I. Attendance

Members Present: President Sohn, Speaker Aaron, Senator Pustejovsky, Senator Goldfield, Senator Gosselin, Senator Andrews, Senator Vargas, Proxy McCormick (Stefan)/Senator McCormick, Senator Finkelstein, Senator Koontz, Senator Vijayakumar, Senator Low-Beinart, Co-Chair Brook, Senator Schurer, Senator Salas, Senator Pandey, Senator Mahboob

Members Absent: No members absent.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes from 3/11/18

President Sohn: I had my statements inserted into the minutes from last week and had Haley and Lief’s names corrected.

Speaker Aaron: Are there any other questions or amendments for the minutes?

Motion to accept the minutes.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of accepting the minutes from 3/11/18? All opposed? All abstaining? The minutes are accepted.

16-0-1 [Co-Chair Brook abstains.]

[Senator Mahboob enters.]

III. Announcements

Deputy Cowan: There is a group like Students Against Gun Violence at Middlebury Highschool. This Wednesday there will be a walkout to the town offices. The meeting point will be Twilight at 9:30 a.m. We are planning to leave at 9:45 to meet the high school students at Middle Bridge. The SGA is planning to send out an email to spread awareness.

President Sohn asked the cabinet on this matter, some people have questioned whether the SGA should become involved in this by sending out an email. Are there any thoughts on that?

Senator Goldfield: Did a specific group from the college ask for the SGA to send out this email?

Deputy Cowan: The SGA is doing this on its own.

Senator Mahboob: Does it sound like we’re taking political stance by sending out this email?

Deputy Cowan: The draft can be edited in any way. I tried to write it in the least political way possible, however you could argue that this will be political either way. This is called Students
Against Gun Violence rather than Students Against Guns so that it’s more that the SGA is against people getting killed rather than being against guns in general.

President Sohn: If anyone would prefer we can show this to you before we send out the final draft. We were planning to sign it as “The SGA,” the cabinet has already expressed support. I will need a response soon. Are there any current hesitations?

Co-Chair Brook: Could we also use this time to speak about what was brought up last week regarding Middlebury’s stance on students who engage in protest? I’m not against this email. I think this is a political statement, but I would push the SGA to take this even further with regards to applicants taking political action.

President Sohn: Deputy Cowan and I have been working on a resolution regarding the situation. We can work together to add that component to the resolution if you would like.

Deputy Cowan: We just wanted to get this event out in a single email. What you’re talking about will definitely be addressed later.

President Sohn: We have been informed that 10 o’clock Ross has been suspended due to cleanup and monitoring issues. There will be email sent out from the SGA, signed under my name, explaining what has happened. We decided it would be best if we could send out a student survey to see how students feel about 10 o’clock Ross. This way we can have hard data on the impact and what students think the solution should be. Rather than being about a lack of interest, it’s more about the current monitoring system.

Finance Committee selections will be happening. We need 4 senators to sign up for the Finance Committee. Speaker Aaron and I did it in the Fall Semester, it helped us understand a lot about the Finance Committee. We will be doing $10,000+ budget approvals in May, so this is a good opportunity to get and introduction to it. I would like to ask you to nominate yourselves to be part of the committee.

Peter: Senator Vargas has already filled it out.

Senator Pustejovsky: [Addressing Peter] When will you be reviewing applications?

Peter: I would like to ask everyone to please open the survey I sent out. We are trying to find the best times to interview people. Right now, it looks like the week of March 19th through the 23rd will be when. If you fill out your availability I will be able to whittle it down.

President Sohn: Now we need three senators to volunteer since you have known about this for a while. Thank you Senator Schurer, Senator Vijayakumar, Senator Salas, Senator Goldfield.

Senator Goldfield: I can do it, but there are three days that week which I cannot attend.
President Sohn: We will be having the $10,000+ budget organizations coming in. Before now we have not received proper training and it has shown in our discussions. A week before we think it would be a good idea to have training to prepare us.

If you use an index code in Slack, please get in contact with Peter and I. There are multiple codes we can use and must keep track of. Peter is financially liable for anything that happens with SGA budget, please don’t mess that up.

One of the co-directors of Athletic Affairs reached out to some of the SGA about the SGA forming a Relay for Life team. Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. There is an organization for this that holds yearly events, this year will be April 8th from 1 to 9 at Battel Loop. Events are an opportunity for people to remember lost ones, honor survivors, and raise money. Chief Alam and I did this in high school and it’s a great opportunity for student leaders. If you are interested, please let me know.

