**Student Government Association Minutes**

October 23, 2012

1. ROLL CALL: Nick Villante, Abigail McMahon, Gabrielle Correnti Cayleigh Russell and Kylie Nelson were absent. Emily Hamel and Allison Davis sent alternates
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 16, 2012: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Stephanie Close*
4. Hi everyone, I hope your week is going well. Tonight we have the President of the University to speak with us, Dr. Evan Dobelle.
   * + 1. **Dr. Dobelle**: Good evening, how are you all? Well I hope. This is our first year anniversary of the snowstorm, for those who remember when we all had to go home for a week. Sometimes, when something happens, the benefit is something unintended, when the neighborhood community felt as one, with the University. The dining commons was the only place open in Westfield and it really occurred to us, people coming over to get a cup of coffee, when they had no electricity, no power, no heat and no food. Juniper Park became a place for people, particularly elderly people, who were harmed, and it really was an extraordinary moment. What you see now are people, who are my age or younger, having brunch, having dinner, and feeling like a part of the institution and that’s important, that in their mind, they really felt that they were part of the University. Westfield State and Westfield the city were one and that’s very important, although a complicated time for all of us. That’s the kind of thing we wish we knew the day before, that we were going to have a snowstorm, so that we could have all left before it happened.
       2. I welcome you all back to the new academic year. I hope you have been following the political season, as I’m sure you are and hope you will. I hope you come tomorrow night; perhaps it will give you insight. We’re having some prominent people, who are perhaps, not necessarily on the tip of your tongue, but they are among the most influential men and women in the country. If you watch cable, which you may or may not, you see people like Hendrik Hertzberg, who is the political editor of the New Yorker, who’s extremely influential. You’ll see Dan Thomasson of Scripps Howard Newspapers (they own 300 newspaper in the country). He writes two columns a week, and it affects a whole lot of people and the way they think about issues. Shannon O’Brien, who used to be a State Legislator representing Westfield years ago, is the first women ever elected state wide on her own, became the treasurer of Massachusetts, and she was the last person to run against Mitt Romney; she lost to him for Governor ten years ago. Come and listen to Doug Brinkley, who I suspect will win the Pulitzer Prize pretty soon. Doug is probably this generation’s greatest historian. He’s written a lot of biographies. He has his cover piece on President Obama coming out on Rolling Stone this week. He’s one of the political editors for Rolling Stone as CBS News Historian. So they are important people and it is an opportunity for you to not only hear them, but hear them answer questions that you may have. So I’ll moderate it and we’ll be taking questions before hand, so if you have questions about politics, political process, what they think of the issues, what they think of a candidate, if it helps inform you and make you more comfortable in discussing the issues. I hope you do come. We have a general reception at 6:30pm tomorrow night, October 24th and then we start at 7:00pm and should be done by 8:15pm. So I do hope you come, if that works for your schedule.
       3. As far as the college goes, I’m happy to answer questions. I know other members of the senior staff have come and talked to you, but I’m not sure if you’re up to date on everything and that’s going to be redundant, if I go through it all. I’m sure you know the construction is going well. I’ve heard a lot of you like the renovations done to Ely and to the Library. I’ve heard that there’s been an increase in usage; that 35,000 more people have used the library, which is pretty extraordinary. Understandably, in order to pay off the debt, the Wellness Center fee has increased from $45.00 to $185.00. More people have joined it than ever before. It’s open at 6:30 in the morning and it closes at 10:30 at night, and seems packed. We’re happy, that you’re happy with it. In January the full service Dunkin Donuts opens up, as they excavate the incline on the left side of Ely, when you’re looking at it. Then for you, that are not seniors, the new dorm opens in September of next year with 411 beds and that arch will have some hanging glass conference rooms. The new academic building is something that, maybe, if you’re a first year student, you’ll get to use, about 3 years away, behind Wilson Hall, along with the refurbishing of the other academic buildings, including Juniper Park.
       4. I also hope that we can start these centers for community service. We just got $150,000 from the state and the faculty to be able to participate in an interdisciplinary way to address issues of the community.
       5. I think it’s an exciting time to be here. We continue to be validated, whether it be by the Mass Ink as the best value, US News has reported us as in the top tier of education, or US news again suggesting that we may be number one teacher quality in online education. We are going to be embracing technology and giving more online courses opportunities. More and more they are suggesting now that by 2020, 50% of high school courses will be taught online. So the world’s tipped that way and we can’t be afraid of that, so we need to embrace it.
