**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**October 03, 2017**

1. ROLL CALL: Katherine Lindberg, Sandra Mercer, Hanna Christ, Courtney Smith, Kyle Szczepanek, and Angela Riley were absent.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM:
3. September 20, 2017 Special Meeting.
4. September 26, 2017
5. Marcus DiBacco: I move to strike the Parliamentarian and Rules and Regulations election results from the minutes. Motion carries.
6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Brendan McKee**
7. Just a reminder that New Senator Orientation will be taking place immediately after the meeting tonight. New senators are required to attend, and returning senators are encouraged to stay as a refresher. Furthermore, there are two pieces of scrap paper so you all can vote again for Parliamentarian/Rules and Regulations Committee tonight during New Business. To reiterate, the reason why we struck the voting from last week’s minutes is because of procedural errors, mainly due to people who weren’t appointed to SGA voting for both Parliamentarian and Reps to Rules and Regulations.
8. We have one speaker tonight. Alongside Vice President of Finance Marcus DiBacco, here to present on behalf of Discrimination/Non-Compliance please welcome Larry Johnson.
9. Larry Johnson: Presentation (see attached)
10. **Samantha Dorazio**: I was just wondering why chronic illnesses aren’t on that list?
11. **Larry Johnson**: Well it could be a disability and that might be where it falls into it. If there’s a chronic illness that substantially impacts a person’s ability to function; it’s an impairment of a major life function, then certainly it would fall under that category of disability.
12. **Maddie Creamer**: Is your office working with Residential Life on changing policies to ensure student safety in residential halls and holding people who commit discriminatory harassment acts accountable?
13. **Larry Johnson**: We have always worked with Residential Life in that capacity. We have across the board a general obligation to work with Residence Life and any member of the community to ensure that their safety is protected and that safety isn’t impacted by something discriminatory. When individuals are identified they go through a process and if they are found responsible, then yes they are held accountable. All cases are handled on a case by case basis, we are required to do that by law, but I’m of the opinion here, that we’re very serious about trying to keep our community safe from this kind of conflict.
14. **Maddie Creamer**: My question is more about changing policy. It seems as though the policy now isn’t effective and it kind of is and if they are found idea, but how can we work toward creating a policy that is not when we find out. Are there going to be cameras that are going to be monitoring these people so that they can be held accountable for their actions?
15. **Larry Johnson**: That’s not so much of a policy change than it is strategies to better work with identifying individuals when they have been involved with some sort of misconduct. There have been a lot of conversations that have occurred on how best to identify who’s responsible for these kinds of incidents. I want to start again by saying we are all committed to identifying, to working toward creating an environment here where this doesn’t happen and we’re doing I feel everything that we can. It’s on all of us, if you get some sort of a hint of something that’s going on out there pass it along. We need whatever information we can get to try to hold these people accountable.
16. **Mika Lapre**: How closely do you work with faculty and staff to make sure they are up to date on this and are aware of all the policies?
17. **Larry Johnson**: I’ve met with most of the Vice Presidential staffs and their staffs. I’m actually meeting on Thursday, October 5 with a department, it’s actually at 6:00am, to do programs throughout the day for them. I sent out to all the Deans of the University, based upon the number of reports I receive from the different segments of campus I am pretty confident that people know who to contact if there are questions and again those kind of questions that arise are often times not violations. Can we be doing a better job? Absolutely. Last semester I wasn’t satisfied that information was getting out to students. We can always improve and that’s certainly something that I’m working on.
18. **Aaron Sylvia**: Are there any talks about including a discrimination course like Haven?
19. **Larry Johnson**: The Haven course applies to 99% of universities because federal law indicated that this training must occur in regards to Title IX. The challenge with regard to equal opportunity issues is that based upon whether an institution is public or private the parameter, particularly the free speech parameter, might be entirely different. So there can’t be as much as a one size fits all program out there. We certainly talk about looking for something that could, but even with that said what are the better mechanisms of getting that information out there? We’re looking at that, maybe it’s the creation of something in house that goes out. There’s not a mandatory requirement for discrimination training as there is from the federal perspective on Title IX. But is the institution at a point right now saying lets mandate this? What happens if we don’t do this? Those are all kinds of questions that are definitely on the table.
20. **Derek Estrella**: I understand the process when a student goes to file a complaint against a faculty member they are innocent until proven guilty. If it were the flip side are students treated with that same regard?
21. **Larry Johnson**: There’s no difference in terms of a finding of responsibility. Both situations have to be fact driven. There have to be investigations to determine whether there’s a finding of responsibility. They have a right to appeal. Our policy is neutral in regard to any member of the Westfield State community.
