



Northern Vermont University – Lyndon

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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listening. empowering. changing.

### GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING March 10, 2021

#### I. Motion to Start Meeting

- a. Motion: Jesse Munroe, Student Investment  
Second: Becca Fauteux, The Critic  
Call: Dan Carniero, CAB
- b. All agreed to start meeting. Meeting started at 8:02 PM.

#### II. Attendance

- a. Absent
  - i. Ski & Ride Club
  - ii. SAAC

#### III. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- a. Motion: Jesse Munroe, Student Investment  
Second: Stephen Sandor, Resident Assistants  
Call: Dan Carnario, CAB
- b. All agreed to approve last meeting's minutes

#### IV. Student Body Comments

- a. There were no Student Body Comments

#### V. Reports and Presentations

- a. President Elaine Collins

i. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: How is the consolidation of the Vermont State Colleges going to impact NVU?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Currently does not have all the answers as the information is still relatively new. Reentering different codes and speciality areas for programs that currently exist in order to better align them within the different institutions, hired a firm to examine the courses that are currently being offered to ensure highest quality of education and what changes can be altered for optimal experiences. Athletic and residential life etc are still being considered.

ii. Nathan Rubin, Class of 2021 Student: Was Wondering if the school has considered pushing graduation either to the summer or fall weekend during Alumni weekend.

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Currently creating a survey to receive feedback to create a graduation that will be better suited for the students, also looking for an advisory committee to gather information regarding Senior Week. Commencement is very important to me and I want to ensure that seniors receive the best virtual experience possible.

iii. Kate Henriques, TWP: Regarding senior week, is there a possibility for an opportunity for students to gather in-person who have gone through the requirements in order to remain on campus?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Currently does not have a final answer but strongly encourages students who are interested in these changes to have their voice heard regarding these decisions.

Trying to obey the CDC guidelines for the safest graduation. Decision had to be made early for booking purposes and all schools in the Vermont State Colleges are having virtual commencements. As CDC guidelines evolve there could be changes to the current plans for Commencement but hopes that Senior week will be the grand opportunity honor the seniors to the extent that the institution hopes for.

iv. Sarah Sickles, Class of 2021 Student: Has there been any consideration of moving the commencement to mid-to-late summer, especially with the vaccines being rolled out for more Vermont Residents.

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: When the decision was made, the vaccination process in Vermont was only being offered to senior citizens and therefore that was not considered at the time.

a. Sarah Sickles, Class of 2021 Student: Wondering why these decisions were being finalized within the VSC when colleges from other states are holding off on these decisions or finding alternatives. Has there been any thought of moving the entire celebration out of May?

i. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Is planning on taking all of the feedback received today to the executive team but cannot promise that there will be any changes as these decisions affect all of the VSCS. Willing to reconsider and have a conversation regarding the topic. Anticipate Senior week to

be the opportunity to make these changes.

v. Alexander Therriault, NVUnity: For student who are out of the New England region would most likely not be able to commit to the travel for any in-person event. Please keep in mind that would not be the best or realistic option.

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Thank you for raising that. A lot of time was spent discussing how to make this experience equitable for all student who would not be able to commit to an in-person celebration.

vi. Kelsey Emery, Class of 2021 Student: In the past, Seniors were able to get together with family and friend for photo opportunities with their major. Thinks this would be a great idea for Senior Week.

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: This has been discussed. Handed off to the executive team.

a. Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students: Possibility has been discussed and will be finding other ways to do this safely in order to pull off having this service.

vii. David Pardy, Lyndon Gaming Community: Third Party company (RPK) checking all the classes and programs we currently offer and the changes that can be made, wanted more information.

1. Nolan Atkins, NVU Provost: RPK Higher Education Research group that specializes in evaluating programs and making recommendations in order to help the institution revise outdated programs,

incorporate new programs, and remove outdated programs that are no longer necessary.

Determining what programs should be offered going forward upon the consolidation. Trying to keep programs consistent in mission of the institution.

