**Student Government Association Minutes**

April 23, 2013

1. ROLL CALL. Tim Egan, Nick Villante, Jordan James Blocker, Jocelyn Herrea-Lazo, Jackie Green, Courtney Keddy, Steve Evans, Kaylen Vangos, Samantha Dacey, Justin Connolly, Chris Michaud were absent. Jon Mercurio sent an alternate.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 16, 2013: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. Hi everyone, I hope you’re all doing well. Tonight we have State Senator Michael Knapik here to speak with us.
	* + 1. **Senator Michael Knapik**: Good evening everyone and thank you for the kind invitation to join all of you today.
5. Last week you had Representative Don Humason speak to you about what’s going on down on Beacon Hill and I’d be happy to answer any questions you may have. I’d first like to congratulate the seniors, who in less than a month will be graduating from this great university and moving on to work or further their educations or other opportunities. Thank you for your time at Westfield and thank you for being involved with Student Government. I hope you benefited from your time here and remember to cherish it through your professional and personal life. Westfield is transforming and it’s exciting to see. There is a buzz about Westfield State across the commonwealth, to the seat of power in Boston, and beyond.
6. It’s been a long year for us involved, but the budget is finally increasing for higher education in a very dramatic and substantial way for a couple of reasons. The 200 or so of us have listened to your messages about the decline in your funding during the recession and it had to stop. The state legislature is partnering with the public higher education because we recognize that it’s part of the key to lifting our region out of some of the difficulties we’ve had. Investments going forward are critical. The State House of Representatives are debating budgets which will see increased resources at the State University level and the community colleges, which has been long overdue. We also need to key in on scholarship and financial need funding. Students have been thoughtful, articulate and effective through their stories communicated to us in the legislature, which have impacted the future incline for state higher education. These institutions are the solution to much of our employment problems, the solution to much of our skills gap, and really, I think it’s important that you will mostly be staying in the state. You will bring your education here at Westfield back to your hometowns and contributing back to our state.
7. **Joshua Clark**: Do you foresee any change in the projected numbers when it goes into debate?
8. **Senator Michael Knapik**: In the olden days when we had extra money, the House and the Senate would try to outdo each other and go beyond the projected numbers, but that’s obviously not the case now. But there is some behind the scenes discussion with the higher positions of the House and State prior to the debate so they usually come to a general agreement. I don’t see any major change, or know for sure if they have conversed but we’ll see in a week. It is likely that the Senate will go along with the House number, which is a good number to begin the recovery funding process for the entire education process. Also, if both branches agree, it doesn't become a part of the differences that would need to be ironed out.
9. **Rebecca DiVico**: I’d like to say that I’m really happy you mentioned that students’ messages are received and matter to the legislature. Do you have any recommendations for improving our work to communicate the message or are we doing enough as it is?
10. **Senator Michael Knapik**: I think you’ve done your part so far, there’s not much at this point. But when the numbers come out, definitely send a timely email if you disagree or thank them if it’s a good number. Always know you are a citizen of Massachusetts, and even after graduating invest some interest in your alma mater, and make sure your tax dollars are going to your alma mater and sister schools. Don’t lose track of that after you graduate. There’s no question that staying engaged as citizens, emailers, and Facebookers, you will have an incredible power to speak out. There are only nine State Universities in MA, but 40 legislators, so there are few senators who host a university or even a community college in their district, but every senator needs to be engaged in the higher education process. It’s a great state, and you pay a lot of tax dollars to live in this great state, so make sure you have a say in your priority for your tax dollars to those who represent you.
11. **Kevin Soucie**: What other areas do you think are important to advocate for, other than higher education?
12. **Senator Michael Knapik**: Our state budget is about 34 billion dollars and it’s important that MA utilizes that. Healthcare spending and healthcare employment are very essential to the budget process. We have some of the best hospitals in the world in Massachusetts, caring for those bomb victims from last week for example, and are very valuable to our commonwealth’s wellbeing. It’s also a major employer, as is higher education. Manufacturing, another sector of the economy, is still important. There are always budget stresses and priorities, all of that, in summary, are put into healthcare, nursing homes, hospitals, and so on. We are definitely drawing the line in the sand finally to put some of that stressed money into higher education. It’s been going into some important sectors, but it’s not fair when being strained from other important sectors. There are areas for funding that used to exist that we’ve had to cut, and it’s a pretty difficult choice. Our state, as far as students testing standards and college admission standards, is among the best and we are able to gauge that we can continue to work and pay for this great state.
