**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**April 23, 2019**

 I. ROLL CALL: Giana Dean, Owen Azevedo and Lindsey Dalrymple were absent.

 II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 16, 2019: Minutes were approved.

 III. PUBLIC REMARKS: No Remarks

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Marcus DiBacco**
	1. Joining us today will be Vice President of Finance and Administration, Steve Taksar. Vice President Taksar is always happy to speak with us and we learn something new everytime he speaks. Pleas welcome Vice President Taksar.
2. **Vice President Taksar**: Thanks for inviting me here today. I have been asked to speak on a couple of things today, primarily about history of fee increases over a period of time and how we compared to other state universities, our budget planning for next year and how it looks like right now, even when I complete the process I’ll give you an update of where he stand right now. Talk about what happens when revenue is less than what we thought due to enrollment. Have a site that explains how your dollars are spent, and I’ll also be focusing on the general CD and what that means in our use those dollars.
3. This chart, in the presentation, is simply showing how Westfield State compares to all the other State Universities in Massachusetts. I put UMass Amherst here at the top because you can see a more significant difference between UMass Amherst and other state universities. I highlighted Westfield State, you can see over the nine-year period what our tuition and fees have been. This includes the tuition and general fee component, it does not include residential life or dining or any of the other auxiliary services. For FY19 you can see that our tuition and fees for this particular current year is $430 you can also see that we had a higher than average fee increase last year, there was another institution, Worchester State that also had a 7% fee increase last year, and if you look on the chart here everyone else is all over the map, I’d say on average institutions were between 4% and 6% increases. The reason I want to show that is because while we are a little bit higher this particular year, we are not substantially different than other institutions. When you compare Westfield State to the average of all the state universities, we average about $200 dollars less than all the other state universities combined, on the average basis. Even though our tuition is increasing, it’s not increasing at a rate that is much different than the other state universities. Done with back over that same period picked out the years that the State University and UMass had the lowest increases on a percentage basis, you can see that, unfortunately not in the recent past, but Westfield has done pretty well. Increase that we have had range from 0 in 2014 to 5% or 2%. So, when you compare us to the other state universities, and UMass, in that particular year we’ve had a pretty good run of lower than average fee increases. And if you look at that across the board, Westfield State had an average of 4.5% over the nine year period on the average annual increase for tuition fees that is the lowest of any of the other state universities. Overtime Westfield State has been fairly competitive and cost sensitive with respect tuition and fee increases.
4. If you convert that into dollars for this same analysis, it’s been almost $400.00 every year on average. Next year of course, we are looking at $420.00 increase in tuition and fees from this year’s, which falls in line with some of the past few years. It’s interesting how they lined up there. Over the past nine years, we have averaged about $379.00 per year as an increase. This is not substantially different than the other institutions going down this list.
5. A major part of the college budget is from enrollment, as you may or may not know, the number of high school graduates is declining in New England. 95% to 96% of our students come from in-state, so we are definitely an in-state institution. But the population decrease of high school graduates is affecting everyone because we are competing for the same students within the state. The other piece that is happening here at Westfield State is that we’ve had three years of extremely large incoming classes in 2014, 2015, and 2016 we had incoming classes of over 1600 students, right now we are averaging 1300 to 1400 students. The larger classes are now graduating, combined with changing demographics in the state, it is affecting our enrollment. We had a surprise this current year we are down at least 109 students that we budgeted for. We budgeted for at least 4350, we are actually going to come in at about 4241 so we have a gap of about 100 students. That means that the revenue that is going to come into the institution from enrollment is going to be short this year. Fortunately, the state has given us a little bit more state appropriation then we had budgeted, so at the end of the day they will cancel out. So even though we are down 109 students this year, the state has given us a little bit more money and at the end of the fiscal year we think that it’ll balance out and will essentially break even. In FY20, the next fiscal year which starts July 1, we had assumed to have about 4300 students and thought we would be down about 50 compared to this year, but in reality, we will be down a bit more. When you do the math, we’re now projecting we are going to be down to about 4200 students which mean a short fall of 77 students. We are working through the rebalancing of our budget right now, so that is why it is not finished but we are not going back to ask for more money for the fee increases. The fee increases are going to be locked into what I indicated earlier. We also expect that we will see a bit of a decrease in FY21, things don’t start to get better until about FY22 when we can get a much more predictable pattern because those larger classes have graduate. This is not different than any of the other state institutions, I meet with all my colleagues across the state once a month, and most other state institutions are seeing declines as well, Westfield State is seeing very modest declines 100 students is not a significant number per semester, there’re other schools that have very severe enrollment problems that they can’t overcome so we are really not in bad shape, but we do have to pay attention to enrollment very carefully.