SGA

a. David Pardy, Lyndon Gaming Community: what other colleges have they worked with?

i. Nolan Atkins, Provost: If you visit their website, you will be able to view all the information.

viii. Nathan Rubin, Class of 2021 Student: Has the school considered allowing graduation people to come and quarantine a week before graduation and offer testing and having an in-person graduation?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Talking about having people off campus back on site, which is something currently against CDC guidelines.

a. Nathan Rubin, Class of 2021 Student: But what is we modeled it after the moving-in requirements?

i. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Does not believe that will meet the current policies' guidelines.

1. Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students: In theory that would be possible, but due to expenses and staffing shortages this would be very difficult to pull off. The only

other option is people quarantining within their own homes, and testing and having smaller in person graduations.

ix. Lauren Hyde, AMS: Idea for having graduation in fall, understands that might not be possible but can there be a mini-senior week during Alumni week?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: That is some great feedback, and would appreciate that anyone with ideas signs up for the committees to have their input heard.

x. Becca Fauteux, The Critic: Idea of graduation photos, are we going to be able to purchase caps and gowns for this ceremony?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Jonathan, would you have any information on that?

a. Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students: Believes this will be an option.

b. Sylvia Plumb, Director of Communications: There might not be hoods, but caps and gowns are an expectation.

xi. Adrienne Hutchin, Nontraditional Representative: Is there currently a solid date regarding not being able to change the decision on having a virtual graduation? Does NVU have to follow the guidelines of other institutions that cannot reverse this decision?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: The VSCS is making the decision for the entire system but is pushing for some freedoms regarding how each institution can honor their students but they understand how

important this is to them. Looking toward making the senior week special as opposed to changing graduation.

SGA

a. Adrienne Hutchin, Nontraditional Representative: A lot of student hold a lot of meaning with their professors and would appreciate a picture in their cap and gown with these important people during their college career.

i. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Some faculty are comfortable with this but some are not and it depends on their personal feelings regarding this risk. Needs to respect certain conditions as to why they cannot commit to coming in person on campus.

xii. Kelsey Emery, Class of 2021 Student: Hoping that hoods for this year were promised to the seniors in a previous meeting. Allowing the seniors a chance to determine whether they want this service or not.

1. Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students: We will need to look back on records to confirm that.

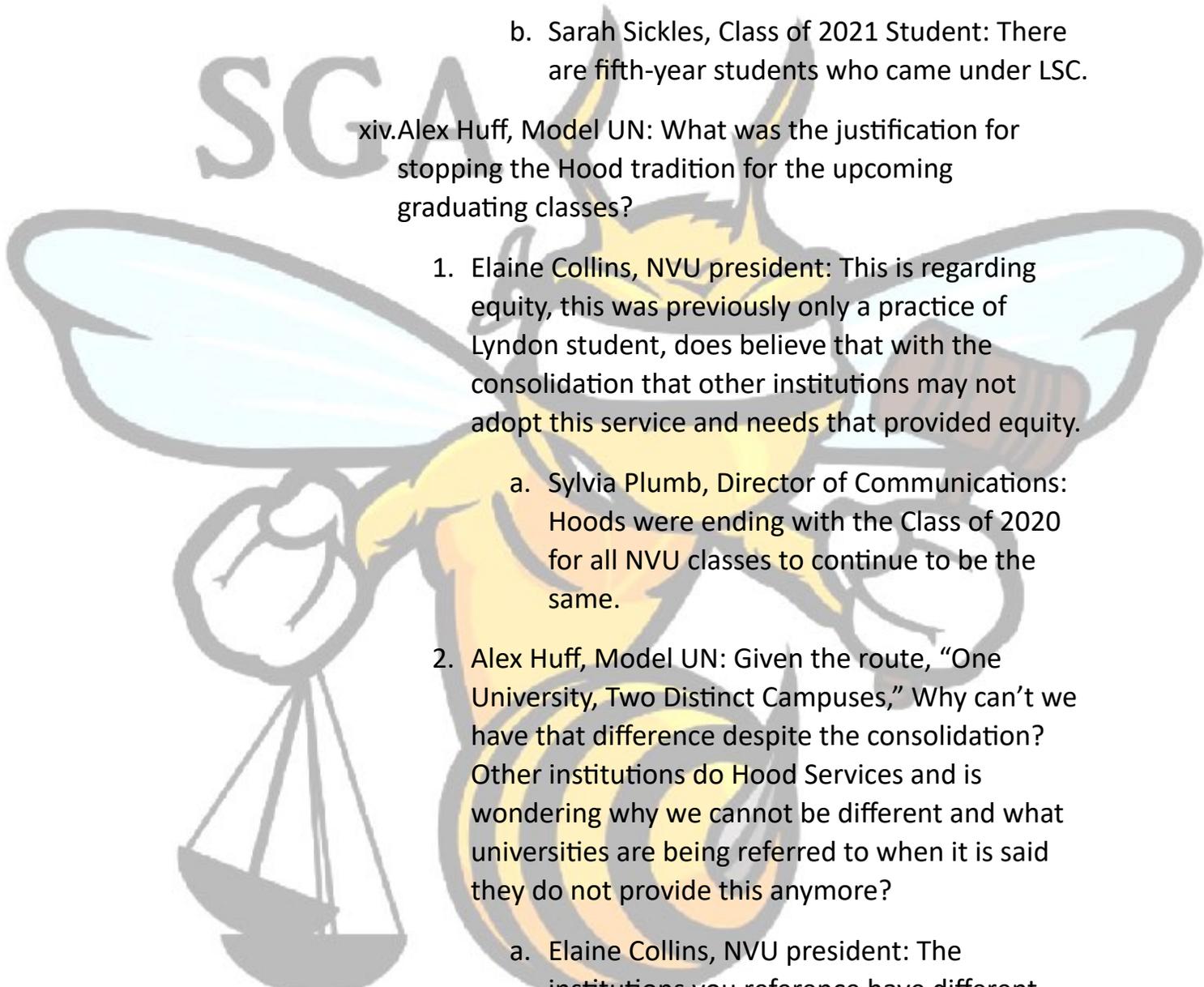
xiii. Lauren Hyde, AMS: Curious regarding the discussion for the commemorative diplomas for students who came in under LSC and not NVU.

