**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA**

**February 27, 2018**

1. ROLL CALL: Christian Capalbo, Connor Kennedy, Peter Lucey, Mitchell McKittrick and Samual Tsongalis were absent.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2018: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Brendan McKee**
4. We have a special guest with us here tonight. To report on matters within the Board of Trustees, please welcome the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Steven Marcus.
5. **Steven Marcus**: It’s such an honor to be able to be here tonight and chat with you. Thanks my friends for inviting me tonight. I am an alum of this great University, Class of 1988 and Westfield holds a special place in my heart for the work that I’ve been able to do over the past thirty years. What I do in my day job is basically to help people who suffer from major mental illness. My company, New England Geriatrics, is the largest behavioral healthcare provider for geriatric services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We treat about 15,000 patients who suffer from depression on a monthly basis and I got my start right here at Westfield.
6. I’m proud of Westfield State University, I’m proud of education, the camaraderie, the friendships that I’ve been able to garner over the past thirty years. And it’s a great honor to be with all of you tonight and take any questions that you might have in regards to a service on the Board of Trustees. Just a couple of quick comments as to what the Board of Trustees does. There’s three different types of trustees that service on the Board. There’s eleven members on our Board and one of them comes from you, Cameron Swan. This young man comes prepared to every meeting, he comes with a full knowledge basis, and he’s the only one of the eleven of us that voted against the unfortunate increase that we have to pass on to you. So, he represents your interests as a colleague. The second member of the community is basically the alumni representative and that’s Dr. Terrell Hill and he is an alum of Westfield State University, he’s an Assistant Superintendent of the South Windsor School System, an unbelievable, dedicated Owl who works tirelessly for the University. The rest of us, we get appointed by the Governor. I was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to be able to serve a five year program here at Westfield. My good friend Charlie Baker reappointed me for a remainder of four or five years.
7. Really it is three types of people that serve on the Board: a student, an alum, and an appointee of the Governor. Our job is to basically do two big things and when I got sworn in the Commissioner of Higher Ed said to me, the two things you have to do at this University is you have to fire the president and you have to hire the president. Unfortunately and fortunately I’ve had to do both things with the president that we no longer have on campus and then I headed up the search committee to bring Dr. Ramon Torrecilha to this campus. Literally when I was sworn in and they said that to me I thought it was a joke, but literally I was able to serve those two important tasks of hiring and firing our president.
8. That’s your Board of Trustees. My little story is I was educated here at Westfield, I started our company New England Geriatrics. Two of the highlights of things that I’ve personally done on this campus is be instrumental in our Physician Assistant Program. To be able to make sure that we can have Physician Assistants to be able to provide the health care that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is going to need and certainly deserves. More importantly it’s the first program in the entire New England region that a state University is offering a PA program at an unbelievable rate. When you look at the tuition of the other private and public schools across the United States we have an unbelievable faculty and tuition we’ve set here at Westfield. The other component that’s very special to my heart is Social Work because I also have a degree in Social Work.
9. Be excited about your school, I know you are because by your attendance here tonight and doing all the good work that you do for you Student Government Association, it certainly shows. We’ll continue to work hard for you, we’ll continue to work hard for our unbelievable Faculty and Administration, and we’ll continue to make Westfield State University the best university in the United States.
10. **Marcus DiBacco**: I just wanted to ask what the place of the Board of Trustees was in the switch to a college structure.
11. **Steven Marcus**: When President Torrecilha was telling us about switching over to a college structure I said to him, “Are we going to be the first State University in the commonwealth to be doing this?” He looked at me and said, “Steve we are the last.” Our sister institutions beat us to it. I know a lot of you are on the interviewing committees for the incoming Deans so I thank you for that work. I’m certainly 100% behind it, I didn’t fully understand it, and I thought we were doing something that the other schools weren’t doing, but we are the last. I think what we’re able to do is learn from the fumbles our sister institutions may have made and hopefully we’ll be able to drive it forward and learn from those mistakes.
12. **Brendan McKee**: The last trustee meeting I attended I remember Commissioner Santiago had a presentation of sorts, I was curious if there was ongoing conversations between our Board of Trustees and others with Commissioner Santiago about more funding from the State for Public Higher Education?
13. **Steven Marcus**: This Thursday, March 1 we’ll be getting together in Westborough with all the different Trustees across the Commonwealth. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner, and the College of Presidents will be there. I think it’s the fourth agenda item and I’ll be in that little think tank group about what will the Governor be doing with Higher Education. It’s not in his top ten priorities, I’ll tell you that right now. The number one item that he is talking about is the opioid crisis. So, fortunately, unfortunately that takes really the majority of his time and that’s where the majority of the money is going to be following in the Commonwealth. We need more funding, we’re passing a tax onto all of our students come September. There’s not enough money for education, there’s not enough money in the budget, but we’re constantly reminding him. He does listen, but it’s not in the top ten of his priorities unfortunately.
14. **Jakob Wyman**: I understand there’s been a freeze in faculty lines and with these new Deans how are they more beneficial to students than new faculty?
15. **Steven Marcus**: All I can tell you is the money that we have put aside to be able to hire the Deans, Associate Deans, and the support staff for the Deans are money that we have found within the budget. So, that’s money we’ve been able to restore, pull out, and put into the hiring of these Deans.
16. **Sammantha Dorazio**: I know at the start of you speaking you said that Cam Swan was the only one to vote against the fee increase so I was wondering if you could share your perspective on why people voted for this fee increase.
17. **Steve Marcus**: I don’t like passing taxes onto the students, but when you look at the budget and because the Commonwealth hasn’t properly funded the budget, I look upon the tax the fees that we are able to pass onto the students, it’s not a good thing, but when you look at a list of other schools we’re at the bottom. At least we’re not where some of the other schools are with putting the fees onto the students, but the reality is the pie is this big and we’re getting additional funds from the Commonwealth so how do we make the budget work? That’s being as tight as we possibly can.
18. **Christian Capalbo**: Why are we not receiving money from the Commonwealth?
19. **Steven Marcus**: My advice to you and to your colleagues is to mount up and get people to the State House. The reality is you elect them and you need to tell them to do more for State Education funding. Call your State Legislators and tell them who you are. You get your friends to do that and you’ll get more money. You have to get in their face.
20. **Sammantha Dorazio**: Do you know where these new Deans are going to go on campus?
21. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: We did a tour looking at space, specifically in the Dower Center, Wilson Hall, and Parenzo Hall.
22. **Jakob Wyman**: We are over 11% for adjunct professors are there any plans to get adjunct professors benefits?
23. **Steven Marcus**: That’s not in my line. That’s really wrapped up in those union conversations.
24. **Karina Sallaway**: With the $750.00 student fee increase why are we also restructuring our meal plans when the dining services increase would be less if we leave the meal plans as they are?
25. **Steven Marcus**: What I see is the numbers are increasing.
26. **Cam Swan**: When we talked about it at our last Board meeting, we approved the fee increase, but only had a general discussion about the meal plans. That was during the Finance and Capital Assets SubCommittee meeting. My point about that is when I was looking at the meal plans and Andrew Mankus came down here the last time he showed us the meal plans, but he didn’t really go into pricing. So, I think that that’s a further discussion that needs to be had about the pricing of the meal plans and that’s kind of where I came in because looking at the comparable increases between the meal plans, I thought that there was a little bit of an inequity there and I didn’t think that was totally fair. So I think that’s another discussion we need to have in the future.
27. **Christian Capalbo**: When it comes to making these big changes that’s going to affect our education, does there need to be a certain amount of a healthy enrollment?
28. **Steven Marcus**: Our numbers continue to be strong, to be able to feed into these new programs. If you look at Commissioner Santiago’s report on enrollment, overall for the next seven years our numbers are going to continue to decline because of birthrate. That’s going to be on the agenda on Thursday. Where are these students going to be coming from, we have to be more aggressive in recruiting people into Westfield because if the birthrate is going down and we’re beginning these new programs how are we going to be able to keep them filled and that’s really by you. That word of mouth within the community.
29. Thank you Steve. Next week there will be a Diversity consultant on campus meeting with different groups of faculty, staff and students. Sue LaMontagne brought the idea of having this consultant as a speaker at an SGA meeting, so the expectation is that there will be an open discussion with us all regarding Diversity and othe pertinent topics to start our meeting next week.
30. I move to appoint Luke Morrison as Representative at Large for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
31. I want to get into the MassPIRG vote. Originally, the vote today was going to be a strict reaffirmation vote, where a yes vote would have kept MassPIRG here at Westfield and no vote would have removed the chapter from the University. We were given a state law, however, that changes the dynamic of how this motion has to be made. To generalize, the vote tonight will be changed in that a yes and a no have different definitions.
32. A yes vote will now put MassPIRG on the SGA election ballot, as it has been historically, whereas a no vote will remove MassPIRG from the student bill, which would more likely than not mean the removal of the chapter from the University.
33. This motion will be made during New Business due. I would like to entertain any questions you have regarding what I just said. You will have time to ask MassPIRG any questions you may have. I’m solely looking for questions in regards to the process of the vote tonight.
34. **Shayna Arnott**: Can you remind people what an abstention is?
35. **Brendan McKee**: If you have vested interest or you don’t have enough knowledge on a situation you can abstain from a vote. So when your name gets called you just say abstain, that just means you’re removing yourself from the vote so to say, but that does count as a no vote. If you have a conflict of interest that’s how you would vote.
36. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: So a no vote removes them completely from the student bill?
37. **Brendan McKee**: Yes.
38. **Jake O’Kane**: Is there any other way they can receive funding?
39. **Marcus DiBacco**: They are allowed to fundraise independently*.*
40. There will be a trip to Washington DC over Spring Break from March 12 – 14. If you have any interest in going or more information, let me know after the meeting and I’ll get you in touch with the point person.
41. The University will be marching at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 18, which is the Sunday we come back from Spring Break. If you are a residential student, you can move in an extra day early to be there for the bus on Sunday morning. If you are interested or have any questions, please let me or Carlton Pickron know as soon as possible.
42. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
43. The Budget Committee has been formed, I’m just waiting to hear back from everyone about times and then we’ll get going with that.
44. State House Day is Monday, March 5 and we have ten people coming to Represent Westfield State, which is awesome. Thanks to everyone who signed up.
45. I am attending a statewide Trustee Conference on Thursday, March 1 in Westborough, I’ll report next week and let you know how it goes.
46. All University Committee: **No Report**
47. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**
48. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**
49. Student Advisory Council: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Arielyss Santiago**

A. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**

B. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**

C. Food Services Committee: **Shayna Arnott**

1. I have several upcoming events to report to you.
2. Thursday, March 1, will be “Build Your Own Pizza” event in the Dining commons from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. The Pizza Station will close at 7:30pm so staff members can prepare for this event but the other dinner stations will stay open per usual until 9:00pm.
3. There will be an International Portuguese Lunch in the Dining Commons next Wednesday, March 7 from 11:30am until 2:00pm so be sure to check that out.
4. Head over to the dinning commons next Tuesday, March 6 for a St. Patrick’s Day themed dinner from 5:00pm until 8:00pm.
5. March is Nutrition month and the Dining commons will be sponsoring several events throughout the month for this.
6. The Kickoff event will be a C*ulinary and Nutritional Workshop* where you can learn how to make simple healthy snacks in the Tekoa Room from 11:00am until 1:00pm on March 1.
7. The second event will be Learn to *Reduce Food Waste: with waste management* in the Dining Commons on March 6 from 11:00am until 1:00pm.
8. There will be a *Go Further with Your Food* event where you will be able to sample nutritious snacks in the Dining Commons from 11:00am until 2:00pm on March 20.
9. You will have the opportunity to meet with the campus dieticians, Lauren Smith and Andrea Reyes in the Dining Commons on March 26 from 11:00am until 2:00pm.
10. I have a few reminders for you.
11. The Dining Commons will be closing at 5:00pm next Friday, March 9 for Spring Break and will reopen at noon the following Sunday, March 18 and will be open until 10:00pm that night.
12. For those of you who need to stay on campus, T.J.’s Bistro will be open from 8:00am until 2:00pm on the weekdays of Spring Break.
13. Please remember and remind your friends that you need to have your campus I.D. with you in order to get into the Dining Commons you cannot just give the cashier your a number.
14. **Aaron Sylvia**: Is there a way that we could have a suggestion box in that zone?
15. **Shayna Arnott**: There’s a suggestion box next to where you put your dishes and unfortunately we can’t see most of them because half of them have swears in them being rude to the staff members.
16. **Aaron Sylvia**: Is there a manner in which we could have them move the suggestion box up front?
17. **Shayna Arnott:** Yeah I can bring that up.
18. Our next scheduled meeting in Tuesday, March 6 and 4:00pm in the Tekoa Room.

D. Parking Control Board: **No Report**

E. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **Delaney Gembis**

* + - 1. Most of our Winter athletes are done for the season and Spring seasons are starting.

1. Congratulations are in order for the Women’s Basketball team, who won the MASCAC Championship and are moving on to the next tournament playing at Tufts, Friday, March 2 the time will be announced.
2. Congratulations to Coach of the Women’s Swim team David Lang who was named Coach of the Year.
3. Baseball is opening their season with tournaments this weekend at Springfield College on Saturday, March 3 with games at 12:00pm and 2:00pm. Also on Sunday, March 4 at Ramapo College with games at 1:00pm and 3:00pm.
4. Men’s and Women’s Track have meets at Tufts on Saturday, March 3 for Final Qualifiers.

F. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**

G. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **Sean Manion**

1. I’d just like to reiterate that Veterans and Military Services is holding a screening of the documentary Almost Sunrise on April 25. If you would like to help spread the word of this event, please let me know after the meeting or you can email me at [smanion5056@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:smanion5056@westfield.ma.edu). Veterans and Military Services is also willing to hold a special screening for any SGA senators. Any help, big or small will be greatly appreciated within the Military Community Excellence Center.
2. This past Thursday, February 22, the Military community excellence Center had its one year anniversary opening celebration. One year ago, the Veterans and Military Services moved from a small little office in the Horace Mann Center to a much bigger and open space in Bates Hall. This gave us the opportunity to open the Military Community Excellence Center, a place where all military connected students can go, hang out, study and do school work, meet new people, all while being able access the assistance of Veterans and Military Services with their career path, available benefits, and other resources.
3. The next meeting for the Westfield State Veterans Association is scheduled for Thursday, March 1 at 5:00pm. All military, Veterans, and Family members are welcome to attend the meeting which will be held in the Military Community excellence Center located in Bates Hall room 15.
4. I’d like to let everyone know that Veterans and Military Services along with the Military Community Excellence center is open all day on school days. We are there to help all military connected students, including active duty, Guard and Reserve, Veterans and family members of military personnel. We provide help regarding resources and benefits, networking, individualized assistance, and career exploration. If any of you are presented with a military connected student or you are one of those students, let me know and I’ll make sure it is properly addressed.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Jacob Lotter**
   1. I’m passing around the list I have of everyone and their committees. Please make corrections where you see fit. If there are any issues with what you see and you aren’t sure how to correct it please see me after the meeting. If you need a second committee I have openings that I’m about to name off, so please listen.
2. I have one seat on the Academic Technology and Information Services Committee, which deals with the Library, Wi-Fi, and really all things pertaining to technology on campus, if you choose to serve on that committee you will be with myself and Connor Kennedy. The committee meets as needed and does not have a set time this semester, so they will adjust according to our schedules, and is chaired by Dean Raffensperger.
3. I also have an open spot on the Writing Liaison Committee, this committee is probably not going to meet this semester because of the faculty contract negotiations but the chair, Dr. Catherine Savini in English, is asking that I please find a student so she can convene immediately if a contract is negotiated. The Writing Liaison Committee talks about the way we deal with the English Composition courses we all take in our first-year and how writing can be utilized across the curriculum.
4. I also have a spot on the Westfield State Experience Committee which will deal with Grants, and implementing the four-step plan of the Westfield State Experience. If you are interested in any of those committees please see me after the meeting.
5. If you are not interested in any of those committees and still need a second committee please consider joining either the Food Services Committee or CAB.
6. If you are interested in joining Food Services Committee see Shayna Arnott after the meeting.
7. If you are interested in joining CAB you can speak to Maddie Dexter next week, or you can speak to either Connor Kennedy, Matt Howe, John Coulombe, or Sarah Wade tonight about joining.
   1. I also have the advising and class registration dates for this semester (YAY!) The classes for this fall are already up on MyWestfield. The booklets are already out and I put one in all of the mailboxes. Please write them down or make sure you grab the booklet from your mailbox.