6. This is using Fy 18 numbers, does not give us exact numbers but it does still get the message across. If you assume that one student does not come to Westfield State University nor live on campus the revenue impact of the university as a loss of revenue of $16,000 if you do the same math and assume that 50 students don’t come to Westfield State expeditionary budget that results in for commuter students who loss $485,000 common when you add in the cost of dining in residential life another $300,000, so if 50 residential students somehow don’t come to Westfield State based on what we budgeted, we have to figure out how to balance our budget by finding another $825,000 someplace. That is extremely difficult to do after you set the fiscal year because you have a lot of fixed cost you have salaries to pay, benefit rates to pay, upkeep of the buildings, maintenance, and facilities. So, the better you are predicting, the easier it is to manage your financial situation. You get to 100 less students, you’re talking about a million and a half dollars if we drop by a significant amount of money. Next year like I said if we are down 75-77 students we are trying to figure out how to balance our budget with about a million-two dollars less revenue in the budget for next year.
7. If you converted our expense budget to a one dollar analysis, this is how our spending lines up. 42% for $0.42 out of every dollar that we spend goes to compensation and benefits. So my salary, the salaries of everyone working on campus, and the benefits that the state arranges all come out of that line. That’s the most significant cost we have. Department operations or the cost of running departments on campus, academic departments, administrative departments, the non-personnel stuff falls in that category, buying supplies hiring consultants, buying furniture, fixing buildings etc. If you convert presidential life in dining to the dollar if you live on campus $.23 every dollar received goes into supporting the dining program and living on campus and upkeep of the facilities, maintainer salaries, etc. And then it falls off from their very small pieces of the budget when converted to this dollar scenario. The important point on this slide is that compensation, operations, and auxiliary services are the three main categories of expenses that reoccur on an annual basis to support you guys.
8. Another question I was asked is how the general fee increase is used. That’s a great question, the increase for next year is $420.00. It’s about a 4% increase. If you do the math on the number of students that we project to coming here, that will generate $1.9 million in additional revenue that revenue will go to support a variety of different expenses in our budget. These are the categories that those expenses are going toward. Those expenses are increasing at different rates, as I said before payroll and fringe benefits are costing the university more money. The State increased the benefit rate essentially, that will cost the University $350,000 dollars in additional benefit costs in one year which we did not plan on. The state also negotiates collective bargaining agreements with all the various unions. In the past, they haven’t provided full funding, we don’t know what they’re going to do until they actually give it to us. They do not fund our part-time faculty salaries, if there is a part-time faculty teaching a class here or there, we have to pay for that increase in the cost. The state does not provide any funding for collective bargaining. For FY20, the adjunct cost for the university is an extra $300,000. Again, we did not plan on so we have to figure out a way to fund it.
9. We have to make investments in our strategic plan. The University spent two years developing a strategic plan, and we need to keep investing for the future so we can make Westfield State the best it can be. Capital projects, financial aid, and of course various debt obligations that we need to pay off. We are still paying off the loan we took out to construct the Woodward Center. Those costs are level, but they’re an obligation that we have to fulfill. I think that’s all I have now. I just wanted to give an overview of fees, revenue, and the impact of enrollment. I am happy to take questions on anything I can answer.
10. **Dave Youngerman**: Can you explain what fringe benefits means?
