**Student Government Association Minutes**

March 29, 2016

1. ROLL CALL: Shannon Cullinane, Connor Glynn, Anthony Dieni, Alina Bracken, Priscilla Aguilar, Molly Romano, Evan Mines, Brennan Kauffman were absent. Ryan Losco and Xavier Carmona sent alternates. Abby Salvietti was excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 22, 2016: Minutes were approved.

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Evelyn Dina*
2. Hi everyone and welcome friends. I’m really happy to see all of you here tonight, welcome to Student Government.
3. To begin, myself and Caroline Koty are going to pass around some Tell Me About Your Day wristbands. For those of you who are unaware with Tell Me About Your Day, it is a campaign sponsored by Active Minds to reduce the stigma of mental health on campus and create a more open and supportive community at Westfield State. Caroline actually started the Tell Me About Your Day campaign here at Westfield State through her Civic Engagement course. Wearing a wristband symbolizes that you show your support and care for all students of Westfield State. The campaign also has an Instagram, and which is TMAYD WSU, so go ahead and give them a follow.
4. We have our Spotlight Club of the Month for March. The Spotlight Club for March is Musical Theatre Guild of Westfield State University.
5. SGA would like to introduce our Spotlight Club of the Month for March: The Musical Theatre Guild of Westfield State University. MTG is an entirely student-run organization as well as the oldest running active club on Westfield State’s campus. The organization is a student-directed, student-managed student-produced and student-designed theatre guild. The club usually puts on one musical each academic semester in both Dever Stage and what is now the Catherine Dower Center. The students involved in MTG strive to make each production professional, and are always well-received and well attended by the campus community. Andrew Morin, a junior on MTG, describes the club as “’home” and a “second family”.
6. This year, the MTG club ran into a budget crisis, as SGA was not able to fully fund the production of “*The Wedding Singer”.* Despite the hardship, they far surpassed their fundraising goal, and with the help of SGA, were able to completely fund the show. MTG is extremely dedicated when it comes to fundraising. Some of the fundraising that MTG has done includes bake sales, a Bruin’s and Patriot’s ticket raffle, candy-cane grams, Applebee’s nights and more.
7. Additionally, this past semester, the students of MTG hosted a Dinner Mystery Theatre spoof called “*And then There Was One*”, bringing new people into the club. Some of their recent shows to date include “*Rent*”(Fall of 2013), “*I Love You, You’re Perfect Now Change*” (Spring 2014), “*9 to 5: The Musical* (Fall of 2014), “*Into the Woods*” (Spring of 2015), “*Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical*” (Fall of 2015), and “*The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy*” (Spring of 2016).
8. The club not only has provided an environment for talented students to perform, but has created and incredible experience for students such as Sam Asuque from the Class of 2018: “When I came to college I was alone. No one from my graduating class came to Westfield State. When I joined MTG I instantly felt comfortable, welcomed, and I was finally able to be myself, and people liked me for being me. MTG allows me to love who I am as a person and that is why I love MTG.”
9. Thank you to all of the hard-working students of MTG for sharing your talents with the campus community.
10. Please nominate a club for April.
11. Nearly every year, Commencement undergoes various changes. This year, President Torrecilha has spoken about a change in the announcing of the names for the graduating class. Typically, a couple of professors from each academic department read the names of the graduating students in that department read the names of the graduating students in that department. To improve the length of Commencement and the clarity of the names read, the president hopes to change the tradition so that there may be a few administrators selected to read them. I just wanted to get a quick straw poll of how everyone feels about this change. I know it may be more specific to the Class of 2016 this year, but ultimately, will affect graduating classes to come.
12. Please raise your hand if you are in favor of this change.
13. Please raise your hand if you are not in favor of this change.
14. The majority were not in favor of this change.
15. Just some quick reminders about SGA meeting etiquette.
16. Please refrain from using your phones and having side conversations.
17. When raising your hand, please raise it high and not directly in front of you.
18. Please stand when you are recognized.
19. Speak loudly and clearly during both roll calls and throughout the meeting, for the purpose of the minutes.
20. Please stay after the meeting to play movie trivia. We will be having pizza and a team of up to five will have a chance to win ten Owl Bucks per person. The categories will be Animated Film, Horror, and Comedy. Friends are also invited to stay and play. Trivia will be hosted by Haley Batchelder and me.
