**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**November 7, 2017**

1. ROLL CALL: Joseph Newlin, and Kelsey Kiltonic were absent. Katelyn Nardi, Saltanat Aldabayeva, Ellen Lambert, thalita Neves, Danielle LoGuidice, Elijah Mosley, Simone LaPlant, Ashely LaRoche, and Nathan Lovejoy were excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 31, 2017
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Brendan McKee**
4. Our speaker tonight is Westfield State University President Ramon Torrecilha.
5. **President Torrecilha**: Hello everybody. It is good to be here thanks for having me. It’s hard to believe, but we have six more weeks left of the semester and the semester went by really quickly and it’s important to remember that we do have a lot to celebrate at Westfield State University. We welcomed over 1,300 new students this semester, which is a good thing. We also launched our strategic planning process. We are working with two consultants in Florida who have been on campus. The strategic planning process, Commissioner Carlos Santiago came to campus at the beginning of the semester and started the process for us. This will be a planning process that will take us to 2023, five years from now, so it’s very important that you participate and you let your voices be heard. Before we break for Thanksgiving the consultants are going to be sending out a survey, a SWOT analysis, and we can’t survey every single student, but I think we are going to survey about 2,500 perhaps. So if you do get one of those surveys it is important that you fill out and complete the survey and that you let us know of your dreams, aspirations, and ideas for Westfield State. Now when we embark as an institution into a new strategic plan process, the guidelines are set up by the state and according to the state we need to be thinking in terms of increasing student retention, increasing graduation rates, decreasing the achievement gap, and also to prepare our students for the workforce. Those are the four priorities for the state and those are also our priorities for Westfield State University.
6. We had two very important meetings on campus. For the first time in the history I think of the institution the Massachusetts committee of Higher Education met on campus on October 2. And again on October 31 we had the Board of Higher Education meeting on campus. This is very important because it brings Boston to Westfield. It’s important that folks in Boston come west and see what we do here at Westfield State University.
7. I’m pleased to report that we are moving forward with our plans to renovate Parenzo Hall. That renovation is going to cost the university $40 million. We are seeking $20 million from the state and the institution will come up with the additional $20 million. Now this is going to be very important for us because Parenzo is the oldest building on campus. We’ve been in the city of Westfield since 1884 and we’ve been in Parenzo Hall since 1960. So Parenzo is about 61 years old and we haven’t done much to Parenzo and it’s in great need of a lot of repair. We are hoping that the state will come through with $20 million for that project. One of the things that I did when thinking about the project, and we don’t have the plans for the project just yet, the process is one where you go before the state and you make the case for the state and you try and press to the folks in Boston why this is important and we are making our argument around precisely those four points: student retention, increasing graduation rate, reducing the achievement gap, and preparing the students for the work force.
8. Provost Ansari is heading the change in Academic Affairs as we are moving the structure of Academic Affairs into four colleges. We already have one college, the College of Graduate and Continuing Education and we are in the process of searching for three new deans. Now we are going into this structure because the flat structure we have worked when Westfield State was small and we had 2,000 students now we have grown to about 6,300 students and it’s impossible for the VP of Academic Affairs to really work with all the 40 departments that come under his leadership. So we think that breaking up this structure into colleges is going to facilitate the work not only for the provost, but academic departments as well. I do want to tell you that the funding for the structure came from the Board of Trustees and they have allocated $350,000 for setting up the new structure and they are going to be allocating another $350,000 next year because they are hoping to be about $700,000. So it’s important for you to know that funding for the structure is not coming out of the staff or faculty lines. We have protected those lines and continue to protect those lines. In fact we created more faculty tenure tract positions with the onset of the PA program and now the master’s in Occupational Therapy and the Bachelors in Health Sciences.
9. Student Affairs and Academic Affairs continues to partner with the Westfield State Experience and there will be a fall celebration for our student research coming up and it will take place December 1. We continue to highlight the importance of experiential education. Research has shown time again that if we participate in either student research, civic engagement, service learning, or internships that your transition into the workforce is going to be much easier. Also students that participate in those activities tend to graduate on time and they tend to stay in school. So it’s very important that Westfield State invest in those types of activities for your benefit.
