**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**December 10, 2019**

1. ROLL CALL: Scotty Howe, Hunter Hassett, Seldine Chambers-Sutton, Paige Pressey, Olivia Houde, Logan Terenzi, Valerie Eckenroth and Joseph DeMeo were absent.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM December 03, 2019: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ***Kaytlyn Mekal***
4. Good Evening everyone, I hope you are all having a great last week of the semester. Our speaker tonight is Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Taksar to give us a review of the budget for FY21. Please welcome Vice President Steve Taksar.
5. **Steve Taksar**: Thank you very much, and thank you for inviting me back again. If you remember a few weeks ago, I was here with the President; and we were talking about the current budget for the university and FY20. That is the budget year that starts on July 1, 2019 and goes to June 30, 2020. I think I gave a pretty fair update of that particular budget. There have been no substantial changes from what I reported last time, and what I reported last time is still holding true.
6. Just to recap, the campus budget process works at a high level like this: In October, we start working with the Board of Trustees to talk about planning assumptions for the next fiscal year. The next fiscal year I am speaking about is FY21 which starts July 1, 2020. In October we talk with the Board of Trustees and within the President’s cabinet thinking what does enrollment look like for the fall, what do we think might be changing, any new information. From there, in November and December which is where we are now, we start modelling different scenarios. We take those initial planning assumptions and do some what-if analysis. What if state gives us an extra million dollars? What if the state takes away an extra million dollars? What if the collector bargaining agreements go up by 3% as opposed to 2%? What if student fees went up 1% versus 4%? A lot of these factors are generated in terms of our analysis. We look at those very carefully and generate scenarios that we think are most realistic.
7. That’s where we are right now. We’ve been modeling different scenarios for the last couple of months, trying to figure out what things might look like a year from now. We have to finish our budget process by June of next year, and that takes quite a bit of effort to get us there. In February, the board will then approve any student fee increases for next year. This is the same timeline we’ve used for the last three years, and it works pretty well I think because financial aid has to start packaging in January and February, so they really have to know what the fees are going to be in the following year to package financial aid for those students that qualify for it. The timeline is really important. When we get to April, May, and June, that’s when things really start cementing in terms of the real details and the process. In April, we share with the Board of Trustees a draft budget. In June, we go back and present a final budget. So, that’s the general timeline from where we stand right now until we get to the end of the road.
8. Given our enrollment issues we’ve had this particular year, we think we’re going to continue to have those for a few more years. If we look at the landscape around us, the demographics are still declining. The number of high school graduates in Massachusetts is still continuing to drop and will drop for the next several years. Competition is heating up at all of the state institutions and other schools. Enrollment at community colleges are down; we receive a fair number of transfers, so it has a triple effect to us. If Holyoke Community College and others that send students to us have enrollment down, then the number of transfers coming to Westfield State will likely be down as well. There are a lot of external factors- some we can control and some we can’t. We have to make our best guess and put some numbers together that we can defend and talk about. Enrollment will continue to have a negative effect on our budget because fewer students are coming to the university. We don’t see that changing next year.
9. Residential occupancy in residence halls is also down fairly dramatically. It’s a consequence of having fewer students come to Westfield State, and then a subset to that is fewer students are living on campus. The challenge of that is we have a lot of fixed costs that we have to pay for within the residence halls, not the least of which is money we borrowed several years ago to construct the last two residence halls: New Hall and University Hall. Those were buildings that we’re still paying off and will be paying off for several years, so those are challenges to our budget on the residence life side. Campus dining is also seeing declines in participation rates. Again, it’s a trickle-down effect. Fewer students coming into the university, fewer students living on campus, fewer students buying into the meal plans. They’re not seeing quite as a dramatic decline in their numbers as residence life, but they’re still feeling pinched. We’re trying to figure out right now how to make all of those budgets balanced, but we’re just not there yet.