22. **Derek Estrella**: What can be done as far as faculty and staff because when the president held that assembly on the green certain faculty members felt it was unnecessary to bring their students out?
23. **Larry Johnson**: Your point is well taken and they do have certain freedoms to do with their classrooms as they choose to. My hope is that we can get to a point in our culture here where a person feels pressured not because what the president says to them but because they realize it really runs counter to what this institution stands for. But to the best of my knowledge there’s nothing, no policy that could mandate that and there are a number of different reasons such as academic freedom.
24. **Jacob Lotter**: Just a point of information. I just want everyone to keep in mind that the faculty follow a contract and part of that contract is that they essentially can hold class if they want to even if the President is asking them to be outside. The contract is held on a State level not just a University level so it’s something that we don’t necessarily have a say in.
25. **Jake O’Kane**: Two big things that I have heard from a lot of students is doing a Haven course for anti-discrimination and inclusion and the second thing is cameras. I just feel like cameras would make students feel safer and deter people from leaving things like we saw in the last two weeks. I know it’s very expensive, but is cameras something that’s being talked about and how heavily is it being considered?
26. **Larry Johnson**: I know the talk of cameras is certainly being raised. We’re moving in a direction in Higher Education whether the safety and security of the students and staff and faculty has become even more apparent. I can’t answer directly, I haven’t been part of conversations with the folks directly who are making the decisions about cameras, but I can say that cameras have been part of conversations that I’m aware of and have been part of conversations before this.
27. **Abdullah Shafique**: Just a point of information for everyone on the camera issue. I talked to Captain Foyle a couple weeks ago and he said he did bring in three vendors for cameras to see how they would work on this campus. So they are taking steps, but it’s not going to happen overnight.
28. **Larry Johnson**: I didn’t know that, so thank you.
29. Thank you very much for your presentation, Larry. Our speaker for next week will be Vice President of Academic Affairs Provost Parviz Ansari, who will be speaking mainly about the upcoming Academic Dean Search Committees.
30. I move to appoint Thalita Neves as University Hall Representative to Senate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
31. I move to appoint Danielle LoGuidice as University hall Representative to Senate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
32. I move to appoint Peter Lucey as University Hall Representative to Senate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
33. I move to accept the Special Hall Council election results for the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
34. I accept the resignation of Katherine Lindberg as Community Relations/Fundraising Representative.
35. The Career Center is hosting a Government, Criminal Justice and Non-Profit Career Fair on Thursday, October 12 from 1:00pm until 4:00pm in the Woodward Center. Over 100 federal, state and local agencies will be in attendance, with employers interested in meeting students from all academic departments. This is a great networking opportunity, so be sure to take advantage of it.
36. Items not listed on Agenda:

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
   1. All University Committee: **No Report**
   2. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
   3. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**
   4. Strategic Planning Committee**: No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Arielyss Santiago**
   1. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
   2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No Report**
   3. Food Services Committee**: Shayna Arnott**
2. I am the chair of the Food Services Committee this year. Joining the committee allows you to discuss everything related to dining on our campus and it also give s you the opportunity to go over any comments, questions or complaints that you or your constituents may have.
3. During the new senator orientation taking place after this meeting, our executive board will explain how committees you are required to be a part of. I encourage all of you to consider joining the Food Services committee because it is a great way to have a positive influence on a subject that affects your everyday life here. Please talk to me after the meeting if you have any more questions regarding the committee.
4. I just want to update you on a few things.
5. For those of you who may be looking for something different at the deli station in the D.C. for example roast beef, I encourage you to look at the chalkboard in front of the station each time that you enter the D.C. because the items on the list are constantly changing.
6. I have a Panini press update for you. A new press has been installed at Ely Harvest and it can hold up to eight sandwiches at a time. The toaster will not be returning because the staff members feel that the Panini press ensures a better quality product.
7. Something that I am excited about in particular is that there is now a cookie warmer display at the desert station in the D.C. and what’s better than warm cookies?
8. Just a few dates coming up for you all to keep in mind.
9. Late Night Apple Event in the D.C. this Thursday, October 5 from 8:00pm until 10:00pm which will include bobbing for apples, cider donuts on a string and apple nachos.
10. Guest Chef Elianna will be visiting the D.C. next Wednesday, October 11 from 5:00pm until 8:00pm with Mexican inspired cuisine.
