**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**March 26, 2019**

I. ROLL CALL: Mitchell McKittrick, Owen Azevedo and Audrey Theriault were absent.

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

III. PUBLIC REMARKS: No Remarks

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Marcus DiBacco**
   1. If you all remember, we were originally planning on having the four deans down for four consecutive weeks. Mother Nature had something else in mind. So tonight, I would like to welcome the Interim Dean of the College of Graduate and Continuing Education, Stephanie Sanchez. Dean Sanchez is the newest of the four deans and we eagerly await all the great things that she will do for the college and the university as a whole. Please welcome Dean Sanchez.
2. Dean Sanchez: I am about a month into this role as dean. I have been with the College of Graduate and Continuing Ed for the past three years. I started as the Director of Student Retention, then was promoted as the Assistant Dean for Student Success. So, I know a few of you from working with you in the past. I am really excited to take on this interim role. I worked at a prior institution in admissions, enrollment management, I was a Registrar Director of Advising, all administrative roles on campuses.
3. I am going to share more about our college. I’ll start off with background about who we are, what our mission is, and tell you about our accomplishments and future goals. Of course, I will take questions.
4. We are CGCE. Some of you may have taken classes of us either in the summer or winter, but our biggest focus here on campus is servicing the educational needs of our non-traditional student population, many are attending part time so they need classes in the evening, or online options. And of course, our graduate students. We also serviced students and noncredit capacity come out some of those programs that we do offer. We are offering classes year-round. We have five terms, we do the traditional fall and spring, and even have accelerated sessions, with sessions A and B, which are six-week options. We also have our two weeks or sometimes three weeks of winter courses and our two summer sessions. We offer classes on campus, but a lot have been online, and we offer hybrid classes. We also have courses offered in remote locations, so we are all over the State.
5. Currently we offer nine graduate programs and three certificate programs. We also accept students in all of the undergraduate programs at the University. We also do dual enrollment and have early College programing. In our non-credit programing, we offer Addiction Counselor Education (ACE), and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), College for Kids in the summer or Teen U.
6. We have a mini college within the college. We do program development. We do our own marketing and outreach for our different programs that we offer. We have admissions, we have our own business office, advising, registration, and record keeping. A lot of that is already within our structure in our office in Horace Mann. We also oversee the Veteran’s and Military Success Center, the Westfield Promise with the Early College program. We have the Center for Teacher Education and Research. We do test prep, so any GREs, MATs, MTELs. We also have graduate assistantship programs that are offered through our office.
7. To share some highlights of some of our recent accomplishments, we have secured multiple grants that has led to program expansion. To name a couple, you may have heard of the Westfield Ppromise, an early college program where we are working with the community, with local high schools. That is part of the grant, so we are using grant money to really develop that program. We also have something new this year PLA, Prior Learning Assessment, through a PIF grant, a performance incentive fund grant, which focuses on the non-traditional graduate students, for example adult students that may have acquired knowledge through work or life experiences, so they can apply it and receive college credit in some way. We also have a HERSA grant that is focused on our masters for social work and also ACE program the Addiction Counselor education programs. We are always looking for more grants, but these are already secured and being worked with.
8. We have developed new programs we have the Masters in Physician Assistant Studies, we actually just had our second cohort enter this past year, so we have our full two cohorts of students in classes for the program which is great. As I mentioned, our RN to BSN has multiple locations, so that’s also going very well. We’ve also launched our Masters in social work in Worcester, so they’re all over the state. Our office is really incredibly proud of is that we are very collaborative with the rest of the campus as far as it being adaptive, adding on more technological changes in our office to better support our students. We just upgraded to Banner. We have a new CRM system, customer relationship management system but it is catered toward admissions and reaching out to perspective students and families, making sure the application process is going well, and recruitment efforts, we have done that university wide.
9. Our former Dean, Dr. Shelley Tinkum was a primary lead helping to increase the number of transfer credits and students to come in to complete their degree in a timely fashion, and hopefully save some money.
10. We want to continue to enhance our current programs that we have, we want to better their students’ experiences, and give our faculty opportunities to grow and learn. We want to strengthen our identity and mission on campus. We want to make ourselves known to students and be accessible because we offer so much programing.