10. Finally, unfortunately we continue to deal with events of racism and hate speech on our campus. In talking to my colleagues throughout the country this past weekend, we had a conference call where I believe we had 50 institutions that are being affected by exactly what you are seeing on our campus. We continue to work with the state police, they are partners with us and there are many things that we are doing and sometimes unfortunately you can’t quite always divulge everything that you are doing because you have some investigations going on. Last summer we started thinking about the possibility of having cameras throughout the campus and so we are working with the campus police and again the state police in identifying vendors and we already got two quotes for security cameras. The price tag goes from $300,000 to $700,000. There’s a process we are a state institution and we can’t just go on a shopping spree we have to work with a permit, but I wanted to assure you that your safety is number one. In my conversations with some members of the board, I made it clear that when we started the academic year we had a plan for making that kind of purchase and investment, but I think it’s a necessary purchase. So I have the commitment of the board that somehow the institution will make that investment so that we can make sure that we protect you all as best we can do. Now having said this, the fact that we may install the cameras may not necessarily solve this problem because what we are talking about here is an institutionally, a cultural, a societal problem and issues that will take some time and issues that require all of us to come together and work toward making WSU a better institution.
11. **Jacob Lotter**: As you know I am the student representative on the Advisory Committee on Academic Planning and you know already as well that we are working on things pertaining to the common core this year so I was wondering if you’d be willing to share your thoughts on the current common core and where you think we should be going with that.
12. **President Torrecilha**: That’s a very good question. Let’s think about this idea of the common core. We have a common core that we established about 20 years ago and what we’ve been doing with the common core, we’ve been adding courses, and adding more options. It’s fine, but if we continue with the system we are asking ourselves the question, what’s the imprint of Westfield States education. What are some of the basic skills that we want our students to have? What are things that are important for our students to have? So, I think we need to have the discussion among faculty and students in thinking about what the common core may look like. The other thing is we can’t be all things to all people and the common core now is all over the map. So, for students it becomes important to have a common core that is more specific and gets to skills that we want our students to have.
13. **Bryan Pimentel**: I know in previous years in talks about cameras people have voiced their concerns about privacy in the halls so I was just wondering if you and the team working on cameras were worried about privacy or just focusing on the student safety.
14. **President Torrecilha**: I’d much rather err on the side of safety. I understand that privacy is important and I value privacy, but when you have as many students on campus as we do I think that student safety is a higher priority.
15. **Kyle Szcepanek**: In regards to cameras how long do you estimate that you would need to keep the footage for investigations?
16. **President Torrecilha**: We are going to be following the recommendation from the state police. I think they keep the data for 10 days if there are no new incidents and longer if there are new incidents because then it becomes materials that you can use in court and other pursuits.
17. **Saraiz O’Farrill**: Is there talks of getting that diversity training in Davis in all Residence Halls?
18. **President Torrecilha**: Yes and that’s happening. We are going to start at Davis hall, the idea is that we are going to have these first trainings before Thanksgiving break. We are working on that and yes we are going to have those trainings in every Residence Hall.
19. **Victoria Lind**: I know that Framingham last week decided to issue a $1,000 award for anyone who had any information about what’s happening on their campus. Have you considered doing it here?
20. **President Torrecilha**: Yes, I did consider it and I was advised not to, but maybe we should have a second consideration about that.
21. **Jacob Lotter**: I move to close the speaker’s list. Motion carries.
22. **Jacob Lotter**: Point of information we are closing the speaker’s list not to end discussion, we are closing the speaker’s list because the president has to be at the first year read.
23. **Scotty Howe**: You talked earlier about your call to 50 campuses, have you noticed any type of pattern in schools that this is a problem at?
24. **President Torrecilha**: All over the place, public, private, four-year institutions, research based, etc. It’s not a single type of institution and it’s not just residential campuses. I think it’s a really sad commentary on where we are as a nation.