11. I will have more events coming up next week but until then, I hope you all enjoy the rest of your week and I hope to see you next Tuesday, October 10 at 4:00pm in the Tekoa Room for the Food Services Committee meeting.
    1. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
    2. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
    3. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
    4. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **Marissa Cremin**
12. I would just like to remind everyone that tomorrow, October 4 is our first blood drive of the year. We have about 60 people signed up right now, and we really need to get some more walk-ins.
13. There is typically a shortage of blood donations over the summer, and right now the Red Cross needs people to donate more than ever. After the recent hurricanes and the shooting in Las Vegas there is a huge need for blood. Please consider donating tomorrow, and please tell your roommates and friends.
14. I am going to pass around the sheet for volunteers, and please sign up to help if you are available. There’s a couple spots left. Also please see me after the meeting if you would like to make an appointment to donate blood tomorrow.
    1. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**
    2. Advisory Committee on University Infrastructure: **Karina Sallaway**
15. I serve as the SGA Representative on the Facilities Planning Committee which aims to “engage in planning initiative related to all physical assets and technology needs necessary to meet campus mission, strategic plan and Campus master plan goals. We met last Friday, Sept. 29 and our main topic of discussion was Parnezo and all the help that it needs. We are in the process of submitting a project proposal to the Division of Capital Asset Management and maintenance and if any of you have any ideas that would set Westfield apart and help us to stand out on the proposal please see me after the meeting.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Jacob Lotter**
   1. Class offerings booklets will be on campus this Friday, October 6 and I will have them for you at our next SGA meeting. In the meantime, the classes for spring 2018 are already up on the portal. I printed copies of these class schedule planners to help you start planning until the actual books arrive. I will announce the official advising and registration dates next week when you receive the booklets.
   2. As a sidebar some of you may have noticed a Facebook Friend Request from me. I just need you to please accept it so I can add you to the SGA Facebook Group. We use the Facebook Group to update you guys on different things from events around campus to committees that need members. In addition to that the group is also there so you can share events or ideas easily with everyone on Senate and the Executive Council. If you want to unfriend me once I add you to the group I won’t be offended, but if we can just get you into the group that would be great.
   3. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
   4. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
   5. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
   6. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
   7. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
   8. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
   9. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
   10. Advisory Committee on the CURACW: **No Report**
   11. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
2. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Madeline Dexter**
3. There have been a lot of questions what Student Government is going to do in terms of hurricane relief, so I am here to answer them. SGA will be hosting a Coins for Change money drive in order to fundraise money for the University of Houston in Texas from October 10 until November 17. There will be four spots around campus that will always be collecting money during that time. Those spots are Ely Harvest, Wilson Café, SGA, and the Dining Commons. There will be empty water jugs available to drop money into on your way by. Also there will be tables available to volunteer at Tuesdays 10:00am until 1:00pm in the Ely Lobby, Thursdays from 5:00pm until 7:00pm in the Dining Commons and Fridays from 10:00am until 1:00pm in Wilson Café. If you do volunteer to sit at these tables for the month, your SGA office hours will be covered, as Derek Estrella has agreed this counts. If you would like to volunteer or have any other ideas on how to fundraise the coin drive, please come see me after the meeting.
4. Student Activities will be hosting Live at Lunch I the dining commons from 11:30am until 1:30pm in the DC tomorrow, October 4. The artist is Alex 2e and he is super good.
5. I hope to see some of you at CAB tomorrow at 5:00pm. It will be hosted in the Owl’s Nest tomorrow because of the Student Organization Council meeting.
6. Programming update: **No Report**
7. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Marcus DiBacco**
8. It is good to finally see you all in person. I have two quick things to bring up today. The first is that the SOC meeting will be in this room, tomorrow, October 4 from 4:00pm until 6:00pm. SOC, or Student Organization Council is a collection of representatives from all clubs and organizations under SGA oversight. The meeting consists of members from the university discussing financial, behavioral, and legal policies to be followed by all clubs. Once again it is tomorrow from 4:00-6:00pm in SGA.
9. I am beginning to create the SGA finance committee. This committee meets as needed and works to make decisions on finances, especially finance proposals and budget hearings before sending the information off to full senate. The meetings are not as boring as they sound and they are also fairly short time wise. The committee is required to have one person from each class, although I prefer two. If anyone is interested please see me after the meeting, and feel free to ask questions both now and then
10. Finance Report: **No Report**
11. Foundation Report: **No Report**
12. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Karina Sallaway/Derek Estrella**
13. Executive Secretary Report: **No Report**
14. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
15. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:
16. Rules and Regulations Committee:

1. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
2. Commuter Council: **No Report**
3. Senior Class: **No Report**
4. Junior Class: **No Report**
5. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
6. First Year Class: **No Report**
7. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
8. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
9. Davis Hall: **No Report**
10. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
11. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
12. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
13. New Hall: **Sarah Wade**
14. I move to appoint Emmett Witherspoon as New Hall Representative for New Hall to Senate for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
15. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
16. University Hall: No Report

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2. NEW BUSINESS: It was moved and seconded to open New Business.
