**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**February 26, 2019**

I. ROLL CALL: Marcus Payne, Melanie Voss, Lorenze Beltran, Richard Dalton, Mike Reid, and Hunter Hassett were absent. Cameron Kelleher, and Sam Tsongalis were excused.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 19, 2019: Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC REMARKS: No Remarks

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Marcus DiBacco**
   1. “Decisions are made by those who show up. The decisions are made by those who show up.” President Harry S. Truman said this nearly 70 years ago and it still rings true to this day. Although we may not have heard these words before or known where they originated, they certainly impact each of our lives as members of the SGA. Some of you may be surprised to know that our esteemed guest for this evening, Senator Don Humason, also served in the same role during his tenure here at then Westfield State College. Not long since then, Senator Humason has served the people of the Second Hamden and Hampshire district for 16 years. As we welcome him tonight I want you all to ask not only important but challenging questions. This opportunity is rare and each of you have earned simply by showing up to make the decisions that we do here on a weekly basis. Without further ado, please give Senator Humason your undivided attention and a very warm welcome back to his alma mater.
2. **Senator Humason**: It has been 30 years since I graduated Westfield State. I am a lifetime Westfield resident, I grew up a mile down the road. I got involved while I was here, in my sophomore year I got involved in SGA. I am not only the State Senator for the University, but I am a neighbor.
3. Westfield State helped pave my way to the legislature even though when I came to school here I did not think of ever running for office. Westfield is why I got elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and later State Senate. I got involved when I was here. When I graduated in 1989, I went to work in my field at the courthouse then I met someone who was running for State Representative and when he won he asked me to be his Legislative Aide in Boston. I became his Chief of staff when he was a Senator. I then became the Senator of the same district in 2003.
4. I am part of a Public Education Caucus. I have served now for six years. Like I said, I never thought that I would run for legislature, but my education and experience from Westfield State prepared me for it. Westfield will prepare you for anything.
5. We are starting a new session in Boston. We are all sworn in and we are now ready for Legislation to begin. We will also be looking at and crafting our own budget because I am a part of Ways and Means.
6. **Cam Swan**: How much of proposed state budget going to health care in FY 20?
7. **Senator Humason**: Almost over half of the $45 billion budget goes to health care or health and human services. A lot this is nondiscretionary, it is an obligation of the Commonwealth.
8. **Dave Youngerman**: What is the best piece of advice to give to the future leaders of tomorrow?
9. **Senator Humason**: Keep your options open. When I came in I was planning to be a Police Officer or in the Criminal Justice field, but I ended up here.
10. **Tommy Howard**: What is your inspiration for the bill being debated in congress about the relationship between wireless devices and their impact on children, common people and librarians?
11. **Senator Humason**: I often take inspiration from my constituents. A woman called my office worried about radiation from wireless devices. They are around constantly and you can’t get away from it. She gave me language. I don’t expect these bills to pass and become law, but I hope they continue conversation. Science is working on it, I think the legislature should be aware of it. Safety is the number one concern. I just got appointed to the Public Health Committee. I also serve on the Committee on Ethics, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Veteran’s Services, the Committee on Public Service, Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, and a couple more. I am a Republican in Massachusetts which means I am a minority. There are six of us out of forty which means we serve on more committees.
12. **Matt Michalik**: You and the Sheriff gave a discussion about drug epidemic. I was just wondering about what the plan is going into the Legislature?
13. **Senator Humason**: This is also driven by our constituents. It is ongoing, it has to be on going. Massachusetts numbers are slightly better. I’d like to ask you about marijuana. I voted against it. In my district, 10/11 communities voted for it, only Agawam was against it. But it was pretty close division wise. I am curious to see the results.
14. **Joey Newlin**: You have been elected quite a few times, I was just wondering if there are any platforms that you think help you with reelection?
15. **Senator Humason**: I never made promises that I didn’t think I would be able to keep. I told them what they would get. I look out for what we have here, when I’m in Boston. I allowed my district to decide what I would vote on, character and what I’ll look out for.
16. **Courtney Smith**: Do you have an update for us on the Western Avenue construction projects?
17. **Senator Humason**: I know a contractor has been hired, work will start in the spring, and will continue for the next year. I don’t know exactly when, but soon. It starts this spring.
18. **Dave Youngerman**: How much do your own political beliefs impact your decisions in Senate, how much do your constituents influence your decisions, and which one is more important?
