**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**April 02, 2019**

I. ROLL CALL: Sarah Hollstien, Owen Azevedo, Krista Galetta, Bradley Harvey were absent.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 26, 2019: Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC REMARKS: No Remarks

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Marcus DiBacco**
   1. Our first guest today needs no introduction. Let me just say that we are happy to have him down and I look forward to both a respectful and productive conversation. Please welcome President Ramon S. Torrecilha.
2. **President Torrecilha**: Thank you for having me. Today, I want to talk to you about three items. The first being the strategic plan. We have completed our strategic plan that will take us through the next five years. The Board approved the plan back in February unanimously. We are now in the process of costing out the plan. We want this plan to be a living document for the institution, Cabinet with the assistance of Finance Administration is figuring out how much each initiative will cost. We want to make sure that when adapting our budget, we make room to fund the plan. From what we have seen, most of the strategies and initiatives of the plan will be funded through a one-time payment, money that don’t necessarily go to the base of the budget, but money that can only be invested one time. Things that are started and built in one fiscal year.
3. What comes next? We are not quite done with the plan yet, the Board of Higher Education in Massachusetts requires a very long process. We now go in front of the strategic committee of the Board in late April. We will have conversations with that committee, sometimes they ask you to make some adjustments, other times they accept the plan as is. Finally, it then goes to the full Board of Higher Education. I have full confidence that we will be there the last week in April, I believe April 30.
4. This is budget season in Boston, this is budget season at Westfield State University, we are trying to work with legislature as much as we can to make sure that Westfield gets the resources it needs and that I think this school deserves. The Board of Higher Education puts out a budget for all nine State institutions and all 15 community colleges. Our budget allocation, or state appropriation right now is about $28 million from the state. The Board of Higher Education is recommending a flat allocation for Westfield State as well as other state institutions. I think we have done a little bit better than that, the Governor has released his budget, Westfield State faired a little better on his budget. His allocation is $29 million. We are up one million dollars, but there is still more work to be done. Westfield State’s allocation when looked at per student, we are behind about $8 million. So, we continue to advocate to the Governor and the Legislature about the need to move the needle a little more, I know $8 million is high in the sky, I am happy with the $1 million, but we are working to see if we can increase that allocation even more. I met with Senator Humason, he has been very generous in the past.
5. Cabinet is presenting a draft budget to the Board in April, the assumptions of the budget has changed a little in February, the Board approved the recommendation on the fee change, that will not change, that will go into effect next year. We are projecting an incoming first-time, first-year class of 1,050 students. We are concerned with two things, the number of transfer students, I think that number is going to be below what we had predicted in the budget originally. This is because enrollment in Community College is down considerably, in part because of the good economy, when the economy is good, students tend to go to work. So, we think we will see a down trend on the number of transfer students, we are going to adjust the budget, but I can promise you that your fee increase will not change. The other concern that we have is with Residential Halls, our occupancy rate is down considerably. There were years that our occupancy rate was 104% or 105%, but we are down to, I believe, 89%. We budget, and thinking about ways in which we can meet that gap.
6. Finally, I wanted to talk to you about Parenzo Hall. Specifically, about the gym. As you know, we are about to embark on this very exciting project for Westfield State, Parenzo Hall circa 1956, will have a new face, and will be a new building by the time we are done with it. A question came about what to do with the gym. I can assure you that decisions for the building as a whole have not been made, there is a firm that is in the process of being hired by DCAMP, and there were 22 proposals from mainly Massachusetts. The process has been long. The proposals are submitted, there is a design board that is responsible for making that selection. The design board is outside of DCAMP. DECAMP is the state agency that actually owns every academic building on campus. Westfield State University had an opportunity in this process. We reviewed every application, we were there when the selection was made. While we are not in a position to disclose the firm, because we don’t have the authority to hire the firm, DCAMP does, so they are in the process of hiring a firm, there is a scheduled Town Hall for April 16, where they will be on campus, and I hope all of you join us.
7. I hope one of the things that you think about is what to do with the gym. There was a space utilization study that took place in 2016, not just for Parenzo, but for the campus as a whole, where we went room by room and did an inventory of the space, we also took a look at the course file for the Fall of 2018, and specifically in Parenzo, we wanted to see how classrooms were being used, but other classrooms as well. We took a look at EMS, Event Management System to figure out what rooms that are not necessarily classrooms, but used for other things. We wanted to see how those rooms were being used. It is true that Westfield State probably will not see additional money in my lifetime and probably your lifetime for Parenzo Hall. There was that initial investment by the state and now we have this $40 million reinvestment on the building. We know that space is limited, but we also know that they gym plays an important role in student life. I am aware that there is a petition going on about the gym, and there are 732 signatures on that petition, so we took a look at all the data. In addition to that, last week we had a meeting at the Woodward Center with Students, Staff, and Faculty present to talk about Parenzo gym, and to look at ways that we could absorb Intermural sports into Woodward center. After listening to Students, Faculty, and looking at the data, I am convinced that the gym needs to stay, and stay as a gym. It is too important in the student life and your experience as a student at Westfield State to have that space for intermurals and recreation. That is the direction we will be going. Next week, I believe there is a Parenzo Hall committee that will be meeting, I will go in front of them justifying the decision we are making. I think that is in the best interest of the students, and I really appreciate the input that you all have given. I think this is also to underscore that we do listen, and we do take into account what is best for students and what is best for the institution.
