**Student Government Association Minutes**

November 13, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Tim Egan, Matthew Demikat, Steve Evans, Samantha Dacey, Justin Connolly, Gabrielle Correnti, Cayleigh Russell and Rabi Alhassan were absent. Priscilla Aguilar sent an alternate and Melvin Rivera was excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 06, 2012: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend. Our first speaker tonight is Dr. Joshua Hettrick from Residential Life.
	* + 1. Dr. Hettrick: Good evening everybody. I wanted to come up and talk to everyone about housing next year. University Hall is going to change the way we look at housing on the campus, in terms of where you guys all live, for each of your 4-5 years here on campus. So what we’ve been doing is talking to different groups of students to get feedback and share what our thought process is and why we’re going to be making some of the change that we are going to be doing. As many of you probably know, University Hall is going to be 400 beds for returning students; we expect predominantly sophomores and juniors, with possibly some seniors with interest in living there. On top of that, that opens up 400 beds that those students would be take in the other residence halls that are already here, and that’s going to give us the opportunity to use those spaces in different ways.
			2. Right now, Davis and Dickinson are first-year halls on campus; Courtney is an all returning student building, and Lammers and Scanlon having a mix along with some special living units. Then we have our apartment complex, New Hall, and Landsdowne downtown.
			3. What we have to look at now, is what the space is going to be able to give us. We have had a severe overcrowding issue on the campus, and thankfully, that’s not going to be an issue going forward. Some of the spaces in Courtney, Lammers, and Scanlon we are going to be able to return them to what they were originally intended to be, which is, study lounges and other lounge space on campus. The corner quad rooms in Scanlon- we are hoping to turn one of those into a kitchen so that there’s more than one kitchen in Scanlon Hall. Some of that are things that we’ve wanted to have but haven’t been able to have for a very long time, because we’ve had to use so much of that space for student beds, but now we can change that, similar to the lounge areas in Lammers. We also hope to make study lounge space available particularly in Courtney and Scanlon, for more practical use.
			4. On top that, this allows us to spread out the first year class a lot more and not have the over capacity rooms anymore. This also means we have to look at who lives where on campus. Davis and Dickinson have been first year buildings for two years now. Davis was turned into a first year building before Dickinson. It got a very positive response so we did the same thing with Dickinson. Both buildings have a very positive response over the past couple of years. First year students tend to like the community that has developed in the building; they like living with their own class. Even first year students in Scanlon are clustered so that they are living with members of their own class and we’ve got so much good feedback from that, so we’ve begun to discuss creating another first year building on campus. Now there are only three buildings that you can do that with: Courtney, Lammers, and Scanlon. We had to sit down and figure out which of those buildings would make the most sense. Lammers was discussed and kind of put to the side immediately, because of the special living units that already exist there. We use it for International student housing. We hope to have more academic departments become partners in our housing problems in the future, which could potentially create more special living units in Lammers. Because of that, we need to keep a mix of returning students and first year students in that building. Courtney has been very popular as a returning student building. Courtney is also the largest source of double rooms on the campus for returning students. If we were to take that away, then returning students would have the apartments that we would have available and then Scanlon, which is predominantly triple rooms, which doesn’t seem to make a lot of sense, that you would take first year students from double rooms and then have them figure out how to fit into triples in Scanlon moving forward. That leaves us with Scanlon Hall, which is popular mainly because of the annex, the bathrooms being redesigned a couple of years ago, the lounge space down in the basement, and the common areas on the second and third floor definitely helped. But because of the triple rooms in the building, it makes a lot of sense to use that as the other first year building on campus. It’s a departure from what Davis and Dickinson is, which is the small clusters of rooms together which create smaller communities amongst larger floors, and having an open floor plan in Scanlon would give first year students an opportunity to live in a first year building, but one that is very different than Davis and Dickinson.
			5. 5. As we talked about this more with other student groups we talk to, some concerns have come up and I’m happy to answer any concerns that you undoubtedly will have, about this as well. As we walk through it, I want you to ask as many questions as possible because as we went through our process of trying to figure out what made the most sense, Scanlon more and more becomes the one that makes the most sense out of the three buildings because there’s just too much that would be stacked against students if the entire building was only for returning students. The other reason why Lammers Hall cannot be a first year building is because Lammers Hall is not accessible to any students with disabilities and as a result, we would have three buildings that would be completely inaccessible to the first year class and we can’t have that. So Scanlon Hall and Courtney Hall both have elevators, which is why the decision ultimately came between those two buildings as well.
