

Vee Duong

Co-Director of Sexual and Relationship Affairs

Dear Incoming Director(s) of Sexual and Relationship Respect (SGA SRR),

I hope you all had a restful summer break and are ready to take on everything that this amazing position has to offer. This is my transition document to you all, and I will be focusing on four main tasks that SGA SRR tackled during the past academic year (F'17-S'18): expanding access to pads, tampons, and condoms, increasing Green Dot training, Consent Day, and increasing sexual education for the student body.

I first want to share with you all the [google drive](#) that has the minutes, notes, details, posters, **everything** that SGA SRR did this past year. It will be helpful to send out minutes and action items to your members every week during the busier times of the semester to make sure things get done! Additionally, creating an email group in Outlook will allow you to send an email to everyone at the same time. It'll also keep the relevant emails together for organizational purposes. Here is our [activities calendar](#) for the past year, and I would recommend doing something similar for your activities this coming school year. You all should also maintain [our Facebook page!](#) It's a great way to stay in touch with students and to stay "relevant" with the student body who may forget about the committee when you are not putting on activities regularly.

One of the larger tasks and accomplishments of SGA SRR this past year was **increasing pads, tampons, and condoms access on campus**. We began by running a pilot program during J-Term '18 in Battell Hall where we regularly stocked select bathrooms with pads, tampons, and condoms and closely monitored how students were using the products. We collected really great data which can be found using the following links (let me know if you are unable to access these links):

- [ppt](#)
- [go/dispense/](#)
- [go/dispensed/](#)

We were able to get verbal confirmation for expanding the program to all first-year residential spaces for F'18-S'19. It will be critical to maintain communication as the school year is starting up to make sure the expansion does actually occur. Important people to keep in contact with:

- **Facilities - Michael (Mike) Moser and Melissa (Missy) Beckwith**
 - Pads and tampons will be worked out through them. They are also responsible for managing the custodial staff who will be important when considering the longevity of this initiative.
- **VP of Student Affairs - Baishakhi Taylor**
 - She will be the main person who can help us institutionalize this initiative.
- **Parton Health Center - Gus Jordan and Mark Peluso**
 - We worked with them to get condoms for the pilot program. Further communication would be necessary to determine how condoms will be acquired for expansion.
- **Commons Teams**
 - It would be important to get ResLife staff, CRDs, and Commons Deans involved in this process of making pads, tampons, and condoms more accessible. Communication with them will be necessary.

The next move will likely be to run the expanded pilot and collect more usage data. As more data is being collected, SGA SRR will need to work on a *bill/ resolution* throughout the fall semester to expand the program even further for the next year and to *institutionalize* it. A lot of communication is necessary for this to happen, and it will be a lot of emails and meetings to get everything in place. It might also be helpful to know that **Community Council** just passed a resolution to implement gender neutral

bathrooms. It could be a consideration to try and implement the pads, tampons, and condoms access program as these bathrooms are being converted.

The next initiative that we worked on was trying to **increase Green Dot training**. We set our eyes on the **CTLR** as a place where we could get a lot of students trained who interact with many tutees during and beyond working hours. This initiative struggled to get off the ground mainly because all the CTLR directors and Barbara McCall need to be involved in planning such a training. However, from communications this year, it seems that they are all open to the training happening though a date needs to be pinned down for the first *six* weeks of the semester when tutor training is still happening. The directors are willing to make the Green Dot training (a condensed version) available as an alternate training session, and students who attend can be paid for their time. Barbara had suggested that such a session can be done in collaboration with MiddSafe advocates with the aim of exposing tutors to as many resources as possible, so they are able to point students in the right direction. Important points of contact:

- **CTLR Directors**
 - **MaryEllen Bertolini** - Writing Center Director
 - **Jeanne Albert** - STEM Tutor Director
 - **Diana DeBella** - Asst. Director of Writing Center/ Foreign Language Tutor Director
 - **JoAnn Brewer** - CTLR Coordinator
- **Director of Health and Wellness - Barbara McCall**
 - She is very busy and difficult to catch though the go link - [go/schedulewithbarbara/](https://go.schedulewithbarbara/) - is supremely helpful

If SGA SRR would like to pursue this next year, it will be important to set a meeting at the *beginning* of the year to get everything set up in time. The schedule of each of the above people can be checked using outlook calendar, and you can line up multiple schedules to find a free time slot. Additionally, I will be one of the CTLR Head Writing Tutors next year, so may be able to assist with getting this under way if you all are interested in pursuing it. However, I would also not put this very high on your priority list because there are Green Dot Interns who are paid to tackle such an initiative. Additionally, you may also consider running a Green Dot training for SGA members (Senate + Cabinet). It is something we thought about this year though struggled to pick a date and did not end up pursuing it further.