21. I am especially glad to have friends here tonight as we approach elections. If you seem to enjoy SGA tonight and are interested in running for a position, election papers are available now. Additionally, for those who have already served at least a semester on SGA, if you are interested in running for my position as President, please come talk to me for more information.
22. Items not listed on the agenda.

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Justin Connolly*
2. All University Committee**: No Report**
3. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: Marissa Cremin**
4. On March 28, the Neighborhood Advisory Board had a meeting at 5:30pm in Horace Mann. It was a great time catching up with the neighbors. Carlton Pickron started the meeting off updating the committee on the Save the Globe initiative, and how we should have a globe on campus by May 1, in time for the Galla and Commencement.
5. Bob Plasse, of Advancement and University Relations, updated NAB and WSKB 89.5 FM, which is Westfield State’s Community radio. He gave information about the many great shows that people can listen to throughout the day.
6. We also went over some of the upcoming events for NAB. The downtown neighbors’ social/meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30pm at the Athenaeum. The annual pizza social and show will be on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30pm at Pandini’s
7. Curt Robie will be attending our next meeting to give a presentation to NAB about the New Science Center.
8. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9 at 5:00pm in Horace Mann. We will need more students representation next year, so definitely let me know if you are interested in sitting on the committee.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Matthew Carlin*
2. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
3. Multicultural Committee**: Ivana McGlinchey**
4. During the month of April, Westfield State University celebrates the diversity within month. This month is full of events that diversity and inclusion council has worked really hard to put together. The council has the following events coming up.
5. The Multicultural Student Association is hosting Black Excellences at 7:30pm on March 29 in the Owl’s Nest.
6. On March 31 in University Hall at 3:00pm until 8:00pm the Jewish Student Organization will be showing the movies: ‘’The Music Box” and “Women in Gold”.
7. On April 4 in the University hall lobby at 6:00pm the interfaith discussion on Human Rights with the chaplains will take place. Please come and support. There will be pizza and refreshments.
8. On April 6 in Scanlon at 7:00pm the coming out Muslim Workshop will be talking about identity and oppression.
9. On April 8 at 7:30pm Black Student Union is hosting the Essence of Royalty. The Essence of Royalty is a night of entertainment and fashion.
10. Also on April 8, The Triple Threat Party will be hosted by BSU, Latino Association for Empowerment and MSA in the Parenzo Gym from 10:00pm – 1:45am. Westfield State University Students are allowed two guests and must bring college id and a valid ID as well. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Service Window as well as the Dinning commons during the week. It’s $3.00 for Westfield State University students and five for outside guests.
11. On April 11, in the Owl’s Nest at 6:00pm the Islam and hip pop presentation.
12. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
13. Health Committee: **No Report**
14. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
15. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
16. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
17. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Marissa Cremin**
18. Our final Blood Drive of the year is coming up two weeks from tomorrow, Wednesday, April 13. The drive will be from 1:00pm to 7:00pm in the Parenzo Gym. Our goal is to collect 104 units of blood. I will pass around the sheets for volunteers. Remember that our hour of volunteer time will give you one unit for the month. I will email everyone a link to the Google docs later tonight, so you can sign up to volunteer through that as well.
19. We are extending the formalwear drive by one week so that people can donate dresses after Cotillion, if they would like to. The drive will officially end on Monday, April 4, so make sure that you donate anything you would like before then.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Jon Cubetus*
2. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
3. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
4. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
6. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
7. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
8. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Haley Batchelder*
9. Programming update**: Haley Batchelder**
10. Hi everyone, I am pleasantly surprised to see that our senators have friends outside SGA. Welcome to the Vortex that is the Student Government room.
11. Trivia went very well on Wednesday, March 23, with almost 60 participants. Our next trivia will be April 20, a theme to be announced. If you have any ideas give me a holler.
12. CAB will be meeting tomorrow, March 30, at 5:00pm in the SGA Room. So if the Owls Nest is empty, walk across the hall and you’ll find us.
