**Student Government Association Minutes**

February 12, 2013

1. ROLL CALL: All were present.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 05, 2013: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. Hi everyone. I hope you enjoyed your four day weekend and was able to stay safe during the storm. Tonight, we have Professor Trudy Knowles from the Education Department to speak about a new program on campus.
5. **Trudy Knowles**: Hi everyone, thank you for having me. I’m from the education department and I’ve been on campus for over twenty years. Many years ago, students who with disabilities were not given the opportunity to have a college education. That began to change in 1970, when the U.S. Congress decided that all kids have a right to go, to be educated with their peers. They deserve the right to be there and be included with social development with their peers. Until about ten years ago, we considered college a place for smart kids, who passed the test and got accepted. If you couldn’t do that, you couldn’t go to college, even though college is also about learning to be independent, developing those skills and knowledge to function in the world as an adult. The college environment was very exclusive for people who were smart.
6. In Massachusetts, all community colleges have programs for these students with cognitive disabilities and Bridgewater State and UMass Boston are the only state schools. The purpose is for students to expand their academic knowledge, and these students are far exceeding other’s expectations because they have the willingness to learn. They want the opportunity to be involved with their peers, in clubs, in sports, and so on. And these students also need the opportunity to develop skills to be employed because so many of them are underemployed. The state is begging us to start this program here at Westfield State. And we’re working here to make this a reality and I’d like to thank SGA for bringing these students this opportunity. Our grant deadline is Friday so we’re excited about all our support. I’d love to answer any questions so that you’re all on board for support.
7. **Kevin Soucie**: Are they going to be having personal tutoring from teachers or on the side?
8. **Trudy Knowles:** That’s a great question. We’re talking about having an inclusive concurrent enrollment program. So, the state basically takes careof these individuals until they are 22, so the school system is required to find a program for them. The public school system would send an academic mentor with them to class, as long as they’d need, on an as need or desired based, depending on the student’s development in the classroom. Maybe just as an assistant with homework. We would also be counting on students to act as social mentor, to get these students involved in the social life on campus.
9. **Josh Clark:** What percentage of the grant will fund this program?
10. **Trudy Knowles:** We’ve been informed by the President’s office that if we start this program, we would have to sustained it, through the grants. Part of the responsibility would fall under the school districts, which they are able to provide to sustain this program. Bridgewater State runs their program on about $120,000-$130,000 which has come, so far, from implementation grants from the state. There are terms in terms of needing an office, a space, a desk, a sign, papers and pencils, etc. A lot of that can come from indirect costs from the grant.
11. **Josh Clark:** When would we expect this program to be implemented?
12. **Trudy Knowles:** If we get the grant, we should be able to start a pilot of the program in the fall. In the past few months, we’ve been working with six school districts in the area to get involved with Westfield that would, each be sending a student.
13. **Olivia Dumas**: I actually work with people with intellectual disabilities at home and I know of some who have participated in a similar program at Lesley and HCC, and it’s been an amazing experience for them, so I’d like to say that I’m in full support of this.
14. **Rebecca DiVico**: Is this program going to be in connection with the Banocos Center or completely separate?
15. **Trudy Knowles**: It is not going to part of the Banacos Center. We’re looking into where it will be housed and we’re looking at having it be part of the department of education.
16. **Luiz Arzola**: What kind of support are you asking to help you with?
17. **Trudy Knowles**: We’re ready with the grant, so the support I’m seeking form you, is to be vocal about your support or send letters to the President and Vice Presidents voicing your support. Just speaking up for the power of this program for these individuals. If it comes to campus, I’d love to have you guys involved directly.
18. **Taylor Fote**: I think this is a great opportunity to benefit Westfield, so I hope you guys are in full support. It’s a learning opportunity and enriches both their lives and our own. Trudy Knowles isn’t asking a lot of us, and we should really show our support.
19. **Trudy Knowles**: I’ve been in contact with other schools involved with these programs and they’ve all talked about how it’s completely changed the culture of their campus. Students begin to see that everyone has worth and that everyone has the opportunity to learn, which changes people’s perspective.
20. **Kevin Soucie**: I agree with supporting this completely. Are there specific students already selected for this program?
