THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
37TH SENATE, FOURTH SESSION
AGENDA

Date: 10/20/2026
Location: Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, Second Floor
Time: 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Member	Attendance		**Member**	Attendance	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
C. Kostbar	x		S. Nwosu	x	
S. Bhola	x		S. O'Brien	x	
S. Cabe	x		S. Rehman	x	
S. Castillo	x		S. Ruiz-Villera	x	
S. Crespo Hernandez	x		S. Shoemaker	x	
S. Gordon	x		S. Siguencia	x	
S. Harrison	x		S. Silva	x	
S. Hartnett	x		S. Sterling	x	
S. Khan	x		S. Terry	x	
S. Koegler	x		S. Thomson	x	
S. Kokas	x		S. Yates	x	
S. Lim	x		S. Zhou	x	
S. Minkah	x		S. Ziek	x	

Others in Attendance: Director of Leadership Activities Zach Schwan, SGA Clerk Mamadou Dia, Interim Deputy Title IX and Equal Opportunity Coordinator Danielle Joyce, Tara Ndjingo

---

1. Call to Order
    a. Call to order at 8:00 p.m.

2. Invocation
3. Attendance
4. Approval of the Agenda
    a. Motion by S. Zhou, seconded by S. Bhola to approve the agenda.
5. Approval of the prior Minutes (10/13/2026)
    a. Motion by S. Gordon seconded by S. Bhola to approve the prior minutes.
6. Open Forum
7. Executive Committee Reports
    a. Presidential Report with SGA President Kostbar
        i. Recently had a meeting with Beth Post where the system of Extension of Visa Fund was mocked up, will continue with the project if the change passes challenges in federal courts
        ii. Developed a SGA Financial Report to present to Marc C. Conner tomorrow
        iii. Working with IPPC Student Affairs Subcommittee to do an affinity space open forum event
    b. Vice Presidential Report with VPA Terry
        i. Committee of Operations was approved to go through website training
        ii. Fully in the greenlight for volunteering opportunity this Saturday with Pitney Meadow Community Farms
        iii. Meeting with two directors of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee
    c. Academic Affairs Report with VPAA Sterling
        i. Dean of faculty search committee met today for 3 hours, went from 150+ possible candidates to 12
        ii. AI survey went out this Monday: Please fill it out and tell others this has been in the process for a long time, and 30% participation is what we're aiming for
    d. Budget and Finance Report with VPFA Khan
        i. B&F met yesterday with Extravagems approved a supplemental request
        ii. National Society of Black Engineers coming in later with a budget reallocation request
    e. Club Affairs Report with VPCA Castillo
        i. Over the weekend an update on trial club period was sent out over email
        ii. Today was mandatory trial club period training where financials and club policies were reviewed, ADOLA Marty Kelly gave them a tutorial on how to use EMS and a tutorial on how to use Skidsync

iii. Their general body meetings should be within the next couple weeks
iv. Next check in is November 2nd

f. Student Life Report with VPSL Ziek
    i. Community Commons event on JOTO first floor
    ii. Free Stuff Email with CSL is in the works
    iii. Thanksgiving break transportation is currently the priority
g. Institutional Diversity Report with VPID Nwosu
    i. CID has finalized the willingness to Serve members and they were sworn in last weekend
    ii. Meeting with Nana and Chloe from the CDC to discuss BIPOC Career Fair
    iii. CID members discussed some personal initiatives related to D-Hall and Catering
    iv. Meeting with Hilary to discuss the potential guest speaker
h. Engagement and Outreach Report with VPEO Shoemaker
    i. Making headway on projects
    ii. A lot of discussions in EOC on how to address generative AI within campaigning

8. Old Business
    a. Resolution 37-06: Community Norms Update Act
        i. Introduction by C. Kostbar and S. Nwosu
            1. Implemented all of the feedback discussed last time this resolution was brought up:
                a. Grammatical errors
                b. Point on interruption specifically
                c. Naming discomfort
            2. S. Nwosu is glad that everyone felt comfortable enough to table this decision so that it could be done with more reflection and discussion
        ii. Q/A Period
            1. Q: S. Castillo is wondering what the big changes were to the resolution from its original iteration
            2. A: All the stuff previously named in the introduction
            3. Q: S. Castillo asks if this is just for the Senate session and won't affect the bylaws
            4. A: This would not be appropriate to be added to the bylaws as community norms should be set by Senate yearly