1. Sylvia Plumb, Director of Communications: Was not understanding that this graduating class was under that program.

- a. Lauren Hyde, AMS: Understands if it was or not, but would appreciate it if it could be considered.
- b. Sarah Sickles, Class of 2021 Student: There are fifth-year students who came under LSC.

xiv. Alex Huff, Model UN: What was the justification for stopping the Hood tradition for the upcoming graduating classes?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU president: This is regarding equity, this was previously only a practice of Lyndon student, does believe that with the consolidation that other institutions may not adopt this service and needs that provided equity.
  - a. Sylvia Plumb, Director of Communications: Hoods were ending with the Class of 2020 for all NVU classes to continue to be the same.
2. Alex Huff, Model UN: Given the route, "One University, Two Distinct Campuses," Why can't we have that difference despite the consolidation? Other institutions do Hood Services and is wondering why we cannot be different and what universities are being referred to when it is said they do not provide this anymore?
  - a. Elaine Collins, NVU president: The institutions you reference have different funding than we do and our goal is to establish equity. The missions that you have for Lyndon are things that we preserve for identity but this is more a tradition that was standardized.



# SGA

i. Alex Huff, Model UN: If the students pay for the hoods, how does this affect funding?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: is this the graduation fee?

a. Alex Huff, Model UN: How is funding a problem when students are purchasing their own hoods?

i. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Unsure about this. Will be looking into this.

ii. Alex Huff, Model U.N.: Believes that student input is very important regarding this type of change.

xv. Alex Therriault, NVUnity: Regarding identity, there have been on-going issues with NVU-Lyndon merchandise. Ordered Lyndon blanket through the website and had received a Johnson blanket on accident. Called Customer service who offered the blanket but “technically” were not allowed to offer the merchandise. Wondering why Lyndon march is being withheld of the student body?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Michael, can you respond to this?

SGA

2. Michael Fox, Dean of Admissions: Modifying the mean of merchandise and purchasing to have a more accessible means of purchasing and have it consistent to one place.

a. Alex Therriault, NVUnity: How come when the bookstore changes, the Lyndon Apparel did not move along with it?

i. Michael Fox, Dean of Admissions: most of the items sold, there really was not a large stockpile. There are a few Lyndon items currently available on the bookstore website.