10. We do not have a final budget for FY21. That’s going to take us another 6 or 7 months to do that. We’re still making changes in terms of our assumptions. We still have to process some budget reductions for this year that I talked about last time. Nonetheless, here’s where we are now. Given the enrollment decline, we believe next year that’s going to have a negative impact to the tune of $2.3 million. Our budget this year will decrease by about $2.3 million strictly based on the enrollment decline. Occupancy in the residence halls has also decreased, and we are projecting another decrease next year. That revenue will decline in the million-dollar range. Those are two big issues with revenue we are trying to deal with. We are going to propose a fee increase, but even with the fee increase, that won’t be enough to offset the loss in enrollment. We will still see less revenue in the coming years, even with a modest fee increase. The university’s strategy will be to reduce our costs. We are going to reduce costs this year, next year, and that combination with fee increases hopefully will bring a balanced budget. We do not believe that will be the case in Residence Life. Their fixed costs are so high- meaning their debt service, paying for utilities, staffing in the halls. When you put that all together, there is very little wiggle room to try to shave off any significant expenses there. The current strategy is that we are planning to use Res Life reserves, the savings account, as a one-year strategy to offset the loss for FY21. Then in FY22, we have to have a balanced budget for Res Life. That is the overall general picture.
11. On the expense side of things, the state and the Higher Ed state university system will be negotiating contracts for all of the unions on campus. That is done at the state level, and not on the campus. We are one of 9 state universities that fall into that. These will likely result in salary increases for all of the full-time faculty and staff. We also anticipate that the state will charge a higher benefit rate to the campus. For every dollar in salaries we pay out, we also have to budget about a 40% kicker on top of that for all the benefits that full-time employees get. Health insurance, pension retirement money, dental insurance, life insurance, etc. rolls in as 40%, so when we increase the salary and budget by $1, we’re really increasing it by $1.40. We do anticipate the fringe benefit rate to go up by about 1%. A 1% increase in our fringe benefit rate is a $600,000 additional cost to the university. With the salary increases of about $1 million, between salaries and benefits, that cost next year is projected to go up almost $1.7 million. We are also increasing financial aid. We are trying to figure out ways to close the gap between students’ needs and what we charge our students or all of you. We are increasing financial aid by about $300,000 next year, well above what we did this year. We are also going to make some investments in our CGCE School. There will be some money invested there.
12. Lansdowne, the residence hall downtown, is also losing a fair amount of money. We have a contract with the owner to have a fixed payment to them no matter what, so whenever we can’t fill that residence hall, we still have to pay the bill. We’re expecting to lose about $600,000 next year because we have occupancy problems, so we can’t fit the residence halls. When you add it all up, it creates a challenge for the university because we don’t have enough revenue coming in to support the current cost structure. The only things you can do is increase your revenue or decrease your costs, so we are going to be doing a bit of both.
13. When we went to the Board of Trustees in October, we discussed planning parameters for student fee increases for the following year. The planning parameter we put out there was a range of 2-3% overall that we thought was reasonable. I don’t know if you realize it or not, but inflation generally tracks up between 2-2.5% per year. Cost generally increases year to year. We’re no different. We have contracts we’re committed to for various services: fire suppression equipment, software, computer systems in place we have contracts and elevator service contracts. We have multi-year contracts that have built-in increases over time, so a lot of times you get a better deal if you sign a multi-year contract than going year to year. All of this is to say that the planning assumptions we discussed with the board, I would say were endorsed by the board but not really approved. It was a discussion we had; we talked about the pros and cons. It is an assumption now we are using in our modeling. The current model has us increasing total in state tuition and fees by 2.7%. That is $290 a year. Total residential cost of attendance- including living on campus and buying a meal plan- would potentially go up $620 a year or 2.8%. Last year, total in state tuition and fees went up 4% or $420. Total residential cost of attendance went up by 3.5% or $741. We have tried to keep the increase as low as we can. It is less than the last two to three years. There is still discussion to be had. I know Thalita Neves will be there tomorrow at the Board. We will keep talking about this for a few months.
14. The rest of the budget shortfall will be made up by budget reductions. We might not fill various positions. We will look at all of our contracts and commitments and try to reduce those costs. We will try to do things differently and efficiently as best we can, so we can have a balanced budget going forward. That is the high-level summary.
15. **David Youngerman**: You talked about Lansdowne being a shortfall of about $6,000. Are you planning on keeping that residence hall online next year?
16. **Steve Taksar**: One more year. We have a ten-year contract with the owner, and we are on our ninth year. We are obligated to make a payment for one more year.
17. **David Youngerman**: Will you be having residents in there?
18. **Steve Taksar**: I think so, yes.
19. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Is there any way that we can possibly get students in on this budget process because I know as a Business/Finance/Accounting person, this would be something so cool to sit in on and benefit my career.
20. **Steve Taksar**: Kelson Burke sits in on the Campus Budget Advisory Committee. We talk about all this stuff in the committee. Those meetings are open to the campus; anyone can attend. We publish agendas in advance. I believe there will be a meeting on Friday. We intend to talk about the same issues I’m mentioning at a higher level and also talk about feedback we received at the open forum at the last meeting, which we had about 70 people from campus brainstorming to figure out where we can reduce costs or be more efficient. Beyond that, I am happy to meet with you or do whatever you think is helpful.
21. **Samuel Tsongalis**: You mentioned that Lansdowne is a fixed rate no matter what, but Housing has continued to close off more rooms to students every time which is part of the reason Lansdowne doesn’t fill. Is there a reason that happened knowing it would create a gap and affect the budget?
22. **Steve Taksar**: I’m sorry I can’t answer that question. I don’t know the answer to that, what I do know is that the annual lease cost to the owner is about $1 million per year. If we don’t generate enough student revenue from students living in that location, the campus has to make up the shortfall no matter what. But why those rooms were closed, I honestly couldn’t tell you.
23. **Thalita Neves**: I was wondering if you have any idea of where the reduction in costs are coming from, if there’s any certain departments that might suffer from it, or how you are coming up with where you’re pulling money from.
24. **Steve Taksar**: We’re still working on that, but I can tell you where the early thoughts are. Last time I talked about an early separation plan where we are providing financial incentives for long-term employees to leave the university. That process literally just completed on Monday, so there’s more to follow on that. Our hope is that we will be able to not fill those positions, we will be restructuring those positions, and combining responsibilities with different people. If we do that, we’ll be able to save a fair amount of money. That would be one strategy. The other strategy is looking at all our vacancies right now, positions that are budgeted for a full year that have not been filled, and seeing if we can postpone, delay, wait, or just not fill those jobs. All Vice Presidents are working right now to go through their own budgets and work with their staff to figure out where we might have some potential savings. There isn’t really a cookie cutter approach, and we have not given each division a number to work from. We are hoping people will come collaboratively together and sort through their best ideas. Our hope and goal is to minimize any impact on instruction and teaching. I think the administrative side will probably contribute a fair amount to those savings.
25. **Joseph Joyal**: How will the budget cuts affect the school’s strategic plan moving forward?
26. **Steve Taksar**: In our early planning models, we assumed we’d be able to donate a fair amount of money to the strategic plan- don’t quote me on this, but I think it was about $1 million for next year. We’re probably going to reduce that. I’d say around $700,000 or so. That is going to be the primary funding mechanism for all of our critical initiatives going forward. For example, I talked about increasing financial aid. We’re going to use some of that strategic investment money to increase financial aid for some of you folks. The strategic plan is still intact, and we’re going to invest whatever we think we can afford for initiatives for the institution moving forward. There are four primary goals in the strategic plan. In my opinion, we have to stay true to funding some of those because that’s our way out of this. We have to do two things at the same time. We have to reduce costs, but we have to make investments in the critical areas that are going to help the university advance our mission. To do one without the other would be a mistake. So, we have to stay true to that strategy because I think that’s the winning strategy. We will make investments in the Westfield State Experience, in financial aid, in the culture of the university, in efficiencies that can provide a greater return to us through technology and other sources. If we don’t do that, I think we’d be making a strategic mistake.
27. **Cameron Kelleher**: I wanted to touch on what you said about possible vacancies in the university because I have a concern. I think if there’s going to be vacancies in the university and wherever else with the cost cutting, it will help the budget now but might decrease the quality of the university’s operations in general having less people. I was wondering what you guys are doing to prevent that from happening.
28. **Steve Taksar**: That’s a tough question. It is going to take a very careful balance of how to work our way through that. There is no straight-forward or easy answer. What I would say to that though is we are going to try our best to not have it affect the quality of our educational activities at the university. In the last five years, our enrollment is down 700 students; but our cost structure has increased. There’s an imbalance right now that has to be rectified one way or the other. We don’t have as many students that we had four or five years ago, yet our costs have continued to rise. So, we can no longer afford to operate the same way we have in the past. We are clear about doing our best to preserve the academic quality of the institution. That’s why I said what I did about the administrative side. We are going to look hard at that side, the non-instructional side, and do the best we can to short the budget in that fashion. There’s no easy answer or quick solution.