8. I thought you guys would be happy in hearing this, by the way you guys are the first to know. That is my report to you all. I would be happy to take any questions. Thank you.
9. **Scotty Howe**: Given the recent vote of no confidence by the Faculty, what are your planning to do to be more open and transparent with Faculty to get them back on your side?
10. **President Torrecihla**: Thank you for your question, there are a lot of conversations happening right now, and I am not in a position to discuss the vote of no confidence.
11. **Matt Michalik**: The Town Hall, you gave a date, do you know the location or the time?
12. **President Torrecihla**: I think it’s going to be at University Hall, I don’t know the time, I can get that for you. If the time is not a convenient time, one of the things I can probably do is to stream the meeting to make it available.
13. **Mitchell McKittrick**: What is the status of the center for Justice and Equity to be built in Parenzo, for groups of marginalized students?
14. **President Torrecihla**: There are three working groups working on Parenzo right now. One has to do with the Student Success Center, another one has to do with the Innovation center, and the third one addresses, with chairs and faculty, classroom space. So, I know the space for that center has been talked about, we are in the process of collecting those ideas and once the architect is on board, we will begin discussing allocation of space. Remember that we have absorbed mod hall, all the departments, students, and faculty will be fit into Parenzo. So we don’t know where things are going just yet.
15. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: In regard to the strategic plan and the budget, have you or your office considered allowing senior or junior business students to sit in participate in putting together the budget?
16. **President Torrecihla**: That is a good suggestion. The Division of Finance Administration are embarking on that process as we speak, but I will pass it along and maybe we can make this an exercise in which students can be a part of. It is a valuable skill to have to see which parts of the plan are temporary and what is put in the budget.
17. **Cam Swan**: What are we doing next year to recruit non-traditional students, particularly Veterans or populations like that?
18. **President Torrecihla**: We continue to work with community colleges, they have more access to non-traditional students than a four-year institution. One of the things we found is that a lot of the non-traditional students are looking for a certificate, not a full-fledged degree, most of them. So, the College of Continued and Graduate Education has been thinking about ways of developing more certificates that are targeting that student population. In Massachusetts, there are about a million adults with some college education, but not quite a degree. Part of the challenge with this segment of population without degrees is that the economy is really good right now, so a lot of adults are working right now, not going to school. But we continue to reach out and continue to have open houses and continue to engage with them as well.
19. **Audrey Therriault**: I’ve spoken to you before about this center for marginalized students. At this town hall, how much of an impact can students actually have? I know you are saying that a plan hasn’t been decided, if we show up, how much could we sway things, how much would we be listened to like we were with the gym?
20. **President Torrecihla**: You should absolutely listen and make your voices heard. And it is not just his space, one thing we need to think about is a space for commuters, we desperately need a commuter lounge on campus. I would encourage you to come. And incidentally, once the architects are on board there will be many opportunities for interaction with this community. You may want to share your study and your presentation.
21. **Susan Legit**: The town hall is Tuesday April 16th at 11:30 in Scanlon.
22. **President Torrecihla**: I stand corrected, it is not in University.
23. President Torrecilha: I stand corrected, it is not in University.
24. **Susan Legit**: If you search on the Westfield State home page, and you can read the proposal and guidelines from the state for that.
25. **Drew Dalton**: What is the plan for the space Mod Hall currently takes up?
26. **President Torrecilha**: Mod Hall is a temporary structure. The institution has been leasing that space for about 10 years, the life expectancy of that building is about 10 years. When Mod Hall is out of there I think we will have more parking space, but eventually may have a welcoming center, Mod Hall is very central, it is where the campus starts. Maybe when we complete our next plan, we can think about folks coming through Nettie Stevens and coming upon a Welcome Center. Right now our Welcome Center is in Horace Mann, on the first floor, last year we invested some university funds to make that space more attractive, especially for perspective students.
27. **Liz Ferrara**: If a student wanted to talk to you, what is the best way they can get in touch with you? Is email good or do you have office hours ever?
