**Student Government Association Minutes**

March 26, 2013

1. ROLL CALL: Amanda McCarthy, Jackie Green, Lindsey Poulin, Diane Lego, Jonathan Delvalle, Dashire Viqueire, Larry Rodkey, Anne Dilorenzo, Justin Connolly and Evelyn Dina were absent. Brandon Burr and Melvin Rivera were excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 05, 2013: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close Delivered by Taylor Fote*
4. Tonight we have Kim Morgan from Student Affairs here to talk about the Ambassador and Compass Program.
5. Kim Morgan: Good evening.
6. The Ambassador Program is currently looking for applicants. The Ambassador Program is sanctioned by the President’s Office and it is a group of students who represent the University at both on-campus and off-campus events. For the past couple years we’ve focused our attention on the community, such as doing community service, outreach, and fundraising.
7. We also, this year, started a mentor program with the Little Bill Elementary School, that we call the Compass Program. Some of you are involved in that, you are matched up with an elementary school child, and you go out there once a week for an hour. It’s like a Big Brother/Big Sister type of program, work with that elementary school child, help them with their homework, play games with them, that sort of thing. It’s a really great, new program that we have about 14 or so elementary schools kids involved. They are so excited about it. The adjustment counselor, out there, keeps asking for more University students to be involved, because he has more elementary school children that would like to take part in the mentor program. We just need more of you to get involved. You don’t have to be a student Ambassador to get involved with this program. If you’re interested in maybe doing it next year, I’ll be passing this sheet around to fill in your contact information. I’ll keep in touch with you and let you in the Fall about getting involved!
8. I also have applications for the Student Ambassador program, if you’re interested in that. I will leave them with Taylor Fote, so see her for the application and fill them out and return this on Friday, march 29th. We have 14 ambassadors and there are about six open spots that would start in the fall.
9. Thank you Kim Morgan.
10. So, as you all can see Stephanie is not here, so I am taking over for tonight. I just have a couple things to talk about. This Wednesday, March 27th, is our favorite time of the year, Pancakes with the President! It starts at 10:00 pm in the Dining Commons. Get there early because it fills up quick.
11. The NSSE Survey is still underway, that’s the survey Victoria Downs came down to talk to us about a few weeks ago and I have placed the post cards that were in your mailboxes on your seats. If you are a first year or a senior please take it, if not please give the post card to a first year or senior you know.
12. Also, Owl Ball tickets are on sale, and Kim Hosmer is here tonight so you all don’t have an excuse not to buy one. I hope to see you all there, since it is an SGA sponsored event, we would love a strong senate population.
13. Some more exciting news for everyone is that signature papers are out this Friday, March 29th at 8:00 am here down in SGA. Alexis Wagner is going to talk about the process more when she reports. If anyone is thinking about running for an Executive Board position and you know that a current Exec member is running again and you don’t want to ask them about information, please see Stephanie Close or any of the Executive Board and we will gladly talk to you.
14. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 2nd at 5:30 pm.
15. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
16. All University Committee**: No Report**
17. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
18. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
19. Housing signups are here, I hope you’ve all had time to cope with the results of your housing numbers. If you got a good number your welcome, if not I’m sorry. Four person apartment rosters should have found out today, and six person apartment rosters are due tomorrow by five so don’t forget. I will have updates for you guys soon about the mock suites you can see in University Hall if you’re interested in living there. I’ve seen the place and it’s real nice.
20. Finally the student affairs committee is meeting tomorrow March 27th at 3:00 pm in Ely 210.
21. If you are interested in running for my position, and want to learn more please see me after the meeting.
22. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
23. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
24. Food Services Committee**: Tom Durkee**
25. The Dining Commons has made some changes**.**
26. During Lunch they have added a burrito station. The pasta tosses will still be featured at the cold bar.
27. The desert station is now a specialty station which now offers omelets through lunch.
28. At dinner the bread station has moved to desert area and they have added new butters and oils.
29. The specialty stations are now open at traditional server and the island through dinner.
30. We have added more frozen yogurt flavors, be on the lookout for those.
31. We will also be moving to bulk services for butter, jelly and cream cheese beginning next week.
32. Please remember if you need a bagged lunch during any meal period, you can log on to diningatwsu.com and fill out a form. You can get a single instance or a scheduled offering.
