THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
37TH SENATE, FOURTH SESSION
AGENDA

Date: 10/6/2026
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, Subcommittee Chairs

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1. Call to Order at 8:09 P.M.
2. Invocation
3. Attendance

4. Oath of Office
5. Approval of the Agenda
    a. Motion by S. Gordon seconded by S. Bhola to approve the agenda.
6. Approval of the prior Minutes (9/29/2026)
    a. Motion by S. Ziek seconded by S. Zhou to approve the prior minutes.
7. Open Forum
8. Executive Committee Reports
    a. Presidential Report with SGA President Kostbar
        i. Mentorship assignments have now been released and all mentees and mentors have been paired
        ii. Preparation for Senate session in Falstaffs next week
        iii. Discussions with Deputy Title IX coordinator for a meeting in Senate
        iv. Meeting with Dr. Paradise to discuss the status of the Food Pantry
    b. Vice Presidential Report with EVP Terry
        i. S. Shoemaker came to CO this Sunday
    c. Academic Affairs Report with VPAA Sterling
        i. Went to President Connors AI Working Group this Sunday and presented the AI survey which should hopefully be coming out soon
        ii. Food pantry passed the site check, and food should be coming within the next two weeks
        iii. Putting finishing touches on First Gen Symposium event
        iv. Skidmore Democrats have lost their textbooks due to a flood in club storage
    d. Budget and Finance Report with VPFA Khan
        i. Approved Film Club Budget
        ii. Approved Bandersnatchers Budget
        iii. National Comedy Festival supplemental funding request approved
        iv. Program support is currently at $67,011.99, last year it was at $72,582.07 discrepancy due to a change in budget, but spending is overall the same as last year
    e. Student Life Report with VPSL Ziek
        i. October 16th Joto Community Commons opening event
        ii. Band Trailer should be opening within a couple weeks
        iii. SGA Office has been cleaned up with the help of some Senators
    f. Club Affairs Report with VPCA Castillo
        i. Sent club trail period applications to Excomm and the decisions of which will enter trial period be decided on Friday
    g. Institutional Diversity Report with VPID Nwosu

i. Conducting interview for Willingness to Serve positions in Committee of Institutional Diversity (CID)
ii. Getting the ball rolling on an international students' career fair
iii. Having meetings with D-Hall staff, updates to come

h. Engagement and Outreach Report with VPEO Shoemaker
i. Meeting early next week with facilities to possibly change the way the current SGA door works to make it more accessible and discuss Skylight iPad being installed near the SGA office
ii. Pajama Party next week for Senate session in Falstaffs
iii. Halloween Party SGA crash course session potentially in the works

9. New Business
a. Subcommittee Updates
i. Introduction by C. Kostbar
1. Subcommittee chairs are in attendance to share what is happening in their subcommittees, plans for the year, and mission statements for their subcommittee
ii. Q/A Period
1. CSL Subcommittee on Sustainability (SuCo)
a. Q: What is the mission of your subcommittee
A: Skidmore Sustainability Commission co-chairs the green grant and makes the campus more sustainable
b. What initiatives do you both have planned for your subcommittee this semester?
i. Event tomorrow focused on reusing old material for possible art, potting, etc.
ii. Post halloweekend trash picking day with gift card incentive possible collaboration with outing clubs
c. Skidmore Accessibility Committee holding
2. CID Subcommittee on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
a. Q: What is the mission of your subcommittee
A: Holding Skidmore accountable and making sure it complies with ADA guideline and making the campus a more accessible space
b. What initiatives do you have planned for your subcommittee this semester?

i. The transit system still needs to find an office to work with and finalize employment info
ii. Accessible map currently in the process of creation for tour offices and online, going to be presented to office of communication soon
iii. Currently analyzing data from survey last year and using that data to present a comprehensive report to dining services
iv. Social media awareness campaign about being a disabled student at Skidmore and maybe some informational resources
v. Door button sign updates and maps, tracking and reporting to make sure there being fixed
vi. Grief and Sickness Absence Policy currently working with S. Sterling to hopefully send out a survey asking about illness or possible leave due to bereavement
vii. Also planning a website on accessibility that will hopefully have resources, blog posts, summaries of all ADA subcommittee and task force meetings

3. Q: S. Crespo-Hernandez asks ADA subcommittee if they have their own account or if the post will be on the SGA account
   A: It will be on the SGA account
4. Q: S. Ziek asks for example for past Green Grant recipients
   A: Dots on windows to prevent bird collisions, pollinator awareness week, growing mushrooms with logs to be harvested for d-hall
5. Q: S. Crespo-Hernandez asks if there any initiatives from last year that you will continue to work on
   A: They didn't do much last year so there trying to do more
6. Q: How should senators who want to get involved in projects reach out to you
   A: Email and or also showing up to email or you can speak with senators that are currently sitting on the committee
7. Q: S. Harrison asks if there's anything individual SGA members can do currently to build a bridge to be supportive