1. Alex Therriault, NVUnity: Will this be available online eventually for those who cannot be at the bookstore in-person.

a. Michael Fox, Dean of Admissions: Currently focusing on the physical location before the website services.

b. Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students: The lack of absence of Lyndon apparel on the bookstore website has since been fixed. Also seeking opportunities that can be used through the open space that was

once of the bookstores.  
Looking for student  
opinions regarding this  
topic.

SGA  
xvi. Patrick Hamilton, Outing Club: Equity in terms of students on versus off campus. Interested on how big of a factor this was and if there was a reach out to remote student about this topic. With the festival and upcoming outdoor events, why can't we have an in-person outdoor event?

1. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Thank you for your comment.

xvii. Elaine Collins, NVU President: Thank you for the feedback regarding the consolidation and spring graduation. Recognizes that it is important to honor this in a way that is meaningful towards the students.

b. Financial Update : \$56,939.75

i. Total: \$83,388.02

c. Student Involvement

i. Club Bulletin Boards

1. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: Decided to use the hallway between Public Safety and the Hornet's Nest. Currently brainstorming on how to modify the concrete tiles so each club would receive a tile.

a. Alex Huff, Model UN: Would there be a possibility to buy a bulletin Board?

i. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: That is our goal eventually but for now the

exception is to paper the board to cover it.

ii. SGA Constitution Evaluation:

1. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: Met with David Kelly regarding SGA Constitution after he had the opportunity to review it. We discussed what changes we could see being potentially made to improve the constitution. Looking to meet sometime next week to continue this process. Changes that we are currently considering are rewording, restrictive, and consolidation of the document.

## VI. Discussion and Action Items

a. 49900 Account

1. Penguin Solarium and Emergency Fund
  - a. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: Meeting with people to discuss the potential for the penguin solarium, and what can we do regarding having an emergency fund specific for the SGA.
2. New Ideas: Residential Hall Updates, Commuter Updates, and Annex Updates.
  - a. Alex Therriault, NVUnity: In Arnold/Bayley, there is the drink machine that has better options. Wants to know if the drink machine in Crev/Whitelaw can be traded for the machine in Poland Rodgers.

- i. Erin Rossetti, Director of Student Life: That is an outside company so we

can put a request with them to have the machine moved for convenience.

b. Kate Henriques, TWP: Would like to see some sort of space that is designated for commuter students with computers and a printer. The library and the Hive lack resources and also have strange hours.