Biweekly lunches are part of our Common Agenda, SGA and administrators will be in the dining hall to answer all student questions. We need new dates, we are hoping to change them soon but this time around we were unable to do so. Is anyone available this Wednesday from 12 to 2?

Senator Mahboob: Is this open to non-SGA students?

President Sohn: It is meant for non-SGA students. We collaborated with Administration because sometimes they feel awkward coming into student spaces. It’s also a way to have conversations with students.

Senator Mahboob: How do people sign up?

President Sohn: People can just come up and ask questions, you don’t have to sign up for it. We will send out an email to let students know this is happening. This upcoming one will be at Atwater from 12 to 2, the administrators will be Colleen Fitzpatrick (Office of Advancement) and David Provost (CFO). I would like every senator to sign up at least once and we only have six weeks left of SGA meetings.

Senator Vijayakumar: If there is no alternative day then I can’t go to any of them.

President Sohn: We’re going to ask about availability through Slack, however if anyone is available this week please let me know.

Senator Low-Beinart: I am free from 1:30 to 2:00.

Senator Pandey: I am free that same time.

President Sohn: Common Agenda leads, please make a Slack channel for your Common Agenda members if you have not done so yet. Also, please meet with SLG co-lead if you have yet to do so.
Senator Pustejovsky: Would you assume that the traditions SLG person is Laurie Patton?

President Sohn: It might be Baishakhi Taylor. There was an email from the Office of the President with that chart that might include that information.

Chief Alam: Jeff Cason (Interim Provost) invited the SGA to his house for dinner on Wednesday at 6. If you are interested or have any questions, please let me know.

President Sohn: The Board of Overseer luncheon is happening this Friday from 12:15 to 1:30. Chief Alam sent out a survey and we received some responses. From that we put an agenda together for the Trustee Board members. We are asking that it to be more formal this time around. You can come late, and you don’t have to stay for the whole time. It will be held in Ode Chapel on the second floor in the Board Room. If you suddenly can’t go that’s fine, but if you suddenly want to come please let Chief Alam know as soon as possible.

IV. Senate Check-ins
Senator Andrews: Ross working on planning Rosstraunt. It’s like Dolci but planned by Ross.

Proxy McCormick: Nothing new to report.

Senator Koontz: Been working on Intercommons Council to plan big end of the year events like Rosstaraunt.

Senator Salas: Nothing new to report.

Senator Gosselin: Regarding the article published in The Campus about Club Sports, I have been writing a response to it.

Senator Schurer: We accepted two Febs to the First Year Committee. The committee is planning a Beach Bash Dance Party this Saturday in Crossroads Cafe. It will be open to all students but geared towards first-years.

Senator Vargas: Senator Schurer covered The First Year Committee, which I couldn’t go to because of a midterm. I don’t have anything new to report, but I would like to note that Senator Finkelstein is still not on the SGA website.

Senator Vijayakumar: I’m working with students that I met at ElectHer to make STI testing more affordable. In terms of the nutritionist movement, the same group of people are doing lots of research to concisely word different roles that exist. With this we aim to make a poll to see what students want so that we can move forward.

Senator Goldfield: I have been moving forward with getting course syllabi online. There was professor push-back. Not many professors know where their past course syllabi are and don’t
want to do extra work to post them ahead of time. I’m trying to get the option for students to take pictures of their syllabi and then upload it on MiddCourses. I still must talk to Hannah Ross to make sure this wouldn’t be considered stealing intellectual property.

Senator Finkelstein: I’ve been talking with Febs about their thoughts on Feb housing. I’m also hoping to look more into study abroad for Febs.

Senator Pandey: I have been talking about pushing for incorporation of academic credit for internships. International students have an especially hard time with their financial and time burdens. I am thinking about trying to bring this up through a different bill, or even possibly along with Senator Pustejovsky’s P.E. credit.

I have been told that some people feel there is not enough disability support infrastructures. Why do we have so many disability parking lots when there is not enough support for disabled people?

In terms of sense of belonging on campus, I’m thinking of an initiative to incentivize athletes to host events for them to get to know non-athletes. Hopefully this would be more of an allowance rather than something forced.

