**Student Government Association Minutes**

October 02, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Tim Egan, Emily Hamel and Georgina Boakyewah were absent.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 25, 2012: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. Hi everyone! I would like to welcome all of you. It is great to see senate almost full. For those who do not know me, my name is Stephanie Close the President of SGA.
5. To start off tonight, I would like to invite up State Representative Nicholas Boldyga form the Joint committee on Higher Education.
   * + 1. Representative Boldyga: It is great to see so many people here. I was on the student senate when I was in college. I went to Western New England College, and we didn’t have, nearly, this many students in attendance, so it is great to see such an active group. Thank you for having me. Stephanie Close has asked to have me come over tonight and I tried to coordinate with some of my colleagues in the House of Senate, but our schedules are difficult to mesh up together. I’m more than happy to come here tonight.
       2. I was born and bred in Massachusetts in the Berkshires. I grew up in Lenox and I graduated from Lenox High school. That is where I got my taste for public service. At a young age, I was involved with the boy scouts and when I was a teenager about 14 or 15 I actually worked in an organization for youth service. It is kind of like boy scouts but it is more focused on law enforcement and I think it is also were I learn to have my thick skin. Because at 15 years old, I was tasked with giving people parking tickets so I have people coming at me and yell at me for giving them parking tickets. I can still remember the over bearing adults screaming at me and wanting to get rid of their parking ticket, but I held strong and they got the parking ticket. Then after that I went to Western New England College, which is now a university. That is where I got involved with Student Government, I was a business representative at Student Senate, I was vice-president of student senate and I was the treasurer of campus activities, I was the treasurer of the accounting association, I was a residence advisor there for a number of years so I have been involved in a number of organizations on campus.
       3. It is important for all of you to get involved, and it makes you well rounded students because you see and experience different things out there. I’m sure a lot of you have friends that just kind of go home or go back to their dorm rooms after class and they don’t really experience other parts of the college life and all these experiences that also look really great on your resume. All these involvements will help you land good jobs. Actually, my senior year of college, I got a position. After WNEC, I went into the business world, corporate America, or the real world which the seniors here are getting ready to enter. I entered the real world but my job did not have that part of public service, I missed it and then after that I found a friend of mine who is a police officer in Connecticut, who told me about an opportunity. I went for the test and I scored really well and took the job as a police officer. I went to the police academy and was a police officer for about five years in Connecticut. After that, I became an officer in Southwick and you get to interact with everybody and you get to see everyone at their best or worst and I respect people who do that job. I’ve done that job for 30 plus years and I loved it. It is good to volunteer and I do so, wherever I live. It’s good to see all of you already this involved in college. I hope that when you go off and buy a home, get married and be active in your community, whatever town it might be. I bet you whatever town I lived in, I’ve always gone in the town website and looked for an open position to get involved. As soon as I got to Southwick, I went down to town hall and found out about a position on the park and recreation committee and I took it. It is very similar to the TV show, I can tell you that. I volunteered for that for a number of years and I had a great time. That’s actually what got me involved with the government and after that I ran for selector. You get to do things from hiring a police officer, to firefighters, to dog hearings about loud dogs, and tree hoardings. It is very involved with local government and after that I was state representative and this is my first term.
       4. My community is Agawam, Granville and Southwick. But each representative population is made up of a certain number of people. The state representative is made up of 40 thousand people. I had four communities, including Russell. We use census information every ten years and with the census numbers we elect all the national elected officials and depend on the numbers you have more or less officials. In Massachusetts, state representative and senators stay the same number but depending on numbers, they lose districts. In Massachusetts, we actually gained a percent and a half of population, but we didn’t keep up with the other parts of the country, which is why we lost a congress man.
       5. If you have any questions ask me, it does not have to be only about higher education. If you have any questions about state government, local government, house of senate, feel free to ask. In Massachusetts, any citizen is allowed to write a bill to the legislator, and actually the legislator will put it forward. So anyone can do that and a lot of folks don’t think they have that privilege but they can seek out the legislators and they can work with them. I’m on the Higher Education Committee and a lot of times, students write bills that the legislators put forward. This year, one of the bills that were put forward was actually for Veterans and it was section 5 chapter 108. It is so Veterans can have access to opportunities and resources. We found that people that were getting out of the military were struggling, so we wanting to create the opportunity for them to build on whatever training they might have had in the military, to fit in the work force. We are working on making higher education affordable for everybody. Right now, I’m still paying for my college loans. My wife and I have a ten month old son, and I did an online calculation of the cost of a private college in 18 years and the estimation was 500 thousand dollars. I don’t have that kind of money, so it is the kind of things we are focusing on. I went to public schools and my kid will be going to public schools and college, if he wants to do so. Hopefully, we can make college affordable for all. I’m happy to open up to questions
6. **Brittany Moniz**:I was wondering how partisanship affected the elections?
