**Student Government Association Minutes**

March 06, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Tim Egan, Nick Villante, Sarah Hegarty, Hannah Persson, Olivia dumas, Stan Costa, and Brian Boats were absent. Kaylen Vangos sent and alternate. Emily Baker was excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 28, 2012: Minutes were approved.

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Lou Cimaglia*
2. Good evening everyone. WE are pleased to have Representative Don Humason down to speak to us tonight.
   * + 1. **Don Humason**: Good evening everyone, thank you for having me tonight. My name is Don Humason, and I am the State Representative for the City of Westfield, which is the fourth Hampden District. I have one of the rare districts in Massachusetts which just includes one city. Where many of you are from, your Representative probably represents more than one town. There are few districts like mine which are just one town. There are few districts like mine which are just one city. I am an alumnus of Westfield State University. I was an SGA member for three years while I was here. It is always a pleasure to come back. Tonight is a great opportunity to speak to you, as well as field any questions you may have. To speak a bit about my experiences, I was on campus today for a meeting with the Board of Higher Education; which is a rare opportunity in Western Massachusetts; to listen to what the Board of Higher Education has to say. This is a rare day where I get to spend a lot of time at the University; I try to do it as often as possible. I told you I was a graduate from here, I met my wife here, we got together after working on our ten year reunion, and we just had our first son. We are very much a Westfield State family. I am fortunate in that I get to represent my home town. I was born here, and went through the Westfield Public School system, and knew at a young age that I wanted to attend college here. I used to ride my bike here from my home a mile down the road. The campus was very different from when I was a kid, and when I was a student here. The new dining commons was not built, and we did not have Courtney Hall, Mod Hall or New hall. The campus is probably twice the size that it was. It was a beautiful campus when I was here, and it is even better today. You have a lot to be proud of; this is one of the finest campuses I have seen. Having been part of the Higher Education committee, I have been able to see many campuses and this one is by far the best. You as students represent yourself really well, as well as your faculty and staff, so congratulations on that. I also want to thank those who counter protest the services for Marine Arzola. For those of you who don’t know, there were rumors that there was going to be a protest of a Marine’s funeral who was from the Westfield community, and members of your University worked and organized a counter protest out of respect for the fallen Marines family. There were many students there, and the family was very touched, and the City was very impressed. I also want to say thank you for all you do as senators and the work you do for your University, it is extremely important. Las October during the storm, my family was out of poser, and this University served as a shelter for me and my family, as well as many others, to get hot food and charge cell phones, as well as other things. Many families were very impressed at the University and you all as students. I was very proud to represent and be alumni of the University during that time, as well as all of the time. I also want to say a hello to Stephanie Close, who was my intern last year. My wife as able to join me last year, but unfortunately had to stay with the baby this year. I will now answer any questions you may have, I will be happy to talk with you.
       2. **Meaghan MacDonald**: Could you talk about what is going on with the Community Colleges with respect to what Governor Patrick proposed in his State of the State Address?
       3. **Don Humason**: Yes, the Governor touched on how he tended to utilize the Community Colleges. On the plus side, he talked about increasing the appropriation for the Community Colleges; he also talked about seeking grants from businesses across Massachusetts. On the negative side, he discussed consolidating the control of Community Colleges under one board. Basically, this would eliminate the Boards of Trustees. That are appointed and consolidating all of that in Boston under on board. This has not received a warm response on the Republican or Democratic side in Boston. We want to increase funding for Higher Education, but we also want to keep the governing structure the same. There has been no mention of doing this for the State University system, however I think this proposal will not pass. Every year, the Governor makes a proposal, then the Legislature holds public hearings across the state and the house makes our recommendation in the middle of April. A few weeks later, in May, the Senate makes there version. The final budget is then approved by the entire legislature in June, and moves into place on July 1st. this year is interesting because we are in our second year of sessions, and we must adjourn by July 31st. It is an election year for local officials; I will be on the ballot this year. We have a lot to do between now and the end of our session. We also need to debate or act on legislation submitted to us. I want to point out that you don’t need to be a Political Science major to run for office, don’t hesitate because of your degree. I encourage you all to go vote in the Presidential Primary, it is very important. I will give you all my contact information, and would love to talk to and hear form all of you.