Senator Low-Beinart: Senator Salas and I are moving forward on our project. We are looking for someone to do the coding aspect.

I spoke with Laurie Patton about a new tradition she brought up about human libraries. It’s an organization that hosts events where people from generally marginalized backgrounds make themselves human books. It’s interactive where you can hear more about each person’s story and ask questions. I will send an article about it, it’s very interesting.

Senator Mahboob: The Student Educational Affairs Committee met and are working on what Senator Pandey and Senator Goldfield mentioned earlier. They also discussed increasing the number of student advisory committees.

Every department is supposed to have one to talk with professors and set goals around the curriculum. Some departments don’t have them or don’t make use of them, so we are trying to find ways to increase student involvement.

They have been speaking to faculty about the Envisioning Middlebury Plan, and want to find ways to increase curricular flexibility. If anyone is interested I can connect you.

Senator Pustejovsky: Election guidelines are a little hazy as to who can run. I am going to investigate that since we want to make elections as successful as possible.

Senator Schurer and I have been talking with Peter about inclusivity and how SGA can help. We were wondering if continuing the idea of the First Year Committee into Sophomore and Junior year would be a good idea. Nothing that really unifies class again until you get to Senior year with 200 days and 100 days.
Senator Vijayakumar: I was thinking about the SGA trying to better coordinate with Administration, and I think the first step is for us to coordinate more with each other. Try to advertise when you will be meeting with Administration in the Slack.

V. Community Council Check-in

Co-Chair Brook: We were unable to meet due to many absences. I am currently working on ways to advance on what I was elected for. One is to make SGA and Community Council proceedings more visible to the student body. My first thought is to have the bulletin board next to the SGA pictures be more aesthetically pleasing so that it gets information out. Finding other places on campus to make it more accessible is also a goal since I know that board isn’t widely viewed.

I would like to voice that I signed on to what was written in The Campus op-ed. I did this due to my absence during the vote, and what was in the op-ed I would have voiced here had I been here.

VI. Campus Pulse

Chief Alam: Evolution Dance Crew is performing on Friday at 8 in Wilson.

President Sohn: There is an Identity and Diversity Panel this Wednesday through the Study Abroad Office. It will be held in Axxin 229 from 5 to 7 p.m. This is great for anyone that is interested in going abroad or that is going abroad. Returnees will be present at the panel to give advice.

Senator Pustejovsky: Accessibility of CCI is an important matter for me and my fellow seniors. It has many great tools, but many of my friends have had not so helpful experiences that didn’t go far enough to find them an internship or job. How can we express student comments and ways the CCI could be improved?

Senator Pandey: [Addressing Senator Pustejovsky] Maybe try to open source it as well since there is only so much they can know.

Senator Pustejovsky: On that note, I was thinking they could have a “How to find a job/internship” handbook that we could Canvas source.

Senator Goldfield: [Addressing Senator Pustejovsky] I agree with you and I had this issue last year. I asked them why their most recent event on their website was from 2007 and they said they were going to update it, a year later it’s still from 2007. I also think their brochures should be online since they are easily uploadable. Nothing has changed despite my suggestions, I even spoke to the head of the CCI. I would love to work with you on improving that.

President Sohn: What if we draft an email to Peggy Burns who is the Head of the CCI? Also, my sophomore year I was part of ad hoc committee in charge of seeing how the CCI could connect more with students. Perhaps we could bring it back again.
VII. Old Business
Speaker Aaron: Before we get started on our old bills, we are going to ratify new committee members. [Names new members.] Are there any questions about these individuals? Is there a motion to ratify them?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of ratifying? All opposed? All abstaining? The new committee members are ratified.

17-0-0

a. Sustainability Office Intern & SGA Environmental Committee: Update on Reusable Tupperware in Dining Halls
Lief: I met with Bo (Dining Services) and Jack (Sustainability Office) about concerns that were brought up last time. We are moving forward on our expected timeline. Two science majors conducted research on what was mentioned during the Facebook argument.

The plastic is BPA free and certified by the National Science Foundation. There is no styrene in it. It is microwave safe and good for 2,000 dishwashes. The plastic that they ordered is the same plastic used to store food in refrigerators, so no new demand is being created. The amount of CO₂ emitted for one year of paper containers is 8 times the emission of these reusable ones. Stainless steel is too expensive and too heavy to carry.

