**Student Government Association Minutes**

April 03, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Ross Beck, Allison McLaughlin, Caitlin Turner, Kaylen Vangos, Victoria Downs, Andrew Alcombright, Yadira Garcia, Priscilla Aguilar and Steven Evens were absent. Emily Tobin and Hannah Persson sent an Alternate.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 27, 2012: Minutes were approved.

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Lou Cimaglia*
2. Hello everyone. We don’t have a speaker tonight. Tonight, we will be voting on MASSPIRG’s ballot question for our upcoming election season. We have modified the existing question.
   * + 1. **Lou Cimaglia**: I am here to continue our discussion about MASSPIRG, which began last week April 3rd. We would like to propose a new question to appear on the ballot so students can give a s much input as possible. With your approval, we would like to have a two part question. There will still be the normal introduction of MASSPIRG, which explains what they do, and what the fee goes towards. The first part will read “do you support the continuation of the MASSPRIG chapter at WSU, with its associated nine dollar fee? Students will be able to pay, or not pay this fee if they chose. If the student answers yes, a second question will pop up. The question will ask the student if they would prefer a ‘waive able’ fee, as it is now, or ‘opt-in-fee’, which students would have to elect to add the fee onto their bill, rather than waive it. This leaves it totally up to the students on how they wish to have MASSPIRG operate. In the case of ‘opt-in’ fee, MASSPIRG would most likely not have enough resources to operate the same way, but it is under my impression that they would still exist. If we keep the fee the way it is now, MASSPRIG will operate the same way.
3. **Ryan Meersman**: I just want to make sure everyone knows why this is coming before Senate. Every two years, MASSPIRG has to appear on our student ballot as a referendum question, to say students either support, or do not support the continuation of the chapter. We have to approve the question that goes on the ballot. In the past, we have always given the opportunity to have a question on the ballot, this year: we would just like to phrase the question differently.
4. **Isabelle Goodman**: I would like to clarify a few things. I am the campus organizer for MASSPIRG. I am usually over at the University of Massachusetts, which is why I don’t look familiar to you guys. One point I just want to make is that I think you guys have a really strong value on making sure your student money is spent in an efficient way. The reason myself, and other MASSPIRG members would like to stick with the original question is because I think the presents a false choice. Not only would you not have an organizer on campus if you chose to opt-in fee, you would also not have student representation on the student board on the statewide level. These students make decisions on how the organization is running, and I would hate to see that go away. You would also not have students lobbying on your behalf when it comes to big issues. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer.
5. **Stephanie Close**: I guess I am confused, because they do the opt-in option at Salem State, and they still have a chapter. Also, if you are afraid students won’t opt in, why aren’t you out there advocating for yourselves to educate students so they will pay the fee? I think we are frustrated as students because we don’t see much on campus from MASSPIRG at all, so it is hard for us to want to give you our money.
6. **Isabelle Goodman**: First of all, it is not done like that at Salem State, so I don’t know where that information came from. As for the second half, that is certainly a lack of good programming on our part. I think the problem is two-fold. I also think the question is misleading because I think if students chose ‘yes’ for the opt-in fee, they would think they are paying it right there, and would not have to go back into their bill and add it. The second point is, I would add that most fees are not waive able, and the ones that are, you don’t see those representatives having to go out there and advocate to students to pay that fee, and they don’t have to make a vote on the questions, or have students vote on it. I would make the case, that we do our best to reach, as many students as possible, about our organization. We do anything in our power to publicize ourselves.
7. **Brittany Moniz**: I have a question on the $9.00: I thought the fee was $7.00?
8. **Ryan Meersman**: Two years ago it was voted on to increase the fee, but that information did not get to student accounts, so it did not show up on the bill.
9. **Amy Wing**: You talk about how the question is misleading. I think it is misleading that in the initial paragraph on the ballot, it states that the money paid will come back to campus, when it actually goes towards training staff. You also said that you spend most of your time at UMASS, so I feel our money is going to UMASS. I feel there is a disconnect.
10. **Isabelle Goodman**: I am at UMASS because your actual organizer had to step down, so I picked up this chapter for now. We have a full year commitment, from a new organizer, next year.
11. **Meaghan MacDonald**: I like that this question gives students the option, to give their opinion. I think if students opt-in, they know what they are paying, and why they are paying it.
12. **Isabelle Goodman**: I understand that whole heartedly. I will point out that we will be educating as many students as possible so they will know the information when voting.