       6. I appreciate the support from you all about the tobacco ban. You know as well as I do that it’s not enforceable but we hope that it is, in the sense of peer pressure, that people will start to have more respect and more regard for people who are not smokers. We’re going to have, as soon as possible, a couple locations around campus, where people can smoke, if they are addicted to it. I understand, I used to smoke for twenty years, and it certainly affected me and God knows how many others, but I can’t allow students, to have to go out to smoke, on an icy sidewalk. We’re going to need a place that students, faculty and staff can go smoke if they want to and keep in front of them the options that they have to get off a serious addiction.
5. **Josh Frank**: What impact will the construction have on students’ fees?
6. **Dr. Dobelle**: It should not have any affect. We’re the least expensive in the State University system of Massachusetts and we’re not going to change that. The construction of academic buildings is paid for by the state, buildings where revenues are generated such as dormitories or the Wellness Center, a different state agency puts out a revenue bond. I don’t see any more plans for that. The cost of living, however, is simply a reality. The cost of living is more and that will show regularly in the fees. Things such as oil, just cost more, but we try to be transparent about it and act in the best interest of the students and faculty. Will the cost to attend Westfield be more next year than this year? I suspect so. We are down to 23% state supported, so we are a state-assisted university, not a state-supported university. With that, we have made a commitment to being the lowest and we will continue to be the lowest, and look into increasing financial aid for students. Ninety five percent of the first year students are from Massachusetts and 91% are on some kind of financial aid.
7. **Tori Landry**: In reference to last year’s snowstorm, are there any recommendations for other ways that we can possibly get involved with the community?
8. **Dr**. **Dobelle**: I encourage you to get in contact with Liz Preston. Working with people is important for experimental learning. Westfield is not an impoverished community, so there are not those sad, but real opportunities, as perhaps other towns, but there are ways you can help. There’s the Cancer House for Hope and lots of elderly people you can read to, when they can’t read themselves. It might give you an opportunity to earn credit, if there is enough rigor in a project regarding Human Services.
9. **Luis Arzola**: I am a transfer student and a commuter can we get extended bus passes or transfer busses?
10. **Dr**. **Dobelle:** I can contact the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority to look into this possibility.
11. **Luis Arzola**: What about the concept of “college hour” that there are no classes or meetings so events are convenient for everyone, such as commuters whose time on campus is spent in classes.
12. **Carlton Pickron:** There has been discussion of this idea in the past and has always been voted down.
13. **Rebecca DiVico:** Are we on track for University Hall?
14. **Dr. Dobelle**: Due to good weather this summer, we are on time for the September 2013 opening.
15. **Olivia Dumas**: What is the status of the Juniper Park renovations?
16. **Dr. Dobelle:** Westfield State does not have ownership of Juniper Park until June 2014, so then we can look into renovations. It will most likely be utilized for the Art and Music departments, which we estimate to be a 15 million dollar project. We have a committee that discusses these options and we are focusing on the stem-building project, which is about 33 million dollars, to add some new science labs.
17. **Stone Koury**: What are your thoughts about last year’s commencement at the Mass Mutual Center, as opposed to previous years?
18. **Dr. Dobelle**: Based on student and family response, it was very effective to have the large crowd able to see, instead of on level ground. It went smoothly and there were no worries regarding weather. This is not a necessarily permanent arrangement, but it worked well with air conditioning and accommodating the large crowd. We saved money by holding it at the Mass Mutual Center and we were able to give the money saved to the Senior Class for their events.
19. **Courtney Keddy**: On behalf of the residents in my Hall, can you give me some more information regarding the smoking areas?
20. **Carlton Pickron**: There will be two locations, including near Davis Hall on the left, and near Juniper’s access path near Ely behind Dickinson.
21. **Dr. Dobelle**: We are prioritizing safety by having steady terrain, in a well-lit, covered seating area.
22. **Courtney Keddy:** Will University Hall’s liquor rules be similar to New Hall’s wet/dry system?
23. **Dr.** **Dobelle**: It has not been released yet, but it will be considered. It was suggested that perhaps one of the floors would be designated for these 21 and over suites. Safety is the main priority.
24. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: Is there a possibility of having a shuttle to off-campus locations for 21 and over students, now that the Perch is gone?
25. **Dr**. **Dobelle**: Something could be worked out if it is wanted, but liability of safety would pose an issue. I would prefer that the Perch return to campus, pending SGA surveying of how to increase interest. The Perch can have alcohol returned to its service at any point.
26. **Amanda McCarthy**: Could there be a shuttle between campus and Landsdowne?
27. **Dr**. **Dobelle:** I would be willing to look into it.
28. **Carlton Pickron**: The PVTA is easily accessible for Landsdowne.
29. **Tom Durkee**: As the RA for Landsdowne a shuttle would pose a “carpool” tool to save gas, money and parking on campus.
30. **Dr**. **Dobelle**: I would consider any research put into the shuttle concept.

