**Student Government Association Minutes**

April 22, 2014

1. ROLL CALL: Brittany Walters, Kylie Nelson, Priscilla Aguilar, Ashley Erskine, Troy Doming were absent Tom Durkee was excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 15, 2014: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Taylor Fote*
4. First on our agenda is Dean Sue LaMontagne and Shannon Broderick form Student affairs here with some policy changes for us.
5. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Hi everyone. So, Shannon Broderick and I are here tonight for a couple of different reasons. Last year, you all approved the policy on alcohol and drugs, specifically changes to the marijuana policy: those marijuana violations would no longer be an immediate suspension from housing, but a normal 10/100, and to combine alcohol and drug violations together in the two violation limit for housing. When this was approved, we promised to come back and report to you how the year went with the new policy, so here’s Shannon Broderick to highlight some of the student policy violations to date.
6. **Shannon Broderick**: So, I put together some statistics for you to take a look at, so you can compare them to last year and an average of the past years.
7. This fall semester was very, very busy. Over we had about 223 cases that were formally resolved with formal sanctions. Last fall, we only saw 169 and the past 3 years it was only about 145 so overall the student conduct cases are up, which includes alcohol and drugs as well as physical fights, assaults, tampering with fire protection equipment, etc. This fall we saw about 158 alcohol related cases. Fall 2012 we saw about 125, and the average of the three prior years was about 113. Cases related to drugs have been pretty consistent over the past couple of years. I saw two less cases this fall than last fall, and the previous years’ average was also a little lower. That either tells us that its more readily available, that society’s saying its more acceptable, or that students are just using it a little more, we’re not too sure. When meeting with students, in a lot of cases students tell us that it’s how they are coping with stress with marijuana.
8. For the overall year so far, including cases up to last Friday, April 18, we’ve seen 363 cases, and there’s obviously still a couple weeks left in the semester so, I’m still seeing cases. Last year, we saw 335 in total, so the numbers have already significantly increased and it’s not done yet. Over the past 3 years, we saw a 275 average, so the number of cases seen has significantly gone up.
9. Same thing with alcohol. We’ve seen 226 cases so far and there’s a few weeks left, so we anticipate that number to still go up. Last year, we saw about 235 and an average of 207. The number of drug related cases so far this year to date is about 52, last year 55, and the average 31. SO again, those numbers are up.
10. We also wanted to take a look at other factors. With the new policy change, regarding loss of housing. This year to date, there have been 24 cases of students who received two alcohol violations, and last year we only saw 15 in that regard. This year, the number of drug related cases that a student had two marijuana violations: we saw five. Last year, we saw 34 students who lost housing because they violated this policy, just once, so that’s a significant decrease. And this year we’ve only had three cases that were a combination of drug and alcohol offenses that caused them to be suspended from housing. We have seen an increase in the number of third offenses, unfortunately, and we still a handful of expulsions, which is way more than we want to see. I think students are more willing to communicate and accept responsibility when they have a second chance after their first offence.
11. My number of repeat violators is high this year. I’ve seen 22 repeated students through my office just in this academic year, so since September 1st, they have been found responsible for more than one policy violation. Last year, it was ten. This year I’ve seen 43 students who have been repeat violators, for their entire time at Westfield, and this number significantly concerns me because I’m constantly questioning myself about what more can we do, to let students know, what will happen to them if they’re found responsible, for another violation. What I’m finding is that when they come in and meet with me again, I ask them if they know what they’re facing for sanctions and almost all of them say “yes, I know what I’m facing”. So then it’s a conversation of, if you know what you’re facing, and you’ve been educated about it, what can we do to help, to keep you from those choices or if you’re going to make those choices regardless of how I help. So, I’m looking for some feedback from you all about that. We are going to New Student Orientation this year, for both students and parents, which isn’t typically what Student Conduct is involved with. I hope to have significant interaction with both of those groups.
12. **Justin Connolly**: Is that last number of repeat violators referring to combined types of offenses?
13. **Shannon Broderick**: That’s just overall if they’ve come through the office.
14. **Steve Mailloux**: What would you say is the impact on these numbers on Scanlon Hall being an all freshmen residence hall on campus?