21. **Trudy Knowles**: This program is called inclusive concurrent enrollment, so these students will be enrolled in high school and college courses at the same time. We’re working with Chicopee, Ludlow, Gateway, Southwick, Palmer and Amherst school districts, because HCC is working with Westfield and Agawam. The students would be chosen by the school district by the Special Education Coordinator who feels like the student would actually benefit from this program. So, they would look at who wants to participate and who could participate.
22. **Isaac Matson**: I actually went to a Community College before transferring to Westfield so, I actually saw this program in implementation there. I was in the same classroom as some to the students you are describing and it was a great experience. I know for a fact that they loved their experience at the school and the culture change on campus was really cool. These kids get to experience the culture on campus, but at the same time, we as students are experiencing a culture that’s different from what we’re used to associating with. I’m definitely in support of this.
23. **Trudy Knowles**: What’s so inspiring is that when these kids are in a classroom, they actually want to learn and they work hard.
24. Thank you Trudy. I’d like you all to know that last semester, the Executive Board and I expressed our support for this program to President Dobelle, which is what has kind of pushed it forward this semester. I appreciate learning about that progress tonight.
25. I would first like to thank everyone for coming out last week. I’d especially like to thank
26. Last Wednesday, February 6th we had the Suicide Prevention Program and I’d like to thank all of you who did come. We had about 30 attendees, including CAB members.
27. February is Black History Month. There are posters up around campus with the calendar of events, as well as online at the Westfield homepage.
28. Lee Mun Wah, the national diversity consultant, we have been talking about the past few weeks, is going to be here on Thursday, February 14th. The keynote starts at 9:00 am. The student workshop is 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and the film is being shown at 5:00 pm. This is all in the Scanlon Banquet Hall and I think it would be great to have a strong SGA presence there, if you’re available.
29. Thursday, February 21st is the second annual Horace Mann Award Ceremony, held in Scanlon Banquet Hall. This event honors people of the Westfield community, that we feel have lived up to Horace Mann’s legacy and they receive honorary degrees for the work that they’ve done. That starts at 5:00 pm and the Executive Board and myself will be there and it would be great to see a student turnout.
30. I’d like to congratulate the women’
31. I’d like to remind you all that President Obama will be presenting the State of the Union Address tonight, February 12th at 7:00 pm and I’ve been looking at highlights of his topics and it’s pretty interesting.
32. We’ve got a lot coming up in the next few weeks, so look out for election posters, that will be going up soon, Blue Key Award nominations will be coming out next week, and Owl Ball advertisements will continue to roll out, so just keep talking up these things with your friends, as we need a really good turnout for elections, as well as the Owl Ball, and we’d like to see a nice variety of students nominated for the Blue Key Award.
33. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 19th at 5:30 pm.
34. Items not listed on Agenda.
35. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
36. An email went out to all students about State House Advocacy Day and the Student Leadership Conference. If you have any interest in either event pleases plan to attend the interest and planning meeting next Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00 pm.
37. The board will meet tomorrow at 4:30 pm in the Club room, it will be a very quick meeting and you will never have a better opportunity to come to a Board meeting.
38. The Strategic Planning retreat is Friday, February 15th; I will bring back all the information that comes out of that, next week.
39. All University Committee**: No Report**
40. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
41. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
42. I hope you all had a great few snow days.
    * + 1. The blood drive is tomorrow, February 13th, I will be passing around the volunteer sheet one more time. If you have any time tomorrow from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm please sign up and help out. It’s a unit opportunity and you do need four this month. I can’t be there the whole time so it would rally help me out. If you signed up, please, show up and avoid an awkward phone call from someone you don’t know.
        2. If you haven’t already don’t forget to pay your housing deposit, also check out your email the housing gazette was sent out last week, it is full of information you may have questions on.
        3. Just a reminder the student affairs committee is meeting next Wednesday, February 20th at 3:00 pm in Ely 210. If you were on the committee last semester and can’t make that time now please see me after the meeting.
        4. Finally, I want to congratulate Miss Stephanie Close on her engagement to her wonderful, now fiancé, and if you can make the wedding it is a unit opportunity.
43. Health Committee: **No Report**
44. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
45. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
46. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
47. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
2. I just want to remind you all that Tomorrow, February 13th at 3:30 pm George Mehaffy, The Vice President of Academic Leadership and Change at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities will be speaking in Scanlon Banquet Hall. I am urging you all to go if you can make it, like I’ve said Academic Affairs is really reaching out to those who sit on SGA to attend as it can really educate us, and all students on what is going on with higher education.