Staff is ready for this. If someone forgets their container or don’t want to carry it around, the carabiner is the main solution. One concern was the container being a reminder of loneliness, I think that’s a bigger issue that needs to be addressed separately from this one.

[ Presents educational information from Google Folder. ] I will be holding tabling events to explain the program and remind them to get a carabiner. I’m willing to hold as many of these as necessary.

[ Senator McCormick arrives. ]

Senator Pustejovsky: [ Addressing Lief ] Thank you so much for all of the hard work that you have put into this.

Co-Chair Brook: [ Addressing Lief ] On the FAQ list, I think it would be worthwhile to write out “how to get a carabiner.” I know it sounds very sad, but it needs to be as obvious as possible, so people can’t possibly miss it.

About getting a container and then forgetting it, I thought the best way to approach that would be to take away an additional $5. I’m not sure how it would logistically work, but it would provide stronger incentive to not forget the To-go box.
Lief: I can ask Dining about that.

Co-Chair Brook: In regard to making this as easy a transition for staff, maybe having a student representative near where To-go boxes. Since there will be a lot of frustration, they could try to negate those feelings and explain the process.

Lief: Do you think having a student table outside during the transition week to remind students about the program will help?

Chief Alam: I think what Co-Chair Brook means, and what I share, is that I don’t want staff getting chewed out because of this change. Maybe having a student table would be good, but also having someone to handle pissed students.

Co-Chair Brook: They could be at the table but every now and then they can come in and check on the staff. I just don’t want staff to deal with it.

Lief: Do you think I should add to the educational material, “Who should I blame for this?”

Senator Low-Beinart: Again, thank you so much. For the video you could email the head of Film Studies and ask if any majors would be interested in making the video. This way you could have more time to work on other aspects of this campaign.

Senator Pandey: This is a great idea and you have put in so much effort, so thank you. You could have a golink for people that are unsatisfied.

Senator Finkelstein: I wanted to voice that some people don’t know what a carabiner is.

Lief: Should we put pictures in the FAQ of what the container and carabiner look like? [Head nods.]

Senator Vargas: I proposed this back in Fall Semester about possibly have a paid student position for people to bring dishes back to dining hall. They could take the To-go boxes with them as well.

Lief: I don’t know how to go about making that happen, but I can ask and say that there is interest.

President Sohn: Thank you. For the email, when did you want to get the email out and who will it be from? Who will it be signed from and what email account will send it?

Lief: I was thinking the email could go out either tomorrow or the day after. I was hoping Dining, SGA, and Sustainability would all send an email. This way students are likely to check at least one of the emails.
President Sohn: For the SGA email we’ll keep in touch. Once you send the draft to me, I’ll give it to the Senate and get back to you on feedback.

Senator Pustejovsky: I don’t think anyone will read the poster you presented. There is so much information on it.

Senator Koontz: I don’t like posters with just the golink because I don’t like having to remember the link. Having multiple posters in rotation is a great idea because I think the one you presented was really appealing and I, personally, would read it.

Senator Vijayakumar: In the poster you presented, just the bottom visual with the carabiner and To-go box would be good enough.

Lief: [Addressing Senator Pandey] I was thinking about providing a place online to respond while I was making this online form, however if you think there is a better way to go about it please let me know. [Shows online form.]

Senator Pandey: That looks good.

Senator Low-Beinart: Are FAQs ready to be sent out now?

Lief: I would like some time to proofread. Maybe if we could send them out tomorrow afternoon I was thinking they could be sent out along with the main email.

Chief Alam: Could you remind me what your plan is for the golink? What will be included on that link?

Lief: Right now, it just goes to one of the posters, but I was going to create a blog and put all of the information on there so people can learn more about the program.

Chief Alam: I think it could also be as simple as just a Google Folder.

Senator Low-Beinart: We could also attach it to SGA website under a separate tab.

Senator Schurer: If you’re looking for a fun, educational blog, Microsoft Sway might be an idea. If it’s something you want to look into I would be more than happy to help.

Speaker Aaron: I got a suggestion that SGA should use Snapchat more. He said gets his dining updates on Snapchat with a link that takes him to the menus. If someone could do that for Lief that might be good. Another possibility would be Dining adding this information to their website.

President Sohn: Did you want the announcement to come from individual senators or from the SGA?
Lief: Whatever you think would be most effective.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to table this?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? The discussion is tabled.

