**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**October 24, 2017**

1. ROLL CALL: Kelsey Kiltonic, Krista Galetta, and Nathan Lovejoy were absent. Danielle LoGuidice was excused and Nicholas Kooyomijan and Brendan Brosnihan sent and alternate.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 17, 2017
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Brendan McKee**
4. Tonight we have a very special guest, Senator Don Humason, Massachusetts state senate representative and member of the WSU Class of 1989, Senator Humason represents the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District, which includes Westfield State University. Welcome Senator Humason.
5. **Senator Don Humason**: Good evening! Thank you for the opportunity to come back to my alma mater. I graduated in 1989 with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology and in Spanish. All of which has served me very well. I’m from Westfield and when I went to school I’m literally just a mile from my home. So I was like the ultimate commuter. I had the best experience and for my sophomore, junior, and senior years I had the pleasure of being a representative on student senate for Commuter Council. Things have changed a lot here on campus at Westfield State University. It’s always a pleasure to come back and I always come back on a couple occasions. I meet with the president quite often, sometimes with the Board of Trustees, sometimes I get the opportunity to come in and speak to classes here on campus.
6. One of the things that I’m most proud of in my job as State Senator is I get to represent a district that is very diverse, a district with a lot of great state institutions. I have Holyoke Community College and the City of Holyoke, which I represent, and also Westfield State. I have the National Guard, and the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Airport, as well as Westover, and the 459th Airlift Wing over Chicopee at Westover Air Base. I represent the Holyoke Soldier’s Home and the Veteran’s Cemetery at Agawam. I have Western Massachusetts Hospital, Mount Tom the reservation, and Connecticut River. It’s really a cool district. I have a district that a lot of my colleagues don’t have that kind of diversity in state agencies and of really good institutions as well as hospitals and businesses. It really is a good job. Not what I went to school here for though.
7. When I was here my goal was to become a police officer. I was a CJ major because Westfield had then, and still has, a tremendous CJ department. I had a great perspective when I was a student being a student here, but also being a member of the community and as a member of Commuter Council I tried to make sure that I represented the interests of the Westfield community to the campus, while at the same time reminding people in the community of the college. Over the years I think Westfield State’s done a much better job than it did of being very welcoming to the community at large.
8. I thought I’d talk just briefly about what’s going on in Massachusetts politics and in the state and then open it up to questions. We’re in the first year of our two year session. The legislature are about to recess for the holiday break at the end of November and we’ll be back in January. We have a number of things that we’re focused on doing, priorities of different members including the president. Tomorrow I’ll go back down to Boston for a large caucus about the issue that we’re going to be taking up on Thursday which is criminal justice reform debate. Pretty comprehensive, we haven’t touched a large package of legislation involving many different laws about criminal justice reform in quite some time. The senate is going to tackle that on Thursday. We also have a healthcare package and I have to be careful to remind people that I’m at the state level not the federal level because their talking about taxes and healthcare and things in Washington as well, but in Boston we’re doing state focused legislation. We’re talking about our Medicaid program in Massachusetts and our hospital systems. So that is one thing we hope to finish up before we recess in November.
9. Next year when we return in January after the holidays we’ll be back with a shortened year. The second half of the legislation session, the second year of that two year session ends pretty quickly. We complete our year formally on July 31st. So that means as a legislature and an executive branch working with the legislative branch we have to complete our business formally by July 31st because this is an election year. We’ll try to include everything in the next year of the session by July 31st and that includes the state budget, which is the largest bill we pass each year. It is a long process, it’s the most important bill we do each year, and it is a lengthy one so that usually is what takes up the most time in that second year.
10. **Sammantha Dorazio**: My question is regarding healthcare. I know at the federal level they have introduced the topic of payment benefit managements and so I was wondering if that was going to be included in the amendments.
11. **Senator Don Humason**: That’s a good question, but I don’t think that’s the direction that this package of legislation we’ll be looking at. Honestly, I haven’t seen the bill yet because it hasn’t come forward for debate. I’ll expect that I’ll see it in a couple weeks because right now we’ve been focusing on the criminal justice bill. I don’t know the answer to your question, I haven’t heard it getting that specific.
12. **Jon Kelland**: I work for Representative John Rogers and so one of the projects that I’ve been working on is Chapter 70. I was just looking for your take on updating it.