15. **Shannon Broderick**: I don’t know if Scanlon Hall specifically has impacted the numbers. I would say first year students are typically my higher offenders. They’re learning policies and making decisions about their lifestyle, so I would say first years, in general, make up a good percentage of offenses, and then it goes down from there. I hardly ever see seniors.
16. **Dana Kilby**: I think it’s definitely good that you are going to Orientation, because this past year, Public Safety seemed really nice and they kind of played it off, like if you’re nice to them, they’ll be nice to you. So, I think that gave some false ideas to the first years about what they could get away with, and then when they showed up at the door, they weren’t so nice.
17. **Shannon Broderick**: I’ve noticed a lot of people in my office saying “but I was cooperative”, and I say “thank you for being cooperative and being a decent human being, that just means you are going to get baseline consequences rather than being asked to leave campus immediately”. That’s a great point, thank you.
18. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: Do you think that the increase you’re seeing, this year, is due to the lessening of the drug policy? So, people think they can get away with more? Or is it just the sheer size of the incoming class?
19. **Shannon Broderick**: I would probably say the size. The students seem to know the policy, which is nice, but I think it’s the sheer numbers that we have, that caused the increase, but we do see spikes in the different years.
20. **Ryan Losco**: What are you planning on discussing at Orientation?
21. **Shannon Broderick**: I think we’re going to talk about the top 5 things that will get you in my office and get you kicked out of here. I don’t think it’s fair to give students any false pretenses and I want to be honest about the college experience.
22. **Richard Darrach**: Do you know how many incidents occur, just within the first week?
23. **Shannon Broderick**: A lot! I don’t have the number with me, but I can get that information if you want, but there are definitely spike periods, and there are low periods, like finals week when everyone’s busy and drained.
24. **Joshua Clark**: Do you think these increases will ever go back down to past averages or do you think we’re going to, at least, stay at this level?
25. **Shannon Broderick**: I would anticipate it probably staying at the same level. I don’t see alcohol decreasing, but for drugs it will either stay the same or even increase more.
26. **Dana Kilby**: I feel like the online alcohol education course isn’t very effective, because my friends would mute or mindlessly click through. The information was really irrelevant and didn’t make an impact.
27. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: There are two courses. One is two hours and will be the one we ask everyone to take. Once you get caught in violation, you have to take a three-hour course, which is scored, so you can’t mindlessly click through, otherwise we will know and make you retake it until your score is better.
28. **Lauren Grams**: I personally had a lot of glitches when I took the general course too. I think it’s important to the effectiveness to work on that too.
29. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Thank you, that’s important feedback.
30. **Richard Darrach**: How will you plan to enforce taking the alcohol education course?
31. **Rebecca DiVico**: That’s something we discussed in Student Affairs, and ideas bounced around putting student accounts on hold for class registration or housing, but there’s a lot of restrictions with that. We’re definitely trying to find something though.
32. **Matt Carlin**: Are you going for a punishment/scare tactic? Or a drink responsible tactic? When I took it, it seemed more about safety tips when drinking rather than encouraging not doing it and discussing the consequences.
33. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: It’s definitely primarily educational. There’s a sexual assault component as well, which we think is important. And many other schools use this as well.
34. **Ryan Losco**: I personally like the educational perspective.
35. **Kevin Soucie**: Could a common-core requirement for first years, be a three-credit course about alcohol?
36. **Steve Mailloux**: I think putting the student account on hold, is the best way to promote the completion of this course.
37. **Rebecca DiVico**: It’s been discussed but the registrar really dislikes it, because there needs to be personnel in charge of distributing the info, putting the accounts on hold, and appropriately taking the account off hold in a timely manner.
38. **Tori Landry**: I think instead of three-credit course, maybe it could be a one-credit pass/fail online course required. I think that might work better.
39. **Joshua Clark**: Could the online course be a required part of the events of orientation?
40. **Lauren Grams**: I think it would be a good strategy to have some who faced a alcohol related tragedy coming and speaking to students.
41. **Richard Darrach**: Isn’t there a juggler on a unicycle that does something like that?