7. **Representative Boldyga**: Great question! The Legislature in Massachusetts is made up of 200 members. There are a hundred and sixty members in the house of representative and 33 members in the senate and the senate there are 36 democrats and four republicans. In the house of representative they are 147 democrats and 33 republicans. So the legislature, the democrats have control for. The republicans, we do our best to be heard. Actually, the veterans’ bill I was mentioning early was a republican initiative and that was a win for both of us working together.
8. **Lawrance Rodkey**: What is the hardest part about advocating for Higher Education?
9. **Representative Boldyga**: We have students come before us and we also have University officials come before us so now, everybody wants more money. So the most difficult thing is to make sure everything goes right. My goal is to make sure we can make higher education affordable for everyone. It is difficult to balance a quality education and keeping the costs down. At the end of the day, you want to make education affordable, but how do you get there and how do you do it. When you look at the cost of gas and food and all the things, the University has to use to keep running you have to evaluate costs, fees and tuition. It is challenging to balance all those costs and at the same time keep tuition low.
10. **Hannah Kelly**: How is higher education financed?
11. **Representative Boldyga**: This year we had one billion dollars deficit in the budget. You look at what each of the state colleges and universities bring in for their revenues, and you look at all the numbers that come out of the schools and the taxes that people are paying. You have to take all of that into account to finance higher education. It is all about budgeting and if I make 30 thousand a year, I cannot spend a hundred thousand. So you have to look at what you have, the resources and try to balance.
12. **Victoria Landry**: Will you be willing to share your thoughts or financing for undocumented students?
13. **Representative Boldyga:** That’s actually a great question. We actually had a hearing where undocumented students came in, because they were worried about getting an education. Now obviously everyone is worried about getting an education. However, if you are undocumented, most of the time you are not paying taxes or you are not paying social security tax, you are not paying all these taxes and we use those resources to put everyone through college. That’s if you are an illegal resident, go down in line to get your citizenship, then you will have the in state college tuition grant. But if you are not a citizen, I don’t know how you can get an in state citizen tuition break, because we don’t even allow it. If someone is in the military, in Connecticut, Vermont or New Hampshire and bordering states we don’t give in state tuition breaks for people who live in neighboring states. The best thing to do, is to make sure, you are doing everything by the book and apply for citizenship in the country.
14. **Jonathan Mercurio**: Did you choose to be on the Hiher Education Committee?
15. **Representative Boldyga**: I did actually. I chose three committees and I was very lucky to receive all three and I’m happy with all of them.
16. **Stone Koury**: Are you aware of State College students lobbying in the House of Senate?
17. **Representative Boldyga**: We have hundreds of organizations that come in the House of Senate, so the best thing to do is to give adequate notice and I usually try to be there. I usually try to make all those but with roll calls, committees hearing and so on it is hard to balance everything, but I’m aware Westfield State does a great job. I will be more than happy to meet with anyone, so if you guys are out there let me know, give me a phone call and enough notice and I will be out there on lobby day.
18. **Taylor Fote**: What are your thoughts on veteran education?
19. **Representative Boldyga:** Yes, like I said we passed a bill that amended the budget this year. Basically, it helps veterans get jobs and actually we passed the Valor Act as well, which will help with educational opportunities. We did a great number of things of veterans this year and actually in Agawam, we have a project under way, it is a housing initiative for homeless Veterans and it offers ownership as well.
    * + 1. I appreciate you guys having me here tonight. Thank you all, and if you want to have a Westfield day I will be happy to offer you a tour of the House of Senate and we can do lunch on the green, Boston commons. Thank you for having me, I appreciate the time and feel free to contact me.
20. Thank you Representative Boldyga. Next, I would like to invite Jessika Murphy and Billy Dunn to speak about the Leadership Retreat on October 12th through October 14th.