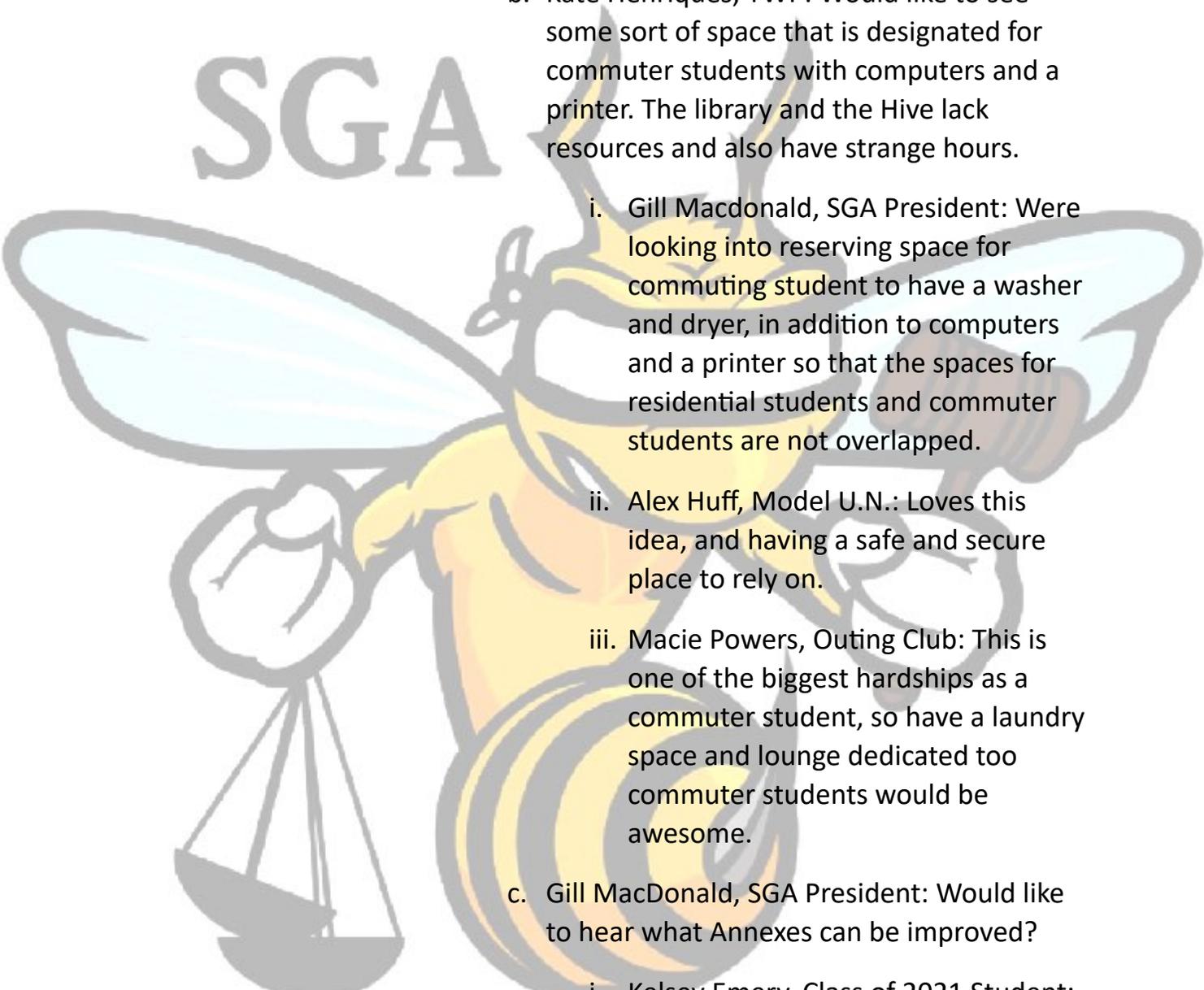
i. Gill Macdonald, SGA President: Were looking into reserving space for commuting student to have a washer and dryer, in addition to computers and a printer so that the spaces for residential students and commuter students are not overlapped.

ii. Alex Huff, Model U.N.: Loves this idea, and having a safe and secure place to rely on.

iii. Macie Powers, Outing Club: This is one of the biggest hardships as a commuter student, so have a laundry space and lounge dedicated too commuter students would be awesome.

c. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: Would like to hear what Annexes can be improved?

i. Kelsey Emery, Class of 2021 Student: For something like this, she suggest going through the heads of the departments to get their input, as each lounge has different needs.



SGA

# SGA

1. Gill MacDonald, SGA President:  
We are currently seeking student feedback but would like to eventually extend this towards the department.

ii. Alex Therriault, The Visual Arts annex lacks a lot of resources necessary for their student's needs would like to see these implemented to improve student use.

iii. David Pardy, Gaming Community: Has heard from friends that the History Department has been locked for a majority of the semester.

iv. Alex Huff, Model UN: Almost all of the annexes on campus do not have printers, many student have been using resource rooms as lounges.

v. Patrick Hamilton, Outing Club: Noticed a lot of the annexes are locked after business hours on weekdays and on weekends. It is difficult to use those room at those times.

vi. Kate Henriques, TWP: Annex Doubles as a department office, and is really small and due to COVID there is a capacity of 2 people at a time. Students are virtually unable to use this resource due to the size.

## VII. Other Business

### a. Important Dates

- i. Please refer to the IMPORTANT DATES form include in the biweekly SGA Email.