42. **Shannon Broderick**: Yes, Bill Ross comes just about every year and that’s similar. Part of having students come to speak, would involve them having to self-disclose and typically we don’t want that. We’ve had students interested in writing letters to the incoming first year class, to say what their experience as first years here was like and here’s what we did and please don’t do what we did. If we do have students who want to self-disclose, we could look into that.
43. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Thank you all for the feedback. We’re happy to report the statistics that we keep. If you have more feedback, let us know. We also have to discuss a new policy proposal.
44. **Tobacco and Smoking Policy**: I felt that if we’re going to have gazebos for smoking then we need to put into the policy that we are not entirely smoke-free and that there are some exceptions. The Substance Advisory Board also has recommended that the use of vaporized tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes, is prohibited, which has been added to the policy as well.
45. **Kevin Soucie**: Would that also be applied to using e-cigarettes at the gazebos?
46. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Smoking e-cigarettes would be prohibited from the campus, even at the gazebos. Gazebos are for cigarettes only.
47. **Joshua Clark**: Are there any plans to add other gazebos?
48. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: I haven’t heard, but it would need to be done through a proposal either through Substance Advisory or Student Government.
49. **Ryan Losco**: Are people allowed to smoke in the wooded patio area behind University Hall? It seems to be an unspoken third smoking area.
50. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: I haven’t had a chance to talk to the upper administration about that. I felt very strongly that whatever the decisions about the exception just need to be in writing. We can’t keep saying that we’re smoking free if, in fact, we’re not. If this University Hall area continues to be used in that way, then I will most likely argue that it should be put in there too. If we don’t put it in, then people should be free to tell those people to move to the gazebos.
51. **Shannon Cullinane**: What if people want to quit cigarettes, then they shouldn’t they be able to use an e-cigarette?
52. **Rebecca DiVico**: Substance Advisory Board did a lot of research and it’s ultimately really hard to regulate the difference between an e-cigarette for weaning off smoking versus other pens. The other side of it is that they are flammable, so if you’re used to lighting a cigarette and accidentally light the e-cigarette, it’s going to explode. We want students to quit but there are other alternatives that might be safer and easier to regulate.
53. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Straw poll on the University Hall wooded area becoming a smoking area: Most people were in support of this change, but a good amount of students were still against it being an official smoking area.
54. **Marijuana Policy**: The Substance Advisory Board just wanted to word more clearly that the use of marijuana in any form, medical or otherwise, is prohibited, as it is in the federal law.
55. Straw poll on support of moving on this policy change to the Board of Trustees: Most people were in support, and no one raised their hand against this policy.
56. **Involuntary Medical Withdrawal**: This is a brand new policy that we’ve created based on legal advice from out council to support us if an involuntary medical withdrawal of a student were needed. This is for, if the University gets to the point, with a student, that they are either medically or mental health wise, not functioning or near-danger, that we can say to that student, “you must go take care of yourself, you cannot be here until you get an expert evaluation that says you are safe to be here”. I’ve been doing student crisis management for about twenty years here and in that entire period, I’ve had one situation where I would have had to enact this policy, had it been on the books. That situation actually turned into a voluntary situation. When a student is in crisis, whether a serious eating disorder or is extremely suicidal, then we have managed getting them to voluntarily do what they need to do to take care of themselves and be able to help them with their schoolwork while they deal with that. This policy is written for the student who says “No, I’m not going to get help” or “No, I’m not going to get evaluated” even though they will tell you that they are going to harm themselves.
57. **Matt Carlin**: What would the steps be for administration to enact this?
58. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: We’re going to do it in a way that keeps, as much privacy, as possible, so it won’t go through, all the levels of approval, like a regular decision. They will typical be sent to Noble, and Noble will send a form in with the student, to us, to confirm that they can be back at the University and that the next steps that need to be taken are made clear.
59. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: If a student is removed from campus through this process, does the communication with that student just get cut off?
60. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: No, we have information about readmission in the policy. I would probably check in with them, but if they want to come back, they are required to request readmission.
61. **Joshua Clark**: Who would be involved in the hearing for this, since you want to maintain as much privacy as possible?
62. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: The way it’s written, we would have the student, anyone they would like to have information from (such as counselors or parents), and myself. I’m not bringing in anyone for this; I’m looking at the experts’ paperwork. It’s not a hearing in the sense of a student conduct board; it’s a conversational hearing about progress.
