



**THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SENATE, SEVENTEENTH SESSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: February 10th, 2026

Location: Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, Second Floor

Time: 8:15 pm- 9:50 pm

Member	Attendance		Member	Attendance	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Chair Majiedt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Kostbar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ararba	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Lederman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Aybar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Lipman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Barnes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Minkah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Bigelow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Nambane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Castillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Shoemaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ferrigno	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator Situ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glanville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Sterling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator King	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator Terry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Khan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Zhang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Koegler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Others in Attendance: Director of Leadership Activities Zach Schwan, SGA Clerk Mamadou Dia

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1. Call to Order at 8:15 pm
 2. Oath of Office
Taken by S. Kostbar, S. Minkah and S. Gordon
 3. Invocation
 4. Attendance

5. Approval of the Agenda
Motion by S. Glanville seconded by S. Kahn
6. Approval of the prior Minutes
Motion to amend all remaining typos by S. Aybar, seconded by S. Kostbar
Motion to adjust statement of S. Aybar by S. Aybar, seconded by S. Bigelow, opposed by S. Lederman. There were 9 senators opposed, 8 who abstained. That amendment did not pass.
Motion to correct resolution 36-22 to resolution 36-20 by S. Sterling, seconded by S. Glanville
Motion to add names of people who motioned to remove resolution 36-21 by S. Sterling, seconded by S. Situ.
Motion to correct spelling of all names within the document by S. Lipman seconded by S. Kostbar.
Motion to amend all typos in the Meeting Minutes by S. Aybar seconded by S. Kostbar.
Motion by S. Lederman to approve meeting minutes as amended, seconded by S. Situ.
7. Open Forum

Let it be noted that Guest who wished to have their full statements inserted were allowed to for transparency's sake.

- i. Guest Chloe states she after her first SGA Meeting Open forum on Zoom and following meeting in person, she was invigorated. She's a sophomore with the intention of joining SGA and is currently running for the sophomore senate position and as of right now is excited to put work into things that are crucial to her as a mobility impaired person. She also expressed excitement about working with senators.
- ii. Guest Jah notes the pushback on what seems to him like a very important committee. He wants those who voted no to work with those who have had ideas on the committee or have a plan for something to be done since they are so informed on the matter.
- iii. Guest Zoey below read a powerful statement it reads:

Hi everyone, my name is Zoe Levine and I am a current sophomore. I have lived with a diagnosed chronic physical disability known as Amplified Musculoskeletal Pain Syndrome since high school. I am lucky to receive certain accommodations from the school and from my individual professors based on my own representation and communication. However, I have witnessed and experienced ableism in both direct and indirect ways. I say this confidently and with all the power that this term holds,

that Skidmore College and its Student Government Association does not operate without ableism. In fact, without proper attention and deconstruction, Skidmore structurally and continuously operates with accepted ableism. This should not be tolerated.

I am attempting to process and navigate the outcome of SGA's decision on Tuesday night to strike down the creation of a formal, Senate recognized CIA for Skidmore College. As a student with registered disabilities, and one who chose Skidmore on factors of accessibility and representation, I am feeling defeated and lost. I am also feeling empowered. The student body showed up for the CIA. We spoke from personal experience and the hardships that our current systems continue to perpetuate and aggravate. Every member in the room heard verified statistics, comprehensive plans, initiatives, and a professional and powerful tone throughout from members of the working CIA group.

If senators truly listened and received the message that was meticulously planned and practiced, they would have understood the significance of voting no. Instead, I witnessed members of the SGA texting, distracted on their computers, engaged in side conversations, closing their eyes, and refusing to accept the message and actions being presented to them. They sat in the privileged position with the ability to look at a crowd of over 100 students demanding changes to accessibility and disability representation at OUR school and voted with THEIR OWN interests or opinions. The student body requests were clear, efficient, thoughtful, and achievable. However, the SGA ultimately cited structural limitations, an intimidation from students' passion, and a failure to believe in the project as reasons to strike down the CIA and disabled students across campus.