13. **Meaghan MacDonald**: I said this last week too. I feel like I am frustrated, because we see so many organizers come in and out, so I have never been able to identify with a MASSPIRG person to know more information, and I feel there is a disconnect since the position changes so much.
14. **Isabelle Goodman:** I understand that. The problem is that there is only one staff member here. If there were twenty staff members here, it would be much easier. We are doing our best, to improve our hiring process and to make sure they are fulfilling their commitments. But, if they are not doing a good job, or if they aren’t happy, we feel that we are doing a disservice to student, by keeping them on staff, I also still feel like the question is misleading. If it is an opt-in option, we will get a lot less money.
15. **Tom Durkee:** I have not seen the amount of money we pay come back to campus. I think all the work you guys do is great, but it does not affect our everyday lives on campus.
16. **Isabelle Goodman:** I think the mistake people make is that we aren’t a normal club with an SGA funded budget. It also costs more than the amount you pay to have an organizer here, so it is getting your monies worth. We try really hard to put on big events so that you guys get something as a campus, but we do also do work off campus. We are absolutely trying to improve on our campus programming.
17. **Tom Durkee:** I also just feel that we can do these kinds of thing ourselves without having to spend all of this money.
18. **Hannah Ramos:** Having an organizer had been a valuable experience for me. I have come a long way because of it. There are a lot of things, and a lot of memories that organizers create that we cannot get without them. The organizer brings a lot of fire to the group, and we would not be the same without them. I also do feel like we do a lot on campus, such as the battle of the bands.
19. **Matt Durant:** I think there is a wiser way to spend the money. I also think that you guys can put yourselves out there more, because not a lot of people know what you are about.
20. **Hannah Ramos:** I am really surprised that you guys don’t think we put ourselves out there enough. We do a lot of work at the beginning of the year with flyers, dorm storms and a lot of other things to get our message out.
21. **Isabelle Goodman:** That is a valid point. I still just feel it is misleading because if they chose that they want a chapter, and then chose the opt-in option, they are then stating that they don’t want a chapter.
22. **Stephanie Close:** If students vote to have a chapter, and understand the fee, they will vote for the waiver option if they are educated enough. It is just how any other election works, it is going to be about what the students chose, and if you educate enough students like you say you make the effort to do, then be hopeful that they will chose to support you guys.
23. **Dave Getchell:** I feel the MASSPIRG is a decent watch dog for a lot of issues, so I would hate to see them go away.
24. **Ryan Meersman:** Fist off, than you for coming down. I also applaud you all for what you do: I am normally a person pays the fee. I do think you have increased your visibility for your events, but I do hesitate that you have to ask for extra funds to put on campus events on when students already pay into the organization. I think that I would push you in the direction to advocate to your board to make sure you get the resources you need to put on good programing. I want to make sure my money is going to go to the students on my campus, so you can do what you love, and get the resources to make the difference on our campus, that you want to.
25. **Tori Downs:** When and where are your meetings?
26. **Hannah Ramos:** They are at 4:30 pm on Wednesdays in the space next door. That will change in the future semesters, though, depending on availability of students.
27. **Rebecca DiVico:** What does the training entail that costs so much money also is it on a yearly basis?
28. **Isabelle Goodman:** I have gone through the training. First year staff goes through a three week training period, and it is very beneficial.
29. **Jean McDiarmid:** I just feel like I can do a lot of what you do on my own, or with a different organization. I would feel better if the money was coming directly to us as students without having to pay for some bodies training to help me do what I can do myself.
30. **Isabelle Goodman:** Training does not cost that much money. Also, our angle is to get students like Hannah, who was very shy at the beginning of the year, to be able to stand up and talk about the things they care about
31. **Lindsey Howe**: I think students also remember a few things MASSPIRG has done that have sparked controversy, such as the camp out. There are also other clubs on campus for these students to get involved in that do similar things that come back to campus.
32. **Isabelle Goodman**: I think it’s important that our organization lobbies for all of you when it comes to student loans, the text book prices, which other organizations don’t do, which protects a lot of you. Yes, they could join other organizations, but you guys would not get the advocacy piece.
33. **Matt Durant**: I move to close the speakers list. Motion passed.
34. **Ryan Meersman**: I call the question as presented.
35. **Rich Darrach**: What does that mean?
36. **Ryan Meersman**: We have to take a vote if SGA supports the question that was presented to us to appear on the ballot. We can discuss it and amend to it as well.