5. Q: S. Harrison asks if the removal of SGA in the power dynamics/differences portion done with intention and how did we get to this conclusion
6. A: To the first point, power differences in senate session exist outside of just SGA and can be between students, faculties, officers', clubs, etc. On the second point the feedback was garnered from the last discussion of the Senate session

iii. Discussion Period
1. S. Shoemaker likes the changes that were made and believes at this point it's no longer beneficial to keep delving on the non-pertinent issues of this topic
2. S. Thomson agrees, he believes that as well and is happy the way this turned out from last session
3. S. O'Brien really likes the way it's laid out; she however is a little worried about the number of norms there are and how that might affect ease of implementation and the ability to understand it
4. S. Harrison see's that changes have been made, there are some wording things that could be worked about but agrees that laser focusing on these topics is unnecessary and at this point we should vote on the community norms

iv. Roll-Call Vote
1. Motion for roll call vote by S. Thomson seconded by S. Shoemaker

9.

Member	Attendance		**Member**	Attendance	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
C. Kostbar			S. Nwosu	☐	☐
S. Bhola	x	☐	S. O'Brien	x	☐
S. Cabe	x	☐	S. Rehman	x	☐
S. Castillo	x	☐	S. Ruiz-Villera	x	☐
S. Crespo Hernandez	x	☐	S. Shoemaker	x	☐
S. Gordon	x	☐	S. Siguencia	x	☐
S. Harrison	x	☐	S. Silva	☐	☐
S. Hartnett	x	☐	S. Sterling	x	☐
S. Khan	x	☐	S. Terry	x	☐
S. Koegler	x	☐	S. Thomson	x	☐
S. Kokas	x	☐	S. Yates	x	☐
S. Lim	x	☐	S. Zhou	x	☐
S. Minkah	x	☐	S. Ziek	x	☐

10. New Business
    a. Title-IX Presentation with Deputy Title IX and Equal Opportunity Coordinator Danielle Joyce
        i. Introduction
            1. Standard SGA Title IX/IV training
            2. Danielle's Office is in Case 311 in case anyone needs anything
        ii. Q/A Period
            1. Q: S. Ruiz-Villera, are Skidmore SCEMS considered a confidential group?
               A: They are confidential however all SCEMS reports are campus safety reports and under that system will be reported
            2. Q: S. Zhou wants to know what kind of protocols if someone experiences a Title IX is there an immediate report system that is not Campus Safety
               A: If it happens off regular hours Campus safety is here 24/7 depending on the circumstances they may call out to a Title IX coordinator, generally when it comes to immediate reports it is usually campus safety
            3. Q: S. Castillo asks if the student bias report system can be made to faculty and staff

A: Yes

4. Q: S. Shoemaker asks if health services could potentially do SAFE exams

   A: No, that is not a service offered at health services

iii. Discussion about campus Culture

1. Danielle Joyce asks generally about what the culture is like at Skidmore College surrounding partying, drugs, and sex. If you have any thoughts about this and or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to the Skidmore Title IX Office or reach out to her email djoyce1@skidmore.edu
2. S. Ziek shares that CSL started a brief discussion; this campus is a little bit odd as there are some people on both sides of the isle. There is a drug-free zone and a drug active zone. Marijuana is specifically prevalent on this campus
3. There will be a sexual climate survey will be brought out by the end of January
4. S. Shoemaker has noticed that he doesn't have a lot of friends on campus because a lot of events aren't even wheelchair accessible, it is incredibly lonely, difficult and isolating to have so many campus events be inaccessible for wheelchair users It is also generally the same group of people that show up to events and possibly have a discussion on how to diversify these events
5. S. Gordon wanted to build on a similar point on the substance free events and how those events have very limited seats and if there were a way to increase the seating for the event and possibly increase the budget if possible
6. S. Shoemaker finds that substance free events are of a similar level of social intensity and maybe it could be possible to have more substance free events that could be like parties
7. Request for information by C. Kostbar about what type of events are we talking about with the substance free, possibly SEC?
   a. A: S. Gordon clarifies that they are PHE events and Club Events
8. S. Zhou has been to substance free events and a lot of the substance free events like the outing club are very popular, require a certain level of mobility, and are inaccessible.