I struggled to contain my emotions during the SGA meetings, letting the countless tears flow. Everyone felt the energy in the room, the NEED for change. We saw THE PEOPLE who needed it. We were not an invisible community last Tuesday.; we got ourselves in the building, spoke up, stayed loud, stayed present no matter the struggle that caused us.

The SGA meeting proved one thing to me, that without CIA or disability being self-represented in senate the needs of disabled students will not be met. The SGA members refusing to give a chance to real change looked unprofessional, unwilling, and uninterested in serving their role in the community.

Now we can not stop; we mobilize, protect, inform, support, and fight as a community. While I wish this could be with the Senate's support, at the current moment the best work is being done outside of this room. As I attended the Disabled Student Group on Friday, an open space for support and processing I noticed the four senators that took time to be engaged, including your very own president. To those senators, and to those who have since taken steps to support the disabled student community at skidmore I would like to say thank you. To the students that feel the need to claim a string of connection to this community out of convenience or false sympathy, I beg you please take more time to reflect on your priorities, hear from more voices, and understand the embedded ableism you are comfortable with.

iv. Guest Kayla also read an incredibly moving statement

Hello. My name is Kayla Melendez. I am a Neuroscience Major and Intergroup Relations minor. I am a trained dialogue facilitator and social justice advocate.

I attended last Tuesday's senate meeting. I watched in disbelief and anger as student voices were devalued in favor of bureaucratic structure and "precedent". What I witnessed followed a sinister pattern seen throughout history; Those with minoritized identities being told that what they already have is sufficient despite considerable evidence providing otherwise. Those with substantial power minimizing the degree of their influence while wielding their position to make landmark decisions.

In addition to the grief—and I do not use that word lightly, produced by last week's decision, I have been grappling with the distress sparked by some of the rhetoric used to justify the proceedings. Before I directly address some of these convictions, I want to emphasize that this is not a

“call out” but rather a “call in.” This ideological framework comes from Loretta J. Ross, a reproductive rights activist, academic, and 2023 National Women’s Hall of Fame inductee. “Calling in” is the process of “inviting [individuals] into conversation instead of conflict by focusing on [our] shared values [rather than] a desire for punishment.” I sincerely hope that my statement today will spark reflection in not only those that voted no, but for every SGA official concerning the true role of student government at Skidmore.

One of the most alarming sentiments shared last week asserted that, as students, we are unable to make significant and lasting changes at Skidmore. This is not only antithetical to the existence of SGA, but it is also factually incorrect. The Wyckoff center exists because of the activism of a Black Student union known as the Black Voices of Skidmore. The Black Cultural Center was created in 1970 and paved the way for other community hubs like the Wyckoff Center. It was *not* administration that led the charge—it was *students*. The same can be said about countless other changes at Skidmore: The Falstaff’s Renovation. The implementation of free, organic products in every bathroom on campus, laundry reform, The Food Pantry, Laptop loans in the library. Not only are these *tangible* examples of student-backed progress, but they also represent instances of socially equitable initiatives that have drastically improved the quality of life for all students, but especially for those that are particularly impacted structural injustice. To insist that students are incapable of significant change is to discredit the incredible work that decades of students have undertaken.

Furthermore, it was expressed that an unfair level of pressure was being put on SGA officials to vote a certain way due to the immense presence of students at the senate meeting. SGA officials are public-facing officials. According to the SGA constitution, the student government “shall advance the rights and privileges of students, the people for whom this college exists, and inspire ourselves to form an inclusive, accountable and sustainable

government.” It is the responsibility of the governed to ensure that our rights and privileges are not only being upheld, but advanced. We have a **right** to be here and to make our voices heard. I firmly believe that this pressure is a necessary part of a democratic system, and while I validate that a heightened level of attention is stress-inducing, it is an undeniable aspect of being an SGA official.