33. Maria Lees has also just ordered new tumblers, bowls and flatware. Please encourage friends not to take these items from the Dining Commons. Also, as the end of the year is coming please return items you may have in your room or apartment, just place them at the conveyor belt and please remind your friends as well
34. Please remember Pancakes with the president is on Wednesday, March 27th at 10:00 pm in the Dining Commons.
35. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 27th at 10:00 am.
36. Health Committee: **No Report**
37. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
38. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
39. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
40. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Jordan James-Blocker**
41. The Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for April 17th in the Parenzo Gym from 1:00 am until 7:00 pm. I am looking for volunteers to help out with sign ups and the day of the drive. I already have a lot of volunteers, but I still need a few more.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
2. The advising cards have been distributed to every residence hall but Scanlon, which will happen soon. We decided to not distribute them to New Hall, Old Apartments and Lansdowne Place because it is majority of upperclassmen. They are also in the process of being placed in different departments around campus.
3. Registration is happening soon.
4. Juniors, your advising period is this current week and you register on Friday, March 29th.
5. Sophomores, our advising period are April 1st and 4th, so next week, and April 5th we register.
6. First years, your advising period is from April 8th until April 11th and you register on April 12th.
7. I haven’t brought this up in past meetings but I’m going to today. I’m not sure how many of you have heard, but something new with registration is happening. First and second year, In Season Athletes will be registering early. That means they will be registering on Monday, April 8th before First Year students. Those students currently registering for fall 2013 classes, who will be playing a fall sport, will be able to register early. I’ve heard a lot of issues with this, and I really want your feedback. Next week, Marsha Marotta, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Elizabeth Preston, Vice President of Academic Affairs will be coming down to answer your questions and listen to your concerns. What I am asking for right now is to tell me your concerns, so I can write them down. I’m hoping that us talking right now will stick in your brains to ask them next week. Also, please ask your friends what they think of this. This is really important and we want to have questions for them to clear this all up.
8. **Katie Morrissey**: What was the reasoning behind this change?
9. **Rebecca DiVico**: There were a few reasons. Westfield wants to be able to offer something to athletes a s an incentive to come to Westfield. They’ve wanted to start this for a while apparently, and they wanted all athletes to register early before everyone, and it’s been bargained down to this.
10. **Jen McDiarmid**: On a personal level, as a first-year and sophomore, I had a hard time getting my own classes without being an athlete. I don’t think it’s fair to give them an advantage because they play a sport; because that’s something they chose to do. They come here knowing it’s a choice to play a sport so I don’t see how it’s fair to give them that incentive.
11. **Rebecca DiVico**: Okay. That’s why I’m looking for your questions so that when they come next week regarding this, you’ll have had time to think about it.
12. **Richard Darrach**: Where was the student representation on this decision?
13. **Rebecca DiVico**: In my conversations, they have said they brought up in passing to student government, but students who have been on SGA for a while have said that it’s never been brought down here.
14. **Richard Darrach**: Also, as a member of student government, and also as an RA, I have meetings I have to make certain times throughout the week; where’s my priority registration?
15. **Chris Michaud**: Isn’t that technically illegal for us to give incentives for athletes to get them to come here?
16. **Rebecca DiVico**: I don’t know. I’m assuming they’ve gone through the proper procedures.
17. **Susan LaMontagne**: Point of Information, I just want to get the facts correct. The main reason why athletes were given the priority is because their game plays often have them missing class, and so they are in a difficult situation, unlike an RA, whose meetings are set around class schedules. When you’re in an NCA league with several other schools, that luxury doesn’t exist to try to get athletes from missing class. So the main reason is not about incentive, it’s about them not missing classes.
18. **Tom Durkee**: Thank you for that information, Sue. But I do remember that as a first-year student, I had a hard time getting a seat in classes that I need, and it is a choice. We chose to be on senate, and some people can’t be on senate because they have class. This applies to all clubs and organizations and RAs, because some people do have to miss out on things because you are here for an education, sports and activities come second. I just think administration should remember that and keep it fair for all students.
19. **Kevin Soucie**: They are coming next week to talk?