       4. **Ryan Meersman**: As you may have heard, there is going to be a higher education lobby day this Thursday March 8th. How do you think those lobby days affect legislators?
       5. **Don Humason**: Good question. There are constantly lobby days on Beacon Hill, and they are very effective. You have the ability to turn out in large numbers, as students. I expect most Legislators to be there on Thursday, I will be there. I hope to be visited by my constituents. We do talk about these and they are effective, at least for me. I do encourage lobbyist to keep it peaceful, however. Several years ago there was group of students from the University of Massachusetts Amherst who wrecked the front lawn of the State House. They did eventually fix their mess and replant the grass, but they damaged their relationship with the Legislature, to the point, that, twenty years later, we are still talking about it. When you guys come on Thursday, as well as every year, you have a great opportunity to make a lasting impression. I did it as a student here, and it was a great experience. If you don’t have a relationship with your own elected official, please try and establish one. We, as legislators, love to hear from you, and it really matters to us. I encourage all of you, to find out who your local legislator is, and make contact with them. Thank you so much for having me tonight, I appreciate your time. I hope to see a lot of you on Thursday.
3. Thank you, very much Representavie Humason. Next we have Kat Dolan, the Campus Organizer for MASSPIRG.
   * + 1. **Kat Dolan**: Hi guys, for those of you who don’t know me, I am the campus organizer for MASSPRIG. Every ear, we run a hunger and homeless campaign. This year, we are doing a National Hunger Cleanup project. Here at Westfield, we have a goal of raising $1,500.00 and then having a day of service, at three different places, one being the soup kitchen. I am here tonight to ask you all, if you are interested. I am very impressed at the amount of service you all do as an SGA, not all organizations do that. We would love to have you work with us. We have a big power to make a difference. Please see me after the meeting if you are interested.
4. Thank you, Kat Dolan.
5. First I want to thank everyone for attending last night’s State of the Campus Address. I think we made a real statement about the importance of Student Government and the involvement of students in the campus–wide decision making process.
6. If anyone was able to attend earlier, there was some lively discussion regarding the Vision Project with Commissioner of the Board of Higher Education, Richard Freeland. Students and faculty alike were overwhelmingly opposed to the plan to implement any sort of standardization to public higher education. Keep an eye on this policy as it matures.
7. Tomorrow, March 7th, at 6:00 pm, there is a program on tobacco cessation in the Horace Mann Garden Room B. The cost is $30.00.
8. The week we return from Spring Break will also be a dress code meeting, as we have Senator Michael Knapik taking some time out of his day to talk to us.
9. Finally we need to appeal to Senate tonight. Our Senate Banquet has been going through a rough couple of years, in terms of ticket sales. What can we do to boost information and sales?
   * + 1. **Meaghan MacDonald**: If you invite me to the Facebook event, I can invite to class of 2012 group, which is a lot of people.
       2. **Lindsay Howe**: I think the name can be confusing, maybe try calling it something else.
       3. **Aerin Andre**: I just want to point out that the cost is a deterrent for college students.
       4. **Amy Wing**: I agree that it sounds like a lot of money, but is does cover a meal, dancing and transportation.
       5. **Tori Landry**: Maybe try sitting in the Dinning Commons with information.
       6. **Meaghan MacDonald**: I would target first year halls since they know the least about it.
       7. **Katie Turner**: I agree calling it something else would help.
       8. **Kat Dolan:** I know we always try to connect to other clubs, such as the Dance Company since it is so large.
       9. **Josh Frank:** I used to think it was and upperclassmen event.
       10. **Jen McDiarmid**; Could you put a pop up on MyWestfield?
       11. **Rich Darrach**: Pictures would help so students can see what goes on.
10. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 6th at 5:30 pm.
11. Items not listed on the agenda:
12. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Ryan Meersman*
