**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**December 11, 2018**

I. ROLL CALL: Viktor Sabha, Simone LaPlant, Lucas Spearing, Saraiz O’Farrill, Orialys Delgado, and Aleah Grande were absent. Massara Almafrachi and Andre Ruiz were excused.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM December 4, 2018: Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC REMARKS: No Remarks

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Marcus DiBacco**
   1. I move to appoint Thomas Howard as Vice President of Student Life for the remainder of the 2018-2019 Academic year. Motion carries.
   2. We have our fair share of things to talk about before we close up this semester, before we get to it, I would like to begin we get to it. I would like to begin introducing our guest speakers. Is Pat Berube, is more than pivotal member of our campus community. As the director of Health Services, Pat helps to ensure that our students remain healthy both physically, mentally, and emotionally. Especially as we approach this very difficult time of the semester, the services provided to students by Pat and her colleagues can keep us going strong. Please welcome Pat Berube.
2. Pat Berube: Director of Health Services: At Health Services, we like to address monthly health initiatives. In October, we promoted breast cancer and testicular cancer awareness, in November, the Great American Smoke Out, in December World Aids day. We also had a couple of flu vaccine clinics.
3. Health Services is a staff of five, there's myself, another nurse, two nurse practitioners, and the University physician, San Stramco, from Bay State Noble. We operate as Urgent Care, with a walk-in or same day appointment system. Your insurance is not billed unless we send out labs. We carry over-the-counter products and can do certain testing, and fill about a day’s worth of prescriptions.
4. We are represented on the Bay State Advisory and Community Council and they are doing a community survey about health and wellness in the greater Westfield community. Students may be asked to help with that, you can contact Health Services to get involved with that.
5. If you are graduating, please pick up a copy of your vaccine history from us.
6. In March, we will be having our Fresh check day, our Suicide Prevention Initiative, and our Health Fair on March 28.
7. If you have the student health plan and you need help with your insurance, you are welcome to see me for advice. We have also been offering free HIV and STI testing clinics once a month, and they like to take insurance information to try to recapture some funding from insurance, however if you can’t give it, you can just tell them that your testing has to be confidential. With or without insurance, the testing is free to you. We can do testing within the office too, but you will be billed with your insurance and would probably have a copay.
   1. Thank you Pat. Please help me welcome our second speaker who is one, if you don’t already know, you definitely should. Junior Delgado is the Director of the Career Center and as such, serves a crucial role on campus. So much of what we do here, if not everything, concerns our development and growth so that we can be successful after college. The programs, support, and information provided by career services is extremely beneficial in preparing for a career. Please give Junior Delgado a round of applause.
8. **Junior Delgado:**Director of Career Center: Please look at our website to see all the services available from our office. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, there are walk-in hours from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for 15 minute appointments. There is a team of us over in the Career Center. There is myself, Giselle, Dino, Jen, Saúl, Sharon, Lori, and Cassandra. Students can make individual appointments for resume and cover letter development, interviewing skills development, which have changed a lot over the years. How to you sell yourself, what are your skills and what would make you valuable in the workplace as well as in grad school.
9. We do Networking Nights on campus, and our Career fairs coming up March 6 with about 80 organizations. We are also partnering with a variety of organizations, and a large-sized Education Fair in Boston with about 124 organizations that come from many different states and even internationally.
10. Next semester we have a new piece of software coming to the office called Stand Out which will assist you with practice interviewing.
11. We list part-time jobs and opportunities, we also have handshake in our office, which is a multi-platform system, where employers can post jobs to schools for students to apply for. We see about 200 to 400 new opportunities per month. There are also Career Fairs open at other institutions so that you can meet employers from all over. We help all majors at the Career Center.
12. **Cam Swan**: Take advantage of that new software Standout, it is very helpful.
    1. I accept the resignation of Saraiz O’Farrill as the President of New Hall Council.
    2. I accept the resignation of Peter Lucey as the New Hall Representative to Senate.
    3. I move to appoint Peter Lucey as the New Hall President for the remainder of the 2018-2019 academic year. Motion carries.
    4. I move to appoint Thomas Howard as the Vice President of Student Life for the remainder of the 2018-2019 academic year. Motion carries.
    5. I would like to start us off in honoring someone who is not only special to us here, but to the entire University. The first time I saw Carlton Pickron was at Accepted Students Day in 2015. Carlton went up on stage with his super star personality and his booming voice telling us that on May 18, 2019 we will walk across the stage and receive our degrees at commencement. Now here we are, 158 days from that four year prediction and I cannot believe how great an impact Carlton has made on just my life, never mind the countless others he has met.