20. **Rebecca DiVico**: Yes, I haven’t brought it up because I wasn’t sure when they were coming, but some senators have approached me about it. They are scheduled for next week so I wanted to inform you ahead of time.
21. **Kevin Soucie**: So is this happening this semester?
22. **Rebecca DiVico**: it’s a pilot, so it’s going to happen this semester regardless. But what happens in this pilot will influence if it happens again.
23. **Taylor Fote**: Just a point of information, it’s set to happen this semester, but they are coming down to meet with us so we can tell them how we feel about it to influence what happens in the future.
24. **Ryan Losko**: Is this Varsity and club sports?
25. **Rebecca DiVico**: Just Varsity sports.
26. **Tim Egan**: Running off what Sue said, not all athletic events are during the week, so I don’t see how all athletes can get that advantage. Most games are on the weekends, so I don’t see why they would need this advantage when they wouldn’t need to skip classes to begin with. I think it kind of falls under club sports, because they have to be academically eligible to play.
27. **Michelle Hanney**: You chose to be an athlete, but you can’t chose that you need to work a job or two to get yourself through school. I know a lot of students can’t take certain classes because they do have a full work schedule. But that’s not a choice; they need to go to work. So they deserve the priority most in my eyes.
28. **Josh Frank**: Being in student government, we’re also missing class opportunities.
29. **Brittany Moniz**: I guess I’m confused. Are student athletes not able to get the class times that they need? Or are they just not selecting the earlier classes because they prefer the afternoon classes? Are they not aware that there is going to be a conflict and it’s an advising issue? Or are they just not selecting the right classes?
30. **Rebecca DiVico**: That’s a great question. I’m not even sure about that.
31. **Chris Michaud**: So this is already in effect?
32. **Rebecca DiVico**: Yes, if you qualify, I believe the athletic department lets those students know, so Monday, March 8th; those students will be able to register.
33. **Jocelyn Beauregard**: Are they going to be at the same level as Honor Students registering early? I just don’t think that’s fair because the honors students work really hard academically and need certain classes so that is way more justified than students choosing to play a sport.
34. **Drew Dalesandro**: Point of Information: As far as the legality of it, student athletes can’t take any financial assistance for being an athlete, not academic privileges.
35. **Luis Arzola**: I’m not an athlete, but these guys do work hard, they go to practice, they are resenting us and I see them as the heart of the campus. I understand all of us decide, and it’s a choice, however, they come to campus early, before we do, and I don’t see it as them getting preference, it’s just almost thanking them for playing for us, and being here all the time. I understand your side of it, but they’re not even more than 10% of the campus population.
36. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: I’m just wondering how this got put through without any of us hearing about it. Also, it’s hard to justify this. When I was a first-year struggling to get into my classes, and I found out that someone else who was the same age as me got all their classes purely because they play a sport, I don’t think it’s a valid excuse. I understand the work hard, and I’m not denying that, but I also work hard to be on SGA, do well academically, and have a job, so I don’t understand why one group of peple get preferential treatment, so I feel that a lot of people aren’t too happy about it.
37. **Joshua Clark**: I see Luis Arzola’s point, they do work hard and represent the campus, but at the same time, I think senators and leaders in the campus community represent the campus. I work many hours a week, on top of SGA, and I think if I saw my roommate getting his classes before me, getting preferential treatment for registration over myself, I’d be a little disappointed. I think that it’s important that this wasn’t mentioned to us before implementation, because it’s disappointing to SGA’s reputation that this wasn’t brought to us.
38. **Brittany Moniz**: I move to close the speaker’s list. Motion carried unanimously.
39. If anyone is interested in learning about my position, please see me after the meeting.
40. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
41. Curriculum Committee: **Katie Morrissey**
42. We met on Thursday, March 21st. We discussed a proposal from Biology which was withdrawn. We also had a discussion, which was tabled, about Chinese Cultural Society and Intro to Asian Studies.
43. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 28th at 3:45 Pm in Wilson 319.
44. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
45. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
46. International Programs Committee: **Rebecca DiVico**
47. The International Program Committee met last Friday, March 22nd and we talked about four new short term course proposals. We recommended that three of the four go forward. This includes a course called Crusades and Co-Existence which would take place in Spain and Morocco in May and June of 2014, Memory, Monuments, Museums, and Multiculturalism which would take place in Puerto Rico. We tabled the other proposal called Nepal Climbing and Trekking because we needed more information about the course.
48. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
49. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
50. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
51. Programming update: Michelle Hanney
52. The Menu for Spring Weekend is all picked out. Friday night, April 19th, dinner and Saturday, April 20th will be the Barbeque.
53. T-shirts have been ordered. We will be getting 75 free shirts to be given out at various events.
54. The Concert tickets for “Timeflies” and “Jake Miller” will go on sale, on line most likely April 7th and April 17th. An email will be sent out to the link where you can buy them. You must bring your confirmation down to SGA to get your ticket. There will be more information next week after the meeting tomorrow, March 27th.
55. The guest packets will go on sale at the same time but through the campus center window. All guests must be registered.
56. We will be having a Facebook and Twitter contest.
57. Please fill out the Momba sheets so we have contact information for you.
58. If you are interested in Vice President of Programming for next year, please come see me after the meeting.
59. Kevin Soucie: How much will the guest packets cost?
60. Michelle Hanney: We’re still waiting to hear from Sodexo depending on the meal costs, so I will let you all know soon. It was around $34.00 last year.
61. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
62. Finance Report: Joshua Frank
63. I have one finance proposal to present tonight.
64. The Wounded Warriors Club is requesting funds for their annual trip to Mount Gunstock for the Tough Mudder competition on June 1st. They are asking for funds to help support the registration cost for four members, half of the transportation cost; which consists of gas and parking fees, and equipment cost.
65. I move to allocate $541.30 to the Wounded Warriors Club for their annual trip to Mount Gunstock for the Tough Mudder Competition. Motion passed.
66. If you are interested in running for the Vice President of Finance, for next year, please see me after the meeting.
67. Foundation Report**:** Joshua Frank
68. The foundation met just before spring break and we discussed quite a few things.
69. We signed the memorandum between us and the Board of Trustees. This basically recognizes the Foundation as part of the University now, rather than a separate entity. We are the first State University to have this setup however; many schools across the country have it setup this way.
70. We also amended our bylaws to include two new committees.
71. We discussed scholarships and grants, and the foundation has received a grant from the State of $67,000 for the summer internship programs. The Foundation has received fifteen $1,000 scholarships for The Washington Center summer internship participants.
72. The phone-a-thon has been very successful this year. We currently have a 70% collection rate; where last year at this time we were just over 50%.
73. Finally, we discussed different fundraisers the foundation will be doing over these next few months.
74. Our next scheduled meeting will be June 14th in the Presidents Board room at the Horrace Mann building.
75. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
76. Executive Secretary Report: Alexis Wagner
77. This week, on behalf of the Executive Board, we have a Senator of the Week to announce:
78. This senator is an active and innovative asset to Westfield’s SGA and the campus community. He selflessly donates much of his time and ideas to SGA, and still finds time and energy to be involved around campus. His efforts for the Dancing with the Stars event and Class Council projects are to be commended. This senator is a true inspiration, whether he’s sweating for a cause in the Nestor suit or donating $10.00 to a club’s bake sale and only taking one cupcake.
79. Congratulations to Richard Darrach.
80. I would also like to remind all of you about the Owl Ball tickets; Kim Hosmer is here tonight for you to get your ticket. You can come down during the day and see Kim Hosmer for your ticket for only $20.00, in either cash or check form please. You’ll want to reserve your table As soon as possible so that you can sit with or near your friends.
81. Keep reminding your friends, classmates, and roommates to get their ticket online, which is $40.00, and I have forms with the ticket sale link, if you’d like them to share with anyone.
82. I’d also like to remind hall and Class councils of the idea to raffle off Owl Ball tickets, so see Kim Hosmer if you would like to ask about that procedure.
83. Also, elections are approaching. Check your email or the SGA Facebook for position details, including Executive Board, Representatives at Large, Multicultural, Community Relations/Fundraising and Class Council Positions. Signature papers are out this Friday, March 29th, you will need 25 student signatures in order to be on the election ballot for that position and they will be due by Friday, April 12th. Elections will be April 16th and April 17th on Collegiate Link, so be sure to run for any position, ask us about any of our current positions, and be sure to vote.