16-1-0 [Senator McCormick opposes.]

b. Ish Alam & Jin Sohn: Students-Trustees Representation and Engagement Bill

President Sohn: We got constructive feedback from Dave Donahue. Many comments said that a lot of the whereas statements tended to be more negative. This might come off to Trustee members as needing to be defended and might not be as engaging. Hard data was suggested, so we considered putting together a survey for the student body. Many questions were raised as to what the actual outcome will be if it is passed.

[Reads message from Donahue.] Adding a second constituent overseer and altering the term length makes sense. He does voice that some things are feasible, however others will need to be worked on with him.

Chief Alam: Please let us know if you have any feedback.

President Sohn: Please reach out to us if you want to be involved.

Senator Vijayakumar: I can’t see the comments on the side of the resolution.

President Sohn: We can fix that for you.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to table?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? The bill is tabled.

17-0-0

VIII. New Business
a. Peter Dukeman-Birmingham & Jin Sohn: Off Campus Food Financial Aid Program (OFFAP)

Peter: I have been working on this for a year and it is structured around confidentiality. It ran through several series of staff and faculty. This is important because many organizations have off campus components to them. Traveling is expensive, SGA currently only funds gas mileage reimbursement and vehicle rental.

The SGA has already started to ask organizations for necessary information: the number of students traveling and the number of expected travel days. Because of confidentiality, the numbers are only a best guess.

We must decide which brackets of financial aid will be included. I have given breakdowns for each number. I am a proponent of full financial aid under the rationale that the Financial Aid Office factors in $1,000 of spending money. The college is planning on raising tuition next year, as tuition goes up so will the amount of people eligible for this program.

Club Sports and it’s travel base must be counted in this. As Club Sports increase, so will the amount of travel. I hope that we have an increased financial liability, more people on financial aid will opt in to club sports.

Senator Goldfield: Where are we planning to get the money from to fund this?

Peter: My dream is to repeal the Club Sports Bill. Last year we underspent our budget, so we took in more money than we needed. It’s in our reserves, but years from now we will be due for an increase in the student activities fee. In full force, this will not be sustainable alongside the Club Sports Bill without increasing the student activities fee. Tuition increase would be how we keep hold.

Co-Chair Brook: How would students in organizations apply to this program, and if there is an ability to opt out. As someone on financial aid, I wouldn’t necessarily want that. Also thank you for such thorough breakdowns and options.

Peter: Every student applying to a club is required to be on the organization’s official roster. The students will not have to reach out to receive aid, they will be notified that they are eligible. The only part on the individual is to submit receipts. If they don’t want to be on the program, then they don’t do anything.

Senator Pustejovsky: The Cluster Managers and I support this. So much pressure is put on students to ask for help which is unfair. I respect this as a movement forward.

Speaker Aaron: How did you decide to make this just for club sports and not just for every club?

Peter: Sorry, I keep saying club sports, but I mean every club that travels overnight.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a limit to the number of nights? Can this apply to a Spring Break trip or is it any travel in general?
Peter: It’s limited to the school year, from the beginning of academic to the end of the fiscal year. Break trips are included. This component can be changed by you guys.

Chief Alam: Are day trips eligible?

Peter: No, in a large part because of To-go boxes. We expect students to bring food from dining hall with them on their trip.

Senator McCormick: I don’t think Spring Break falls under necessary. I am strongly against funding Spring Break trips.

Senator Pustejovsky: [Addressing Senator McCormick] Members don’t have to go on these trips, but implicitly, if you don’t go, you can’t really participate. From what I have heard, that’s the general consensus behind a lot of the Spring Break trips clubs take.

Peter: [Addressing Senator McCormick] My impetus is to open up access to the Middlebury experience. We are trying to expand opportunities that do happen and are major components of organizations.

Senator McCormick: [Addressing Peter] For varsity athletes, when we take trips we are responsible for paying for our own food. I don’t think it’s fair to make varsity do this but then not have that be the case for optional club sports.

Peter: In that case, I would push for a resolution asking for financial aid in those cases as well.

Senator Gosselin: I like this bill because it makes all organizations more accessible, but I also think that the Club Sports Bill is important. In terms of the different funding levels, how much food does it buy for a person per day? Are you expecting people to supplement it?

Peter: I would assume that $10 would act as a supplement. $15 would also be a supplement depending on what you’re buying. It could cover fast food or a trip to the grocery store.