aa**.Larry Rodkey**: Will the campus still be considered

“Tobacco Free” if there were still designated smoking

areas.

bb.**Dr. Dobelle**: I would still consider it “Tobacco

Free”; it just aids the safety of students who do

smoke, instead of being on the side of the

street, similar to drinking safety on campus.

Safety is the priority behind the rules that we must

enforce.

cc.**Josh Frank**: POI Medical Amnesty does exist at

Westfield State.

dd.**Carlton Pickron**: There is substance abuse support.

ee.**Taylor Fote:** POIThe Substance Advisory Board will be

meeting on Friday, October 26th.

ff.**Sarach Hegarty:** I received an email today, October

23rd regarding an increase in Marijuana use on campus

and the possibility of a policy for this, similar to

the 10/100 process for alcohol.

gg.**Carlton Pickron:** The email was just a reminder of

drug use policies and there is no announcement of

change of that policy at this time.

hh.**Shannon Culleny**: I would like to recommend

differentiated campus IDs based on being under or

above 21, or also having an ID scanner similar to

liquor stores.

ii.**Dr. Dobelle**: I agree that these ideas might be

helpful, if something like the Perch was to be

reinstated.

* + - 1. I love being your President. I love trying to do everything I can on your behalf. I think the school is, every day, getting a bigger and bigger brand. We have capped admissions, so we’re not going to be a school that keeps trying to grow bigger. It’s important to me that you realize; we have hired more and more credible professors to better educate you. The mission of the university is to be a regional comprehensive institution with a liberal arts core and pre-professional courses. What I’m trying to do is emphasize the liberal arts, which I hope you take advantage of, and challenge yourself to take courses beyond your major. Hopefully, taking other courses will make you more pivotal and well-rounded for when you go into the real world. Thank you for having me speak with you tonight, and I hope I will see you tomorrow night.