3. The International Programs Office wanted me to let you know about a few events coming up.
4. On February 12th in the Loughman Living room 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm there will be a Welcome Back Reception and presentations by returned Study Abroad, NSE and short-term program students and faculty.
5. On February 13th in Scanlon Banquet Hall C from 4:30 pm until 5:30 pm there will be a Study Abroad and Exchange information session.
6. On February 20th in Scanlon Banquet Hall A & B from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm there will be a Study Abroad Fair with Academic Programs International, Center for International Studies, Council on International Education Exchange, Edge Hill University, England and Semester at Sea.
7. As many of you may or may not know, reading day has been taken out of the finals schedule. Academic Affairs is not set with an updated schedule. Once they have the set schedule I will let you all know and I’m going to ask if professors can announce it in their classes as well.
8. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
9. Curriculum Committee: No Report
10. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
11. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
12. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
13. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
14. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
15. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
16. Programming update: Michelle Hanney
17. I have a couple of things tonight.
18. Tomorrow night, February 13th at 8:00 pm is trivia in the Owl’s nest and there will be free pizza as always.
19. Next week, February 21st will be WSU’s got Talent at 7:30 pm at Dever Stage. As of now I believe we have five or six signed up, so tell your friends or come find us in the DC this week to sign up. The grand prize will be four Bruins tickets and a limo to and from the game. Also, hosting the event will be Steve Kligerman and Brandon Burr. The judges for the event will be Carlton Pickron, Jessika Murphy, Maria Lees and Drew Dalesandro.
20. I and two other CAB executive members, one CAB member and Jessika Murphy, our advisor, will be leaving Friday morning, February 15th until next Wednesday, February 20th for Nashville Tennessee to NACA Nationals. We are very excited to see many new performers and possible events we can book and bring to campus.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. Finance Report: Joshua Frank
3. I have three finance proposals tonight.
4. The Nursing Club is looking for funds to conduct a community Engagement project at their clinical sight for the residential patients that are recovering with drug and alcohol addictions. The students are using picture drawing to be able to have the residents express their positives in recovery. They then will take the art work the patients make and turn them into calendars for them. The club is going through the printing center on campus. The printing center gave them an official estimate of $150.00. I move to allocate $150.00 to the Nursing Club, to conduct their Community Engagement Project. Motion passed.
5. The Athletic Training Club is asking for funds to attend the 28th annual sports Medicine Symposium. At the conference they will have a hands on learning experience with new updates for emergency situations in Athletic Training. They are asking for funds to cover half of the registration cost for 25 students. I move to allocate $1,250.00 to the Athletic Training Club. Motion passed.
6. The Republican Club is looking for funds to attend the conservative Political action conference in National Harbor, Maryland. They are asking for help with the hotel, gasoline and tickets. The conference is four days and students will participate in a number of activities, and attend many key note speakers while they are there. With this I move to allocate $1,626.86 to the Republican Club to attend the C-Pac Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. Motion passed.
7. Foundation Report**: No Report**
8. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
9. Executive Secretary Report: Alexis Wagner
10. This week I’d like to honor our Senator of the Week; which is an award to a noteworthy senator, nominated by another senator. This senator has been going above and beyond with her SGA duties, such as taking the lead of a clothing drive and maintaining high dedication to her fellow senators and peers, even with a very tough and packed academic schedule. She is always doing something for SGA and gets results. She is a great senator and a great person. Congratulations to Olivia Dumas.
11. Be sure to grab a nomination form hanging on the ouside of my desk to nominate people, such as Olivia, for being outstanding members of SGA.
12. The Owl Ball Committee meeting was interfered by the snow, so I just have a few questions for my committee members when they have a moment after the meeting.
13. Legislative Secretary Report: Sarah Hegarty
14. Hello everyone. February unit calendars are out. Four are due by Thursday, February 28th. Tonight I would like to form the Blue Key Committee. As many of you know the Blue Key Award is the most prestigious award given out by SGA. We like to honor and recognize the unsung heroes of Westfield State University whose outstanding achievement and dedication to the University has made an impact in the community. These awards can be won by anyone regardless of class; it is not just for upperclassmen and there is no limit to the amount of winners. The committee will not meet until later March, but we do need to form it tonight. I need two members to be nominated form each class.
