amount.

**Senator Sarna:** So accepting the S-1 in its current form?

**Chair McNeil:** Hypothetically could these groups apply for emergency funding in the fall.

**Chair Harvey:** You cannot apply for emergency funding for their entire budget, that is not considered under our budget to be unforeseeable. For example, a tournament. **Senator**

**Farmer:** Point of clarification. So if we do approve this, this group would not get the funding they requested today.

**Speaker Sheedy:** So if this fails, we go through line item by line item and vote like 200 times.

**Senator Dacey:** Are there resources for RSOs to go to to understand their funds status at any time?

**Chair Harvey:** Yes

**Chair Heavlow:** Really quick, in terms of emergency funding, it is highly unlikely that groups trying to allocate their entire budget will get funded. Since that's the precedent that we've set it's highly unlikely it will be reversed.

**Senator Hingar:** So every month the coach was getting paid 10k right?

**Chair Harvey:** One of their coaches was receiving biweekly payments?

**Senator Hingar:** So the coach definitely knew that more money was being taken out?

**Chair Harvey:** I can't speak on behalf of the organization.



**Mens Club Rugby:** So the coaches' payments go through club sports. Those charges hit the account, and he did know. He's a good guy and he worked with us the entire time. It took us and me and my coach combing through spreadsheets to realize where the mistake lied. **Chair**

**Harvey:** The reason this group's request was denied was because they had a negative balance at the time of a budget request deadline.

**Secretary Weitz:** So how are groups expected to get out of negative balances? Is it just through fundraising?

**Chair Harvey:** Yes that is one way to do it. RSOs are required to keep track of their finances. There should not be a point where groups are in a negative balance.

**Secretary Gabriel:** I'm piggybacking off of Ben's point. Is there anything RSOs can do for more funding?

**Chair Harvey:** General fundraising, the equity fund, and then any other methods of fundraising. The minute fund and also UMass gives, and the funds go to the revenue account. **Senator**

**Dacey:** To your knowledge were there other RSOs in the FY24 that were denied budgets on the same grounds.

**Senator Farmer:** Are club sports RSOs?

**Chair Collins:** So yes club sports are still technically considered RSOs. It's not like a different designation. They are under the hard RSO umbrella.

**Senator Raftery:** So I understand that AA refused these budgets, when would they grant them appeal hearings?

**Chair Collins:** There are three grounds to base an appeal off of.

**Senator Dacey:** Two points of clarification. AA has to look at the original budget submission. All groups are held to that standard. When it came to eligibility criteria

**Secretary Cesar:** Did ways and means capture accounts balances at the deadline at 5 pm or

during evaluation?

**Chair Harvey:** Casey Gaw actually gave me the fee accounts a few days after the deadline.

**President Raza:** So if there is a group who got a budget denied for FY 24, even if they have an event based on DEI, can the SGA still provide funds through the equity fund/or emergency funding?

**Chair Harvey:** Yes

**Secretary Kelly:** Even if you voted against this and revoted for every single line item, they might still get denied.

**Senator Hingar:** So like they would have to come back and do a presentation if they wanted equity funds/emergency funding ?

**Chair Harvey:** Yes.

**Secretary Kelly:** If we approve them, we would then have to approve everyone with a negative budget, due to viewpoint neutrality.

**Senator Joshi:** We didn't look at the reasons someone had a negative balance in the ways and means process, as that is not neutral.

**President Raza:** It is a recurring issue that advisors have made mistakes. Should you all approve the S1, you can be certain that Meher and I will hold these advisors accountable. **Chair Harvey:** I did provide a lot of resources in the fall to tell RSOs about budget guidelines. **Senator Dacey:** When third party mistakes are made, we do not give the benefit of the doubt to third party RSOs.

*5 minute recess is called*

**Chair Harvey:** Before we call the motion I just want to say a yes vote would mean you are agreeing with the ways and means process and a no vote would mean you are not approving the ways and means process.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-S1

*Motion is called*

*With 26 yay votes, 0 nay votes, and 3 abstentions, the S-1 passes*

**Chair Collins:** Motion to rearrange the agenda so that 2023-SO55 goes next

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-SO55**

Motion to appoint Lily Bruce to the position of Secretary of External Affairs. *Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Chair Collins:** AA reviewed all of these cabinet appointments.

**Secretary Gauthier:** I'm super excited to put Lily up for Secretary of External Affairs. **Chair**

**Bruce:** I really enjoyed being in the legislative branch of SGA and I decided to apply to this position because I want to be able to work with people off campus.

**Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan to center antiracism in this role?

**Chair Bruce:** I really want to outreach to students and deal with any issues students want resolved. I want to hold town halls and I also want to go to cultural RSOs. I know food insecurity disproportionately affects marginalized students on campus.

**Chair Harvey:** Our bylaws require you to uphold the bylaws. How will you ensure you execute these bylaws?

**Chair Bruce:** I will make sure any bylaw questions I have I go to Ian. I will definitely read them over.

**Secretary Weitz:** What are you most excited to work on?

**Chair Bruce:** I'm looking forward to working on the housing crisis with the town of Amherst. Rising costs of everything.

**Chair Collins:** What advisory boards have you served on that will help you in this role? **Chair Bruce:** I know like everything about parking so I've learned a lot in different areas around that.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO55

*Motion is called*

*Motion is passed*

## **2023-SO57**

Motion to appoint Christine Wanjiru to the position of Secretary of University Policy.

*Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Secretary Weisman:** We felt that Christine would be a great fit for the SOUP role. She has a lot of experience with ResLife. In her interview for soup she explained her answers very well.

**Christine Wanjiru:** Hi I'm Christine. I'm a member of the black student union and the prelaw club. I'm also a peer mentor.

**Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan to center anti racism in your role?

**Christine Wanjiru:** I first want to center the housing crisis in my role. I feel like it disproportionately impacts students of color. Ways to make classrooms more diverse, maybe doing some more trainings and events.

**Senator Sinha:** You mentioned policy changes to advance diversity on campus, can you speak to that?

**Christine Wanjiru:** I want to educate myself more on diversity policy on campus.

**Chair Harvey:** How do you plan to make sure bylaws are followed in your role

**Christine Wanjiru:** I plan to research the bylaws.

Motion to call 2023-S057

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-S20**

Motion to allocate \$5,000 to Cape Verdean Student- Alliance for the purpose of funding Trip to Cape Verde.

*Sponsored by The Equity Fund*

**Secretary Kelly:** When a group requests \$3000 or above we request they do a presentation at Senate.

**Cape Verdean Student Alliance:** Hi, we are requesting for our spring break trip to Cape Verde. We are the oldest cultural student org on campus. Our group mission is to spread awareness about the cape verdean community. We are talking about our service learning trip today. We will be interacting with community members on this trip. We also take three faculty members on this trip. We take Sid Ferreira to the Cape Verde trip. We usually take Lydia Washington as well. This trip allows faculty and students to learn a lot about Cape Verde. This trip opens up knowledge about Cape Verde. This is our 13th alternative spring break trip. We will be going from May 30th to June 7th. I have our actual invoice from this year's flights. They will be fifteen thousand dollars. We are taking 12 people. This year we will be taking cash with us. I have highlighted the cost of transportation. We usually get around four buses, housing, and meals. We don't have the exact cost yet, because we are paying when we get there, but we are estimating this based on last year's costs. Here I have our fee allocations from FY22 to FY23. We took a major budget cut this

year. From the first round we got approved for 10k for the trip as a whole and 4k for hotel fees. So as you can see we didn't get the exact 14k. As for our fundraising plans, we set aside 10k for the trip. We also got 15k dollars from the ASIP grant. Each student had to put down a \$250 deposit. We have about \$750 in the minute fund right now. Right now each student has to cover \$500 in their own fundraising fees. We are leaving Boston Logan airport and arriving May 31st. On June 1st we are meeting with the Cape Verdean tech sector. We are meeting with the Cape Verde embassy staff. We will be doing community service and connect with other schools and connect with NGOs. June 5th we will spend helping out schools doing community service. In the afternoon we will be touring the city of the capital city. This video shows the trip from last year. This trip is very beneficial. We are providing our general body members with this opportunity to learn about their culture, and overall it is very beneficial to the UMass student body and therefore believe it is a good use of student funds

**President Raza:** This is not an event as we have usually funded, as it is a trip and not an event. If I were to point you to their application, when asked what the broad student impact is, you can see it is very beneficial to the student body.

**Chair Harvey:** The deadline for purchase requests have passed, so will the purchase requests go through?

**President Raza:** Yes since this trip is already in motion, SACL finance will make an exception.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-S20

*Motion is called*

*Motion is passed*

## **2023-SO51**

Motion to appoint Amira Elmansoury to the position of Secretary of Health and Wellbeing.

*Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative*

*Affairs Committee*

**Secretary Gauthier:** Her interview was great i'll let her introduce herself. **Amira**

**Elmansoury:** Hi everyone my name is Amira, i'm on the EBoard of Arab club, i'm an RA in northeast, and i work at a nonprofit downtown.

**Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan to center antiracism in your role?

**Amira Elmansoury:** Intersectionality is very important. I want to create niche therapy groups for different POC. A lot of diff cultures don't take mental health seriously, which is why I want to work closely with SOJEC and the sec of diversity.

**Secretary Kelly:** A project you're excited about?

**Amira Elmansoury:** The niche therapy groups would be very helpful. A lot of minorities are often underrepresented as well, I'm arab american and have found that to be true. **Chair**

**Harvey:** How would you ensure you enforce the bylaws?

**Amira Elmansoury:** I have read through them a few times and plan to do that more

Senator Curto: Motion to call 2023-SO51

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

**2023-SO52**

Motion to appoint John "Ian" Harvey to the position of Attorney General. *Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Secretary Weisman:** Ian's responses were very thorough and in depth. They had a lot of great responses. They really wowed us.

**Chair Harvey:** Hello again. I use he/they pronouns. I currently serve as the Chair of the Ways and Means committee. I feel like the position of AG aligns with my major. I firmly believe that I have read our bylaws from cover to cover.

**Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan on centering anti racism in your role? **Chair Harvey:** I think it's shameful that our actual government doesn't implement a lot of DEI /anti racist policies. In the position of AG I want to help resolve disputes and maintain anti racism in general.

**Secretary Kelly:** What is something you are excited to work on?

**Chair Harvey:** I have a lot of Title VI amendments so that process will more closely match what we actually do.

**Senator Dacey:** How do you think your experience as chair will help with your new role?

**Chair Harvey:** On ways and means i think i got a good grasp of how SGA works and I will use this in new role

**Senator Dacey:** How will you execute and uphold the bylaws?

**Chair Harvey:** I want to help our other senators and ensure everyone understand the bylaws.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO52

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-SO53**

Motion to appoint Anisha Sharda to the position of Secretary of Technology. *Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*



**Secretary Gauthier:** For this position we had 9 total applicants. She has rebuilt an entire website. I think we can add more updates.

**Anisha Sharda:** I am a part of HackHer and smart women securities. I am one of the organizing members of HackHer. SGA is something I've been interested in for a while. **Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan to center anti racism in your role?

**Anisha Sharda:** As a POC and a woman I understand the importance of representation. On the website I think we could do a good job at promoting multicultural clubs. That would be very cool.

**Secretary Kelly:** Is there one project you're really excited about?

**Anisha Sharda:** I'm really excited to work on the website. I think there are a couple of changes I want to make so that it's more user friendly.

**Senator O'Donnell:** You mentioned this is your first time interacting with the SGA what kind of drew you in?

**Anisha Sharda:** I have heard of it, so I was looking it up and I was using your website, and it was interesting to learn about how much of an impact you guys have on RSOs. **Chair**

**Harvey:** How do you plan on upholding the SGA bylaws?

**Anisha Sharda:** I think being involved more about councils and committees and I think this will come with that.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO53

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

**2023-SO54**

Motion to appoint Hadiya Ahmad to the position of Secretary of Public Relations and Marketing.

*Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Secretary Weisman:** Her mockups were super impressive. Hadiya embodied what we were looking for. Her responses in the application were super impressive. We got 11 applications

**Hadiya Ahmad:** I'm an econ and psych double major. I'm part of PSO. The actual number one RSO by the way! I'm going to be PR for PSO next year too. Social media is super fun to me. Excited to take this to a professional level.

**Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan to center anti racism?

**Hadiya Ahmad:** I work with transfer students, and I think it's important to make new students aware that SGA is open and fun to everyone, and we can create a welcoming front on our social media platforms. I think this is important to our diversity agenda.

**Chair Harvey:** How will you ensure you carry out your oath of office in terms of bylaws?

**Hadiya Ahmad:** I'm ready to work with everyone and meet with administration. I think it's super fun to host events. I think being more out there will make everyone more open. **Vice**

**President Gandhi:** How will your experience on PSO EBoard help you with this role?

**Hadiya Ahmad:** I heard a lot about budgeting and finance through PSO, and I think this experience will really help me here. I'm going to be PR next year for PSO, so I think those two will work really well together. My position on PSO and here.

**Secretary Iftikhar:** What is one SGA platform you think SGA can have more of presence on?

**Hadiya Ahmad:** Definitely tik tok. You guys have been doing a great job but I think it will be important when it comes to reaching out to new students.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO54

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-SO56**

Motion to appoint Jack Minella to the position of Secretary of Sustainability. *Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Jack Minella:** Hey everyone. I was Rachel's undersecretary. I am president of the Sunrise Movement.

