**Student Government Association Minutes**

March 27, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Andrew Swan, and Jon Mecurio were absent. Elizabeth Cauley and Hannah Persson sent alternates.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 20, 2012: Minutes were approved.

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Lou Cimaglia*
2. Hello everyone. We have one speaker tonight, her name is Sarah Mitnik, and she will be speaking about the upcoming ballot question for MASSPIRG.
   * + 1. **Sarah Mitnik**: I want to introduce myself. I am Sarah Mitnik, and I am the MASSPIRG assistant organizing director. I graduated from Colorado College with a degree in Environmental Science, and took a job here with MASSPIRG. I was a campus organizer here at Westfield State for the 2008-2009 year. I also worked in New Jersey for two years on our energy campaign. I am now in Massachusetts as the assistant organizer, which means I oversee all campus organizers, and student chapters for MASSPIRG across the state.
       2. **Hannah Ramos**: Hi everyone. I am the Chapter Chair here at Westfield State University. MASSPIRG is a student directed and student funded groups dedicated to state and national social problems. Everyone is always talking about these problems, but we are more interested in trying to solve them. These problems include global warming, hunger and homelessness, and expensive textbooks. What makes MASSPIRG so effective is that every two years you guys vote to have a wave able fee on your student bill to help fund us. This helps us the higher professional staff and much more to help us solve these social problems by helping us plan projects, develop bills and much more. We are able to get a lot done and are very effective because of the financial help of students. We also have a student board. I am the clerk on that board. We work to make decisions for the MASSPIRG student chapters. We decide on programs and policy positions, and allocate the annual budget. The professional staff also assists them. I will tell you about the staff we have, we have campus organizers on each campus, who help train the leadership on campus to run an effective chapter. Our assistant organizer works to oversee them, and works directly with the student board. We have an Executive Director, a Higher Education Policy Director, a Higher Education Associate, who is based in Washington DC. Because of this staff, we have gotten a lot done over the years. We are currently working to stop cuts to a grant program which gives many of you financial aid. We are working to alleviate hunger and homelessness and encourage recycling.
       3. **Sarah Mitnik**: You all have a handout that I want to go through. You have a list of our staff, chapters, and many of our accomplishments. I mainly want to talk about the budget that you all have in front of you. You can see that we spend our money in four main ways. The first is hiring staff. Staff salaries make up the bulk of our money. We decided spending our money on staff, is the most effective. The second way is Federal Campaign Advocacy, which helps us run national programs and campaigns. Each state pays into the National Organization USPIRG, and the amount the state pays depends on the size. The third way is staff training and technical support. This includes training your campus organizers, and paying for our website. The fourth way is for operating costs, which include travel expenses, among other things. We have been working very hard to update the bottle bill to include new bottles in the recycling program. We delivered over 10,000 signatures to send to the Statehouse in support of this. In the fall, we planned a battle of the bands to raise money for hunger and homelessness. We have also been generating support for more affordable textbooks. I also want to highlight our student leadership, who have been great, and have gone through a lot of training to help make us more effective. We will continue to work hard on these campaigns, and to advocate for all of you. An event, we have, coming up to look out for is our plastic bag tug of war in support of recycling. Thank you for all or the support you give us. I will now open the floor to questions.
       4. **Ryan Meersman**: Is there a way, such as at Salem State, that our chapter can have money just for us? I know they have money in a separate group account; does that come from SGA, or does MASSPIRG give the chapter specific funding?
       5. **Sarah Mitnik**: To my knowledge, Salem State is treated the same way as you with a fee on the bill, and the school cust the organization a check.
       6. **Ryan Meersmen**: I guess I am also concerned that we give so much money to the organization every year, and there have been times that our chapter has been looking for funding for events from our school. As a student, I would feel better knowing the fee I pay would come back to campus.
       7. **Sarah Mitnik**: Our student board has decided the best way to spend money is on staff, rather than on a large supplies budget. We always try to fundraise and get donations for events.
       8. **Meaghan MacDonald:** How many students actually pay the fee?
       9. **Sarah Mitnik:** Around 50% of students pay the fee.
       10. **Meaghan MacDonald:** I also want to bring up that I have sat on SGA for four years now, and I have seen many campus organizers come and go. I think it would be more effective to have a face to the name, and a long term organizer. Also, like Ryan Meersman said I find it frustrating that we pay so much money to you guys a year, and then you can’t seem to afford to put on a program here without help.
       11. **Sarah Mitnik:** Many organizers have personal issues or other opportunities come up, which is why it seems we are so in and out. We are always trying to fix the program. I am confident, in our training program, to help us hire more effective staff members, to fix this problem. I also know we have a lot of really dedicated students who I am hopeful will become staff members.
       12. **Stephanie Close**: Do we get any more attention or resources than a school that pays less money.