28. **President Torrecilha**: Thank you for bringing this up, I understand you had a terrific meeting yesterday and this came up. Myself and the other Vice Presidents will be holding open office hours. I continue to hold the 60 minutes, but this is another opportunity to hear from students. I have been using the empty Vice President of Student Affairs office twice a week lately. Next year, I would like to try something similar. I know that having the Office of the President on the main campus is challenging, but I am thinking about the possibility of seeing if there is a department with one open space that I could be in in the fall, and possibly another in the spring. That way it also gets me moving and getting to know more people throughout campus.
29. **Tommy Howard**: Were there talks about the redistribution of Mod Hall departments being placed in other buildings other than Parenzo, or maybe both?
30. **President Torrecilha**: We are first trying to get everything into Parenzo, if something can’t fit, we will find alternative places for them. When we submitted our proposal to DCAMP, part of our negotiation was that we were going to absorb Mod Hall.
31. **Katie Pinny**: You mentioned that you heard about the petition to keep Parenzo gym, I’m assuming that you have also caught wind of the student grassroots petition to hold a vote of no confidence of our own. I was just wondering what steps you are going to take in the future, knowing the concerns that students are now bringing up?
32. **President Torrecilha**: I think I would like to have more open conversation with students so that we can discuss those concerns on a regular basis. It is true that since coming to Westfield State, I have held a number of sessions where I reach out to the students to hear what they have to say. Students don’t come to those sessions, but we will keep on trying.
33. **Thalita Neves**: You mentioned 60 minutes with the President, I was just wondering why it is limited to 12 students?
34. **President Torrecilha**: We limit it to 12 students because that number allows us to have a good conversation. But I am happy to increase the number of sessions.
35. **Joey Newlin**: It has come to my attention that you may or may not have given certain bonuses to members of your cabinet. I was just wondering in what circumstances are disbursed, and how are those budgeted for?
36. **President Torrecilha**: Thank you for that question. Bonuses were given for work that I considered, and the Board considered exceptional. As you may or may not know, this group of people last year helped us bring a significant amount of resources to the institution. So, I brought up to the Chair of the Board and the Chair of Finance, the possibility of bonuses to members of the cabinet. We then consulted with our lawyers and then checked with the other nine state institutions, which is practice. We wanted to make sure that no laws were being violated. There was full discussion with the Chair of the Board and the Chair of Finance. In fact, the amount for those bonuses was suggested by the Board in conversations with me. We then got it in writing, we then went to the ethics division to make sure that we were doing everything that could be done and that everything was under the law. That is what happened.
37. **Marcus DiBacco**: I am going to ask you a couple of questions that students have been meaning to ask you but haven’t asked or won’t ask. With the Reception for Students of Color, I know that is not a new thing, but perception of it this year, and I mean with full respect, is that people believe—students of color believe—that you meet with them on occasion for a photo opportunity. I personally don’t think that is true, but that is the perception of it this time around. I think that some of the students of color are hurt and upset by it, I know you are aware of it. I wanted to ask how we might resolve that, and how you can communicate your real message to them.
38. **President Torrecilha**: The Reception for Students of Color is not new, we have done it in the past. When we were going through the racial incidents, one of the things I heard from students of color was the idea and need for us to get together in a safe space for them to just be. By the way, we also have a Faculty and Staff of Color Reception that is similar. It is to celebrate their presence in the institution. I have tried to meet with individual groups that represent students of color, but I have not had a lot of success. This reception was my way of celebrating the students of color, I didn’t think of anything additional to be a part of this idea. It came about from the incidents in the fall of 2017. I heard a lot about a desire and need to get together and be around each other. Perhaps we need to do more, this is something we need to think about going forward.
39. **Marcus DiBacco**: I have full respect for all members of your cabinet, advisors, people in your office, and people that help you. What I am concerned with is peoples’ ability to tell truth to power. I think that a lot of decisions are made because people are not giving you enough input or perhaps because your office is not receiving enough input or asking for enough input, I’m not sure. I think that on occasion, there have been ideas that have not been received well or that we could have seen not going over well. My concern is that people aren’t telling you before it is done that there might be a problem. My leadership style can be a little dictatorial, I don’t think yours is, but I know Thalita Neves keeps me in check when I have an idea, I am just concerned that nobody does that for you.
40. **President Torrecilha**: Thank you, I appreciate the question/comment, it is an important topic. The cabinet has had retreats every year and we talk about that need. I’m sure there are things that I don’t hear about, but I will also say that our cabinet discussions are lightweight and we challenge each other. Going forward, we should create more channels, so that people can stop by and say “this is going south” for cabinet decisions. I welcome that. In regard to the leadership, one thing I try to do is get as much input as I can, I let cabinet especially make decisions. I seldom go against the decision of a Vice President, unless I feel it is absolutely necessary. Cabinet would tell you, I hope, that they run their own ships.
