**Student Government Association Minutes**

December 11, 2012

1. ROLL CALL:
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM December 04, 2012: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. The executive board made everyone on senate a little ornament to take home for the holiday season. So on your way out, you can grab one. I’ll put them on the back table.
5. I want to thank everyone who donated to Stuff-A-Cruiser, when we raised $1000.00, so the executive board will be going out tonight to buy the toys and toiletries to be brought to the shelters.
6. I wanted to do a quick straw poll, per request of Carlton Pickron, on Pepsi vs. Coke. The contract with Westfield State is ending next year. The majority of the vote was for Coke.
7. So this is our last meeting in Scanlon Hall. I had the chance to go check out our new space in Ely today and it’s not done yet but it’s to the point that you can visualize where things would be.
8. I just wanted to let you guys know, so that it’s on your radar, that last year’s Student Government president, Louis Cimaglia, did a State of the Campus Address, which happened in March and we will be continuing that tradition this year, but it will be February 5th. It’s on a Tuesday at 4:00pm so I encourage you to go if you don’t have class before SGA.
9. Also on February 5th, we will be rededicating our SGA space. Currently, the SGA room is formally known as the Peter D. Mazza Student Government Association Room. Peter Mazza was the Vice President of Student Affairs some time ago, and he never missed an SGA meeting. Everything I’ve heard about him is wonderful and he’s really excited for the rededication. We’ll be holding that at our regular SGA meeting that will be starting a half hour early, at 5:00pm. We are inviting past SGA presidents since 1999 when they originally dedicate the room, to come and speak about what they are doing and how being involved in SGA has helped them with what they’re doing. We will also be inviting last year’s Executive Board and other Administrative members that play a key role in SGA. So just put that on your calendar, it will be a dress code meeting. It’ll be a nice way to start the semester, in a brand new space. We will also have a reception after, with appetizers.
10. The next scheduled meeting is January 22, 2013, the first day of classes in the SGA room, Ely lower lever.
11. Items not listed on Agenda.
12. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
13. SAC met in Worcester last Thursday and we made some progress and really have a set path for ourselves for next semester.
14. We officially disconnected ourselves with PHENOM, which is a higher public educations advocacy group. We felt as elected student representatives sitting on council bound to the DHE, PHENOM can be too radical and doesn’t always go ”by the rule” as we would like to.
15. Our letter to Governor Patrick is in its final stages and the date is set for ta few of us on SAC to bring it to the Governor’s office on Beacon Hill, January 9th. We also plan to bring similar versions of this letter to the State Legislature when we do our state house day; which is something to be thinking about. Once we have a set date I will bring more information about that.
16. The Board is meeting this Thursday, December 13th at 6:00pm in the President’s Board Room at HMC; if you’re interested at all please attend.
17. Could I see the Representatives at large after the meeting?
18. All University Committee: **No Report**
19. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
20. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
21. I am reporting on behalf of the substance advisory committee tonight, and I don’t know if you all remember when we discussed your thoughts and views on our current marijuana policy, well I have the reviewed policy and I would like to welcome Sue LaMontagne up to talk to you guys a bit more about it.
22. Sue LaMontagne:
23. I would like to thank everyone for a great first semester you’ve all worked very hard and I hope you all enjoy your break and your holiday, and good luck to everyone on their finals and I will see you all next semester.
24. May I see Brandon Burr, Brittany Moniz and Richard Darrach after the meetin?
25. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
26. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
27. Food Services Committee: Tom Durkee
28. The Panini maker is broken again, but will be fixed over break.
29. This Thursday, December 13th from 4:30pm until 8:00pm will be the Holiday Buffet. If you come between 5:00pm and 7:00pm you can enter a raffle to win two Ipods and two Sony Ipod speakers. This is sponsored by Pepsi.
30. This may be the last buffet dinner due to negative feedback from the Thanksgiving buffet.
31. Next semester, we will be adding coffee ice cream, more flavored coffee, applesauce at the salad bar, a variety of pancakes and bacon lettuce and tomato pizza is returning.
32. Coke vs. Pepsi was discussed; we are looking for a large student voice. We may have signature sheets for you to sign either way.
33. Health Committee: **No Report**
34. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
35. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
36. Substance Advisory Committee: Taylor Fote
37. I am reporting on behalf of the substance advisory committee tonight, and I don’t know if you all remember when we discussed your thoughts and views on our current marijuana policy, well I have the reviewed policy and I would like to welcome Sue LaMontagne up to talk to you guys a bit more about it.