Another initiative that SGA SRR worked on this year was **Consent Day!** We knew that the Office of Health and Wellness puts on ConsentFest each year and wanted to help publicize and expand it. **Barbara McCall** is also the point person for this, and the games for the events are usually the same every year. As she is quite busy, it would be helpful to find who are office interns are and contact them as well. For the actual ConsentFest, SGA SRR can mostly help by running a booth. This year, we also ran a nail polish and ribbon-making station during lunch on the same day as we wanted to make it a whole day of celebrating consent! For next year, it would be nice to buy better quality ribbon. Making such purchases can be done using SGA money (there are funds that have been set aside for the SGA Cabinet), though a request needs to be sent in advance to the **SGA Treasurer**. I would recommend doing so at least *2 or so weeks in advance*, so there is no rush when ordering items (which happened a few times this year). The SAAPM (Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month) Calendar needs to be made *before* Spring break (March), so any events that SGA SRR would like to do during April related to SAAPM should be planned either during J-Term or at the start of the Spring semester. I would love to see you all host something like the nail polish and ribbon-making station though with more publicity! It was really fun running the booth and getting my friends to paint their nails. Many of my male-presenting friends who participated got into a lot of conversations about consent (their nails being the convo-starter), and I think something that sticks around for a while like nail-polish is impactful. It might also be helpful to get nail polish remover and other supplies to make it neater (though not necessary).

Finally, I will speak on our efforts to **increase sexual education for the student body**. SGA SRR brought two amazing speakers onto campus this year - one in the fall and one in the spring. When

bringing a speaker, you must go through the **MCAB Speakers Committee** which needs to be done a month in advance. Therefore, it is important to begin planning the speaker events *2-3 months in advance*. This year, we brought a speaker in December (Roan Coughtry) and in April (Cavanaugh Quick), both of whom are affiliated with O. School (needless to say, O. School is a great resource to find speakers and educational material). Fall activities are a little bit easier to get attendance for because there is less happening in general. However, the April one was a bit trickier because the Office of Health and Wellness already planned a large number of speakers during April. It might be better to bring a speaker during February or March which are a little less active. For speaker events, you would need to consider co-sponsors, and the following people/ group are great to collaborate with:

- **Karin Hanta - Director of the Chellis House**
- **FAM (Feminist in Action)**
- **Q&A (Queers and Allies)**
- **QTPOC (Queer + Trans POC)**
- **SPECS (Sex-Positive Education College Style)**
- **MILC (Middlebury Intercultural Leaders Coalition)**
 - Umbrella coalition for all the cultural students organizations
 - I will be the MILC Co-Coordinator next year so can definitely help with any collaboration that you all may be interested in!

I am proud of SGA SRR for bringing speakers who can talk about a wide range of experiences and who care about inclusivity for all bodies, genders, sexualities, etc. I hope SGA SRR will continue being mindful and purposeful in inviting people onto campus who can address the diversity of sexual experiences found at Midd as I find that many folx are unable to access sexual education elsewhere. Additionally, SPECS (who recently got started last year) would be great people to work with as they are more organized/ have more of a foundation now than this past year. It will be easier to plan joint workshops, and it may be a cool idea to join up with them on future initiatives. I would also like to note that speakers are not the only way to provide sexual education to students. **WomenSafe**, the Chellis House, and the Office of Health and Wellness have great educational resources, and SGA SRR could definitely work to distribute/ proliferate those materials!

To conclude, I wanted to wish you all good luck on your personal and professional journeys as SGA SRR Directors. I am not going to say that this position was easy because it wasn't. It was challenging, though it is truly what you make of it. Personally, I have always been skeptical of student government. Though, in taking on this position and spending a year with passionate and dedicated folx, I have learned that SGA can provide so much for the student body and can make great strides toward creating a better community for everyone. My co-director Emma and everyone who was on the committee this past year was intensely driven to make Middlebury a better place for all students, and I hope that you all are able to experience the same joy of working with and leading such amazing individuals who will motivate you throughout the year. On a final note, do not be afraid to be straightforward and direct about what you want and how you want it done. Communication is key on all levels, and the committee will look toward you all for guidance. At times when you may be lost, return to the goals you set at the beginning of the year as co-directors and as a committee and ask, "Are our actions fulfilling these goals?" If not, do not be afraid to step back and re-access.

I have not doubt in my mind that you all will do great, and I am looking forward to all the work that SGA SRR will do next year. I hope this letter is helpful, and feel free to reach out to me at any time if you have any questions!

Always sending my support,
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Emma