			6. 6. So that what we’re looking at moving forward with housing going into the next couple years. Are there any questions regarding that?
5. **Rebecca Divico**: Point of interest. I sat in on the meeting when they talked about Scanlon becoming a first year hall, and when it was first said, I personally didn’t think it was a good idea. But all this information about accessibility and capacity makes sense so just remind yourselves that Scanlon would be helpful as being first year predominant.
6. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: I live in Scanlon now, and I did last year, and honestly, if this building was an all first year, I would’ve been so disappointed that I was stuck in Courtney because I think Scanlon is the nicest dorm. The reasons why this would change makes sense but, from a personal stand point, I wouldn’t like it.
7. **Dr. Hettrick**: I think what’s important and easy to forget is that really big thing that’s going up behind Ely. That’s going to have 400 beds which trump this building by about 40 additional beds. When you look at what we’re going to have between University Hall, the Apartment Complex, New Hall, and Landsdowne, every single junior and senior can fit in our apartment style housing. We won’t need traditional style halls for the junior and senior class moving forward, based on the sizes of the classes that we’ve had, for the past several years. So we realize that Scanlon provided a refuge for juniors that didn’t get apartment style housing, but the nice thing about this moving forward is that we don’t think that’s going to be an issue anymore.
8. **Amanda McCarthy**: Will Scanlon Hall have some Sophomores in it or all first years?
9. **Dr. Hettrick**: We discussed the difference between making an entirely first year building verses doing piecemeal between Lammers, Courtney and Scanlon. Considering all the factors, it’s ultimately the best choice in the long run.
10. Thank you Dr. Hettrick, I would like to welcome Laurie Simpson from Academic Advising.
	* 1. **Laurie Simpson**: I just wanted to share with you a few things, and I’d like to ask to share your opinions of advising. People need to understand that this is registration advising, and advising should be more about your relationship with your advisor. If you don’t have a good relationship with your advisor, you can change your advisor to someone who does want to help you. You need to be having conversations about where you’re going to grad school, what you’re going to do when you graduate. Seniors don’t want to think about it; that you roll out of bed, put a sweatshirt on and go to class, but now you’re going to get out of bed and put a suit on to go to work, hopefully. You need to be having conversations about where to go from here, not just for registration or asking for your PIN number. We need ideas for how to better operate advising and avoid all the stress and issues.
	1. **Stone Koury**: Have we looked in Bridgewater, Worcester or Framingham for how they do registration or advising?
	2. **Sarah Hegarty**: I say we do away with advising week, and plan with your advisor all throughout the semester.
	3. **Rebecca DiVico**: I like to meet with my advisor early on, but I hear that some students’ advisors will just give out the PIN numbers without conversation, and it seems like it’s hard to build that relationship when the student is too intimidated to ask them for more help. I’m trying to think of ways to improve that, but it’s hard. I understand that advising is important, because registration can be confusing.
	4. **Laurie Simpson**: It can be confusing, because we have 2500 students’ visits. It’s important to realize that registration is a separate thing from advising, which is where you make an appointment to have a conversation. It’d be easier to have as many advisors as the private schools have for students, but we’re trying.
	5. **Amanda McCarthy**: I have three advisors I need to check with – Education, Liberal Studies and Honors – so It’s hard to schedule seeing all three and then to also have them agree on what classes I should take, so that’s really hard.
	6. **Joshua Frank**: One issue that I have is that advisors have very limited amounts of office hours to see students for advising. Is there a way to mandate that they need to have more hours available, especially near registration time?
	7. **Laurie Simpson**: There is a mandated amount of office time that they need and they are required to help with advising.
	8. **Taylor Fote**: I am an Education major, so I agree that it’s a good idea to extend the advising period, because registration sneaks up on everyone, so maybe if it’s shared sooner that registration is coming up, so that people aren’t all trying to go the day before, it might be better?
	9. **Laurie Simpson**: We are looking into extending it, if that’s going to help. The hurricane and the campus closing also made that difficult.
	10. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: I think it would help if an email was sent out saying who your advisor is and how to contact them. Maybe advisors could be based on who volunteers instead of making them do it?
	11. **Laurie Simpson:** That would be lovely, but it’s in the contract with the professors and 50% of the faculty would probably bow out of advising. Having a conversation with you about your major and bout your passion, is a separate story but talking about Tuesdays and Thursday and why you can’t take this class isn’t what they want to talk about. They want to talk about what you want to do with your major, that’s advising, and that’s what you need to see them beyond this one week period for registration. If a student doesn’t click with their advisor, go to the department and ask to be switched. You are allowed to do that and you have every right to change your advisor, if you are not happy.
