Student Government Association Minutes

September 13, 2011

1. ROLL CALL: Nico Helems, Lauren Avery, Dominick Farbo, and Alex Keefe were absent.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 26, 2011: Minutes were approved.

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Lou Cimaglia*
2. Hello everyone, welcome back to school. I hope everyone’s move-in transition back to classes has been smooth. First up tonight, I would like to ask Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Dr.Carlton Pickron to say a few words.

**1. Dr. Carlton Pickron**: Good afternoon. I hope you are getting off to a good start with your classes. It is a pleasure to come before all of you tonight. I have met with your Executive Board a couple of times thus far, as well as your senior class president. I am happy to be back on the main campus and working with students again. Some of you may remember when I was in Academic Affairs. I have been at Westfield for twenty eight and a half years so far. My focus is solely going to be making a difference in your lives, and the lives of every other student. I will remind you that you are all the voice of the students. You as members of SGA Speak for the 4800 students we have. For me, it is truly important to have a diverse body of students involved in all areas on campus. We had our student affairs meeting last week, which can have nine students on it, which is one less than the majority. All College Committee and Curriculum Committee, along with many other committees need student input as well. Your voice is the voice that moved the location of University Hall. Eric, the manager in the bookstore is looking for student voices, which will be another opportunity for you to serve. Craig, in food services would also like to have an Advisory Committee. My intern this semester will also be putting together a survey about a potential convenient store on campus. We are still having discussions around University hall and how it would look as well as the expansion and renovations here in Ely Hall. I will pass around drawings from the architect. Ryan had asked how we will access SGA after the renovations. We do have an elevator in this building which makes it fully accessible. The problem is getting to the former bookstore space. However, the renovations will include a new main hallway in the basement to have access to all rooms in the Ely basement. October 12th is the next Board of Trustees meeting where we will be looking for a vote around the funding and support of University Hall and Ely renovations. We are hoping to break ground no later than March on Ely, and will be done by next December, and we also are hoping to open University Hall in the fall of 2013. We will be coming to you for your input and to connect with other students. Next spring when you have your big spring elections, it is my hope to double the number of votes there was last year. Last year you got 900 students to vote, which is significant, and we would like to see the numbers jump even more. I also encourage and need you all to reach out to commuters. We want everyone to get out, compete, and have a broad diversity of students running for office. On another note, I would like to meet with each class council. I am in this position until next August, but plan to become a candidate for the permanent position next year, so I would like to start reaching out and connection with all of you now. Feel free to ask any questions now or come by my office upstairs. We want this to be a place where you are proud to be here at Westfield State. Thank you.

1. Thank you, Dr. Pickron. Next I would like to ask Assistant Director of Housing Josh Hettrick to speak on some new policies being enacted in the Residence Halls.

**1. Mr. Josh Hettrick**: In front of you are some things that residential life was working on over the summertime regarding damages in the Residence Halls. We are trying to be extremely proactive this year about bringing damage numbers drastically down. Not just for the benefits of the maintainers, but for the students as well. We don’t think anyone has been enjoying the damages that have been occurring in the Residence Halls the past couple of years. We want to make sure no one has to live under those conditions. The packets you have in front of you are some of the things that we will be doing this year to try and reduce the damages, and we wanted some feedback from you guys. The first page is proactive steps that our department is going to be taking, to create better relationships between the maintainers and the students. We feel like the maintainers get lost in the shuffle with students. They don’t know who the maintainers are and we want to change that. They work very hard in the halls, and we want that to be known. We are working with the Residents Director on connecting with the maintainers on a regular basis. We are also having Residents Directors sit with the Hall Councils to have open forums to express concerns in the Residence Halls. We are also going to be posting more information on what’s going on in the hall consistently. We are trying to prevent what happened with Courtney Hall last year. The next page is steps of what will happen if the halls get to inappropriate damage numbers. We are looking to be more proactive on working with students. We are trying to use a consistent method to keep all of the Halls on the same page. What you see in front of you, are the steps we will be taking if we hit a certain damage threshold in the residence halls. You see the threshold in the middle, which is the price a student would have to pay for damages based on the halls damage total. To the right of that are steps that residential life will consider taking if damages reach those thresholds. We are not black and white on these things, these are mostly guidelines. You see on the right hand side that some of the actions will include 24 hour quiet hours and loss of guest privileges. These are not things we want to do, but we will if we have to. The primary purpose is to inform students of what is going on in their residence halls. We want to get through a year where we have a positive community. That is basically the purpose of this. I would like to highlight the two paragraphs on the second page, which will provide more detail. If you are not aware, we process about 800 housing changes over winter break, so these thresholds will be reset each semester. I am happy to take any questions.