19. **Senator Humason**: I represent 11 towns and cities so it’s a balancing act because all the cities need different things. It’s a constant battle between alot of different aspects.
20. **Sean Manion**: I’d like to share with you that the Military Center for Excellence has just celebrated our second year over in Bates Hall, so I’d extend our appreciation to you.
21. **Senator Humason**: Thank you for saying that.
22. **Audrey Therriault**: Because of what is happening at the Federal level, do you feel like you are getting things done or are things stagnant?
23. **Senator Humason**: We are very different in Boston. We actually talk to each other and we actually know each other. Don’t know exactly what is happening in DC. It has always been fractured, but it is a little worse than before. We don’t make things personal, it is business, not personal. We do it better in Massachusetts.
24. **Marcus DiBacco**: Going back to public health and the opioid epidemic, one possible solution that some states have implemented is a prescription monitoring program. It not only looks at who picks up the prescriptions but also the doctors and pharmacies that are filling them.
25. **Senator Humason**: I have heard that some of the rules we have in place people that actually need this medication can’t get it.
26. **Jake O’Kane**: What is the best way to get funding from Boston for Western Mass?
27. **Senator Humason**: Get people to support you. Get together with no politics, just social, get credit, but a relationship is built. Every March I do a colleague’s Pancake Breakfast.
28. **Liz Ferrara**: Can you talk a bit more about the public education caucus that you mentioned? What kind of things to you do or talk about?
29. **Senator Humason**: Sd haven’t met yet this year because every year members change. A caucus is just a group of like-minded individuals. Legislature of the year because I am the co-chair of Boating caucus. Public Higher Education caucus meeting soon to discuss the budget. And a lot of things to discuss.
30. **Mitchell McKittrick**: What is being done in Senate about transgender rights and LGBT in general in Massachusetts?
31. **Senator Humason**: I would expect more to be done in the Senate than the House. We were kind of relieved that the question was on the ballot because it let us know how our constituent feel about it. They are my boss so I listen. Depending on the time of year that something is brought up, it gives you a better sense of what will happen in the Legislature.
32. **Massara Almafratchi**: How do you listen to your constituents; how do you make sure it is not bias from them?
33. **Senator Humason**: I think the best way to lobby is in person. Find out who your Reps are so that you can know where to go when you have a problem. I still get hand written letters; phone call and letters get our attention. Activism over slacktivism.
34. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: I was wondering if you had any inklings of conversations about education, especially in terms of K-12? Is anything in the works right now?
35. **Senator Humason**: When something is put into receivership, it means that the state takes over and they take charge.
36. **Daniel Armany**: Given that you have served on a lot of committees, which ones do you feel most accomplished in?
37. **Senator Humason**: I will give you a few that I loved, the Transportation committee, Ways and Means, also Veterans Affairs Committee. I also enjoy the caucuses.
38. **Joey Newlin**: Is being a senator a full-time, paid position? Have you seen any faults for campaigns or the election process?
39. **Senator Humason**: I have not seen any faults. Most of our elections are local. It is a full-time job because we are so far form the State Capital.
40. **Senator Humason**: My email is Donald.humison@masenate.gov feel free to email me if you have any more questions.
41. **Dave Youngerman**: Are there any ways other than email or phone call to keep in contact with you? Maybe have you on the radio here?
42. **Senator Humason**: Yes. Always include your contact info so that we can reply to you.
43. **Daniel Armany**: Given the environmental issues and global warming, are there any talks at the State level of finding ways to help the environment and reducing waste?
44. **Senator Humason**: Yes. The newly appointed Chairman is doing a lot in the legislation in regards to regulations. In Massachusetts, we are ahead of the curve a little bit for what we are supposed to meet with air and water regulations.
45. **Matt Jacques**: I am from North Andover, are there any conversations for future regulations for companies like Columbia gas?
46. **Senator Humason**: Yes, some will be done by State Regulatory Agencies, a lot of it will be under the Federal Government. The legislature will not get involved because it is more of an executive function than a legislative function.
    1. Thank you Senator Humason.
    2. I move to appoint Erin Coulter as a Representative at Large to SGA for the remainder of the 2018-2019 academic year. Motion carries.
    3. I move to appoint Lyric Lamagdelaine as a Representative at Large to SGA for the remainder of the 2018-2019 academic year. Motion carries.