63. **Richard Darrach**: Is there going to be an appeal process, if the student disagrees or feels the decision is unfair?
64. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: There isn’t at this time, just because in the time that I’ve been doing this, I’ve only had one student disagree with it and even in that case, they changed their mind and agreed to voluntarily withdraw the very next day.
65. **Jocelyn Beauregard**: Could the student bring in a lawyer?
66. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Lawyers can come in as a support person, but they cannot represent.
67. Straw poll on support of moving on this policy change to the Board of Trustees: Most people were in support, and no one raised their hand against this policy.
68. **Policy on Sexual Misconduct**: There have been many congressional changes to laws that need to be reflected in our policies. In order to accommodate these laws, as we are legally required, we are updating definitions and procedures for rape, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, relationship violence, and stalking. It talks about reporting, faculty and staff reporting, medical attention, the right to know the outcome of a disciplinary matter, the consequences of retaliation against the offense being reported, and so on. Student on student violations of this will be handled through the student conduct system and not through Title 9 procedures, as has always been done statewide. There are also a few additional resources listed at the end of the policy.
69. **Kevin Soucie**: Is “relationship violence” limited to the person in the relationship? Can a friend of a person in the relationship report it or does it have to be specific person?
70. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Yes, and often times that is how it is reported and we have to go and investigate that. We work with their friends to get that person in to talk with us about the issue.
71. **Brittany Moniz**: I noticed it says the sanctions only apply if both students attend here?
72. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Anything relative to students goes through us, but as soon as Faculty or Staff is involved, that goes to Human Resources.
73. **Richard Darrach**: Is it possible to make this policy gender neutral? Like replace “he/she” with “they”?
74. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: I believe “they” is plural, but I will look into how to do that properly.
75. **Ryan Losco**: Does “relationship violence” include roommates and suitemates?
76. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: Yes, under Massachusetts state law that definition includes people who are dating, married, exes, or even who lives in the same living quarters. That’s why fights between roommates can be interpreted and convicted as “domestic violence” in MA. That’s not to say that I would immediately charge a roommate disagreement with this label.
77. **Shannon Cullinane**: I think there should be more RAD classes available, because it makes a big difference.
78. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: We will definitely incorporate those lessons into orientation, and definitely work to further educate students about the issues you learned about in that course.
79. **Taylor Wertz**: Can you go over the retaliation piece a bit more?
80. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: We are required to put in a piece about retaliation, and that’s basically saying, that if you act in any way to try to stop the reporting party from reporting or in any way to take revenge against that person, for reporting, then you will be subject to action on retaliation alone, plus the other charges. Retaliation is very serious, and even if the charge against the person is not proven, the charge of retaliation will be a charge in itself with its own serious sanctions.
81. **Rebecca DiVico**: What if only one of the people involved was a student and their significant other doesn’t go here?
82. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: It would go through Student Conduct if the violation occurred on campus. It would definitely be a criminal violation.
83. **Kevin Soucie**: Would it be handled that way if the student lives off campus in non-university housing?
84. **Dean Sue LaMontagne**: With student-to-student violence, it would be handled as if it were on campus.
85. Straw poll on this policy change: Most people were in support, and no one raised their hand against this policy.
86. Thank you Dean Sue LaMontagne and Shannon Broderick
87. I hope you all have had a restful weekend and are ready for the long haul.
88. I accept the resignation of Gina Manarino as SAAB representative.
89. I accept the resignation of Robbie Finocchiaro as the Representative to Senate for Scanlon Hall.
90. Voting has officially started. Please make every effort to get people to vote. Alexis Wagner is going to talk more about getting people to vote later on in her report.
91. Tomorrow, April 23rd is the opening of Liquid Galaxy at 5:00 pm and at 7:00 pm in University Hall there will be a presentation of an Artist and an Astronaut an earth day lecture. I suggest you all attend; it should be a great time.
92. On May 1st there will be the May Day celebration on the green with performances by the Dance Company, Dance Team, Step Team and much more. The giant 8 foot “175” will be there for all to sign and lots of 175 items. I will have times for you all at a later date.
