



SUNY MARITIME PARENT ASSOCIATION
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2025
7:00pm

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting began at 7:01pm with an introduction of guest speakers. President J. Timpone welcomes Dr. Todd Lidh, Provost for Academics and Dean Spillane regarding Licensing.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Dean Spillane discusses Cadet Shipping Program, 360 days of sea time, 3 cruises on training ship and one of the cruises (2/C) can be on an Approved Cadet Shipping program.
- Cade shipping coordinator Keith Hermann helps with training sessions, filling out the paperwork required as you will becoming an employee of that company.
- Student's must attend all trainings, or they are not qualified to do out.
- Application process includes:
 - a) What are they looking to get out of this program?
 - b) The kind of ship they want to be on.
 - c) Evaluating begins
 - d) Rate structure/how are they doing in classes.
 - e) Discuss with instructors
 - f) How are they doing with Formation.
 - g) Conversations with Shipping companies- How many?
 - h) Spring semesters How many slots do we have?
 - i) Vessel Experience
 - j) Safety Management Systems- does it align with ours.
 - k) Ranking Structure/Company List
- During the interview process we learn what the student desires to do and try to match up the experience.
- There has only been 1 meeting, and we will discuss timeline for the spring, get them locked in, trying to be a couple of weeks ahead of schedule.

- For winter cadet shipping the upper classmen that absolutely need the sea time will be the first at the opportunity to go out. They are starting to create the list now for Winter Cadet shipping.
- There is a fee for cadet shipping but it is much cheaper than Summer Sea Term.
- A parent asks some kids are doing work/study- Can these kids be working in this industry earning hours? Dean Spillane answers yes. For example: Port Jefferson Ferry. If interested reach out to Michelle Reina at Career Services or Keith Hermann.
- President J. Timpone asks Dean Spillane to touch upon concerns with licensing numbers and preparedness.
- He stated List of Schools out there and we are at the top of the range of a ranking. There are continuous fluctuations. For the exam if there is something new, we are typically one of the first to see the change in January. That can hit us hard at times. There are new models. New Models can change at the last week of a semester. Retakes kids want to take elsewhere.
- A Parent ask is the sea term requirement the same for engine and or deck cadets? Total time is the same is 360 days. How its broken up is different. Dean Spillane explains the difference.
- A parent asks is cadet shipping open to international students. Dean Spillane it depends where they are from, Visa status. It is a one-by-one case.
- A parent asks if there are study courses geared to each test? Dean Spillane explains the parameters regarding Seminar. Seminar is a license prep course. Prepping them for coast guard exam. At the end of Seminar, they should be prepared. National maritime website, and Murphy books have example of questions.
- President J. Timpone asks everything must go through the school? with licensing? Students cannot go on their own. The school must certify they are ready to go. We must have them take it here first. Dean Spillane explains this protocol. Re-takes are done through us, and the school licensing officer is Charles Smith. He will plan with the regional exam center and schedules exam.
- President Timpone asks for all the kids who are taking the exam in January do they know they are? Dean Spillane states they are taking Seminar now and paperwork is getting filled out. Application is due October 9th with 35 credits done. The students must make their decision by then.
- Dean Spillane explains only engineers take seminar on the ship as part of their summer sea term. Deckies take it on land. They do offer it in the spring as well.
- Dr. Todd Lidh introduced as Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- A parent asks Is the marine operations going to be dissolved at any time he answers no. He explains it will always be a Bachelor of Science.

- Many parent concerns were raised. Is there any plan to ramp up the academic support/ Professors might not be supportive for office hours? Students make the effort and they go to the office and the professor might not be there. Dr. Lidh explains the student learning center which students can get paid to tutor. They have hired professional students for math/science. Sea Center – Coordinates student in need. Writing Center has a professional tutor/also a director here. Dr. Lidh mentions he has overspent on the tutoring services budget. They have expanded year after year.
- Parent concerns with disconnect over office hours with professors. All professors have a contract to teach this many credit hours/office hours.
- A mention of cutting back on winter recess was mentioned. It was explained it allowed for less regression in academics, and to put the ship out earlier for ship return sooner.
- A parent asks about classes cancelled with no explanation. Dr. Lidh explained to reach out to Professor/then Department chair who might hold the Professor accountable and will escalate, then it goes to Provost.
- A parent states there may be a concern about how it might trickle back down the other side of the train. Consequences / Retribution. Dr. Lidh mentioned there should be no ability to retribute.
- Dr. DeFalco- She overseas student learning Center if its academic issue.
- A parent asks about the student's mental health when students who boarded the ship last summer for SST and were told to leave in front of everyone because grades were not in on time. Dr. Lidh expresses that wasn't only for grades but could be disciplinary reasons. Students have a process and need the time for appeal. Dr. Lidh and Dean Spillane explain the process of failing prerequisite before pre- cruise or safety reasons. Credentials are sent to ports and there could be reasons involving these reasons as well.
- President J. Timpone thanks Dr. Todd Lidh and Dean Spillane for coming to be guest speakers.

BYLAWS CHANGE

- President Timpone introduces that a bylaw committee has been introduced to change by laws for the betterment of the organization.
- Chairperson K. Dvorak requested Bylaw committee member F. McGreal to read the proposed changes and they are as follows:
- Existing Article 10 Quorum- Twenty Active Members of the association attending any General or Special Meeting shall constitute a quorum. Two-thirds of the active members of the Board attending a board meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proposed revision By Law is Twenty active Members of the Association attending any General or Special Meeting shall constitute a quorum. Half (50%)

of the active Members of the Board attending a board meeting shall constitute a quorum.

- Existing Article 6 Absences- Any officer or member of the Executive Board or Board who shall be or has been absent from two consecutive meetings and whose absences are unexplained will be deemed to have resigned. Proposed revision is any member of the Board who shall be or has been absent from two consecutive meetings and whose absences are unexplained will be deemed to have resigned. Any Member of the Board who shall be or has been absent from more than two of the top five fundraising events (INDOC, Graduation, Homecoming, Accepted Students Day, TSES Ship departure, TSES Ship return) will be deemed to have resigned without recourse.
- Existing Article 8 Annual Association Activities or events through which funds are to be raised on an annual basis are to be established by the Board. These funding activities are not to conflict with those employed by the College. Proposed revision Article 8 Activities or events through which funds are to be raised on an annual basis are to be established by the Board. These funding activities are not to conflict with those employed by the College. Annual events/activities include but are not limited to: - Merchandise sales at INDOC, Graduation, Homecoming, Accepted Students Day, TSES Ship Departure, TSES Ship Return (as well as online). All Board Members are requested to make every effort to attend all these top five fundraising events. All Board Members are required to attend at least three of these top five events to be considered in good standing. Failure to meet this requirement will be considered a violation under Section 6 (Absences) and subject to any action described within.
- Parents spoke about experiences with volunteering and working at events, asked questions regarding these changes. Parents also spoke highly about getting involved and it's a great way to be connected, and it's important for the students and fundraising. We need to have more parents be involved especially 2C, and 3C.
- F. McGreal makes a motion to vote on these proposed by law changes and seconded by J. Collins. All in favor. Parents online did not oppose.

ADJOURNMENT

- President J. Timpone adjourned the meeting at 9:08PM.