11. We are on the first floor of the Horace Mann center. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 6 pm and Friday from 8:30 to 4 pm. You can always email us, or find us online if you ever need anything. I would like to open it up to questions.
12. **Thalita Neves**: I was just wondering if you could explain the PLA a little more. Non-traditional students would get credit for life experience, how does that work?
13. **Dean Sanchez**: This is still in progress, not all the details have been flushed out yet. The idea is that anyone at the undergraduate level would be able to see if they can do this option. They have to have learned something and take a portfolio course to demonstrate that learned knowledge. If someone is working in their field and have learned concrete knowledge in the field, they can decide to create a portfolio based on that knowledge and earn up to three credits if they pass. We have subject matter experts in the field to review the portfolio. There is a sequence.
14. **Tommy Howard**: Are there movements to incorporate undergraduate credit to count for CGCE credit. Is there a program for students who are planning on receiving their undergrad and master’s degree at Westfield to make that more attainable or cost effective?
15. **Dean Sanchez**: We have 4 plus 1 programming where you are earning your four-year bachelor’s degree and tacking on one more year to earn your master’s degree. We have them apply for graduate classes as an undergrad. Some programs this works really well for, others take some finagling. But we are definitely exploring that. We have had students taking graduate level courses in the past, but they are paying at the graduate level rate and it is not necessarily being applied to both areas, so I think we need to evaluate how to make it a smoother transition into grad school. We have been experimenting with our Criminal Justice degree, we are implementing that next fall, some students have already applied to this 4 plus 1 program where in your senior year, you will take two graduate level courses, one in the fall, and one in the spring. These two courses count for undergrad degree and if you pass and are accepted, they will also count toward your graduate requirements. This will save money and help you get your degree faster.
16. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Can you elaborate on what the College for Kids or Teen U are?
17. **Dean Sanchez**: They are non-credit earning programs. For four weeks in the summer, during the month of July, kids come to campus to take classes. For example, we offer a cooking class. It is kind of like day camp, which is good for our community relations. It also gets our name out there. There is a cost, it is non-credit programing and is beneficial to us. Teen U is a summer youth program, similar to the College for Kids, but it has age appropriate classes. There is also a cost here, but it also promotes the college and even can be a recruitment effort to try to get students to come here when it is time for college.
18. **Liz Ferrara**: How would a student go about doing the PLA program? Do they meet with you, is there an application online?
19. **Dean Sanchez**: Someone would apply for this then meet with a department head in their area to see if it is even an option. We don’t want to put students at a disadvantage by having them do all this extra work and not pass the portfolio, so we do have some upfront process to make sure this is a viable option for them. It would then come through our office so they can register for the portfolio class where a faculty member would work with them to create a portfolio. It would then be reviewed and we can then award credit.
20. **Joey Newlin**: Do you foresee CGCE becoming a bigger part of the Westfield State Community with the steady decline of enrollment?
21. **Dean Sanchez**: I think it is both a down fall and an opportunity because we can focus on non-traditional students. I think we need to evaluate and push for that. We need to focus on students and servicing them that is our biggest goal, so keeping up with programming will help them.
22. **Ethan Goodfellow**: Do you offer LSAT prep? And how are you advertising that?
23. **Dean Sanchez**: I have to double check that we offer that, but thank you for asking that because if we do, we will need to make more of an effort to advertise that.
24. **Sue LaMontange**: Ethan, the Career Center offers LSAT prep.
    1. Thank you Dean Sanchez.
    2. We have much to discuss this evening. Before we get to some of the harder conversations I would like to briefly talk about the current status of the Parenzo Hall Renovations. Earlier I was called to a meeting with students in intramurals, athletics, and movement science. In addition to the students were some faculty, staff, and administrators. We all met with George Matthay, the space utilization consultant for the project. There has been conversation over the need for the gym in Parenzo Hall. Please understand that the University is pressed for space and there are many people who believe that the space for the gym could be better used for student support programs. The demand from students, however, has been to keep the gym for its current purpose. At the meeting the students, faculty, and staff convinced Mr. Matthay that keeping Parenzo Gym is necessary. We will see this reflected in his report to Cabinet. Today is a win, but remember that the fight is ongoing. There is a petition online, which has been posted in the Facebook groups.