93. Next week, April 29th is our last meeting before the banquet and we will be having food for all of you as a small end of the year celebration event.
94. Can I see Lauren Grams after the meeting?
95. The acaOweletts will be preforming on Thursday, April 24th at 7:30 pm in Dever.
96. Items not listed on the agenda.

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
2. The State House Day is Monday, April 21st, I have a list of those going, and I’ll get those individuals the details soon.
3. Student Advisory Council chose its student member to the Board of Higher Educations she’s a senior from Worcester State. She’s been a non-voting member for the past year so, she will represent us well.
4. If you have any outstanding concerns about any of the student affairs policies, come see me or email me.
5. **Richard Darrach**: How soon will the survey results be available to the public?
6. **Joshua Clark**: As soon as we can sort through the results, hopefully soon.
7. Our next scheduled Board of Trustee’s meeting is June 26th at 6:00 pm.
8. All University Committee**: Joshua Clark**
9. The All-University Committee met last Wednesday, April 16th. Since the survey was not yet closed, we did not discuss the results but will most likely discuss them at our next meeting. I suspect we will also be choosing our summer committee membership, which requires two students, in case we need to confer for an emergency.
10. The Academic Policies Committee returned to us the academic calendar for 2016-2017 year. There were some concerns that the Tuesday/Thursday classes would have one extra meeting that the Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes, but this was justified by John Ohotnicky, who attended the meeting. He said that the registrar’s office is working on standardizing the academic calendar, meaning that the wants it to reflect what he called a “University Schedule”, making it similar to what a university would use. This would bring the Day Division and DGCE Division on the same schedule so that their schedules wouldn’t be staggered like it is now.
11. When they discussed the Academic Honesty Policy, which was hotly contested, between APC and AUC. We managed to increase the student membership on the Academic Honesty Committee, but one of the sticking points with one of the members of the committee was that students could not have legal representation speak for them in the meeting. The argument was that the student would be going up against their professor, who is paid to make presentations for a living. The argument was defeated when it was shown that, like Sue LaMontagne said before, the Academic Honesty Policy was crafted to be similar, in terms of its hearings, to the Student Conduct Policy. Students can have counsel, who can talk with them during the hearing, but the student is to be the one speaking for them. This new policy passed with a vote of 10-1-0.
12. Once we finished with that, there were course action requests that needed to be approved and sent to the interim president. Simple actions, no problems there.
13. Our next scheduled meeting is April 30th at 4:30 pm in the Parenzo boardroom.
14. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
15. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Rebecca DiVico*
16. I have some building damages for all of you. The average amount per person that will be paid for: Apartment Complex is zero, Courtney is $3.35, Davis is $6.64, Dickinson is   
    $1.40, Lammers is $5.05, Landsdowne Place is $.99, New Hall is $1.04, Scanlon is $8.50, and University Hall is $.35.
17. Please get out and have your friends vote it’s so important.
18. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
19. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
20. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
21. Health Committee: **Kevin Soucie**
22. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
23. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
24. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
25. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Kevin Soucie**
26. The final blood drive went well. Over the course of the 2013-2014 school year 495 pints of blood were collected, potentially saving the lives of 1,485 patients.
27. At the Wednesday, April 16th blood drive 138 donors presented. From these donors, 87 pints of whole blood were collected and 29 units of red cells, for a total of 116 pints of blood. There was a very high amount of deferrals for hemoglobin and 30 first time donors donated blood.
28. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Andrew McCormack*
29. As the end is growing near very quickly there isn’t too much going on. One quick thing though, commencement ticket lottery will be open Wednesday, April 23rd through Sunday April 27th. In this time people will have the option of obtaining one or two more tickets.
30. I wanted to gather some feedback from people about advising and registration to bring back to Vice President Marotta and Dean Bonacci. So, if anyone had anything quick or experiences that they encountered now is the time.
31. **Rebecca DiVico**: I think course registration exclusions need to be clearer, because it’s confusing when you can’t register for a class.
32. **Richard Darrach**: Would it be possible to put a big disclaimer in the printed course booklet that the online booklet might not reflect the current course availability and to encourage electronic booklet reference for updates to courses.