    4. Items not listed on the agenda.
47. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
    1. I have just a couple of announcements.
48. State House Day is coming up, I will be looking for interested senators to partake in the coming weeks. I have a meeting tomorrow, February 27 to go over the details so I will know more by next week. For those of you who don’t know what I’m talking about, State House Day occurs once a year when a group of us go to Beacon Hill for the day to get WSU on the map in Boston. In years past, we have been told to advocate for increased funding for Higher Education, but I have more ideas of how I would like to see this day go, so more to come on that.
49. I am in the process of forming a committee to work on the campus culture project I brought up earlier in the year. This will be comprised of student leaders on SGA and student leaders not on SGA, so if you have any suggestions please let me know.
50. If you are interested in running for this position next year feel free to come talk to me.
51. **Matt Michalick**: What is the date for the State House day?
52. **Cam Swan**: It is not set yet.
53. **Daniel Armany**: Are there limited spots for State House?
54. **Cam Swan**: We need to get close to filling a van, a van fits 12 people so we want to get close to 12 or 24.
55. **Sean Manion**: Will the same group be joining us or is it just us?
56. **Cam Swan**: That is still being determined.
    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 V**
   1. I have a brief update on Residential Life.
2. The RA application process will begin next week on Monday, March 4, Tuesday March 5, and Wednesday, March 6, and the week after Spring Break on Tuesday, March 18, Wednesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 20 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm at tables located in the Dinning Commons and the Ely Campus Center.
3. Jen Gould and Josh Hettrick also asked me to invite all senators to check out the mock-rooms located in Courtney, Scanlon, Lammers and other buildings. They would love to hear what your feedback on them are, so that they may better portray these rooms to perspective and recently accepted Students. If you are interested in this matter, stop by Res Life, and Josh or Jen will set you up.
4. The next Student Affairs Committee Meeting is scheduled for this Friday, March 1 from 1:40 pm-2:55 pm in Conference room E003 next to Dunkin Donuts. Although I already have a few senators signed up for the committee as of recently, please attend the meeting if you are interested in serving on the committee for the rest of the semester, or if you are just curious on what the committee addresses or how you can help out. Thank you all, and have a great rest of your week!
   1. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
   3. Food Services Committee**: Elizabeth Ferrara**
5. There are some events happening in Dining services to look forward to. We are kicking of nutrition month starting Thursday, February 28, you’ll find a variety of dining events happening throughout campus, so keep an eye out throughout the month.
6. The DC is holding a Mardi gras dinner on March 5 and a St. Patrick’s Day dinner the first day back from spring break, March 18.
7. During Spring Break, the DC closes at 5:00 pm on March 8 and will reopen at noon on March 17.
8. I wanted to remind you that there are some new additions to the Wilson Café menu, including chicken parmesan subs, and mash potato bowls made to order. They also now pre-make chicken twisters with ranch and no tomato or with honey mustard and no tomato, to make the lines go faster. But you can also still get them made to order of you prefer.
9. We also have Woo’s wings on campus, where you can get wings delivered to your dorm Sunday-Thursday from 9:00 pm until midnight by calling The Bistro. They have heard complaints about getting through on the phone being tough and are working on solving the issue. They are in the beginning stages of getting an app to purchase food from, and are planning to test-drive that app at Ely Harvest. You will be able to use dining dollars on the app as well.
10. You can now find vegetarian options at lunch over at Clean Eats. You don’t have to have an allergy to eat over there.
11. They are looking to renovate the Wilson location by adding a little coffee café, similar to a Starbucks, but that is still in the beginning stages.
12. If you like late night food but don’t want to spend all your dining dollars, the DC has late night food every night starting at 9:00 pm. Speaking of late night at the DC, wing Wednesday now has two stations for wings. But since people start lining up at 8:30 pm, they also sold out of wings around 10:10 pm. Don’t worry, because they are ordering even more for this week to accommodate the full last hour of Late Night Wings.
13. And in case you were wondering, the DC’s late-night menu is:

* -Sunday: Sundae Bar
* -Monday: 1/4 # Burgers & Tater Tot Bar
* -Tuesday: Chinese Food with General Tso or Orange Chicken with Spring Rolls
* -Wednesday: Traditional and Boneless Wings
* -Thursday: Breakfast with Pancakes or French toast with Bacon and Eggs
* They also set up the “build your own nachos” every night with queso at the salad bar.

