**Student Government Association Minutes**

October 08, 2013

1. ROLL CALL: Jocelyn Herrera-Lazo, Priscilla Aguilar, and Shawn Hillma, Cleston Flemming were absent. Luis Arzola was excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 01,2013: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Taylor Fote*
4. Hello everyone. First off on our agenda tonight, we have President Evan Dobelle here to speak to us. Just in light of orientation tonight, we are not having questions and answers with Dr. Dobelle tonight. I’d like to welcome Dr. Evan Dobelle.
   * 1. **Dr. Evan Dobelle**: Hey, how are you all? I hope well.
5. I didn’t realize I wouldn’t have an opportunity to answer questions because I suspect you have some and I would only encourage you, if you do have any about what I’m going to speak about – I’m literally going to speak to you for about 5 minutes, and I apologize for imposing – please e-mail me or call me, because it’s important that you, continue to understand. I’d like to think you continue to understand that my whole life as a college president is about students. That’s the deal for me, and if your aspirations change while you’re here, if your enthusiasm remains constant and lifts, if you’re excited about things, if you have new ideas on what your future’s going to be, or where you want to live, or what you want to do, then I have succeeded in maybe giving you a transformational opportunity.
6. I’m in a complicated situation that I can’t quite figure out why. You know, that’s the deal, and for some of you, I can’t imagine you’d be any different than I was at 17, 18, 19, or 20 years old, is that I didn’t follow things. I just had a town hall meeting with faculty and members of the APA, APA would be the non-teaching administrators. You have a situation which I’ve yet to kind of understand what’s happening, and I’m not a conspiratorial person, I’m not, and sometimes we all have our own lives and residence halls or clubs or SGA, and there’s always perhaps once in a while a conspiracy that somebody’s doing something against you. I try, in my life never to have gone that way. I don’t like thinking that, when I walk in a room that somebody’s talking about me and it gets real quiet when you come in. The situation I have is really very simple. Several years ago, I was doing a practice, where when I traveled, I would stay in a hotel, and have dinner with friends, buy somebody a drink or take a Coke out of the refrigerator, come back, redact it – technical term for eliminate it – and write a check, reimbursed. Were there errors by me and some of my staff that I needed to see that I saw sometimes days or months that I would say “no, no, no, that’s personal”, and then you just pay it? There’s not a penny missing, there’s not a dollar that’s not accounted for. How this comes back two years later, to try to be harmful to me and to victimize faculty and students about monies from the state for academic buildings, is I don’t comprehend. All I can tell you is this: There’s somebody called the Inspector General. It’s a big deal. Inspector Generals are serious folks, I hope, and not political folks, I hope. But all I know is several weeks ago, on a Friday, our board was asked to come to Boston and appear before the Board of Higher Education. The Board of Higher Education sent them an email saying what questions they were going to ask them, so there were no surprises. The night before that meeting, the IG sent out a preliminary report. It’s hard for me to admit, but I’ve been in public life now for just about 50 years, I’m 68. When I was 19 years old I started working for governors and senators. I’ve never heard of a preliminary IG report on the night before a public meeting, which I’m not invited to. They asked questions that the Board knew they were going to be asked, and they allowed me to be defamed by saying they didn’t know the answer to the questions, when I have at least 19 documents, that the members of the executive board all signed off on. That’s a pretty hard thing to deal with. Then later in the day, they brought me into a closed meeting, and I don’t know if some of you read how many of you have been to Tanglewood? It’s the summer home of the Boston Symphony out in the Berkshires, he turned on me. I’m not saying it’s the only music I listen to, but I like it. He turned on me, the Secretary of Education, and said, “Why would you ever take anybody to Tanglewood?” He said, “That’s stupid music, I hate that music. Why would anybody want to go and listen to that music?” And I said, “You know what Secretary, you need to calm down. You need to have a conversation with me.” And they did. They didn’t like the conversation because, my guess is, they thought they could roll me. You know, I don’t get rolled. You just don’t roll me. I’m a kid from Pittsfield, a Boys Club kid, you don’t roll me. You don’t start yelling at me and assume that somehow I’m going to just bow to you. The reality is, I think, there are a lot of agendas going on here. A lot of agendas about the state wanting to take over public higher education.