29. **Audrey Therriault**: This is just an idea for possible savings, but from my understanding when it comes to utilities, students are just charged a flat rate regardless of how much they’re actually using. If there were some sort of incentive to decrease water or electrical use, maybe in the form of a little stipend that is still less money rewarded than their practical use is saving. I see people in their apartment who keep the lights on 24/7, and there’s no real punishments. I don’t want there to be punishments but more incentives for resourceful use.
30. **Steve Taksar**: I think we have to work with Sustainability Club more closely to figure out how we can do that. That’s absolutely a good idea that we can take advantage of. I think there are some savings we don’t see that are easy to gain; and if we have everybody participating and helping in that regard, I absolutely do believe we can save money for the university. We can also make capital investments, but we’d get more efficient light fixtures. We spend a little more money up front, but it creates lower energy costs down the road. There are things like that we are looking at right now too we think we can make some gains on. The more people that are engaged, the more active we are, I think the better off we will be.
31. **David Youngerman**: How much of the enrollment decrease would you say is due to dropping retention rates?
32. **Steve Taksar**: I can give you the one I know off the top of my head. Most of the drop this past year was because of lower retention. We’re projecting this year through the end of the year, we’ll be down 247 students compared to our budget. 75% of that decline is due to decreasing retention rates. We had about 50 or 60 fewer students come than we planned on- meaning entering freshman. So, the entering freshman class was short by about 50 or 60, but the real issue is that students who came here the year before didn’t come back. Most of that 247-student decline is due to retention. We’re trying to figure this out right now; what’s going on on campus? Why are students coming to Westfield State and then leaving? It’s hard to answer because when students formally withdraw, they are not always saying the real reason. We try to probe where we can to get good information on why students are leaving, but that is the biggest problem.
33. **David Youngerman**: Is there anything in the strategic plan that is going to be helping to stop the drop in retention?
34. **Steve Taksar**: Multiple things. I can’t remember them all, but yes, the strategic plan is geared toward increasing retention, increasing graduate rates, closing the achievement gap, and those are benchmarks of the strategic plan. If you go to look it up, you would see those are metrics and commitments we’ve made in the plan going forward for the next four or five years. There are multiple initiatives underneath that which will form the strategy. We have goals, strategies, and initiatives. That is all embedded in the plan. We actually thought retention would go up not down, so we have a real issue to figure out.
35. **Mitchell McKittrick**: What departments are getting most affected by positions that are not being filled, or if that’s an overall proportionate thing that’s happening?
36. **Steve Taksar**: There’s no one department; I think it is more across the board. Again, it is going to be up to the Vice Presidents that are responsible for the divisions to figure out what makes the most sense. Across the board reductions are just not the best thing to do. They are not strategic, you aren’t differentiating between things, you are treating everything the same. But there’s no one area that will see a huge cut.
37. **Riley Gregoire**: Right now, the construction going on outside Uni, is that a temporary expense? Is that factored into the money we’re losing, or is that just due to students?
38. **Steve Taksar**: The steam-line project is free money from the state. They gave us $10 million last year. We said if our steam-line fails, we have to shut down the campus. We have one steam-line to the campus, if that fails, you’re all going home because we don’t have enough money to heat the buildings. They agreed to give us $10 million. They are going to build a second, back-up steam-line to the powerplant. Once they do that, we can go ahead and provide heat to the campus even if the main steam-line goes down.
39. **Cameron Kelleher**: In that $10 million, are they going to be fixing the green?
40. **Steve Taksar**: I don’t think that’s part of the plan. You may or may not know that the green is designed to be a water retention area. It’s designed to collect water to disperse it below the ground. Unfortunately, that is not part of the steam-line plan. We’ll have to deal with that in another way.
41. **Cameron Kelleher**: That huge mud thing over there is going to stay there when that’s done?
42. **Steve Taksar**: I don’t know the answer to that. We have to look at that separately. The whole design of the green as I understand it is designed to capture the water and filters into the ground eventually.