11. **Vice President Taksar**: Good question. Thanks for asking that. For every salary dollar that we pay for a salary, the state adds a 39% kicker on top of that. So, if I pay someone $1 for their salary, it is really costing us $1.39 to employ that person. The fringe benefits include all the benefits that full time employees receive, so health benefits, dental benefits, life insurance, and all the taxes this pays that are required to be payed, payroll taxes, social security etc. When you add up all those different things, and in some part of that calculation, the employee pays a part of those costs, but the state also assumes that the employer picks up the other part. The important point is that for every dollar spent in salaries for employees we pay $.39 in addition to the dollar. So, when you put it all together it’s a fairly costly number. It’s not that unusual from most other employers. Everybody has a benefit rate, they vary based on whether you’re working for someone in a private industry or public institution. The benefit rate has gone up almost every year in the last five years I also might add it also includes components for retirement contributions that the state makes on behalf of all employees so I match some percent of that and a state provides a piece of that as well.
12. **Audrey Therriault**: How does the University handle financially Pprofessors, whether they are on the tenure track, a full-time, or a part-time professor? I’ve heard there’s a growing number of part-time professors, I was just wondering financially why this was happening?
13. **Vice President Taksar**: We are limited in the number of part-time faculty that we can hire. The state imposes a rule on us so we can only hire up to 15% of faculty to be part-time faculty in any particular department. So, 85% of the instruction for courses we teach are taught by full-time faculty members and 15% are taught by part-time faculty members. The state imposes a limit which is a bit unusual. In other places I’ve worked there has been a lot more part-time instructors, almost half. And in some places it is even higher than that. But State Universities have to limit the number of part-time instructors to 15% for a particular department. The reason colleges want to hire part-time faculty is because it’s a little less expensive to have a part-time faculty teaching a course than it is to have a full-time faculty teaching when you have to pay all the benefits and other pieces that go along with that. But, in our case we have limits and we do our best to stay within those limits.
14. **Marcus Payne**: With the strategic plan, you said that will be continuing every year, is that going to mean an increase on the students every year? And, how much of the 4% increase is going to be used for the strategic plan?
15. **Vice President Taksar**: The state requires us to have a strategic plan. Every state institution has a strategic plan. The campus spent the last two years developing the strategic planning at various levels of engagement, so there were meetings, open forums, we had consultants come in, we had conversations with multiple departments, and at the end of that a plan was produced that talked about what the major priorities and goals are that are important to move this institution forward so that we can produce a better quality institution and offer courses and majors that are relevant to today’s students, how we can improve the quality of the facilities, and also for retention so that students that come here in my freshman year will continue to graduate. Once the plan was produced, this past semester we started pricing out all the ideas that were attached to the strategic plan. We’ve done that now. Last year we invested about a million dollars into our strategic plan and are going to cut that back again given the enrollment pattern receive evolving going forward. Next year, about a half million dollars of what we invest in this strategic plan will come out of those fees that we talked about. These investments are really important in moving forward with this institution we’re talking about things like investing more in financial aid to subsidize the students we have here as opposed to increasing the cost, we also need to invest more in the Westfield State Promise and Experience to attract students to the university, and we need to improve the quality of our programs. A lot of those things take time and money so suffice to say we are still fine-tuning that right now but we expect to invest about a half million dollars out of the $1.9 million directly into strategic planning priorities. There’s a lot of information on the university’s website so you can see all the data we’ve collected, and what the priorities are, what the goals are. What we haven’t conducted yet are the details better relative to the pricing.
16. **Marcus DiBacco**: The enrollment trend is going down; do you see it going back up again in the future? Is there a time for that yet?
17. **Vice President Taksar**: If you’re pool of students is declining in order to stay level, you have to attract a greater percentage of students just to stay level. So, essentially what you have to do is to convince more students not only to come to a state universities, but to come to Westfield State. We are hoping to just maintain a level playing field which means we have to attract more students than other schools because that pool is shrinking. I know that there have been some pilot programs done to attract out-of-state students, particularly in northern Connecticut. I think we’ll pursue other strategies that make us more attractive and market in ways we not only have persuaded significantly in the past but we will need to in the future just to make sure we have a stable incoming class size. The troth of enrollment on the demographic side, in other words in the lowest annual number of high school students graduating isn’t until 2026, we have a few years until the bottoms out. And then the population starts to increase a little bit after 2026 checking for the next seven or eight years it has challenges but if we are manage to solve crudely and try to figure out ways to save money and have a quality education pretty confident that we’ll be able to get through that okay.
18. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Have there been any talks about allowing junior or senior Business, Accounting, or Finance students in on when you’re planning the budget, or during auditing season?
19. **Vice President Taksar**: Not that I am aware of, but we are not opposed to it. We’ve had some preliminary conversations with department chairs to try to structure internships in our Financial Office but are not quite there. I’d be open to anything that would increase experiences that are helpful to students and provide direct experience of what we do, and how we do it. If you’d like to follow up with me next fall or even in the summer, please do.
20. **Joey Newlin**: I’ve heard that the amount of money the state spends on higher education has not increased since 2001 or so. I think President Torrechila mentioned that and PHENOM mentioned that, do you know anything about that and if you do, do you know why there’s no increase?
21. **Vice President Taksar**: I don’t have all the answers, but I’ll tell you what I know. The state appropriation has decreased over the last several years on a percentage basis, as our budget has grown, even if you received the same amount of money proportionally we would be receiving less on a percentage basis. So, ten years ago we had less state appropriation but this campus was smaller, so it was a greater percentage of our budget but I don’t have the exact number. Today we get about $28 million dollars from the state in our budget. We analyze what we believe the short fall will be from what the state should’ve provided to us. The allocation of state appropriation tends to be a political process, the amount we get from the state is determined in the Statehouse and between the government. So, I can’t say that I truly understand how those dollars are allocated; some of that money is allocated based on the collective bargaining agreement that are in place to support pay increases for faculty and staff in their unions. How that happens at the state level, I don’t fully understand. For example, we received an extra million dollars this year and I can’t tell you why, but I took it. If you were to calculate the State appropriation based on full-time student equivalent rate we would be underfunded by millions of dollars, because if you look at all the students that are in state institutions and take all the state appropriation from the schools that get it, and do the math to figure out on a personal basis that shift in appropriation, there’s some State University’s that get a lot more and some that get a lot less. For some reason, we’re one of the few that gets a lot less. We are working on that through various channels at the state level, I know the President has put this on his list as a high-priorities. At the end of the day, when all said and done, the allocation of state appropriation to institutions is a political process. And there are pressures at the state level, there’re lots of things that the state wants to do. But it is true that on a percentage basis, our appropriation has been declining over the past several years, but on a raw dollar basis, it’s been increasing. So, you really have to understand the type of question and metrics that you’re looking at because it could be answered two different ways.
22. **Tommy Howard**: You mentioned Westfield State is trying to market towards Northern Connecticut. I have heard of someone that lives in Enfield, Connecticut and was given the in-state tuition rate for Westfield State, I was wondering if the university is looking into similar strategies for New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire as well.
23. **Vice President Taksar**: I don’t know what the detailed plans are for that, but it’s not a bad idea. If you follow what’s happening in New England, the University of Maine has already done that. They were in bad shape for several years, they decided to essentially eliminate their out-of-state fee structure so if you go there you pay the same amount as you would at UMass. It’s a good idea, I don’t know what areas they are specifically looking at right now, but I’m hoping they will.
24. **Tommy Howard**: if the university were to implement a strategy like that, would they be missing out on any sort of revenue that is covered by that? Is this a State University rule, or a Westfield State rule, or a nationwide rule that they use as a strategy of making more money? Or does it actually cover some fees that our in-state students would then have to cover?
25. **Vice President Taksar**: I don’t really know the answer to that if we’re being honest. I don’t think we’re talking about eliminating the out-of-state rate, I think we’re talking about changing the financial aid package and making it more attractive to out-of-state students to come to Westfield State. And I believe we have the State authority to do that. There’s no plans that I’m aware of to get rid of the out-of-state rate, the out-of-state rate is the out-of-state rate. The package of financial aid is a different question that I believe has been talked about.