    * + 1. **Jessika Murphy**: We will like to invite everybody here to the leadership voyage that we put together to get students from different leadership groups together and learn more about leadership.
        2. **Billy Dunn**: We spent a lot of time planning this and it will be a great opportunity for all of you here to go to enrich and enhance your leadership skills. We hope all of you here signed up to go and if you haven’t done so yet, you should do so.
21. Thank you Jessika Murphy and Billy Dunn. Finally I would like to invite up the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Carlton Pickron.
    * + 1. **Carlton Pickron**: For all of you who just joined SGA and Hall Councils, and the new Executive Board for the Class of 2016, congratulations. Welcome to the Student Government Association and for your first meeting, know that you are part of 75 students and you got addressed by a State Representative, it is quite interesting. For all the new folks, I encourage you to sign up for the leadership voyage, because it is a great opportunity to know people across campus. Thanks a lot, congratulations to you all and a lot of work to do!
22. Thank you Carlton Pickron.
23. I move to appoint Isaac Matson to the Representative at Large position for the 2012-2013 Academic year. Motion passed.
24. I move to appoint Jennifer McDiarmid to the Representative at Large position for the 2012-2013 Academic year. Motion passed.
25. I move to appoint Stephen Evans as the Student Athletic Advisory Board Representative for the 2012-2013 Academic year. Motion passed.
26. I move to appoint Barbara Hand as SGA Advisor for the 2012-2013 Academic year. Motion passed.
27. Tonight we will elect a Parliamentarian for the year. What this position entails is chairing the Rules and Regulations committee, overseeing club and organization constitutions, and governing parliamentary procedure during our meetings. You must be nominated by another senator. I now open the floor for nominations.
    * + 1. Isaac Matson was nominated. He accepted the nomination. Jonathan Mercurio was nominated. He accepted the nomination. Isaac Matson was elected as the 2012-2013 SGA Parliamentarian.
28. Now we need to form the Rules and Regulations committee. This committee consists of one senator from each class. Again, you must be nominated by another senator.
    * + 1. The following students were elected for the 2012-2013 Rules and Regulations committee. David Getchell for the Class of 2013, Jennifer McDiarmid for the Class of 2014, Richard Darrach for the Class of 2015 and Melvin Rivera for the Class of 2016.
29. Last week, September 25th we heard from Momba’s founder and CEO. I wanted to get a final opinion on this pilot program. Is this something we would like Westfield to pursue?
    * + 1. quest
30. There was a survey on everyone’s chair when you came in tonight. This is about higher education legislation. If you could please take the time to fill this out and return it to me, I would really appreciate it. Next week Ken Harr will be down here to talk about the legislation. Please have some questions and input ready for him.
31. Orientation was on Sunday night, September 30th. Thank you to everyone who came. I sent out the presentation to all senators earlier today, so that you will have the information. If you are a new senator and were unable to be there, please see me after the meeting.
32. The Disney Program will be having an information session tomorrow, October 3rd at 4:00pm and 6:00pm in the Loughman Living Room.
33. Tomorrow, October 3rd is the first Presidential debate. The Political Science department is hosting a watch party in the Scanlon Banquet Hall A at 8:30pm.
34. The Rays of Hope walk is October 28th. Many student groups from Westfield are participating in this. If you are interested in this, please let me know.
35. This year we will be doing a program called Senator-to-Senator. We tried to do this last year, and I wanted to give it one more try. Every first year senator has been assigned to an executive member. My senators are Kylie Nelson, Hannah Kelley and Melvin Rivera. Could I please see you after the meeting?
36. Remember, Sodexo is sponsoring a pizza party for us after this meeting, so stick around, mingle and get to know your fellow senators.
37. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9th at 5:30 pm in the Loughman Living Room.
38. Items not listed on the agenda:
39. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
40. Welcome new senators. My name is Stone Koury and I am the Student Trustee this year. I am a junior here at Westfield and this is my third year on SGA and my second year on the Executive Board.
41. Like Stephanie Close said we have a Senator-to-Senator program when all new senators have an Executive member as a mentor or guide throughout the semester. Could I meet with Alexis Wagner, Issac Matson, Lawrence Rodley and Allyson McElniney after the meeting?
42. Additionally, I chair the Bookstore Advisory Committee and need as many students that are interested to sign-up. We are meeting on October 16th at 11:00am.