7. You may have known that last year that they, in a sense, intruded into the life of UMass. They now appoint the Chairman of the Board, the Secretary of Education sits on the board, they have a lot to do with the way the budget is constructed. They said the same for the two-year colleges, when I was president of the nine council presidents’ organization. I fought them on that, they finally backed off. They didn’t like that. Then we fought to get our monies to be able to freeze your fees. You’re not paying any more this year than you did last year, in fact, we owe each of you and your parents somewhere in February, about $198, because we had to send out the bills before we actually accomplished it. The reality is that they didn’t want that, because what they wanted us to do, was what their vision of the college was. We can figure out a vision for the college. We get it; we understand how to run this place. That’s why, objectively and subjectively, our rankings are where they are and we’re proud of those rankings. So what is it all about? Well, it can’t just be all about me. You know, I just say it because you know I’ve been lucky to have been involved in high end politics before, but I remember when they went after Hilary Clinton in the 90s, on Whitewater. You ever study about Whitewater, about some land deal in Arkansas? A guy named Ken Starr went after her, and he went after her, and he went after her, and he went after her, and he went after her, and he ended up with the President having sex with Monica Lewinsky. You know what I mean? It’s “I’ve started down this path, and I’m going to find something here” and he found the President with an intern. All right, shame on you. Shame on you for doing that. Shame on you for risking your presidency. I don’t have Monica Lewinsky in my life. There’s nothing there. But they can’t stop because they don’t know how to stop. And they’ve got the Boston Globe, which is, sadly, I’ve grown up with the Boston Globe writing stories; wrote an initial story which simply wasn’t true and I don’t have to say that to you because I have a thumb drive that recorded the whole thing. If you want to listen to the flash drive and read the article, it can’t be the same article. So I’m in a conundrum.
8. The Board is in a complicated situation. Many of the Board members are friends of mine; they support everything we’ve done. They’re trying to blackmail us by saying, “well we’re not going to build you a new academic building”. Now that’s great. You have a problem with me and you’re going to victimize my students? You’re going to victimize my faculty that hasn’t had a new academic building in 40 years, that I’ve worked for 4 years to get up to this, that we already have funded? How dare you do that? You think I’m actually going to get down on my knees to you? It’s not happening. It’s not happening. And I’ll fight it in every way we can fight it, I’ll go to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts over it. You cannot politically change a decision that we funded. You just can’t do it. You can threaten to do it, you can make believe that I’m going to blink or flinch but I don’t blink and I don’t flinch, when it comes to protecting my institution. So how this plays out over the next few weeks, I don’t know. I just think that somehow, we have to get some non-conflicted people on the Board to sit in a room and straighten this out and to lower the tone, have a conversation, figure out what’s what, make some decisions and move on in the institution. I hope we can accomplish that in a week. It’s been no fun to manage an institution and every day wonder, what the next stories are going to be or see your picture or see you on television. If I wanted to do that years ago, I would have stayed in politics and not gone into public higher education. If I wanted to play the game of high visibility, I would have done that. This is a situation that’s happened with me before, that when I stand up for public higher education, it threatens governors. Trust me; it threatens governors because you’re challenging the status quo. Now why Deval Patrick got involved yesterday, I have no idea. But he should know me better than that. He should know me that I’m not going to blink to him either. You can say you need to take this “very, very interesting” and you can take a “this is a very serious thing”. “I know, Governor. Aren’t you on your way to where? Canada, today? Didn’t you invite me to China with you?” You know, I don’t want to go, have a one-on-one with the Governor. I don’t think that’s going to be helpful to anybody. But the reality is, he was with Secretary Malone in Pittsfield and I think he’s hearing bad advice from insecure higher education administrators. So I hoped that I would be able to try to keep this away from you and I like to think it still is. Nothing at this institution has changed. You’re having your meeting at the SGA. Your class is the same. Everything your involved in is the same. I’ll carry it for you, but I want you to understand it’s not just about me. It’s about this institution. When you get to be as successful as we are, and you start to threaten AIC, WNEC, Springfield College, Bay Path, Assumption, which just announced that they’re 2.5 million in the hole because they lost 50 students they thought they should have and they had to put all their secretaries on four day work weeks at four days of pay, it’s the beginning of the end in the industry of higher education for small privates. I’m sad about that in a way. But I guarantee you in ten years, if there’s still a Saint Michael, a Saint Anselm, a Stonehill, Assumption, AIC, and WNEC, I’d be real, real surprised. We’re $17,480 for room, board, tuition and fee. They’re $50, $60 thousand and they discount, they discount 20 to 30 percent, AIC this year is discounting 64 percent off their list price, and they still can’t compete with us. That isn’t my concern, because I’m not president of AIC. I’m president of Westfield State, and at the end of the day, ten years from now, we’ll still be here, we’ll still be standing. I’m sorry for the competition, but the reality is I was given a charge to make this the best institution it could be. And when I stand here for the very first time in this room, and I look around, I’m proud of everything we’ve done together. Thanks for your attention.