26. If you want more information, my office is open, I’m happy to meet with you, so please let me know if I can help.
	1. Thank you Vice President Taksar. Next Monday, April 29 will be the last SGA Executive meeting of this year. I cordially invite all the elected members of next year’s exec to join us as we clear up business and essentially hand over the reins. I would like to congratulate all of you who won your elections. To those of you who did not. I remind you to hold your head and keep up the work you have done so far. Remember to have humility in victory and honor in defeat. Again, I invite the new SGA exec to next week’s meeting on Monday, April 29 at 4:45 pm.
	2. I am sure many of you, knowing that this is our last meeting, are expecting me to say a few words. I will do so next week at the banquet. However, many of my friends up here will not have the same opportunity so please pay them close attention as they not only report but bid farewell, be: it temporary or permanent thank you.
	3. Our next scheduled meeting is on September 3, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the SGA room E017.
	4. Items not listed on the agenda.
27. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
	1. All University Committee**: No Report**

 B. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**

 C. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**

 D. Student Advisory Council: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Thomas Howard V**
	1. I wanted to thank you all for your support for my brief time on the SGA Executive Council. Although I will be walking this semester I will have a very abridged fall semester during my senior year, and will not be able to run for any leadership positions next semester, but I will still be on campus.
	2. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
	3. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
	4. Food Services Committee**: Elizabeth Ferrara**
2. So this is my last Food Committee meeting, so here are my final updates for you. If you still have dining dollars to spend, unlike me, you can purchase a party pac. They are available in Wilson Café grab and go. For $29.99 you can get a box with snacks, soda, brownies and either 4 chicken twister wraps, 6 hot dogs or a rotisserie chicken. They are in the refrigerator and can be warmed up in your room.
3. Don’t forget about woos wings on campus Sunday through Thursday.
4. Also, if you are interested in working at the DC, They will be hosting a job fair in the Tekoa room next week for perspective employees, more information to come.
5. My last piece of info is that the DC offers gifts from home, so mike your parents send you food that you can pick up in the DC for special occasions like birthdays, or exams, or just because you can. This is available on the dining services website under gifts from home.
6. **Drew Dalton**: What are the gifts from home?
7. **Liz Ferrara**: Someone can order a box for you and you can pick it up in the DC, there is a birthday cake, giant cookie, smoothies, and a finals pack with snacks for whey you are studying.
8. I have had a great year as chair of food committee, and I want to thank you all for your thoughtful questions.
	1. Parking Control Board: **Melissa DiNallo**
9. The Parking Control board had their last meeting of the year. We approved seven items this year. We increased cost for replacement decals from $5.00 to $10.00.
10. We have a new decal for retired faculty and staff: which they would only purchase once with and without an expiration date, but could only be used for one car.
11. We changed the voting membership to include Public Safety and Facilities. We also gave authority to void tickets to the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Chief of Police or their designees.
12. We also approved and created three dashboard temporary parking passes with a limit of 30 minutes for catering staff, Public Safety will monitor this.
13. We increased the fine for parking in a visitor spot from $25.00 to $50.00. We changed the requirement for CGCE parking permit to only students in the masters/graduate program. The CGCE students in an undergraduate program would have to purchase either a commuter or a resident permit.
14. We are looking into paying out of the Parking Control Board funds to get the RAVE Guardian App.
15. **Marcus DiBacco**: Who’s budget?
16. **Melissa DiNallo**: The Parking control boards.
17. **Matt Jaques**: Why such a hike for visitors spots violation?
18. **Melissa DiNallo**: Because we noticed that a lot of students were parking without a decal in visitor spots and leaving their car there instead of purchasing the decal.
19. **Drew Dalton**: You said that graduating and continuing education students will have to be majors in order to get a decal, so if you are a graduating and continuing education student who is going for just one class, you have to buy a commuter or residential parking pass?
20. **Melissa DiNallo**: If you are in the graduate program you can get the CGCE parking pass, but if you’re in the undergrad program, and you live off campus, you still have to get a commuter pass.