13. Finally, If you are interested in position, Vice President of Programming for the 2016-2017 year, I am open to answering any questions.
14. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Brandon Trafford*
15. Hello everyone, I hope you all had a great weekend. There was an Email sent out on my behalf this morning to all SGA members, regarding a proposed fee increase. If you had a chance to read it thank you, if not we are going to be talking about it tonight. Over on the table in front, I have laid out the specifics of the fee increase, if you have not grabbed one yet please feel free to grab one after the meeting.
16. The proposed fee increase, which has seven out of eight Executive Councils support, is to add $10.00 to the student activities fee. Currently students are paying $113.00 a year to our Student Activities Fees. Of that $22.00 goes straight to covering the costs allowing students to ride the PVTA busses. This leaves $91.00, a total of $423,150.00, to support our activities on campus including the CAB budget, and the money that is to go toward student clubs in the form of line items, expenses, club sports, and finance proposals.
17. The reason I am proposing a fee increase is because our University has not increased the student activities fee for the last nine years. As you are all very aware, as time passes the cost of living increases as well. We are simply trying to provide the advanced programing our students deserve on this campus and keep up to date on the times.
18. This increase will lead to an additional $46,500.00 in the areas of student programing. This money will go towards funding more club Finance Proposals, supporting any new club line items, club sport financing as well as create more advanced CAB programing on campus, due to the fact that they will have more money to play with.
19. If you look at the sheet that was on the front table, you will see on the table below, we are in the middle of our sister Universities in comparison with their Student Activities fees. Worcester State has a $72.00 fee, Salem State has an $80.00 fee, Fitchburg State has a $90.00 fee, Bridgewater State has a $100.00 fee, Westfield State has a $113.00 fee, Framingham State has a $140.00 fee, Mass Maritime has a $142.00 feel and MCLA has a $300.00 fee. Our proposed $10.00 fee increase will be putting Westfield State at a $123.00 Student Activities fee, it will still leave us in the middle of all of our sister schools.
20. The reason I am bringing this to senate is because this room is full of leaders represents the student’s voice. Before this proposal climbs the ladder, intimately to the Board of Trustees, we are looking to see what the student body thinks. I am now going to open the floor to questions about the proposal and then I will be taking a straw poll to see if the legislature supports the proposition or not.
21. **Morgan Suddeth**: Is there any way we could do this increase for a shorter period of time, and then bring it back down? I know for a lot of students, they would not like to see a fee increase and it’s a source of pride that we don’t have a lot of fee increases here at Westfield.
22. **Brandon Trafford**: The reason that we’re doing this increase isn’t so much due to hitting a hole this year; it’s more due to the fact that we haven’t had a fee increase in ten years. It’s absolutely an option that we could do a smaller amount of money every year or every other year, but I was looking at this as inflation and cost of living going up so it would help us keep up with the times so we have the same opportunities and types of programming that students had nine years ago.
23. **Andrew Manchino**: The average price for state universities, with a $300 fee at MCLA as a dramatic outlier, is in a way unfair to say that we’re below that average. The average is about $105 without MCLA, so either way we’re realistically above average. I think that we need to evaluate what we’re putting our money into with line items and clubs, and look at where we can save money and see what we shouldn’t be spending on at the moment.
24. **Brandon Trafford**: That’s an absolutely reasonable option we can look into.
25. **Dan Pendenza**: What made you guys choose a $10 increase?
26. **Brandon Trafford**: This fee increase mimics the fee increase from nine years ago; they had a $10 fee increase to keep up with times back then, as they didn’t have an increase in nine years as well. I feel as though we haven’t brought it up for such a large period of time, but we should’ve been doing it all along. A one-time hit increase, which this proposal is for, I see as reasonable.
27. **Andrew Morin**: I also want to voice my support for the increase, in my opinion; its 10 dollars a year that comes directly back to students as opposed to a tuition or general fee increase to increase administrator salary or such. This could mean better spring weekend performers, better programming, I know nobody likes fee increases, but this is coming back to us and it’s not a crazy amount of money.
28. **Brandon Trafford**: We are going to evaluate the budget later in the year; this is just a proposed increase that came up right now.
29. **Dana Kilby**: Is the fee waivable?
30. **Brandon Trafford**: No.
