



Date 03/26/25
5:30-7:00
Event Space

Town Hall Minutes

- I. Welcome**
- II. Roll Call Attendance**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
- V. Constituency Comments**
- VI. Committee Reports**
 - A. President's Report**

Thank you all for being here today. It's a privilege to stand before you as your Student Body President. We've had our share of tough conversations and difficult decisions, but I truly believe that we've learned and grown from each experience.

One of the key things we've focused on this year is fostering open dialogue about what's happening on campus, especially in light of recent events that have impacted all of us in different ways. Whether it's navigating shifts in campus culture or addressing concerns about the overall student experience, we've worked hard to ensure that your voices are heard. I want to thank everyone for their involvement, feedback, and commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive community.

I'm happy to say that we've been actively working with the administration to extend academic building hours. I also want to take a moment to celebrate Meals 4 Mules, an initiative that continues to make a real difference for students. In addition, we've made significant changes to our bylaws this year, making our student government more equitable, transparent, and aligned with our mission. These changes ensure that every student has an opportunity to engage in the decision-making processes that affect us all. As always, we are committed to serving you with integrity, fairness, and a deep sense of responsibility. You will hear all about it in our committee reports!

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share that Recharge Day is coming up on April 1st, a day with no classes dedicated to relaxation, well-being, and self-care. We recognize how demanding this time of year can be, and we want to make sure that everyone has the chance to rest and recharge for the final stretch of the semester.

Lastly, I want to remind you that I'm currently chairing the Election Committee, and we are gearing up for next year's elections. We're looking forward to receiving applications for student government positions. If you're interested in becoming more involved, or if you have questions about the roles and responsibilities, please reach out

to any of us. We want to make sure that every interested student has the opportunity to serve and shape the future of our campus.

Before I end, I want to express how incredibly proud I am of all the work we've accomplished this year. I feel so deeply indebted to this group of student leaders who have shown bravery and perseverance in navigating tough times. They've led with resilience, tackled difficult conversations head-on, and worked tirelessly to make this campus a better place. I'm so grateful for all of their contributions. Thank you to each of you as well for your ongoing support and involvement. The work we've done together, the changes we've fought for, and the connections we've built are all part of what makes this community so special.

B. Standards Report (Meets: Monday 4-5PM, SGA Office) Chair:

Sabeen Safi

1. 13 bylaws since January to increase transparency
2. Allowing referendum questions
3. Refining the finance manual in collaboration with the Finance Committee
4. Relaunched Ambassador Program in collaboration with Recording Secretary, Teigan Brown
5. Looking forward: updating DEI&B bylaws, updating public-facing voting database for voting transparency

Our names are Ellie Lavoe and Aidan Silvestri. We are members of the Standards Committee, which is chaired by Sabeen Safi and includes Teigan Brown and Amanda Growney.

Our committee is tasked with upholding the standards of the SGA, reviewing member conduct, and recommending updates to our Bylaws to the General Assembly.

Since January, we've passed 13 Bylaws to improve our practices and increase transparency. We'd like to take a moment to highlight some of our key accomplishments this semester:

- **Referendum Questions:** We've added a bylaw allowing referendum questions on our ballots to increase student engagement in elections and ensure their voices are heard on key campus issues. This decision-making process can be used to raise or lower student activity fees to support student organizations recognized by Muhlenberg College or support campus-wide initiatives as determined by SGA
- **Finance Manual:** To enhance financial transparency and accessibility, we've been working on refining the SGA Finance Manual in collaboration with the Finance Committee, ensuring that funding guidelines are clear and accessible for all student organizations

- **Club/Finance Approvals Question Requirement:** Representatives must justify their votes for all Finance and Club Approval proposals. If a representative votes “yes,” they must answer: “What aspects of the proposal gained your support?” If a representative votes “no,” they must answer: “What improvements would make you feel comfortable voting yes?”

The Standards Committee, in collaboration with the Recording Secretary, Teigan Brown, has relaunched and improved the SGA Ambassador Program. Through this initiative, representatives are assigned to every club and organization on campus to serve as a direct point of contact. The goal is to make it easier for organizations to share concerns, request support, and stay engaged with Student Government. Each representative has made at least one, if not two, efforts to reach out to their assigned organizations.

Looking forward, we aim to clarify our DEIB bylaws to better align with our current practices. Additionally, we will be assisting in boosting voter turnout for the upcoming election by updating and promoting our voter database, where students can track how we voted, and by tabling to encourage people to vote.

If you’d like to learn more about our work or get involved in our discussions, we meet every Monday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the SGA Office. Thank you!