Ironically, not substance free events are slightly more accessible because they are less physically strenuous

9. S. Harrison asks what Joyce's role at other colleges was, what are these other colleges, and what initiatives could you possibly bring from those schools
10. Sienna College, bingo event was a pretty big event on Sienna College campus, in terms of substance free events. That being said, Sienna had a little more conservative culture then Skidmore College. Sienna also had a similar sized student body, slightly larger
11. S. Castillo likes how this year for Big Show there was a no water bottle rule and that it was a pretty good initiative; it showed a shift on how we could prevent these things from happening. It could be pertinent to analyze what events are people drinking at as a part of it and what can we do to change that culture
12. President Kostbar adds that she thinks Skidmore could benefit from being less prudish. A big part of the difficulty with having these kinds of conversations about consent is that nobody wants to talk about sex. Maybe an event that is geared towards being sexed up. Let's talk about sex on campus.

b. National Society of Black Engineers Budget Reallocation Request
    i. Introduction by S. Khan
        1. President of National Black Engineering is Society Tara Ndjingo
        2. S. Khan shared the budget reallocation request is from the Fall Regional Conference to the AfroTech conference. Requested $3,000, but due to bylaw restrictions, only 75% can be reimbursed using SAF Funds, so $2,250
        3. Tara shares that BnF was helpful, NSBE is a conference setting club. NSBE realized that the Fall Regional Conference event wasn't very fruitful and for the value of what was sent the conference didn't provide much of a benefit. AfroTech, it has all the benefits a good conference should have for student attendees. For this first year they would keep it small, specifically 3 members, as both a budget saving opportunity
    ii. Q/A Period

1. S. Thomson asks what would happen next year if this were a success it may be quite arduous and expensive to bring everyone along
2. A: This is not how this would happen; it would be something that members would have to apply for, and conferences would be limited. These conferences, however, are a good opportunity to network and allows people to bring recruiters to campus which benefits all members of the club
3. Q: S. Harrison asks in the future if you like this conference, how many people would you be hoping to take next semester?
4. A: Ideally for Afro-Tech it would be around 4 to 5, for the National Black Engineering Conference in Boston, it will hopefully be more members
5. Q: S. Ruiz Villera asks how this selection would be done, specifically it's one E-Board member and then some general body members, and are seniors always prioritized?
6. A: Upperclassmen will be prioritized and there will always be a set number for upperclassmen that will be on each conference
7. Q: S. Silva asks what are the benefits you see for the students who have had the opportunity to attend these conferences? do you see any differences?
8. A: People come back from these conference's more career ready; you see they have more of a surge of confidence and energy. They come back with networks; some people have gotten actual internships from these conferences. The community that is fostered is very beautiful.
9. C. Kostbar asks what a budget re-allocation request is and how it differs from a supplemental request
10. A: This is money that is already within the club's budget that is being moved towards something else, as opposed to a supplemental request which would come from program support

iii. Discussion Period
1. S. Ziek hopes they all have fun
2. S. Silva thinks this is a great investment and that this investment that has clearly paid off and is exactly what the

student body should do, which is to invest in the next generation of leaders, and he wishes them all the best

3. S. Zhou wants to voice his support and believes this is an amazing idea and notes how hard it is to find jobs for engineers within this economy
4. S. Shoemaker adds that Tara has been her coworker in the idea lab for the last 2 years and is so excited to hear that this is happening and wanted to voice his support
5. S. Castillo also adds her support; she knows that previously they have found ways to find funding and is glad to see clubs are using the resources provided to them instead of just letting their money set
6. S. Ruiz-Villera thinks having these opportunities is what we need; he thinks this is an example of what other clubs and perspective clubs at Skidmore should be doing to support their students.
7. S. Harrison wants to say that he totally wants this and is in support of this; he wants to see how this benefits the whole club and whole body of stem majors. He also loves that this is a re-allocation and not a supplemental request not that he wouldn't approve of this if it were