13. I don’t have a formal report, but I just want to remind you that the Lobby day at the State House is on Thursday, March 8th. If you have not registered, please do so. We will meet down here at seven tomorrow night, Wednesday, March 7th to discuss the event.
14. All College Committee: **No Report**
15. Long Range Planning Committee: **No Report**
16. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**
17. Alumni Report**: No Report**
18. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Stephanie Close*
19. Hi Everyone, I hope everyone paid their housing deposit for next year. The housing materials are available for you in Residential Life.
20. There are a few new Senators that need committees, so please see me after the meeting.
21. Sustainability Advisory Committee is meeting this Friday at 1:00 pm in the Counseling Center to discuss the smoking policy, if any of you would like to voice your opinion to the committee.
22. If your committee is meeting, please be reporting every week.
23. Could I please see the Hall Council Presidents after this meeting?
24. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
25. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
26. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
27. Health Committee: **No Report**
28. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
29. Sustainability Committee**: No Report**
30. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
31. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
32. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Tony Iozzo*
33. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
34. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
35. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
36. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
37. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
38. Assessment Committee: **No Report**
39. Academic Strategic Planning Committee**: No Report**
40. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
41. Learning Communities**: No Report**
42. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Brandon Burr*
43. Programming update: So NACA Nationals went great. We met a lot of cool people and got some fantastic ideas. We got a lot of great advertising ideas and cool ideas to have cheap events the campus will love.
    * + 1. One of the best ideas was a pillow case scavenger hunt that we are going to work on doing.
        2. Also, we got the Magician that is performing on April 4th, to make a promotional video with us that we are going to use to help advertise the event.
44. We also have Trivia on March 21st and Brown Bag Bingo on March 30th.
45. Tickets will be on sale for the Spring Weekend Concert on April 3rd.
46. Neighborhood Association Committee: **No Report**
47. Neighborhood Advisory Board**:** Brandon Burr
    1. So NAB met yesterday, March 5th and we went over a lot of great information.
    2. Bob Plasse announced that the Horace Mann Awards were very successful and is planning on continuing for the 2012-2013 year.
    3. Brent Bean announced that they have selected the agency they would be using to fix Western Avenue.
    4. The University is hoping to use approximately 2 million dollars, that was being saved for an access road to cut threw, so Lloyds Hill was not the only road. The money needs to be used soon, so we don’t lose it, so this could actually benefit and make this project happen sooner.
    5. The Board has decided to open a downtown Neighborhood Advisory Board to get input from the downtown neighbors on issues and concerns with Landsdowne Place. Myself and another member, from the on campus NAB, will be attending those meetings as well.
    6. Our Pizza social is April 11th at 5:00 pm. at Pandini’s.
48. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Stone Koury*
49. Finance Report: Stone Koury I have 2 finance proposals today.
    1. I move to allocate $322.00 to the Academic Pursuits club to help them go to a Ballet Production. Motion passed.
    2. I move to allocate $750.00 to Musical Theater Guild for their Comedy Improv Workshop. Motion passed.
50. Foundation Report**: No Report**
51. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Krysta Livingstone/Amy Wing*
52. Executive Secretary Report: Krysta Livingstone
53. Legislative Secretary Report: Amy Wing
    1. Units are due at the end of the month.
    2. Please do your units, I wish more people had done them.
    3. Christian White won for February.
    4. Victoria Laundry won for January.
    5. Can the Blue Key committee, please see me after the meeting?
54. PARLIMENTARIAN REPORTS:
55. Rules and Regulations Committee: No Report
56. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
57. Commuter Council: **No Report**
58. Senior Class: Meaghan MacDonald
    1. Hello everyone! It’s good to be back, considering I have had commitments the past two weeks that have kept me away from here. Since we haven’t made a report in a few weeks, let me give you an update.
59. Senior Fest: as of right now, we have sold 101 packets, which mean that we are over the halfway mark of selling them. Just to give some clarifications on it, because I’ve been getting some random ones, especially about what it “covers”