43. Thank you Steve. As far as regular business goes, I have a few things for you guys.
44. I accept the resignation of Matthew McMeekin as New Hall Representative to SGA.
45. I move to appoint Matthew McMeekin as a Class of 2020 Representative to senate for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Motion carries
46. The last Dean of Students forum will be this Thursday, December 12 at 4:00 pm in the Owl’s Nest. I urge all of you to go on Thursday, December 12 and meet the candidate. This person will ultimately be one of the administrators we as students interact with the most, so it’s important that student opinion is heard on this.
47. I went to Worcester State for Student Advisory Council. At the meeting we discussed a place to meet for the retreat on Saturday, January 25. I offered up Westfield State as an option, but the Council decided to go with Massasoit Community College in Brockton. We also talked about a new program within the state of Massachusetts to help homeless students at the state institutions. I unfortunately had to leave early on in the presentation, but I will tell you that this program is coming to Westfield State, and I am going to be asking Dan Forrester to give us some more information on this program next semester. Also at the meeting, we talked about support for Open Education Resources, and the committee has created a Statement of Support that people can fill out online and learn some more information. I will be hanging a QR code to the Statement on my office door, and I would be more than happy to talk to you guys about the campaign.
48. I will say this at the end of the meeting, but the first meeting of next semester will be the first day of classes next semester, January 21, and we will be having Dr. Gloria Lopez give a welcome and the New Director of Residential Engagement, Chris Willenbrock, will be giving a welcome and introducing herself to us.
49. Good Luck on all of your finals.
50. Items not listed on Agenda:
51. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: ***Thalita Neves***
52. All University Committee: **No Report**
53. Student Advisory Council: **No report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE:**Gift Madu**
	* 1. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
		2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
		3. Food Services Committee**: Kelson Burke**
2. This Thursday, December 12, the DC will be having decorate your own gingerbread cookie station from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm so if you are in the mood for gingerbread stop on by.
3. In case you weren’t aware, On the Dining Services website, there is a section called “Taste from Home” where students can submit their own recipes for staff to possibly use. The staff take a look at each recipe and can decide on whether to use your recipe to make something on a certain day.
4. We will be having three candidates for the Director of Dining Services position coming down in the upcoming days. There will be and open forum session for these candidates for students to ask questions. The dates and locations are as follows: William Connor on December 12 from 2:00 pm and 2:30 pm, Michael Gallo on December 13 from 2:00 pm until 2:30 pm and Andy Allen on December 16 from 2:00 pm until 2:30 pm all in the Owl’s Nest.
5. The Dinning Commons closed for the holiday break on December 19 starting at 2:00 pm and they will be back open on January 19 at 12:00 pm.
6. We will not be having Food Committee this Friday, December 13. If there is anything you’d like me to bring to Sara or Lauren, please let me know.
	* 1. Parking Control Board**: No Report**
		2. Student Athletic AdvisoryBoard**: No Report**
		3. Substance Advisory Committee**: No Report**
		4. Veteran’s Affairs Report**: No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Samuel Tsongalis**
	1. I hope everyone is doing well, I just wanted to give you all some brief updates about where we are at in the sense of the graduation gowns mentioned in the SGA Town Hall.
2. If you were not at the Town Hall, the idea of self-sustaining graduation gown loaner system was brought forward from an idea initially from an alum of the university.
3. Over the past few weeks, I have talked to Alumni Relations as well as had the opportunity to sit down with the Senior Class Council to receive feedback on the idea. After those meetings, the Senior Class Council recommended me to meet with Nicole West for Academic Affairs due to active involvement with Commencement.
4. Earlier today I was able to meet with Nicole West about graduation gowns. She loved the idea and recommended me to speak with Dr. Lopez to gather information on the bookstore just to make sure we don’t step on any toes, as well as to see if the bookstore is interested in selling specific parts like the tassels.
5. With all this information in mind, Nicole and I also talked about the proposal on academic standing and probation. It is said to be in Academic Policy Committee in the early part of next semester after it comes through All University Committee.
	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. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: ***Kelson Burke***
7. Finance Committee: **Kelson Burke**
8. To preface this proposal, I do want to direct everyone’s attention to the operating budget. I would just like to remind everyone on the legislature that this operating budget that is shown is the rest of the money that SGA has for anything SGA related. That means that this operating budget is not only used for Finance Proposals, but is also used for anything miscellaneous such as if we need to replace or buy anything such as paper, staples and such. The budgets for Owl Ball and the SGA end of the year ceremony have already been taken out of this operating budget.