President Sohn: thanks. I think the next step for us as a Senate, is to decide the financial need brackets that will be eligible, and the per day reimbursement. This sounds like a conversation for next week.

Co-Chair Brook: I think the next step should be to question the financial feasibility. What will we do with the Club Sports Bill?

President Sohn: I agree.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to table this for next week?
Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? It is tabled.

16-0-1 [Senator Low-Beinart abstains.]

b. Jin Sohn: SGA Transparency and Communications to the Student Body Conversation

President Sohn: More in person conversation is necessary since not everyone checks their email. I spoke with my Cabinet about holding a week-long event where the SGA goes to a student space and students can come and ask questions. It could be structured or informal.

Sometimes it feels that you must be in SGA to be elected into positions, which isn’t fair to the student body. Accessibility is important because even to write a bill, you don’t have to be senator. Now I would like to hear how each of us communicate with our constituents.

Speaker Aaron: Senator Finkelstein and I send out weekly emails and I have an anonymous Feb Form.

Senator Andrews: I go to Commons Council meetings.

Senator McCormick: I mostly have face to face conversations.

Senator Koontz: I also go to Commons Council meetings and leave my contact information.

Senator Salas: Mostly face to face conversations.

Senator Gosselin: Face to face conversations. Whenever someone complains I tell them I’m on SGA and they yell at me.

Senator Schurer: I primarily do face to face conversations, occasional emails, and our social media.

Senator Vargas: Mostly face to face, email, sometimes text message, Facebook, and office hours but no one has come to those.

Senator Vijayakumar: Senator Goldfield and I send out weekly emails to our class. I’m going to start posting mini phrases from our SGA meetings on my social media.

Senator Goldfield: We do weekly emails, at the beginning and end of each one I say, “please reach out if you have any questions.” I always reply and try to meet in person, no one ever wants to meet in person. I also have face to face conversations.
Senator Finkelstein: What Speaker Aaron said.

Senator Mahboob: Senator Pandey and I send out weekly emails and I also have face to face conversations.

Senator Pustejovsky: I tried putting some things on my Instagram story and did a poll about preferred methods of outreach. Seniors answered email, while anyone under the senior class answered social media.

Senator Low-Beinart: We send out weekly emails and giving main issue updates. We have a go/concerns, it’s anonymous and we receive lots of feedback.

When you say you talk face to face, do you mean to your friends or people come up to you? How does that work and how would I go about that?

Senator Mahboob: I checked in with someone I ran into that I knew from a class. Not necessarily close friends, just someone I knew. Office hours is a cool idea, but it seems like it doesn’t work. Just check in as you see people.

President Sohn: I want to be aware of the time, I’m going to limit this to 5 more minutes. Middlebury class of 20__ pages have been active recently, maybe if there is a way to get access to those pages, it could be a way to engage with people more.

Senator Goldfield: I’m also curious about that idea. I usually try to keep my social media mine, not “Senator Jack Goldfield’s.” I think Midd 2021w Instagram is super popular, maybe each class could have a page like that that would transfer from senator to senator.

Senator Pandey: When I was at UWC there was a Facebook group that was very active.

Senator Low-Beinart: Someone could type up something brief to put up on the bulletin board by the SGA pictures.

Co-Chair Brook: Community Council has a Facebook group where we post after every meeting, I think SGA should do same thing. I also have an opinions column, I would be open to doing an SGA Community Council split since I don’t always have something new to write about. I am reaching out to the Publicity Committee about using the billboard in McCullough, but would be open to using more spaces.

Senator Pustejovsky: We mentioned doing something similar to what was done with the Common Agenda, having it available for people to vote in the dining hall. This way, people don’t have to go out of their way.
Speaker Aaron: Some feedback I received that instead of individual senators, having the SGA Facebook page responding to SGA concerns would be best. It could ask them to send their concerns to the official SGA sites/email so we don’t have to be held responsible on social media.

President Sohn: Do people feel that the SGA week-long event would be a good idea? [Yes.] Are we going to do the topic of the week and have more in person conversations? If so, then what is topic for this week?

Speaker Aaron: Peter’s Bill. [Yes.]

President Sohn: I was thinking of asking, “How do you want SGA to communicate with you?” We could do both.

Speaker Aaron: If we’re voting on something after one week that’s going to be at least $20,000, that’s a good thing to talk to people about.