	12. **Emily Hammel:** I think we need to stress to everyone how important it is that you can change your advisor. I switched and it was a great decision because it can help you make a better relationship and help you.
	13. **Drew Dalesandro**: Students should be told who their advisor is because they are not going to go take the initiative and look for that information until they have to. Nothing against the faculty, but I don’t think they’re the right people to be advising the students. The entire advising program need to be extended because I think you guys are better advisors than faculty, who have too many tests to grade, as it is and not enough office hours during the school year for students to ask questions about their tests, never mind questions about the next semester.
	14. **Laurie Simpson:** We have about a 12 foot sign outside our office with every students name and their advisors name, and next to that is all the advisors, their offices, phone numbers and email addresses.
	15. **Katie Morrissey:** I’ve had a great experience with my advisor, but my roommate has had quite the opposite. She has asked to have her advisor switched and they won’t let her. Her advisor is less than accommodating and ends up just emailing her the PIN number.
	16. **Laurie Simpson:** She needs to come to our office and we’ll take care of her. That can be straightened out if you send her over to talk to us.
	17. **Amanda McCarthy:** I think people should see their advisor sooner than that one week, it gets so stressful and it helps everyone not to cram everything out in that one week. There shouldn’t be an advising week; people should just go see their advisors.
	18. **Laurie Simpson:** We always try to let people know about advising in advance and we need to figure out how to change the culture, of registration not overall advising.
	19. **Rebecca DiVico:** I think it’s important to act as student leaders, because we are here being informed and we can speak to all our roommates and friends and we can share what we’ve learned and stress the change of how we view advising.
	20. **Laurie Simpson:** People don’t realize that we are available to them to help them with simple remedies that they can’t fix on their own. Definitely advocate to them that we are there to help.
	21. **Richard Darrach:** Do majors have department meetings to explain the major requirement and registration to first years?
	22. **Laurie Simpson:** It depends on the chair of the department. It’s definitely encouraged. This initiative to have faculty advisors is there to help students instead of having them figure it out on their own. Even the Faculty forgets that at times, but each department is different, and we can’t control whether they have meeting with their students.
	23. **Jackie Green**: If you switch an advisor, can you choose your advisor, if you had them in a class?
	24. **Laurie Simpson**: Yes, it’s about clicking. You need to be able to communicate and understand each other.
	25. **Sarah Hegarty**: The advisors aren’t always aware of the reality of getting into those five classes and it might help if they were better explained what year you are more likely to get into a class or to have backups for certain classes.
	26. **Laurie Simpson**: Know this, no matter what; you will get what you need before you graduate. If you need a certain class as a second semester senior, you will get that course. There are only so many seats for a class, and there’s no way to know the odds because of varying popularity.
	27. **Victoria Landry:** I think it’s important if you encourage more departments to have that meeting for first year students, because my major had that. it has helped me every year since, to know what I need to do.
11. Thank you, Laurie Simpson.
12. Every year, SGA goes to the Cancer House of Hope in Westfield to rake leaves. The people that work there do a great service, so the least we can do is rake the leaves because they don’t have the time to. We will be going this Sunday, November 18th, leaving at 9:30am and we would be back by 11:30. The more people we have, the faster it goes. There will be some donuts for breakfast as well. If you are able to attend please sign up. Also if you have a care and are willing to drive, please write that down too. Anyone who signs up, please see me after the meeting.
13. The Multicultural Committee is meeting again this week on Wednesday, November 14th at 5:00pm in Wilson 207.
14. There is a suicide Prevention Workshop that is being run by our Counseling Center director, Tammy Bringaze. She would like to see a large group of students go through this training. I think it would be a great opportunity for Senate to receive this training, but I wanted to gage your interest for it.
15. As a part of the Faculty contract, we have to have a referendum question available to the entire student body in order to maintain student representation on governance committees. This question is going to be on CollegiateLink starting at 9:00am tomorrow, November 14th, and will be available until 11:59pm on Thursday November 15th. Please participate in this referendum. It is very important if we want to have student representation on committees.
16. We will not be having SGA next week due to Thanksgiving Break, so I hope you all have a wonderful little vacation and I will see you on November 27th.
17. Carlton Pickron, Vice President of Student Affairs, also has some information to share.
	* + 1. **Carlton Pickron**: Hello all. We will be having a bus trip to Washington D.C. for the Inauguration. Tickets will be $40.00 round trip and an email with more details will be sent with the link. They will be sold online, first come, first serve. This will be during Martin Luther King, Jr. Day so you will not be missing class, and you will be back that morning when the Spring semester starts.