**2. Amy Wing:** I have a question on the information being distributed to the residence halls. I know when we went into Scanlon; we saw a big sign of what causes damages, which I think a lot of students do not know about. I think this is something that should be in every residence hall to make sure residents know how much certain thing will cost them.

**3. Mr. Josh Hettrick**: All of that stuff is available in the handbook and on the website. However, I understand the need to have things readily available to students; we can certainly work on getting all of that information about costs in each hall

**4**. **Stephanie Close:** Is this something that is already being implemented? I heard Courtney Hall is on 24 hour quiet hours but most students aren’t aware of this policy.

**5. Mr. Josh Hettrick:** Courtney is not on 24 hour quiet hours. To answer your first question this is not something we are implementing until the information gets out to students. Please squash the rumors about Courtney Hall, if you continue to hear them.

**6**. **Ross Beck:** Have you guys given any thought to the fact that smaller halls will be punished more quickly than larger halls since there are fewer students to divide the charges among?

**7**. **Josh Hettrick**: There was some debate about whether to set a common threshold (i.e. $500 for the building). The problem was that, the Apartment Complex would have the same building wide threshold as Courtney, which is twice the size. The feeling of the department was that was not fair. Also, the smaller residence halls rarely have much going on, and most years, statistically, would not even reach the second level. This was something we discussed, but we felt was the best way. This is something we can adjust in the future if need be.

**8. Caitlin Turner:** I know that there is a lot of de-tripling in Dickinson and Davis between semesters, so will things reset for second semester?

**9. Josh Hettrick:** Yes, things will change over the course of any given semester. We started off the year with nearly 400 students in Davis and Dickinson, and those numbers have already gone down. The totals will change on a regular basis.

**10. Jim Robertson**: This is a housing question, I noticed that my old room in Scanlon was a triple, and is now a quad this year.

**11. Mr. Josh Hettrick**: That means it is a forced quad. Unfortunately we had to do something over the summer that we never wanted to do, which was to move returning students from Scanlon to Courtney to make room for more first year students in Scanlon. Our popularity is continuously going up, and we are doing our best to accommodate that.

**12. Tammy Adams**: I remember last year you guys said you were not using Econo Lodge. Now it is full, and we still have forced triples and quads. I guess I am wondering why there is not a cap on the students we take on.

**13. Josh Hettrick**: I do not work in admissions so I can’t speak to this too much. It is my understanding, that it is not admissions accepting more students, it is simply more students accepting Westfield. This is not always something we can plan for, but we do the best we can. Westfield is a great school and we have a lot of great students who want to be here. Our focus is to offer housing where we are able to. Econo Lodge is not ideal, but we felt it was best to at least give students that option, as opposed to no option at all. We are doing our best to give every student housing who wants it, which is a big part of why University Hall is being built.

**14. Mike Mazeika**: (POI) Josh hit on every point I would have made. In April, our deposit number was actually down, and our acceptance rate was actually down. We are at a 55% acceptance rate which is low for a school our size. Hopefully within the next few years, University Hall will alleviate some concerns. We are just really popular right now, and I guess that is a good thing.