1. The other stations that are available after 9:00 pm are:

* -Pizza
* -Grill
* -1/2 Salad Bar

1. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Are they using business or computer science students to help develop the app?
2. **Liz Ferrara**: I will ask, but I believe it is just another function of the get app, that already exists.
3. **Sean Manion**: In the Wilson renovation are they getting a second register at Wilson?
4. **Liz Ferrara**: That has been brought up, and has been in the works for a while, but there is not enough space right now.
5. **Erin Coulter**: There is a cross contamination risk of meat at the omelet station and at stir fry station. Is there anything they can do about that?
6. Liz Ferrara: Yes, I will bring it up this week.
7. We need more senators on Food Committee, so please join us tomorrow, February 27 at 4:00 pm in the Tekoa Room.
   1. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
   2. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
   3. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
   4. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**
8. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Madeleine Scott**
   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**
9. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Thalita Neves**
   1. Finance Committee: **Thalita Neves**
10. The Finance Committee received a Finance Proposal from the Communications Club last week. Outlined on the projector is the funds that they are requesting. They are asking for this money in order to pay for Dining Services to cater their annual Communications Department Dinner. This dinner will be held on May 3 and is an event held to celebrate seniors who are graduating and also to induct people into the Communications Honors Society. They are requesting a total of $500.00 for the Communications Dinner.
11. I move to allocate $500.00 to the Communications Club for the Communications Department Dinner. Motion carries.
    1. Foundation Report: **No Report**
    2. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
12. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Matthew Howe**
13. Campus Activities Board**: Matthew Howe**
14. Hope you're all ready for the events that are coming your way!
15. Tonight, February 26 at 8:00 pm in the Owl's Nest is the viewing of the Oscar winning for Best Adapted Screenplay, Blackkklansman. This incredible true story is about the first African American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department and his brave mission to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan.
16. On Thursday, February 28 CAB has our second annual Say What? Karaoke competition at 7:00 pm in Dever. Come out and see our ten finalists be narrow down to five and preform mystery songs on the spot. This year's com-petition is hosted by our 2018 winner, Audriana Cruz!
17. Then on Friday, March 1 it's Skate Night! Join us from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Amelia Park. A bus will continuously be running from Scanlon down to the rink. Skates are $3.00 to rent or you can bring your own.
18. To close out your week, Casino Night is back baby. On Saturday March 2 from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am, right down here in SGA and the Owl's Nest, we will transform these spaces into our own casino. There will be 10 blackjack tables, along with great snacks, and five 100 dollar prizes and five smaller fun baskets. If you are interested in stopping by, and you all should be, make sure you come with your state issued ID. No one will be allowed in without an ID.
19. If you can't wait until Saturday to be back in SGA, then you can all stop by CAB's meeting tomorrow, February 27 at 5:00 pm.
20. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
21. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
22. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Elizabeth Ferrara/Courtney Smith**
    1. Executive Secretary Report: **Elizabeth Ferrara**
    2. Legislative Secretary Report: **Courtney Smith**
23. Blue Key Committee was formed last Tuesday, February 19 and I am looking forward to working more closely with those of you on the committee. Blue Key Nominations are being accepted as of today, February 26, an email went out this morning explaining the nomination process.
24. As a refresher the Blue Key Award is the highest leadership award a student can receive during their time at Westfield State. As a reminder students are allowed to nominate other students, so please keep that in mind in the next few weeks**.**
25. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Jacob O’Kane**
26. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
27. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
28. 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**
    6. Advisory Committee for Vice President of Student Affairs Search Committee: **Thalita Neves**
29. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
30. Commuter Council: **No Report**
31. Senior Class: **Shane Stocker**
32. Junior Class**: David Youngerman**
33. I just wanted to update you all on an event the Class of 2020 has had in the works recently. On Thursday, March 7 we will be hosting a Westfield State Class of 2020 night at Applebee’s. This is another effort to fund-raise for our class leading up to senior year. If you go to Applebee’s between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm, and show our fliers to your server that night, then 15% of your bill will support our Class Council in funding events next year.
34. Our council believed that Thursday was the most auspicious time to hold this event and encourage anyone legal to drink can start their extracurricular activities at Applebee’s next Thursday. I encourage everyone to come and in the next two weeks, we will be handing out fliers and trying to get everyone on campus go to Applebees that night.
35. Even if you want to help out giving fliers to people in downtown Westfield, as long as people show their fliers to their server, the Class Council will receive 15% of the bill.