18. Thank you Carlton Pickron.
19. Items not listed on Agenda
20. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
21. All University Committee: **No Report**
22. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
23. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
24. Hi everyone, I am asking if there is any guys who were interested in the mentor program I had mentioned earlier this semester. They are in need of a few more guys, so please see me if you are interested.
25. Also may I please see my senators to senators and Michael Janchuk, tonight, after the meeting?
26. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
27. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
28. Food Services Committee: Tom Durkee
	* + 1. The Hunger Banquet is tonight, November 13th at 6:00pm, 45 people have signed up.
			2. Tonight, November 13th is the kick-off of the Stop Hunger Food Drive. We will have a collection box in the Dining Commons and at all Sodexo locations.
			3. We will be working with Residential Life to expand the food drive into the Residence Halls. This would start after we return from Thanksgiving. I’ll have more details on this next week.
			4. Thanksgiving dinner is this Thursday, November 15th and we’ll have the classics along with a few new items. Only item that was a no go was peach cobbler, as they are hard to obtain at this time of year.
			5. There will be an new survey coming out next week about the Wilson renovations, please fill it out.
			6. We are still getting lots of comment cards, so we are excited about that. If you or a friend has any comments about food, fill out a card, we’d love your feedback.
			7. On Tuesday, November 20th each Sodexo location will have a buy one get one sale.
29. **Calton Pickron**: Just a comment from the head chef, that the soft serve ice cream is actually frozen yogurt, and two of the flavors in the ice cream freezer are actually frozen yogurt as well, which they will alternate flavors.
	* + 1. Our next scheduled meeting is on November 27th at 4:15pm in the Dining Commons.
30. Health Committee: **No Report**
31. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
32. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
33. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
34. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Tori Landry**
	1. The Turkey Drive is just about finished, and I just want to say thank you over and over. I don’t have a final number but we’re very close to our goal. Unfortunately with the price of turkeys up this year, we may not be able to buy as many as we did in previous years, but we have received a great deal of donations. We will be collecting through Lammers Hall tonight. If anyone is interested in helping, please meet in the lobby at 8:00pm.
	2. Would anyone be interested in helping me buy and deliver the turkeys on either Thursday, November 15th or Friday, November 16th? I would need about two or three people. Please see me after the meeting if you are interested.
		1. **Sarah Hegarty**: Point of Information: working the Turkey Drive and helping Victoria Landry are unit opportunities.
	3. The Blood Drive will be on November 28th, so look for an e-mail on that soon. I will need volunteers for Thursday November 15th and Friday November 16th for that.
35. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
36. Sophomores, we’re registering tomorrow, November 14th at 7:00am so best of luck registering. First years, advising starts tomorrow until November 26th. Registration for first years is on Tuesday, November 27th at 7:00am. Make sure you tell your friends to visit peer advising.
37. Also, please encourage people to vote on the referendum. It is very important for students to still have a voice on these committees.
38. Can I please see my Senators and Nichole Primeau after this meeting?
39. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
40. Curriculum Committee: Katie Morrissey
	1. Curriculum Committee met on Thursday November 8th.
	2. The four Criminal Justice Course Action Requests were withdrawn.
	3. Our Next meeting is this Thursday, November 29th at 3:45pm in Wilson 319.
41. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
42. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
43. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
44. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
45. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
46. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
47. Programming update: Michelle Hanney
	* + 1. Myself and 11 other students along with our advisor Jessika Murphy, went to NACA and had a great time. We have a lot of ideas, events and comedians that we really liked and want to bring to campus.
			2. We are very proud to say that it has been over 10 years since WSU has brought home any awards from NACA but this year we changed that. WSU won an award for “Best use of School Spirit”! We were very excited to hear this at the awards banquet dinner.
			3. We had a NACA wrap up meeting today, November 13th and are going to look into booking some of the things we saw for the spring semester.
			4. Trivia is tomorrow, November 14th at 8:00pm in Ely and there will be pizza, so get a team together and come play.
			5. The New York City bus trip tickets will go on sale this Friday, November 16th at 7:00am. Look for a link in your mail from Kim Morgan. There are 203 tickets so get to your computer and get a ticket.
			6. A survey from Survey Monkey will be going out tomorrow, November 14th about Spring Weekend. It will be open until next Tuesday, November 20th. It is four questions, so please take it so CAB can get your feedback.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. This weekend the Dance Company will be having their annual fall show. The show will be this Friday, November 16th at 7:30pm and Saturday, November 17th at 1:00pm in Dever Auditorium. Tickets are $3.00 for students, $5.00 for adults and free admission for children.
