**Student Government Association Minutes**

October 09, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Cayleigh Russell, Anna Dilorenzo, Katie Morrissey, Allyson McElhiney were excused. Tom Durkee set an alternate.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 02, 2012: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. Good evening everyone. I hope you all had a great long weekend. First on the agenda is the Dean of Students, Sue LaMontagne.
   * + 1. Sue LaMontagne: Hello everyone! I know Dr. Carlton Pickron spoke to you last week so I won’t take much of your time but I just want to add my welcome from Student Affairs into your new positions. I know we have a lot of new Senators and Hall council members.
       2. I would like to introduce Stan Costa. Stan is one of our interns at the office. He is going to be doing a number of things at the office and one of those things is the Student Affairs Newsletter. He is going to highlight key concepts on student life and in the topic of civic engagement, which will feature Student Government and the Class of 2016.
       3. One of the things Stephanie Close and I talked about last week is to reinvigorate Commuter Council. We have a thing on campus, called Commuter Council and they work on planning commuter activities. We had our difficulties in the past few years, trying to fill those positions. Believe it or not, there are 14 seats, in Student Government, for Commuter Council, so my goal is to fill those seats. When you are talking about student life, it is easy to forget the commuters. One of the things that me and Amy Szlachetka, the Director of the Campus Center talked about, is to have Jessika Murphy, the Director of Student Activities, come down to Student Government and get ideas, on how to get commuters involved in campus activities. That’s one of the things, you can think about, in the next few weeks.
       4. I’m happy to answer any questions about student activities and student life, otherwise I will just leave it to my welcome and I’m looking forward to working with all of you throughout the year.
       5. If you come to visit me and introduce yourself, so I get to know you and talk about your life and what not for twenty minutes, you can count that as a unit. Please, I would like to get to know all of you individually and it is hard to do it in a group like this. My office is in Ely 208 or 209, either one will get you to my office. Again, congratulations and welcome to you all.
5. Thank you, Sue LaMontagne. Next, I would like to introduce Ken Haar the Associate Vice President.
   1. Ken Haar: Hi, for those of you who don’t know me, my name is Ken Haar. I work in the President’s Office. I spend a lot of time in Boston in the State House, working with legislators and other government agencies. The point is to bring more money to higher education in general, bus specifically to Westfield State University. It is not an easy job but it is an awful lot of fun and I try to get students involved because what you pay to go to school here is a political decision. Somebody made a political decision in the legislature and now it is having consequence on you and your family. It is important to learn about that stuff and to know about it.
   2. My main interest is to make sure that your education is important and meaningful to you and that the campus and the system in general are accessible and affordable to you. I’m part of this organization that started in 2006, it is called Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts, and it goes by the name PHENOM. You can access it online at PHENOMonline.com. PHENOM is a collaboration of students, faculty, administration, sometimes parents and guidance counselors in the public schools. Six years ago, a group of people got together to work on making higher education in Massachusetts, accessible and affordable for people. We suffered here in the state by lack of support for higher education. Our students graduate from public higher education schools, with 24 thousand in debt. Because of this, our students take longer to graduate and they work slower through the system than people from other states. One of the reasons for that is that you have to go to work or quit school for one semester to make enough money to go back. A lot of your peers are doing that so in average your education is suffering. In the end, your career suffers and a lot of you will make choices in the end not based on what you want to do but based on the loans that you have. And this is not a good reason to choose a career. In any case, that is why PHENOM exists. It is to fight for you so you can have a more affordable fee to attend higher education schools.
   3. Last year, we put on the biggest group for Lobby Day that anybody can remember in the State House. Couple of your student government students went to that. Stone Koury and Stephanie Close were there. Right now, we are trying to put together some legislation for the Supreme Court. We want your input, on some of these questions and we will appreciate your input. We don’t expect you to know everything about these questions, but we expect you to tell us what you think. What we want to do is to put together some legislation, on some issues, such as adequate funds for higher education and how it can be done. Right now, every time there is a problem with budget, the state cuts higher education, because they expect you to pay for it. It is really important for you to get involved, send emails, phone calls and so on to demand that higher education does not suffer. When the budget gets cut, the school suffers for funds at a state level and therefore has to increase fees to compensate. Some schools hire more adjunct professors that teach a couple hours here and there and are not there for students, as the full-time professors are. Massachusetts is unique in a sense that they have very low tuition and ridiculously high fees. It is that way here, because we give tuition waivers, to all kinds of people for various reasons. If things get flipped around and tuition becomes higher than the fees, it will cost a lot to the state and it will be great for students. It is built upside down, because they don’t want to pay that much. They want students to do it.