41. **Marcus Dibacco**: A Gemba walk is that when we are making a decision that affects someone, that we go to that person and get on the same level with them, and ask them their take on things. That is something everyone at this university needs to work on. That would help better communication and transparency that seems to be lacking.
42. **President Torrecilha**: Thank you very much.
43. **Dave Youngerman**: How were students chosen for the Students of Color Reception? I know that some of the student groups have declined, how can we make this more successful in future?
44. **Sue LaMontagne**: We wanted to make sure we got to all students that identify themselves as students of color. From this we have discovered that our data is not clean, the data we had is from institutional research, pulled up students based on how they identified when they were admitted here. Obviously, that needs to be looked at.
45. **President Torrecilha**: To make this better, I would be happy to get input from the students of color as well. In talking to Thalita Neves, perhaps there should be a conversation or discussion part there. I am happy to do that, and make this reception a way to start conversation.
46. **Drew Dalton**: A question about your personal career goals, do you plan on staying at Westfield, or do you see it as more of a stepping stone?
47. **President Torrecilha**: I intend to stay at Westfield State University. I am turning 60 this year, so I am thinking this is probably it for me, Westfield State.
48. **Lorenze Beltran**: My classmate, who is a student of color, expressed her concern about the reception, although she sees your intent, she said it still feels like isolation. As one myself, I agree with her. There is a big difference between desegregated school and an integrated school. It’s no secret that we all have our clicks and that we have the free will to choose who we hang out with, but there is still a systematic, almost institutionalized non-integration of students. In no way am I saying that it is your fault or anyone’s fault. But I along with other students feel the reception was not the way to go. Some feel as though the reception should have been open to everyone, but dedicated to the students of color. If that is what it is, that was not made clear. If it is not, would you be open to that idea?
49. **President Torrecilha**: Absolutely. The other thing that made it happen differently than intended, is that at the beginning of the academic year, we try to map out events that take place. This event should have happened earlier. I like your idea, it is something that we may think about for next year.
50. **Dave Youngerman**: is there a Chief Diversity Officer that has been chosen?
51. **President Torrecilha**: No, we are in the process of searching for that person. Some things we did after Dr. Lewis came to campus issued the report, and shared the report with members of the community, we have been very intentional in creating a structure that is not an empty structure. I’ve seen a lot of Diversity Officers in a lot of colleges and universities that is one person only. What we are trying to do is, first of all, we’ve rearranged the Human Resources to include Diversity and Inclusion. We are in the process of searching for a Diversity Officer and that person will have essentially three programs underneath them. One is the Faculty Fellows Program because we think that issues of diversity and inclusion should permeate within the classroom as well. Then we’ll have the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Then we have Compliance or Title 9, so it will be real structure with real work and real resources to carry them forward. The process, we are in search of the Diversity Officer, and I believe we have a meeting on Thursday, April 4.
52. **Dave Youngerman**: Seeing as some faculty feel that things that would go under that position are falling on them, and that’s a little unfair is there anything you can speak to about that?
53. **President Torrecilha**: I think issues of inclusion is a responsibility to all of us. Everyone has that responsibility. I think those roles vary. Faculty contribute one way. The work that is going on with Higher Work, Higher Ground was started by faculty. I believe that the Department of Social Work had a day of listening at Woodward Center yesterday. So, I think there are pockets of staff and pockets of faculty. Last week was Transgender Awareness week, we had a speaker come to campus to work with faculty.
54. **Sam Tsongalis**: As a representative of student, in regard to issues with housing, since housing selection was moved to November, a student was pressured into selecting housing. Now this student is trying to get out of housing, but Res Life has failed to contact them back in two weeks. Is there anything we can do to get them to get in contact with students in the same position?
55. **President Torrecilha**: First of all, I am sorry that that they haven’t heard back in two weeks that should not have happened. My first instinct is to please send me the name of student or have the student contact me or Sue LaMontagne. The transition that you spoke of, we are still in the middle of it, and not every wrinkle has been ironed out. It is a process and I appreciate the flexibility. But, do send me the name of the student and we will have a conversation with the housing department.
56. **Audrey Therriault**: Another concern that I have heard a lot from the student body is the Counseling Center, what the campus has been doing to support student’s mental health, the attitude towards the center is that it is insufficient. A lot of students try to find somewhere off campus, which can be good or can be more constricting for their mental health. With or without the Parenzo renovation, what is being done to expand those resources for students?