A: SuCo Chair Eleanor says that if there are events, please show up, and if Senators ever have any ideas, please reach out and share

b. National College Comedy Festival Supplemental Funding Request
    i. Introduction by S. Khan
        1. This is a supplemental funding request for the National College Comedy Festival which is hosting Com Fest which is beloved by the student body
        2. They are asking for $3,000 dollars to hire a better-quality comedian
        3. The numbers that you see are standard for most of the quotes they have gotten
        4. What they are trying to do is hopefully get more attendance and get close to selling out, which is about 700 students over the course of two nights
        5. Some names included are actors in popular shows
        6. Last year they allocated their budget to bigger names like Malik Elassal: He played Samir in the Hulu Show Adults and Chloe Troast: A SNL alumni
        7. The thing that has the biggest pull is the standup comedian; Com Fest really wants to have a similar pull as something like Big Show
        8. These events having big pulls really builds up the Skidmore campus and it would be nice to get the ball moving early this year
        9. Budget and Finance unanimously approved this budget as a reasonable supplementary finance request
    ii. Q/A Period
        1. Q: S. Koegler asks if out of the names listed is there any names you were leaning towards
           A: Mallik Elassal is probably the top name who would draw a lot of pull to the event, they tried for Mary Meth Barone but after the Netflix special this is not happening
        2. Q: S. Ziek asks S. Khan why their budget was reduced from $12,000 to $8,000 last semester
           A: S. Khan isn't sure but the producer from Com Fest answer that the year they got $12,000 was an anniversary year, also they have previously argued they could do more with less
        3. Q: S. Harrison asks about the reduce in ticket prices

A: The Com Fest producer shares that tickets were previously at $10 and is now $7. They are not currently looking to raise prices, their request is hopefully to get more people to show up, they don't want to change it as to both keep it accessible, but also still have something to pay back their vendors

4. Point of information: This ticket can be covered by SAFA for students without the financial means to attend
5. Q: S. Crespo-Hernandez asks if there are any points brought up in B&F that should be shared
   A: There were no specific points brought up all members agreed it was a reasonable request
6. Q: C. Kostbar asks about the range in comedian costs and where exactly their cost would fall on that range and how the negotiating works
   A: In this specific case due to the limited tech operation in JKB the range is usually negotiated down

iii. Discussion Period

1. S. Gordon wants to share his support for this; he went last year had a blast
2. S. Minkah seconds this and says the proposal was well done
3. S. Ziek is also in support
4. S. Sterling is also in full support of this, there aren't a lot of student groups who are trying to bring other student groups from across the country, also she believes program support is there to be used
5. S. Zhou is also in full support of this, he enjoys comedy
6. S. Thomson had the pleasure of taking 2 classes the person representing ComFest for this funding request, and believes that he is a very hard worker and thinks he will get it done and fully supports giving them the money they need

iv. Roll Call Vote

1. Motion by S. Minkah seconded by S. Zhou

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	☐	☐

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		☐	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	☐

c. Resolution 37-06: Community Norms Update Act
    i. Introduction by C. Kostbar and S. Nwosu
        1. After the discussion yesterday C. Kostbar and S. Nwosu have made a list of potential Community Norms and asks everyone to be critical
        2. S. Nwosu adds just to not second guess yourself, and if you feel any hesitant about anything on the list, please raise concerns as these are standards Senate will be held to
    ii. Q/A Period
        1. S. Harrison wanted to ask about specifically the first point about respecting each other based on the last discussion, he asked to clarify why this was worded as it was on the document
        2. C. Kostbar mentions that they wanted the baseline wording of respect to be used as it's a solid starting point and you are correct that point potentially could be better defined
        3. S. Thomson asks a question as the previous community norms had more coverage and is wondering if there is any benefit to cutting them down, what was the point of reducing them, could the previous community norm not be more than sufficient?
        4. C. Kostbar has two thoughts 1. It was taking what people seemed to be focused on in the pervious discussion and honing in on that, and 2. It was cutting the fluff some of the points from the community values were very similar. When you feel like the norms of space have been crossed, it's easier to have less points that are more specific to look at too.