13. **Senator Don Humason**: There’s a number of legislation filed bills. Not everything that’s filed gets to the floor. I think the most work that we’ve done as a legislature and as the executive branch recently involving education is the charter school debate. Which happened last year before the November election where the voters of Massachusetts pretty much put down charter schools. We have a great many topics that we try to get to but what generally happens is the leadership, speaker of the house, the senate president, the governor even, in their leadership meetings each week kind of talk about what’s next, what’s the legislature going to focus on. I don’t see any of the senator’s packages of legislation involving chapter 70 making it to us in this year, maybe next session. Being somebody from Western Mass I have been calling for the reopening of chapter 70 firmly for years. Chapter 70 is the Acts of 1993 reformed the way Massachusetts pays for k-12 education in cities and towns and it set up a formula based on a number of factors, but that formula hasn’t changed since 1993. That means there’s winners and losers. Some communities are doing very well with the reimbursement they receive from the state, some are not. I would welcome a chance to crack the formula open again.
14. **Cam Swan**: I was just wondering if you could tell us what the state is doing to support higher education.
15. **Senator Don Humason**: For a time I was on the Higher Education Committee. There’s actually a Higher Education Caucus made up of house members and senate members who are graduates of UMass or any one of the state or community colleges in Massachusetts. The Public Higher Education Caucus meets pretty regularly to talk and in addition to what the Higher Education Committee does. Each year the State House has a Public Higher Education Day and students from across the system come to Boston to lobby legislators who didn’t go to state schools to talk about the importance of public higher education in Massachusetts. There’s both formal and informal things that we do. I’m no longer on Higher Education, I’m on other committees, but I know that the Higher Education Committee meets to address legislation filed particularly to things like text book rates. There hasn’t been a package of education language recently pertaining to k-12 or higher education.
16. **Maddie Dexter**: I’m aware that you have input on the veteran’s affairs relations in Massachusetts and this is something that I brought up to Representative Velis last year, but while I was working in the Veteran’s Affairs office in Leeds it was brought to my attention that women who suffer from PTSD due to active service for our country don’t really have that much accessibility in Massachusetts and in the Country for treatment as much as males do. So I was wondering if there was any conversation on improving this.
17. **Senator Don Humason**: As a matter of fact there is. We just had a meeting last Friday at the Holyoke Soldier’s Home. So Leeds is different, again Leeds is a federal program although I am aware of it I don’t impact it directly through my votes or through my advocacy in Boston, but the Holyoke Soldier’s Home is. It’s in my district and it’s something that I’m very involved in as the Soldier’s Home’s Senator. We were there Friday doing a war program for Vietnam veterans. Sort of a welcome home to these vets who now reside in the Soldier’s Home. A number of us sat down with some of the staff of the home to talk strategy about outreach. Homebase was involved in this project last week as well and they are interested in expanding out of the Boston area and coming west to try to reach out to veterans in Western Massachusetts, something that we applaud because any outreach is good. But the talk was specifically about targeting younger veterans, who were just home from the conflicts their country is currently involved with, women veterans, veterans with traumatic head injury, and of course veterans in general. So we at the state level at least are looking at partnering with Homebase and the Red Sox Foundation, the local Veteran Services Offices for each of the towns, the state delegation, and of course the Soldier’s Home as sort of the focal point. We kind of put it out there that our soldiers, even though it’s in Holyoke, serves all of Western Massachusetts and the one in Chelsea up near Boston serves the veterans in the eastern part of the state. But that is sort of the hub of the wheel so we kind of go around that. They have agreed to taking on the role of being part of that outreach, sort of the place that we are going to start from and expand from there. I hope the federal government follows along, there’s no reason not to, and no reason they shouldn’t.
18. **Jake O’Kane**: I know Governor Baker talked a while ago about trying to get a railroad out to around Springfield. I would like to know if there has been any talks in the legislature about getting that done and maybe what your opinions are on that.
19. **Senator Don Humason**: This morning my colleagues under Eric Lesser from Longmeadow took a group of people to Boston to testify before the Transportation Committee in support of the legislation that he is the sponsor of and I am the co-sponsor of that would require the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to do a study of the usability of expanding commuter rails from eastern Massachusetts some 60 miles out here into Western Mass. I think it’s driven by our constituents out here in Western Mass. Literally we have in a lot of ways been left out of the success that the capital region of the commonwealth has been experiencing in some of the larger cities, the Worcester Boston areas. Springfield just hasn’t seen that same level of success. It’s got some good things going for it, but the ability to move our residents back and forth by commuter rail would be great. If the numbers add up, so that’s what the study does. It looks at a huge number of factors that we haven’t talked about yet that need to be spoken about. Stuff like cost.