57. **President Torrecilha**: I think we have increased the staff line at the Counseling Center. In this budget cycle, I know we added one line. But, you are touching on larger issue. An issue that a lot of campuses and a lot of presidents are thinking about. What we have seen nationally is an increase on the number of students with anxiety issues and mental health issues. The history of counseling centers on campuses was to deal with acute issues, but our students are experiencing more long-term issues. So, conversations about how can Colleges and University provide the access and the services that students need on a more or less continuous basis. Some institutions are choosing to use third party billing. That is to say the student comes in with their insurance, and bills the insurance. We haven’t done that yet, because it requires a different infrastructure, it is technical. I don’t think those issues are going to go away, we are going to see more and more, so We need to provide more resources to student using what we have. I did hear that the waiting time has gone down at our Counseling Center. I also heard that there is a peak at the beginning of the semesters, this is something that we are continuing to look at.
58. **Audrey Therriault**: Do you believe that it is the University’s responsibility to provide resources for longer term care rather than transition counseling that is advertised on the website? Because, if that is seen as a responsibility, then I feel that that need is not being met and what are some practical steps that we can take in the next five years to see improvement?
59. **President Torrecilha**: That is a difficult question. That is a question that all Universities are facing, not just Westfield. What is the responsibility of the institution? If you think about mental health from a clinical view, then think about another clinical issue, like asthma, what is the responsibility of the institution in regard to care for that long term? They will put you on a nebulizer then you go to your clinician and get stabilized. Are we dealing with mental health issues the same way or is that a different kind of issue?
60. **Sue LaMontagne**: You couldn’t have said more perfectly how huge of a question that is. It is a great question, what is the mission of higher education and a university. More and more, we find ourselves providing support, but ultimately the support is in order to help the student engage in the academic piece so I don’t know that there is an easy answer to that. I can’t off hand think of any university that provide long-term clinical counseling care it is a model of brief therapy or referral to long term care through insurance.
61. **President Torrecilha**: One thing that has changed is how, we as a society expect services. When I was in school, I was coming out as a gay man and the services I received talked to me about conversation therapy.
62. **Joey Newlin**: One thing that concerns me is consistent fee increases that seem to surpass the rate of inflation. Me and some others noticed that the price of higher education has gone up and up and up, I don’t know why. I’d like to see some cost control measures put in place. Is there anything we can do to make those fee increases lower or non-existent?
63. **President Torrecilha**: I urge all of you to contact Representatives and Senators and Legislature to say it is time for Massachusetts to invest in higher education. It is true that state appropriation has gone down. It is down about 30% since 2001. As a University, how do we provide the education that are students want and deserve while looking at cost. In state institutions, we are not the highest, but are not the lowest. When it comes to fee increases, we look for ways to keep it as minimal as possible. Part of your student fee increase goes directly to Financial Aid. We continue to work to increase the financial aid allocation.
64. **Drew Dalton**: Given all this research for spacing and the enrollment is already down, is there any talk about converting any of the Res Hall into office space, say Lammers which is already partly offices?
65. **President Torrecilha**: Yes, we are thinking about this, we have to. Parenzo is a funky building with a lot of issues. They talked about a phased renovation, I don’t know if that will be possible for Parenzo, we will know more once the architects are on the ground. We will probably have to find a swing space, it may very well be residential hall. There are conversations with MSCBA. DCAMP own the academic buildings, MSCBA owns the residential hall. If we take a res hall offline, the debt continues, different buildings have different levels of debt.
66. **Erin Coulter**: Going back to the Counseling Center, speaking from a personal perspective, although we did lower the wait time, it took four weeks from appointment to appointment. Also, are you utilizing the third party, and referring students off campus?
67. **President Torrecilha**: I don’t know, but I think they do refer them to outside providers. In the City of Westfield, there is a shortage of counselors and mental health providers, but we can get information for you in Westfield or in the area.
68. **Sue LaMontagne**: Happy to talk after SGA too.
69. **Rachel Bileadou**: I’m wondering if you have considered the optics for how it looks to students, how it looks for recent fiscal decisions, for instance, we are pulling $20 million to match the state for Parenzo, bonuses were given out to various cabinet members, and we just had to watch our teachers go through a vicious contract battle, and we have to see our fees increase. Have you considered how that looks to students?
70. **President Torrecilha**: We have talked about the bonuses, so, let’s talk about $20 million that the institution is using. When we went to the Board of Higher Education, we were going against community colleges for the same money, yet they wrote letters supporting us in our proposal. An institution has to have reserves, in case things happen. Westfield State had the $20 million reserves, so we matched what the board gave us. So, this was a board decision. This is also a strategic investment, in our budget, there is a capital budget. It is costly to maintain a building that does not function well. This will hopefully save the institution money in maintaining it.
71. **Sean Manion**: Rewinding to the Reception for Students of Color, I feel as though if you opened it up to all groups of students, and celebrate all backgrounds like students of color, LGBTQ students, Veterans and military affiliated students, we could truly celebrate how diverse our campus is and one group would not feel targeted.
72. **President Torrecilha**: Do you recommend this for this reception right now?