    3. To speak on the more pressing matter, I would like to outline some of the events that transpired last week and up until today. Last week in SGA we decided that we would discuss the MSCA issues, which are the contract and the vote of no confidence. Over the weekend I invited both Professor Vanessa Diana and Professor Kim Tobin down to the SGA meeting today. It was my hope that the two of them could provide an objective view of the situation. Both respectfully declined and offer sound reasons for why they did so.
25. Dr. Tobin allowed me to share her response. I will do so now:
26. Hi Marcus I appreciate your invitation. I am unable to attend this meeting for a number of reasons. Some of which are directly related to the question you are asking. Please feel free to share this response with the SGA.
27. First, as you are likely aware this vote was to determine confidence/no confidence in "President Torrecilha’s leadership skills & fiscal stewardship of the institution". The MSCA membership was clear that this vote was far greater than our contract and reflected campus wide concerns. I wanted SGA to be aware of this distinction as your email refers to only the MSCA contract relative to the vote.
28. Secondly, I am one of three faculty members directly speaking with a group of Trustees about the vote of no confidence and the serious reasons underlying the vote. I have a conflict given this role. As such, I cannot be as transparent as you likely desire in order to preserve this critical communication pathway between the faculty and the Board of Trustees. I take the role as a liaison between Trustees and faculty seriously and I wish to honor this.
29. Thirdly, I spoke with Dr. Diana about the invitation to SGA. We appreciate the trust that SGA leadership has in us. But we also believe that most faculty members are trustworthy, honest, and objective; their voices should not be discounted. Like SGA, we, too, have an elected representative body - the Executive Council of the MSCA. Given this, we are not in a position to represent the various faculty voices on campus. Our recommendation is for SGA to reach out to a member of this body requesting a slightly larger group of faculty who could have a conversation with SGA. We are happy to provide the names of the MSCA Exec. Council if SGA needs them.
30. Finally, the student representative on the Board is likely a source of insight, within limits. I am guessing that he has received recent information that might inform his understanding of the campus wide situation.
31. This reasoning is sound to me and I respect their decision. That being said, I am in the process of identifying an MSCA Executive Council member who can come speak to us objectively. I will update you all as the search progresses. Dr. Tobin mentioned that the Vote of No Confidence supersedes the contract issue. With that in mind, I would like to dedicate today to finishing any conversation on our stance in regard to the contract. The plan for next week is to discuss our thoughts on the Vote and any action that we may want to take.
32. I am sure many of you saw the email addressed to me and sent to all students on Thursday night at around 9:40pm. A similar email was sent directly to me earlier in the evening at around 7:20pm. There were some differences between the two emails, but we will focus on the one sent to all students. Before discussing it, I just want to apologize to any of you who may have felt attacked by this email or who incurred some difficulty because of it. I will also inform you that a faculty member, whose name I will not mention, forwarded this email to all faculty and staff. The professor deleted the names of the authors but left mine in the subject. After much consideration, discussion, and critical thought I have decided against responding to the email via the same medium. However, these students raised concerns and questions, which I will now answer so that the answers will be reflected in the minutes. To do this, I am going to read the email and pause to respond for every concern and question.
33. Dear Marcus DiBacco, We are writing to express a collective disappointment in the backseat role that SGA has taken in the past year. In your recent letter of address, you informed the student body that SGA has been remaining neutral in these recent issues. However, the SGA cannot remain neutral. The SGA itself has to sign on the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) in order to participate in shared governance.
34. To this concern, it should be noted that the SGA does not sign the contract. We sign a document saying that we, the SGA, would like to participate in shared governance. We have not been nor will we be given the authority to sign the contract.
35. Your claim continues misleading the student body and it misrepresents of the priorities of students. Furthermore, the Agreement, which is the foundation of our faculty welfare, will have a direct impact on student learning and the high impact learning this administration claims to foster. Our teachers are in work-to-rule and the SGA outright failed to alert students of the ongoing issues, despite having knowledge on how this could, and did, effect students. Teachers will no longer take on overload credits, attend events/open houses/activities, or join committees. This does have a major impact on independent studies, internships, special projects, and honors projects.
