THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
37TH SENATE, THIRD SESSION
AGENDA

Date: 9/29/2026
Location: Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, Second Floor
Time: 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Member	Attendance		**Member**	Attendance	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
C. Kostbar	☐	☐	Chloe O'Brien Y	☐	☐
Khamani Bhola Y	☐	☐	Hafsa Rehman Y	☐	☐
Han Cabe Y	☐	☐	Thomas Ruiz-Villera Y	☐	☐
Claudette Castillo Y	☐	☐	Evvy Shoemaker Y	☐	☐
Jocelyn Crespo Hernandez Y	☐	☐	Ashary Siguencia Y	☐	☐
Soraya Gordon Y	☐	☐	Darek Silva Y	☐	☐
Jack Harrison Y	☐	☐	Kate Sterling Y	☐	☐
Ella Hartnett Y	☐	☐	Bryce Terry Y	☐	☐
Raahim Latif Khan Y	☐	☐	Leo Thomson Y	☐	☐
Natalie Koegler Y	☐	☐	Ruby Yates Y	☐	☐
Hayden Kokas Y	☐	☐	Hui Zheng Y	☐	☐
Laura Lim Y	☐	☐	Chenbei Zhou Y	☐	☐
Nana Kwame Minkah Y	☐	☐	Paul Ziek Y	☐	☐
Zara Uju Nwosu Y	☐	☐		☐	☐

Others in Attendance: Director of Leadership Activities Zach Schwan, SGA Clerk Mamadou Dia, Student Events Council Executive Board, Judicial Board Officers, Subcommittee Chairs, Associate Director of Leadership Martin Kelly

1. Call to Order at 8:04 P.M.
2. Invocation
3. Attendance
4. Approval of the Agenda
    a. Motion to amend agenda to add SGA Presidential Nomination of Keya Shah to the Subcommittee of Student Affairs by S. Zhou seconded by S. Khan
    b. Motion by S. Kokas seconded by S. Bhola to approve the agenda.
5. Approval of the prior Minutes (9/22/2026)
    a. Motion to amend prior minutes to correct senator names specifically a mix up between S. Thomson and S. Kokas by S. Kokas seconded by S. Bhola
    b. Motion by S. Shoemaker seconded by S. Bhola to approve the prior minutes.
6. Open Forum
    a. New associate director of Leadership Martin Kelly Introduces himself and expresses his hope for fruitful collaboration
7. SGA Presidential Nomination for Subcommittee on Student Affairs: Keya Shah
    a. Introduction by President Kostbar
        i. President Kostbar introduces Keya, she is a hard-worker, adamant, always on top of emails and incredibly responsive
        ii. Keya reintroduces herself notes that she is the co-president of ISU and is being nominated for the IPPC Subcommittee on Student Affairs, has been on CIGU and CID for two years and has notable experience dealing with student affairs
    b. Q/A Period
        i. Q: S. O'Brien asks if Keya has any important projects she is looking forward to bringing up
        ii. A: There is a current project she is working on with President Kostbar specifically a solution to help the F1 students and hopefully start a fund for the extension of visas and/or make an amendment to the all-college requirements to help better assist F1 students
    c. Discussion
        i. S. Shoemaker notes the pleasure they have had working with Keya on CID, who is so organized and hardworking and makes sense as a perfect representative on this committee
        ii. S. Ziek adds that Keya is Student Affairs and is exactly what IPPC needs
        iii. S. Khan says that Keya is a great team player and worker as he's seen during their time