### b. Club Contact Forms

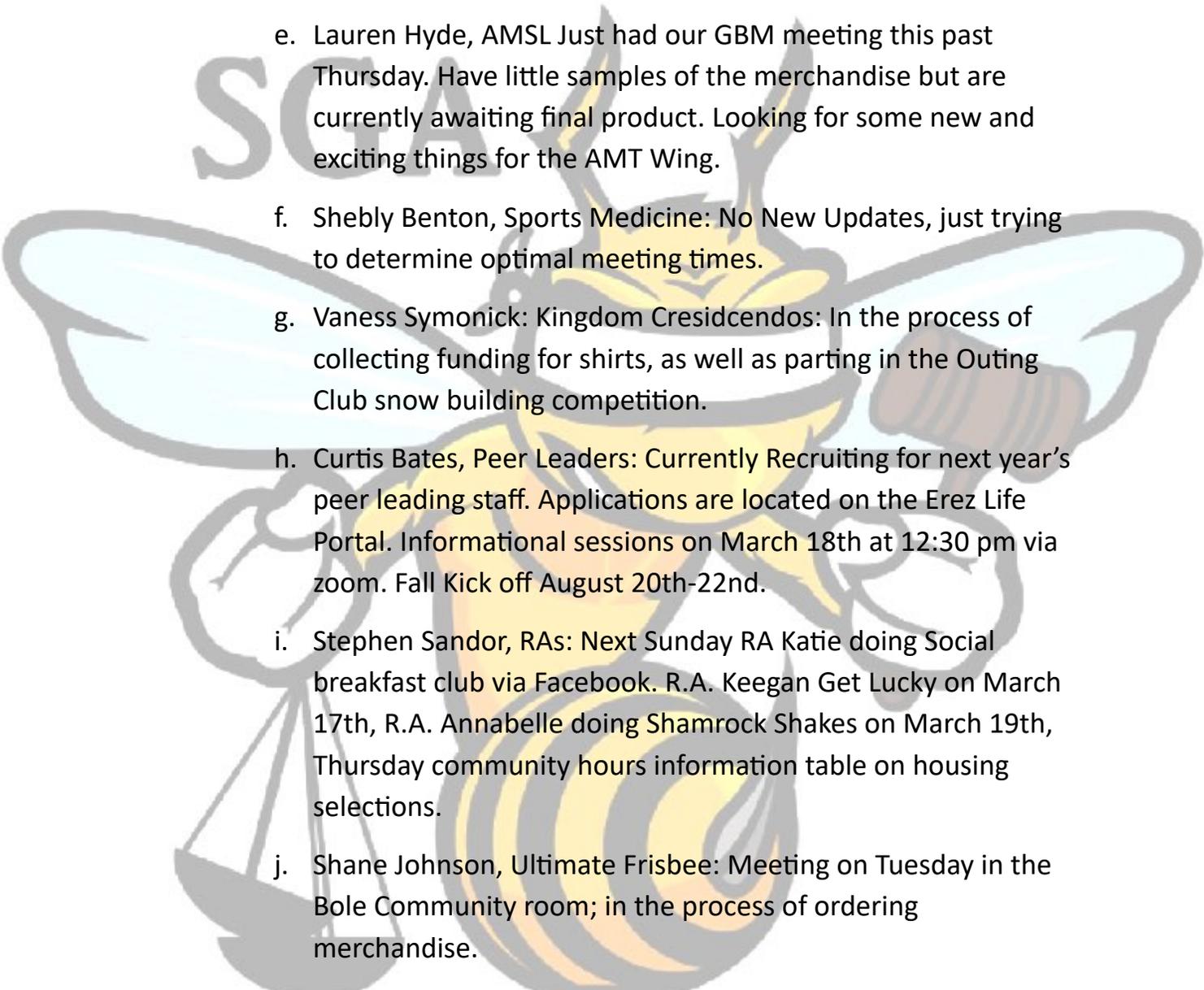
- i. Please.