36. To this I remind you all that each individual faculty member may choose not to take on overload courses, participate in committees, or help on projects. No one, I repeat no one, has forced faculty members to stop doing this work. Many independent projects continue and I can name you at least two meetings/forums in which the faculty were both present and engaged. Some of the faculty have only recently been participating in Work-to-Rule and it is solely their choice to do so.
37. You are now addressing the student body retroactively after the SGA was publicly called out. The SGA has kept its student body uninformed and claims there has been no high demand for such a SGA-sanctioned vote of Confidence/No Confidence. These things are connected. Your withholding of information from the student body has caused the current lack of student awareness.
38. SGA is and always be an open forum with our minutes published for all to see. No information has ever been withheld and I have no further comment on these accusations.
39. The MSCA held the vote of Confidence/No Confidence in President Torrecilha because of the lack of transparency, poor communication, and a serious question of fiscal stewardship, we, the student body and it’s government, have to ask ourselves the validity of these claims. We have to ask ourselves how we feel about institutional leadership and communication between the administration and the students.
40. These statements are indeed correct and we will address them next week.
41. We should also be questioning the fiscal stewardship of the administration because it’s our home. Why is it seemingly impossible for non-SGA students to get a meeting with the president?
42. That is a question for the President.
43. Why do some students feel unheard by the administration?
44. This is a question for both administration and the students who feel this way. I am happy to facilitate such conversation.
45. Why has student fees gone up three times in the last five years totaling in $1,421?
46. The fees have gone up more than this in the past five years. The reasoning for why can be found in the SGA minutes from years past. Largely, the fees have increased because of inflation, an increased cost in living, and raises/benefits for staff, administration and, of course, faculty. I would be remiss if I did not state that when the faculty get their contract, students will pay for it after the first year.
47. Why were the Vice Presidents and Presidential Staff given up to fifteen thousand dollar bonuses?
48. This is a good question that I myself was wondering the answer to. We have since been informed that this was done in order to thank the VPs for there work and to incentivize them to stay on in their positions as many of them are new. An independent law firm reviewed this decision and found no violation of University policy, law, nor did they find it to be wasteful or egregious. Please remember that just because no wrongdoing occurred does not mean you have to like what happened.
49. Where is the twenty million dollars we are matching the state for Parenzo renovations coming from after going through such a pricey University restructuring?
50. The $20 million for Parenzo came from the cash reserve, as mentioned in past SGA minutes. The cash reserve is roll over that can accumulate from leftover funds at the end of each year, if there are any. This project was initially discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting on October 12, 2017. The minutes for this meeting can be found on the University website.
51. These are all questions students and faculty should be asking the administration and both parties deserve answers.
52. As Howard Zinn taught us “You can’t be neutral on a moving train.” I hope that you would guide the SGA out of the “remaining neutral” mindset and work with your fellow students at contemplating these questions with the time and seriousness they deserve.
53. To refrain from the perception that I am targeting these students, I will not list their names. These students will be holding a meeting tonight at 8:00pm in Mod Hall 110, if anyone would like to attend. Some of the SGA Executive Board and myself will be in attendance. If students have questions or concerns they are welcome to bring them up in SGA. They can call or email several of us as well as stop by our offices. We will be holding the SGA Exec Town Hall Meeting next Monday, April 1, at 4:45pm, right here in SGA.
54. **Matt Jaques**: Early in your report, you mentioned the freedom of information act form, what is that?
55. **Marcus DiBacco**: We as an SGA are held to the open meeting bylaws which are found in the Mass General Law. That being said, with any public body, if you feel there is info being withheld you can petition under the freedom of information act and it will be reviewed, if you “win” the information is released, I believe we ae subject to the same law.