33. **Sarah Hegarty**: it’s kind of confusing when required classes for a major or minor aren’t offered anymore or very rarely. That could use some refining.
34. **Shannon Cullinane**: There needs to be a place where “reserved for major” is listed, because it’s not always clear.
35. **Steve Kligerman**: It might need more terminology for when it’s reserved for things other than a major too, like for transfers or first years.
36. **Tori Landry**: It’s also confusing when you’re a minor and then you are blocked out for a major restriction.
37. **Matt Carlin**: I had an issue where I would register for a class and then it wouldn’t come up in my registered classes but it didn’t tell me that it wouldn’t go through either.
38. **Andrew Morin**: I have a major requirement class for nursing but then I had to sign up for a lab for it that was not listed online or in the books, so it seemed odd.
39. **Andy McCormack**: Yeah, that’s weird; I would talk to someone about that to make sure it is an official registration and that you are getting credit for it.
40. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
41. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
42. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
43. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
44. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
45. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
46. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
47. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Steve Kligerman*
48. Programming update**: Steve Kligerman**
49. Spring Weekend is this weekend. Just a reminder of all the events:
50. Friday, at 9:00 pm we have comedian Dustin Ybarro, followed by Brown Bag Bingo at 10:00 pm and late night pancakes at 11:00 pm. Those are all in the Scanlon Banquet Hall.
51. On Saturday, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm we have our novelties on the green including mechanical bull, euro bungee, caricature artist smoothies, ice cream truck, fried dough truck, Wild West shootout games, tie dye, antique photos, make your own bumper sticker music and organizations.
52. If it rains, which it looks like there is a possibility, these events will be in Scanlon Banquet hall.
53. Concert Doors will open at 6:30 pm at Woodward. Last chance to get tickets is tomorrow April 23rd; Guest packets are also available until tomorrow, April 23rd.
54. Tomorrow, April 23rd is also the last day to post for the Social Media contest.
55. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 23rd at 5:00 pm in the Owl’s Nest.
56. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
57. Finance Report: **No Report**
58. Finance Report: **No Report**
59. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
60. Executive Secretary Report: **Alexis Wagner**
61. Hello everyone! So voting started this morning, and we have had 368 votes so far. I really want to get more votes than last year, and Barbara Hand is hoping for 1,000 so, I’m looking to you all to help push that through over the next 28 or so hours. As incentive, if we get over 600 votes, you will all get free t-shirts at the May 6th SGA dinner! I have small flyers printed out to slip under each door in the residence halls, so if I can have hall councils come see me after for the meeting for those, I would really appreciate it. And if the class councils can help, we’d really appreciate it, especially in halls like Scanlon and Courtney.
62. Legislative Secretary Report: **Sarah Hegarty**
63. Do your units.
64. Please submit pictures to the slideshow. Thank you to those of you that have, but we need more.
65. Reminder the SGA banquet is Tuesday, May 6th in Scanlon Banquet Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:30 pm.
66. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Jennifer McDiarmid

Rules and Regulations Committee:

1. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
2. Commuter Council: **No Report**
3. Senior Class: **Brittany Moniz**
4. Senior Sendoff is this week.
5. This Thursday, April 24th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Owl’s Nest, we will be recording brief video messages to be played at commencement as family and friends take their seats.
6. We will have Senior Fest Housing, rosters available, and the bookstore will be present to help with cap and gown sizing. Refreshments will be served. This is a free event.
7. If you can’t make in on Thursday, April 24th, you can still record a video on Monday Night from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
8. Today, April 22nd, Seniors should have received an email regarding Commencement Tickets. There will be lottery for additional tickets starting tomorrow, April 23rd. Tickets will be available for pick-up at the campus center window next week. If you opted for tickets to be mailed home, you can expect them to be mailed next week after the lottery is complete.
9. The commencement website has a lot of information to help answer questions: Westfield.ma.edu/commencement.
10. A couple of reminders.
11. Caps and gowns are on sale at the bookstore and can be purchased up until Commencement
12. Commencement rehearsal is Friday, May 9th at 5:00 pm in the Woodward Center. There will be a gift for the first 600 seniors and our Commencement speaker Jerry Greenfield has provided Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream for all attendees.
13. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 24th at 4:30 pm in the SGA Conference Room.
14. Junior Class: **Richard Darrach**
15. We’ll be in the Dining Commons tomorrow, April 23rd for the #175 Acts of Kindness campaign. If people want to recognize an act of kindness they received they can submit it with us or through social media.
16. We’re currently drafting a letter to Interim President Liz Preston with our recommendations for the 2015 commencement. If anyone has any questions on that pleases see me after the meeting.
17. Our next scheduled meeting is April 23rd at 5:15 pm in conference room 003.
18. Sophomore Class**: Ryan Losco**
19. First Year Class: Lauren Grams
    1. Please come out to Brown Bag Bingo this Friday at 10:00pm and bring a nonperishable item/canned good to help support the class of 2017’s charity the Westfield Food Bank, for an extra Bingo card.
    2. Keep your eye out for members of 2017 going door to door, and at the first year dorms, near the RA desk April 28th through April 30th at 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm.
    3. Our next scheduled meeting is April 24th at 5:00 pm in Conference room 003.
20. Apartment Complex: **Megan Doerle**
21. This weekend we will have our Spring Weekend Recovery Cart which will be our third and final breakfast cart. We will be kicking this event off at 12:00 noon this weekend because of the Rugged Owl Race. We will be having out usual threats and this time we will have pancakes and bacon.
22. Next Saturday, May 3rd we will be having out Block Party for the Apartment Complex, Dickinson Hall, and Scanlon Hall. We will be serving food and will have a DJ and games. I will have more information about this event next week.
23. Can I see all Hall Council presidents after the meeting?
24. Our next scheduled meeting is on April 29th at 3:15 pm in Val’s office.
25. Courtney Hall: Albert Fava
26. I have some very exciting news. On May 4th between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, the Councils of Courtney, New Hall, Lammers, Davis and Scanlon are holding a big end of the year event called, “The Amazing 5-Hall Carnival”. It will be super exciting and there will be many fun things to do for example a slip n slide, giant twister snow cones, popcorn, and much more. So, we are hoping you will all come out and enjoy a carnival and hopefully some fun in the sun.
27. Our next scheduled meeting is April 23rd at 8:00 pm in Courtney Hall.
28. Davis Hall: **No Report**
29. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
30. Lammers Hall: Ashley Deleon
31. Lammers Hall Council had a very successful event this past week with our Egg Hunt. I woke up to praises form many different residents, as well as complaints from those that didn’t get any eggs. All in all people were very excited about the idea, and I’d just like to thank the Hall Council members, and RA’s that woke up at 6:00 am to help hid eggs all over the hall.
32. We will be having our final Wing Wednesday next week, April 30th, at 7:00 pm in the Lammers Lobby.
33. We are currently planning a Final’s de-stress night in which we hope to include a few Boxes O’Joe and many munchkins from Dunkin donuts. We will also be providing bubble wrap for all of your de-stressing needs. This will be taking place in the Lammer’s lobby from 10:00 pm until 11:00 pm on May 1st.
34. Our next scheduled meeting is April 23rd at 5:00 pm in the 4th Floor Study Lounge.
35. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
36. New Hall**: No Report**
37. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
38. University Hall**: No Report**
39. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**

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1. NEW BUSINESS: Joshua Clark moved to open New Business. Motion carries.
2. **Joshua Clark**: Good evening, everybody! Let me take a minute to thank the executive board, especially the outgoing members. This is my first full year as a senator and I am awe-struck at the dedication exhibited by everybody sitting at this table and I think that they are all tremendous people. This organization would not be where it is today without them. You know, the goal with something is to always leave it in better condition than when you found it, and they live this every day. So I thank you all.
3. As I did in April of last year, I am here tonight, in my capacity as editor-in-chief of the Westfield Voice, to deliver to you the State of The Voice address. I should let you know I am constitutionally obligated to do this, and as a good representative of the Student Government, I do not want to go violating club constitutions. I don’t want to have Rules & Regulations come after me, they’re tough!