73. **Sean Manion**: I think that would be best.
74. **Rachel Bileadou**: While I don’t disagree that Parenzo needs an update, I was just wondering if you can speak on the optics and what it looks like, also the restructuring too I forgot to mention, that was pricey too. Also, have you ever considered using the reserves to offset some of the student fee increase?
75. **President Torrecilha**: I see what you are saying because there are rumors and fake news. So I see what you are saying. I don’t know how the board thinks the institution uses the reserves, I will say that a lot of reserves are used for when things go wrong. Please, do come to Board meetings, they are open and help us spread correct information. The fee increase I heard about is around 3% which is close to $400.
76. **Cam Swan: Point of information:** that is for tuition and fees. When you factor in a residential student its up to about $700 because it is a 3.5 % total increase.
77. **Cam Swan: Point of information:** in regards to Parenzo, that was my first full board meeting. There was 22 million dollars allocated to the turf field, the track, and Parenzo hall. If you want to see the minutes it was from October 12, 2017. We did discussed the use of reserves funding, as a member, my understanding of the reserves are they are used for one-time expenses.
78. **Dave Youngerman**: Where does the money in the reserves come from? When was the last time money was put in there and how is that allocated?
79. **President Torrecilha**: We put money in the reserves just about every year. We start the year with a budget. There is money allocated on yearly budget that is not spent. At the end of the fiscal year, the money not spent goes to the reserve or you can save by putting a portion of revenue (all money coming in) into the reserves. Westfield State has been saving for a long time.
80. **Scotty Howe**: Most students are not affected by college structure, changes should impact students, if this is raising fees, then can you let us know what it is doing to impact our success and benefit the students?
81. **President Torrecilha**: One thing the structure has helped us with is with the recruitment of new students. The colleges work on retention initiatives as well, by providing students with attention and guidance. You may not feel it personally, but there are a lot of things it is impacting.
82. **Susan Legit**: When we issued contracts to send to part-time faculty, everything went through one office which was not effective. Some would even miss a pay period at the beginning of the semester, so process located through colleges helped alleviate that. The colleges are also more in control of their budget and areas.
83. **President Torrecilha**: It also opens up new opportunity to generate resources that goes to pay for the services provided by the college.
84. **Marcus DiBacco**: President Torrecilha only had an hour, it has been an hour and a half. We have time for one more question. If you have more questions, please email them to me at president.sga@westfield.ma.edu and I will send them to President Torrecilha.
85. **Mitchell McKittrick**: **Point of information**: regarding the college structure. I sit on advisory council for College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, and they do talk a lot about initiatives to make the colleges have an impact on students. While we might not be having an impact at this moment, within the next year there will be a significant difference.
86. **President Torrecilha**: Westfield state is the last of our sister institutions to adapt the college structure, so we are a little bit behind. Also, when students are admitted to university they are also admitted to their college as well. That extra attention goes a long way to create communities within the college as well as the university as well.
87. Thank you for having me down. I wanted to make myself available. We will be holding open office hours, so drop me a note. My email is president@westfield.ma.edu. I appreciate all your input. Tomorrow is pancakes with the president, starting at 10pm, hope to see you all there
    1. Thank you President Torrecilha. Our next guest is one who we’ve had the pleasure of seeing a few times and we look forward to hearing from again. Please welcome Tom Convery from Institutional Advancement to talk about Give a Hoot.
88. **Tom Convery**: Give a hoot, almost all the money raised at give a hoot goes back to you. This year, institutional advancement had 70 something scholarships, which will end up being about 200 recipients, we are giving a quarter of a million dollars. The year before was 225, so we do more money each year.
89. Last year Give a Hoot raised $40,000, this year we are trying to hit $50,000. Give a Hoot is April 10 and 11, starting at 8:00 am on April 10 going until 2:39 pm on the 11, that is 1839 minutes, I hope you all know why.
90. Each class, will have containers in the Dining Commons and in Wilson café, on both days. A minimum of $0.50 as a participant for your class.
91. The winning class’s class council receives $400, second $300, third $200, and last $100.
92. April 10 in the dining commons from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm. April 11 we’ll be in there from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. April 10 and 11 we’ll be in Wilson from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm both days.
93. We have a good battle going on between class presidents.
94. We have a 2019 Give a Hoot student social media ambassador. Hopefully the class presidents will post on social media leading up to it as well.
95. When you come by the table, grab a raffle ticket for gift cards for Hanger/Wings, and Dunkin’ Donuts. After each shift, I will pull a winner and they get to choose their card.
96. The page will open on the 9 and we are sending emails to all previous donors on the 9.
97. We are also having a telethon this year for the first time in the TV studio upstairs. From 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm on the 10. We are having student callers call out to donors. There is a host and videos.