   4. We have done a lot of work in capital improvement and the state has actually done a good job. The bill that came from that, we used to build a new building and add to the dinning commons. We need 50 million dollars’ to build new academic space for science and fix some of the old buildings. We’ve got work to do.
   5. Right now, in the whole country, students’ debt is more than credit card bills. That is frightening. When people graduate and can’t pay those bills off, it is going to have a negative impact on the whole economy. When I went to college, students that go into some of the most demanded jobs, have their debts paid half for them, by the state. That is something we can consider doing today, to make debts less heavy on students. Please look at the questions, add your thoughts and give them to Stephanie Close. Also I will like you to get involved and learn more about PHENOM, go online and check it out. Thank you all for having me.
6. Thank you Ken Haar. I am going to pass the contact sheet around for Sarah Hegarty, so that it can get around. If you already filled it out, please make sure your information is correct.
7. I accept the resignation of Georgina Boakyewah.
8. I move to appoint Lieutenant Michael Foyle from Public Safety and Andrew Dalesandro from Information Technology as Student Government Advisors for the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion passed.
9. Wednesday, October 10th is the Senatorial Debate between Senator Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren. This starts a 7:00pm, if you would like to watch at home. We received about 30 tickets for students from Westfield State to go. An email was sent out last week and over 70 students showed interest. We drew names for the 30 tickets and all students were notified. If you are one of the students who got a ticket, or you know someone, please come down to SGA to sign a travel waiver. The bus will be leaving at 5:30pm from the front of Scanlon Hall.
10. This Thursday, October 11th from 1:30pm until 4:00pm, there will be a Career Fair in the Woodward Center. This is a great opportunity to network with potential employers. This is open to all majors and is also a great way to learn about potential internships.
11. Also This Thursday, October 11th, there will be a watch party sponsored by the Political Science department for the Vice Presidential Debate. This starts at 8:30pm in the Loughman Living room.
12. The President’s Award for Excellence in leadership applications are due October 19th. Turn these into the Dean of Students office in Ely 209.
13. Items not listed on the agenda:
14. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
15. Last Thursday, October 4th the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education met for the first time this year. For those of you who do not know what SAC is, it comprises of all the Student Government Presidents and Student Trustees of all the public institutions of the commonwealth and we possess a voice, that is directly received by the Board of Higher Education. We had a long meeting discussing a handful of preliminary actions. Elections were tabled, we confirmed our student member to the Board of Higher Education, and set goals for the year. One of which is drafting a letter to Governor Patrick, expressing concerns for higher education in Massachusetts. Also to get more schools involved in the SAC.
16. Our next SAC meeting is November 1st, location is to be announced.
17. The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, October 11th, if you are interested, come to the meeting at 6:00pm in the Presidents Board Room.
18. Can I see the Representatives at Large after the meeting?
19. All University Committee: **No Report**
20. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
21. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
22. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
23. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
24. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
25. Health Committee: **No Report**
26. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
27. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
28. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
29. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**:** Victoria Landry
30. Thank you to everyone who helped with the blood Drive last Wednesday, October 3rd it was a great success.
31. The Turkey Drive will be starting in a few short weeks. For those of you who don’t know what it is, it is a fundraiser for the thanksgiving season, where we give back to the Westfield community, we buy turkeys with the money raised. If you’re interested in helping please put your name and username and I’ll be in contact with you soon.
32. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
33. I just want to remind everyone that it is time for us all to think about registration. The Spring 2013 Course Offerings Booklet is now available. There are about a million of them outside of Academic Advising in Parenzo Hall. If you have any questions, please see me after the meeting.
34. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
35. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
36. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
37. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
38. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
39. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
40. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
41. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
42. Programming update: **No Report**
43. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
44. Tomorrow, October 10th will be the first Student Organization Council meeting at 4:00pm in the Scanlon Banquet hall section BCD. It is highly recommended that all club advisors and presidents attend. If you have any questions feel free to ask me after tonight’s meeting.