C. Finance’s Report - Chair: Jay Khoury

1. Installation of Botrista Boba Machine in collaboration with dining services
 - a) Negotiating Boba prices
2. Semesterly Spending
 - a) Sponsoring BINGO events that impact all students
 - b) Sponsoring student-led trips
3. Updating finance manual in collaboration with standards committee
4. Looking forward: installation of stress-reducing, sustainable tree swings, renovating and enhancing outdoor campus spaces

Our first accomplishment of the semester was the proposal put forth by the Finance Committee for a Boba Machine in GQ. The finance committee believed that students had an interest in expanding the drink options available on campus. And so, we worked to pick various options to offer students, which included boba drinks. We, along with

our President, Vish, worked closely with dining to negotiate the prices for drinks so as to make them as affordable as possible for students. The price update should come soon.

Funds Spent

In this 2025 Spring Semester, the finance committee has sponsored multiple clubs such as Voices of Strength, Women in Politics (WIP), and Psychology Club by covering the costs of bingo prizes. We have also sponsored trips, such as the Israel Dance Troupe, BSA x Comunidad's Black History Month Trip, and Mock Trial.

To promote financial transparency and fairness, the finance committee has decided to implement an equitable distribution strategy between trip-related expenses and bingo prizes to allow for fair allocation of the student activity fee. With the increase of prize and trip related requests we have made adjustments and updates to our finance bylaws and manual.

As for our future goals, we are working on bringing tree swings to campus that students can use as de-stressors. We plan on using sustainable materials that don't damage the trees, while simultaneously keeping the swings safe for students to use. We are currently working on building and installing swings ourselves in various locations around campus. This is a part of a larger goal that focuses on renovating and enhancing outdoor campus spaces.

D. Campus Engagement Report (Meets Tuesday 6:00-7:30 PM, SGA Office) - Chair: Jimmy Kaba

1. Approved new clubs
2. Events
 - a) Paint & Pots Event
 - b) Detressing Yoga Event
 - c) Recharge Day
 - d) MuhlGames
3. Campus Improvement Projects
 - a) Extension of academic building hours
 - b) Updating the bulletin boards

- c) Increasing access to contraceptives initiative: in collaboration with the DEI&B Committee
- d) Looking forward: bring ongoing projects to a close & ensure upcoming events run smoothly

Hi everyone, my name is Johnny Galletti and I am a representative speaking on behalf of the Campus Engagement Committee of SGA. Campus Engagement meets regularly every Tuesday, from 6:30 - 7:30 PM in the SGA office. Our committee includes the Chair Head, Jimmy Kaba, and our other representatives Addison Star, Max Kurzweil, Lauryn Glass, Rachel Alexander, & Charles Cuadra.

The goal for campus engagement is to work on enhancing the student experience on campus by facilitating dialogue and addressing any student concerns, seeking club approvals and planning events.

Recently, the Campus Engagement Committee has also approved 5 brand new clubs on campus which include MAESTRO, PickleBall Club, Muhlenberg Artists For Activism, Muhlenberg Republican Club, and Berg Birding.

As a committee, we are also working hard on our campus-wide events. We have hosted our annual Stretch & Destress Yoga Event and our brand new Paint N' Pots event and are currently working on planning our two new campus-wide events, Recharge Day on Tuesday, April 1st, and Muhl Games on Friday, April 11th.

Most importantly, I want to highlight the work the committee has done with our campus projects. First, we have worked with OIT and added printing guides next to each printer on campus to allow for an easier experience for students. Second, we have worked with Plant Ops to fix all of the water fountains in Moyer Hall and soon the Ettinger water fountains as well. Third, we have worked with Campus Safety and the Provost to increase the academic row building hours from 7 PM to 11 PM on Weekdays and also have implemented brand new weekend hours to the buildings from 9 AM to 5 PM. We have also as a committee been working with Plant Ops and the Office Of Sustainability on adding solar lights and a sliding glass door to the Bulletin Boards near Parents Plaza and Moyer and to make them more visually appealing. Finally, the committee in collaboration with DEI&B has been working with Prevention Education to add more condoms and contraceptives to residence halls and more buildings on campus.

Looking forward to the rest of the semester, our committee plans to hopefully conclude all of our ongoing projects and make sure our next two campus-wide events are a huge success. Thank you.

E. DEI&B's Report (Meets Mondays 6-7 PM, SGA Office) - Chair: Josephine Glass

1. Meals for Mules Program → Second phase rollout, focused on strengthening relationships and creating new ones
2. Headshot workshop & Business clothing swap, and on-site resume reviews
3. Implicit bias training for SGA's General Assembly

4. Looking forward: multi-department contraceptive initiative → educational and private resources, free Narcan initiative → making life-saving resources readily available

Good evening everyone. Thank you for being here. This report comes from the *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee* of SGA, which includes members Aj Ring, Eliana Yascual, Emma Laskaj, Hannah Winter, and Gigi Saavendra, chaired by Josephine Glass. The committee's work is centered on ensuring that all students have equitable access to resources, support, and opportunities on campus.