38. Sue LaMontagne: Hi everyone! It’s a lot of pages so rather than passing it out physically, we’re going to just talk with you about the changes in general and get your feedback.
39. I’d like to first thank the Substance Advisory Committee, and the student members, Larry Rodkey and Taylor Fote, for their time spent working on this.
40. There are really very few changes being proposed. We’ve always had a policy for alcohol and drugs. We had a policy for alcohol, and its sanctions, and then we had a component on other drugs and its sanctions, which were different. So, now we’re talking about having a policy in three components: alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. They’re proposing that alcohol and marijuana be treated the same, in terms of sanctions, if someone is found responsible for violations. Currently, what students get for being caught with alcohol is called a 10/100 for the first offense and the second violation results in a loss of housing. They are proposing that would also be the marijuana sanctions, with two chances.
41. Second change that goes along with that: because there’s a give, that we don’t remove housing for first time marijuana, we need to balance that. So we are combining alcohol with marijuana. You have two chances, not on each of those, but both combined. So you have two chances regardless, for either marijuana or alcohol.
42. **Victoria Landry**: How does this compare to other Universities’ policies?
43. **Sue LaMontagne**: It’s certainly similar to the State Universities, but so is the current one. What you have to keep in mind is that the state board around 2000 said to all the state colleges that they wanted us to have a three strike policy. They said third strike is expulsion, and we can control the first two strikes. So we decided that the second should be loss of housing, instead of jumping straight to being kicked out of school. This way it’s progressive. The college policies are alike in many ways because we all have the same third strike.
44. **Tom Durkee**: Is there a difference between getting caught smoking in your room verses smoking outside?
45. **Sue LaMontagne**: If you’re in a Residence Hall, you’re violating two policies: the smoking policy and the marijuana policy. It’s going to be treated the same regardless, whether you’re caught inside or outside, you’ll be facing the same sanctions.
46. The third change is regarding amount. When the state decriminalized marijuana two years ago, the University did not. It’s still a University violation because the University can have rules above the law. We didn’t change one thing about our marijuana policy; still couldn’t have it, still couldn’t have it at any amount, still lost your housing. When we recently voted to allow medical marijuana in Massachusetts, it you read the law, the law that you voted on, very specifically says that school and public areas did not need to follow this law. So we will not be following the medical marijuana law, because there is an obligatory federal law as a school that we will ensure a drug free school. So we have a conflicting law with the federal law, but this is our action towards adhering to that and delivering the information to students. No marijuana on campus, regardless of a prescription.
47. The final change is that all the other drugs, anything other than marijuana, will continue to have the same sanctions they currently have, which is immediate loss of housing and out of college.
48. Intending to sell or selling will continue to be an expulsion, no matter what, marijuana included. That’s the major difference of the marijuana policy. If someone has a bunch of marijuana and it’s clear that they are intending to sell or distribute, they will be expelled from the college, regardless of the new marijuana policy.
49. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: So if you’re outside and an ISO sees you smoking, then you would get a 10/100?
50. **Sue LaMontagne**: Yes, first time is a 10/100. If you’re carrying a gallon-size bag full, we’re going to assume it’s with intent to sell.
51. **Matt Demikat**: I’m just wondering how you determine if someone’s going to distribute unless they have multiple bags or something. Is there going to be a size amount, like over an ounce, to define it?
52. **Sue LaMontagne**: It’s in the handbook. I don’t know the exact language, but paraphrasing it, “a large amount or any amount with other evidence, such as Ziploc bags, cash, grinders, weighing devices, etc.” so we have specific terminology to define that, which will remain.
53. **Matt Demikat**: If it just says “large amount”, I think it would be helpful to have a specific amount since a lot could be a subjective term.
54. **Sue LaMontagne**: From my experience, it’s pretty clear who’s intending to sell, but I understand your concern. I will send that along to SAC to define an amount.
55. **Ryan Loska**: Will the possession of paraphernalia also count as a strike with the policy?
56. **Sue LaMontagne**: Yes, paraphernalia and possession is going to be combined with alcohol. If you’re carrying a pipe around. That counts as a strike, next time would be loss of housing.
57. **Stone Koury**: Regarding intending to sell, is selling alcohol to minor also an expulsion?