31. **Dana Kilby**: I’m for this, but we’re on SGA and if we’re talking for our peers, I think we need to express their opinions. This is something that should be explained campus-wide rather than just increasing it without large opinion.
32. **Brandon Trafford**: There are a lot of students on campus that do not participate in a lot of activities, but with increased programming that went to those students’ interests, it may push them to be more involved on campus and this could help those programs come to fruition.
33. **Matt Carlin**: I was in favor of this increase, the reasoning for me is because this $10 isn’t increasing our budget so much as it’s maintaining it. As we said, costs are rising; money that we used to have in the university is no longer there as we all remember from our last finance update. I don’t want us to be in the position to take away opportunities here, one thing SGA is known for is providing and promoting student opportunities. This could’ve been a higher increase if we didn’t have higher enrollment projected for next semester. Compared to what we’re going to have to pay for new buildings and renovations, I think this is minimal and more directly beneficial to students.
34. **Andrew Manchino**: How are we going to be heard as a senate and represent our constituents in regards to the SGA budget?
35. **Brandon Trafford**: We’re going to review what the operating budget goes towards in a couple weeks. We’ll look into areas of the budget and put it all out there to decide what is and is not funded.
36. **Evelyn Dina**: I just want to clarify that a fee increase does not guarantee a spring concert, so do not tell your constituents that this will guarantee a spring concert.
37. **Andrew Manchino**: Food for thought, CAB got $98,000 this year; we’re getting potentially $46,500. Say $20,000 goes to CAB, that’s $118,000. Compared to other schools it’s less, but think about how much more programming the extra money the get can provide.
38. **Barbara Hand**: We could put this on the spring ballot as a non-binding referendum, so we can get a feel for how many people are really in favor of this in contrast to going out and getting opinions from constituents.
39. Finance Report: **No Report**
40. Foundation Report: **No Report**
41. SERETARY’S REPORT: Brendan McKee*/Jacob Lotter*
42. Executive Secretary Report: **Brendan McKee**
43. Hey everyone, nice to see all your friends. It has been determined that Pizza with the Candidates will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 4:00 pm here in the SGA room. This will be an hour or so period where those running for positions will be able to give a quick speech about why they’d like to be elected for their desired position, and we encourage as many people as possible to come. If you are free during this time period, please come by and support your candidates.
44. If you are interested in running for Executive Secretary for the 2016-2017 academic year, find me after the meeting and we can talk.
45. Can I see Cotillion Committee for a quick second after the meeting?
46. **Ashley Deleon**: Is Pizza with the Candidates mandatory if you’re running for a position?
47. **Brendan McKee**: I cannot force you to be there, but it’s very highly recommended to go.
48. **Ashley Deleon**: Would you be able to make an announcement that someone is in class so that people don’t think that the person is just skipping?
49. **Brendan McKee**: Of course.
50. Legislative Secretary Report: **Jacob Lotter**
51. Hi everyone. I just want to remind everyone that I have an extra unit opportunity this week. I need SGA t-shirt designs. Anyone who sends me a design before 5:00pm this coming Friday, April 1 gets a unit. That being said, four units are due next Tuesday, April 5 by 3:30pm.
52. The Blue Key Committee is meeting tomorrow, April 30 at 4:30pm and we hope to have our winners decided by the time the evening over.
53. If you’re interested in running for Legislative Secretary next year, please see me after the meeting.

1. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: *Ryan Losco*

Rules and Regulations Committee: Ryan Losco

1. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
2. Commuter Council: **No Report**
3. Senior Class: **No Report**
4. Junior Class: **Andrew Morin**
5. Hi everyone. I hope that you all had a nice Easter if you celebrate it and if not, I hope you simply had a nice weekend.
6. I am happy to report that the Mr. Westfield contestants raised over $160.00 at Brown Bag Bingo last Thursday for the Make-A-Wish foundation. Thank you to anyone who came, and thank you especially to those that donated for an extra bingo card.
7. I encourage you all to continue donating to this very worthy cause and help us grant a wish. You can donate online any time to your favorite contestant by visiting their online fundraising pages. You can also attend our tie-dye event next Wednesday, April 6 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Owl’s Nest to show your support.