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| *Advising* | *Class/Group* | *Registration* |
| T February 20 – T March 27 | Eligible Banacos/Honors | W March 28 |
| M March 26 - R March 29 | Senior | F March 30 |
| M April 2 - R April 5 | Junior | F April 6 |
| M April 2 – F April 6 | 1st/2nd Year In Season Athletes | M April 9 |
| M April 9 - R April 12 | Sophomore/First-Year | F April 13 |
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1. If you have any questions regarding advising or registration please let me know, or get in touch with either John Ohotnicky in the Registrar’s Office or Laurie Simpson in the Academic Advising Office. If you have any individual concerns with your advisor within your department make sure you get in touch with your department chair to discuss your concerns.
   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**
2. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Marcus DiBacco**
   1. Finance Committee: **Marcus DiBacco**
3. We have two finance proposals to review today.
4. The first finance proposal, submitted by LAfE, is an allocation of $1,226.30 to sponsor a conference. The club will be sending 18 students to the Latinx Student Leadership Conference. This annual conference provides opportunities for students attending the chance to learn from professionals in a multitude of fields who have gone through some of the same challenges. In addition, it allows students to showcase the work that their organizations have done throughout the year. We just began sponsoring this event last year and we would like to see it continue.
5. I therefore move to allocate $1,226.30 to LAfE for the Latinx Student Leadership Conference. Motion carries.
6. The second proposal is for the annual Communications Dinner. In past years we have co-sponsored this event along with the department, the club, and the communications honors society. This event provides an opportunity for communication students, faculty, and alumni to connect and network. By funding some of the catering costs we assist in providing students with a great opportunity to meet professionals in their field, especially professionals who graduated from Westfield State.
7. I move to allocate $500.00 to the Communication Club for this event. Motion carries.
8. As of right now, there is no finance committee next week. However, the established meeting time is Mondays at 11:00am.
   1. Foundation Report: **Marcus DiBacco**
9. Last week, the Westfield State Foundation Inc. Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 21. For those of you who may not know, the Foundation operates as a private organization in conjunction with the University. Long story short, the Foundation helps to bring in additional revenue.
10. Much of this revenue goes to supporting scholarships, internships, and classroom resources. For next year, as an example, the Foundation will be donating $250,000 in scholarships. While some of this revenue comes from investment and the stock exchange a decent portion comes from charitable donation. I am pleased to announce that in this area, Dr. Erica Broman, the Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and her team have raised over $2.5 million. This is over a quarter of a million more than their goal for the fiscal year, which is far from over.
11. On another note, the Interfaith Center is sponsored and promoted by the Foundation. Again, for those of you who do not know, the Interfaith Center, a small chapel between Wilson and New hall, provides a space for people of all religions and beliefs to practice their faith. Sadly, one of the most iconic members of our campus community and history, Father John T. Dean, passed away on Saturday, February 24 at the age of 83. All the people who knew him loved him and the practical jokes he always played. He was such a pillar of the community that the DC is named after him.
12. The next meeting for the Foundation will be on Wednesday, April 18 at 4:30pm in Garden Room A of the Horace Mann Center.
    1. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
13. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Madeline Dexter**
    1. Campus Activities Board**: John Coulumbe**: This weekend programming is in full swing.
14. Join us for a bus trip to the Springfield Thunderbird’s Game. The Thunderbirds will be playing the Hartford Wolfpack on March 2. The Trip is limited to 45 attendees. The bus trip will from 5:30pm until after the game.
15. On Wednesday, February 28 there will be Live at Lunch. Come listen to the musical stylings of Jake Manzi during lunch from 11:30am until 1:30pm in the Dining Commons.
16. On Thursday, March 1 it is White Ribbon Day. The men of Westfield State will make the pledge to be part of the solution in ending domestic violence. There will be events all day, check out this link <https://www.facebook.com/events/333161250536642/>
17. On Thursday, March 1 there is also a Leadership Styles Workshop. Join us to determine your leadership style at 7:30pm in Ely 044.
18. Also on Thursday, March 1 there will be Personal Pizza’s after Dark where you can make your own personal pizza in the Dining Commons from 8:00pm until 10:00pm.
19. On Friday, March 2 is the Thunderbirds game.
20. Also on Friday March 2 join us for some Dodgeball matches in the Parenzo Gym from 9:00pm until 11:00 pm.
21. Saturday, March 3 we are having an open skate at Amelia Park. Skate rental is $3.00, or bring your own and skate for free. There will be a shuttle bus running from Scanlon hall to the rink from 10:00pm until 12:00am.
22. This weekend is also the MTG Spring Show at Dever Stage. Thursday through Saturday at 7:00 pm with an additional 2:00 pm show on Saturday. The tickets are $2.00 for students. Maddie Dexter is in it and really wants everyone to come see it.
    1. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
    2. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **No Report**
23. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Karina Sallaway/Victoria Lind**
    1. Executive Secretary Report: **Karina Sallaway**
24. Tickets for the Owl Ball are still on sale right now until March 9. So far we have sold 168 tickets, which means we have 82 left. I really want to sell out this year so please encourage everyone to go. If you have bought your ticket, but have not reserved your seat at a table please do so. The menu is being finalized this week and I will report next week to let you all know what it is.
25. This week our LifeSaver was a huge help last week when Kim Hosmer was out. She came a lot and helped Barbara Hand immensely. This was not required of them and we definitely appreciate their help. With that, congratulations to Shayna Arnott for being our LifeSaver of the Week.

B. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**

1. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Tyler Cameron**
2. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
3. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
4. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
   1. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
   2. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **Jacob Lotter**
5. The Advisory Committee on Academic Planning met on Friday to discuss the common core. At the meeting Dr. Brian Jennings from Mathematics presented his findings from a faculty survey to find what they think the purposes of the common core should be.
6. I will preface by saying that I ducked out of this meeting early to attend the calling hours for Kim Hosmer’s Mom, so Maddy Scott sat in for me. If you guys have any questions at the end of this report she and I will both field those. And if you’d prefer to discuss after the meeting you can see either one of us.
7. From the survey Dr. Jennings was able to determine the top five objectives faculty feel the core should be achieving are Written Communication, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Information Literacy, and Reading. When given an opportunity in the survey to provide any general feedback faculty overwhelmingly said that they feel the core is too big with too many options. Students are all having different experiences in their core classes and they are not gaining the same skills as their peers. Faculty also expressed that we need to have some sort of technology literacy component in the core, since our occupations will be more technology based than generations before.
8. Dr. Jennings, Dr. Beth Starr from English, and Dr. Enrique Morales-Diaz the Dean of Faculty came up with a couple different possible models for a new core which I will have more details on next week after we meet again on Friday, February 23. However, they did discuss possible road blocks of moving forward with constructing the new core right now. Some of those concerns include the lack of a faculty contract right now, frustration because of workloads and unfilled faculty lines, and how the reorganization of Academic Affairs will effect general education requirements.
9. Another roadblock is the process by which the new core will take effect. Some folks in the meeting feel that the new core should be built and decided on by this committee before moving to the President for final proposal. This would mean that these major changes to the curriculum would skip the All-University Committee and Curriculum Committee. Other’s felt it was the job of this committee to build the new core and then allow the Curriculum Committee to hammer out the details.
10. My last point I want to make is that I would like to take a straw poll. When this committee first started this work I expressed that I wanted to bring a couple members of the committee down to SGA so we could discuss the possible core changes. A new faculty member on the committee expressed at the meeting on Friday that she does not think SGA should be able to facilitate the conversation, because in her opinion we do not represent our constituents well, and that she would prefer to see a general student focus group take place. Maddy Scott kindly expressed that getting student attendance at a focus group would be hard and that it would make more sense to take it to this body. But, before any final decision is made I want to know what everybody here thinks. We do not need to have the discussion here if you would prefer not to.
11. So that being said, please raise your hand if you would like to have the discussion about a new common core right here in SGA.
12. Please raise your hand if you would like to see a student focus group held to discuss the core instead.
13. The Advisory Committee on Academic Planning will meet again on Friday, March 2 at 3:00pm in the Media Services Conference Room in Parenzo Hall.
    1. Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Affirmative Action: **Thalita Neves**
14. The Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, diversity and Affirmative Action met yesterday for the first time in the 2017-2018 academic year.
15. We started off by discussing the importance of reconvening this committee due to the events that occurred on campus last semester.
16. We were also informed that we will have Dr. Lewis, a Diversity consultant, visiting all next week to do a “climate evaluation” of the campus as well as leading focus groups and discussion sessions. The “climate evaluation” will be an assessment of the diversity initiatives we currently have on campus. He will be meeting with certain groups on campus like Honors students, First Years, commuters and Banacos students and the committee discussed the possibility of having one-to-one sessions with him. There will be an email going out to the student body sometime this week with more information.
17. We also discussed the importance of student feedback about the campus climate and talked about a campus-wide survey.
18. We split into two groups. One group is in charge of investigating different survey options and reaching out to other state schools to see if they have already done something like this. The other group is in charge of coming up with ideas to get the campus involved in the survey.
19. Our next scheduled meeting is March 26 at 3:30 in the President’s Boardroom.
    1. Advisory Committee on the CURCA: **No Report**
    2. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No Report**
    3. College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Search: **No Report**
    4. College of Mathematics and Sciences Search Committee: **Cameron Swan**
       * 1. Tomorrow, Wednesday, February 28 the next finalist for the founding Dean of college of Mathematics and Sciences Dr. Reema Zeineldin will be on campus. The student forum tomorrow is at 2:00pm and for the third finalist on Friday, March 2 it is at 9:45am. Please try to be there is you do not have class, I know the times are inconvenient.
    5. College of Education, Health and Human Services Search: **No Report**
20. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
21. Commuter Council: **Michael Reid**
    * + 1. The Commuter Council met tonight and discussed plans with Andrew Mankus about the renovation of the kitchen set up at Wilson Café. He discussed with us the layout and dining options that he would like to see for the Renovations. The Commuter council gave him our input on what we and other commuter/residents would like to see and he took those into consideration.
        2. Next Wednesday, March 7, from 11:30am until 1:00pm the Commuter council will be holding a St. Patrick’s Day themed luncheon at the Tekoa Room/Dining Commons.
        3. We will be volunteering at our own station on Fresh Check Day as well as hosting a Cotton Candy Day in Wilson café from 11:30 until 1:30pm on Wednesday, March 28. More updates to come.
22. Senior Class: **Maddie Creamer**
    * + 1. I move to appoint Andrew Logan as Class of 2018 Representative to SGA for the remainder of the 20172018 academic year. Motion carries.
        2. Diploma order forms are due this Thursday, March 1. Seniors should return these forms to the Registrar’s Office in Parenzo 107. The order forms can be found in the email that John Ohotnicky sent to seniors on February 14.
        3. In regard to Commencement, seniors received an email last week with a lot of important details. Our Commencement rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday May 8 at 4:00pm in the Woodward Center. Word on the street is that the first 400 people that show up get a special gift for attending. For the ceremony, each student may invite up to four guest to the ceremony and upon registration can be entered in a raffle for an additional 1 or 2 tickets. Registration for tickets begins on Monday, April 2 at 8:00am and will last until Wednesday, Apirl 11 at 11:00pm. Tickets will be ready for pick up at the Campus Center Card window beginning on Monday April 23 and will end on Tuesday, May 15. It is important that you keep tickets in a safe place, as they cannot be replaced. Seniors will receive a letter the week after spring break regarding their eligibility to participate in the Commencement ceremony.
        4. I’ve been getting a lot of questions in regard to purchasing cap and gowns at the Bookstore. I spoke with the manager, Jason Ilnicki and he told me that they are working with the vendor for the cap and gowns and should have them come in early April. All pieces are available to purchase as a bundle or individually.
        5. Mohegan Sun Trip is still on sale until March 9. Due to the lack of tickets purchased at this point, we may be reducing the amount of tickets we’re selling in total form 104 to 53 tickets. If you and your friends are interested in attending this trip, please buy your tickets as soon as possible due to the fact that we must communicate with the hotel regarding the amount of rooms in our reservation.
        6. We are working hard on our *Senior Class, Raise your Glass* event, which will take place on March 22 at the Hangar in Westfield. This event will be a celebration for seniors as we toast our final days until Commencement. At this event we will be raffling off cap and gowns, along with a few other prizes so mark your calendars and don’t miss out.
        7. If you have any questions regarding commencement or senior events, please feel free to reach out to me.
        8. Our next scheduled meeting is Friday, March 2 at 4:00pm in Ely 003.
23. Junior Class: **No Report**
24. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
25. First Year Class: **Joseph Joyal**
26. We are planning some events in the future. One of these is a Celebration on the International day of Happiness, on March 20. Another is a 2018 tournament style fundraiser. Finally, a game of thrones trivia event.
27. Our next scheduled meeting is March 5 at 4:45 in the SGA Club Room.
28. Apartment Complex: **Kyle Nolan**
29. The Apartment Complex met this past Friday, February 23 to discuss upcoming events.
30. We are planning on doing a Dunkin Donuts’ event for midterms and got the ball rolling on potentially running a 21 plus event later on in the semester.
31. We also discussed an egg hunt and a St. Patrick’s day event.
32. I move to appoint Presley Mahanna as Apartment Complex Rep Representative to Senate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
33. Our next scheduled meeting is March 2 at 1:00pm in the Conlin 1D1.
34. Courtney Hall: **Ethan Goodfellow**
35. I move to appoint Algenis Ortiz as Representative to Senate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
36. Our next scheduled meeting is on February 28 at 5:15pm in the Courtney Hall Council Room.
37. Davis Hall: **Simone LaPlant**
38. Davis hall council has been super busy lately with our events. Leading up to Valentine’s Day, February 5 – 9 we sold candy grams by donation and raised $50.00 that will be used to buy goods for the Common Goods Pantry. Our 3rd annual glow stick dance was super fun. We are planning a food auction on March 22 which will be amazing and a lot of fun, if you are available to come, it will be held in our Commons Room, please stop by and show support.
39. Our next meeting will be taking place on Wednesday, March 28 at 5:00pm in our Hall Council Chambers.
40. Dickinson Hall: **Mitchell McKittrick**
41. The Hall Council held a Valentine’s Day Double Feature on Wednesday, February 14. We watched the movies Dirty Dancing and Beauty and the Beast and also had an assortment of Italian pastries; while we had a small attendance, I personally consider the event a success.
42. Our next event will be Pie Day. On March 7 in the Dickinson Hall Kitchen, we will be serving an assortment of homemade and frozen pies.
43. In addition, we are currently holding interviews for our vacant representative position, and we will be selecting our new representative on Thursday, March 1 in our next meeting.
44. Our next scheduled meeting is on March 1 at 6:15 in the Dickingson Common Room.
45. Lammers Hall: **Kaytlyn Mekal**
46. Lammers Hall will be having our first open forum meeting with the members of our hall, and we hope to get some positive feedback from our students.
47. We are also planning a month-long trivia event. Throughout the month of April, we will be hosting Trivia on Wednesday nights for Lammers Hall residents to win some big prizes. People can compete in teams of 5 and win smaller prizes each night. We will start campaigning this Thursday, March 1 by hanging posters around our hall. We would like to stress the fact that this will be for Lammers Hall residents only. This is to build a sense of community among our residents and urge them to work together in a fun way.
48. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
49. New Hall: **Sarah Wade**
50. Just a little update from New Hall, we are currently in the process of planning our staycation event which will consist of a spring break raffle, mocktails, smoothies, DIY sugar scrubs and much more. This event will be held next Tuesday, March 6 from 6:30pm until 8:00pm, in the New Hall lobby, feel free to drop by.
51. Our next scheduled meeting is on February 28 at 5:45 in New Hall.
52. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
53. University Hall: **No Report**
54. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