56. **Joey Newlin**: I think the email is an opportunity we should take to reevaluate our communication with the student body. We should be more proactive going forward. We are incorporated into the contract. I have a list of grievances in regards to the faculty and communication problems with President Torrechilha. I have a list directly from them for lack of financial transparency and responsibility, not only into their continued faculty lines but many areas of campus are understaffed and underfunded, the vacancies remain unfilled while the president moved forward with a highly expensive restructuring plan, hiring more administrators, assistants, and Deans, plus awarded bonuses to members of his cabinet while not giving faculty the equivalency earnings they were originally promised. Second, uncommunicative and uncooperative behavior faculty and staff, putting them on governance committees but paying only lip service to their contributions, engaging in increased threats of insubordination to, and failing to inform the Board of Trustees of faculty discontent. I think it is worthwhile to have the members eventually come down. I’d like to see us be more communicative with the student body. If we don’t, people are going to run wild on rumors and unsubstantiated info. We should take leadership in getting students informed.
57. **Marcus DiBacco**: Thank you Joey.
58. **Sam Tsongalis**: In reference to what Joey was saying abpout SGA’s involvement with the contract, SGA is involved within the 800 pages under subsection of committees, faculty serve on committees, therefore senators also have to adhere to the same standard. We do not have anything to do with the signing of the contract, it purely states that students are required to have representation.
59. **Barbra Hand: Point of information**. Marcus DiBacco had alluded to that in his report, through the many years that I have been here, through the many contracts that come through, SGA is requested by asking to sign a letter from the SGA president saying that the students, not just senators, would like to maintain representation on standing governance committees.
60. **Daniel Armany**: Has there been any communication with the Department of education specifically? It seems like most complaints were directed at the board of education. You showed respect today talking about the faculty, but I have heard that faculty members have not shown the same respect when talking about SGA.
61. **Marcus DiBacco**: I can’t speak for the Department of Education. I would hope that faculty talk about students respectfully. They want what is best for students, so I would assume their response would be the same, which is to speak with the Executive Council of the MSCA.
62. **Dave Youngerman**: Just to be clear, is SGA still neutral on this?
63. **Marcus DiBacco**: We can decide that. I would like to remain neutral because I honestly think this is a faculty issue between them and the State. I think any involvement we choose in picking one side or the other would not be right. Don’t forget that we fund the faculty.
64. **Daniel Armany**: Can you clarify if the State or the institution funds the contract?
65. **Marcus DiBacco**: The State pays for first year, then we pay for every year after which is more expensive than the first year. For example, if there was a 5% increase each year, the state would pay for the 5% then we would pay for the 10% then 15%.
66. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Can you tell us what the collective bargaining agreement is?
67. **Marcus DiBacco**: Collective bargaining is when the union and the body opposite them come together to negotiate, debate, and decide upon what agreement they will reach contractually.
68. **Barbra Hand: Point of information**, this can go on for years, the contract process and other union issues are an ongoing struggle. You could reach an agreement after a few years then it is time to renew the contract again.
69. **Marcus DiBacco**: The next MSCA contract renegotiation is in 2020.
70. **Dave Youngerman**: Is there anything we can do to further communication between faculty, administration, and students?
71. **Marcus DiBacco**: I am not sure how to better communicate with the students. I have tried every way that I know how to do it, that being said, I am only one person. What I have seen is that communication is a two-way street, we have gone to the yellow line, but I can’t get people to cross the other side. What I can do is I can reach out to MSCA, although I am hesitant to do so. With administration, I feel we have good communication.
72. **Cam Swan**: I am working on a campus culture initiative. One thing I thought of was revamping the Westfield Voice, I am trying to think of how to foster communication between SGA and the voice, and faculty and the voice. If you have any ideas, please let me know.
73. **Erin Coulter**: Would there be a committee for revamping the voice? I know some people that would like to be involved.
74. **Cam Swan**: That’s definitely one idea. I know they are meeting again, maybe we can work together to get them involved in the voice and get things started that way.
75. **Joey Newlin**: Why don’t we try things like posting weekly blurbs about what we talked about in meetings on SGA run pages. Do we only have one Town Hall meeting per semester?
76. **Marcus DiBacco**: Yes, one per semester, but every meeting is an open forum.
77. **Joey Newlin**: I don’t think our open meeting style is that inviting. Can we get another sign outside the door with a bulleted agenda saying you are welcome to come in would be nice.
78. **Marcus DiBacco**: Thank you again Joey.