Meals for Mules – Second Rollout

The second phase of Meals for Mules has been implemented, with a focus on reassessing and strengthening partnerships with local restaurants. This initiative aims to ensure that students have access to meal discounted meal options across the Lehigh Valley. Efforts are ongoing to expand the program while maintaining long-term sustainability.

Headshop Workshop & Professional Clothing Swap – EnAct, SGA & Career Center Partnership

The Headshop Workshop was a collaborative event between EnAct, SGA, and the Career Center, providing students with resources to prepare for professional opportunities. The event featured on-the-spot resume reviews, free professional headshots, and access to free professional clothing provided by EnAct. This initiative aimed to reduce financial barriers to professional development and was well-received by attendees. Discussions are ongoing with the Career Center to explore ways to sustain professional clothing access for students throughout the academic year.

Implicit Bias Training – General Assembly

An Implicit Bias Training was facilitated for the SGA General Assembly to ensure that student leadership remains conscious of how biases influence decision-making and policy work. Encouraging other student organizations to engage in similar training is a priority in fostering a more inclusive campus culture.

Looking Ahead – Key Initiatives

Looking forward, a Multi-Department Contraceptive Access Initiative is being developed. This initiative will bring together various campus offices to improve student access to contraceptives and reproductive health resources in a way that is private and accessible.

Additionally, work is underway to implement a Free Narcan Initiative. This initiative will provide free access to Narcan alongside educational resources on opioid overdose prevention. This initiative aims to make life-saving resources readily available to students.

Commitment to DEIB and Collaboration

The work of this committee is grounded in a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. These initiatives are not just about access to resources but about ensuring that every student feels supported and empowered throughout their college experience. Collaboration and feedback from the student body are always welcomed. For any questions, ideas, or ways to get involved, students are encouraged to reach out. Thank you.

VII. New Business

A. Religious Life (RLA) Report

1. The first year of RLA council, which is made up of all SGA-approved on-campus faith groups
2. Recent Successes:
 - a) Leadership dinner at the beginning of the semester
 - b) Allocation of SGA funding to each of the 8 groups
 - c) Looking forward: assessment of student engagement and collaborative programming around interfaith week (Feb 2026)

B. (Muhlenberg Theatre Association) MTA Report

1. Presenting: Dominick Borges, President
 - a) Red doors, MTA Studios, McBitches, So You Think Berg Can Dance
 - b) Musical Theatre Karaoke Nights, Senior Brunch Celebration, Tabeing Events
 - c) Over 100 students have been actively involved and will be holding elections at the end of the semester
 - d) With SGA funding, MTA has been able to purchase the Rights, Scripts, and Music for shows, Supplies, and resources for all members

C. (Office of Multicultural Life) OML Report

1. Presenting: Robin Riley-Casey
 - a) 18 affinity groups → gaining attention outside of the Lehigh Valley
 - (1) Mayhem - attended a dance competition
 - (2) Poised Ivy - held a dance competition

- b) Recent events have focused on: celebrating heritage months and increasing cultural awareness, Lunar New Year, and African-Nigerian Celebration
- c) Mochi making, Waffle making, Kite festival, Valentine's celebrations, tea and tote bag making, global dance event
- d) Looking forward: plans to order different colored cords for graduating seniors, belonging initiatives; any questions should be directed toward the e-board of the affinity groups

D. Dr. Gretchen Gotthard Report

1. Dean of Academic Life
2. Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Grant → an opportunity for our college to host discussions to discuss what has been happening in the world; we don't want to miss the opportunity to connect and collaborate as a college
 - a) How is this different from a living room conversation?
We would arrange a panel to dispel information about what has been happening, to provide an educational and clarifying experience. Living room conversations are small, this grant enables us to touch many members of our community
 - b) How can we reach individuals who want to listen and those who want to talk? Maybe different styles of communication, small group discussions and large group town halls?
 - c) The grant (\$1,500.00 → \$100.00 for food at 3 events) has been approved, and funding is on its way. How can we

reach people? A town hall is notoriously difficult to get a crowd for. → Perhaps there is a way to generate a conversation that isn't as serious if we are going to do multiple events, maybe a collaboration with MAC (John Lukan)

- d) Would it be possible or a better idea to postpone this initiative? Students need to know what is happening and what is going on; time is of the essence here, too, and having breakout sessions with a panelist may be a beneficial approach.
- e) There IS a demand to reach students, maybe there is a way to reach students by going to them, instead of making them come to you → like putting together a video or collecting resources to distribute through a class setting
- f) Who are the panelists? Careful selection of panelists might gather a better crowd. A catchy title might gather more students.
- g) We need a model of

E. SGA Picture

VIII. Adjournment