**Student Government Association Minutes**

February 14, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Sarah Hegarty,Kevn Gallant, Victoria Downs, Hannah Persson, Andrew Alcombright, Jessica McKinnon, Elizabeth Labek, Peter Sepe were absent. Matthew Richardson sent an alternate.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 7, 2012: Minutes were approved.

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Lou Cimaglia*
2. Hello everyone, Happy Valentine’s Day. Our speaker tonight will be Catherine Ryan, Director of Financial Aid, to talk about a new financial tool for students.
   * + 1. **Catherine Ryan**: Thank you all for having me. I wanted to come talk to you tonight about a tool that financial aid has purchased for our students as well as our recent alumni. I have been working in financial aid for over twenty years, and have seen student loans continue to grow. I have seen support for higher education fall in the state budget, which has led many more students to take out student loans. At Westfield State, 80% of our students are involved with federal student loans. Right now, we do not have a lot of debt management and load counseling tools, for our students and recent graduates. We know, students need these tools, so we have purchased a piece of software, through ASA (American Student Assistants), who has come to the forefront of helping schools with debt literacy programs. I can show what this software is on the computer. The program that we purchased is called Salt. We had a campus activation meeting a week ago. I know Dean LaMontagne was wondering what ‘Salt’ meant. Salt is not an acronym, ASA determined that Salt was a form of money for trade in ancient times, so they went with that name. Last week, we had a couple of representatives come from ASA for a meeting, and they were able to show us the software. We are hoping this software will really speak to the student generation. Basically, Salt is a membership driven organization. I will be sending an email out, in early March, to all students letting them know we have purchased this software. After this, ASA will be doing a follow-up email, to students, asking them to activate their membership. Salt will give students education on debt management, and offer basic financial information to prepare students to graduate. Students on federal loans from Westfield state, can graduate with between twenty and forty thousand dollars in loans, and we want to educate students on how to manage this. If you or your peers have questions, on how to manage paying your loans, and to stay out of debt, Salt is a great tool for you. ASA also has counselors who can advise you, to make the best financial choices possible. While the Financial Aid office can help you with your FAFSA, and many other things, we are not loan payment experts, which is why Salt will be such a great tool for students to have. ASA has been a big help to us, and I am thrilled that they were able to work with us. I really believe this will be a great thing for students and the University.
       2. **Sue LaMontagne**: I just want to add that this is free of charge to all students.
       3. **Catherine Ryan**: Yes, this is out of the Financial Aid budget. I get an administrative allowance which helps us run our mailing, postage, collections and many more things, but we were able to make this work in the budget. This is still in the development stage, and ASA is looking to get private sponsors, and to work with the government to get more funding for this. I also want to add that you are not required to use this tool, but it is strongly encouraged. You can also add your private loans in with this tool, as well. At Westfield we have many different types of federal loans, and this software will work with all of them. Salt can help with payment schedules, and can really help students. There are also many courses available on the software, such as a ‘Money 101’ course. There are many other courses as well, that we will make available to you. We really want to make this a campus wide effort to get students to use this tool. It is really important that students are aware of their dept. I know a lot of students get loan refunds, which means you may have borrowed too much. If you wish to reduce your loans, you can always contact our office. Are there any questions?
       4. **Stephanie Close**: How will you be reaching out to Alumni, that this software is available to them?
       5. **Catherine Ryan**: Kathi Bradford from Alumni will be putting it in her spring newsletter. Also, Westfield graduates are generally very good with loan repayment, and keeping connected with the campus. It will also be in the student affairs newsletter, it will be at orientation, and all over campus.
       6. **Meaghan MacDonald**: Is this being paid for every year, or is it just a one-time payment?
       7. **Catherine Ryan**: We will pay for it this academic year, and the next. Also, the price may change, and in that case, I will work to get my budget increased, or work with other areas of campus to co-finance it. Salt is also looking for private financing, so they are trying to make it affordable.
       8. **Meaghan MacDonald:** Will you be keeping track, as to how many students, are using it, and how it is working?