1. Thank you, Josh. I wanted to take a quick second to introduce myself. As most of you know, my name is Lou Cimaglia. I am serving as President this year. If you get the chance, stop by my office any time during the week, I would love to get to know everyone and speak one on one with you all about your thoughts on SGA and what direction you would like to see us take. I have a hope that we can make SGA more interactive, with more questions, and really engage with Senate. It’s a work in progress, but I know I speak for the executive board when I say I would love to see an energized and engaged Senate.
2. It is a hectic time on campus, there are many projects taking place. Dominic Farbo will be speaking during his report on the plans for the new Residence Hall and Ely Hall renovations. Please focus on what Dom has to say, because we tentatively have planned for Vice President Ken Lemanski and Assistant Vice President Curt Robie to come down next Tuesday, September 20th to speak on this matter. They are actively looking for feedback, so I am hoping that Senate will provide some great opinions on the plans.
3. There is a Welcome BBQ Wednesday, September 14th at 5:00 PM at Econo Lodge and 6:30 PM at Lansdown.
4. The Club Fair is Thursday, September 15th from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM, which Stone Koury will speak more about. If you would like to come by and support the SGA booth, you are more than welcomed.
5. There is an information session on September 21st at 3:00 PM in Dever Auditorium for a school wide Lip Dub video. If you don’t know what a Lip Dub is, checkout Emerson’s on YouTube. You can also email Janet Garcia for more information.
6. I move to appoint Ian Wilson as the Representative to the Student Athletic Advisory Board. Motion passed.
7. Thank you everybody, it’s great to see you all back, and I am looking forward to a great year.
8. Next meeting will be September 20, 2011 at 5:30 PM, in the SGA Room.
9. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Ryan Meersman*
10. Hi everyone, and welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful summer with plenty of time to relax. Now it’s time to get back into the thick of things, and I’m very excited to see all of you again and to work with you all for another year. The Board of Trustees held its last meeting on June 9th to discuss a number of items. Most of the action items included approving the University’s budget for operating and capital improvement. We also approved the increase to the general fee, which was raised to $455.00. One Hundred of that is going towards capital improvement. Within the motion it was also established that starting in Fiscal year 2013 a $1,000 nursing fee will be established for nursing students.
11. Also, most pertaining to students, the Board approved the updates to the Student Conduct Regulations and Procedures, Sexual Misconduct Policy, the Alcohol and other Drug Policy, and the Residence Hall Policy. All of these policies were reviewed by SGA at the end of last semester, and are in this year’s student handbook. If you would like to take a look at the specific changes I can show you the highlighted portions in my materials after the meeting.
12. The Board’s Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00 PM in the President’s Board Room of the Horace Mann Center.
13. Long Range Planning Committee: *Dominick Farbo*

 1. How do you eat a bag of chips? Are you a grab one and

 Nibble or are you a handful and shove type of eater? We at long range are the grab and chop type and what happens with the campus is the same as well. This is the new updated plan for Ely, the Wellness Center and University Hall. Some quick updates there will be a patio outside Ely, a two story Wellness Center and a new Residence Hall. Curt Robie will hopefully be coming down to show you this presentation next week. If you have a question, comment or concerns please speak up! Thursday, September 22nd is when our final recommendations are due to be turned into the Board of Directors. If we don’t know what you want then we are going to go ahead with what we have. If you want to see the plans see me and make sure you are ready to talk at the next meeting.

1. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**
2. Alumni Report**: No Report**
3. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Stephanie Close*
4. Hi Everyone! Welcome back. I have a few things for you. My office hours are posted; they will be Mondays from 2:30 PM until 4:30 PM and Wednesdays from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM, feel free to stop by.
5. If you served on a Student Life Committee last year and would like to remain on the committee, please let me know so I can get organized. Also if you know anyone interested in serving on the Student Conduct Board, applications can be picked up down in the SGA Office or in Debbie Clifford’s Office. They are due back to Barbara Hand in the SGA Office Room 42 in the Ely Building by Friday, September 16th. Please spread the word to your commuter friends about getting involved.
6. If anyone wants to get involved or knows anyone who would be interested, the Multicultural Committee is going to be restructured. I will be meeting with Waleska Lugo-DeJesús to get this committee implemented again on this campus.
7. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
8. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
9. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
10. Health Committee: **No Report**
11. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
12. Sustainability Committee: **No Report**
13. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
14. Substance Advisory committee: **No Report**
15. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Tony Iozzo*
16. Welcome back. I hope you all had an amazing summer. A few updates from Academic Affairs: We upgraded the Server Capacity for Registration, so hopefully the past problems are behind us. It is going to continue to do load testing, to test the system, up until registration, but they think it is all set. There is a new printer system; it is called the Pharos system. You can send a print job from anywhere on campus (lap top in your room) to any printer. You will have to swipe your I.D. at the printer to print out your document.
17. Mr. Raffensperger is the new Librarian. The Library Advisory Committee will have its first meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM. In the Ely Building Room 112. If you are interested please see me.
18. There have been some upgrades to the classrooms also. The Environmental Science Lab was renovated. The Geography and Regional Planning Offices have been consolidated and is on the second floor of Wilson. Two nursing faculty have been hired and the Lab space at Noble Hospital has been painted and renovated for the Nursing Program.
19. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
20. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
21. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
22. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
23. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
24. Institutional Assessment Committee: **No Report**
25. Academic Strategic Planning Committee**: No Report**
26. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
27. Learning Communities**: No Report**
28. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Brandon Burr*
29. Welcome back everyone. The Campus Activities Board has been really busy trying to plan events and new things for students on campus.
30. We have our first meeting Wednesday, September 14th at 5:00 PM, in the SGA Room. It looks as if it will be busy, based on *Facebook*.
31. Programming Update:

 1. We have a Dance/Rave on Saturday, September 17th at 8:00 PM, in Scanlon Hall. It is a Black and White theme, with black lights and glow sticks. We expect a good amount of students to attend.

 2. Family Day is next Saturday, September 24th at Woodward Center. Registration for this event ends on Friday, September 16th, so make sure your parents have registered. There will be a Ferris wheel, Scrambler, Fried Dough, ice cream, obstacle course, sign shop and much more. It should be a lot of fun, so please come.

1. Neighborhood Association Committee: **No Report**
2. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
3. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Stone Koury*
4. Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a good summer.
5. The Club Fair will be held on Thursday, September 16th from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM on the campus green. The rain location is at the Ely Campus Center in the main lobby.
6. Student Organization Council will begin soon.
7. I need senators for the Finance Committee, please sign up on my office door.
8. Finance Report: **No Report**
9. Foundation Report**: No Report**
10. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Krysta Livingstone/Amy Wing*
11. Executive Secretary Report: Krysta Livingstone

 1. Hello, I know we don’t have too many new senators tonight, for those of you who don’t know me, my name is Krysta and I am the Executive Secretary this year. I will mainly be in charge of minutes, Senator of the week and the SGA Senate Banquet in the spring.

 2. If you know any first year students interested in joining class council, remind them that signature papers are due back to the SGA office by Friday, September 16th.

 3. My office hours are posted on my door. I look forward to working with you this year.

1. Legislative Secretary Report: Amy Wing
2. Hello, my name is Amy Wing I am the New Legislative Secretary.
3. The calendar posted has unit opportunities for the month of September. There are 2 units due on October 1st by 5:00 PM. Please email me your units.
4. You are only allowed 2 absences per semester. If you are going to be absent please email me at legsec.sga@Westfield.ma.edu, before 4:30 PM or after 4:30 PM call the SGA room a 413-572-5429.
5. Does anyone have any questions about units or absences?
6. PARLIMENTARIAN REPORTS:
7. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
8. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
9. Commuter Council: **No Report**
10. Senior Class: Meaghan MacDonald
11. Mark your calendars for two super events coming up.

 a. On Thursday, September 22nd at 5:00 PM, in a location to still be determined, convocation will be taking place, following a reception of delicious food.

 b. On Thursday, September 30th from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM, our first senior event will occur behind Ely.

1. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 4:30 PM in the SGA Clubs Room.
2. Junior Class: **No Report**
3. Sophomore Class: Stone Koury
4. I am filling in for Nico Helems this semester.
5. I want to remind everyone that musical chairs will be this Thursday, September 16th; it will be cancelled if it rains. It is free and the prizes are Owl Bucks.
6. The Wiffle Stock Tournament will also be taking place again.
7. Freshman Class: No Report
8. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
9. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
10. Davis Hall: **No Report**
11. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
12. Econo Lodge Housing: **No Report**
13. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
14. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
15. New Hall: **No Report**
16. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: None**
18. NEW BUSINESS:
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

 A. Ryan Meersman: Can I see the Representatives at large in the SGA Room.

 B. Stephanie Close: Can I see the Class Presidents?

 C. Meaghan MacDonald: 249 days until commencement.

 XV. ROLL CALL: Allie McLaughlin, Nico Helems, Lauren Avery, and Alex Keefe were absent.

 XVI. ADJOURNMENT: adjourned at 6:28 PM