37. **Lou Cimaglia**: If you all vote yes, this will be the question that will appear on the SGA ballot in two weeks. It will include both parts.
38. **Josh Frank:** Is this the same as it is every year?
39. **Lou Cimaglia:** The first part is, the second part is new, which allows students to choose which way they think the fee should be on the bill.
40. **Aerin Andre**: Can I still speak?
41. **Ryan Meersman**: We are on a new motion.
42. **Aerin Andre**: I just have one more question for Isabelle. I know the money we are paying is helping the state, but I think more need to come to campus. I do pay the fee though, because it does help us in the long run.
43. **Olivia Dumas**: I think it would be beneficial to put on the first half of the question that there is going to be another questions if they vote yes.
44. **Isabelle Goodman**: That wasn’t the point I was making earlier. I was afraid that students would choose the opt-in on their ballot, and then not know that they need to add the fee on their bill.
45. **Amy Wing**: (POI) the fee will still appear on the bill, so students will know they need to opt-in.
46. **Sue LaMontagne**: I think students may be confused on what they are voting for.
47. **Ryan Meersman**: We are voting on whether or not you want this question to appear on the ballot in two weeks. If you vote yea, it means you want this question to appear on the ballot. This is not voting on the existence of MASSPIRG, it is simply the question on the ballot.
48. **Ross Beck**: the question passed with two abstentions.
49. **Lou Cimaglia**: So the question that was presented to you all will be the question that will appear on the ballot with regards to MASSPIRG.
51. There will be pancakes with the President on April 11th.
52. Thank you to all of you who have participated in the NEASC process. The visiting team has offered very warm sentiments about Student Government, and they were really impressed with our size, involvement and influence.
53. Next week, we will have Curt Robie down to talk about some of the renovations projects and we will also have Kathi Bradford and Nanci Salvidio from the Advancement and University Relations division to talk about a project they are working on.
54. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 5:30 pm.
55. Items not listed on the agenda:
56. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Ryan Meersman*
57. All College Committee: **No Report**
58. Long Range Planning Committee: **No Report**
59. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**
60. Alumni Report**: No Report**
61. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Stephanie Close*
62. Hi everyone. The blood drive is coming up again on April 18th and I need volunteers to sit in the Wilson Café on Tuesday, April 10th and in the Dinning Common on Wednesday April 11th and Thursday April 12th. I’ll pass this sheet around; just get it back to me after the meeting.
63. As I did last week, I’m passing around the envelope for Ellen Wetherell again. I will be going out this week to purchase some gift cards with the money on behalf of SGA.
64. There is a career fair tomorrow from 12:00 pm until 4:00 pm at Springfield Technical Community College.
65. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
66. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
67. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
68. Health Committee: **No Report**
69. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
70. Sustainability Committee**: No Report**
71. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
72. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
73. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Tony Iozzo*
74. Hey guys, there will be a summer Study Abroad opportunity available for both Graduate and Undergraduate students in Krosno, Poland. It is from July 22nd until August 4th, tuition, room and board are free. You will have to pay for your airfare. There will be lecture and workshops for 10 days regarding; the Nature of Migrant Experience and its connections to both personal and national identities.
    1. **Meaghan MacDonald**: This was a great experience when I did it. You meet a lot of people and learn a lot. I will say that it is not a party trip. You have a lot of class and outside work to do, but it is extremely rewarding. If you are interested you can see me.
75. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
76. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
77. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
78. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
79. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
80. Institutional Assessment Committee: **No Report**
81. Academic Strategic Planning Committee**: No Report**
82. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
83. Learning Communities**: No Report**
84. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Brandon Burr*
85. Programming update: Hey everyone
    * + 1. First thing, the last count I got about the spring concert was 734 tickets sold. They are selling really quickly, so if you have not got yours yet, you should go and grab yours. The service window is open until 7:00 pm tonight and opens at 10:00 am on April 4th.
        2. For events, we have Mat Franco, a comedian Magician who is great! It’s at 8:00 pm tomorrow, April 4th in Ely. He will be walking around the Dining Commons at about 5:00 pm for a small teaser show.
        3. We also have a scavenger hunt on April 11th starting at 7:00 pm. you have to sign your team up on *facebook* on our *faceboo*k event page or message our CAB *facebook*.
86. Neighborhood Association Committee: **No Report**
87. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
88. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Stone Koury*
89. Finance Report: **No Report**
90. Foundation Report**:** Stone Koury
    1. The Foundation met last Thursday, March 29th, and it was a fantastic meeting.
91. Scholarships have had a conservative growth please check your e-mails to apply.
92. They are also sending 10 students to the Democratic and Republican Party conventions which they have put $25,000 aside for this.