55. NEW BUSINESS: (requires majority vote to be opened)
    1. **Arielyss Santiago:** I move to open New Business. Motion carries.
       * 1. **Brendan McKee:** I Move to place the MassPirg reaffirmation vote on the SGA ballot. Motion carries.
         2. **Jacob Lotter:** I move to make this a roll call vote. Motion carries.
56. **Jacob Lotter:** I just have a point of information for everybody, a roll call vote is not meant to make any of you feel intimidated to vote a certain way. The entire point of having a roll call vote is so when we have a serious vote like this we have accurate records that are kept that go in the minutes and it also makes it easier for us to count the votes. So when you vote make sure you are really sure about the situation, how your constituents feel about this, and vote loud and proud when Tori Lind calls your name if we do the roll call vote.
57. **Aaron Sylvia**: What would the quorum be needed to have a yes or no vote affirmed, what’s the number?
58. **Victoria Lind**: There are 53 senators so a little over 25
59. **Joseph Newlin**: I knew next to nothing about MassPIRG when they came and presented a couple weeks ago so wanting to learn more I went to their Kick-Off meeting the following Thursday. What I found there was a group of passionate students that were trying to get engaged on campus, leadership experience, and get involved. Similar to how I think a lot of us are here so I would just urge you to think about why you joined SGA and why other students might have chosen MassPIRG and why they’re both good ways to keep activism going on campus.
60. **Maddie Creamer**: Well I agree with that, but I just want to bring to light the idea that they are doing a lot of things that student groups on campus are already doing. I’m a member of the Sustainability Club and we’ve been actively working towards creating a renewable energy bench that runs on solar energy and we’ve had no interactions with anyone that has similar ideas with that. There are many groups on campus that want the same things and are working toward the same things and we go through SGA as well.
61. **Aaron Sylvia**: I want to bring up the fact that we are in a very kind of turbulent political times here and all of you know that a lot of students are feeling very scared about things out there. MassPIRG is something that I’ve never been a member of, I’ve never helped out with the campaigns, and some years where money was tight I wouldn’t pay the fee, but I think right now if there was ever a time we needed this group to exist on campus I think this is the moment it needs to be here. It provides an outlet for students to go forward and say that they care about these issues. If anything else I think we have a group of students over here that are scared they are not going to be able to do something that they care about on campus and I think it would be bad on Student Government as a whole to say that these people don’t have the right to move forward with the group that they believe in. I urge you to all very seriously in thinking about voting to support this group.
62. **Jake O’Kane**: So MassPIRG does a lot of good things for the community and for the country and I don’t think any single person can argue that the good that they do is good. My biggest problem is the way they go about getting money. Forty five percent of the students paid the fee, yet I looked on their Facebook page and they only have 179 likes. Of those people I saw that they don’t even go to this University anymore. I just feel like not everyone knows what they are paying for. If you were able to be an opt-in fee I would absolutely say you guys should be here no problem, but I don’t know what you guys think, but I don’t think 45% of the students know about you and I don’t think 45% of the students know what they are paying for. I’d like to see how much percent of that you think actually knows about you and how many students are paying you without their knowledge.
63. **Kane Sheek**: We can’t actually say how many people pay the fee and are supportive of that, I don’t think anyone has gotten data on that, that would be a bigger university question, but we can say that we definitely have student support. In the past week we have talked to over 500 students and they said that they support and would actually love to see a MassPIRG question on the SGA ballot. We have the petitions right here if you’d like to see those. Also this is only one week that we were campaigning. I definitely agree that there are some places we can improve on marketing, but if that’s the case to shut down an entire organization it doesn’t seem like the biggest question.
64. **Jake O’Kane**: It feels like it’s very close to extortion without being extortion. In regards to campaigning for the last week, we talked to you three or four weeks ago and I went onto your social media accounts and they weren’t super active. It didn’t seem like a huge effort was made. As I said Facebook had 179 likes, that’s 4.1% of the student population and not all those students went here. That’s a huge discrepancy from 45%. I think there’s a lot of students who don’t know what you guys are who are paying for you and that’s not ok. I went back in the minutes of every time we’ve done a reaffirmation vote on you guys and every single time it’s been brought up that you don’t do enough to market yourselves. I think there are a lot of students who pay into you who don’t know what they are paying into and that’s very unethical.
65. **Kane Sheek**: We also have blurbs on the accounts so everyone can see the blurb. Karina Sallaway has brought up to me that we can definitely do more to update the blurb because maybe it’s a little bit confusing, but there are multiple ways for students to see what this fee is going towards.
66. **Cam Swan**: How are you different from Sustainability and what do you do better than them?
67. **Rob Whipple**: I don’t know much exactly what the Sustainability Club does. I know we tried to form a committee with the former Facilities Director Kevin Cochran, but unfortunately he’s no longer a part of the university. I know we are planning on a coalition with that club, but since last semester we unfortunately haven’t been able to coordinate anything and this semester is focusing on the reaffirmation, but we are always trying to do more with coalitions with groups on campus.
68. **Cam Swan**: My question is really what do you guys do that Sustainability Club couldn’t do and people are paying a nine dollar fee for you, but what is MassPIRG doing that Sustainability Club couldn’t do?
69. **Kane Sheek**: We’re not just a sustainability group, we focus on a bunch of different issues. Most of our issues right now are definitely toward sustainability. Our two biggest active campaigns that we have right now are our *Save the Bees campaign* and our *Toxic Free Westfield campaign* and those have all been student ran and I haven’t really seen any of that come out of the Sustainability Club. I’ve talked to the president a little bit last semester and he was part of the coalition with the facilities director, but they don’t have the resources that we do to run effective campaigns. I’m not saying they don’t do a good job because they obviously have a good group of students working with them and that is why we’d like to partner with them, but we definitely focus on things like more open education resources or right now we’re focusing on something with fire extinguishers. Also there’s a full-time staff member here. I know Sustainability Club has awesome professors working with them, but professors also have other work to do. I am somebody that can be here all the time for students.
70. **Jacob Lotter**: I want to remind everyone in this room that this isn’t a conversation of I do like MassPIRG, I don’t like MassPIRG, this is a conversation of are you ok with there being a nine dollar fee on the bill that some students don’t know they are paying. I do want to say one thing, Kane said he’s a full-time member of MassPIRG, he does not only work here, he splits his time between here and HCC, so, he is not full-time all the time here at Westfield State. And the last thing I want to say is Kane did say something about petitions that were signed by students and he’s happy to show them to us. I know I talked to my constituents and I know some of you did and there were a lot of people who didn’t know what they were signing and just signed it to get people out of their way. I know Shayna Arnott’s sister thought she was signing the petition to save the bees, not to save MassPIRG. I know personally that petition carries no weight and I wanted to get that out there, that I know that my constituents were not impressed with the petition.
71. **Rob Whipple**: Each door that I personally knocked on I always gave them the spiel of what they were signing. On the top of the page it says exactly what they are signing for and I made sure they knew what they were signing for.
72. **Kane Sheek**: Also we did do petitions for Save the Bees at the beginning of the semester so maybe she did sign that and not the other one.
73. **Jacob Lotter**: Yes I think that’s fine. I think that no matter what when you’re standing in someone’s doorway they are going to sign it and not listen to you so for me it doesn’t carry any weight.
74. **Arielyss Santiago**: Just so people are informed can you read what the top of the petitions said?
75. **Rob Whipple**: It says, “MassPIRG petition. We the undersigned Westfield State University undergraduate students support the continuation of a MassPIRG chapter at Westfield State University. MassPIRG is a state-wide, student directed, non-partisan organization. For over 45 years we have worked to create a greener, healthier, and more meaningful future by mobilizing students on campus to do research, advocacy, education, and service on a variety of issues including environmental, public health, youth voter mobilization, and poverty relief efforts. MassPIRG chapters across the state pool resources and hire a staff of professionals to work with students on issues that concern us as citizens. The WSU chapter of MassPIRG was founded in 1974 when students first voted to fund a chapter. I have read the statement above and support the existence of a MassPIRG chapter at Westfield State University funded by a $9 per student per semester waivable fee, which is the only way to fund a MassPIRG chapter. I understand that any student choosing not to support MassPIRG may choose to waive the fee.”
76. Karina Sallaway: According to the MassPIRG bylaws when it comes to local chapters at schools it says that, “the process of the fee shall present to students a single yes or no question and inform them of the type and the amount of fee at issue.” On our student bill it is not a question, it just gives the blurb about MassPIRG, which is different on the student bill paper version and the student bill online, the blurbs are very different and it’s not a yes or no question. It asks you to sign your name, but on the online bill there not signing, you just click if you don’t want to pay it. So I’m just confused as to why it’s different on both.
77. **Kane Sheek**: I would assume that’s a Bursar thing. I have never known that that was different so we can definitely look into it, but I was not even aware that there was just a click instead of a sign.
78. **Karina Sallaway**: I’m just confused because if you are here full-time working for the students why is it that you only know about these problems when I bring them to you?
79. **Kane Sheek**: I have a lot of things that I’m doing quite a bit. Most of my time is going toward students and making sure their campaigns are running effectively. I had assumed that most of these things had been taken care of with the past organizers, but definitely if there are things like this bring them to my attention because I don’t know that they even exist if they are not brought to my attention.
80. **Maddie Creamer**: First off I don’t think it’s fair that you say that you are working with Sustainability Club because I’m the secretary there and you haven’t reached out at all in the past six months. If you’re a sustainability group and you really want to collaborate you think that there would be some communication of any sorts and I know that you haven’t so, that’s just unfair to say. Going off of what Jake said, many students that I spoke to thought MassPIRG was an opt-in and they did not know that they were paying that fee and they were really angered when they found out that their money was going not back toward the campus and they’re not really seeing any results toward anything that you have been doing. While I think MassPIRG has had some really great initiatives in the past, there presence on campus has really been lacking since our vote here two years ago where I voted to keep you on campus because I thought that you guys were doing some really great initiatives that were really making the campus and the state nationwide a better place, but since there the only campaign that I have really seen and anyone I’ve talked to has seen is Save the Bees. Most people just like it for the pins. They don’t know anything about the initiative itself, they just know about the pins and they say Save the Bees, but when it comes to asking them the facts about what that initiative entails they don’t know. Lastly, you talk about how there are different groups that aren’t doing the toxic waste and plastic bag bans, but there’s internships with the City Hall that people in various departments are able to work with them. So, I don’t want you to think that these are things that students on campus can’t do because they have done it and they’ll continue to do it.