43. Student Advisory Council meeting is on October 4th.
44. The next scheduled Trustee’s meeting is on October 11th.
45. All University Committee: **No Report**
46. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
47. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
48. My name is Taylor Fote and I am the Vice President of Student Life. Our first Student Affairs Meeting is this Thursday, October 4th at 2:30 pm in the Parenzo Board Room. I am sending around a sign-up sheet, for all you new Senators or Senators that still need committees please sign up. I need students for a few committees.
49. Can I see Megan Brochu, Ryan Losco, Justin Connolly and John Dowd after the meeting?
50. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
51. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
52. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
53. Health Committee: Victoria Landry
    * + 1. Tomorrow, Wednesday, October 3rd is our first Blood Drive of the semester. We have about 95 appointments set for tomorrow between 1:00pm and 7:00pm. I still need a few more volunteers, so I will send around a sign-up sheet. This does count as a unit opportunity.
        2. Thank you to everyone that has helped so far tomorrow will be a great success.
54. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
55. Student Athletic Advisory Board: Stephen Evans
    * + 1. The Westfield State University Field hockey team hosted a clinic for youths in grades 3 thru 8 on Sunday, September 16th in conjunction with the Inaugural National Field Hockey Day.
        2. Dave Pallone delivered an inspirational presentation to the campus.
        3. The Special Olympics Flag football tournament was held on Sunday, September 23rd for the second consecutive year. Over 80 Special Olympic athletes participated and over 60 student athletes volunteered for an afternoon of fun and competitive games that allowed student-athletes to give back to their community.
56. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
57. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
58. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
59. Advising schedules are out. Currently the Spring 2013 booklet is posted online at Westfield.ma.edu/registrar. The printed version should be around by this Friday, October 5th.
60. Just a reminder, all students are required to meet with a departmental advisor before registering. That is where students will obtain their pin number. You can find your advisor by logging onto the myWestfield portal, clicking the academics tab, and reviewing their degree evaluation.
    1. The advising/registration dates are as followed:
       1. **Banacos/Honors**: Monday, October 1 – Thursday, October 18th with registration beginning Friday, October 19th.
       2. **Seniors**: Monday October 22th - Thursday, October 25th, with registration beginning Friday, October 26th.
       3. **Juniors**: Monday, October 29th– Thursday, November 1st with registration beginning Friday, November 2nd.
       4. **Sophomores**: Monday, November 5th – Thursday, November 16th with registration beginning Friday, November 9th.
       5. **First Years**: Tuesday, November 13th – Friday, November 16th with registration beginning Monday, November 19th.
61. After this meeting can I please see Representatives at Large Sarah Varghese, Georgina Boakyewah, and Anna DiLorenzo?
62. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
63. Curriculum Committee: Katie Morrissey
    1. Our first meeting was held on Thursday, September 27th. We discussed and voted on eliminating subcommittees. The motion was passed and everything will now be discussed as an entire committee.
    2. Secondly we discussed a proposal from All University council about that committee posting issues, which seemed to be of little debate, online for others to see. If anyone was to object to this issue, it would be sent to Curriculum committee for discussion.
    3. The new SCUP committee was brought forth for discussion. That discussion was tabled and will be continued at our next meeting.
    4. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 11th at 3:45pm in Wilson 319.
64. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
65. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
66. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
67. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
68. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
69. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
70. I want to thank those of you that attended Parent Family Day. We had about 1300 people register. The day couldn’t have happened without the help of so many such as Jessika Murphy, Barbara Hand and the rest of those on the Parent Family Day planning committee. Also my CAB Executive Board along with the SGA Executive board, Student Ambassadors, the Class Councils, Sodexo, EMS and many more. It was overall a great day for students to share with their families.
71. After this meeting can I see Rabi Alhassan, Shannon Cullinane, Rachel Foran and Sara Palis
72. Programming update: **No Report**
73. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
74. The first Student Organization Council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 10th at 4:00pm in the Scanlon Banquet Hall section BCD. It is highly recommended that all club advisors and presidents attend this meeting. Advisors should have received an email last week with specific information regarding this meeting. If you are a club president and haven’t received any information about SOC, please see me after the meeting.