79. **Jake O’Kane**: Has there been talk about sending out the minutes in an email to the whole student body? If they had the minutes in their email it would be easier to access.
80. **Marcus DiBacco**: We could do that.
81. **Shane Stocker**: An Instagram for the Westfield voice or a snapchat might get students more involved.
82. **Drew Dalton**: Maybe some kind of invitation listing what we are going to talk about so students could come prepared with questions. I think we need to be more accessible to students.
83. **Marcus DiBacco**: I am trying to think how we could be more accessible to students.
84. **Drew Dalton**: Probably through social media, like Instagram. Because I get so many emails every day.
85. **Marcus DiBacco**: My concern with Instagram and Snapchat is that it goes by feed, so once it is gone it is gone.
86. **Drew Dalton**: It doesn’t have to be specifically that, but something like that would be helpful.
87. **Scotty Howe**: I feel like there is involvement issues on campus, and I think people are here now because they are angry. I don’t see a lot of people coming to SGA on Tuesday unless they have a real reason to be there. While, we should send an email or put a sign on the door, I don’t think this is a goal that is going to be achieved.
88. **Marcus DiBacco**: I want to put it out to you guys that you are elected to care for other people. But I can’t do this all by myself.
89. **Dave Youngerman**: We should look into campus minute, where it is a 60 second review of what happened in SGA, giving a quick summary.
90. **Marcus DiBacco**: Do you mean a video? Because I have no idea how to do that, but we could direct information to the campus minute.
91. **Dave Youngerman**: I think marketing would help us here.
92. **Thalita Neves**: I think that all these ideas are great and we should be doing everything that we can. However, the Executive Board is made up of busy people. We have had some of these exact conversations. That is why you guys are here. You should take initiative to get the word out there, as an Executive Board our power comes from you guys. I’d love to see everyone step up to get SGA outside of these doors and people in these doors.
93. **Daniel Armany**: Has anyone ever been given a sole job to publicize and do social media only?
94. **Marcus DiBacco**: I have not, but next year is a constitution review year, which means that you guys will add and subtract whatever you see fit in the constitution. Adding a social media coordinator is a good idea, however there is not enough time to do it this year.
95. **Massara Almafraci**: That is why we are elected here, we don’t need marketing as much as we need word of mouth. If you are sitting with people, tell them about SGA and talk about what happened and bring more things back to SGA.
96. **Marcus DiBacco**: Thank you. Also register for Fresh Check Day if you have not already.
    1. On a totally separate and final note, Fresh Check Day is this Thursday from 1:00 pm-4:00pm and again from 7:30-9:30pm. Please, please register to help out for at least a half hour if you have not already. If anyone is available from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm on Thursday please come see me after the meeting, thank you.
    2. The Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education selects one student to act as a voting member to the BHE each year. The position rotates amongst the three groups the UMass schools, the State institutions and Community Colleges. This year a student from a Community College will be the voting member and a student from a State School will be selected to act as an advisor to the BHE. If any of you are interested in applying for this, please let me know. You do not need to be on the SGA to apply.
    3. Remember next week’s meeting is a dress code meeting
    4. Items not listed on the agenda.
97. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
    1. All University Committee**: No Report**

B. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**

C. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**

D. Student Advisory Council: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Thomas Howard V**
   1. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
   3. Food Services Committee**: Elizabeth Ferrara**
2. Food committee met last week, so I have some updates for you all. Sugar free syrup is now available in packets at clean eats. I was approached by a senator asking about the possibility for a better flow in bistro’s grab-and-go during lunch. When I brought it up, they informed me that they while they are going to keep the grill they are using for burgers, they are moving the fridge with the premade sandwiches and salads to behind the registers so that should alleviate some of the clusters of people waiting. They will also be adding another hot table, which is the thing that rice bowls are made at, after the semester ends.
3. One change you may have noticed is the change to the pizza station. We now make all of our pizza crust in-house and even have whole wheat and cauliflower crust options. The cauliflower crust is gluten free, because it contains no gluten-containing ingredients, but is not advertised as so because there is a large risk of cross contamination since they are cooked in the pizza oven with regular crusts.