20. Thank you very much, Senator Humason. We will not be having a speaker next week with it being Halloween.
21. I accept the resignation of Mitchell McKittrick as Representative to SGA for Dickinson Hall.
22. I move to appoint Mitchell McKittrick as President of Dickinson Hall for the remainder of the 2017-2008 academic year. Motion carries.
23. Headshots for Who’s Your Senator will be taken after the meeting, so please don’t run away as soon as the meeting is over. The goal is to have all of the posters for you next week, so keep that on your radar.
24. As I brought up in the email to you all yesterday, my original email to Professors Frank Giuliano and Claudia Ciano-Boyce and Provost Parviz-Ansari did not provide me with adequate information to distribute to you all. Therefore, we have continued to make efforts to keep conversations open in a few different ways. Frank and Claudia will be attending the Executive Council meeting next Monday, October 30, to further discuss their take on the situation, and Jacob Lotter will be meeting with Dr. Ansari Tomorrow, October 25 to continue the conversation and get more information to be shared. Furthermore, the original email I had sent out elicited a response form Dean of Faculty Susan Leggett, who I proceeded to reach out to again to clarify points about specific language from these faculty lines. I promise that as soon as I get information from any of these sources, it will promptly be distributed to you all. The plan as of now is to still hold a discussion about this matter at out next SGA meeting on October 31. If you have any questions whatsoever, feel free to ask me now or after the meeting. I may not have solid answers to everything but I’d be more than happy to field all of your questions and concerns.
25. The Washington Center Internship Program is hosting a representative in the Owl’s Nest at 1:30pm and 3:00pm to provide information about the program. I know there are people in the room right now that have taken advantage of this opportunity, so if you are interested, show face tomorrow and feel free to ask questions to people who have gone through the program.
26. Items not listed on Agenda:

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
   1. Hey everyone, tomorrow night the Board of Trustees will be taking part in a Strategic Planning Focus Group Discussion, October 25 from 6:00pm-7:00pm in Ely 003. The goal of this discussion will be to identify some of the strengths and weaknesses of the university at this time, and to determine what we as a board believe is important to include in the strategic plan. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please feel free to let me know after the meeting.
   2. All University Committee: **Hanna Christ**
2. AUC met last Friday, October 20 during the common meeting time. The focal point of the meeting was the desire to add a Geography and Regional Planning course to the core as an allied science and Literary/Philosophical analysis course. There was controversy coming from Curriculum Committee about the procedure in which it was accepted and sent to AUC, and there were also voiced concerns that the class did not fulfill requirements to be a Literary/Philosophical analysis class. Therefore, the vote to approve the course failed, meaning that the President will receive this request with a recommendation of approval from Curriculum and a recommendation of denial from AUC. The president does have the final say on these matters though, so it is ultimately his decision. Once the decision is made the students on AUC will be sure to publicize the results to senate.
3. **Jacob Lotter**: Point of information: The controversy around what happened at Curriculum was that I think that somebody in the meeting had made a motion to accept the new course with it being Philosophical and Literary analysis and somebody else after we made that motion made a motion to change the course action request form to say that it wouldn’t go into the Literary Analysis and Philosophical section and I think what ended up happening is that we voted on it without voting on the amendment to the request form and what ended up happening was they voted on the entire thing without voting on the second motion. So that was readdressed at the following Curriculum meeting and what they decided to do was not to readdress that amendment because they felt everyone was going to vote the same anyway.
4. **Jake O’Kane**: Do we know when the President is going to make his decision?
5. **Brendan McKee**: Not necessarily, it just happens over time.
6. The next scheduled AUC meeting will take place on November 3 at 1:40pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
   1. All University Committee**: No Report**
   2. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
   3. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Arielyss Santiago**
   1. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **Mika Lapre**
2. The Diversity and Inclusion Council will be having their first meeting on Monday, October 30 at 5:00pm in the Unity Room. This meeting will be led by students from affinity groups that are under SGA. Topics including club missions, updates from myself on behalf of SGA and ideas for events and programs will be discussed.
3. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is still accepting programs/training proposals for the Fall 2017 semester. Examples include Indigenous Peoples Month of November, Music Month in November, World Kindness Day November 13, Remembrance Day/Veterans Day November 11 and AIDS Awareness Day December 1. Please feel free to reach out to myself after the meeting or Ashiah Richeme in the Diversity and Inclusion Office addressed will include: Communicating Council Programs/Efforts for clubs, issues on campus and addressing what SGA can do to help and assist, and event ideas. 
   1. Food Services Committee**: Shayna Arnott**
4. I spoke with Andrew Mankus about the concerns that some of senate had regarding the two swipe per visit policy at the D.C. Andrew explained that he policy is in place to protect the students who have a meal plan from running out of swipes before the end of the week.