25. Thank you very much President Torrecilha.
26. I’m still waiting to get a definitive yes, but our speaker for next week as of right now will be Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Taksar. Moving forward for the rest of the semester, we will have Carsten Braun, Chair of CURCA, to speak about information and opportunities for student revolving around CURCA. Andrew Mankus will be returning to get information from you all regarding food services on campus for the first semester. If anyone has any further suggestions for speakers either this semester or next semester, please let me know after the meeting.
27. I’m going to try to consolidate all of our faculty line information and get it to you all by the end of the week. This will include what we’ve heard from Frank Giuliano, Claudia Ciano-Boyce, Dr. Parviz Ansari and multiple department chairs. That being said, I am hoping we can finally have a discussion about these matters at our next meeting.
28. Items not listed on Agenda:

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
   1. All University Committee**: No Report**
   2. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
   3. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Arielyss Santiago**
   1. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **Mika Lapre**
2. The diversity and Inclusion committee had their first meeting on Thursday, November 2. We had an open discussion on some important topics that have been brought forth by students. First, the issue of hate crimes on campus have brought a lot of questions on what can be done to prevent further incidents. The Diversity and Inclusion council came up with an idea to do a campus wide campaign that will be called *Many Owls One Nest.* Thiscampaign will allow for every group of students including but not limited to sports groups, religious affiliation groups, clubs and organizations as well. There will be a banner created for all students to sign and take a pledge against hate on our campus. We are also in the process of making this pledge an option for all incoming students to sign as well.
3. For those students who mentioned a Haven course for Diversity and Inclusion, bystander, and macroaggression training, there has been discussions of creating scenario videos which will contain situations that occur on campus and ways to address and respond to those situations. These videos will be mandatory for students to watch before completing things necessary for attending school such as buying a parking pass, or registering for housing.
4. Within the residential halls there has been positive programing implemented by RA’s and RD’s and Davis hall is going through training this week. Scanlon Hall will have a mandatory meeting tonight to address the hate crime that occurred this week inside the resident hall.
5. Some last points of discussion from our meeting included ways to make SGA meetings more inclusive for all students. Issues that were discussed included wheelchair and non-able body accessibility, dress code meetings for student who do not have appropriate clothing, and ways to appeal to the entire student body for more representation in SGA.
   1. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
   2. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
   3. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **Jon Kelland**
6. Yesterday, November 6 SAAC had their November meeting and we discussed some important topics for upcoming events and ideas**.**
7. One thing we touched on was that several weeks ago after the events that took place in New Hall, we had an emergency SAAC meeting. This was the next morning after we had our meeting here. So, between the discussions at the events I came up with this idea to bring people on campus together. I thought of this idea of Owls On and Off the Field, a program that pairs groups on campus with athletics as “sister” organizations. So, I am working with athletics, Student Activities, and would like anyone here that is in a group to chat with me after the meeting.
8. On the same note, the Executive Board wants to work more in the community outreach as well. So, right now they are planning a spring cleanup at parks around the city, as a way to give back and become more involved in the community.
9. Secret Santa is right around the corner. Teams have been collecting money and as a department we get toys for kids in need this holiday season. Sometimes SAAC will go and get the gifts, and other times teams will go shopping as a bonding experience. Really invest their time into helping a kid in need. It is a great program and we are looking forward to another great year.
10. Mark your calendars for January 26. Midnight madness. It is the Friday we come back from winter break. The event is hosted by the Basketball team, there will be a game hosted by each team, performances from the cheerleaders and I believe a dance. I will have more details forthcoming.
11. It is MASCAC season. So, I have some updates on the teams.
12. Women’s Soccer won MASCAC championship on Sunday, November 5, 2 -1 over Worcester State. Casey Rotti was named the tournament MVP.
13. Men’s Soccer fell to Salem State in penalty kicks on Sunday, November 5.
14. Women’s Cross Country earned the second place finish in MASCAC. Our own Jessie Cardin won the race, becoming the first ever four time MASCAC championship.