       13. **Sarah Mitnik**: Good question. Campus organizers work on anywhere to 1-3 campuses, depending on how much money that school brings in. The schools that bring in the most money have an organizer solely for their campus. Most state Universities have organizers who work at two schools.
       14. **Stephanie Close**: So, if only 25% of students paid the fee next year, our organizer would be spread even more thin?
       15. **Sarah Mitnik**: It is possible. I hope that does not happen because I love this chapter.
       16. **Amy Wing**: I know about the dance you had and needed funding for will the tug of war require funding as well?
       17. **Hannah Ramos**: This event does not require any money at all.
       18. **Sarah Mitnik:** We put on all types of events. Some don’t need funding, while others need funding. Most of the times our events don’t require funding.
       19. **Brandon Burr:** I guess I am just wondering, like others, why the organization can’t help fund your programs.
       20. **Sarah Mitnik:** We do have a small supplies budget. The board decided it would not be effective to have a loagre programming budget.
       21. **Stephanie Close:** Are we even getting the money we pay every year back to our campus, or is it going to other campuses as well?
       22. **Sarah Mitnik:** Yes, it actually cost more than thirty thousand a year to have an organizer, which is what you guys pay. You also get your money back by us trying to protect your loans and tuition from going up.
       23. **Tori Landry:** Do you guys have weekly meetings open to all students?
       24. Sarah Mitnik: Yes we do, and the more the better if anyone wants to work with us.
3. Thank you Sarah.
4. As I mentioned last week, the WSU foundation will award 10 scholarships for selected undergrads to attend the Democratic or Republican national Conventions in 2012. The RNC is August 18-31 in Tampa, FL and the DNC is August 25th – September 7, 2012 in Charlotte NC. Applications are due April 1, 2012.
5. We are still looking for one or two students to deliver the Voice Newspapers. You can do all your units for the month just by delivering these once a week. Please see Barbara Hand or Kim Hosmer if you are interested.
6. Once again, nomination papers are out for spring elections. If you are interested in one of our positions, please come see us after the meeting.
7. Finally, the NEASC visiting team will be here on Sunday.
8. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 3rd at 5:30 pm.
9. Items not listed on the agenda:
10. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Ryan Meersman*
11. All College Committee: Aaron Astley
    * + 1. At our meeting last week we reaffirmed our vote on our Leap and AMCOA initiatives. On April 4th, at 3:30 pm in the Tekoa Room, George Mathey will give a report on Space Use and the New Academic building recommendation. This will include Strategic Planning Strategy, Academic Planning and Ling-Range Planning Committee; everyone else is encouraged to attend.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting is on April 4th at 3:30 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
12. Long Range Planning Committee: **No Report**
13. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**
14. Alumni Report**: No Report**
15. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Stephanie Close*
16. Some of you may have heard about Ellen Wetherell, from Residential Life, who is facing some health issues which are keeping her out of work. Ellen has been the secretary for Res Life for the past 33 years. She has always been the smiling face interacting with students, families, and employees on a daily basis. Ellen is also the voice on the recording when you call the main line for campus. At this time donations are being accepted to help with various expenses. I am going to pass this envelope around so that anyone wishing to donate can do so. We will also do this next week, if you do not have any cash on you. You can also come down during the week to Barb or Kim to make a donation.
17. Tomorrow March 28th is the health fair from 10 – 2 in the Ely Campus Center. The list of vendors was emailed out to all students today. Due to construction, the vendors will have to unload everything at the docks and then move their vehicles to the church lot and be shuttled back. We are looking for volunteers to help the vendors unload everything in the morning at 9:00 am and to help load everything back up at the end of the fair at 1:45 pm.
18. We are going tobacco free September 2012, so now is the time to kick the habit. Tobacco Sensation will be offered April 18th and April 26th at 6:00 pm. It cost $30.00 to participate. You can sign-up at the campus center window.
    * + 1. **Rich Darrach**: Just to clarify, we ARE going tobacco free?
        2. **Stephanie Close**: Yes we are.
        3. **Nikki Ferraira**: Do they know the sanctions yet?
        4. **Stephanie Close**: No they don’t.
19. Please keep housing deadlines in mind, as they are approaching quickly. Tomorrow, March 28th there will be information sessions in the afternoon and evening. An email was sent out yesterday to all students with dates and times.
20. If anyone has any interest in running for my position next year, please feel free to come talk to me.
21. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
22. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
23. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
24. Health Committee: Lindsey Howe
    * + 1. Health Committee has been going really well, but we are always welcoming new members. Daffodil days went really well at least $500.00 on and another $500.00 off campus were sold. Also the health fair will be held tomorrow, March 28th all day. We need a few students to help set up. Vendors include pet therapy, assault groups’, skin care and much more.
25. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
26. Sustainability Committee**: No Report**
27. Student Athletic Advisory Board: Ian Wilson
    * + 1. SAAB met last night, March 26th. Carlton Pickron came and spoke to us about being leaders on campus and in the community. He was very encouraging and we enjoyed having him.
        2. SAAB is now working on Division 3 week, where we will honor accomplished athletes; educate student athletes on academic eligibility, and do community service. Come out and support the various spring sports.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is on April 10th at 8:00 pm in Woodward.
28. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
29. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Tony Iozzo*
30. Hi guys, this Thursday, March 29th there will be a presentation workshop in Mod Hall 103D in the Honors Center from 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm. It’s open to all students and if you’re planning to present work at anything such as the Northeast Regional Honors Conference or Mass Statewide Undergrad Research Conference, you should check it out.
31. Also I sent an email to all students today regarding responsibilities of students going into advising. And this morning I received the data from the advising survey, that was administered in December and there was a 34.8% response rate which was over 11% higher than the last time it was administered. I have to sift through the data, analyze it and I will report the findings.
32. Academic Policies Committee: Alexander Costa
    1. Approved 3 Votes - 2 on wording, 1 to assist study attend/NSE. 1 on counting transfer credits.
    2. They proposed a probation policy and the effect it would have on funds. If a student is on academic probation the club or organization could lose their funding, if the student participates in the club. They would like to bring it to the clubs to enforce.
       1. **Meaghan MacDonald**: I think a lot of it is on the advisor. I know Music Theatre Guild is very strict about the rule.
       2. **Amy Wing**: I agree. I know with athletics it is the coach and athletic director’s responsibility.
       3. **Meaghan MacDonald**: I would just make this rule very clear to students who are on probation. I would put it in the letter you get when you get put on probation.
       4. **Katie Turner:** How do coaches get this information?
       5. **Carlton Pickron:** Athletics is very different, they hae a compliance officer who gets this information, and give it to the coaches.
       6. **Amy Wing:** Does that apply to club sports?
       7. **Carlton Pickron:** I am not sure how it works, since they are not NCAA.
       8. **Katie Turner:** I just don’t want us to lose funding because our coach wasn’t aware of players grades.
33. Curriculum Committee: Joshua Frank
    * + 1. The curriculum committee met last Thursday, March 22nd in Ely 346. We approved some curriculum proposals. Two new common core classes in oceanography and the solar system. We also approved a class in energy, environment and society class, biochemistry with a lab class and changed the program requirements for art minors.
        2. We discussed ROCCC specifically the general education matrix.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting will be April 5th at 3:45 in Ely 346.
34. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
35. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
36. International Programs Committee: Rebecca DiVico
    * + 1. We met last Friday, March 23rd for 2 hours to review and decide on study abroad trips for 2013 & 2014. None were flat out rejected but a few were sent back to the proposers for more information. When I get the email that says I can announce which trips will be available, I will.
37. Institutional Assessment Committee: Joshua Frank
38. IAC met today in the Parenzo Board Room. We discussed how we can inform students on what it exactly means for our school to become a leap state and what changes in assessment will happen.
39. We also talked about how students should know their major objectives, and possibly tie in these objectives, during the advising period.
40. Our next meeting will be on April 10th at 2:00 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
41. Academic Strategic Planning Committee**: No Report**
42. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
43. Learning Communities**: No Report**
44. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Brandon Burr*
45. Programming update: Hey everyone.
    * + 1. Tickets for the spring weekend concert will be on sale on Tuesday, April 3rd, at the service window. Tickets will be $10.00 and for the concert only, everything else is free that day. Also, again the concert it TYGA and is on April 21st the weekend begins on Friday April 20th.
        2. Some of the novelties on the green will be zip line, fried dough, tie die, Jousting inflatable, license plate shop, and spray paint hat stand.
        3. Guest packets go on sale as well, next Tuesday, April 3rd. They are $24.00 with the option to add the concert ticket, which will make it $34.00 total. All guests that week-end have to be registered to stay or be here.
46. **Stephanie Close**: Can you go over how to bring a guest on campus if you are a commuter?
47. **Brandon Burr**: You just have to register them at the campus center like normal.
48. **Stan Costa**: What happens if you buy a guest packet and your building reaches level five restrictions?
49. **Stephanie Close**: They will be lifting sanctions for that weekend.
50. Neighborhood Association Committee: **No Report**
51. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
52. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Stone Koury*
53. Finance Report: **No Report**
54. Foundation Report**: No Report**
55. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Krysta Livingstone/Amy Wing*
56. Executive Secretary Report: Krysta Livingstone
    * + 1. Just a reminder election signature papers for next year are now available. Please keep in mind you may not begin campaigning until next Friday, April 6th at 4:00 pm, as stated in the guidelines, this includes Facebook.