4. You may have noticed if you tried to go to any dining location last Tuesday, March 19 around noon that the system was down. It was a problem with the server, but dining services now has a plan for if it ever happens again.
5. Dining services employs about 65 students. If you are interested in working in Dining Services, you can check their Facebook page in August so you can get started right away. They don’t require work study, and they are always looking for people to work during the days.
6. Also, Chef Mary’s Corn Chowder and Hushpuppies won best chowder at the YMCA’s chili, chocolate, chowder, cook off. They had it available last Friday and it now in the soup rotation.
7. Starting the Tuesday after Patriots Day the Tex Mex station will be used as a test kitchen where they will be trying out new foods for the last three weeks. They are asking students for feedback on these items because they are trying to update some menu items for next year.
8. Coming, hopefully this year, there will be some higher ticket items, meaning you can use dining dollars to get “healthy exam study packs” which is 3 meals in 1 box so you can spend more time studying for finals. There are also, “party packs” that you can purchase to bring back to your dorm room: there is a “paint and sip” box, a “game night” box, and a “march madness” box. It’s “Like a party in a pack”.
9. For next year, dining services is looking to bring in some more in-house items to the market place that you will be able to purchase with dining dollars. For example, maybe gelato or ice cream made by them sold by the pint.
10. For events coming up:
11. 4/3 is live at lunch
12. 4/3, everyone’s favorite, pancakes with President
13. 4/4 lunch with Lauren
14. 4/7 9:00 am WSU 5K
15. 4/9 Red Sox home opener event
16. 4/15 Patriots Day
17. 4/18 lunch with Lauren
18. 4/18 Westfield after dark and SAIL are putting on a “nailed it”/ “chopped” challenge where you can sign up to compete. There will be guest judges and it will be broadcasted by the TV station. More info to come.
19. **Thalita Neves**: Since they expanded the pizza station and moved the pasta, are they going to put more options there? Or are they keeping the dough flattener there? I feel that it takes away from options.
20. **Liz Ferrara**: I asked the same thing, but they need that space to make the crusts.
21. **Thalita Neves**: Is there no more space in the back where they can put it?
22. **Liz Ferrara**: No, I asked the same thing, but there is no more room in the kitchen apparently.
23. **Dave Youngerman**: When are we getting those Hushpuppies?
24. **Liz Ferrara**: They were there on Friday.
25. **Joey Joyal**: Remember when I said I wanted real pizza crust, if it means getting rid of pasta, I take it back. Also, what about the soft serve machine.
26. **Liz Ferrara**: I will ask about it.
27. **Sam Tsongalis**: My question is about the meal plan, I was told that at the harvest I could use a meal swipe, but then I was told I had to be a commuter student to use a meal swipe. Why?
28. **Liz Ferrara**: You don’t have to be a commuter, you just have to be on the on-the-go plan.
29. **Sam Tsonglais**: Why?
30. **Liz Ferrara**: They have meal exchange on that plan so if you go to a retail location and buy a certain money’s worth of food, you can use a meal swipe instead of dining dollars. I will ask about it in regards to other meal plans.
31. **Jake O’Kane**: What are details about this chopped challenge?
32. **Liz Ferrara**: TBD
33. **Kaytlyn Mekal**: Where do we pick up those party packs you mentioned?
34. **Liz Ferrara**: I would assume the bistro, but I will ask.
35. **Drew Dalton**: Does the pizza press thing just roll the dough into a circle, isn’t that a thing you could do with a rolling pin? It seems unnecessarily expensive.
36. **Liz Ferrara**: Okay.
    1. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
    2. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
    3. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
    4. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**
37. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Madeleine Scott**
    1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
    2. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
    3. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
    4. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
    5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
    6. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
    7. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
38. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Thalita Neves**
    1. Finance Committee: **No Report**
    2. Foundation Report: **No Report**
    3. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
39. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Matthew Howe**
40. Campus Activities Board**: Matthew Howe**
41. As you all know, Fresh Check day is this Thursday, march28 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm and then Fresh Check After Dark is 7:30 pm until 9:30 pm. CAB has a booth and it’ll be a boatload of fun. We have make your own coloring book, along with DIY slime. Stop by for some fun events.