iv. Roll-Call Vote

1. Motion for roll call vote by S. Silva seconded by S. Bhola

Member	Attendance		**Member**	Attendance	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
C. Kostbar	☐	☐	S. Nwosu	x	☐
S. Bhola	x	☐	S. O'Brien	x	☐
S. Cabe	x	☐	S. Rehman	x	☐
S. Castillo	x	☐	S. Ruiz-Villera	x	☐
S. Crespo Hernandez	x	☐	S. Shoemaker	x	☐
S. Gordon	x	☐	S. Siguencia	x	☐
S. Harrison	x	☐	S. Silva	x	☐
S. Hartnett	x	☐	S. Sterling	x	☐
S. Khan A		☐	S. Terry	x	☐
S. Koegler	x	☐	S. Thomson	x	☐
S. Kokas	x	☐	S. Yates	x	☐
S. Lim	x	☐	S. Zhou	x	☐
S. Minkah	x	☐	S. Ziek	x	☐

11. Senators Forum
    a. Shoutout to S. Sterling for all the work that has been for the AI Survey, for the sake of the entirety of Academic Counsil, please fill out the AI survey
    b. Volunteering October 24th
    c. S. Thomson points out the AI generated poster of a facetious campaign poster for Mladen, this is a good reason to create a resolution that would bar AI from being used for campaigning and if anybody could help him get that started that would be great
        i. Point of information S. Shoemaker and S. Kostbar are working on SGA campaigning guidelines and maybe this could be a collaboration
        ii. Request for information: S. Ruiz-Villera has just been informed about the loss of the poster policy and wanted a point of information on that, and asked what we were going to do in the meantime
            1. A.
        iii. S. Castillo wanted to add that whenever this resolution that would change the poster and or campaigning policy, it is important that you get feedback from the student bodies and more specifically club leaders, this is a very divisive topic, so we need to be mindful of how it may effect these things and what other people may have to say
        iv. S. Harrison agrees that it would be possible for there to be a happy medium that could be found, also he adds that there are possibly more harmful posters that have been circulating
        v. S. Shoemaker adds that if you hear anything about this, please correct that there is no SGA election going on etc.
    d. S. Harrison wants to add a couple of things: First things he asks is why of the 16 spots open for potential trial clubs why only 11 were approved
        i. S. Castillo wanted to leave a fair number of clubs open for next year, if they filled all the positions there would be 0 spots for any other clubs to become trial spots without other clubs sunsetting
    e. C. Kostbar requests that we address one another by name
    f. S. Ziek wants to add that trail club approvals were an Excomm decision
    g. S. Kokas adds that S. Gordon and him are re-attempting to introduce a meeting minute resolution to standardized guideline for meeting minutes if anyone has any feedback on that
        i. Point of clarification: This was brought into Senate a few times at the end of last year, but it was buried in finals season

h. S. Harrison also wants to ask S. Sterling about course evaluation changes and what lead to that decision
    i. S. Sterling adds that most colleges do online course evaluations, nobody wants to do handwritten, the department ones are still handwritten
    ii. S. Ziek adds a point of information: Professors can tell who writes these evaluations
    iii. S. Zhou adds that as someone with dyslexia having an electronic alternative is very helpful, it makes things more accessible

12. Announcements
    a. Reminder AHA gala this Saturday the 24th, at 5:00 p.m. ExComm is required to go, it is recommended for everyone to go
    b. Motion for non-senators to speak by S. Shoemaker seconded S. O'Brien
        i. Skidmore pays for a NYT subscription for all students, if SGA elects not to pay their portion of their agreement, then the NYT subscriptions may possibly cease
            1. Request for information: did they not inform B&F during the annual operating budget that they were covering this fee in its entirety this year, and how much would this cost?
            2. There was some miscommunication with the email on who was covering what, also this would cost about $9,000
13. Motion for non-senators to speak by S. Shoemaker seconded S. O'Brien
14. Adjourn
    a. On motion of S. Gordon seconded by S. Bhola to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.