**Student Government Association Minutes**

February 16, 2016

1. ROLL CALL: Lezlie Campbell, Ariel St. Germaine, Brianna Pelloso, and Gabby Knight were absent. Shannon Cullinane, Connor Glynn, Mike Guertin, Taylor Saltmarsh, Al Fava, Maggie Mastroianni, Molly Romano, Jess Hanam, Mark Mankus and Evan Mines were excused. Andrew Morin and Tyquan Robles sent alternates.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 09, 2016: Minutes were approved.
3. **Brendan McKee**: I move to strike the phrase “I move to amend the minutes to say January 26, 2016 instead of December 8, 2015” from the minutes. Motion carries.
4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Evelyn Dina*
5. Tonight we have the Director of the Counseling Center, Tammy Bringaze, to speak on behalf of the counseling center, what services it offers to students, and some of their plans for the spring.
6. **Tammy Bringaze**: First of all, thank you so much, it’s wonderful to have the opportunity to come and speak to you tonight. My name is Tammy Bringaze, Julia Nedry is our outreach counselor; because she is a woman of many hats, she has another program tonight. I’m going to let Julia begin and talk about some of the programs and plans that she has, and then I will finish and talk a little bit about what we’re seeing this semester and see if I can answer any questions.
7. **Julia Nedry**: I’m Julia, I do outreach; half counseling, half outreach. Last year, I spoke a little bit about what outreach stuff we were doing, but I just thought this would be a really great opportunity to talk about the different programs we have going on this semester because we know you guys are student leaders and you can spread it.
8. The first thing I want to mention is that we do this thing called The Finals Stress Less Study Break, which includes massages in the library right before finals. We sponsor this thing where a couple days before finals start, we have massage therapists come into the library, we have food, we have coloring. It’s just this really great way to take a break, put aside everything, and just remind you that it’s really important for your brain to take rests and breaks. That happens every semester, and that will happen right before finals this semester.
9. Another one that I want to talk about is that we have started an Instagram for the counseling center, we get a lot of weird looks for that one, but the idea of having Instagram for the Counseling Center is to put something positive in your Instagram feed, there’s a lot of stuff where you see things and think down about yourself, so it puts positivity in your Instagram feed. It’s called ReachOutWSU, and we’re going to be starting Humans of WSU this semester. We’re also going to have prizes and raffles; it’s all good stuff so please spread that around.
10. Another thing that we’re doing is Tell Me About Your Day. There are wristbands that are white with black lettering that say ‘TMAYD’, so the idea of Tell Me About Your Day is to help people not feel alone. If you’re a student who is not really into clubs, SGA, any of that stuff, it can be really easy to feel isolated on this campus. If you see someone with this wristband, the idea is, just knowing that someone cares. It’s not to say you’re a counselor or everyone needs to tell you about their day, we’re doing this, so it can symbolize feeling important and caring because we’re all a part of the same Westfield Community. There’s an event tomorrow night to kick it off, and hopefully you’ll see these wristbands around campus.
11. We’re doing the Out of the Darkness walk and trying to expand it this year. For those of you who don’t know, this is a suicide awareness and prevention themed walk, and we’re going to do a 5k walk/run, so we’re trying to make it bigger and gain more involvement.
12. Peer relaxation coaching sessions allow people to go through sessions and learn how to breathe and different techniques to calm you down. Evelyn Dina has allowed us to use her office as a place for these peer relaxation sessions because we are super short on space at the Counseling Center. Tell someone about it, you can schedule it at the Counseling Center and that would be great.
13. Fresh Check Day is a huge event on March 24, the theme is suicide prevention. There will be booths throughout Ely where people can come up and do fun activities, and we’re hoping that SGA would host a booth as well. We will get more details on that later. Basically, students go around and get free food, listen to music, it’s really fun, you get your raffle card stamped and you turn it in for prizes. Look forward to more information on that.
14. **Tammy Bringaze**: As you can tell, Julia’s been quite busy, and I think that’s probably one of the most important pieces to try to connect and reduce students who might be at risk for suicide. It’s the idea of being connected, whether it’s going to Fresh Check Day or Tell Me About Your Day, Peer Relaxation, it’s bringing us together as a community, which is why I’m really grateful for the opportunity to be here. Like you, I care a great deal about our community and would like to do anything I possibly can to ensure that our students are safe. Every year has been a bit more of a challenge.