15. Men’s Cross Country earned the third spot at the race. With serval men making the all-conference team. They compete this Saturday for regional meet at Southern Maine.
16. Field Hockey fell to Keene State in the Little East Conference championship on Saturday, November 4, which is only the second time the Owls have reached it to the Championship.
17. Football faces Western Connecticut here at home on Friday, November 10 at 7:00pm.
18. Swimming and Diving have a meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 6:00pm.
19. Winter sports are gearing up all teams are looking forward to great seasons.
    1. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
    2. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **No Report**
    3. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Jacob Lotter**
   1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
   2. Curriculum Committee: **Maddy Scott**
2. The Curriculum Committee met on Friday, November 3 and passed some proposals on course deletions and additions. The Spanish program proposed to delete 7 of their courses that they do not see benefit in offering anymore based on recent experiences with the courses. Additionally, the math department added a History of Math course which passed easily.
3. The next Curriculum Committee meeting is November 17 at 1:40 pm in Wilson 404.
   1. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
   2. International Programs Committee: **Victoria Lind**
4. Last Friday, November 3 the International Program Committee had its first meeting of the academic school year. During this meeting, we talked about what our goals are for the upcoming year, how we can market the Study Abroad program better, how to get more involved and if we should start planning events here on campus. Since everyone had multiple ideas, Ricki Kantrowitz, chair of Committee, decided it would be best to break into sub committees to get more work done. I have no information about the sub committees as of right now but I will after our next meeting which is on Friday, November 17 at 10:15 in the Panerzo Board Room.
   1. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
   2. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
   3. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
5. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Madeline Dexter**
6. Programming update: **Madeline Dexter**
7. A few CAB members went to Hartford this weekend for the National Association for Campus Activities. It was a great experience and we are really excited to bring some great talent to campus.
8. This week there are a few things going on in the realm of activities. Residential Hall Association is hosting an Amelia Park Ice Skating night tomorrow, Wednesday, November 8 from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. Skate rentals are $3.00. The busses will start running at 6:30pm and until 9:15pm. On Sunday, November 12 they are also hosting a Patriots Football Night at 8:30pm. First come, first serve pizza and wings.
9. The New York City Bus Trip sold out on Monday, November 6 at 11:00am. If you did not get your ticket, you can talk to Kim Hosmer about being put on the wait list. For those who didn’t know, five buses worth of tickets were sold this year instead of the past four busses which we used to do.
10. Pet Therapy is on Wednesday from 11:00 to 1:00!
11. There is an open mic night on Wednesday, November 8 at 8:00pm in the Owl’s Nest.
12. Other than that, this weekend is pretty quiet because of the long weekend.
13. CAB is meeting tomorrow, November 8 at 5:00pm right here to discuss plans for Owl Bash.
14. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Marcus DiBacco**
15. Finance Report: **Marcus DiBacco**
16. Last week I met with Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Taksar. I do this on a somewhat monthly basis in order to maintain contact and transparency with the university.
17. At the meeting we discussed many things, but the most important of which is financial aid. As many of you may know the financial aid offered by the university is 2% of the budget. One of my goals for this year is to assist in increasing this. I cannot guarantee that we will see any changes this year, but with hope we will see improvement over time. Do not think that we are alone in this effort, in fact I have not come across a single person, regardless of position here, who would not like to see financial aid increase. If you any questions or comments on this please feel free to speak with me.
18. Moving on, today we will be looking at finance proposals. The first proposal is from the Business Club who is seeking additional funding for their annual networking dinner. We will be paying for half of the catering costs, which amounts to $624.70. The networking dinner provides an opportunity for all students, not just those in business, to meet with employers for a multitude of companies. I do not need to remind you that events like this are significant in getting a job after graduation, or even an internship in your tenure here.