84. Legislative Secretary Report: Sarah Hegarty
85. So we had a snow day last Tuesday, March 19th which means we only had two meetings in March. Therefore only two units are due for the month. With that said, submit your units. They are due Sunday, March 31st.
86. Can I see the Blue Key committee briefly after the meeting?
87. If you have any questions about my position, please feel free to talk to me.
88. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Isaac Matson
89. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
90. Commuter Council: **No Report**
91. Senior Class: **Stan Costa**
92. Senior packets sales are still going on until April 5th. Please tell your senior friends time is running out to buy them.
93. Sweatshirt sales ended last week, we sold 79 more sweatshirts with a total of 210.
94. Our Suicide Awareness Walk on April 7th is still available to sign up for online. We hope you all sign up and support the cause.
95. If anyone saw their email, Barbara Hand sent out a notice asking for pictures for the senior slide show. We ask that anyone who has photos or videos of any seniors that you think would be great for this, please send them to Classof2013@westfield.ma.edu. If you get and email back saying the account is full, please try again, in a few hours. I get the pictures off as quick as I can to clear up the accounts memory. Hopefully I.T. can get us more memory, so that doesn’t happen anymore.
96. Our next scheduled meeting is on March 27th at 5:00 pm in Conference room 03.
97. Junior Class: **Brittany Moniz**
98. Our Friendly’s fundraiser went well last Thursday, March 21st. thank you to everyone who came out to support the Class. We’ll have our fundraising total for next week’s meeting.
99. On Friday, March 22th, the Junior Class ran Brown Bag Bingo to help promote our parking raffle and the Mr. Westfield show. Thank you to CAB for letting us do that.
100. Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 27th we will be selling raffle tickets for the Presidents’ Parking Space in Wilson’s Commuter Café from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.
101. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 28th at 4:00 pm in the SGA Conference Room.
102. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
103. Freshman Class: **No Report**
104. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
105. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
106. Davis Hall: **No Report**
107. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
108. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
109. Lansdowne Hall: **Andrew McCormack**
110. I move to appoint Jonathan Luz as the Lansdowne President for the rest of the 2012-2013 Academic year**.** Motion passed**.**
111. We have started planning our end of the year event; there will be more details to come later.
112. Our next scheduled meeting is March 27th at 9:00 pm in the Lansdowne common room.
113. New Hall: **No Report**
114. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
115. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
116. NEW BUSINESS: Move to open new business;
117. Courtney Hall: Joshua Clark
118. We are having a Sex Bingo event tonight, March 26th at 8:00 pm in our common room. We will be giving out free condoms and candy.
119. Also we have planned our end of the year event. The date is set for April 28th from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. We will be doing a human bowling activity, D.J., sand art, popcorn, wings, pizza and giving out Courtney Hall 2012-2013 wrist bands.
120. Our next scheduled meeting is March 28th at 6:00 pm in the Courtney Halls RD office.
121. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
122. **Alexis Wagner**: Owl Ball table hours have been extended until 7:00 pm each night until the event, starting tomorrow, March 27th. My committee, please sign up in those shifts accordingly.
123. **Sarah Hegarty**: Can I see the Blue Key Committee after this?
124. Isaac Matson: Rules and Regulations will be meeting after this.
125. **Michelle Hanney**: Can you please fill out a Momba c ontact sheet, I’d really appreciate it.
126. **Richard Darrach**: As student representative, everyone should be aware that today the Supreme Court is seeing a historical civil rights case. Tomorrow they are seeing the Defense of Marriage Act. This is a chance for lesbian and gay rights, so if you advocate for this and support this, show it, and express it to your friends and representatives.
127. **Joshua Clark**: I agree with Richard Darrach, I’ve been reporting and advocating for this, so we need to express it for our future.
128. **Rebecca DiVico**: I just want to congratulate Taylor for not messing up today.
129. **Taylor Fote**: If anyone’s interested in the Ambassador Program, please see me after the meeting for an application.
130. **Stan Costa**: 73 days until Commencement.
131. ROLL CALL: Amanda McCarthy, Jackie Green, Lindsey Poulin, Diane Lego, Jonathan Delvalle, Dashire Viqueire, Larry Rodkey, Anne Dilorenzo, and Evelyn Dina were absent. Brandon Burr and Melvin Rivera were excused.
132. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.