98. At the end of the meeting, I’d like to take a picture of you guys and a two second video of you saying “Give a Hoot”.
99. Money in jars goes to the Westfield fund, which is where it is needed. But you can go online to pick where you want to donate money.
    1. Thank you Tom.
    2. I have nothing essential to report today. I would however, like to take a moment to thank Liz Ferrara and Courtney Smith for their work last week. Liz did a wonderful job planning and setting up the Owl Ball. This task is always nerve wreaking and difficult to do even with a committee. I had a wonderful time and I am glad that my last Owl Ball was so enjoyable. Only some of you are aware of the countless hours Courtney put in last week to work on the Blue Key awards. This year’s meeting was the best run that I have seen and I am immensely proud and grateful for her work. For the honor bestowed on these select few students, I know the work is well appreciated.
    3. Items not listed on the agenda.
100. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
     1. The Board of Trustees met today, April 2 in Executive Session. While I do not have too much I can share today, I want to assure you all that we had a candid discussion about recent events, and that communication between the board and the union is ongoing. I will do my best to provide you with more information as things develop, and I am sorry that I do not have more information for you today.
     2. State House Day is tomorrow, April 3. For those of you going, meet in front of Scanlon at 7:00am.
     3. Thank you and please be in contact with me if you have any specific questions or concerns.
     4. All University Committee**: No Report**

B. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**

C. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**

D. Student Advisory Council: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Thomas Howard V**
   1. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
   3. Food Services Committee**: Elizabeth Ferrara**
2. Food committee met last week, we talked about the pizza/pasta station. I was informed that there are the same number of pasta and other options as there were before, they are just shuffled around a bit and kept in smaller containers. I asked about the pizza dough press and was informed that it is here to stay. This is because there is no space in the kitchen for it to go, if they theoretically found space, they would then have to have an additional person working to make the dough and to cook/serve the rest of the pizza.
3. As for the meal exchange, the idea for that is to spread out students’ Dining Dollars. For those of you that don’t know, meal exchange is an alternative option for purchasing food from dining retail locations. You can purchase $9.50 worth of food with the use of a dining swipe. It is currently only a part of the on-the-go plan but they are thinking of introducing more options for meal plans some of which may also involve the meal exchange.
4. At harvest, you may have noticed the salad containers changed, that is because we switched vendors, I assure you they are the same size.
5. The party packs are not up and running quite yet, but will be available to order online and picked up in the bistro.
6. In regards to the soft serve machine, they are aiming to have it in the fall, because it is not cheap, like right now we do not own the frozen yogurt machine, we rent it, which is why we can only put froyo in it.
7. As for the Chopped/Nailed it challenge in the DC, they are looking for 12 participants. There will be a Nailed It challenge first where you try to recreate a dish, with two rounds with two winners each at 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm on April 18. The four winners will go on into a mystery basket challenge. There will be judges and prizes. You can sign up with Matt Dellia.
8. As for April, the theme of specialty items at Ely Harvest is strawberries. There is a strawberry smoothie, salad and a vegetarian sandwich. In the Market Place and the Garden Café there is a bagel special.
9. Also a reminder to look at the DC hacks table to get some idea for DIY meal combos.

* 4/3 Live at lunch
* 4/3 Pancakes with president
* 4/4 Lunch with Lauren
* 4/7 9:00 am WSU 5K
* 4/9 Red Sox home opener event
* 4/15 Patriots Day
* 4/18 Lunch with Lauren
* 4/18 Westfield after dark and sail are putting on a “nailed it”/ “chopped” challenge

1. Our next scheduled meeting is March 27 at 4:00 pm in the Tekoa Room.
2. **Dave Youngerman**: I’m very happy with what the Food Services Committee has done. I like the gluten free pizza, and I ‘m really happy with all the constructive criticism that they have taken.
3. **Audrey Therriault**: Do you think that the swipe equaling $9.50 is going to happen this upcoming fall? What is the time frame?
4. **Liz Ferrara**: They are not introducing new meal plans this fall because they need two years-worth of data to get information on what adjustments that will work best, and since new meal plans were just introduced this year it won’t be until next fall.
5. **Marcus DiBacco**: Can you kindly inform dining services that we will be involved in those decisions.
6. **Drew Dalton**: I might be looking too far forward, but I was just wondering what flavors we are looking at for the soft serve machine.
7. **Liz Ferrara**: I’d guess chocolate and vanilla.
8. **Joey Joyal**: If you could kindly inform the food committee people that the pasta station isn’t about the quantity of options, it’s about independence.