9. The Finance Committee had received a Finance Proposal from the Women in Business Club. Outlined on the projector are the funds that the club was requesting for. This money was being asked so that Women in Business Club could go to a Women in Leadership Conference at Baypath University. This is a one-day event and would take place on March 27, 2020. At the event, the club would be able to observe multiple speeches from successful women such as Tyra Banks. The Women in Business Club were asked for a total of $2,650.00 in registration for ten students to attend this conference. Upon review of the requested amount, Finance Committee was not in support of the Finance Proposal. The reasons being that Finance Committee found that the amount being asked for per student, which was around $300.00 each, was too much money to warrant a conference that was only active for one day. Furthermore, upon inspection of the conference taking place, there was not enough information given about the event from either research or the club representative for Finance Committee to endorse the proposal. Two out of the three keynote speakers that would be speaking at this conference had not been selected and when asking the club representative what exactly they would be doing at the conference, they were unsure. Due to these reasons, Finance Committee does not support the proposal given by the Women in Business Club. That being stated, I move to support the Finance Committee in their decision on the Women in Business club’s Finance Proposal to not allocate $2,650.00.
10. It was moved and seconded to not allocate $2,650.00 to the Women in Business Club.
11. **Ethan Goodfellow**: Just to be clear: a vote Yes for your proposal is a rejection of the finance proposal.
12. **Kelson Burke**: If you vote yes, you would be in favor of the Finance Committee’s decision.
13. **Audrey Therriault**: Has there been any discussion of the club making another request in the future once more information is known about the conference, or is this a one-time request. And if we say no, do they have plans for asking again?
14. **Kelson Burke**: The deadline date for this specific conference is in January. Since this is the last SGA meeting, we would not be able to go back, look at everything, and discuss.
15. **Thalita Neves**: Could you speak to how much money has been used in the operating budget so far this semester?
16. **Kelson Burke**: We started off with around $23-24,000 not including the Owl Ball budget, the ceremony, or club line items. So, we’ve used about $10,000 this year.
17. **Cameron Kelleher**: Do you think maybe the reason they’re not sure what they’re going to be doing is because they haven’t gone in the past or gotten a chance to get the money yet?
18. **Kelson Burke**: That could be the reason, but I did research myself. There was not enough information that I could find because there are three key note speaker spots, and two of the spots said we have not decided on a person yet.
19. **Katherine Pinney**: Was there any consideration of giving a partial amount and asking students to contribute some of it?
20. **Kelson Burke**: We did bring it up in Finance Committee, but we overall decided not to amend the proposal at all.
21. **Thalita Neves**: Is there maybe another conference you guys have looked at? Or if that’s the price range for most conferences you have looked at? What was the rationale with this conference specifically?
22. **Club Rep**: The rationale was that it’s a Students in Leadership Conference, so it’s a great connection. It also is local at the MassMutual Center. There’s not a ton of conferences in the area with that specific connection. We go to an Entrepreneurship conference every year in the fall. That one is funded by their foundation, so we just came across this and were really interested.
23. **Thalita Neves**: If you do feel really passionately about it, is there other conferences you could go to that are maybe a weekend thing, rather than just guest speakers for one afternoon for something that’s a little pricier. Then you could also request for transportation funds and other things.
24. **Club Rep**: I know they have a women’s conference in Boston, but it is harder to get into. The tickets sell out pretty quickly. They give them a lot of times to companies who give them to their employees. I know that is around the same price point. There are other ones, but this one was higher in our ranking.
25. **Mitchell McKittrick**: Why was it rejected and decided not to amend and ask the club to subsidize?
26. **Kelson Burke**: The Finance Committee didn’t decide to. Let me get back to you because I’m not sure.
27. **Danny Coakley**: Finance Committee thought we were given the impression that they needed as much help as they could get for money, so we weren’t sure how much to drop it. We said no altogether.
28. **Thalita Neves**: Just a point of information: I think there is a lot of good discussion on here, and I think that maybe we can vote to table this perhaps. I’m not sure how the registration goes for this, but I’m sensing some people are on the fence and maybe don’t know. There could be a conversation had. I think that there could be the possibility that Kelson withdraws his motion and we table it, so Kelson can get more information from the club or that conversation can happen here about how much they’re willing to pitch in to make students be able to go to a conference that they feel passionately about. I don’t know if that’s a conversation that you guys want to have here, or we should table for Finance Committee to speak to the club more in depth about.