15. This past Fall really stood out because we had so many more students come to the Counseling Center than I’ve seen since I’ve been here. We saw a 231% increase in students coming in crisis, with crisis not being suicidal but an urgent situation. We have more and more students come in each year seeking services at the Counseling Center, this year we ended up having a wait list the third week of September, which has never happened. We ended up having 119 folks signing up for services that had to be placed on a waiting list. Fortunately, we’re able to offer each person at least one appointment, but the other thing that stood out to me is that we had more students attempt suicide this year than any time I’ve been here. In addition to having more students come in, we’re managing students who have a greater acuity or have a higher risk, and that takes more time and energy, meaning that these are the folks we want to check in on. This is something that we have to come together as a community to check in with one another, that’s the reason we’ve asked faculty to reach out to students and make sure they’re doing okay. If you see a significant change in somebody, ask them how they’re doing. I just wanted to give you an idea of where we are. Our University isn’t much different from any other university in that most Counseling Centers are seeing more and more students each year. I think the good news is that we’ve taken mental health out of the closet. If you go back 20 years ago, people didn’t talk about these things and there were no Counseling Centers. Now we need to figure out how to specifically give students support so that they succeed here. We know that counseling does contribute to a person’s ability to be successful at the university, so that’s what I’m here to do. If you have ideas on how to better reach out to students and support, please come by and talk to me about it.
16. **Justin Connolly**: Could you elaborate on any planning that has gone on regarding the growth of the department?
17. **Tammy Bringaze**: The good news is that we have supportive folks, last year we got a new position and we’re putting forth another request for an additional position. The piece that we’re going to be struggling with is that money is tight and we’re struggling for space. Right now, we have six offices and nine professionals working out of those because in addition to the five counselors, we have two graduate interns working on getting their Master’s degree in counseling. We also have a psychiatrist four hours a week, we have a psychiatric nurse practitioner four hours a week, and we have a nutritionist four hours every two weeks. We’re constantly playing musical chairs, but we’re putting things forward.
18. **Marcus DiBacco**: If we know a student who wants to be involved in helping the Counseling Center with a focus group, where should we direct them?
19. **Tammy Bringaze:** Just give me a call or send me an email, even stop by the center. I think we should definitely get a focus group together.
20. **Evelyn Dina**: I know Eating Disorder Awareness week is upcoming, I believe that Active Minds is planning to do something for that, so I was wondering if the Counseling Center was hoping to collaborate with that?
21. **Julia Nedry**: I think it’s coming up at the end of February, so we will be collaborating with Active Minds. They’re having a panel that I’ll be sitting on and they’ll have eating disorder experts that will treat disorders and talk to students about that. Also, one of my interns is going to do a project throughout the semester focused on eating disorders. I’m not really sure exactly what form that will take, but it will be going on throughout the semester.
22. Last week President Torrecilha sent an email announcing the establishment of a Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work. The purpose of the center is to strengthen our focus on research conducted by undergrads. Funding for this Center became possible through the FY15 collective bargaining agreement funds from the state; $30,000.00 of this will be used to support the Spring Mass Transfer Scholarship and for the Foundation to contribute more to students through travel funds and the internship incentive program. The remainder of the funds will be use to launch the Center.
23. I move to appoint Dana Kilby as a Representative at Large for the remainder of the 2015-2016 academic year. Motion carries.
24. We will be having Rep at Large interviews on Thursday, February 18 at 5:00pm.
25. **Morgan Suddeth**: Does that mean that you’re still accepting people for Rep at Large that haven’t applied yet?
26. **Evelyn Dina**: Yes, interviews will be next Thursday, February 18, 2016.
27. President Torrecilha will be speaking at next week’s SGA Meeting, February 23. That means that is a dress code meeting, so business professional attire is required. Please also come prepared with questions.
28. Items not listed on the agenda.