42. Friday, March 29 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm down here in the lower level of Ely, there is Board Game Night. Swing by for some relaxing board game fun before your weekend starts.
43. On Saturday from 7:00 pm until 11:00 pm over in the Owl’s Nest, there is indoor mini-golf. Show off your amazing Putt Putt skills.
44. **Lorenze Beltran**: How do you sign up for Fresh Check Day again?
45. **Matt Howe**: There is an email.
46. **Marcus DiBacco**: I’ll send out the link again.
47. The next scheduled meeting is on march 27 at 5:00 pm in the SGA Room.
48. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
49. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
50. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Elizabeth Ferrara/Courtney Smith**
    1. Executive Secretary Report: **Elizabeth Ferrara**
51. Big reminder that Owl Ball is this Friday! Buses leave from outside Scanlon at 6:45 pm.
52. This week we have four senators of the week. All of them took time out of their days to attend the Vice President of Student Affairs student forum. So this week’s senators of the week are Giana Dean, Grace Boland, Audrey Theriault, and Daniel McElhiney. See me after the meeting to get your certificate and sign the wall.
53. As I am sure you are all aware, signature packets are now available right back there. Papers are due back by Friday, April 5 at 5:00 pm and elections will take place on Tuesday, April 16 at 9:00 am through Wednesday, April 17th at 11:50 pm on myWestfield. Let me know if you have any questions.
54. **Dave Youngerman**: What is the theme of Owl Ball?
55. **Liz Ferrara**: Red Carpet
56. **Mitchell McKittrick**: Can seniors sign signature papers?
57. **Liz Ferrara**: Yes.
58. **Marcus DiBacco**: They can for SGA or Exec, not for Class Council.
59. **Barb Hand**: Seniors can vote in the SGA election, it has been viewed as voting in place of the incoming first year class.
60. **Liz Ferrara**: A reminder that you can only sign as many signature papers as there are seats for that position.
    1. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
61. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Jacob O’Kane**
62. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
63. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
64. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
    1. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
    2. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
    3. Advisory Committee on the CURCA**: No Report**
    4. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No Report**
    5. Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Affirmative Action: **No Report**
    6. Advisory Committee for Vice President of Student Affairs Search Committee: **Thalita Neves**
65. I just wanted to thank everybody who came to the Student Forums yesterday and today for the VPSA candidates that were on campus. We still have one more candidate coming to visit campus next Tuesday, April 2. The Student forum will be held from 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm and I encourage everybody who is available to stop by.
66. If anyone is interested in the position of Vice President of Finance, feel free to see me after the meeting and I’ll be happy to answer any questions you have.
67. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
68. Commuter Council: **No Report**
69. Senior Class: **No Report**
70. Junior Class**: No Report**
71. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
72. First Year Class: **No Report**
73. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
74. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
75. Davis Hall: **No Report**
76. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
77. Lammers Hall**: No Report**
78. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
79. New Hall**: No Report**
80. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
81. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS: (requires majority vote to be opened)

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   1. **Cam Swan**: State House Day is April 3 at 7:00 am. Can I see all that are going after the meeting? I am canceling my office hours tomorrow. I will do them on Friday, if you have any ideas for the campus culture initiative please feel free to stop by.
   2. **Courtney Smith**: The town hall on Monday counts as office hour, please try to attend. Can I see Blue Key Committee in the cubes after the meeting?
   3. **Tom Convery**: There are 5 days left for you to apply online for scholarships. Please let me know if you have any questions.
   4. **Jake O’Kane**: Rules and Regs after the meeting
   5. **Marcus DiBacco**: Next week is dress code
   6. **Liz Ferrara**: Owl Ball committee meeting tomorrow.
   7. **Barbara Hand**: **Point of information**, there is a student government scholarship so check that out.
   8. **Shane Stocker**: Senior shirts are on sale.
   9. **Marcus Payne**: 53 days until commencement

1. ROLL CALL: Owen Azevedo and Audrey Theriault were absent.
2. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please refrain from ANY cell phone use during the meeting.*

*Please also note that for accurate record keeping purposes, SGA meetings are recorded and kept on file by the SGA Executive Secretary.*