29. **Kelson Burke**: If we tabled it, we do not have another SGA meeting.
30. **Thalita Neves**: That’s why I’m saying we could have that conversation here; I don’t know about the registration for this. I’m just giving options.
31. **Kelson Burke**: It is early January.
32. **Ethan Goodfellow**: Do you know when the registration deadline is?
33. **Club Rep**: January 11, 2020. It would be challenging to go forward with the proposal if it was amended in the time frame.
34. It was moved and seconded to have a roll call vote.
35. **Thalita Neves**: Before we vote on the roll call vote, can we vote to perhaps table this, so it goes to Finance Committee within the week? Then Exec would meet about it and decide. Sometimes we do that, sometimes it is needed to happen like when time is sensitive like this case. We can obviously take student input on the decision, but it is just another option.
36. **Ryan Meersman**: If the motion to roll call vote was seconded, you can only talk about that.
37. **Audrey Therriault**: Might I suggest to fall into Robert Rules and get to what Thalita was saying previously. We do vote on the roll call vote saying no first, then talk about tabling, then possibly come back to a roll call vote.
38. **Matthew Michalik**: The main motion on the floor right now is the Finance Proposal. The secondary motion is the roll call vote. In order to get back to what Thalita and Audrey are talking about, we have to first deal with this. It can be approved, denied, or withdrawn. We first have to have this vote or discussion on the roll call vote to get back to the discussion before. I think the best move would be to withdraw the roll call vote, that way it hasn’t been said yes or no to do it, and we could come back to it.
39. **Barbara Hand**: Yes, because I think the roll call vote is pertained to the main motion. So, if you’re going to be talking about another issue or tabling it or doing something else, then there could be another roll call vote. Right now, it’s for the main motion.
40. **Matthew Michalik**: No matter what the main motion decision is, right now we are voting on the roll call vote.
41. Motion to have a roll call vote carries.
42. Further questions on the Finance Proposal:
43. **Micthell McKittrick**: Yes is to reject the proposal, and no is to give them the money?
44. **Kelson Burke**: That is correct.
45. **Aaron Lessing**: I know this is a large amount of money. How much of this is going to the speakers?
46. **Kelson Burke**: From what I could tell from my research, most of it is going towards the speakers and a bit is going toward Bay Path students for scholarships.
47. **Aaron Lessing**: The money from our school is going to a different school for other students?
48. **Kelson Burke**: Yes.
49. **Katherine Pinney**: I would like to point out that when we have talked about Finance Proposals in the past, they are first come first serve, whoever asks for the money. I think we should consider this because they haven’t yet asked for the money, and we have enough left. They are asking for significantly less than other clubs have.
50. **Ethan Goodfellow**: Did the club specify if there was any strong academic reason when they came to Finance Committee about going to the conference?
51. **Kelson Burke**: When I asked, the reason was leadership positions and knowing leadership roles and how to get into them, how to be a leader.
52. **Club Rep**: It focuses on women’s role in leadership and business. It’s mostly different aspects of being a leader. We also have a very young club with a lot of freshman. It is important for them to see leadership in campuses and conferences. Seeing these important role models at this conference would be beneficial.
53. **Alex Dotiwalla**: Since two speakers are not determined yet, if we give them money and Bay Path cancels the conference, what then happens?
54. **Kelson Burke**: The money comes back to SGA.
55. **Aaron Lessing**: What are they talking about at the conference?
56. **Barbara Hand**: You have a guest speaker like Tyra Banks. She’s going to tell her story. She’s going to talk about what drives her, what motivates her, her success.
57. **Matthew Michalik**: If anyone would like to end the discussion and bring it to a vote, you motion to move to the previous question. It will then get seconded and we go immediately right into a vote. When we do vote on this, if we vote or table it, the decision is final. What we say right now will be what happens.
58. **Ethan Goodfellow**: How much money is kept in reserves?
59. **Barbara Hand**: We still have operating expenses in the spring semester that we have to pay for.
60. **Ethan Goodfellow**: Do we have a rough estimate of what those expenses will cost?