81. **Rob Whipple**: With the campaign that we’re running it’s actually to show that there are different sorts of toxics that are added to every day products like moisturizers and makeups and stuff like that. Not like the bags and chemicals and stuff.
82. **Maddie Creamer**: Well then where have we seen that on campus because I haven’t ever heard of anything like that and this hasn’t been promoted to anyone that I talked to. When I ask 100 people all they know is Save the Bees. So I’m just looking to where is this marketing where are you reaching out to students? If what you’re doing is just last week where you guys were on the line and needed to talk to students about whether you can stay on campus, if that’s the only time you’re reaching out talking to students about what you’re doing. That’s just not enough and there should be more.
83. **Rob Whipple**: Yeah definitely, one of the unique things about this club is that any student can come in and basically pitch their own campaign. With this toxics campaign it was literally just invented a month ago. We had a volunteer come in and present this issue that’s going on today and we’re able to let her lead this campaign. Actually tomorrow at 6:00pm in Ely we’re actually showing a movie called *Complicit* which is about the campaign. It’s just tough because there’s not a lot of activism going on campus. We just have a group of twenty of us, which is amazing for us, and I just think MassPIRG is really unique like you gain different skills and at least for me, leadership, being a chapter chair, public speaking, just everything that I can do in everyday life down the road. This organization has made me grow so much, I used to do nothing but stay in my dorm when I went to University of Hartford two years ago. Then I came here and joined this organization and got involved. This group is something I’m passionate about and be able to do something and I feel like I’m making a difference. I know you don’t see a lot of what we do, but a lot of the stuff we do are small victories and eventually they will lead to big victories.
84. **Marcus DiBacco**: Point of information, MassPIRG is not a club it’s an interest group.
85. **Scotty Howe**: In terms of their effectiveness I’m a freshman here I can’t really speak to that. I have seen them in the D.C. so I don’t know that you mean when you say you don’t see them around, but in terms of the opt-in opt-out system I think that’s kind of a silly argument. I pay my own bill so I got to look at it and it is not hidden by any means, it is a big green paper that says this is what you’re paying for undo this if you want it’s really easy to see. I think that shouldn’t be held against them, if you can’t see that that’s your fault.
86. **Victoria Lind**: When you were getting all these signatures, I know that a lot of them were in the residence halls, I was wondering if you asked the RDs for permission to go around for those.
87. **Haley Bergs**: Actually we only did the buildings that we currently live in and we knocked on doors within our vicinity we didn’t go outside of our Residence Halls.
88. **Delaney Gembis**: Something that’s super important to me, especially since you provide benefits to students, is what you’re giving back to students and opportunities that students are getting. A big thing with that is internships and to my understanding you guys are doing an internship so I was wondering what benefits are you gaining from this experience and what do you have access to that you wouldn’t without MassPIRG?
89. **Haley Bergs**: Not only have I gained three credits towards my graduation, I have been able to actually speak to people, get understanding from different political backgrounds and really broaden my point of view. Save the Bees campaign, I’ve kind of taken this and made it my baby, like this is my campaign, and to be able to say that I’ve most likely certified this campus to be a bee friendly campus and be the first in Massachusetts to do that that’s pretty unique I would say at least. To say that the bees aren’t dying and everything else I mean it’s a totally different campaign. I’m learning so much through this organization and I mean you can do that with other clubs and organizations, but this organization has given me the tools to understand what I’m actually talking about and learning more about all these situations and it’s not just about the bees it’s so much more than that.
90. **Marcus DiBacco**: It’s no secret that I really don’t like MassPIRG, one of the reasons are I think they wimp out on their campaigns and I think they take on campaigns that are pretty much already done. When I started as a freshman there was a campaign to make textbooks cheaper and they also had a campaign to make college more affordable, they just increased our fees by $750.00. Carlton Pickron has been here for decades, MassPIRG has been here for 45 years, every student here knows the name Carlton Pickron, as we know most people don’t know the name MassPIRG. Shayna Arnott’s sister did tell us she signed something to Save the Bees the night they went around with the petition last week. So, I really don’t think she would’ve been that confused as to what she was signing I think she might’ve been told the wrong thing. You said that you carefully explained it, I believe you, but there are nineteen other people in MassPIRG. We saw their budget of where the money we pay goes. Fifty percent of it goes to professional staff, most of it goes elsewhere, and we get maybe 14% for the operating budget. Again it’s not really a secret that I don’t like MassPIRG. I agree with the campaigns, I do not agree with the execution of said campaigns. I really don’t like interest groups, I think they take away from Democracy and liberty. When I stood before you a few weeks ago though the question was if it’s opt-in opt-out, I believe that it should be an opt-in because we side with the majority of the students who don’t pay it and that way students still have a say as to what goes on. As much as it pains me to say this I would urge you to vote to put them on the ballot because if we take them off the ballot that’s it no one gets a say other than those of us sitting in this room, but if we put it on the ballot I’m going to vote no. It will still give them a chance and we will be monitoring them to make sure that what they do is accurately represented in what they say is true.
91. **Aaron Sylvia**: There is somewhat of a negative impression of Student Government by groups on campus. I know that that is unearned, but I want to make every effort I can to make sure we work well with groups here on campus as themselves. Even if you disagree with MassPIRG on the level of what they accomplish here on campus if you vote no here tonight it doesn’t even go to the student population and there are some of your constituents who are part of MassPIRG. So, if anything else just to represent them here tonight I urge you to reconsider and vote for even the one person who might be affected by this vote.
92. **Jake O’Kane**: When we talked to you guys a few weeks ago and you said that you weren’t doing a great job of getting your name out there, and in 2015-2016, and in 2013-2014, why is social media a tool that you haven’t used?
93. **Kane Sheek**: We try to use social media. We always are looking for students to take part in social media, but sometimes that’s not the interest of students that we have in our group. I definitely do post and so does Haley and it’s kind of hard to get people to follow you on social media.
94. **Jake O’Kane**: Just a point of information that I looked up. You guys haven’t posted that much, especially since you’ve been campaigning. CAB has had four posts in the last week on their Instagram and you guys had three this semester on February 3, 5, and 9 and the last time you liked anything was on September 28. If someone just had it on their phone you could post more. You guys have done more on your Facebook a little bit, but I think if you guys involved on some of your other social media accounts it would be much more effective. It just takes two seconds.
95. **Joseph Joyal**: Kane this question is for you. I see you in the cafeteria sometimes getting signatures, but 90% of your interactions with students has been here lobbying us so I’m just wondering what percent of the dues collected go to your salary for you to come here to lobby us to keep students paying your salary and what percent go back to the university. Also 12% of the students vote on the SGA ballot and they don’t have these conversations we have down here, all they do is check a box.
96. **Kane Sheek**: Definitely funding is a huge thing that I definitely need to focus on while this is happening. Most of the times when a funding thing is coming up for an organizer they are out talking and campaigning towards the constituents in the student body that they are representing. We have this special case here at Westfield State University where you guys have decided to do a lot of the discussion and the vote, which is awesome and I’m glad that you guys take initiative on the things that affect your constituency, but obviously I’m going to make this sort of my priority so we still have a chapter here. I’m going to say that I don’t get paid a lot. I could find a job that pays me a lot more, but the reason that I am here is to develop these students and kind of saying that yes I am I guess fundraising and making sure that people are understanding what they are voting for, like just what I would be doing when I was talking to the students, that I have been focusing on this and I have been making an effort to making sure that you guys are informed and wanting to make the right decision for your student population. So yes I have been working mostly on this case to make sure that we have funding going on for the next year, but it’s not for me it’s for the students. It’s for the MassPIRG group and what they represent.
97. **Joseph Joyal**: I was asking what percent of the fees go toward administrative costs and what go toward initiatives.
98. **Kane Sheek**: I don’t have the graph in front of us again, but around 50% go towards hiring professional organizers. We pool all the resources throughout the state so Westfield State is in the same kind of pool as UMASS Amherst and some of the bigger schools. I guess a little bit of the cool thing is most of the time Westfield State doesn’t raise as much as a chapter would so you guys essentially are kind of getting a bargain that you pay into this bigger thing and get more out of it than a bigger school would.
99. **Karina Sallaway**: Point of information I have the MassPIRG budget right now on my computer and it says: 50% goes toward MassPIRG staff, 34% goes toward PIRGS program staff, 14% goes toward operating costs, and 2% goes toward U.S. PIRG dues.
100. **John Coulombe**: I wanted to point out that you said in your petition that the only way to stay on campus was to charge the nine dollar fee, which unless I was misled or lied to the other week, I asked you if there was any other way you could stay on campus and you guys had mentioned the only other way was that you’d have to go fundraising on campus. Which I don’t know if you know, but we have a lot of clubs on campus that do a lot of fundraisers and bake sales, and sure they do get the money that we give them on our bill, however that money stays on campus. You see an immediate impact on campus to your constituents with that $92.00. You don’t see more than half of it go off to pay someone you are never going to see from this organization and I just want to put it out there that if this group was so hell bent on staying on campus and you were to be voted against tonight, if you cared this much about this campus then you would stay and not just leave because you weren’t getting funding.
101. **Presley Mahanna**: I want to know why you guys seem to market yourself as a political group, but you seem to only focus on sustainability issues. I don’t know if it’s because most of your students focus on sustainability issues, but there’s so many other issues in politics, there’s LGBTQ issues, all the stuff that happened on campus last semester, how come we haven’t seen any of those in your upcoming campaigns?
102. **Kane Sheek**: It’s mostly for what the students who come in want to do. Most people focus on sustainability, but that isn’t what we are forcing them to do campaigns on.
103. **Brendan Bronishan**: I’d like to point out to senate that obviously there are issues and concerns with MassPIRG and I’m sure they are taking that to heart, but it seems to me that their mission is solid. Political participation and student activism are not only essential to this college campus, but to our democracy as a whole. I don’t think that there’s any ill gotten goals from MassPIRG. The SGA costs money too and let’s be realistic, I don’t think the majority of students here realize what we do either and I don’t hear anybody on the Executive Council or on this body advocating on cutting our funding. These guys are trying to propel political participation and this university should do everything it can to support that goal.