S. Nwosu adds that the previous community norms were a lot to look at, and she thinks there is value to having norms that were created by members of Senate. How can this be narrowed down in a way that is both thorough and concrete is a tricky point, if it doesn't align with what your values is to have this kind of dialogue

5. Q: S. Yates asks if during discussion period if it would be possible to pull up the copy of the old norms and when we are done finalizing them, can we have a similar presentation of the norms as a previous one?
   A: The norms will be swapped out with these new ones
6. Q: S. Sterling asks about the points of focusing on power dynamics, what power dynamics are we talking about, and what could abuse that look like?
   A: C. Kostbar answers objectively the SGA President has the most power within SGA, which could be abused, mentors and mentees, Excomm and Senators, Admin and Students, Senators and Guest. Just some examples of power dynamics that should be addressed and discussed
7. Q: S. Kokas asks about the line for taking space for yourself to speak and make space for others and asks about is the wording if whether this relates to the discussion of interrupting others and how this fits into that
8. A: Taking space in this is about taking space as an action to use your voice, it's modeled after the phrase 'take space, make space' which is in a lot of community norms
9. S. Nwosu adds that in her mind taking space just means knowing this is a space where people are encouraged to speak up and if you for any reasons are afraid to speak up, the wording allows others to encourage themselves to take up that space while also being mindful on whether or not people are taking up the right amount of space
10. Q: S. Harrison asks if during discussion period will there be a chance to change this legislation
    A: C. Kostbar adds that after discussion period is the perfect time to make amendments, Senators can make 2 major amendments and after the 3rd the amendment would be sent to the drawing board

iii. Discussion Period

1. S. Shoemaker really likes the state the list is in right now, it feels like a very condensed version of the old ones, the only thing possibly missing is a naming of discomfort, a lot of this is how Senators carry ourselves and our conversations but there are times when Senators have hard conversations and sometimes things may get uncomfortable and these community norms kind of ignore that.
2. S. Thomson thinks they are in good shape, he likes these, he also liked the old ones. But the point of interruption and not allowing them should be codified; interrupting really disrupts open conversation.
3. S. Sterling believes the point of interruption is covered in the allow space for others to speak section, and does not want to bog down the list
4. S. Crespo-Hernandez likes the list and specifically likes the point of respecting each other, to S. Shoemakers point of uncomfortable moments, it could kind of relate to respect
5. S. Harrison thinks the point of power dynamics needs more details it's unclear and should be unpacked

iv. Motion for five-minute recess by S. Zhou seconded by S. Shoemaker

v. Roll Call Vote
   1. Motion to friendly amend adding a comma to – 'Listen to understand and seek mutual understanding' by S. Kokas seconded by S. Gordon
   2. Motion to table indefinitely by S. Shoemaker seconded by S. Crespo-Hernandez

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

S. Lim	☒	☐	S. Zhou	☒	☐
S. Minkah	☒	☐	S. Ziek Abstain	☐	☐

10. Senators Forum
    a. S. Ziek reminds Senators not to get into semantics with the Community Norms, he states that these norms are best used for the sake of self advocation and ultimately these are just words on a piece of paper
    b. If you are unable to attend any of the dates for S. Terrys volunteering form, it's ok
    c. S. Shoemaker got some interesting feedback on elections forms, and if anyone wants to discuss or you have thoughts or want to see the feedback reach out cause rewriting the norms for campaigning will be happening soon
    d. S. Silva has been in a meeting with CDC to do board student officer recruitment session, and next week a former ambassador to Ukraine will be coming to Skidmore at the TANG
    e. S. Harrison asks about what exactly is going with next week's senate session
        i. Next week Senate session will be explained during announcement period, and the email will go out Monday morning as per usual
    f. If anyone is interested in helping with the BIPOC/International student career fair project, reach out to S. Nwosu

11. Announcements
    a. Next week's Senate session will be in Falstaffs, Senators will do SGA jeopardy and SGA legislation training and have a bunch of fun
    b. S. Koegler asks if anyone is interested in getting involved in local politics, in Tisch 207, there will be phone banking for Sarah Robbertson
    c. S. Sterling making congress work again panel session will be happening in Gannet so please feel free to come
    d. S. Siguencia RAICES is having an event in the volleyball court at 5:00-7:00pm on Friday
    e. Samantha Majiedt's photography session exhibition will be starting at 6:00pm tomorrow from the 7th to the 14th
    f. S. Crespo Hernandez the Flaherty Film Seminar Screening at the TANG screenings are starting October 8th, all day events on the tang website
    g. SGA Clerk open position most likely next month so if you know anyone who wants the position
12. Adjourn
    a. On motion of S. Minkah, seconded by S. Bhola to adjourn at 9:37 P.M.