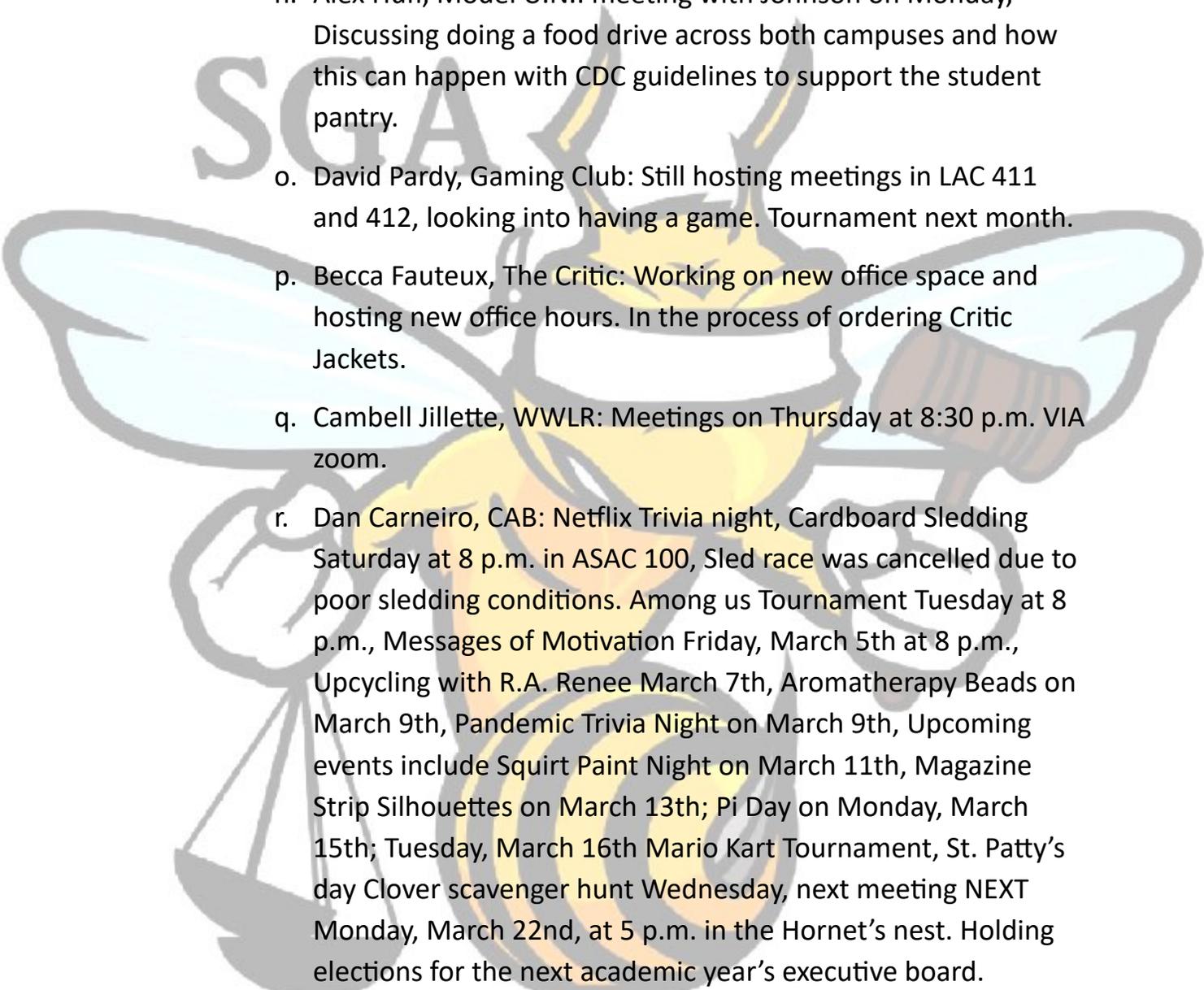
### c. Student Leadership Opportunities

- i. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: Please refer to the NVU website to learn more about the student leadership opportunities available on campus. Please feel free to share this around to help with engagement.

## VIII. Club and Committee Updates

- a. Kate Flannigan, Spring Day Committee: Email was sent out all the Club President and SGA Representatives to gauge interest regarding a potential involvement fair during spring day and a boardwalk event on Saturday for clubs to host activities. Friday 11am-3pm hoisting an involvement fair with club themed activities. Clubs are not expected to host activities for the entire block period.
- b. 10% Committee Updates: Alex and Gill are still testing the feminine products. Still in the process of scheduling a meeting with maintenance about the campus garden. Alex Huff completed a bathroom survey on campus. SGA is looking for volunteers or nominations for a faculty survey committee.
- c. Kate Henriques, TWP: No Current updates. Focusing on Reheral for the upcoming Performing Arts night. Looking into Streaming Options. The show will be April 10th.