104. **Marissa Cremin**: I am just curious as to why you think MassPIRG chapters have gone from 33 to 13. If you could give us some more information on that I think it would be helpful for senators to hear.
105. **Shawna Upton**: For one, every time we’ve ever been off a campus has mostly been through a student wide ballot initiative, just to be clear. A lot of times it’s because we piss off industries with our campaigns and then there’s sometimes competing vote no campaigns that aren’t run by students, but are run by people of different industries. We’ve seen industries come onto college campuses and try to remove our fee because we were too effective. This happened in California. So it has been a mix of some of those and students just didn’t agree with our issues anymore. Or that they didn’t want us on campus and we respected that. We don’t want to be in a place that doesn’t want us organizing and that’s why we do the vote every two years so that the students can be heard and they get two times to vote.
106. **Jacob Lotter**: I have a point of information, kind of off of Brendan’s point of us having money. So you guys do pay a student activities fee on your bill, it is required, it is not an opt-out or opt-in fee. I just want to make it clear to everyone that SGA does not get all that money, it gets split up between a couple different departments and we as the SGA don’t really use much of that money on our own for operating, we allocate the money to clubs, which is essentially giving the money back to the students so your clubs can do an event or go on a conference or have a networking dinner. A club doing something very similar to MassPIRG could actually benefit from the student activities fee you are already paying without having to pay a nine dollar MassPIRG fee.
107. **Sammantha Dorazio**: I move to close the speaker’s list. Motion fails.
108. **Maddie Creamer**: I just want everyone to know that this is a really important vote. While it may seem like a long meeting, it’s really important that we talk about this so I’m going to be voting no because this is an important issue for us all to be talking about.
109. **Shayna Arnott**: I agree with Maddie. It’s a long conversation I had two years ago, but it’s a conversation that needs to happen and I think it’s important that everybody gets their voice heard just like the people who think that it should go to the ballot feel that everybody in the student body should get their voice heard, so I’m going to vote no as well.
110. **Brendan McKee**: If you haven’t spoken and you have an opinion or you’ve talked to your constituents and they have an opinion, use this as your opportunity to speak because you’re not going to have a lot of opportunities like this. Don’t let anything sit in the back of your mind, make sure that you’re voicing yourself and your constituents properly.
111. **Aaron Sylvia**: I believe that at this point we have heard both sides of the argument and this discussion is starting to devolve and become personal. I don’t believe that’s a conversation we need to have. I think we’ve heard both sides of it and we need to close the speaker’s list, maintain the dignity and move on forward.
112. **Jakob Wyman**: How many more names are on the speaker’s list?
113. **Arielyss Santiago**: Six.
114. Motion fails
115. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: How does this fee help our students?
116. **Rob Whipple**: The fee is partially used to hire Kane Sheek and Kane is there so the students can run their campaigns effectively. I know I’ve used Kane anytime I have to do something MassPIRG related because he’s a huge resource. Just being able to run campaigns effectively or even to run our weekly meetings Kane’s a huge resource so we can run them effectively. I personally feel that the fee is put to good use because Kane has helped me so much and helped MassPIRG so much so we can actually do campaign work. Because it’s tough for individuals to be trained with tablework and Kane really helps with that.
117. **Jacob Lotter**: I just want to go back to Joey Joyal’s point where he said 12% of the campus votes. As we said last time we had this discussion, the reason the vote came down here was because we are a little more representative of the entire campus community because we are supposed to represent every student and only 12% of the campus chooses to represent themselves when they vote. I just want to urge you that if you think if it goes on the ballot and most of your constituents are going to vote yes, then vote to put it on the ballot. If you are thinking to yourself right now if this goes on the ballot most of my constituents are going to vote no, then I urge you to vote no and not even put it on the ballot if it’s going to fail anyway.
118. **Brendan McKee**: Not only is it our responsibility to represent our constituents, but it’s also our responsibility to inform them. So when elections do come around it is each and every one of your responsibilities to make sure that campus is informed elections are going on because that’s ultimately who’s going to be representing them. So if we feel that campus doesn’t do a good job of representing themselves then part of that is our fault.
119. **Mitchell McKittrick**: One of you said earlier that there wasn’t a lot of activism on campus, but I feel that at the end of last semester there was a lot of activism and I didn’t really see a lot of it from MassPIRG, specifically with the Owl’s Fight Back movement. Why was that?
120. **Rob Whipple**: So as MassPIRG as a whole we didn’t run a campaign or help out with that. As individuals we participated in those events, such as the rallies and stuff. As an organization no we didn’t really go into that, but as individuals most of us participated.
121. **Mitchell McKittrick**: Why was the organization not specifically involved?
122. **Rob Whipple**: That is a good question. It wasn’t really touched upon that much. We talked about it as our own group in our meetings. I’m not too sure why exactly we didn’t go out and do our own campaigns. At that point in time we were low in volunteers.
123. **Jake O’Kane**: Is there a way in the future we can get you guys to be an opt-in fee?
124. **Kane Sheek**: Currently no there is not a way we can go into an opt-in fee. Just because mostly I know that everyone is saying there is really great fundraising initiatives here on campus and I see it almost every day, but mostly that would kind of render us ineffective in doing our campaign work. Asking and standing on the corner saying hey have you paid your MassPIRG nine dollar fee yet? You guys are talking a lot about image and that would definitely not do anything for our image.
125. **Jake O’Kane**: I feel like on the bill though it can just be the same thing instead of an opt-out box we just have an opt-in box. So the same information already there would still be there. But you’re saying you wouldn’t be able to function if you were an opt-in fee versus opt-out?
126. **Kane Sheek**: Essentially yeah.
127. **Shayna Arnott**: I understand Kane that you’re new, but I just feel that some of the basic things that I would do when I have a job is looking at the constitution and the bill writing. I feel like those are things you should be looking at if you are getting 50% of students’ money. I just don’t think it’s right that Karina Sallaway had to bring up to you the constitution and the way the bill is written.
128. **Jakob Wyman**: I feel like MassPIRG is getting the blame for the fault of our constituents and possibly the fault of us and I don’t think that’s reasonable for us to get rid of them tonight.
129. **Mitchell McKittrick**: If you were to continue to receive funding what would you do better to market yourself and reach people more?
130. **Haley Bergs**: As of right now it’s just myself and Kane who are in charge of the social media accounts. It’s really difficult as a full-time student, as I’m sure you can all imagine, but we are also seeking out an internship opportunity for social media and be able to handle that and get school credit. Again it goes both ways, we can do a better job advertising these opportunities, but they are there and it takes people seeking us out and seeing what opportunities we have. Overall we can be doing a better job at this and we appreciate any input whatsoever in our core meetings on Mondays what we could be doing better and what you think would work with the general public.
131. **Karina Sallaway**: In article 7 section 1 of the bylaws of MassPIRG it says that all students who are enrolled in participating schools that pay the MassPIRG fee shall be members of MassPIRG. So is my understanding correct in that everyone who pays the fee is a member of MassPIRG and you have to pay the fee to be a member of MassPIRG?
132. **Kane Sheek**: Yes that is correct.
133. **Thalita Neves**: I just wanted to say whatever way the vote goes, there were a lot of suggestions made here today and if you guys come back in two years I hope to see a lot of changes and suggestions being taken into consideration.
134. **Kane Sheek**: We would love to have a great relationship with SGA and hearing all of your things to improve upon because obviously we have a lot of things going on and sometimes some things fall through the cracks. We want to improve upon that, but we can’t sometimes see what we need to improve upon until someone tells us to do it. I’m sure all of you have that sort of situation where you think you’re doing a great job and someone says you aren’t and you say great I can definitely improve upon that. I would love going forward to see SGA and MassPIRG work together on a lot of issues we both care about. We could definitely do a lot of cool things with education and cheaper textbooks and we both put our power together and organize the students because you represent the students and we want to make sure we are representing the people and we definitely have very similar missions and goals and going forward I would love to see some kind of really great cohesiveness towards SGA and MassPIRG.
135. **Aaron Sylvia**: Looking to the future I think we should look to bringing these groups together and in order to do that we need to reaffirm the group tonight or at least allow for a student vote so we can use these groups more effectively allowing for more on campus unity.
136. **Christian Capalbo**: It was brought up that those who pay the fee are automatically members of MassPIRG. Now were we told that in that green sheet we get with the bill? Because I don’t ever remember seeing that.
137. **Kane Sheek**: I’m not sure if it has been mentioned in the green sheet, but I can definitely make sure that it is. Also in our bylaws you must attend one meeting to become a voting member. So, yes you are a member, but you don’t have any member privileges until you come to one meeting.
138. **Christian Capalbo**: So would it be fair to say that you guys, even though you only have 20 people, that you also have a roster of those who pay and those who are members? I would assume that gets sent to whoever is in charge.
139. **Shawna Upton**: No, so we don’t actually get access to that. We get numbers from your Bursar of the number of people who are paying, but we don’t have access to who it is. I think mostly, again those bylaws are pretty old and for total transparency our Board of Directors is looking to update those, and I think when they were written the thought of it was kind of like a union. So we don’t have a big roster of students who pay the fee and the only way we have our email list is if someone has signed an interest card.
140. **John Coulombe**: I move to close speaker’s list. Motion carries.
     1. A roll call vote was taken.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Senator | Yes | No | Senator | Yes | No |
| Maddie Creamer |  | No | Peter Lucey | absent | |
| Marissa Cremin |  | No | Thalita Neves | Yes |  |
| Aaron Sylvia | Yes |  | Elizabeth Ferrara | Yes |  |
| Marisa Russo | Yes |  | Sarah Wade | absent | |
| Madeleine Scott | absent | | Emmett Witherspoon | absent | |
| Abdullah Shafique |  | Yes | Will Sondrini | Yes |  |
| Matthew Howe | Yes |  | Sammantha Dorazio | Yes |  |
| Marcus Payne | Yes |  | Ethan Goodfellow |  | No |
| Joseph Newlin | Yes |  | Jason Rosselli |  | No |
| Giana Dean | absent | | Brendan Brosnihan | Yes |  |
| Bryan Pimentel | Yes |  | Nickalena Richards | absent | |
| Delaney Gembis | Yes |  | Simone LaPlant |  | No |
| Joseph Joyal |  | No | Amanda Ciccarelli | Yes |  |
| Krista Galetta |  | No | Ashley LaRoche | Yes |  |
| Saltanat Aldabayeva | absent | | Mitchell McKittrick |  | No |
| Scotty Howe | Yes |  | Samuel Tsongalis | absent | |
| Melane Voss | Yes |  | Kaytlyn Mekal | Yes |  |
| Sean Manion |  | No | Michael Reid | Yes |  |
| John Coulombe |  | No | Jakob Wyman | Yes |  |
| Shayna Arnott |  | No | Kyle Nolan | Yes |  |
| Christian Capalbo |  | No | Karina Sallaway |  | No |
| Tyler Cameron | Yes |  | Victoria Lind |  | No |
| Connor Kennedy | absent | | Cameron Swan | Yes |  |
| Jake O'Kane |  | No | Jacob Lotter |  | No |
| Annamarie Jackson | Yes |  | Madeline Dexter | absent | |
| Chris DiCarlo |  | No | Marcus DiBacco | Yes |  |
| Courtney Smith |  | No | Luke Morrison | Yes |  |
|  |  |  | Presley Mahanna |  | No |
| Yes = 26 |  |  | Andrew Logan |  | No |
| No = 21 |  |  | Angel Ortiz | Yes |  |