13. Now Carlton knows a few people and few people know Carlton. In my time here, I have been lucky enough to meet some of the people who not only call Carlton a great friend, but a good man and a good leader. Carlton helped me get into contact with John Gibbons, the U.S. Marshal for the First District. Marshal Gibbons had only good things to say. Later on and in class one day, I met Massachusetts State Police Sergeant Detective Ron Gibbons, a homicide investigator who at the time had moved on the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. He had only good things to say. Earlier this year I met a Jiu Jitsu teacher who remembered Carlton from some time ago. Jim Harpe had only good things to say. One of our Trustees, Ed Sullivan also knew Carlton. As you might have guessed, he only had good things to say. It’s easy to see that Carlton has had a positive impact on just about everyone we could find and then some who found us. And now it’s our turn to say a few good things.
14. **Marcus DiBacco**: Carlton Pickron and I have both studied the Marital Arts. The reason why we discovered this is because in my office I have a poster of Bruce Lee, the famed Martial Arts master. When Carlton saw this he asked me about it. I expressed to him that I consider Bruce Lee as my role model and interestingly enough, Carlton said the same for him. Here we were, two very different people who learned from the same master. As such, there is one lesson taken from our mentor that I think perfectly describes Carlton. “Real living, is living for others”.
15. Nothing we say or do here tonight will be able to express our sincerest gratitude for you tonight, but I will be damned if we do not try anyways. Carlton, thank you for all that you have done for the students here at Westfield State University. I am so glad that I have been able to serve as the last President with you and I am deeply honored to present you with this gift.
16. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: Thank you so much! It has been a blessing to have served the students. Thank you, thank you. Keep doing great things and great work. Finish strong this semester, and your time here. Make Westfield proud. And always know that I am proud to have been a part of your life that little bit that I have been able to share. Peace be with you all. Take care.
    1. Items not listed on the agenda.
17. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
    1. Here is a brief overview of what we talked about today at the Board Meeting.
18. Academic and Student Affairs – discussed national and local trends in Student Government.
19. Finance and Capital Assets – discussed potential fee increases for the next academic year and voted on the refinancing of the University Hall debt.
20. Advancement and Enrollment Management – overview of how these departments are doing.
21. Audit – updates on current internal audits.
22. The most notable aspect of Wednesday’s board meeting, however, was not board related at all; the most notable aspect was hearing about the ways in which Carlton Pickron has affected all tenants of the Westfield State community. This idea of community has been an issue on our campus for the better part of my four years here, however Carlton has always set an example of what an extraordinary community member looks like. Through his support of and passion for students, he has made our campus a better place. As my fellow board members did, I’d like to share a story about Carlton’s impact on my family with all of you.
23. When my brother came to campus for accepted students’ day he met Carlton. That day, when he came home, he was excited and proud to say he wanted to go to Westfield State, and all I heard about was how awesome the Vice President of Student Affairs was. Carlton made my brother feel like he was a part of the community at Westfield before he had even deposited. Seeing my brother so excited about Westfield made me think about going there, and looking back on it I would not be standing here in front of you today if he hadn’t been.
24. I have always had a firm belief that academics in the classroom should be a secondary priority when it comes to higher education. The primary responsibility of an institution of higher education, in my opinion, is to cultivate open-minded and rational citizens. For this aspect of my education, I could not have asked for a better teacher. Carlton, thank you for all that you have done for me, my family, and Westfield State.
    1. All University Committee: **No Report**

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

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

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

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Thomas Howard**
   1. I am proud to accept this appointment as Vice President of Student Life. I will provide the Student Affairs Committee, Diversity/Inclusion Committee, Food Services Committee, Parking Control Board, Student Advisory Board, Substance Advisory committee, as well as Veteran Services the attention and diligence that they all deserve.
2. My office hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 2:15pm and ending at 4:15 pm. do not hesitate to contact my email [vpstudentlife.sga@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:vpstudentlife.sga@westfield.ma.edu), or my office phone 413-572-5548.
3. Please comes seek me out during that time to chat about any and all concerns, or proposals.
4. I hope everyone experiences a successful Finals Week, and a restful, relaxing Winter Break. I will be excited to see you all come the Spring, starting the semester with our best foot forward
   1. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
   3. Food Services Committee: **Elizabeth Ferrara**
5. The DC is looking into getting tater tots worked into their menu, they are also looking into getting cinnamon shakers for all your cinnamon needs.
6. As you may have noticed there are collection bins in all the Res Halls where you can return any DC dishes that may have found their way into your rooms, so put any dishes you have in there.