       9. **Catherine Ryan:** Salt will actually be able to report back to us with how many students signed on, and how they are doing with their loans. It is hard to know what really works. ASA does a lot of market research, and is really trying to work to make it speak to this generation.
       10. **Arulio Sanchez:** Could you have students sign on when they sign their promissory note?
       11. **Catherine Ryan**: The problem is that everything is now electronic, so we don’t get a lot of face to face interactions with students. Also, it is mainly parents dealing with their child’s loans and finances. We are encouraging all students to be aware of how much they actually have out in loans.
       12. **Ryan Meersman**: Is this up now, or do we have to wait to get it launched?
       13. **Catherine Ryan:** We will be launching it in March. We plan on doing a lot of outreach to students so they know about it.
       14. **Brittany Moniz**: Will this be through the portal, or on a different website?
       15. **Catherine Ryan:** I am not quite sure, I think it will be a separate link all together. It will certainly be on the financial aid homepage.
3. Thank you very much Catherine.
4. Last week, we implemented a new reporting system. If you forgot to email me, raise your hand, from here on out, if you don’t email me and you are going to give a report, you will need to make a motion for new business.
5. I am sending around a St. Patrick’s Day parade sign-up sheet.
6. A reminder that the Executive Board will be having pizza and drinks for the class of 2015 on February 21st after the SGA meeting, so keep that on your radar.
7. SGA is sponsoring two theater productions that are coming up as follows:
   1. Musical Theatre Guild’s “ You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” will be at Juniper Park:
      1. Wednesday February 22nd at 7:30 pm
      2. Thursday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm
      3. Friday, February 24th at 7:30 pm
      4. Saturday, February 25th at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
   2. Student Theatre Association’s “The Serpent” will be in the Black Box Theatre on the 2nd Floor of Ely.
      1. Thursday, February 23rd at 8:00 pm
      2. Friday, February 24th at 8:00 pm
      3. Saturday, February 25th at 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm
8. My State of The Campus Address is March 5th at 5:00 pm in the Dever Stage and Auditorium.
9. If anyone is interested in helping to deliver papers, there is a consistent unit opportunity. Please see Barbara Hand after the meeting, if that interests you.
10. If you are interested in volunteering for the Boston Marathon as a start ambassador, the deadline for that is Friday, February 17th. There is a group of Westfield State students going, including Brandon Burr, Tony Iozzo and Stone Koury. If you are interested, see me after the meeting and I will give you the login information.
11. Wednesday, February 15th in the Wilson Auditorium C from 5:45 pm until 7:00 pm there will be “Default” a documentary film about the Student Debt Crisis.
12. On Saturday, February 18th at 11:00 am there is a Family Friendly 3K walk, run or roll, in Woodward. Registration is at 10:00 am.
13. After the meeting could I see Caitlyn Greenleaf and the Class Presidents for a very quick meeting?
14. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Ryan Meersman*
15. **Ryan Meersman**: Hello everyone, I hope you all had a great week. Last Thursday, February 9th, the Board met in order to discuss a number of things, including four action items. First we received updates on the NEASC Accreditation process and 2012 quarter 2 financial results. Then, we approved an update to the Trustees’ Bylaws, and a list of Honorary Degree Recipients. They included Mr. James Hagan the President of Westfield Bank, Ms. Cheryl Mills, and Mr. Michael Uslan. We then approved the appointment of Michelle Maggio for the Business Management department to Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance.
16. Lastly, I wanted to be clear on the approval of the change to Directory Information within the student records andprivacy regulations. My decision to support the change was based on listening carefully to the rationale for it and I agree that it brings us into compliance with the national regulation. I understand where some of your concerns were coming from, and they are definitely legitimate concerns. However, looking through the policy and understanding who at the University has oversight of our records and how they are normally treated, I do not believe there is any reason for concern that your picture would be used in a way that would cause any harm to students. If you continue to have concerns, there is nothing wrong with that. I would suggest that you fill out the form that can be found in the registrar’s Office or the FERPA website to suppress your Directory Information. By doing this you suppress all of it, and may choose to make note of what you do not mind being given out as personal information.