13. Thank you Senator Knapik.
14. Items not on the agenda: Isaac Matson.
15. Isaac Matson: So it’s come to the attention of the Rules and Regulations Committee that there has been a violation of the Blue Key Award bylaws by the Blue Key Award Committee at the April 16th meeting. The violation was of the following sections: 3.C.8.a., which states that the final vote for the Blue Key award recipient will be submitted through a secret ballot form. The committee did not follow this procedure during the course of their meeting. In response to this violation, the Rules and Regulation Committee met last week and voted to nullify the votes of the Blue Key Committee at that meeting, as well as to dissolve the committee and form a new committee to resolve the issues of the bylaws process. Any questions?
16. **Amanda McCarthy**: How come no one said anything to the committee before hand?
17. **Isaac Matson**: In regard to this, it wasn’t brought to the attention of the Rules and Regulation Committee until after the violation and the bylaw was in a very small section and personally I think it needs to be changed in the Constitution to reflect that it is an important factor in the voting process and, unfortunately, that wasn’t done. So, because of the bylaw violation, we are going to dissolve and reform the committee just so the process is being followed.
18. **Kevin Soucie**: So is there going to be a new committee?
19. **Isaac Matson**: Yes, the new committee will be formed under Sarah’s report.
20. So yesterday, April 15th, I learned that some of our EMT students were volunteering in Boston last week at the Marathon, and were called upon to help the EMTs on the scene so, although I do not know their names, I’d like to recognize them and their work. If you know anyone who was there helping, I’d like you to let me know, so that I can personally thank them. Six of our students are also in the National Guard and were called to Boston after the bombing. I don’t know all of those students, only a few, but if you do know them, please thank them on behalf of both SGA and Westfield State for their service in the last week. It’s an act of great service and we thank them.
21. Professor Diana and her running group put on an event in Stanley Park for the families of the bombing victims, and they were able to raise over $7,000 for the One Boston Fund. So, congratulate her on their funding work if you see her.
22. I move to approve the election results from the Spring 2013 Elections. Motion passed.
23. Congratulations to those who won. It looks like you will have a great Executive Board next year. Thank you to everyone who ran, we had quite a few contested races. And thank you to everyone who voted and got your friends to vote. We got 578 votes, which is higher than the national average.
24. Dennis Donovan, the National Organizer of Public Achievement, is coming to campus on Tuesday, April 30th, there are various events throughout the day where he will be speaking and leading conversation. So, check the posters for the schedule of events and attend to learn about civic engagement. The morning sessions, which Sue LaMontagne hopes students will be at, will be in the Woodward Center in the Student Lounge on the second floor and then there will be more speaking in Scanlon for the afternoon sessions.
25. I would like to congratulate Michelle Hanney and CAB for an awesome Spring Weekend.
26. Next week, April 30th is our last meeting; please plan to stay a little later. We will have some food and it should be fun.
27. **Kevin Soucie**: And the week after that?
28. **Stephanie Close**: Yes, in two weeks, on May 7th, we have the Awards Ceremony at 5:30 pm in the Scanlon Banquet hall. Dress code is business casual for this event.
29. **Richard Darrach**: Are there nominations for any of the awards?
30. **Stephanie Close**: No, it’s based on seniority, executive board decisions, and then the Blue Key, but the nominations already passed.
31. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: Do you know anything about the AUC Forum Tonight?
32. **Stephanie Close**: Yes, there is an AUC forum about the new academic building in Scanlon Banquet Hall at 3:30 pm.
33. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
34. I just want to re-iterate a couple things tonight. A few meetings ago I mentioned the open position for the segmental advisor for the student member to the Board of Higher Education, this position is held by any student from any State University. It is a huge commitment but is also hugely rewarding. It would take up two Tuesdays a month, the entire Tuesday and would require a lot of travel. But you would be meeting some incredibly brilliant people and have an experience useful for a life-time. So, if you or anyone you know would be interested let me know and I will help you out.
35. Now I’m going to quickly run through the 2 phase academic space plan.
36. Phase one is the building study until September, approval in September and planning in October for the rest of the year. The construction will being in September of 2014. Then in September 2016 the new academic building will open.