5. In response to the statement that a student doesn’t use all of their meal swipes before the end of the week, Andrew said that that person is probably on the wrong meal plan. He understands that there isn’t really a difference between the 19 and 14 meal plan, which is why he is looking into creating new meal plans for the future where a certain amount of meal swipes is built into the plan
6. Andrew Mankus said that he has spoken with his staff members so if a student comes in with their parent(s), the parent(s) should be swiped in.
7. I have a few announcements.
8. A new deal will be rolled out soon where a student can buy a travel coffee mug for ten dollars and refill it for one dollar at the marketplace or the Wilson Café.
9. The D.C. now serves dinner until 9:00pm every night of the week and late night is from 9:00pm until 10:00pm Sunday through Thursday. The Alaskan Seafood Special with Chef John Ash is this Thursday, October 26 from 5:00pm until 8:00pm in the D.C.
10. Don’t forget about the Halloween Bash next Tuesday at the D.C. Because the staff members who come to Food Committee will be busy setting up this amazing bash, the meeting for next Tuesday is cancelled.
11. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 7 in the Tekoa room and it starts at 4:00pm.
    1. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
    2. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
    3. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
    4. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **No Report**
    5. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Jacob Lotter**
   1. I have a couple announcements for you.
2. Cynthia Siegler from International Programs reached out to me and wanted me to let everyone know that there will be a Peace Corp Prep open house next week. The event will feature former Peace Corps participants and refreshments. I will be in the Loughman Living room on Thursday, November 2 from 5:00pm until 6:30pm.
3. If you have any questions about that let me know or I can give you contact information for Cynthia.
4. Senior advising is happening now, and registration is on Friday, October 27. If you are a senior and you have not met with your advisor, be sure you do so before Friday morning, October 27.
   1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
   2. Curriculum Committee: **Maddy Scott**
5. The Curriculum Committee met this past Friday, October 20 and passed multiple proposals.
6. We passed a new Special Topics Biology course that would be open to those who fulfilled the required prerequisites.
7. The second proposal was to attach a seminar to the Music Education practicum, which also passed.
8. The Movement Science Department wanted to add a new one credit major requirement, which ultimately passed the committee as well.
9. Our next scheduled meeting is on Friday, November 3 at 1:40 pm in Wilson 404.
   1. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
   2. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
   3. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
   4. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
   5. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
10. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Madeline Dexter**
11. Programming update: **Madeline Dexter**
12. A few things from the programming world. It seems that the adjustment of moving the donation jug to Dunkin Donuts has been a big success for Coins for Change. Thank you to everyone who has donated thus far.
13. Student Activities has partnered up with the Counseling Center to present Recess. The first event out of eight was hosted today from 11:30am until 1:30pm in the Dunkins Lounge. Each event has a theme that works in stressing the importance of adult play and break time. Every Tuesday and Wednesday from now until November 15 there will be a Recess in Ely. Tomorrow, October 25 the theme will be “The Explorer” where students are encouraged to explore the world, physically, mentally, and emotionally.
14. The Laura Wetzler Band: “Worldbeat! Songs of Resistance, Hope, and Love” concert will be tomorrow night from 6:00pm until 8:00pm in Dower Room 127. There will be a live performance followed by a facilitated discussion.
15. Scream on the Green which is hosted by Student Activities is on Thursday, October 25 starting at 8:00pm. The movie will be Annabelle: Creation and snacks will be provided. Matt Dellea asks that students bring a blanket in order to stay cozy outside. There will also be a costume contest. The winners will be rewarded will Owl Bucks.
16. If you don’t follow Student Activities on social media, you totally should. Matt Dellea’s office has been toying with the idea of pop-up programs, where they advertise the program only when it has started through social media blasts. \*hint hint\* There may be one soon.
17. Friday night, October 26 is Halloween Bingo, at 10:00pm in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. Costumes are encouraged!
18. On Halloween next Tuesday, October 31 the bookstore is holding Trick or Treating where you can stop by and grab some candy and maybe win a bigger prize!
19. I have been working closely with Matt Dellea this year on forming an accommodations statement for students with disabilities or language barriers on the campus. For example, if CAB was holding a comedian, deaf students wouldn’t know that we can have an interpreter available for them to enjoy the show because the resources were not publicized. It was my goal this year to make events more accessible to all populations on campus so I am hoping through this new statement, resources will be more transparent for students. The statement has been approved by the office of Non-Discrimination Compliance and by the Banacos Center. You will be seeing it on CAB and Student Activities advertisement starting in November. Marcus DiBacco and I will be working together to figure out how to include the statement in student based advertisement outside of CAB and Student Activities.