   1. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
   2. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
   3. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
   4. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**
9. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Madeleine Scott**
   1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
   2. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
   3. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
   4. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
   5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
   6. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
   7. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
10. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Thalita Neves**
    1. Finance Committee: **No Report**
    2. Foundation Report: **No Report**
    3. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
11. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Matthew Howe**
12. Campus Activities Board**: Matthew Howe**
13. Tomorrow in the DC from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm is a nother found of Live@Lunch. This month’s performer is Noah Lis, he might sound familiar because he’s performed her before, and has appeared on The Voice.
14. Also, tomorrow, come out at 10:00 pm for Pancakes with the President.
15. CAB’s are here. Keep your eyes peeled for a Pop-Up program on Thursday night, April 4.
16. To finish off the week, there is Wii Sports down her in the lower level on Friday, April 5 from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm.
17. There is Black Light Bingo on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 pm right in the Banquet Hall. Come out to get your glow on.
18. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: For live at lunch, has CAB ever asked Westfield State students to perform?
19. **Matt Howe**: I don’t think we can, because we don’t know what they are going to sing.
20. The next scheduled meeting is on April 3 at 5:00 pm in the SGA Room.
21. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
22. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
23. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Elizabeth Ferrara/Courtney Smith**
    1. Executive Secretary Report: **Elizabeth Ferrara**
24. **Thank you to all that came out to Owl Ball last Friday,** March 29. I hope you had a great time.
25. I just wanted to remind all of you that signature sheets are due on Friday, April 5 by 5:00 pm. They are still available to pick up, in the back of the room.
26. I also wanted to let you know that Pizza with the Candidates is on Wednesday, April 10 at 4:00 pm right here. Come get to know who is running for positions for next year, introduce yourself, and enjoy some pizza.
27. Please let me know if you have any questions at all, and if you are interested in running for Executive Secretary and if you have any questions, come see me after the meeting.
28. **Sam Tsongalis:** Can we send bios to you directly?
29. **Liz Ferrara**: Yes, to execsec.sga@westfield.ma.edu
30. **Mitchell McKittrick**: What do you do if you can’t make it to pizza with the candidates?
31. **Cam Swan**: P**oint of Information**, in the past people have written something for someone to read for them.
    1. Legislative Secretary Report: **Courtney Smith**
32. Blue Key wrapped up Thursday, March 28 and I want to express an additional thank you to those who sat on the committee, the winners of the award will be presented at our SGA Awards Banquet.
33. The SGA Awards Banquet will be Tuesday, April 30 at 5:20 pm in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. As part of the awards banquet each of you will receive a t-shirt, I am now passing around a sheet that has your name on it, please indicate what size you would like on the form before leaving today.
34. In addition to the banquet Anti SGA is quickly approaching. For those of you that are new to SGA, Anti-SGA happens on the last SGA meeting of the year which is Tuesday, April 23. During Anti-SGA Robert’s Rules are suspended and we go into executive session. During that time a slide show of photos will be shared. Please send me pictures you may have with other people in SGA so that I can start creating the slide show. If you don’t I will have to stalk or use social media. So please email me your photos.
35. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Jacob O’Kane**
36. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
37. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
38. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
    1. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
    2. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
    3. Advisory Committee on the CURCA**: No Report**
    4. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No Report**
    5. Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Affirmative Action: **No Report**
    6. Advisory Committee for Vice President of Student Affairs Search Committee: **No Report**
39. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
40. Commuter Council: **No Report**
41. Senior Class: **No Report**
42. Junior Class**: No Report**
43. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
44. First Year Class: **No Report**
45. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
46. Courtney Hall: **Ariana Torres**
47. I move to appoint Valerie Eckenroth as Representative to Senate for Courtney Hall Council for the remainder of the 2018-2019 Academic Year.
48. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4 at 5:00 pm on the first floor of Courtney in room 151.
49. Davis Hall: **No Report**
50. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
51. Lammers Hall**: No Report**
52. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
53. New Hall**: No Report**
54. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
55. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS:
3. It was moved and seconded to open New Business. Motioned failed.
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   1. **Courtney Smith**: Can you guys sen pictures for the slideshow to my personal email [cscourtsmith246@gmail.com](mailto:cscourtsmith246@gmail.com),
   2. **Cam Swan**: State House people can I see you on the couches after the meeting real quick.
   3. **Thalita Neves**: Can I see Finance Committee in the conference room after the meeting.
   4. **Melissa DiNallo**: Parking Control Board meets the April, 11 at 2:30 pm in conference room 003.
   5. **Marcus DiBacco**: Stick around so we can do the video and picture quickly.
   6. **Marcus Payne**: 46 days until commencement

1. ROLL CALL: Shane Stocker, Sarah Hollstien, Owen Azevedo, Krista Galetta, and Bradley Harvey.
2. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please refrain from ANY cell phone use during the meeting.*

*Please also note that for accurate record keeping purposes, SGA meetings are recorded and kept on file by the SGA Executive Secretary.*