**Secretary Gabriel:** How do you plan on addressing anti racism?

**Jack Minella:** I think addressing accessibility is very important. To address the bylaw question I am familiar with the bylaws and will continue to uphold they bylaws

**Secretary Kelly:** Can you speak to your earth day involvement last year? **Jack Minella:** I was a sunrise member, and we tried to envision an event we could put together. We thought it would be cool to host a farmers market with the permaculture org. So we did a lot of outreach so that Earth Day could be a fun event.

**Senator O'Donnel:** What's a project you want to work on?

**Jack Minella:** The SIEF. It's been inactive since covid. So I wanna get that up and running ASAP

**Senator Curto:** What's one way RSOs can work towards sustainability? **Jack**

**Minella:** One of the things is to collaborate with other student groups and make sustainability a more tangible thing.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO56

*Motino is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-SO58**

Motion to appoint Tanyikeh Muanya to the position of Secretary of Diversity. *Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Secretary Weisman:** We received 14 apps for this position. He has some great ideas for this role. He embodied exactly what we were looking for in this role.

**Tanyikeh Muanya:** I am very excited to work around DEI in this role.

**Chair Harvey:** How do you plan to carry out bylaws?

**Tanyikeh Muanya:** To know you belong you have to feel like you're seen on campus

**Senator Sarna:** Is there a project you want to work on as secretary of diversity? **Tanyikeh**

**Muanya:** I want to work on greek life connection, bridging the gap between greek councils.

**Chair Weldai:** So in your role, you'd be an ex-officio member of SOJEC so are you committed to going to these meetings?

**Tanyikeh Muanya:** Yes

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO58

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-SO59**

Motion to appoint Anthony Nassar to the position of Chief of Staff.

*Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Anthony Nassar:** I am part of ACA, and a research lab, and i've served as an office manager and deputy chief of staff for the last semester. Working with the bike share program is a great way to bridge gaps and further promote DEI initiative.

**Chair Harvey:** How do you plan to uphold bylaws?

**Anthony Nassar:** I've been able to familiarize myself with most if not all of the bylaws.

**Chair Garcia Jalil Melendez:** How will your past positions help with this role?

**Anthony Nassar:** I think time management will help with this and I have learned a lot.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO59

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **2023-SO60**

Motion to appoint Lorelei Hetzler to the position of Veterans Affairs.

*Sponsored by President-Elect Weisman, Vice-President Elect Gauthier, and the Administrative Affairs Committee*

**Secretary Weisman:** Lorelai is active on campus with UMass CHAARG. She is very qualified.

**Lorelei Hetzler:** Hi good evening, I'm a sophomore studying mech engineering. I also work at the student union. I also do CHAARG. I'm also involved with the Newman Catholic association. I am an Air force ROTC cadet on campus. I really want to mend this disconnect. I have a deep respect for veterans. I think the main thing in DEI and antiracism is to make sure everyone is

included. While dealing with this small subset of students on campus I want to make sure they all feel included. I want to definitely lean on the Secretary of Diversity.

**Chair Harvey:** How will you uphold the bylaws?

**Lorelei Hetzler:** I well understand the roles required for this role. I will work at the students veterans center and send out veterans newsletters

**Secretary Kelly:** Any projects you are excited about?

**Lorelei Hetzler:** I want to provide more access and resources to cadets on campus. We get last pick for facilities. I also want to create a community on campus. I'd really like to mend that.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-SO60

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **10. Unfinished Business - Main Motions:**

## **11. New Business - Main Motions:**

### **2023-S2**

**Whereas**, the Student Union's locker and meeting room spaces are reserved for use by Established Student Organizations (ESOs), and;

**Whereas**, the SGA is responsible for allocating storage space for ESOs, therefore;  
**Be it enacted**, the Senate approves the 2023 Space Allocation Proposal.

*Sponsored by Vice President Gandhi, President Raza, and Associate Speaker DeRose*

**Vice President Gandhi:** In the documents that you should have received with the senate agenda it has a master list of all the available lockers in the student union. Also in Bartlett. For lockers

its first come first serve. Bigger spaces are on an as needed basis.

**Chair Collins:** Will the Bartlett renovations impact this.

**Vice President Gandhi:** Not as of now.

**Senator Curto:** Motion to call 2023-S2

*Motion is called*

*Motion passes*

## **12. Business Not Anticipated 48 Hours Prior To:**

*Meeting is adjourned at 10:26 p.m.*