I acknowledge the immense amount of work and commitment it takes to serve as an SGA official. I additionally want to stress that the decisions made here cannot be separated from larger systemic patterns that are designed to impress. Intention unfortunately does not matter in rights-based decisions such as last week. While I would like to believe that every individual in this room would fight for accessibility needs, and for the needs of everyone on campus, this belief was not upheld. Those in opposition did not offer concrete action steps that would be taken in the case that the resolution did not pass. Will this work once again fall onto the shoulders of those most impact, or will those that emphasized their allyship use their power to address the severe deficits in accessibility that currently plague Skidmore?

Mistrust has been sown because of this rule. As disillusioned as I became last week I returned today because I choose to believe that is still possible, and that SGA can get this right.

v. Finally Guest Jordan read her statement as well:

My name is Jordan Zickmann, I’m a senior, and I am here to express my deep disappointment with last weeks senate decision regarding the committee for institutional accessibility. I am not going to rehash why I believe the CIA would have been very important and effective addition to SGA as the decision has already been made and I’m sure there is nothing I can say you haven’t already heard. Instead, I want to talk about the wider repercussions of this decision. As senators, your job is to represent the Skidmore student body, and yet when faced directly with over 115 of

your peers, their voices were not heard. During the discussion period, many senators mentioned how there have never been this many students show up to open forum. This is clearly an initiative that your constituents care deeply about. I believe that not moving the CIA forward to student election is a failure of the senate's duties. This senate has failed to represent the student body. I hope that you will all take this as an opportunity to reflect on how your votes are decided, because in prioritizing bureaucracy over student needs, you have lost the trust of myself and many others.

Motion for 10 minute recess by S. Shoemaker seconded by S. Kostbar.

8. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. Presidential Report with SGA President Majiedt
 - i. IPPC met on Friday and went over general updates. If senators would like updates on IPPC taskforce on accessibility, reach out to her for documents and she also went over financials of the college and projected financial. She also expressed that she started working with PHE to work on getting drink covers at Bars
 - b. Executive Vice-Presidential Report with EVP Gordon
 - i. Met on Friday to go over last week's meeting and wants to work on creating general standards for meeting minutes. And added thoughts on the initiative tracker and how public that should be.
 - c. Academic Affairs Report with VPAA Barnes
 - i. AC met last Thursday and primarily went over semester initiatives dealing primarily with AI, more news to follow and textbooks affordability. She has a meeting with Dean Taylor on Wednesday and Dean Bautista on Friday. She reminded everyone that Skidmore Colleges reaccreditation is coming up and they're also discussing plans to move to online ratings.
 - d. Budget and Finance Report with VPFA Castillo
 - i. Program support is the same as it's been past 3 weeks. On Friday Jan 30th first treasurer training was hosted, also hosted a smaller meeting last Tuesday before the Senate. Added that they have officially confirmed budgeting workshops and an email will be sent to treasurers soon. BNF will be meeting tomorrow for training and going over supplementary funding request.
 - e. Student Life Report with VPSL Kostbar
 - i. Has been working on housing information to all classes to help people sort through the challenge of housing selection. Last week at CSL they had a conversation about spaces on campus and getting more people to examine the spaces looked at on campus.

Mainly Case, Band Trailer, Squirrels Nest (Almost covered), and the RA closet. He met with res-life about water fountains with new information about the filter that has come to light and that more information to be sent out. Added that he has been project brainstorming and emails have been sent to necessary administrators.

- f. Club Affairs Report with VPCA Minkah
 - i. Met with Emily Pool to review club fair moderate success, all slots went up but participation down. There's been preparation for leadership banquet underway and nominations for 3 awards have been sent out. The banquet will take place in late April.
- g. Institutional Diversity Report with VPID Lederman
 - i. Encouraging students to submit bias reports as students do not believe in the system. Added that for CID they had RAICES and ACA sit in, and from going forward too OSDI clubs will be sitting in on meetings. They discussed spaces on campus and community gathering spaces as well as outreach from SGA. Added 3 new all gender bathrooms map available on website, improvements for name policy allowing for chosen name to be shown on emails. Ended with how they brought up initiatives from ADA Subcommittee, everyone from the CID committee volunteered to work on initiatives brought up.
- h. Engagement and Outreach Report with VPEO Ferrigno
 - i. S. Situ shared that they're getting in contact with person in charge of marketing within college and getting recommendations on different future ideas.