    * + 1. Sue LaMontage: Just some reassurance, I don’t think you will see any changes relative to your photo. What this is, is trying to keep up with policy and covering the college in those times your photo is used. I assure ou all, however, that you will not be seeing your photo more often than you would have before.
17. All College Committee: **No Report**
18. Long Range Planning Committee: **No Report**
19. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**
20. Alumni Report**: Caitlyn Greenleaf**
    1. Alumni Relations, Career Services and Academic Affairs are having an “Alumni Student Networking Night”. Through the semester there will be “Speed Networking”. Where students with specific majors can go ask questions and talk to people who work in their field of study. The first one will be held on February 16th from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm in the Scanlon Living room with Political Science and Criminal Justice. There will be more information to come in March
    2. Our next scheduled meeting will be March 31st at 12:00 pm in the Horace Mann Center.
21. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Stephanie Close*
22. Hello everyone, just a reminder that your $200.00 Room Reservation Deposit is due on March 1st by 5:00 pm. You can pay by check, credit card or money order. The Housing Gazette will be out this week. There are a few changes from last year, but it is very similar. Apartment rosters will be out next week.
    * + 1. **Kevin Fisher**: I just, also, want to let you all know, when the Housing Gazette comes out, that will have all the information and timelines you need as far as when signups are, and when lottery numbers will be distributed. I also want to let you guys know that if you do have a parent give a card number over the phone, thy must have you’re Campus Wide Id number.
23. Health Services asked me to make an announcement about the G1 Virus that has been going around. You all received an email about the symptoms of this virus. It generally last 48 hours. You do not need to go to Health Services for this because there is not anything they can do. It just needs to run its course. The best thing to do is sip Gatorade to stay hydrated. If you pass out, contact Health Services or Public Safety for medical assistance. It is recommended that you remain home for 72 hours, to prevent spreading the virus to other people.
24. Also, if you need a committee to sit on, please see me, because I have a few openings.
25. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
26. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
27. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
28. Health Committee: Lindsey Howe
    * + 1. Just a reminder that the Blood Drive is Tomorrow, February 15th from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Parenzo Gym. Donors will receive a Bruins Tee-shirt. Also if you volunteered please make sure you sign in when you arrive.
        2. Besides the Blood Drive, blood pressure screenings will be in the Dinning Commons on February 22nd from 12:00 pm until 1:45 pm. These are performed by EMS and Nursing Students.
        3. Daffodil Days are coming soon. Daffodils can be sent to campus addresses. If you have any questions about those emails please see Stephanie Close or me.
29. **Aerin Andre**: How much are the daffodils?
30. Stephanie Close: (POI) Daffodils are 10 for $10.00. You can also donate Daffodils to a cancer patient anonymously.
31. Parking Control Board: Tim Egan
    * + 1. We met yesterday, February 13th with Jim Carrabetta of Long Range Planning Committee. We discussed potential sites for a parking garage and extra spaces. These sites included Juniper, the church area and Horace Mann Center. A short term solutions might include, expanding the tree line by Parenzo and Scalon. The Board will be reviewing the Parking Regulations Manual to see if any changes can be made.
        2. One policy, we will be discussing, is the one regarding the accumulation of tickets. Right now, any student who racks up 10 or more tickets must be referred to the Board. We would like this number to be decreased to 5, so that students can potentially save on fines and change their action, sooner, rather than lose their vehicle.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is on February 27th at 3:15 pm in Ely 210.
32. Sustainability Committee**: No Report**
33. Student Athletic Advisory Board: Ian Wilson
    * + 1. Last week we held our 15th annual Athletic Director’s 3.0 honor roll reception. 232 Athletes out of 449 which are 51.6% made the honor roll.
        2. We had great performances by athletes last weekend.
34. Kim Schmidt won both the one and three meter diving championships in the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association for the 4th year in a row.