45. Also, just a reminder; the finance committee will be meeting briefly tonight after this meeting.
46. Finance Report: **No Report**
47. Foundation Report**: No Report**
48. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Sandra Kwawu/Sarah Hegarty*
49. Executive Secretary Report: Sandra Kwawu
50. Legislative Secretary Report: Sarah Hegarty
    1. First we will have unit draw. Congratulations Katie Morrissey you can see Barbara Hand for your Wal-Mart gift card. Here are the October Unit Calendars. These are not the only unit opportunities this month, it’s just some suggestions and follow us on twitter to see new unit opportunities as they come up.
    2. Whoever has the contact sheet at the end of the meeting, could you please return it to me?
    3. Please remember to leave your nametags on your seats at the end of the meeting. If you are missing a nametag, it’s spelled incorrectly or any nametag issues, please come see me at the end of the meeting.
    4. I think some people are confused about the attendance policy. If you cannot make a meeting, please let me know beforehand, but you can send an alternate, to fill in for you and then your absence won’t count against you.
51. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
52. Commuter Council: **No Report**
53. Senior Class: Brandon Burr
    1. The Dunkin Dash is coming up next Monday, October 15th, starting at 4:00pm. we have about 10 people signed up right now and are doing sign ups at the event. Again the prices are; 1st place $50.00 Sodexo bucks and reusable Dunkin mug, 2nd place $25.00 Sodexo bucks and reusable Dunkin mug and 3rd place reusable Dunkin mug with three refills. Also, all contestants will be getting a small prize for entry.
    2. Our calendars should be done definitely at some point this week and we will be getting those on sale as soon as possible. They will be $5.00 each.
    3. Our senior night is shaping up nicely, and again is Friday, October 26th from 9:00pm until 12:00am. We will be having costume contests, games, prizes, beer and wine. It will be fun for all seniors.
    4. As a council we have decided that we want to focus a good amount of time and effort to put on a walk late next semester supporting the Suicide Prevention Charity. It’s called “Out of the Darkness Community Walk”. We are just in the planning phases, so we will let you know more as we do too.
    5. I know it’s a while away, but the scheduled dress rehearsal for commencement is the Friday before commencement, May 10th at 4:00pm in the Woodward Center.
54. Junior Class: Brittany Moniz
55. 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.
56. 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.
57. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 4th at 4:00pm in Ely 210.
58. Sophomore Class: Richard Darrach
    * + 1. We have decided to support the Shriners Childrens 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.
59. Freshman Class: Melvin Rivera
    * + 1. The class council of 2016 had their first meeting last week, Wednesday, October 3rd.
        2. We will be having interviews this week to fill in any open spots we have on the council. Also we will be doing interviews for Class Advisors on October 11th.
        3. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 10th at 5:30pm in the Tekoa Room.
60. Apartment Complex: No Report
61. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
62. Davis Hall: Justin Connolly
    * + 1. I move to appoint Gabrielle Correnti to Representative to Senate for Davis Hall for the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion accepted.
        2. We are also starting up our hall t-shirt design contest, to get everyone involved in designing a really cool t-shirt. We are also beginning to brainstorm some Halloween themed events to get everyone in the spirit.
63. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
64. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
65. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
66. New Hall: **No Report**
67. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
68. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**: None**
69. NEW BUSINESS:
70. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
71. **Sarah Hegarty**: Please, send back the contact sheet.
72. **Victoria Landry**: Please, return the sign-up sheet for the Turkey Drive.
73. **Taylor Fote**: 105 Days until we are back in Ely.
74. **Isaac Matson**:Rules and Regulations committee will meet after the SGA meeting
75. **Stone Koury**:Can I see all the All University Representatives after the SGA Meeting
76. **Joshua Frank**: Can I see the Finance Committee after the SGA Meeting.
77. **Brandon Burr**: 220 days until commencement.
78. ROLL CALL: Cayleigh Russell, Anna Dilorenzo, Katie Morrissey, Allyson McElhiney were excused. Tom Durkee sent an alternate.
79. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.