61. **Barbara Hand**: Maybe $7-8,000. However, what Katie said is true. It is first come, first serve.
62. **Kelson Burke**: Finance Committee decides on certain things for a reason. We don’t just reject it for no reason. So, I hope you will consider what Finance Committee decided because they are chosen to do this.
63. **Aaron Lessing**: Has this proposal ever been denied before?
64. **Kelson Burke**: It has been denied twice in the past.
65. **Scotty Howe**: Freshman year when I was on Finance Committee we were told to look at whether academic and career success were being involved in it. Like Cam Kelleher mentioned, this conference seems to go hand-in-hand with the club. I was never told to judge if it was too expensive or not. Like Katie mentioned, it is first come, first serve.
66. **Samuel Tsongalis**: How many students in this club does the conference pertain to their major or minor from an academic standpoint?
67. **Club Rep**: Between 75-95% are business majors. We do have a few who come just for the business experience because they want to open their own business in the future or just want to learn about being a professional woman in the business world.
68. Motion was made and seconded to stop discussion and move to the previous question to vote. Motion carries.
69. Motion to not allocate $2,650.00 to the Women in Business Club Fails. (the Women in Business Club will receive $2,650.00 to support their Finance Proposal)
70. Foundation Report: **No report**
71. Student Organization Council: **No report**
72. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: ***Cameron Kelleher***
73. Campus Activities Board: **Cameron Kelleher**
74. I hope you are all hanging in there with this last week of classes and finishing up strong.
75. We had a successful trip to NYC this weekend and didn’t leave anyone behind. So that was good.
76. CAB will be holding its last meeting of the semester tomorrow, December 11 at 5:15 in the SGA Room E017.
77. The last Board of Trustee’s meeting is tomorrow December 11 from 8:30 am until 4:15 pm please stop down to show your support.
78. LEGISLATIVE SECRETARTY: **Elizabeth Ferrara**
79. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No report**
80. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **No Report**
81. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: **Melanie Voss**
82. I hope you’re enjoying your last week of classes. Over the weekend Circle K held their annual Breakfast with Santa event in the Dinning Commons. Dave Youngerman volunteered his time to dress up as Santa and take pictures with 201 kids. This senator went above and beyond to be one of the best Santa’s this event has ever seen. Please join me in congratulating Dave Youngerman as Senator of the Week.
83. Thank you guys so much for this great semester on Exec. I’ve truly enjoyed my experience as an Exec member, and I will miss SGA next semester. I can’t wait to see you all when I’m back in the fall.
84. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Matthew Michalik**
85. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
86. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
87. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
88. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
89. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
90. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No report**
91. Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action: **No Report**
92. Advisory Committee on the Westfield State Experience: **No report**
93. Search Committee for Dean of Students**: No Report**
94. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:
95. Commuter Council: **No Report**
96. Senior Class: **Ethan Goodfellow**
97. The Senior Sweatshirts came in and can be picked up at the SAIL window.
98. I move to appoint Matthew McMeekin as Representative to SGA for the Class of 2020 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Motion carries.
99. Our next scheduled meeting is January 22 at 4:45 pm in the SGA Conference room E020
100. Junior Class: **No Report**
101. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
102. First Year Class: **No Report**
103. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
104. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened)
105. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
106. **Grace Boland**: RHA is having an event upstairs that starts at 7:00 pm. They will be serving three courses: fried risotto bites, nachos, mozzarella sticks for the first course. Second course at 7:45 pm is BLT bites, a party size cheese pizza, wings, mac and cheese bar, and tomato and mozzarella tartlets. At 8:15 pm they’re having a popcorn bar, make your own caramel apple bar, cupcake minis, hot chocolate bar, and cheesecake bites. They’ll have make your own trail mix, make your own stuffed animals, wine glass painting. It’s right upstairs outside the fitness center.
107. **Liz Ferrara**: Just a reminder that the Dean of Students Forums and Board of Trustees meeting count as office hours.
108. **Melanie Voss**: Can I see Aaron Lessing after the meeting?
109. **David Youngerman**: There are 158 days until commencement.
110. ROLL CALL: Hunter Hassett, Seldine Chambers-Sutton, Paige Pressey, Olivia Houde, Logan Terenzi, Valerie Eckenroth, Joseph DeMeo and Jason Phillips were absent.
111. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:49 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.*