1. **Mitchell McKittrick**: When are the SGA elections?
2. **Barbara Hand**: It’s the third week in April.
3. **Brendan McKee**: There will be a lot of publicity about it when it comes up, Karina will have a lot of work in it.
4. **Maddie Creamer**: I move to close new business. Motion carries.
5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   1. **Marcus DiBacco**: Tomorrow there will be a strategic planning student forum it’s in the Owl’s Nest from 5:30pm until 6:45 pm. All male senators we need you for a picture for White Ribbon Day so stick around for that please**.**
   2. **Tyler Cameron:** Rules and Regs after the meeting.
   3. **Jacob Lotter:** Can I see Matt Howe and Thalita Neves very briefly after the meeting and can I please have my committee sheet back?
   4. **Arielyss Santiago:** Student Affairs Committee will be meeting on Friday, March 2 at 2:30pm**.**
   5. **Sayna Arnott:** Anybody who saw Jacob’s committee sheet and needs another committee join food committee at 4:00pm on Tuesday’s in the Tekoa Room**.**
   6. **Cameron Swan**: If you’re going to State House Day on March 5 please dress professionally. I will be emailing you all with what we’re leaving.
   7. **Kane Sheek**: Movie screening tomorrow at 6:00pm in Dower 127.
   8. **Sean Manion**: Veterans Association meeting Thursday, March 1 at 5:00pm.
   9. **Marissa Cremin**: NAB tomorrow at 5:00pm in the Tekoa Room.
   10. **Marissa Cremin**: 81 days until Commencement.
6. ROLL CALL: Madeleine Scott, Giana Dean, Connor Kennedy, Peter Lucey, Sarah Wade, Emmett Witherspoon, and Samual Tsongalis were absent.
7. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

*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.*