d. Roll-Call Vote
    i. Motion by S. Gordon and S. Ruiz-Villera

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Khamani Bhola Y	☐	☐	Hafsa Rehman Y	☐	☐
Han Cabe Y	☐	☐	Thomas Ruiz-Villera Y	☐	☐
Claudette Castillo Y	☐	☐	Evvy Shoemaker Y	☐	☐
Jocelyn Crespo Hernandez Y	☐	☐	Ashary Siguencia Y	☐	☐
Soraya Gordon Y	☐	☐	Darek Silva Y	☐	☐
Jack Harrison Y	☐	☐	Kate Sterling Y	☐	☐
Ella Hartnett Y	☐	☐	Bryce Terry Y	☐	☐
Raahim Latif Khan Y	☐	☐	Leo Thomson Y	☐	☐
Natalie Koegler Y	☐	☐	Ruby Yates Y	☐	☐
Hayden Kokas Y	☐	☐	Hui Zheng Y	☐	☐
Laura Lim Y	☐	☐	Chenbei Zhou A	☐	☐
Nana Kwame Minkah Y	☐	☐	Paul Ziek Y	☐	☐
Zara Uju Nwosu Y	☐	☐		☐	☐

8. Executive Committee Reports
    a. Presidential Reports with SGA President Kostbar
        i. There have been a lot of meetings this week, a meeting with President Connor regarding foreign students
            1. Discussed continuation of the Memorandum of Agreement regarding laundry
            2. Discussed the idea of an open forum for students so that the student body can hear more about the colleges current budgeting practices
        ii. Represented SGA in Shared-Governance Meeting
        iii. IPPC met and discussed community norms, the Skidmore mission statement, and the Strategic Action Agenda for the 26-27 academic year
    b. Executive Vice-Presidential Report with EVP Terry
        i. Operations had their first meeting this past Sunday at 5:00 p.m. where they discussed transition from current and previous senators
        ii. Heard back from Pitney Meadows farm about community events possibly on a Saturday

c. Academic Affairs Report with VPAA Sterling
    i. Academic Affairs just met currently discussing textbook affordability and what they can do to fix that
d. Budget and Finance Report with VPFA Khan
    i. Budget and Finance met yesterday where they approved a supplementary request for National Comedy festival
    ii. Program support update from $1208.50 last year to $1445.00 this year
e. Student Life Report with VPSL Ziek
    i. Met this Thursday
    ii. Had a meeting this past week about the Squirrels' Nest with VPAA Sterling and President Kostbar
    iii. If you have any ideas about the Jonsson Towers' First floor, please share your ideas at their upcoming meeting
f. Club Affairs Report with VPCA Castillo
    i. This past Sunday was the due date for the new club registration form
    ii. Met this morning to review some proposals and there have been some sent over to Excomm
g. Institutional Diversity Report with VPID Nwosu
    i. CID had a meeting this past Sunday where they welcomed Milo Bisgaier as their new Subcommittee on ADA Chair
    ii. Meeting to bring Dr. J, an associate professor of social justice, to Skidmore for a talk
    iii. Working on long term projects
h. Engagement and Outreach Report with VPEO Shoemaker
    i. Schedules for all committees and subcommittees has been written up on the SGA whiteboard, please feel free to add any major events

9. New Business
    a. SGA Photo
        i. Completed
    b. Student Events Council (SEC)
        i. Introduction by C. Kostbar and SEC Chair Nila Rothman
            1. SEC chair Mila Rothman introduces SEC which is the event planning branch of SGA, most of which is free like Big Show, which is coming up soon, Go-Carts, Minigolf etc.
            2. Meets weekly Wednesday 8 p.m. in Ladd 307
        ii. Q/A Period

1. Q: S. Ziek asks what the different branches of SEC are
   A: There are 4 major branches, Major Events, On-Campus, Off-Campus and Traditions Branch, there is also a Fallstaffs branch and Audrey is the SEC treasurer
2. Q: President Kostbar asks how Senate and SEC has worked together in the past
3. A: Historically SEC doesn't really come to Senate often but if Senators ever have any thoughts or ideas for collaboration, please reach out. Some legislation was recently passed within senate for financing adjustments, so there are some partnerships and Senate is always welcome to join.
4. Q: S. Harrison asks if there is anything individual senators can do to be helpful or informative.
   A: Nila responds that most of the help they can get would be just supporting SEC at Senate if at all possible and clarifying any confusions if Senators hear them
5. Q: S. Siguencia asks why we can't bring any guests to big show
   A: Liability reasons as well as fire safety and max capacity
6. Q: S. Silva asks if Student Activity Fee funds are enough to support SEC, or does SEC believe there should be an increase in SAF
   A: We are fortunate to have the amount of money they have and think it's more than enough
7. Point of information about SEC Budget history, SEC used to be under class structure, but after reconstruction, SEC's budget is 25% of SGA's budget and is currently $250,000 dollars.