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Justin Connolly*
2. Edward C. Sullivan, former Mayor of West Springfield was appointed to the Board of Trustees, following the vacancy left by our outgoing chair Betsey Scheibel and Trustee James C. Hagan 1984 president and CEO of Westfield Bank, was reappointed to serve another five years.
3. All University Committee**: No Report**
4. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Matthew Carlin*
2. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
3. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
4. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
5. Health Committee: **Marissa Cremin**
6. This year the Health Fair 2016 will feature “Fresh Check Day”, a suicide prevention initiative. They are collaborating with the Fitness Center and the Counseling Center. The date of this event will be Thursday, March 24, from 11:00am to 3:00pm in the Ely Campus Center. Any clubs that would like to participate or sponsor an activity booth should see Pat Berube in Health Services. [pberube@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:pberube@westfield.ma.edu).
7. Health Services is working with Baystate Health Systems again this semester to offer free STI testing inclusive of HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis C, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Students will be emailed more information.
8. Pat Berube also wanted me to remind everyone to read “Student Health 101.” There are some great health articles and a chance to win $1,000.00 every month.
9. **Haley Batchelder**: I had given blood last semester and never received a donor card, who could I talk to about that?
10. **Marissa Cremin**: I think you go on their website and there’s a form that you can fill out.
11. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
12. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
13. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
14. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Marissa Cremin**
15. Last Wednesday’s blood drive ran very smoothly. Here are the final numbers.
16. Our goal was 96. We had 111 appointments scheduled, and 117 people presented. There were 28 deferrals and 15 first time donors. The total whole blood collected was 78 pints and the total double Red cells collected was 22, making a grand total of 100.We achieved four more units than our goal.
17. Thank you all for your help. Our next blood drive will be Wednesday, April 13.
18. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 18 at 6:00pm in the SGA Conference Room E020.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Jon Cubetus*
2. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
3. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
4. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
6. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
7. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
8. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Haley Batchelder*
9. Programming update**: Haley Batchelder**
10. CAB is planning some exciting events for the Spring Semester and I can’t wait to share with you what they are once all details are finalized. In regards to the next few weeks, tomorrow is our monthly trivia at 8:00pm in the Owl’s Nest. Pizza will be served and the winning team will receive $60.00 in Owl Bucks’.
11. Who here went ice-skating with us during Winter Weekend? Well we had so much interest and attendance that we thought we’d bring it back. So, Friday, March 4, CAB will be providing shuttles to Amelia Park from 9:00pm – 11:00pm. The only cost is $3.00 for skate rentals.
12. If you purchased a Celtics Ticket for March 2, make sure you stop by Kim Hosmer’s Office, in SGA, to sign a Travel Waiver.
13. **Morgan Suddeth**: Is there a theme for trivia?
14. **Haley Batchelder**: Not this time.
15. **Lindsey Crain**: Is the $60.00 Owl Bucks split between the team or per person?
16. **Haley Batchelder**: It’s split between the team.
17. CAB will be meeting Wednesday, February 17 at 5:00pm in the Owl’s Nest.
18. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Brandon Trafford*
19. Finance Report: **No Report**
20. Foundation Report: **No Report**
21. SERETARY’S REPORT: Brendan McKee*/Jacob Lotter*
22. Executive Secretary Report: **Brendan McKee**
23. We have a senator of the week this week. This senator joined the Class of 2017 council late last semester, but has been a huge asset. She contributes helpful and thoughtful ideas during meetings, and has taken a huge lead in planning Mr. Westfield, especially with the opening dance. She has been helping to choreograph it and never hesitates to step up and fix or teach moves. She is such a great addition to the 2017 council, and we are so happy and lucky to have her. Our Senator of the Week is Ally Bancroft.
24. Please continue nominating your fellow senators for senator of the week, I love having more work to do.
25. Can I see the wonderful Cotillion committee over by the couches after the meeting?
26. Legislative Secretary Report: **Jacob Lotter**
27. I just wanted to start by reminding everyone to nominate your fellow students for the Blue Key Award. Barbara Hand sent out an email last Wednesday with the requirements. We also have paper nominations forms on the table by the mailboxes, which you can fill out and give to me or Barbara Hand at your convenience. The deadline for nominations is March 8.
28. I also have some Blue Key poster that I need to have hung up. I have Wilson Hall, Bates Hall, Perenzo Hall, Ely, Olds, Lammers Hall, University Hall, Davis Hall, Scanlon Hall and New Hall. So, see me after the meeting so I can give those to people who can hang them. It’s a unit.
29. **Nickalena Richards**: Have you already sent out emails to Blue Key Committee members?
30. **Jacob Lotter**: Not yet, but thank you for reminding me.
31. Haley Batchelder and I discussed making some changes for those of you whom count CAB as your second SGA committee. We’ve decided that in addition to attending all of CAB’s meetings in a given month, you must also attend at least one CAB event a month. CABs membership coordinator, Hanna Christ, will ask CABbies to sign in at the beginning of an event and she’ll send your name along to me with the attendance for all their meetings. However, if you miss the CAB event it won’t count against you as an absence but you won’t be able to use your committee meetings as a unit. If you have any quesitons about that, please see myself or Haley Batchelder after the meeting.

1. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: *Ryan Losco*

Rules and Regulations Committee: Ryan Losco

1. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
2. Commuter Council: **No Report**
3. Senior Class: **Ryan Losco**
4. So big news is coming out of the President’s Office today. Officially Governor Baker will be at Commencement and will be addressing the class. We are honored to have Governor Baker at Commencement this year and we know that his participation will make this great event even better.
5. Thank you for those who attended the 100 Days Champagne Toast. We had over 200 seniors in attendance and it was a great time. Special thanks to SGA, Student Affairs, and Alumni Relations for their contributions to the event. Also, a big thank you to Pepsi Cola for their donation.
6. Another great thing that cam e out of Thursday’s event was we had over 150 pledges for our leave your mark campaign. We are super excited with this turn out and we are moving on to the next step to leave our mark.
7. An important date is March 1, diploma order forms are due.
8. **Haley Batchelder**: When do you guys announce who won the snowboard and the lift tickets?
9. **Ryan Losco**: I did announce it, there’s a video posted on the class Facebook page that will be emailed out.
10. **Jon Cubetus**: Do you have a goal for the amount of students you want for the Leave Your mark campaign?
11. **Ryan Losco**: The goal obviously is 100%, that’d be dope. Right now, we’re just trying to get as many as possible. At a minimum, we’re trying to get around 50% to make the pledge. In all reality, people pledge and don’t commit to their pledge, so we’d like to see 50%.
12. **Evelyn Dina**: What was the surprise by Pepsi?
13. **Ryan Losco**: Pepsi-Cola donated a snowboard and two lift tickets to Okemo Mountain, so if you ended up attending and making a pledge, you were entered into the raffle.
14. Junior Class: **No Report**
15. Sophomore Class**: Maddie Creamer**
16. I hope you all had a nice long weekend. Just a few updates our class t-shirts go on sale tomorrow, February 17. The long sleeve t-shirt will be $20.00 and the baseball t-shirt will be $17.00.
17. Also, we will be holding our Buzz-Off kickoff party on Monday, February 22 in the Owl’s Nest from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.
18. We’d really love and appreciate your support at our kickoff party**.**
19. Our next scheduled meeting is February 22 at 7:00pm in the SGA Club Room E021**.**
20. First Year Class: **Xavier Carmona**
21. The first year class will be hosting a Town Hall meeting this Thursday, February 18 in the SGA room E017 at 5:30pm. There will be Trivia, a raffle, food and refreshments and it will be an all-around good time. It’s meant for first year students, but all are welcome.
22. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
23. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
24. Davis Hall: **No Report**
25. Dickinson Hall**: No Report**
26. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
27. Lansdowne Hall**: Alina Bracken**
28. I move to appoint Tara Saraf as SGA Representative for the remainder of the 2015-2016 academic year. Motion carries.
29. I move to appoint Priscilla Aguilar as SGA Representative to senate for the remainder of the 2015-2016.Motion carries.
30. Our next scheduled meeting will be on February 16 at 9:00pm in Lansdowne place
31. New Hall**: No Report**
32. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
33. University Hall**: No Report**
34. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**

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1. NEW BUSINESS:
2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
3. **Ivana McGlinchey**: The Dream Junkies are in the Catherine Dower Auditorium at 7:00pm tonight, please go.
4. **Andrew Manchino**: Please go to Sodexo’s Question and Answer on Thursday, February 18 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the Owl’s Nest. It’s a unit opportunity
5. **Maddie Creamer**: Buzz Off kick-off party next Monday from 2:00pm to 5:00pm in the Owl’s Nest.
6. **Dan, MassPIRG**: We have an antibiotics event this Thursday, February 18 from 1:00ppm to 3:00pm, so come by and help us out. We are also starting our Get Out to Vote events to lead up to Super Tuesday, primary elections in Massachusetts.
7. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: If anyone would like to volunteer for the Student Ambassadors for the Boston Marathon, you can come and see me after tonight’s meeting. It will fill up soon, so come and see me as soon as you can.
8. **Brendan McKee**: Can I please see the Cotillion Committee in the corner after the meeting?
9. **Ryan Losco**: Rules and Regulations meeting after this.
10. **Andrew Manchino**: Can I see Scanlon and Courtney Hall Presidents after the meeting?
11. **Jacob Lotter**: Can I see Tara Saraf, Dana Kilby, and Priscilla Aguilar after the meeting?
12. **Brandon Trafford**: No Finance Committee this week.
13. **Jon Cubetus**: Can I see Cam Swan after the meeting?
14. **Michael Janchuk:** 95 days until commencement.
15. ROLL CALL: Lezlie Campbell, Ariel St. Germaine, Brianna Pelloso, and Gabby Knight were absent. Shannon Cullinane, Connor Glynn, Mike Guertin, Taylor Saltmarsh, Al Fava, Maggie Mastroianni, Molly Romano, Jess Hanam, Mark Mankus and Evan Mines were excused. Andrew Morin and Tyquan Robles sent alternates.
16. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.