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- d. Macie Powers, Dance Ensemble: Working on pieces for Dance Recital in April; have an upcoming workshops with Maureen Gonzales on Friday, March 12th.
  - e. Lauren Hyde, AMSL Just had our GBM meeting this past Thursday. Have little samples of the merchandise but are currently awaiting final product. Looking for some new and exciting things for the AMT Wing.
  - f. Shebly Benton, Sports Medicine: No New Updates, just trying to determine optimal meeting times.
  - g. Vaness Symonick: Kingdom Cresidcendos: In the process of collecting funding for shirts, as well as parting in the Outing Club snow building competition.
  - h. Curtis Bates, Peer Leaders: Currently Recruiting for next year's peer leading staff. Applications are located on the Erez Life Portal. Informational sessions on March 18th at 12:30 pm via zoom. Fall Kick off August 20th-22nd.
  - i. Stephen Sandor, RAs: Next Sunday RA Katie doing Social breakfast club via Facebook. R.A. Keegan Get Lucky on March 17th, R.A. Annabelle doing Shamrock Shakes on March 19th, Thursday community hours information table on housing selections.
  - j. Shane Johnson, Ultimate Frisbee: Meeting on Tuesday in the Bole Community room; in the process of ordering merchandise.
  - k. Ben Lebeau, MEISA: Katelyn Gillette Vice President, Logan Watts Assistant Director Productions Manager, Treasurer
  - l. Patrick Hamilton, Outing Club: Snowperson contest tropical themed snowshoeing on past monad. Looking to host more events.

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- m. Jesse Munroe, Student Investment: having Matings, potential of doing a giveaway soon.
- n. Alex Huff, Model U.N.: meeting with Johnson on Monday, Discussing doing a food drive across both campuses and how this can happen with CDC guidelines to support the student pantry.
- o. David Pardy, Gaming Club: Still hosting meetings in LAC 411 and 412, looking into having a game. Tournament next month.
- p. Becca Fauteux, The Critic: Working on new office space and hosting new office hours. In the process of ordering Critic Jackets.
- q. Cambell Jillette, WWLR: Meetings on Thursday at 8:30 p.m. VIA zoom.
- r. Dan Carneiro, CAB: Netflix Trivia night, Cardboard Sledding Saturday at 8 p.m. in ASAC 100, Sled race was cancelled due to poor sledding conditions. Among us Tournament Tuesday at 8 p.m., Messages of Motivation Friday, March 5th at 8 p.m., Upcycling with R.A. Renee March 7th, Aromatherapy Beads on March 9th, Pandemic Trivia Night on March 9th, Upcoming events include Squirt Paint Night on March 11th, Magazine Strip Silhouettes on March 13th; Pi Day on Monday, March 15th; Tuesday, March 16th Mario Kart Tournament, St. Patty's day Clover scavenger hunt Wednesday, next meeting NEXT Monday, March 22nd, at 5 p.m. in the Hornet's nest. Holding elections for the next academic year's executive board.
- s. Jasmyn Wilkinson, Class of 2024 Representatives: Town Hall last Wednesday at 4 pm in the student Center. Talked with Mike, Town Hall will no be held opposite of the SGA GBM at 4

p.m. Looking for re-election for the next year. Petition available for signatures.

t. Adrienne Hutchin, Nontraditional Class Representative: Town Hall looking to be held next Tuesday via Zoom.

u. Renee Chaples, Administrative Vice-President: Seeking re-election as Administrative Vice President; Planning town hall for this month.

v. Katie Flannigan, Executive Vice President: also Seeking reelection and preparing for Town Hall this month.

w. Gill MacDonald, SGA President: Also seeking re-election for SGA President for next year. Has meeting upcoming.

## **IX. Adjourn**

a. Motion: Jesse Munroe, Student Investment Club

Second: Becca Fauteux, The Critic

Call: David Pardy, Gaming Community

b. All agreed to end meeting. Meeting concluded at 9:34 PM.