It covers all of your food plus more is taken care of for the week. That means breakfast, lunch, dinner and a hot snack when we return, will be provided.

All transportation to and from each event

You will be receiving a “Senior Fest” pack with a shirt and some other awesome goodies.

You cannot buy just part of the package, because it is a packet for the “whole deal”. I understand you may not wish to go to Blue Man Group because you’ve gone twice in your life or you aren’t a fan of cruises, but the price is a group price for many of our activities, so it’s all inclusive.

Go home and talk to your parents during your break.

* 1. Senior Fleeces: I’m waiting to hear from them and when I do, an email will be sent out saying that you can pick up your jacket.

1. Commencement: So, I’ve been receiving a lot of questions about commencement. I’m happy to answer as many questions as I can. Some details I am not sure about, but I can find out for you.
2. Senior Fest starts on May 15th through May 18th and move out will be on Saturday morning.
3. As I’ve been stating the countdown each week, commencement is on May 19th at 3:00 pm at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield.
4. Families will be able to enter the facilities at 1:00 pm.
5. When it comes to how many people you can have and “tickets”, there aren’t any. To give you a better understanding, why they are not needed. Under the tent on campus, there were 5,000 seats, including faculty, staff, administration, alumni and graduates, plus families would sit outside of the tent. At the Mass Mutual Center there are over 5,000 seats that are around the area and the graduates/faculty will be sitting below, so there will be plenty of seating.
6. There is a parking lot across the street and street parking. The parking lot price is $7.00.
7. Students who are participating in Senior Fest: we will be asking if you would like to take a bus to and from commencement. We will have to check out around noon. You can leave your car on campus while we are at the ceremony.
8. Rehearsal for commencement is going to be on May 11th, the Senior Class will be hosting a Senior Nigh. Because all seniors can’t attend senior fest, we are putting together an event that all seniors are able to attend if they will. The event will be at the Woodward Center. More details will follow, but a preview is that there will be a meal, some type of show act, and a senior gift (and it’s not something stupid). We completely pulled it out from the night before, because we learned that students really wouldn’t want to come back just to do a rehearsal, especially if they lived 2 hours away.
9. Junior Class: **No Report**
10. Sophomore Class: Taylor Fote
    * + 1. Starting after break we will be selling stars from Make a Wish in the Dinning Commons. They are $1.00 and you can buy them for a certain candidate, just donate. All the proceeds will go towards our goal of granting a wish.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 19th at 5:00 pm in the Student Government Conference Room.
11. Freshman Class: Richard Darrach
    * + 1. I’m proud to announce we now have a second advisor, Jessica Tansey who is actually a previous SGA President.
        2. We are also working on a few projects right now. We are doing class shirts and we just finished our design competition.
        3. We are also working on a small scale Jazz and Pasta Dinner for the March of Dimes Charity.
        4. For the end of the year we are in the process of organizing a Lammers & Davis vs. Scanlon & Dickinson freshman event. We’re planning on holding this Saturday April 28th, details to follow.
        5. Our next scheduled meeting is March 19th at 5:45 pm in the Student Government Conference Room.
12. Apartment Complex: Christian White
    * + 1. Due to the snow day our wings and toilet paper event is going on this Thursday, March 8th at 6:30 pm in the Dickinson Common Room.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting is on March 8th at 6:00 pm in Shannon’s Office.
13. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
14. Davis Hall: **No Report**
15. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
16. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
17. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
18. New Hall: **No Report**
19. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
20. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**: None**
21. NEW BUSINESS: **None**
22. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
23. Victoria Downs: Thursday, March 8th will be ten percent off at all Sodexo locations
24. Sue LaMontagne: I just want to commend Lou Cimaglia and the Executive Council on their professionalism at the State of the Campus Address. You all did great, and impressed the faculty and staff in the audience.
25. Stephanie Close: Can I see the Hall Council Presidents after the Meeting?
26. Ryan Meersman: Can I see the Representatives at Large?
27. Meaghan MacDonald: 84 Days until commencement.
28. ROLL CALL: Nick Villante, Sarah Hegarty, Hannah Person, Olivia dumas, Stan costa, And Brian Boats were absent. Kaylen Vangos sent an alternate. Emily Baker was excused.
29. ADJOURNMENT: 6:32 pm.