7. Some of you may have taken advantage of the sick day baskets available from the DC, there are allergen friendly baskets available upon request now.
8. Look for changes to Clean Eats coming next semester.
9. This Thursday, December 13 there will be Gingerbread Cookie decorating in the DC.
10. The hours of operation for dining services are posted for finals week and winter break, if anyone is staying here**.** 
    1. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
    2. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
    3. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
    4. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **Sean Manion**
11. The Veteran’s & Military Services would like to extend a sign of appreciation to Carlton Pickron. Thank you for your many years of service to this institution and good luck to you with what the future has in store.
12. Many of you may have already seen on the news, but tragedy struck the City of Worcester on Sunday morning. Firefighter Christopher Roy was pulled from a burning building and transported to the nearest hospital where he untimely died of his injuries. Please, if we could have a moment of silence was we honor the Firefighter Roy and his selfless sacrifice.
13. As you all go home for the holidays and enjoy spending time with your families and friends, around the dinner table or Christmas tree, please take a moment of your time to think of our first responders and other emergency personnel. They are away from their families ready to answer a call for help from a stranger on the worst day of their life, and in some cases give their life.
14. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Madeleine Scott**
    1. Just a few reminders heading into the Spring semester; please make use of your College Dean, they are here to make things easier for you and for you to have more access to Administrators without jumping through hoops.
15. Winter Classes will begin on January 7, with Spring Classes beginning on January 22.
16. Dr. Pickron congratulations on your last SGA meeting. I wanted to say thank you for being a great advocate for the students during your time here. You are a reliable resource for any and all issues and I have appreciated getting to know you this fall. I hope you enjoy a happy retirement and get to do some super cool stuff.
    1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
    2. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
    3. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
    4. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
    5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
    6. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
    7. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
17. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Thalita Neves**
    1. Finance Committee: Thalita Neves
18. Finance Committee received a Finance Proposal from Circle K last week. Outlined on the projector is the funds that they are requesting. They are asking for this money in order to pay for a conference happening March 22-24. They are asking for $1,360.00 for registration and $66.60 for transportation. They are requesting a total of $1426.60 for the event where they will attend multiple workshops and work on volunteerism. Upon review of the requested amount, the finance committee endorsed this proposal.
19. **Cam Swan**: Is this an annual conference?
20. **Thalita Neves**: yes.
21. I move to allocate $1426.60 to the Circle K. Motion carries.
22. Finance Committee also received another Finance Proposal from the American Choral Directors Association for two students to go to a conference that happens every other year. This conference is specific to Choral Directors and it is something both these students are looking to do after they graduate from Westfield. They are asking for $458.00 for registration, and $676.00 for hotel accommodations. Upon review of the requested amount, the finance committee endorsed this proposal.
23. **Cam Swan**: How many members does this club have?
24. **Sam Tsongalis**: Ten active members
25. **Cam Swan**: Why are only two people going?
26. **Sam Tsongalis**: Because the National Conference is in Kansas City, but at the same time there is a second conference in Boston, so other students opted to go to Boston so they don’t miss class. But the National Conference is more specific to these student’s ranges of study.
27. **Matt Howe**: Shouldn’t all the students simply go to Boston instead of just a few students going to the National Conference?
28. **Sam Tsongalis**: This specific conference is more pertinent to all aspect of the major. The one in Boston is geared towards teaching at a younger level where these students are looking to teach college students.
29. **Joey Joyal**: Is it necessary to have two rooms for two students?
30. **Sam Tsongalis**: Yes, because the students are opposite genders.
31. I move to allocate $1,134.00 to the American Choral Directors Association student chapter. Motion carries.
    1. Foundation Report: **No Report**
    2. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
32. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Matthew Howe**
33. Campus Activities Board**: Matthew Howe**
34. Here are the final events as the semester winds down.
35. The Giving Tree is today. If you have found a paper tree around campus, definitely go bck and snatch it and bring it to the S.A.I.L. window. There are prizes underneath the tree that need to be claimed. This is an all-day event so there is still time to collect.
36. Also today, December 11 from 4:00pm until 8:00pm there is the Chill Zone up in the Library. Enjoy free chair massages, snacks, coloring and raffle prizes. If you wanted to enjoy this buy you are too busy will finals, you’re in luck it is happening tomorrow too.
37. Public Safety is running their annual Stuff-a-Cruiser drive. Everything that is collected goes to the New Beginnings Shelters. If you don’t know about these shelters they are places where victims of domestic abuse can turn to. Any item donation would be hugely appreciated. This drive runs from 2:00pm until 5:00pm on the green.