8. On a different note, I am happy to announce that the Class of 2017 is partnering with the Alumni Affairs office on this Make Your Mark initiative. For those of you who don’t know, this initiative helps each class come up with a plan for raising funds for their class gift and can also help ensure that you leave your mark on campus in a significant way. Our Class council will be sending out a Survey Monkey this week with different options that we have brainstormed as well as an “other” option to get suggestions from our class as to what our class gift should be. Juniors please fill out that survey and encourage your classmates to as well.
9. Our next meeting is tomorrow, March 30 at 5:30pm in Ely 003.
10. Sophomore Class**:**
11. The Class of 2018 is still selling t-shirts until April 1, so please encourage your friends to buy them.
12. Also, we will be sitting at table in the DC for the next few weeks for more information on the Buzz Off so please stop by and tell your friends to stop by to learn more about the Buzz Off and how to sign up to buzz.
13. We will be having a table at the Health Fair on Thursday, March 24, so stop by.
14. Our next scheduled meeting is on Monday, March 28 at 7:00pm in the SGA Club Room E021.
15. First Year Class: **No Report**
16. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
17. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
18. Davis Hall: **No Report**
19. Dickinson Hall**: Imani Hill**
20. I move to appoint Rachel Dunphy as Representative to SGA for Dickinson Hall for the remainder of the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Motion carries**.**
21. Our next scheduled meeting will be held in the Dickinson Common room at 6:00pm on Thursday, March 24.
22. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
23. Lansdowne Hall**: No Report**
24. New Hall**: No Report**
25. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
26. University Hall**: No Report**
27. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**

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1. NEW BUSINESS:
2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
3. **Rebecca Kennedy**: Next Friday, April 8, is Maintainer’s Day. I’m looking for students to volunteer for this event to thank all of the maintainers, if you’re interested please see me. Can I also see Hall Council Presidents after the meeting?
4. **Maddie Creamer**: Buy your class t-shirts by Friday, Sign up to Buzz Off, and can I see all Hall Council Presidents after the meeting?
5. **Dan, MASSPIRG**: We are doing our education drive we’re going to schedule one on one meetings with you guys. We’re also working on a new voter’s project heading heading into next semester.
6. **Brendon McKee**: Election papers are out, please return signature sheets by April 8 at 5:00pm.
7. **Ivanna McGlinchey**: Please support MSA at Black Excellence, 7:30pm in the Owl’s Nest tonight.
8. **Maddie Dexter**: Olds is hosting an event tomorrow night, March 23, we’re showing Step Brothers in Courtyard with popcorn, please come by.
9. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: I’d like to thank all the guests for coming; I hope some of you run for office in the future. Please follow up with current officers, check out constitutions, and get yourself involved. Last plug, the department of Higher Education is having their Student Leadership Forum this Friday, April 01 from 9:00am until 3:30pm; I know most of you are in class, so we have very few students going. Anyone interested, please see me immediately after the meeting. You don’t have to be on   
   SGA to go. It’s at Fitchburg State; you’ll be back in time for Cotillion.
10. **Jon Cubetus**: If you’re interested in my position, please ese me after the meeting, and senior advising starts this week with registration on Friday, April 1.
11. **Shayna Arnott**: Jewish Student Organization is holding movies in University Hall on Thursday, March 31, from 3:00pm until 8:00pm. Please come by to support.
12. **Brendan McKee**: the first Cotillion shuttle is leaving at 6:45 pm from the front of Scanlon Hall; hope to see you all there.
13. **Justin Connolly**: April 6 is the State House Day; I’ll email those who signed my interest sheet. If you are interested in running for student trustee next year, please see me after the meeting.
14. **Matt Carlin**: Parking control board is tomorrow, March 30, if you have any parking concerns, Please see me after the meeting.
15. **Brandon Trafford**: If you’re interested in my position, see me after the meeting.
16. **Michael Janchuk**: 53 days until commencement.
17. ROLL CALL: Shannon Cullinane, Priscilla Aguilar, Molly Romano, Evan Mines, Brennan Kauffman were absent. Ryan Losco and Xavier Carmona sent alternates and Abby Salvietti was excused.
18. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.