        2. I hope those of you going to Senate on Friday, March 30th have a great and SAFE time. We will see you all there.
57. Legislative Secretary Report: Amy Wing
    1. Thank you, to Stone Koury for helping me while I was away.
    2. To those Blue Key members, I hope you have looked through your packets and as a reminder we are meeting after SGA tonight.
    3. As a reminder units are due on March 31st.
    4. If anyone still has any questions on units please feel free to email me or talk to me after the meeting. Units are due at the end of the month.
       1. **Andrew Alcombright**: Do you get units for Senate?
       2. **Amy Wing**: I will give one unit.
    5. If anyone is interested in the Legislative Secretary position, I would love to have a conversation about it.
58. PARLIMENTARIAN REPORTS:
59. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
60. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
61. Commuter Council: **No Report**
62. Senior Class: Meaghan MacDonald
    1. I have a few updates for you all, with more details to come in the following weeks.
    2. We have less than 20 senior fest packets left, so if you or your friend is someone who was waiting till they sold move, the time is now. I posted it on facebook earlier today as well. If you aren’t friends with us, it’s *WestfieldStateUniversityClassCouncil*.
    3. Expect emails to go out to Senior Fest Seniors once we sell out. Just so you know, we all live in the Apartment Complex and you pick your rosters.
    4. The jackets are super awesome, so I hope that you bought yours.
    5. On the commencement front, there was an email sent out from Marsha Moratta. I would encourage you all to read it and tell your friends and roommates because everything that I told you in my last report is on that email. It is also located on the main WSU website.
    6. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me after the meeting or email me.
    7. Two dates to keep in mind are April 18th from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm: Senior Salute - this is going to be in Ely. That is for seniors to come make sure they are on the right track to graduate, figure out loans, turn in rosters for senior fest, talk to DGCE for graduate school, get your camp and gown, etc.
    8. May 11, 2012 5:00 pm rehearsal will be at the Woodward Center. It isn’t required, but it is highly recommended to come. Following the rehearsal, there will be a dinner, with an act and a senior gift. We will be sending out emails later this week and we are asking you all to RSVP to the dinner so we have a count.
    9. We are still working out the details, but we have a fundraiser that will be coming out soon, only for seniors, that we think will be awesome. Basically, we are going to designate 3 days where you are able to record a message from 30-60 seconds to say thanks, love you and etc…to your families for commencement. While your families are coming into the arena, we are going to show the videos so that the parents can get all emotional. We will be charging $5.00, because our hope is to leave scholarship of sorts or something as our class gift. Talk it up to your friends, because we know the families will love it.
63. Junior Class: **No Report**
64. Sophomore Class: Taylor Fote
    * + 1. We will be in the Dinning Commons on Thursday, March 29th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm selling stars for Make-a-Wish. They will be $1.00, and you can put them towards a certain candidate or you can just donate.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting will be on April 2nd at 5:00 pm in the Student Government Conference room.
65. Freshman Class: **No Report**
66. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
67. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
68. Davis Hall: **No Report**
69. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
70. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
71. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
72. New Hall: **No Report**
73. Scanlon Hall: Brian Boats
    * + 1. Scanlon raffled off two tickets to Senate Banquet last week. We had a large number of people enter. We also went around and told people about our council and handed out some candy, and gave people information about Senate Banquet.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting will be on March 29th at 7:00 pm in the Scanlon Game Room.
74. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**: None**
75. NEW BUSINESS:
76. Matt Durants report for Davis Hall
    1. I would like to accept the resignation of Matthew Richardson as Representative to Senate.
    2. I move to appoint Taylor Warts as a Representative to Davis hall for the remainder of the year. Motion passed.
    3. I’m happy to say that Davis Hall Council will be teaming up with New Hall council for an end of the year event. We’ve had a couple of meetings, made arrangements for some really great events and activities with the help of our respective Resident Directors and RHA. We are very confident that the event will be great fun for Davis and New Hall Residents and I guess if some of you from other Halls want to come stop by for a bit.
    4. Davis Hall is also supporting Tom’s Shoes, a company who on April 10th is doing their annual One Day without shoes promotion. Where people refrain from wearing shoes. Also if you buy a pair of shoes they’ll donate a pair to children in need. For more information visit www.toms.com/onedaywithoutshoes.
77. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
78. Amy Wing: Blue Key committee meeting after this.
79. Stephanie Close: Can I see Hall Council Presidents?
80. Lou Cimaglia: There is a NEASC student meeting on Monday, April 2nd at 4:00 pm, please attend if you can.
81. Meaghan MacDonald: 53 days until commencement.
82. ROLL CALL: Andrew Swan, Jon Mecurio and Emily Tobin were absent. Elizabeth Cauley and Hannah Persson went alternates.
83. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.