35. The men’s track and field team won their sixth straight MASCAC Indoor championship with the women finished second.
36. Steve Evans was MASCAC men’s Ice Hockey player of the week.
37. Pink in the Rink: the idea of the event to raise awareness about all forms of cancer and raise as much money as we can for the local Cancer House of Hope. You can buy jerseys for $75.00 or donate. All of the proceeds go to the Cancer House of Hope. If you want to buy a jersey, you can get them at the game or contact Terry Hamel. The game is this Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 pm at Amelia Park Ice Arena.
38. Tonight, February 14th there are two senior night basketball games.

**Lou Cimaglia**: Also, congratulations to Amy Wing who was the MASSCAC hip jump champion.

* + - 1. Our main focus right now is community service. We’re looking at student mentor days sometime in April. We will update you when we have more details.

1. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
2. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Tony Iozzo*
3. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
4. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
5. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
6. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
7. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
8. Assessment Committee: **No Report**
9. Academic Strategic Planning Committee**: No Report**
10. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
11. Learning Communities**: No Report**
12. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Brandon Burr*
13. Programming update: Brandon Burr
    * + 1. Hello everyone, We are moving ahead and have spring weekend booked.. As you know the concert artist is “TYGA” and we have the Saturday items all booked. Some of the items we have confirmed and booked are a zip line, plastic jousting, tie die, airbrush hats, license plate shop, popcorn machine, music and much more. It is looking good, and going to be a very beautiful day and a great time.
        2. We also have Trivia coming up tomorrow, February 15th at 8:00 pm upstairs in the Ely main lounge, with free pizza.
        3. Also, Brown Bag Bingo is coming up on February 24th at 11:00 pm in the Ely Main Lounge.
14. Neighborhood Association Committee: **No Report**
15. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
16. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Stone Koury*
17. Finance Report: **No Report**
18. Foundation Report**: No Report**
19. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Krysta Livingstone/Amy Wing*
20. Executive Secretary Report: Krysta Livingstone
    * + 1. Hello everyone, I have a few Senate Banquet updates for you. Tickets will be on sale next Tuesday, February 21st, at the Campus Center window, beginning at 10:00 am. You can buy 2 tickets, with your student ID. Tickets are $40.00, but as an SGA treat, you, as senators, go for half price. Please spread the word to your friends. A few committee members are going to Chez Josef for a tasting to pick the meal.
        2. Also, we have a Senator of the Week. This senator has shown true dedication in delivering the Voice all over campus. She does this all by herself and does a fantastic job. She shows true dedication which is why Priscilla Aguilar is awarded a Senator of the Week.
21. Legislative Secretary Report: Amy Wing
    1. Announce and reconfirm that I will be offering a unit fo the March 5th, State of the Campus Address, this event is mandatory so, it’s an easy way to get a unit out of the way for March.
    2. Just a reminder that 3 units are due for February, they are due on February 29th, leap day. A great unit opportunity is the showing of “Noah” a student created feature film in Dever, this Friday, February 17th at Dever Stage and Auditorium. This is open to any students, but especially Comm. students, this is a great way to support your peers.
    3. Next week, February 21st we will do the Walmart drawing and Big Unit winners. I now have the template so past winners will get their certificates posted.
    4. I hope the newer people like their name tags. If I have continued to drop the ball please let me know, so I can make you a name tag.
22. PARLIMENTARIAN REPORTS:
23. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
24. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
25. Commuter Council: **No Report**
26. Senior Class: Meaghan MacDonald
    1. Hello everyone today is the day to announce that Senior Fest Packets are going on Sale this week. The price is $285.00. Now I know that that price is high, but listen to what is included:
       1. Tuesday night: Mohegan Sun with a meal and a $10.00 gambling voucher.
       2. Wednesday: Boston Harbor Cruise for lunch, Fanuel Hall for the afternoon and Durgin Park for dinner. That night we will be going to The Blue Man Group.
       3. Thursday: We are going to Bousquet Mountain; we will have the option of zip-line, go carts, disc golf, and other fun activities. That night we are going to the Huke Lau for the hypnotist.