37. Wilson will have renovations during that same time span, and Parenzo and Bates get new air conditioners by September 2015.
38. When Juniper comes back to us in 2015, we will start the renovations which will take a while.
39. Phase 2 doesn’t have a structured timeline but it will include further upgrades to Bates, Parenzo and Wilson, the finishing of Juniper Park, and possibly a new theatre to Juniper Park, a child care center, and a welcome center type building by Western Avenue Near Commuter Lot.
40. **Kevin Soucie**: Is University hall the last residence hall going up for a while?
41. **Stone Koury**: To my understanding yes.
42. All University Committee**: No Report**
43. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
44. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
45. I have the results from the Blood Drive that took place on Wednesday, April 17th. The goal was to collect 116 pints, 140 students showed to donate, and 97 pints were collected. We had 16 double red donors; the end collection was 126 pints. That means we saved potentially 378 lives. Thank you everyone who donated and volunteered.
	1. **Barbara Hand**: How many first time donors?
	2. **Taylor Fote**: 52 donated for the first time.
46. If you haven’t already, today, April 23rd in Health Services there is a get yourself tested day, where there is testing from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm.
47. I hope you all have a great end of the semester.
48. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
49. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
50. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
51. Health Committee: **No Report**
52. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
53. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
54. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
55. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
2. Let’s all think back to your first day of Freshmen year when there was a bunch of papers on our desk. How many of you still have your bulletin? Well as of Fall 2013 the bulletin will be renamed to the catalog and it will only be online.
3. I posted in all of the Facebook pages about the finals schedule change so I hope our classes are announcing the changes. How many of your classes have said anything?
4. **Katie Wilga**: I’m in a night class, its DGCE, and their final schedule is different. Is there any where that I can look for that information?
5. Rebecca DiVico: It might be listed with the other finals, but I’m not sure. I recommend either asking your professor or you can email Kim Tobin, she will definitely have that information for you.
6. This is kind of not academic but from today to May 9th the Student Art Show is upstairs in the Gallery and May 2nd at 5:30 pm is the reception. If you have time you should stop by because there’s some amazing artwork by Westfield Students and two pieces of decent artwork by me.
7. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
8. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
9. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
10. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
11. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
12. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
13. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
14. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
15. Programming update: **Michelle Hanney**
16. I want to start by thanking everyone here who participated in Spring Weekend. It was a fantastic weekend and all events were really well attended. I want to say a big thank you to those of you on Senate that were there helping and put in so much to the weekend. Especially Caitlynn Greenleaf the CAB’s Vice President who ran the green while I was down at the Woodward Center. This weekend wouldn’t have been so successful without the CAB executive board, CAB members, SGA Executive Board and the CAB advisors. Thank you to everyone who took part in the weekend.
17. As the semester comes to an end CAB has two events left.
18. This week on Wednesday, April 24th in Dever at 7:30 pm will be the Price It Right game show. They will be bringing $500.00 in cash, so if you like cash come out and play.
19. Our last event of the year will be mind reader Eric Dittleman on May 2nd at 10:00 pm in Dever. You may know him, he was one of the finalists on Americas Got Talent, and so it should be a great show.
20. There will be a post spring weekend survey being sent out from Barbara Hand on my behalf. CAB wants to just get some feedback so Spring Weekend can be even better next year.
21. **Stephanie Close**: Can we give one more round of applause to Michelle for her hard work this weekend?

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. Finance Report: **Joshua Frank**
3. I have one finance proposal to present tonight.
4. Academic Pursuits is looking for funds to go to the Springfield Zoo and education Center. They are asking for funds to cover 15 admission tickets and 15 group rate tickets. They are looking for new members to join their club next year, so they’re hoping this trip will grow interest.
5. I move to allocate $165.00 to the Academic Pursuits Club.
6. Foundation Report**: No Report**
7. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
8. Executive Secretary Report: **No Report**
9. Legislative Secretary Report: **Sarah Hegarty**
10. There are four units due for April. Do them and submit them on time please.
11. Please submit pictures for the slideshow. I have received a few and so far they are looking good, but we still need a lot more.