93. Donor event is on May 12th; invite any donors to a dinner to promote philanthropic behavior.
94. The Foundation is moving downtown for more space, visibility and convenience. They got a great price and it will be able to be more comfortable for possible donors.
95. They are projecting to raise about $168,000.00 for the phone-a-thon. They got $2,500.00 in one call last week.
96. The Washington Street property is no longer school related at all.
97. Investments were up 11% since January our best this fiscal year.
98. Overall the foundations having a successful reboot and it’s very exciting.
99. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Krysta Livingstone/Amy Wing*
100. Executive Secretary Report: **No Report**
101. Legislative Secretary Report: Amy Wing
     1. Hello everyone, I hope you all got your units in for March. I will have the April calendar up next meeting and 3 units will be due for April.
     2. We have an end of the year banquet which will be held on May 8th at 5:30 pm instead of having an SGA meeting.
     3. We are having a t-shirt contest; submissions are due by 5:00 pm next Tuesday, April 10th.
     4. I am passing around a signup sheet for t-shirt sizes and your Campus Wide ID number.
     5. We also want to do a slideshow, so please start sending me, appropriate, pictures of your council and senate photos to be displayed.
102. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
103. Commuter Council: **No Report**
104. Senior Class: Meaghan MacDonald
     1. There are 14 Senior Fest packets left.
     2. Please save the following dates;
        1. April 18th is the Senior salute

**Lindsay Howe**: What is senior salute?

**Meaghan MacDonald:** It is an event for seniors where several departments, such as financial aid, the SALT program, DGCE, and others will be in attendance to help seniors figure out their next step after graduation. It is also where they can verify that they are graduating, and purchase their cap and gown.

* + 1. May 5th is a Senior night event, this date is tentative.
    2. May 11th is the rehearsal and the senior diner.
  1. Wisdom and Merit Awards: if you have a 3.3 average or above and are involved with community service, please apply for this award. If you are honored, your name will be in the program at graduation and at the SGA banquet on May 8th. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 6th. They were sent out via the campus mail. If you lost it, please see either Barbara Hand or Kim Hosmer.
  2. Our next scheduled meeting is April 5th at 5:15 pm in the SGA office.

1. Junior Class: Lindsey Howe
   * + 1. Our class council would love your support during spring weekend by promoting the purchase of “Meet TYGA” tickets. Tickets will be sold by all 2013 class council members for $1.00 up until the opening concert act. This ticket is the opportunity to meet TYGA after the concert.
       2. We will also have a table on the green that Saturday, April 21st.
       3. A survey about our Senior week will be send to Seniors very soon.
       4. Our next scheduled meeting will be on April 9th. At 6:30 pm in the SGA clubs room.
2. Sophomore Class: Taylor Fote
   * + 1. Tickets for Mr. Westfield will be on sale next week. We will also be in the Dining Commons sometime next week selling more stars.
       2. Our next scheduled meeting will be on April 9th, at 5:00 pm in the SGA conference room.
3. Freshman Class: **No Report**
4. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
5. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
6. Davis Hall: **No Report**
7. Dickinson Hall: Aerin Andre
   * + 1. We accept the Resignation of Julia Ryan as representative to Senate.
       2. We are having a clothing drive until April 12th.
       3. We are having our social on April 12th.
       4. Our next scheduled meeting will be on April 9th at 8:00 pm.
8. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
9. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
10. New Hall: Anthony Oberg
    * + 1. We have solidified our plans for New Hall’s end of the year event. It will be held on April 26th from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm on the green between New Hall and Davis Hall. We will be having pizza, spin art frisbees, wood burning art and a D.J. Advertising will be going up soon.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting will be on April 10th at 4:00 pm in the New Hall conference room.
11. Scanlon Hall: No Report
12. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**: None**
13. NEW BUSINESS:
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
15. Ross Beck: Can rules and regulations see me after?
16. Amy Wing: Make sure you sign the form going around.
17. Meaghan MacDonald: 46 days until commencement.
18. ROLL CALL: Allison McLaughlin, Caitlin Turner, Kaylen Vangos, Andrew Alcombright, Yadira Garcia, Priscilla Aguilar Jessica McKinnon, and Steven Evens were absent. Emily Tobin and Hannah Persson sent an alternate.
19. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.