       4. Friday: During the day at Westfield State University, including manicures, video games, lawn games, license plate making, tarot card reading and caricature artists. That night we will have a Barbeque in the Apartment complex courtyard.
    2. Here’s the deal: you need 114 credits, with an intention to walk this may.
    3. It’s 4285.00 and you can pay in cash or check, made payable to WSU Class of 2012. Packets are being sent home to your families this week, so talk to your parents. Every meal is included, including a midnight hot snack. Transportation to and from the events, is also provided, a nifty senior fest package, including items such as a t-shirt, towel, water bottle etc. It is from May 15th thru May 19th.
    4. You will like the Apartment Complex and you will choose your roommates.
    5. If you were to do this on your own it would be a lot more money.
    6. There are only 198 packets available and they are first come, first serve basis. You can come down to SGA and see either Barbara Hand or Kim Hosmer to purchase your packets.
    7. We also sold 60 Jackets for the seniors.
    8. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 16th at 7:15 pm in New Hall.
27. Junior Class: **No Report**
28. Sophomore Class: Taylor Fote
    * + 1. We officially have our contestants for the Mr. Westfield pageant. They will be fund raising next week. The night of the show is April 28th. The weekend after spring weekend. The night of the show is April 28th, the weekend after spring weekend so mark your calendars. We have a really great host, our very own Brandon Burr.
        2. Also could I see all of the Hall Presidents and one of the Class of 2014 members after the meeting?
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 20th at 5:00 pm in the SGA Conference Room.
29. Freshman Class: Richard Darrach
30. I move to accept Courtney Keddy as a Representative to Senate for the Class of 2015. Motion passed.
31. We finally have an advisor, Janet Garcia and we have another interview in a few weeks.
32. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 20th at 7:00 pm in the Student Government conference room.
33. Apartment Complex: Tony Iozzo
    * + 1. I announce the resignation of Kevin Gallant as Apartment Complex President. I move to accept Christian White as Apartment Complex president. Motion passed.
        2. We had our first meeting last Thursday, February 9th and started to throw around some ideas for events.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 pm in Shannon’s Office.
34. Courtney Hall**: No report**
35. Davis Hall: Matt Durant
    * + 1. Our last event went pretty well. We had a lot of craft materials, where you got to come in and make Valentine’s for people. Also, we had a chocolate fondue dipping station. It was an overall success despite a few glitches in planning. I’m very proud of the level of dedication, execution and efficiency that my Hall Council has shown throughout the year and continues to show to this day. They’ve gone above and beyond to make life easy and fun for the residents, RA’s RD’s Maintenance and residential life. I really think their hard work deserves recognition.
        2. Our next event will be sometime in March, shortly before Spring Break. “Luck of The Davis” it will be called and will feature the 2010 Dropkick Murphy’s live at Lansdowne concert on our TV, and possibly Irish food. We also want to have a selection of sodas and drinks including Ginger ale, Apple cider and Root Beer Keg. More details to come.
36. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
37. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
38. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
39. New Hall: Anthony Oberg
    * + 1. We are having a Cookie decorating event. Signups are going on tonight. On February 23rd, at 7:00 pm please stop by to pick up your cookie, if you signed up.
        2. It will also be second chance Valentines, complete with the cards you used to fill out in second grade.
        3. We will also be having pizza.
        4. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 28th at 4:00 pm in the New Hall conference room.
40. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
41. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: None**
42. NEW BUSINESS: **None**
43. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
44. Stephanie Close: Can I please see the Hall Presidents?
45. Lou Cimaglia: Can I see all of the Class Presidents and Caitlyn Greenleaf?
46. Meaghan MacDonald: Buy your senior week packets, and 95 days until commencement!
47. ROLL CALL: Sarah Hegarty, Kevin Gallant, Victoria Downs, Hannah Persson, Andrew Alcombright, Jessica McKinnon, Elizabeth Labek, and Peter Sepe were absent. Matthew Richardson sent an alternate.
48. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.