19. I move to allocate $642.70 to the Business Club for their Networking Dinner. Motion Carries.
20. The next two finance proposals come from the Social Work Association. Before describing the proposal I would like to inform you that the Association will be paying for some of these proposals by themselves. In addition, any money made by the Association throughout the year goes to charity, similar to Circle K. The first proposal is to attend a one day conference in the Massachusetts State House. The conference is titled LEAD, which stands for Legislative Education and Advocacy Day. As social work students, many of these students will work for government entities, as such it is crucial that students have an opportunity to learn about government and how it works. This opportunity is provided by the LEAD conference, in which we will hopefully be sending 11 students.
21. I move to allocate $382.00 to Social Work Association to attend LEAD Day. Motion Carries.
22. The second proposal for the Social Work Association, will help to fund a two-day National Social Work Symposium. In order to keep the finance proposal low, the Social Work Association has decided to limit the attendees to four students, thus keeping it to one hotel room. As the Social Work Association is connected to a National organization, they are required to send a delegation. This symposium also provides opportunities to network with professionals and other students as well as work on skills necessary for success in the field.
23. I move to allocate $82.29 to the Social Work Association for their Symposium. Motion carries.
24. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Friday, November 17, at 1:00pm in Ely 020.
25. Foundation Report: **No Report**
26. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Karina Sallaway/Derek Estrella**
27. Executive Secretary Report: **No Report**
28. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
29. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Tyler Cameron**
30. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
31. Constitutional Review Committee**: No Report**

1. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
2. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
3. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
4. Advisory Committee on the CURCA: **No Report**
5. College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Search: **No Report**
6. College of Mathematics and Science Search Committee: **No Report**
7. College of Education Health and Human Services Search**: No Report**
8. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
9. Commuter Council: **No Report**
10. Senior Class: **Maddie Creamer**
11. The Class of 2018 has narrowed down the senior sweatshirt designs to three designs, which I’ll be passing around right now. We are holding a poll on the Class of 2018 Facebook page for students to vote on their favorite design. Seniors can vote on these designs until this Sunday, November 12 at 11:59pm. If you or anyone you know doesn’t have a Facebook but want to vote, please contact either myself or Sandra Mercer.
12. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 13 at 8:00am in Ely 003.
13. Junior Class: **No Report**
14. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
15. First Year Class: **No Report**
16. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
17. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
18. Davis Hall: **No Report**
19. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
20. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
21. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
22. New Hall: **No Report**
23. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
24. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS:
   1. **Aaron Sylvia**: I move to open new business. Motion carries.
   2. **Mitchell McKittrick**: I move to appoint Samuel Tsongalis as Representative to Dickinson Hall for the remainder of the 2017-2018 Academic year. Motion carries.
   3. **Cameron Swan**: I move to close new business. Motion carries.
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
4. **Jacob Lotter**: Sophomore advising is happening now and registration is on Monday, November 13.
5. **Maddy Scott**: Make sure you’re collecting for the Turkey Drive please!
6. **Maddie Creamer**: Vote for senior sweatshirt designs by Sunday, November 12 at midnight!
7. **Derek Estrella**: I’d like to see Aaron Sylvia, Maddy Scott, and Christian Capalbo after the meeting.
8. **Shayna Arnott**: Can I see all the Reps at Large after the meeting please?
9. **Jacob Lotter**: Can I see Anna Jackson and Mitchell McKittrick after the meeting please.
10. **Maddie Dexter**: The Thanksgiving Dinner is in the DC tonight, November 7 from 5:00pm until 8:00 pm.
11. **Saraiz O’Farrill**: Apartment Complex has their s’mores event tomorrow night at 5:30pm.
12. **Marissa Cremin**: 193 days until Commencement.
13. ROLL CALL: Joseph Newlin and Kelsey Kiltonic were absent. Katelyn Nardi, Saltanat Aldabayeva, Ellen Lambert, Thalita Neves, Danielle Loguidice, Kyle Szczepanek, Jason Rosselli, Elijah Mosley Benjamin Conlon, Simone LaPlant, Ashley LaRoche and Nathan Lovejoy were excused.
14. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please turn off your cell phone before the meeting*