c. Judicial Board
   i. Introduction by C. Kostbar and Chief Judicial Board Officer Joyce King
      1. Chief Judicial board officer S. King introduces herself and her fellow Judicial Board members
      2. They oversee procedure and make sure senate's conduct is official and fit to the college's standards
      3. They also work with student conduct and place an emphasis on impartiality

4. They also help senators and anyone else who may need help writing bylaws all though they cannot give their personal opinions

ii. Q/A Period
1. Q: President Kostbar asks when it comes to cases what severity issues result in impeachment and punishment
2. A: A mistake is accidental, for example, inputting something incorrect in the bylaws; it depends on the involvement how many and what rules were exactly broken
3. Q: S. Ziek asks if they can place sanctions on clubs
4. A: Possibly
5. Q: S. Nwosu asks regarding resolutions who can senate reach out to
6. A: To all members of the judicial board after they receive relevant training
7. S. Castillo offers a point of information that the judicial board also handles club matters and can in fact place sanctions/freeze club SGA funds
8. Q: S. Castillo asks how would you let students and Senate know about their involvement on SGA matters
9. A: It is both the job of Senate and the Judicial Board to make announcements; they will be doing it mostly, but Senate can assist how they see fit.

d. Community Norm Setting Workshop
i. Introduction by C. Kostbar and S. Nwosu
1. Senate first does introductions where everyone introduces themselves and their role
2. S. Nwosu clarifies that community norms are guidelines that Senate establishes so they have something to commit to and guidelines that can be used to hold themselves and each other accountable
3. As an example, C. Kostbar and S. Nwosu use Fall 2025 “A Black Women Speaks” community guidelines
4. SGA currently does have community values, however an important distinction is that community norms are set by the community that currently resides in the space while community values were decided by individuals who are no longer a part of senate

ii. Facilitated Open Discussion
1. Questions to think about

a. C. Kostbar asks Senators to write an answer to the following questions:
    i. What do you need from the people around you to be comfortable in a space
    ii. What do you need to feel comfortable sharing within a space? What makes you feel heard?
b. C. Kostbar asks Senators to turn to Senators next to them and begin translating what they wrote into actionable norms

iii. Community Norms
1. S. Minkah points out the first community value "Respect each other" as something that he finds critical, it's important to address the problems not the people
2. S. Hartnett really likes that idea of critiquing ideas and not individuals and wants that higher on the list
3. S. Bhola agrees with what S. Minkah says but also thinks the community values are fine as they are, he believes that a professional space is not always a safe space and that these community values emphasize the more professional nature that SGA holds
4. S. Silva wants to second what his fellow senior senator says, that we are here to do a job, and that sticking to the point is incredibly important as we all value are time.
5. S. Koeglar had a couple of ideas that she would like to share, 1. Being friendly inside and outside of senates, 2. Knowing when to have fun but also knowing when to be serious
    a. To the first point S. Thomson the first thing is to the point of mutual respect, and it should be worded as treating people with the respect that they deserve all the time
    b. S. Ruiz Villera seconds that point of mutual respect
    c. S. Zhou thinks we should try and not bring the disagreements inside of senate outside the space of senate
    d. S. Castillo believes that these things are things that we should know, being kind outside of this room at least to each other is a good reminder