1. Thank you Dr. Dobelle.
2. I move to appoint Alexis Wagner as the Executive Secretary for the remainder of the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion passed.
3. I move to appoint Michael Mazeika as an advisor to SGA for the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion passed.
4. I move to appoint Hannah Newell as the Commuter Council President for the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion passed.
5. Last Friday, October 19th, there was an open forum about PARRC and the definition of College Readiness. PARRC is a proposed high stakes test to replace the MCAS. Many of us remember the countless MCAS prep packets we had to do. It is very important, that students give feedback on the proposed test, as we are the only ones who have had to pass a standardized test to graduate high school. I will be sending a survey out that is being conducted by the board of Higher Education and the P-12 Board. This feedback is due by October 31st. Please encourage your friends to take the survey as well.
6. If you signed up for the Rays of Hope walk, you should have received an email about registration. Please complete that registration as soon as possible.
7. On Tuesday, October 30th, the GARP department is hosting a movie and food drive night in the Ely Campus Center. They will be showing a Halloween movie, they just ask you bring a non-perishable item to support the Westfield Food Pantry.
8. I will be holding an interest meeting for the Multicultural Committee, November 7th at 5:00pm in Wilson 116. Please encourage your friends to join this very important committee.
9. This Friday, October 26th is the *College? Yes!* Rally in Springfield. There are still a few spots left. We will be leaving at 9:00am. There will be other Universities from the area and I would like Westfield to be well represented Please see me after the meeting, if you are interested.
10. If you are a new Senator and were not at the orientation, please see me after the meeting.
11. Items not listed on Agenda
12. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
13. All University Committee: **No Report**
14. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
15. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Taylor Fote*
16. I am sending around a sign-up sheet for those of you who don’t have a committee still, I need a handful of people on certain committees.
17. I have a great opportunity for you all; the student ambassadors are participating in a mentor program, like a big brother big sister program, with a school in Huntington which is 10 minutes from here. You would go once a week and hang out with your little friend, starting at 4:00pm and you only have to be there for about an hour. If you are really interested, I have Cori forms for you all to fill out. If you want more information e-mail Kim Morgan. It’s going to be really fun myself and a few other executive members are doing it. I bet it’s going to be really rewarding. Please see me after the meeting if you are interested.
18. May I see Dave Getchell after the meeting?
19. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
20. Multicultural Committee: **No Report**
21. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
22. Health Committee: **No Report**
23. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
24. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
25. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
26. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Victoria Landry**
    1. For anyone helping with the Turkey Drive, please stay after so we can discuss a few things. Hall Councils and Class Councils I urge you to participate in this service project. It’s a great way to meet your peers that elected you into these positions. We will be hanging posters and sending out e-mails soon. The date for the Turkey Drive is October 30th through November 9th. Your help is greatly appreciated.
27. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Rebecca DiVico*
28. Just a reminder, tomorrow, October 24th at 7:00pm is the Political Convocation at the Woodward Center, with a public reception at 6:30pm. This is a unique opportunity to hear from five impressive panelists, about the politics of the Presidential election. This will count for two units. I urge everyone to go and bring people with you, because this is an opportunity, that doesn’t happen every day.
29. Seniors, this is your advising week so hopefully you and the rest of your class have made appointments with your advisors, because registration is on Friday, October 26th.
30. Juniors this means that your advising week is next week, beginning October 29th and you will be registering November 2nd.
31. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
32. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
33. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
34. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
35. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
36. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
37. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
38. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Michelle Hanney*
39. Programming update: Michelle Hanney
    1. The Campus Activities Board has a big event coming up this week, WSU’s Got Talent. There will be a preliminary round this Thursday, October 25th at 8:00pm in the Ely Campus Center, where some of the Senior Class will be judging.
    2. Then on Thursday, November 1st will be the final round in Dever Stage at 7:30pm where the judges will be faculty and staff.
    3. A winner will be chosen for the grand prize, which is a limousine ride to Boston and four tickets to the Celtics game on November 17th at 12:30pm.