4. The truth is that the Voice is doing quite well. Under my leadership thus far, we have published 524 pages of Westfield State campus news & life, Student Government, opinions & editorials, arts & entertainment, and athletics. Last year, we published only 372. That’s a 70% increase over last year, and we still have a 24-page paper coming out this Friday, and the special SGA elections issue, which will also be 24-pages, coming out May 2. We are very proud to be pushing a total of 572 pages this year alone. That is 100 pages less than Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, by way of comparison.
5. We have enlisted seven first-years to sit on our editorial staff. Emily Hanshaw, managing editor; Matthew Carlin, assistant managing editor; Andrew Burke, layout editor and sports editor; Gina Muller, assistant layout editor; Caroline Chizek, assistant arts & entertainment editor; Mike O’Loughlin, online managing editor; and Andrew Morin, assistant online editor. These seven make insurmountable contributions to the Voice, and it is a debt I could not pay back. If they were not in that office upstairs helping me week-after-week, the newspaper would not be where it is today. I appreciate and thank every single one of them.
6. We also have three seniors who will be leaving us. Lyndon Seitz and Lewis Pacheco, arts & entertainment editors, and Joey Cooper, sports editor are graduating and moving on to bigger and better things. The three of them have been with the newspaper longer than I’ve been a student here, so I have asked and received their guidance on several occasions, which I appreciate.
7. When I spoke last year, I discussed the important working relationship that exists between, the Student Government and the Westfield Voice. I said, “The SGA and The Westfield Voice are meant to be working partners. There is no better person than I to realize that without this organization, there would most likely be no newspaper.” I talked about the “bond” between the two organizations that “will never be broken.” This was all before the situation hit. I had high hopes that this year would be a cake walk and we would all prance around in fields of flowers and hold hands while reporting trivial things like finance proposals and speaker series guests. Boy, was I wrong.
8. When I opened up The Republican on a sunny day in the middle of July and saw “Dobelle” and “audit” in the headline, I knew it was going to be a tough year. But after the first interest meeting, which was standing room only in our office, and after witnessing the work that came out of that office onto the pages of the newspaper, I was relieved. Of course, the tensions of having to report such a controversial story were at times too much to bear, and in fact, I almost walked away from the newspaper. But I learned that sometimes you need to delegate and take a step back to breathe. It allowed me to refocus and get back to the work of the newspaper.
9. As for next year, as we may know, I am an unopposed candidate for Vice President of Student Life in this very organization. Should I win, I am going to assume one of the hardest positions on this campus open to students, even more difficult than my current position in the newspaper. But I am not stepping down from my Editor-In-Chief position. To help me in this endeavor, I have asked Andrew Burke, currently our layout editor and sports editor, to join me as co-editor-in-chief. He has been with us for all of this year and has proven worthy of such an honor. He and I will share the duties and tasks associated with the position and I have the utmost confidence that he will do well in this new role.
10. The goals I set last year, for the relationship between the Voice and the SGA were certainly achieved. We have built a stronger bond just over the course of this academic year, and for that, I am grateful. I can only hope that next year we will continue along this same course.
11. As I said last year, while I can sense that I will always have your support as individuals and as senators [now representatives], I want to ensure that the Student Government Association is aware that it has Andrew and I’s support as co-editors-in-chief, and my promise that the bond between us that we share will never be broken. I would once again like to thank the outgoing members of the executive board and I look forward to working with the incoming executive board on matters pertaining to the newspaper. Together, we can continue to make this university a better place.
12. Taylor Fote: I’d like to give Joshua Clark and his staff a round of applause.
13. Joshua Clark moved to close New Business. Motion carries.
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
15. **Alexis Wagner**: Can I see a Representative from each Hall Council?
16. **Megan Doerle**: Can I see all the Hall Councils?
17. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: Encourage your constituents and friends to vote. And I need to see Rules and Regs after this.
18. **Sarah Hegarty**: Four units are due for April and please submit photos for the slideshow.
19. **Joshua Clark**: AUC is meeting next Wednesday, April 30the at 4:30 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
20. **Tom Durkee**: 25 days until Commencement.
21. ROLL CALL: Brittany Walters, Kylie Nelson, Priscilla Aguilar, Ashley Erskine, Troy Doming, Taylor Wertz, Domenico Cerasani, Molly Miller were absent. Olivia Dumas was excused.
22. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.