36. In order to help us, you have to show the flier. I already asked and a picture of the flier or your student ID will not suffice. Tell your friends, brothers, sisters, dogs, and cats about this event because we want to make this a very successful and fun way to fund-raise for the Class of 2020. Again, we will be holding this event on Thursday, March 7 between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm at Applebee’s in Westfield.
37. Our next meeting is scheduled for this Friday, March 1 from 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm in SGA conference room E020. This week we will be trying to finalize senior events in packages and are encouraging artists from the Class of 2020 to design sweatshirts.
38. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
39. First Year Class: **No Report**
40. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
41. Courtney Hall: **Ariana Torres**
42. I’m Ariana, the new President of Courtney Hall, so this Thursday, February 28 we’re having a wine glass decorating event. Which will be starting at 6:00 pm in the first floor lounge in Courtney. There will be pizza and snacks provided and I hope to see you all there.
43. I move to appoint Lindsey McNulty as Courtney Hall Representatives to SGA for the remainder of the 2018-2019 academic year. Motion carries.
44. I move to appoint Emily Walden as Courtney Hall Representative to SGA for the remainder of the 2018-2019 academic year. Motion carries.
45. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 7 at 5:00 pm on the first floor of Courtney Hall room 151.
46. Davis Hall: **No Report**
47. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
48. Lammers Hall**: No Report**
49. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
50. New Hall**: No Report**
51. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
52. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS:
3. It was moved to open new business. Motion carries.
4. Four students came down to share their personal stories and inform SGA about the fund our future bill, a bill intended to make public education more affordable.
5. **Dave Youngerman**: I love the idea of decreasing the amount of money. How will this money be distributed?
6. **Mackenzie Prout**: I don’t know the specifics, but we are pushing to get this bill into the Legislature. A big chunk is going to K-12 and then to Public Higher Education.
7. **Dave Youngerman**: I want to make sure that raising taxes doesn’t out way the good that this bill would do.
8. **Mackenzie Prout**: I’ll give you my contact info, but I know you mentioned public vs private, more students have debt from public institution than from private schools. Because there are less scholarships and financial aid.
9. **Audrey Therriault**: I am on board conceptually, because a lot of us are in the same boat. Can you give us some ratios and numbers, just some more information?
10. **Mackenzie Prout**: I don’t know exactly, I know around one billion would go to K-12, and around 500 million would go to Higher Ed. I’ll get that info for you.
11. **Maddy Scott**: It would be very helpful if you could provide us with some more documentation.
12. **Mackenzie Prout**: Just to make it clear this is just to get support to urge the Legislature to push this Legislation through.
13. **Cam Swan**: Do you want us to vote on something tonight?
14. **Mackenzie Prout**: We just want to vote for support from Student Government.
15. **Cam Swan**: I feel that there isn’t enough info to vote today.
16. **Marcus** **DiBacco**: We aren’t going to vote, we will talk more to get this figured out.
17. **Mackenzie Prout**: Thank you for letting us come down, we will get more info and hopefully get your support.
18. **Dave Youngerman**: Thank you for coming down. We do want a resolution, we just want a little more info.
19. It was moved and seconded to close New Business. Motion carries

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   1. **Liz Ferrara**: Buy your Owl Ball tickets! Half price tickets end Friday. See Kim Hosmer or Barb Hand to purchase.
   2. **Jake O’Kane**: Rules and Regs after the meeting.
   3. **Courtney** **Smith**: Can I see Blue Key Committee after the meeting.
   4. **Tommy Howard**: Student Affairs Committee meets Friday at 1:40 pm-2:55pm in the Dunkin conference room E003.
   5. **Matt Howe**: Can I see all Hall Council Presidents after the meeting
   6. **Cam Swan**: Men’s hockey is happening now at Amelia Park, they are in the semi-finals
   7. **Melissa DiNallo**: Parking Control Board meets next Thursday 2:30 pm-3:30 pm in the conference room by Dunkin.
   8. **Marcus DiBacco**: Can I see exec after you are done meeting with everyone else.
   9. **Matt Howe: 81** days until commencement**.**

1. ROLL CALL: Marcus Payne, Melanie Voss, Lorenze Beltran, Richard Dalton, Mike Reid, and Hunter Hassett were absent. Cameron Kelleher, and Sam Tsongalis were excused
2. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:36 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.*