    e. S. Cabe adds to the point that it makes SGA seem more united
6. Ruby adds about a potential norm about a common understanding that we are all here for Skidmore
    a. S. Crespo Hernandez discusses about being more genuine and non-performative and believes that as representatives of student body we should all give our honest and genuine opinions
7. How do we define respect, is respect being kind? Listening to others' opinions?
    a. S. Gordon believes in the whole treat others how you would want to be treated
    b. S. Ziek respect is telling the truth, even if it's hard to here
    c. S. Zhou respect is being able to call someone out even if it may make things uncomfortable
    d. S. Ruiz-Villera says that respect is not interrupting each other and not yelling at each other, not sugar coating but being tolerant
8. To make a point on the point of interruption when is it okay to or not to interrupt someone. Do we interrupt someone when there being buffoonish? Misinformation?
    a. S. Thomson believes interrupting misinformation is reasonable but that you should still let people finish there point as it may alienate them?
    b. S. Bhola also brings up body language and tone, it is appropriate to interrupt someone when they are disrespecting the space
    c. S. Crespo-Hernandez thinks interrupting is appropriate when it comes to moving away from discussions that are harmful and or inappropriate
    d. S. Silva agrees with the point of letting people finish their sentences and how it can be at times disruptive to cut people off
    e. S. Harrison also wants to add on to the point of interrupting, if there would be a non-verbal way to interrupt someone possibly through gesturing or raising your hand without verbally interrupting someone then that would be better

f. S. Kokas thinks it's ok to interrupt an interrupter like someone who violates the community norms, you must think of extremes when you are drafting these things

9. S. Thomson believes passive aggressive speech should not be allowed, it is disrespectful and unproductive, and it really changes the tone in the room
    a. S. Zhou asks what type of language is considered passive aggressive language
    b. S. Kostbar wants to re-iterate that she wants to keep this space about positive norms i.e.. Things to do and not things not to do
10. S. Crespo Hernandez points for a few on the list of community values that are good specifically cultivating a growth mindset
11. S. Nwosu talks about speaking with a dialogue mindset and perhaps not a discussion mindset. A dialogue mindset opens up the room to a point of mutual understanding and allow others to understand the root of an issue instead of the issue itself.
    a. Perhaps a norm about engaging with a dialogue mindset and not a discussion mindset
    b. Which could be translated into a point of speaking on mutual understanding
        i. S. Ruiz-Villera speaks on building each other's ideas up rather than tearing them down
        ii. S. Sterling brings up listening to understand and not to respond

iv. Wrap up
1. S. Nwosu wants to thank everyone for taking this idea seriously and participating in this discussion
2. President Kostbar wants to bring up that this discussion is valuable as it allowed us to think about things that allow us to be comfortable

10. Senators Forum
    a. S. Ziek wants SGA's advice for what you would like the opening day for the first floor of Joto to look like

b. S. Harrison had a couple of questions:
    i. Q: S. Harrison asks if VPCA Castillo can share more about the trail club requests
    ii. A: S. Castillo states that Excomm will be reviewing them over the next two weeks
    iii. A: C. Kostbar adds that it would be improper to share more at this time because Excomm hasn't voted to approve the requests yet
    iv. S. Cabe asks how SGA can communicate questions about the transportation system
        1. Referred to Paul Ziek
    v. S. Bhola asks if C. Kostbar has already started on the initiative for Fallstaffs and whether anything has been started
        1. Was referred to S. Ziek and the Chair of SEC Falstaffs Chair Drew Lederman
    vi. C. Kostbar makes a point
        1. This year we are allowing senators to sit on subcommittees to fulfill their senate committee requirements so if you are interested in sustainability or accessibility, please stay till after

11. Announcements
    a. S. Ruiz Villera wanted to do a quick project within the SGA office to clean it up, one side of the office is cluttered so tomorrow there will be a cleanup, so if there is anything that you would like to not be thrown out, please reach out
    b. On Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Wyckoff center Ujima will be having their general body meeting
    c. Mentorship Program
        i. Mentorship assignments come out this weekend, if you have not been on senate before you will be mentored
    d. Committee Assignments
        i. Committee assignments also come out this weekend
12. Adjourn
    a. On motion of S. Minkah seconded by S. Ruiz-Villera to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.