9. Thank you President Dobelle.
10. First order of business, Iaccept the resignation of Xandria Sotamayor as Representative at Large.
11. I move to approve Andrew Dalesandro as an SGA Advisor for the 2013-2014 academic year. Motion carried.
12. I hope everyone had a really great time at the Leadership Voyage this past weekend, the ones who were there. I know the Executive Board had a really great time and I’m glad you all were able to attend.
13. I have exciting news. We have a Lifesaver of the Week. This senator, I had the personal pleasure of getting to know this past weekend. Not only did he go overboard, but he showed great potential and leadership skills on the low ropes course participated in every activity. I know that he will represent Dickinson Hall very well. That’s why Alex Doming gets the Lifesaver of the Week award.
14. Also, starting this week, we have Wednesdays at Westfield. So that means we’re on the search for incoming first years already, so there’s going to be a lot of tours checking out the school, and I just wanted to give a friendly reminder to please be respectful to the parents and families as they tour and show them how great Westfield is.
15. The Salvation Army has asked if we were interested in helping with their annual kettle drive. For those of you who don’t know, that’s the bell ringing. They’ve asked if we could sit in the DC a couple nights this year to help out with it. The Executive Board discussed it and we decided it was a good idea. We’re going to offer to you guys, for some community service, yes, you get to ring the bell in the DC and it will be worth a unit per hour. The Salvation Army drops it off and picks it up, so there’s not much work involved. No dates are decided on yet, but I will let you know.
16. Lastly, Orientation is tonight, so we’ll be going into Executive Session during New Business.
17. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 15th at 5:30 pm.
18. Items not listed on Agenda.
19. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
20. I just have a few updates. During our last meeting I said that the Board’s next meeting is on October 24th, but there has been a special meeting called on October 16th. The purpose of the meeting is to ask specific questions of Dr. Dobelle, to see if an additional investigation is in order, and to comprehend further action by the board. There are more possible agenda items to be added that would cover and review past University administrative policy and actions.
21. Also, today, I went to Boston with Ken Haar and a few others to meet with the President of University of Massachusetts, the meeting was about the 50/50 deal and how we are thankful for that and how we could make sure that our gratitude is heard.
22. The Board of Trustees next scheduled meeting is October 16th.
    * + 1. **Brittany Moniz**: What time is the Trustee Meeting on the 16th?
        2. **Stone Koury**: It’s currently scheduled for 2:00 pm but it could potentially change to an earlier time.
23. All University Committee**: Joshua Clark**
24. The All-University Committee Meeting held on October 2nd was certainly an interesting one. We had a packed agenda.
25. Our first order was to approve six items that were returned to us by the Curriculum Committee. They were unanimously approved with the exception of AUC09-196, which was put in a separate motion with one abstention.
26. Second order was a proposal given to us by Thomas Raffensperger, the director of the Ely Library, to name the Library Event Space for Emilee Gagnon. It was brought to AUC because the president wanted a comment from us regarding the naming of the space. However, University policy state that there has to be a monetary component attached to it, some sort of fundraising and the president has to say in the matter with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Therefore, AUC approved a statement which reads, “AUC recommends following campus procedures for naming of space.” It passed with a vote of 8-1.
27. The third order dealt with the commencement schedule. Academic Policies Committee approved of the calendar change from Saturday Commencement to Friday Commencement. They sent us a detailed report, which addressed the concerns that the faculty and campus community had about the switch but it also addressed the benefits. Their statement implied that the pros outweighed the cons. The calendar change was defeated with a vote of 5 approving, 6 disapproving. The APC and The AUC’s recommendations will be sent to President Dobell and a decision will be made from that point with the board of trustees approving the final decision.
28. The last order was regarding the freezing of funding coming out of Commissioner Freeland’s office. At the time of the meeting, it was unsure whether the funding would be frozen, so AUC along with several other governance organizations on campus drafted letters that were sent to Boston Encouraging Freeland to Keep our funding the way it is. Of course, we now know that these efforts were in vein.
29. Our next scheduled meeting is October 9th at 4:30 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
30. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
31. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Rebecca DiVico*
32. Hi everyone. I’ll be sitting on a Housing Committee along with other students. If you have any concerns or ideas that you’d like me to bring; just let me know.
33. Just so everyone is aware, Thursday is Emilee Gagnon’s Memorial Service. It will be in Dever Stage at 4:00 pm. A donation box to continue her cause to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis will be there.
34. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
35. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
36. Food Services Committee**: Tom Durkee**
37. Today we had a great meeting where we welcomed some of our new senators. We are very excited and grateful to have this new blood and energy on the committee. We will continue to actively seek new members.
38. We briefly discussed our new vice chair positions. We are currently looking for people passionate about making a difference in our food service on campus.
39. We currently have 3,200 people on a meal plan, the largest number yet.
40. We also answered our comment cards. Some of the highlights are:
41. We had a request about fat on the meat, the chef will try to eliminate as much as possible in the future.
42. Chicken cutlet strips have been requested at the salad bar, due to concerns for vegetarians, this cannot be featured on the salad bar. If you would like this item, please get it from the deli station.
43. A consideration has been made to transition to all wheat buns, any thoughts on this?
44. A consideration is given to all comment cards, so please fill one out if you have any comments or concerns, and look for it on our bulletin board.
45. Vendor day is tomorrow, October 9th, in the DC from 11:00 am until1:00 pm. Please check it out it will feature many vendors of our food and samples of new food.
46. Our next scheduled meeting is October 22nd at 4:30 pm in the Tekoa Room.
47. Health Committee: **No Report**
48. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
49. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
50. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
51. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Brittany Walters**
52. My name is Brittany Walters and I am the Fundraising/Community Relations Designee for Kevin Soucie. Just want to remind everyone that the Blood Drive is tomorrow from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Parenzo Gym. I’ll send another sign-up sheet around for anyone who wants to sign up. If you have already signed up you don’t need to sign up again.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Andrew McCormack*
2. Hi Everyone, hope everyone is doing good. It’s almost advising season. Banacos/Honors advising is Now until October 29th. Senior Advising is October 28th through October 30th with registration on November 1st. Junior Advising is November 4th through November 7th with registration on November 8th. First/Second Year in Season Athletes advising is November 4th through November 8th with registration on November 12th. Sophomore advising is November 12 – November 15th with registration on November 18th. First year Advising is on November 18th through November 22nd with registration on November 25th. The courses for Spring are available on line and paper booklets will be on campus on Friday October 11th. If anyone has any questions about advising, please let me know. First year students, come by anytime with questions.
3. **Tom Durkee**: What is the date for the Banacos registration?
4. **Andrew McCormack**: They are on October 30th.
5. **Joshua Frank**: What was the Junior registration date?
6. **Andrew McCormack**: November 8th.
7. **Brittany Moniz**: Are they still doing the registration this year for student athletes?
8. **Andrew McCormack**: Yes, only in-season first year and second year students, which will be on the November 12th, before the sophomores on November 18th.
9. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
10. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
11. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
12. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
13. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
14. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
15. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
16. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Steve Kligerman*
17. Programming update: **Steve Kligerman**
18. The Campus Activities Board is doing a Scavenger Hunt on Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 pm in the Garden Level of Ely next to Dunkin Donuts. There can be up to six people per team. The winning team will receive a $100.00 gift card to Applebees, second place is a $50.00 gift card to Applebees and third place is a $25.00 gift card to Applebees. We have 25 items to find and bring and 40 pictures or videos to be taken.
19. We have officially booked the Scanlon Banquet Hall for all Brown Bag Bingos for the rest of the year.
20. Fright Fest is official. We will be sending 84 students on two buses to Fright Fest at Six Flags on Saturday October 26th. The buses will leave at 3:00 pm in front of Scanlon and head back to campus at 10:00 pm. Tickets are $10.00 and will go on sale Tuesday, October 15th at the Campus Center window.
21. **Gina Mannarino**: The Fright Fest tickets are $10.00 is that for the bus?
22. **Steve Kligerman**: That includes the bus and the ticket into Six Flags.
23. **Steve Mailloux**: I’m just curious, has there been any discussion on the Spring Weekend Concert? And since your predecessor, have you run any student surveys of what they’d like to see?
24. **Steve Kligerman**: Right now, it’s just talks for Spring Weekend. And last year, the survey was sent out after last year’s Spring Weekend on what they’d like to see this year, so that’s just what we’re basing it off of.
25. **Steve Mailloux**: My only question would be that, I’ve heard some rumor that you are discounting, not wanting student’s opinion for the Spring Weekend concert. Is that at all true, or not?
26. **Steve Kligerman**: No, that’s not true. We’ve looked at a variety of genres and artists. We have office hours and weekly Campus Activity Board meetings so if anyone has an opinion, we’d love to hear what they have to say.
27. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 9th at 5:00 pm in the Owls Nest.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. Finance Report: **No Report**
3. Foundation Report**: No Report**
4. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
5. Executive Secretary Report: **No Report**
6. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
7. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: *Jennifer McDiarmid*
8. Rules and Regulations Committee: **Jennifer McDiarmid**
9. Hi everyone, for those of you who do not know me, I’m Jen McDiarmid. I’m a senior History and secondary education major and this is my third year on SGA. I’m really excited to be your parliamentarian this year. The Rules and Regulations committee has received or first constitutions for review and I’m looking forward to a productive semester.
10. If you are on the Rules and Regulations committee please see me after the meeting.
11. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
12. Commuter Council: **No Report**
13. Senior Class: **Brittany Moniz**
14. Due to rain, we were unable to take our official senior class photo on the green yesterday, October 7th. The council will decide on a new date at our meeting tomorrow, October 10th.
15. We’ve already received several submissions for Senior Sweatshirt designs. We are accepting designs until October 22nd so please continue sending them in. Email your design to [classof2014@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:classof2014@westfield.ma.edu).
16. The third annual Mr. Westfield program will be held on March 29th in Dever Stage. For anyone who is unfamiliar with this event, it is a fundraiser for the Make-a-Wish foundation that the class of 2014 has been organizing for the past two years. The show consists of male contestants from each residence hall, class year, and the commuter population. It’s similar to a Miss America pageant with the outfits-of-choice, formalwear, talent and question and answer segments. With the past two shows, we’ve been able to raise over $8,000.00.
17. Starting next week, we will be collecting nominations for male students who might want to be a part of the event. You may nominate your friends or self-nominate. It’s an anonymous submission. You will find nominations boxes at the front of each residence hall. We will also be in the DC, Commuter Café, and Ely lounge in the coming weeks.
18. Finally, we want to remind all our senior friends to take the survey that went out for Senior Weekend feedback and future event ideas. Today is the last day to take the survey.
19. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 9th at 3:00 pm in the SGA conference room.
20. Junior Class: **Richard Darrach**
21. We will be having our fist Tug of War on November 3rd at 1:30 pm on the campus green. We’re looking for teams of four people. Pre-sign-ups will be the week before in the DC and possibly online, more details to follow**.**
22. Congratulations to our sister class of 2017 for having 20 people show up for interviews last night, October 7th, to fill five positions. We’re proud of you for having a full council and we expect big things from you**.**
23. Sophomore Class**: No Report**
24. Freshman Class: **Jenna Henderson**
25. I move to appoint Dana Kilby and Steven Barber as Class of 2017 Representatives to Senate for the 2013-2014 academic year. Motion carried.
26. We are proud to announce that we have a full council after last night’s interviews.
27. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 21st at 5:00 pm.
28. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
29. Courtney Hall**: Albert Fava III**
30. I move to appoint Evalyn Dira, Lisa Lennon as Courtney Halls Representatives to senate for the 2013-2014 academic year. Motion carried.
31. Davis Hall: **No Report**
32. Dickinson Hall: **Ashley Romano**
33. I accept the resignation of Taylor Surrette. I move to appoint Ashley Erskine as Dickinson Hall Representative to Senate for the 2013-2014 academic year. Motion carried.
34. Lammers Hall: **Andrew Morin**
35. We are in the process of interviewing a Public Relations coordinator to be in charge of marketing and advertising for Lammers and to work with the Secretary to get the word out.
36. We are also in the process of creating apparel to sell to our hall.
37. We are having a pumpkin carving contest on October 29th from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm followed by a costume contest with music and food. Please sign-up with the RA’s. Prizes will include Owl Bucks, ITunes cards, and gold, silver and bronze pumpkins.
38. We are also discussing a door decorating contest, and brainstorming ideas for November and December.
39. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
40. New Hall: **No Report**
41. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
42. University Hall**: Justin Connolly**
43. I move to appoint Lauren LeRoux as University Halls Representative to Senate for the 2013-2014 Academic year. Motion passed.
44. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
45. NEW BUSINESS:
46. Stone Koury moved to open new business. Stone Koury moved to go into executive session and invited all those in the room who were not senate members to remain for executive session. Motion carried.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
2. **Brittany Walters**: Can the blood drive volunteer sheet find its way back to me?
3. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: Rules and Regs Committee see me after.
4. **Joshua Clark**: AUC meets Tomorrow.
5. **Joshua Frank**: Finance Committee will be meeting on Monday, October 14th.
6. **Sarah Hegarty**: Four units are due for October.
7. **Tom Durkee**: 220 Days until Commencement.
8. ROLL CALL: Olivia Dumas, Branden Prouty and Cleston Flemming were absent. Luis Arzola was excused.
9. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.