21. **Tommy Howard**: A point of information to clarify Drew’s question, next semester, I’ll be finishing up my degree early with only Ten credits, which means I’ll technically be an XRG student which is considered to be CGCE, but I’ll be taking undergraduate day courses. So, this rule applies to someone like me who has to buy a commuter decal and not be classified with the CGCE graduate students.
	1. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
	2. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
	3. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**
22. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Madeleine Scott**
	1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
	2. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
	3. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
	4. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
	5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
	6. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
	7. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
23. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Thalita Neves**
	1. Finance Committee: **Thalita Neves**
	2. Foundation Report: **No Report**
	3. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
24. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Matthew Howe**
25. Campus Activities Board**: Matthew Howe**
26. Time to get excited for Owl Bash. I’ve been mentioning about the weekend coming up and it’s finally here, so bear with me so you know the happenings.
27. Kicking off Owl Bash tomorrow night, April 24 in the DC is Harry Potter Night. Stop by the DC between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm to enjoy a themed dinner and participate in the raffle to receive a Final Survival Basket. There is also a costume contest
28. Then on Thursday, April 25 at 8:00 pm right here, there is the Mentalist Mat LaVore. CAB saw him down at NACA and he is no joke. He can swallow needles, hypnotize people to forget their own name, and predict the future. You definitely do not want to miss this!
29. Then on Friday, April 26 in the DC we have a BBQ Beach Party. Starting at 4:00 pm there will be Tye Dying, Tropical Smoothies, Giveaways, Steel Drummer, Mechanical Surfboard, and a Photo Booth to capture all your great memories.
30. Tying into this beach party, there is a beach themed BBQ. To dance off your tropical smoothies and BBQ, head to Headphone Disco starting at 6:00 pm right on the Green. It’s just like silent disco where everyone has headphones and have the same stations but its complete silence. Take off your headphones and just watch the people bop around in silence.
31. Finally to end the night, head back over to the DC at 10:00 pm for MacandCheeseSplosion. There are endless options of Mac and Cheese. You can have it on your pizza, on a burger, or just plain on its own.
32. Then on Saturday, April 27 at 9:30 am, there is the fifth annual Out of Darkness Walk, which raises awareness about suicide and the stigma around mental health. You can register through the link that can be found in the Week at a Glance email.
33. Head outside for Fun on the Green from noon until 4:00 pm on Saturday, April 27. There will be a four Way Bungee Challenge, a Rock Wall, Sweeper Obstacle Course, Pedestal Joust, a Popcorn Machine, and many other foods.
34. Also Saturday, April 27 starting at 7:00 pm in the Banquet Hall, there is a Paint Night. There is only 100 seats so if you want to show off your artistic skills, then register now. Registration can also be found in the Week at a Glance email.
35. To end your Saturday night come out to the Paint U Party at 9:00 pm in the Parenzo Gym. This is a high energy dance party that you do not want to miss. Make sure to wear white because neon paint will be sprayed, flung, and dumped all over you. This is a classic, we had it a few years back and is back by popular demand.
36. Lastly, to end Owl Bash weekend, come out for a relax-ing Screen on the Green showing of Aquaman. There will be free popcorn as well!
37. That is everything that is happening for Owl Bash, but CAB has one more event to close out the year. Mark it on your calendar, CAB’s last Bingo of the semester. It’s different than the others, this one will be on Saturday, yes Saturday, May 4, at 8:00 pm in the Banquet Hall.
38. Please spread the word about all the events going on during Owl Bash, and tell all your Bingo fanatics about the change in date and time of the last Bingo. That’s all I have to report on the events of the next couple of days.
39. CAB will be meeting tomorrow, April 24 right here at 5:00 pm and we will be electing the new Executive Board. Stop by if you’re curious who the new members are.
40. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **Olivia Gwynn**
41. I just wanted to remind everyone that the Spring Social we have with the neighbors of campus is tomorrow night at 5:30 pm in the dining Commons. As Matt Howe said, it’s harry Potter night. If anyone would like to attend and say a few words about your experience here on campus that would be greatly appreciated. Dress code for the event is casual, but I encourage everyone to wear Westfield State gear. If you wish to attend, please see me y the couches after the meeting.
42. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Olivia Gwynn**
43. I just quickly wanted to thank those of you who helped out at the blood drive on Wednesday, April 17. Not only am I thankful, but the nurses who were working were surely thankful as well. We had a total of 51 donations, which is really something to be proud of.
44. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Elizabeth Ferrara/Courtney Smith**
	1. Executive Secretary Report: Elizabeth Ferrara
45. Thank you to the senators that come out to the Westfield Community Forum for mental health last week.
46. This week’s Senator of the Week is Matthew Michalik for his outstanding effort at that Town Hall.
47. That being said, you have all been outstanding senators this whole year. Thank you to all, senate, advisors and exec, for making this year one to remember. SGA has truly become a place that I consider home, maybe because I spend so much time here, but also because of all of you guys.
	1. Legislative Secretary Report: **Courtney Smith**
48. I am sending around the program for the Banquet which is next week in Scanlon Banquet Hall at 5:30 pm. Please check to see if your name is spelled correctly, and in the right spot. The dress code for the Banquet is business casual, no jeans, I will send you all a reminder of this on Monday.
49. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Jacob O’Kane**
50. Rules and Regulations Committee: **Jacob O’Kane**
51. I have one final amendment for the year to the finance bylaws. I’ll allow Thalita Neves to explain her amendment. So today for this to pass we need a 2/3 vote to senate.
52. **Joey Newlin**: Why did this come up?
53. **Thalita Neves**: It came to our attention this year because a club actually asked for most of the club funds to go to dinner at someone’s house, and when we got the receipt back they had used money to buy things like pots and pans and things that you usually have at the house. So, that being said we don’t want people to use their club funds for things like that, that will remain a their house afterwards. We need the working for that and now it will be there.
54. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: I move to amend the finance bylaws as written. Motion passes.
55. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
56. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
	1. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
	2. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
	3. Advisory Committee on the CURCA**: No Report**
	4. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No Report**
	5. Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Affirmative Action: **No Report**
	6. Advisory Committee for Vice President of Student Affairs Search Committee: **No Report**
57. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
58. Commuter Council: **Michael Reid Jr.**
59. The Commuter Council’s last luncheon of the semester was held last Thursday, April 18 and we had a total of 130 guests. The Commuter Council will also be holding a flowerpot event tomorrow in Wilson Café between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm, all are welcome to stop by and grab a pot.
60. On Friday, April 26, as part of Owl Bash weekend the Commuter Council has invested in a fried dough truck, which will be starting around 12:00 pm near Wilson, along with lawn games and bubble blowing machines.
61. The Commuter Council will be holding an end of the year Pizza Party on May 7 in the Tekoa Room between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm with numerous raffle prizes including Owl Buck prizes and car items. I hope to see some of you there, and I wish you all the best of luck with the remainder of the semester. It has been an honor serving with the Student Government for the past four years and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.
62. Our next scheduled meeting is April 30 at 1:00 pm in the SGA conference room E020.
63. Senior Class: **No Report**
64. Junior Class**: No Report**
65. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
66. First Year Class: **No Report**
67. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
68. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
69. Davis Hall: **No Report**
70. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
71. Lammers Hall**: No Report**
72. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
73. New Hall**: No Report**
74. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
75. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS:
3. It was moved and seconded to open new business. Motion carries.
4. Thalita Neves: I move to go into executive session. Motion carries.
5. Liz Ferrara: I move to close new business. Motion carries.
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
	1. **Katie Pinney**: the Bruins are up by two.
	2. **Matt Howe**: Please come to the Owl Bash events this weekend.
	3. **Ethan Goodfellow**: The Buzz-Off is this weekend.
	4. **Brad Harvey**: Come to the Lammers Barbeque.
	5. **Marcus Payne**: 25 days until commencement

1. ROLL CALL: Giana Dean, Owen Azevedo and Lindsey Dalrymple were absent.
2. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please refrain from ANY cell phone use during the meeting.*

*Please also note that for accurate record keeping purposes, SGA meetings are recorded and kept on file by the SGA Executive Secretary.*