38. December 12 CAB is hosting Trivia in the Owl’s Nest. This month’s theme is finish that Vine. We all love and miss Vine dearly so come by and relive some iconic videos.
39. On Thursday, December 13 at 8:00pm in the DC there will be gingerbread cookie decorating.
40. The New York City trip was a huge success and was fun for all.
41. Our next scheduled CAB meeting is December 12 at 5:00 pm in the SGA room.
42. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
43. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
44. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Elizabeth Ferrara/Courtney Smith**
    1. Executive Secretary Report: Elizabeth Ferrara
45. I just wanted to take the time to thank all of you for a great semester. I also wanted to give you a heads up for what is to come next semester.
46. Right when we get back, Owl Ball committee will be starting up. If anyone is interested in joining, please let me know, you can email me at Execsec.sga. There will be more information to come in the spring.
47. Carlton, although my time on SGA exec with you has been short, your kindness has been a huge part of my time here at Westfield State. When I first heard about the infamous CP the VP at Accepted Student’s day I knew I wanted to meet you. You soon became a friendly face that I looked forward to seeing all over campus. Whenever I saw you at an event or meeting my attention went straight to you because I know that you had something positive and thoughtful to say. I really admire that about you. Carlton, thank you for your time here with all of us: you are an inspiration.
    1. Legislative Secretary Report: **Courtney Smith**
48. I would like to thank you all for all the hard work you have done regarding SGA this semester. The volunteering you have done at various events through your office hours has not gone unnoticed and your efforts have created a stronger sense of community between various departments. Secondly, there will be no office hours next week, and I hope you all have a great winter break.
49. I would also like to take this time to address Carlton, by sharing a story. I was a senior in High School and I came to an accepted student’s day at Westfield State, with my head filled with various schools unsure of which one to select. I remember specifically that Carlton asked the group of accepted students to go and stand on the Green and look around at the campus and see if we could picture ourselves at Westfield State. I, of course did just that. I’m not sure if it were not for that I would be at this school today. Carlton has created Westfield State to be a positive and uplifting community which has allowed me to succeed to my greatest ability. Thank you for everything you have done for SGA Carlton, and for the campus community, we will surely miss you.
50. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Jacob O’Kane**
51. Rules and Regulations Committee: **Jake O’Kane**
52. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
53. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
    1. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
    2. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
    3. Advisory Committee on the CURCA**: No Report**
    4. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No Report**
    5. Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Affirmative Action: **No Report**
54. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
55. Commuter Council: **No Report**
56. Senior Class: **No Report**
57. Junior Class**: No Report**
58. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
59. First Year Class: **No Report**
60. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
61. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
62. Davis Hall: **No Report**
63. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
64. Lammers Hall**: No Report**
65. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
66. New Hall**: No Report**
67. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
68. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS:
   1. **Thalita Neves**: I move to open new business. Motion carries.
   2. **Thalita Neves**: I just wanted to open New Business to give any senators a chance to talk about Carlton. As you all know, CP the VP will be leaving us this semester.
3. Many of us have been lucky to know him while we’ve been at WSU, and I can say that I am one of those people. I’ve never told him this before, but I first met Carlton when I came to an Open House at Westfield State my senior year of high school. Fun fact: I came to the Open House that actually wasn’t supposed to happen because there was a water problem. I remember sitting in Dever Stage and Carlton coming up to the small group of us and saying “None of you are supposed to be here right now because this Open House was technically cancelled.” Being a tour guide, I can only imagine the chaos surrounding this Open House, but somehow Carlton made the small crowd feel at home despite the chaos that was surrounding him. After we broke out into different sessions, I remember turning to my mom and saying “Wow! I want to be friends with that guy, he was just so happy!
4. Now fast forward to this year, Marcus DiBacco and I were asked to model the Westfield State Tartan that is being sold to benefit a scholarship for students who attend a high school in Westfield and will be going to WSU. I modelled the scarf and Marcus modelled the tie. After Carlton saw the advertisement for the tartan, he asked me where my tartan was. I told him that although I spoke to many people in order to get one sent my way, nobody budged. I even spoke to the President about getting paid for my time as a model (which obviously isn’t cheap because I’m so good) and he said “You’ll be happy to know that the money is going towards a scholarship to benefit fellow students.” My connections clearly aren’t as good as Carltons because the day after I talked to him about this and was clearly joking about getting the scarf, I get an email from him saying that mine and Marcus’ tartan is on the way. You don’t often see many administrators go out of their way for students the way Carlton does. He does things out of the kindness of his heart and is one of the few that go out of his way to hear student concerns and advocate for them.