9. Old Business:

a. **Presidential Nomination**

IPPC Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding: Elise Hinrichs

- i. Introduction by SGA President Majiedt and VPID Lederman
 - 1. C. Majiedt shared that Elise has been requested as possible chair for CIGU. CIGU is the loudest voice to advocate for the accessibility taskforce and that VP Woodfork themselves want Elise involved hence why she has Elise nominated for this position
- ii. Q/A Period
 - 1. No questions
- iii. Discussion Period
 - 1. S. Kostbar thinks Elise would be great for this role hardworking, smart and friendly.

2. S. Shoemaker has seen the amount of effort Elise puts into cultivating relationships with administration and how hard she works and thinks it's only natural for her to serve on the committee.

Motion for roll call vote by S. Minkah seconded by S. Bigelow

Member	Nomination		Member	Nomination	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
			Senator Kostbar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ararba	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Lederman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Aybar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Lipman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Barnes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Minkah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Bigelow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Nambane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Castillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Shoemaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ferrigno	Absent		Senator Situ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glanville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Sterling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator King	Absent		Senator Terry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Khan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator Zhang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Koegler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

10. New Business:

a. **Next Steps and Comments by SGA President Majiedt**

i. Introduction by SGA President Majiedt

1. Ex-Comm has had discussions about moving forward have taken place, and Ex-Comm has somewhat of a hold on the situation. Ex-Comm has also spoken about those who have jumped into initiatives and in Presidents Majiedt's opinions it's not on senators to be saviors but instead to center student opinions. "Call on me when you need me and I hope that we respond rather than acting as invaders". She added that she'll explain her recommendation to reconsider the rejected resolution not at this moment but soon and that it's time for actionable support, but it should be noted repair cannot be rushed. She added that SGA protects all students and upholds the dignity of all students, but SGA also holds themselves accountable

ii. Q/A Period

11. Senators Forum

- a. S222: Rules for reconsideration of a bill; President Majiedt recommends an eventual resolution to reconsider. Must be motioned by someone who voted yes and seconded by someone who voted no. 3/4ths majority necessary
- b. S. Kostbar asks if reconsideration is done and goes through, may senate then table legislation so that it may be voted upon at a later date. President Majiedt notes that this is possible
- c. Below is an abbreviated statement from S. Bigelow, any student who would like to further discuss with her the reasons why she voted no on the resolution are welcome to reach out to her:

As a student government representative for almost three years, I have been a part of numerous aspects of the SGA. I have also experienced the leadership of three SGA presidents, all coming with different styles and methods of leadership. The decision to dissolve the commission of ADA is a byproduct of thorough evaluation of the structure of SGA under President Lowell's administration. A consultant recommended we narrow the scope of the SGA to allow for more efficiency. The dissolution was not a matter of not caring for accessibility, rather to allow for more guidance and clarity.

All of this is to provide background into the depth of this decision as the leadup to now dates back to even 2023. I do strongly believe that accessibility at Skidmore needs to be improved. From snow plowing in the winter, to time off for students during times for wellness, health, or grieving purposes. Additionally, the campus' structures date to 1970, making it, unfortunately, not accessible. The college's infrastructure, in my opinion, is an administrative issue. The college needs to fund these projects because SGA does not have the funds to. Our student activity fee has not been raised in almost 20 years and increasing the cost means increasing the annual bills students pay a year. I agree and will advocate for accessibility on Skidmore's campus, but the subcommittee was not given a fair chance. We went from a commission to a committee without any basis on how the subcommittee actually went.