    4. If you are interested and don’t want to perform a talent alone you can perform in a group of up to 4 people. So tell your friends to get their talents together and sign up. You can sign up by in boxing the WSUCAB Facebook or e-mailing me at [Vpprogramming.sga@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:Vpprogramming.sga@westfield.ma.edu).
    5. Also Brown Bag Bingo is this Friday, October 26th at 11:00pm.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. This weekend is the Musical Theatre Guilds production of “Legally Blonde”: the Musical. Show times are:
   1. Thursday, October 25th at 7:30pm
   2. Friday, October 26th at 7:30 pm
   3. Saturday, October 27th at 1:00pm and 7:30pm
   4. The shows will be performed in Dever Stage, Tickets are $2.00 for students, $4.00 for faculty and alumni and $6.00 for the general public.
3. Finance Report: **No Report**
4. Foundation Report**: No Report**
5. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alex Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
6. Executive Secretary Report: No Report
7. Legislative Secretary Report: Sarah Hegarty
   1. Units are due next Wednesday, October 31st, everyone is required to do four units in October. New Senators, units were explained to you at the new Senator Orientation, but if you have any questions, feel free to come see me after the meeting or e-mail me at [legsec.sga@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:legsec.sga@westfield.ma.edu).
   2. If you went to the Leadership retreat that was two units and tomorrow, October 24th, night’s Political Convocation will also be two units.
   3. If I could have the contact sheet at the end of the meeting and can I see Cayleigh Russell after the meeting?
8. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
9. Commuter Council: Hannah Newell
   1. I move to appoint Luis Arzola as a Commuter council Representative to Senate for the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion passed
10. Senior Class: Brandon Burr
    * + 1. Our first Senior Night is this Friday, October 26th from 9:00pm until 12:00am. It is 21 and over and it is in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. Tell all of your friends who are 21 and over, to come out and have some fun.
        2. Our calendars are still on sale so make sure you get yours. They are $5.00.
11. Junior Class: Brittany Moniz
    * + 1. The Junior Class has been going around to the academic buildings selling raffle tickets for the President’s Parking Space. Just a reminder, tickets can still be purchased at the Ely Service Window. We will be drawing our November winner next week.
        2. Look out for nomination boxes at the end of this week, for Mr. Westfield contestants. Nominate your friends or self-nominate.
        3. For anyone not familiar with Mr. Westfield, it is a show we put on in the spring to benefit the Make-a-Wish foundation. Male contestants, from each residence hall, class year and the commuter population participate in formalwear, questions and answers, talent, outfit of choice and fundraising. Last year, we raised $3,800.00 for Make-a-Wish with the first Mr. Westfield Pageant. We are very excited to begin working on the 2013 show.
        4. Could I see all the Hall Council Presidents after the meeting?
12. Sophomore Class: Richard Darrach
    1. Dancing with the stars tentative date is March 1st. We will confirm that next week, October 30th.
    2. Star Nomination boxes should be out to all the residents’ halls by tomorrow night and for Commuter Council we’ll be doing interest tables in Wilson.
    3. We will be looking for 10 pairs of people and each will have a dance coach.
    4. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 24th at 4:30pm in the Tekoa Room.
13. Freshman Class: Melvin Rivera
    * + 1. The Class of 2016 had advisor interviews and choose 2 Advisors:
           1. Allison Gagne
           2. Ashiah Richeme
    1. We are thinking about 2016 t-shirts. We will be holding a t-shirt design contest to get all 2016 students involved. We are still discussing the rules and dates about when it will be held.
14. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
15. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
16. Davis Hall: **No Report**
17. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
18. Lammers Hall: Priscilla Aguilar
    * + 1. Lammers Hall Council accepts the resignation of Rachel Foran, as Representative to Senate.
        2. We held our first event this past Sunday, October 21st. It was a fall festival. We held a pumpkin carving contest. First prize was an Applebee’s gift card. Second and third prizes were Owl Bucks’. We had more than ten teams compete and we were very pleased with the outcome. We donated the pumpkins to the Haunted House.
        3. We are doing Hall Assassin now; we have about 57 people competing.
        4. We will be interviewing next week, to fill our Representative to Senate position.
        5. Our next scheduled meeting is October 26th at 8:00pm in the Main Lobby of Lammers Hall.
19. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
20. New Hall: **No Report**
21. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
22. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
23. NEW BUSINESS:
24. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
25. **Sarah Hegarty**: Please send back the contact sheet.
26. **Isaac Matson**: The Rules and Regulation committee will meet after the SGA meeting.
27. **Taylor Fote**: 98 Days until we are back in Ely.
28. **Brandon Burr**: 206 days until commencement.
29. ROLL CALL: Nick Villante, Abigail McMahon, Gabrielle Correnti and Kylie Nelson were absent. Emily Hamel and Allison Davis sent alternates
30. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.