58. **Sue LaMontagne**: Distributing alcohol to a minor is not an expulsion, but a loss of housing. So that’s one of the distinctions in the alcohol part of the policy.
59. **Richard Darrach**: If someone is smoking marijuana in their room. Which violates both marijuana and fire policies, is that a 10/100 or loss of housing?
60. **Sue LaMontagne**: It crosses both policies, but it’s going to go down as a 10/100. They don’t necessarily get additional sanctions for smoking in the room, although they could, but not a loss of housing, maybe probation.
61. **Joshua Frank:** What’s the next step for this policy?
62. **Sue LaMontagne:** The process from here is that once we get your consensus of agreement, that we should forward, Taylor Fote will bring this in January to the Student Affairs governance committee under AUC, and then move on to the Board of Trustees. We’re looking at the discussion of these changes taking some months, and hopefully be in effect for the next academic year.
63. **Courtney Keti:** Is there any way that you would consider a probation status for getting caught smoking in the residence halls? It’s already a big issue, so if people are told they will get a 10/100, they might not take it as seriously.
64. **Sue LaMontagne:** That’s currently what happens so I’m not sure we’re telling anyone anything different. I will tell you, that we look at the facts and circumstances, like if the smoke detector is covered, that’s an immediate loss of housing. So that’s different.
65. **Larry Rodkey:** There’s another subtle change that we made where we changed the language a little bit. So that when you do get that first 10/100 of either one, you are on “housing probation”. It really doesn’t mean anything different than before, but it stresses the risk of losing housing.
66. **Richard Darrach:** So, if this goes into effect, will it start halfway through the year or at the start of the next academic year?
67. **Sue LaMontagne:** Next academic year, so that it can be out in the handbook and communicated to students.
68. **Richard Darrach:** So, if a student is caught within the last two weeks of the Spring semester, they will face the current level of sanctions right now?
69. **Sue LaMontagne:** Technically they could**.**
70. **Richard Darrach:** I also want to comment that I love this policy, as an RA, not on behalf of Residential Life. When I come to a room and have to confront someone about marijuana, it’s hard on me knowing they’re going to lose housing and I don’t think one stupid mistake should ruin someone’s entire college experience. They shouldn’t be doing that in the first place, but I think this is a step in the right direction.
71. **Sue LaMontagne:** Thank you, I appreciate the feedback.
72. **Tom Durkee:** I agree that it’s good for student’s rights, and students should be able to do what they want to. But as an RA of a building that just had fire issues, it’s a different thing to be smoking from smoking in your room. It’s putting people’s health and safety at risk.
73. **Sue LaMontagne:** So SAC needs to consider amount and sanctions regarding in room smoking. I’m leaving it up to them though.
74. **Tori Landry:** I agree, it’s just like smoking, it’s not pleasant to smell people smoking inside.
75. **Stephanie Close:** Are there an areas on campus that are considered school zones?
76. **Lt. Michael Foyle**: As far as distribution goes, the Juniper Park area and Stanley areas would have even stricter sanction for distribution in those areas.
77. **Richard Darrach**: I suggest a heavier financial fine for the stricter residential policies, like 10/300.
78. **Susan LaMontange:** It’s hard when we talk money because as a public university, we can charge service fees. So $100 goes to service fees for the classes, materials, instructors, and then anything that’s left goes into student programming. So we’d need to justify the increase in charge in that sense, but there are many other things we could do, like community service, or weekends off campus.
79. **Stone Koury:** Is there a fire safety class that the student could take, and that could raise the fee?
80. **Sue LaMontagne:** There is an individual class, not a group class, with an agenda and a syllabus, so we could do that as well.
81. **Matt Demikat:** I know sometimes these events can happen simultaneously, like drinking and smoking in the same night, so would that count as one offense, or two?
82. **Sue LaMontagne:** Technically its two violations, but we’d probably treat as one, with maybe a little extra something. It depends on if it’s at once, or two nights in a row before being disciplined. One more straw poll, are we okay to move forward with this?
83. Straw poll was taken, students unanimously voted that they approve moving forward with this**.**
84. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
85. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
86. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
87. Curriculum Committee: Katie Morrissey
88. We met last Thursday, December 6th and got through a couple of things.
89. We approved two course action requests from movement Science and one was sent back to the department to approve some changes, we are suggesting.
90. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
91. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
92. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
93. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
94. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
95. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
96. Programming update: Michelle Hanney
    * + 1. I hope your last week of classes is going well and you’re not all too stressed out. I just wanted to give you an update on events for the Spring Semester.
97. We will be kicking off the first weekend with the possibility of a comedian on Thursday night, January 24th, if he is unavailable for Saturday night.
98. We will have a Glo-Crazy dance on Friday night, January 25th.
99. Amelia Park skating on Saturday after noon, January 26th, with transportation to and from Amelia Park.
100. Bingo and a comedian on Saturday night, January 26th.
101. Then on Sunday night, January 27th we will have a movie night with food.
102. When you get back look for a door hanger on your doors with a list of all our events for the Spring, thus far.
103. Save the date of February 21st for WSU’s Got Talent, tell your friends if they have any talents and want the chance to win a very good prize to look out for the Facebook event for more details.
104. Tonight during the CAB executive meeting we talked about a couple other events that we will be booking within the week such as a game show in early February and a mentalist in March and a comedian/magician/balloon artist in early April.
105. When we come back we will have Spring Weekend underway and being planned.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. Finance Report: **No Report**
3. Foundation Report**: Joshua Frank**
4. The Foundation Board had their first meeting last Wednesday, December 9th, along with the annual foundation board dinner, after the meeting.
5. At the Directors meeting, the members got a tour of the Library and Wellness Center. All of the members were very impressed with the improvements that have been made.
6. We then discussed a number of student programs, such as the Washington Center Internship Program and International Programs.
7. We went over the budget. The phone-a-thon, so far, has raised over 97,000 dollars, this semester alone. That’s over 20,000 dollar increase, compared to last year, so the foundation was very pleased about that.
8. At the dinner students came and spoke about the various programs they participated in, and why the foundation should support them.
9. At the end of the dinner we elected the Executive Board of the directors to the foundation.
10. Our next scheduled meeting will be March 6th.
11. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
12. Executive Secretary Report: No Report
13. Legislative Secretary Report: Sarah Hegarty
    1. The one unit for December is due Friday, December 14th. I emailed everyone the calendar last week, but if you didn’t get one please let me know, so I can resend it.
    2. I have the attendance for the semester with we so, if you are wondering how you are doing please see me at the end of the meeting.
    3. Remember you are only allowed four absences throughout the year.
14. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Isaac Matson
15. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
16. Commuter Council: **No Report**
17. Senior Class: Brandon Burr
18. We have official numbers and we made $986.00 on our Cookie Dough fundraiser. The Cookie Dough will arrive on Friday, December 14th.
19. We also made $57.00 on our Zumba event and everyone had a blast.
20. Our sweatshirts are on sale and are $40.00, order forms for those and Senior fest will be going home to families fore break. Again packets are $225.00 for resident’s students and $225.00 plus $60.00 for housing, for commuters who want to stay on campus.
21. For Seniors there is a commencement page on the main page of our website, so if parents have questions or relatives need directions, please have them look there.
22. **Michelle Hanney**: When do the packets go on sale?
23. **Brandon Burr**: It is pending approval and then we can let you know.
24. Junior Class: Brittany Moniz
    * + 1. We will be having a meeting with the final Mr. Westfield contestants tonight in the Tekoa room at 8:00pm.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, December 13th, at 4:00pm in the Tekoa Room.
25. Sophomore Class: Richard Darrach
    * + 1. Tomorrow night, December 12th we’re going to every Hall collecting clothes for Good Will. More details will be out tomorrow morning.
        2. Thursday, December 13th we’re holding our final meeting for Dancing with the Stars at 4:30 pm in Courtney hall.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is December 12, at 4:30pm in the Tekoa room.
26. Freshman Class: Melvin Rivera
27. We are planning on some fundraising ideas for next semester.
28. We are helping out with the inauguration trip by purchasing the snacks for the busses.
29. We are having a t-shirt design contest at the beginning of next semester.
30. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, December 12th at 5:30pm in the Tekoa Room.
31. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
32. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
33. Davis Hall: **No Report**
34. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
35. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
36. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
37. New Hall: **No Report**
38. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
39. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
40. NEW BUSINESS:
41. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
42. **Alexis Wagner**: The Senate Banquet is now being called the Owl Ball.
43. **Taylor Fote**: 42 Days until we are back in Ely.
44. **Brandon Burr**: 157 days until commencement.
45. ROLL CALL:
46. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.