

Greetings from Em Wasserman, Empire State University SGA President.

The Student Government Association is preparing for an exciting year! Last year, we pioneered a student-wide survey to gain insight into the student experience with various areas of their academic experience. The survey revealed that the majority of our students are happy with their course material, mentors, and instructors, and shed light on a few areas for improvement that the SGA is dedicated to supporting our administration in addressing this year.

For example, students would like to see a spotlight on career services, opportunities to connect and collaborate with fellow students, additional mental health services, and support in meeting basic needs, such as paying for food, mortgage or rent, and school. In support of this effort, we have offered feedback to departments introducing initiatives, such as uConnect and CampusGroups, which will connect us with specific career insight and offer opportunities to socialize.

Em also wishes to bring their professional experience as a peer specialist into the campus environment and has been supporting other student leaders in developing and implementing a peer mediation program. As a school operating almost entirely in a virtual space, our students hope to address miscommunication and conflict from a more holistic lens rather than punitive through this program.

We aim to continue offering spaces for all students to have fun from across New York, the United States, and beyond. We will achieve this goal by offering comedy nights, 'paint with a twist', open mics, and more!

Our summer has consisted of training in conflict resolution, Title IX, leadership skills, advocacy skills, and more. We are excited to hold our first official all-student meeting for this academic year on September 19th at 7:00 pm. Welcoming us will be the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Nathan Gonyea, and the Vice Provost for Student Success, Seana Logsdon. During each of our monthly all-student meetings, we will host various department leaders to connect students with services offered by our University, maximizing awareness and access to critical supports.

We are dedicated to maintaining a presence with the SUNY SA, sending students to the upcoming leadership conference; the ASGA, sending 4 students to a conference in Washington D.C., and internally, on the University council, DEI council, LGBTIQ+ Community Task Group, CAARES, Active Minds, and more. Being that our organization is somewhat new, we are also dedicated to supporting the future development of the SGA through enhanced communication methods, clearer role descriptions, bylaws revisions, and team-building exercises.

Should you have questions or suggestions for the Student Government Association, we welcome your outreach. We can be reached at SGA@sunyempire.edu and SGAsenate@sunyempire.edu.