3. There will be an open forum for the Vice President of Administration and Finance tomorrow, November 14th and Friday, November 16th at 3:15pm in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. The administration position is a key person when creating the rates for tuition and fees for students. Please try your best to make it and don’t be afraid to ask questions.
4. Just a reminder that the Finance Committee will be meeting after tonight’s meetings.
5. Finance Report: **No Report**
6. Foundation Report**: No Report**
7. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
8. Executive Secretary Report: No Report
9. Legislative Secretary Report: No Report
10. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
11. Commuter Council: No Report
12. Senior Class: Brandon Burr
	1. So, we are continuing to sell Cookie Dough and Auntie Anne Pretzels, they will be going for another two weeks, so, if you want some let us know.
	2. We are almost ready to finally announce Senior Week for good, and we are really excited about that. More details for that are to come.
	3. I am just waiting to hear back from one vendor about our sweatshirts, so hopefully those will be finalized by the end of this week.
13. Junior Class: Brittany Moniz
	* + 1. Just a reminder: Wednesday, November 14th and Thursday November 15th is the 2014 Bake Sale in Ely Main Lobby from 12:00 noon until 2:00pm.
			2. Nominations for Mr. Westfield end this Friday, November 16th. Please get those last minute nominations in. We will be having an interest meeting on Thursday, November 29th.
			3. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 15th at 4:00pm in the Tekoa Room.
14. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
15. Freshman Class: Michael Janchuk
16. We are having a Holiday Candy Gram fundraiser. We are still working out the details.
17. Our Advisor Ashiah Richeme is trying to plan a trip to Washington D.C. to attend the inauguration, but we are still working out the details for that as well.
18. There is no meeting for our class Wednesday, November 21st.
19. Our next scheduled meeting is on November 14th at 5:30pm in the Tekoa Room.
20. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
21. Courtney Hall**: Cayleigh Russell**
	* + 1. Stop by Courtney Hall and donate a can of nonperishable food and decorate a hand-turkey for thanksgiving
22. Davis Hall: **No Report**
23. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
24. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
25. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
26. New Hall: Megan Brochu
	* + 1. New Hall is having a canned food drive starting today, November 13th. For each can someone donates, he or she will receive a raffle ticket, to be entered to win New Hall t-shirts, a Kerig, gas, food and I-tunes gift cards, owl bucks and more.
			2. Items can be dropped off in the Resident Directors office. The Resident Assistants will also have tickets at the front desk and we will be going door to door at some point as well.
			3. All items collected will be donated to Westfield.
			4. Our next scheduled meeting is on November 13th at 9:00pm in the New Hall Lobby.
27. Scanlon Hall: Rabi Alhassan
28. Scanlon Hall council will be teaming up with Residential Hall Association for a grilled cheese meet and great. This will give the residents the opportunity to meet the entire Scanlon hall council and support RHA. Grilled cheeses will be available for purchase for $1.00 and tomato soup will be provided for free, courtesy of Hall council. The event will be taking place Thursday, November 15th from 10:00pm until 12:00am in the Scanlon Hall Main Lobby.
29. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
30. NEW BUSINESS:
31. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
32. **Rebecca DiVico**: Can I see all my Senators?
33. **Victoria Landry**: Last Turkey Drive collection is tonight.
34. **Sarah Hegarty**: Can I see Luis Arzola after the meeting?
35. **Mike Mazeika**: Don’t forget to go see Julius Cesaer, its opening Wednesday November 14th going until Saturday November 17th.
36. **Barbara Hand**: The Next Red Cross Blood Drive is November 28th, the week we get back, so just be on the lookout for information on that,
37. **Isaac Mason**: Rules and Regulations Committee meetingat the end of this meeting.
38. **Stephanie Close**: Please see me after the meeting if you signed up for leaf raking.
39. **Taylor Fote**: Can I see the people I asked to see? And 77 days until we are back in Ely.
40. **Calton Pickron**: Remember Tomorrow, November 14th is Midnight Madness starting at 10:00pm in the Woodward Center.
41. **Brandon Burr**: 186 days until commencement.
42. ROLL CALL: Tim Egan, Emily Baker, Matthew Demikat, Steve Evans, Samantha Dacey, Justin Connolly, Gabrielle Correnti, and Rabi Alhassan were absent. Priscilla Aguilar sent an alternate and Melvin Rivera was excused.
43. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.