12. Before we form a new committee, I would like to say thank you to the former Blue Key Committee. You all worked so hard and dedicated your time and were so passionate and I am incredibly grateful. Now I do need to form a new committee and we will meet tonight. Same as before, I need two members of each class and you need to be nominated.
13. **Kevin Soucie**: When will this group be meeting?
14. **Sarah Hegarty**: Tonight. And we will decide tonight.
15. **Tom Durkee**: Are members that were on the committee allowed to be nominated again? And how will we know who was on it already?
16. **Sarah Hegarty**: Rules and Regulations decided that senators on the first committee cannot be nominated again this time. Those senators were Brandon Burr, Tim Egan, Stone Koury, Amanda McCarthy, Rich Darrach, Rebecca DiVico, Melvin Rivera, and Michael Janchuk.
17. The new committee is Hannah Kelley and Stan Costa from the Senior Class, Andy McCormak and Taylor Fote from the Junior Class, Jessica Weaver and Allison Davis from the Sophomore Class, and Ryan Lasco and Tara Saraf from the Freshman Class.
18. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Isaac Matson
19. Rules and Regulations Committee: Isaac Matson
20. **Isaac Matson**: All amendments were approved as moved.
21. **Joshua Clark**: When’s your next meeting?
22. **Isaac Matson**: Tonight, April 23rd after this meeting.
23. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
24. Commuter Council: **No Report**
25. Senior Class: **Brandon Burr**
26. So, the Senior Class has a meeting tomorrow, April 24th with all members that purchased a senior packet. We will be going over things to do in New York, apps to download, maps and also apartment sign ups.
27. Senior Salute will be Thursday, April 30th from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. make sure you have no parking tickets, or holds. We will be discussing caps and gowns, financial aid/student loan debt. An email went out today.
28. Commencement rehearsal is Friday, May 3rd from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Woodward Center. We will have a Slide show and comedian following the dinner.
29. For $3.00 we will be making a video for commencement saying thanks to parents, I will have more details soon.
30. Commencement tickets are available at the Campus Center Window. All you need it your I.D. to pick them up.
31. Junior Class: **Brittany Moniz**
32. Mr Westfield is this Saturday, April 27th. We will be selling tickets in the DC along with Make-a-Wish stars on Wednesday, April 24th and Thursday, April 25th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.
33. Tickets for Mr. Westfield are $2.00 for students; they are also available at the Service window and will be sold at the door.
34. Hope to see you there at 7:30 pm in Dever.
35. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 25th at 4:00 pm in the SGA Conference Room.
36. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
37. Freshman Class: **No Report**
38. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
39. Courtney Hall**: Lindsey Keating**
40. Our tie dye event on Thursday, April 11th was successful, t-shirts were gone very quickly.
41. I am very excited for our Year End event on Sunday, April 28th starting at 1:00 pm. We will have our leadership auction and human bowling, candy art, soda kegs, lawn games and a lot of food. Everyone is welcome.
42. I want to say congratulations to the award winners at last night’s RHA banquet. They were all well deserved.
43. I’m also proud to say Courtney Hall won Hall Council of the year. After a rough first semester, we’re all very happy about it.
44. **Stephanie Close**: I’d just like to congratulate Lindsey and the rest of her hall council for turning around their council this semester and winning that award.
45. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 25th at 6:00pm in the RA’s office.
46. Davis Hall: **No Report**
47. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
48. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
49. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
50. New Hall: **No Report**
51. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
52. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
53. NEW BUSINESS:

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
2. **Isaac Matson:** Rules and Regs meeting after this is over by the couches.
3. **Joshua Frank**; Can I see Josh Clark after the meeting?
4. **Sarah Hegarty**: Blue Key Committee will meet after the meeting.
5. **Stephanie Close**: the Student Ambassadors are having a New York Bus Trip. Tickets are only $10.00 and it will be Saturday, may 4th. There are a limited amount of tickets; first come, first serve. See Kim Morgan if you are interested.
6. **Brandon Burr**: 23 Days until commencement.
7. ROLL CALL: Tim Egan, Jordan James Blocker, Jocelyn Herrea-Lazo, Richard Darrach, Alison Davis, Olivia Dumas, Courtney Keddy, Steve Evans, Kaylen Vangos, Samantha Dacey and Chris Michaud were absent. John Mercurio sent an alternate.
8. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.