15. Freshman Class: Melvin Rivera and Michael Janchuk
16. Sophmore Class: Richard Darrach and Rebecca DiVico
17. Junior Class: Stone Koury and Amanda McCarthy
18. Senior Class: Tim Egan and Brandon Burr
19. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Isaac Matson
20. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
21. Commuter Council: **Luis Arzola**
22. Hope you all were safe this weekend and got the most from the unexpected extended vacation.
23. The Valentines table will be rescheduled for February 14th, due to the weather.
24. We are also moving the Pizza Galore to a later date. We still have some logistical issuers to take care of.
25. Our next scheduled meeting is on February 27th at 1:30 pm in the Campus Center Room 20.
26. Senior Class: **Brandon Burr**
    1. So word on the street is we have about 100 senior packets sold. We are extremely excited about that and want to remind you that if you have friends who haven’t purchased one tell them to do so soon. They are selling fast.
    2. Great news sweatshirts are ordered. They will be arriving around February 26th and we will inform all students who purchase don, once they arrive. They will be down here to be picked up.
    3. We met with our representative from American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and they are extremely excited to help us out. We will begin official planning tomorrow night, February 13th. We will have many more details next week. The walk is Sunday, April 7th at Woodward. You can still register teams on line, I will email the link to Stephanie Close so she can send it out to all of you.
    4. I would love to see all of SGA there supporting the walk
27. Junior Class: **Brittany Moniz**
28. The class councils have raised $394.16 to date for Hurricane Sandy Relief. We are making our donation to the Alliance for Global Justice/occupy Sandy.
29. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday February 14th at 4:00 pm in the SGA conference Room.
30. Sophomore Class: **Richard Darrach**
31. Candy Gram sales are going very well, look for us in Ely and The DC tomorrow, February 13th and Thursday, February 14th.
32. As always keep Brown Bag Bingo, March 1st on your calendar.
33. Can I see the Hall Council Presidents after the meeting?
34. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 13th at 4:30 pm in the SGA conference room.
35. Freshman Class: **No Report**
36. Apartment Complex: Diane Lego
37. Last night, February 11th the Apartment Complex hosted a Valentine’s Day themed event that consisted of a movie and a candy bar where participants could make their own bags of goodies, including Oreos dipped in chocolate.
38. We have also; decided upon a t-shirt design based on the submissions we received during our design contest. We hope to order them as soon as possible and have them handed out before Spring Break.
39. We have decided upon meeting bi-weekly at 8:00 pm on Wednesdays.
40. Our next scheduled meeting will be February 13th at 8:00 pm in the Apartment Complex RD office.
41. Courtney Hall**: Lindsey Keating**
    * + 1. Hosting a Valentine’s Day event tomorrow, Wednesday February 13th at 6:00 pm for our residents to make a little something for their Valentine, Like a card or a flower made out of tissue paper.
        2. Our next scheduled meeting is February 14th at 6:00 pm in Courtney Hall.
42. Davis Hall: **No Report**
43. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
44. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
45. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
46. New Hall: **Megan Brochu**
47. I accept the resignation of Ashley LeBlanc as New Halls Representative to Senate.
48. I move to appoint Lindsey Poulin as the New Hall representative to Senate for the remainder of the 2012-2013 Academic year. Motion passed.
49. I move to appoint Sarah Varghes as the New Hall representative eto Senate for the remainder of the 2012-2013 Academic year. Motion passed.
50. Scanlon Hall: **Ryan Lasco**
51. We have a t-shirt design contest starting today, If you want to design a shirt, please design it on 8.5” x 11” piece of paper. The winner received a free t-shirt a pizza party for their room and a $25.00 Walmart gift card.
52. I move to appoint Kevin Soucie as Scanlon Halls Repetitive to Senate for the remainder of the 2012-2013 Academic year.
53. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 19th at 7:30 pm in the Scanlon lobby.
54. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
55. NEW BUSINESS:
56. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
57. Isaac Matson: Rules and Regulations Committee will be meeting briefly after this?
58. Richard Darrach: Can I see the Hall Council Presidents after this?
59. Alexis Wagner: Owl Ball Committee, can you see me after this?
60. Taylor Fote: Can I get the Blood Drive sign ups and Can I see the Hall Council Presidents after Richard Darrach?
61. 7:00 pm State of the Union Address.
62. **Brandon Burr**: 94 days until commencement.
63. ROLL CALL: Jessica Weaver was absent.
64. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.