5. When I was meeting with the search committee that is looking for a new VP of Student Affairs, I told them that I wanted somebody exactly like Carlton. Unfortunately, I don’t think we’ll find somebody else that has your energy, drive or dedication to Westfield, but if we find somebody who has just a fourth of it, I’ll be happy. I wish you a happy retirement and I hope you never forget you’re always welcome in the SGA room.
6. **Shane Stocker**: On behalf of the Senior Class Council, thank you, just thank you. You know things get a little intense down in our council meetings every once in a while, and you have always been a great person to turn to. Thank you for being unbiased and helpful in every way that you can, we really appreciate that. I came into this whole SGA World completely and knowing of what was about to happen. You made that so much easier for me because I could always ask you an honest question and get an honest answer. Thank you, and I'm sure you'll be hearing from me. Thanks.
7. **Tommy Howard**: The first time I met CP was likely the first time any of you met him. See if he's pledged had a lasting effect on not only my education here at Westfield State but also with all my interactions with students, faculty, staff, and administration. Carlton showed me how to treat people with dignity and respect which all people on this campus deserve. Your welcoming presence and inclusive attitude has made me feel as much of a student here as anyone else, especially coming from a commuter’s perspective. The time spent chatting in passing, and randomly looking for offices on Ely second floor, to have you invite me into your office to chat meant a lot to me. These moments truly made me feel like an owl. Thank you so much for your time and your service.
8. **Lorenz Beltran**: The first time I'm met Carlton was actually at my orientation, just a few months ago. I was a lot shyer back then, but when Carlton did the pledge and said, “Repeat after me,” I was only one that yelled it. Because you made me feel so comfortable, that just shows how nice you are. You showed interest in our first council meeting, we were all scared, but you gave us confidence to continue doing what class councils do. Thank you.
9. **Marcus Payne**: I came here to play hockey, one of the first events I went to was on the green for a sports event, and Carlton gets up to speak and it says CP the VP on the back of a hockey jersey, which caught me off guard. Later, I was talking to my coach and I found out that you are a huge part of the reason that hockey came back to Westfield State about 10 years ago. So, for me and the rest of the team, I’d like to thank you for that, as well as such a positive presence on campus.
10. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Carlton, you have become a staple to Westfield State. Although I have had limited interactions with you I can say that the University won’t be the same without you. I hope your next journey is filled with adventure and relaxation, you deserve it.
11. **Mike Reid**: Carlton, I just want to thank you for your influence, the short little conversations that we have, when I don’t even realize that you are talking to me while I’m walking and spacing out. Thanks for talking to me and the impact that you have had on Westfield State.
12. **Dave Youngerman**: Thanks for all the service that you have provided Westfield State. I remember seeing you at accepted student’s day, new student orientation, and even at convocation. Seeing you then, and seeing how enthusiastic and supportive of the students you were then, showed me how lucky I am to come to Westfield State. I’m really going to miss you. It is so cool to see the face of Westfield State making a presence all over the place. Thank you and I wish you luck.
    1. **Thalita Neves**: I move to close New Business. Motion carries.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   1. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: We have a new member of the staff at Westfield State University here. Tony Casciano is going to introduce him. He just learned what the expectations are from hearing all of that. And thank you all.
   2. **Tony Casciano**: This is Tom Kettle, he comes from Brown University. He is our new Emergency Manager. This is his second day. I welcome Tom here.
   3. **Tom Kettle**: I met some of you when I came here and did a presentation. Coming here and feeling the warmth of the community made me want to come to Westfield. It’s a great place to be. I’m here for you guys, I’m here for your safety, we want to be prepared for anything that happens in the future, and I’m going to be coming to you guys for some advice and input on the future of Westfield.
   4. **Shane Stocker**: On Wednesday night, December 12 in the Ely club room from 6:00pm-8:00pm come take a picture with Santa for a Christmas card, it is $5.00, sponsored by 2019 Class Council. And there will be free candy.
   5. **Dave Youngerman**: After you go to the Class of 2019 event, stop by University Hall for the Class of 2020’s event. We are showing the Santa Claus with Tim Allen. And there will be hot chocolate and desserts there.
   6. **Sam Tsongalis: 158** days until commencement**.**

1. ROLL CALL: Viktor Sabha, Simone LaPlant, Lucus Spearing, Orialys Delgado and Aleah Grande were absent. Massara Almafrachi and Andre Ruiz were excused.
2. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:26 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.*