President Sohn: Next week tell us what conversations you have with people and please record your feedback.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to table?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? It is tabled.

17-0-0

c. Ish Alam: How Midd Works Updates
Chief Alam: We are hoping to continue our series of forums, the next one being on Thursday, March 22nd. The topic will be on governments and how Middlebury operates as a nonprofit. There will be more details when it’s more concrete.

The week after spring break, students will be working in dining halls as a facet of the How Midd Works program. Students will work with staff for 2 hours, and following there will be a 1 hour lunch after to get acquainted. Do we want the students in the first week to be SGA members or open it up to the student body?

President Sohn: To clarify, the working opportunities will also be with administrators. There is an aspect of danger, so the limit is 2 students working at a time. There are roughly 8 spots open in dining, and 8 in facilities.
Co-Chair Brook: For those unable to attend, could part of the program be making summaries of reflections from people that participated?

Chief Alam: Absolutely.

President Sohn: I really like that idea.

Speaker Aaron: I think this would be a great thing to put on our website and advertise what opportunities are available.

Chief Alam: Please reach out to me.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to table?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? It is tabled.

17-0-0

d. John Gosselin: Constitutional Amendment Concerning Speaker of the Senate Sponsorships

Senator Gosselin: This Constitutional Amendment is partially in response to the op-ed that was published this week. Many people thought the vote on the bill could have been better. I think part of that process should be preventing the Speaker from being the Speaker when discussing a bill that they sponsor.

Senator McCormick: A Constitutional Amendment has to have 2/3 of the whole school vote on it? Could it be added to the bi-laws?

Doug Adams: Yes. This would be more of a bi-law.

Senator Pustejovsky: Friendly amendment to change it to the bi-laws.

Senator Gosselin: I accept the amendment.

President Sohn: Could you share and information as to how other schools do this?

Senator Gosselin: Most bodies don’t let the Speaker vote or sponsor anything. I’m not super informed.
Chief Alam: Bowdoin takes it even further. The Bowdoin president doesn’t have voting power and is the one that moderates conversation. I’m not saying that’s what we should do, that’s just what they do.

Senator Gosselin: That sounds like helpful solution, because I know we’ve had some votes that were contentious.

Chief Alam: Yes, and the Bowdoin president only has voting power in certain situation.

Speaker Aaron: At the University of Maryland, the Speaker doesn’t vote, but since the student government is so big, it doesn’t really impact the vote. I know it always feels like the Speaker has more power than you, that’s just part of the nature of someone who runs the meeting. It’s hard to talk about anything, sometimes I hear that meetings too long and other times I hear that meetings too rushed. It’s very difficult to balance everything. This is why I usually ask for a motion instead of motioning myself. I do like aspects of this bill, it’s difficult to argue for constituents when I have to monitor the conversation at the same time.

Co-Chair Brook: [Addressing Speaker Aaron] You were an elected official, so I think you should have free reign to vote and share your opinion. I’m in favor of this because you shouldn’t feel the need to moderate and then defend yourself. I think you should have the right to express yourself without having your thoughts misconstrued. I’m not in favor of not having you vote and you think you should be allowed to motion.

Senator Gosselin: [Addressing Speaker Aaron] I forgot to mention that this is not critical of the job you’ve been doing. I think anyone in your position would experience similar difficulties.

Senator Pustejovsky: Why do we have a member of the Senator as the Speaker? Why is it not an outside person?

President Sohn: I was going to make that point, Chief Alam is here every single meeting so, theoretically, why can’t he do it? In terms of why we have this structure, it’s probably because we follow the US Senate structure.

Doug: The Constitution has been this since before I came here. If the person were to come from outside the body, then it would be an appointed official overseeing your elected body.

Senator Pandey: If Senator Aaron chose to be a senator, then why shouldn’t she be able to choose when she is and isn’t the Speaker? This pushes her to be the Speaker at specific moments.

Speaker Aaron: I would extend it farther. I know there’s a member of SUCC that oversaw the passing of a new club they were part of. In the SGA, there are other places where we can look for overlap and excuse selves if we have a personal stake. Could we add that to the bill? This way it keeps proceedings that you share a personal stake in fair.
Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to table?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? It is tabled.

17-0-0

IX. Adjournment

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to adjourn?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of adjourning? All opposed? All abstaining? We are adjourned.

17-0-0

Meeting ends at 9:01