20. CAB will be hosting a meeting tomorrow, October 25 in SGA at 5:00pm instead of the initially planned Cabbie bonding trip due to the rain. The bonding trip has been postponed until next week, November 8.
21. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Marcus DiBacco**
22. Finance Report: **Marcus DiBacco**
23. Hello, today we will be reviewing our first finance proposal. This proposal, which has been approved by the SGA Finance Committee was submitted by the EMS Club. For those of you who may not know, EMS serves the campus community by providing emergency medical assistance when called upon, usually at late hours and on weekends. Last year, the University switched to a digital radio system, thus making their analog radios obsolete. Obviously, this presents a breakdown in communication which EMS is seeking to rectify. Their finance proposal is for two radios priced at $1,057.16 each and the program of said radios both at $759.27. Combined, the total proposal amounts to $3,632.86.
24. I move to allocate $3,632.86. Motion carries.
25. Foundation Report: **No Report**
26. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Karina Sallaway/Derek Estrella**
27. Executive Secretary Report: **No Report**
28. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
29. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Tyler Cameron**
30. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
31. Constitutional Review Committee**: No Report**

1. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
2. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
3. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
4. Advisory Committee on the CURCA: **Marcus DiBacco**
5. I have the very distinct pleasure to introduce you all to CURCA, also known as the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity.
6. Before I really begin talking about CURCA I would like to note that it has nothing to do with what our guests were speaking about last week.
7. The purpose of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity is to facilitate student projects. You may not know this as new students or even as returning students, but there is a distinct and decent amount of students who participate in their disciplines outside of class. Now when I say this most people think about internships and they are right to do so. Internships and CURCA are both classified as high impact practices, but I digress.
8. CURCA exists as a body to help students and faculty working with students to create research and projects by offering grants, programs, a space to work, and an opportunity to present.
9. The grants that CURCA offers go to fund travel or the purchasing of equipment and the grants are open to both faculty and especially students.
10. Perhaps the most important thing that CURCA does is to put on a poster symposium at the end of the academic year. This symposium provides students with the opportunity to present their work to the campus community in a science fair-like atmosphere. This year we had more than one-hundred students presenting both research and creative works that they have done.
11. I would like to say that I welcome any questions you may have about CURCA or research in general. If you don’t want to ask now feel free to stop or contact me. Also, I encourage all of you to do research at least once in your time here. I myself, will be starting my second project within a few weeks.
12. College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Search: **No Report**
13. College of Mathematics and Science Search Committee: **No Report**
14. College of Education Health and Human Services Search**: No Report**
15. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
16. Commuter Council: **No Report**
17. Senior Class: **No Report**
18. Junior Class: **No Report**
19. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
20. First Year Class: **No Report**
21. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
22. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
23. Davis Hall: **No Report**
24. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
25. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
26. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
27. New Hall: **No Report**
28. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
29. University Hall: **No Report**

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS:
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
4. **Jacob Lotter**: Can I see Joey Joyal and Christopher DiCarlo after the meeting?
5. **Andrew Logan**: We’re doing a federal resume workshop on November 15th. RSVP by November 12th.
6. **Jon Kelland**: Come to the Cross Country race on Saturday, October 29. MASCAC Championships, both teams are running.
7. **Derek Estrella**: I would like to see Scotty Howe, Ellen Lambert, Christopher DiCarlo, Jason Rosselli, Elijah Mullsey, Benjamin Conlin, and Angela Riley after.
8. **Marcus DiBacco**: Tamara Smith from Faculty and Civic Engagement reached out to us before the meeting and would like to tell you all that candidates from the City of Westfield will be outside of Dunks on Thursday, November 2nd from 4:00pm until 6:00pm.
9. **Brendan McKee**: First I need your Who’s your Senator paper, don’t leave after the meeting so we can take pictures, and a quick thing I meant to put in my report, just remember that your behavior outside of SGA and in the campus community both what you say and what you do reflects on SGA as a whole so just be sure that you’re acting as role models both inside and outside of the room. Just wanted to clear that up thank you.
10. Shayna Arnott: Talk to me after the meeting if you want to join Food Committee.
11. **Marissa Cremin**: 207 Days until Commencement.
12. ROLL CALL: Kelsey Kiltonic, Krista Galetta, Nathan Lovejoy were absent. Nicholas Kooyomijan and Brendan Brosnihan sent an alternate.
13. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please turn off your cell phone before the meeting*