75. I am looking for two first year students to join the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee approves or denies Finance Proposals submitted by clubs. We meet on Mondays at 4:00 pm in the SGA Office. Please sign the sign-up sheet if you’re interested. This is for first year students only.
76. Can I see Jackie Green, Cayleigh Russell, Diane Lego, Tara Saraf, and Amanda McCarthy after the meeting?
77. Finance Report: **No Report**
78. Foundation Report**: No Report**
79. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Sandra Kwawu/Sarah Hegarty*
80. Executive Secretary Report: Sandra Kwawu
    * + 1. I just want to remind you guys about the report sheet. We attach it to the agenda email, every week, so if you can use it to type your report before you come to the meetings, that will be great, but if you don’t get the chance to do so, we will have it in the back of the room for you.
81. Legislative Secretary Report: Sarah Hegarty
    1. Thank you to those who completed their units. If you did not get them in before 5:00pm today, it is a half absence. Most people did, so good job.
    2. I am sorry I was unable to attend the Orientation on Sunday, September 30th, but to the returning Senators who went we are happy to say that it will be considered a Unit for October.
    3. We will have a meeting on Tuesday, October 9th, even though it is a Monday schedule. If you have a class during the meeting, please email me, it will not be counted against you.
    4. Please remember your binders or folders next week, so I can give you the October Unit Calendar. There are four units due for October.
    5. Can I see Samantha Dacey, Emily Marcella, and Bryanna Wetherell after the meeting?
82. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
83. Commuter Council: **No Report**
84. Senior Class: Brandon Burr
    1. Our senior event on October 26th, we are going to have some fun games planned. The event is from 9:00pm until 12:00am. We will be doing games like donut on a string, the limbo, and some more Halloween style games.
    2. The Dunkin Dash will be October 15th from 4:00pm until 6:00pm. Sign-ups will be all week in the Dining commons and also you can email our Class Council at [Classof2013@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:Classof2013@westfield.ma.edu). It is $2.00 to sign up and it is about a one mile run, you run half a mile eat 4 donuts then run the other half mile. The winner will receive Sodexo bucks and a reusable Dunkin Donuts cup.
85. Junior Class: Brittany Moniz
86. The Class of 2014 held a raffle during Family Parent Day this past Saturday, September 29th for a Bobble Water Bottle and a gift card to the bookstore. We will draw the winner at our next meeting.
87. We drew the winner for the Presidents parking space for October. Congratulations to Meaghan MacDonald, a commuter student in the Class of 2012. Tickets are still on sale at the Campus Center window. We’ve lowered the price; tickets are now $1.00 for one or $3.00 for five tickets.
88. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 4th at 4:00pm in Ely 210.
89. Sophomore Class: Richard Darrach
    * + 1. We have decided to support the Shriners Children’s Hospital of Springfield.
        2. Some of our possible events include, Owl Bucks Balloon Burst, Coco-run, and a Mud-Volleyball Tournament.
        3. Also, our Class shirts are still on sale, we’re in progress of selling them at the service window. You will be able to use Owl Bucks.
        4. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 3rd at 4:30pm in the Tekoa Room.
90. Freshman Class: **No Report**
91. Apartment Complex: Diane Lego
    * + 1. I move to appoint Dashire Viqueira as Student Government Representative to Senate for the Apartment complex. Motion Passed.
        2. We have some events in the works.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 3rd at 8:30pm.
92. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
93. Davis Hall: **No Report**
94. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
95. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
96. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
97. New Hall: **No Report**
98. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
99. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**: None**
100. NEW BUSINESS:
101. It was moved and seconded to open new business. Motion was accepted.
102. Lammers Hall: Abigail McMahon
     * 1. We have a full council. We had our first meeting last week, where we set up a regular meeting time, and voted on how to disburse hall damage charges.
       2. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 4th at 5:30pm in the Lammers Lobby.
103. It was moved and seconded to close new business. Motion was accepted
104. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
105. **Joshua Frank**: I need two first year students for the Finance Committee.
106. **Victoria Landry**: Thank you everybody that signed up to help with the blood drive.
107. **Rebecca DiVico**: Can I see the Representatives at Large after the meeting?
108. **Taylor Fote**: 112 Days until we are back in Ely.
109. **Brandon Burr**: 227 days until commencement.
110. ROLL CALL: Tim Egan, Emily Hamel and Georgina Boakyewah were Absent.
111. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.