The two weeks leading up to the vote, I thought out the amendment constantly. Yet my decision stems solely on the logistics of this new committee and vice president. I am not devaluing the severity of accessibility, but I believe that the college seriously needs to address accessibility first. I have also discussed this issue with administrators on our campus, and there is progress in incorporating more accessibility into the 5 year plan. Our compromises to the new committee are as follows: a subcommittee with a chair who sits on

the committee on student life and institutional diversity. I strongly believe that subcommittee chairs should visit the senate at least twice a month so we hear more about their goals.

I appreciated hearing student experiences in open forum and was interested in hearing what Dylan, Evvy and Elise had to say, but I was upset by viewer reaction and yikyak commentary. It is okay and encouraged to have differing opinions, but comments such as “I wish the people who voted no become disabled tomorrow with responses such as “nothing a baseball bat can’t do” and “If I whacked you idiots who didn’t vote yes in the head with a skateboard it would gong like a church bell” threaten and intimidate the people who voted no. Online, I have been called an ableist along with a number of other insults all because I have used my experience as a senator for the past three years to make an informed decision. I understand the severity of the topic, but my decision, and the decision of my fellow senators, has been informed by experience, and background. I will always act with discretion in student government and use my title to help create a functioning SGA, looking out for the student body and SGA as a structure. In terms of next steps, I would absolutely love to work with the working group to figure out the best solution that works for everyone. And for anyone interested in having a discussion wit me personally, please feel free to reach out.

- d. C. Majiedt added SGA does not condone death threats of any kind and asks that these matters be reported to the proper channels.
- e. S. Kogler first off wants to thank everyone who came in to speak today, then thanks S. Shoemaker and S. Kostbar for their work on this initiative and appreciates the hard work done. Also wants to thank SGA Clerk for taking minutes. Also thanks President Majiedt for dealing with the difficulty of this process. Personally, as someone who did vote yes, she does want to stand by that and commits herself to doing more to continue on the work done by said senators. Specifically mentions the initiative about Bereavement and Sickness Absence policy updates and mentions how she wants to get involved in that. Offers clarification on what she said on last meeting, she does not believe having students here is an issue but instead just wanted to note the amount of pressure put on Senators and how the volume of students who attended the meeting added to that. All senators within the meetings are students and do not deserve threats of harm and grievous injury. She really hopes we can all come together and move forward despite what may have happened within the previous senate meeting.

- f. S. Shoemaker wants to preface her message with an apology for Senators who have received threats and notes that each one of said comments was a blow to their entire mission. In his first few years at Skidmore he expressed that he has listened to Upperclassmen share about their experiences working on accessibility. Mentions harassment received on Campus while working on issues with diversity from individuals related to members of SGA. Joined this administration to stop people from walking over these issues, while trying to report these hideous statements mentioned. She was told that she was lying and that nobody would make those statements. She understands that the decision was made with the advisement of consultants, but these consultants are not disabled and do not deal with the same lived experiences. As we move forward, he asks every senator to have at least one 1-1 session with her to understand why he does what he does. He wants them all to consider that maybe they (working group) are not just trying to be difficult or stubborn but rather are trying to uphold disability justice principles
- g. President Majiedt asks all to come to her with their concerns but also recommends other appropriate resources that people can speak too. Urges them to stay off of Yik Yak and have a healthy dialogue rather than going behind others back

12. Announcements

- a. Kylie announces Lovefest this Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 focused on building community and loving one another hosted by the Wyckoff Center.
- b. Feel free to bring a plus one to the Board of trustee's dinner and if Senators would like and send Zack the names of said plus ones.
- c. S. Situ mentions Tang is having an exhibit for valentines this Friday from the late afternoon till the evening
- d. Kylie mentions Black history calendar on the Skidmore Calendar, but the Ujima BHM Calendar in her opinion is much better.

13. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by S. Minkah seconded by S. Nambane at 9:50 pm