3. Brendan McKee: We have to select a Parliamentarian for the year. The Parliamentarian is in charge of running Rules and Regulations committee as well as sitting up front with the Executive Board during SGA meetings to ensure that Robert’s Rules are being upheld and that the meeting is running properly. For those who do not know, the Rules and Regulations Committee typically will meet after SGA meetings on Tuesday nights. The purpose of the committee is to review bylaws and constitutions of both SGA and its Clubs and Organizations on campus. I am now opening the floor to accept nominations for Parliamentarian.
4. Parliamentarian Appointment.
5. Brendan McKee: We are now accepting nominations for the Parliamentarian.
6. Tyler Cameron was nominated and accepted the nomination.
7. Maddie Creamer was nominated and accepted the nomination.
8. Bryan Pimentel was nominated and accepted the nomination.
9. Abdullah Shafique was nominated and accepted the nomination.
10. Brendan McKee: I move to appoint Tyler Cameron as SGA Parliamentarian for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year.
11. Rules and Regulations Committee appointment.
12. **Brendan McKee**: We are now accepting nominations for the Class of2018 for appointment to the Rules and Regulations committee.
13. Emmett Witherspoon was nominated and accepted the nomination.
14. Aaron Sylvia was nominated and accepted the nomination.
15. Maddie Creamer was nominated and declined the nomination.
16. Andrew Tierno was nominated and accepted the nomination.
17. **Brendan Mckee**: I move to appoint Aaron Sylvia to Rules and Regulation committee for the Class of 2018 for the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
18. **Brendan McKee**: We are not accepting nominations from the Class of 2019 for appointments to the Rules and Regulations Committee.
19. Jake O’Kane was nominated and accepted the nomination.
20. Mike Reid was nominated and declined the nomination.
21. **Brendan McKee**: I move to appoint Jake O’Kane to the Rules and Regulations committee for the Class of 2019 for the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
22. **Brendan McKee**: We are now accepting nominations for the Class of 2020 for appointments to the Rules and Regulations Committee.
23. Connor Kennedy was nominated and accepted the nomination.
24. Bryan Pimentel was nominated and accepted the nomination
25. **Brendan McKee**: I move to appoint Connor Kennedy to the Rules and Regulations committee for the Class of 2020 for the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
26. **Brendan McKee**: We are now accepting nominations for the Class of 2021 for appointments to the Rules and Regulations Committee.
27. Thalita Neves was nominated and accepted the nomination.
28. **Brendan McKee**: I move to appoint Thalita Neves to the Rules and Regulations committee for the Class of 2021 for the 2017-2018 academic year. Motion carries.
29. Marcus DiBacco: I move to close new business. Motion fails.
30. **Maddie Creamer**: I have something to report on Banacos.
31. **Maddie Creamer**: I was approached by Katy Milford and Sarah Lazare from the Banacos Center about student run “academic sessions” and I’m looking for senators to help. With the recent hate crimes that have occurred on campus, Banacos would like to see if there are any senators interested in volunteering to hold these sessions for students who are going through a challenging time and are feeling overwhelmed. The purpose of these sessions is to create a safe space for students to learn about their resources on campus. They will also provide tips for planning schedules and finding balance between your academics, extra-curricular activities, and social issues. If you are interested in volunteering or have any other questions, please see me after the meeting by the couches.
32. **Maddie Creamer**: I move to close new business. Motion carries.
33. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
34. **Jacob Lotter**: Can I see Jake O’Kane after the meeting.
35. **Dr.Carlton Pickron**: I was asked by Jon to give you a quick update. This Saturday is the first home cross country meet for both men and women at 11:00am over in Stanley Park. Please come out and show your support.
36. **Brendan McKee**: New senators please stay for new senator orientation and returning senators if you want a refresher. There will be free pizza.
37. **Shayna Arnott**: Please talk to me after the meeting if you want to join food committee.
38. **Maddie Dexter**: Please talk to me after the meeting if you want to volunteer for Coins for a Change.
39. **Derek Estrella**: If there are any mistakes on your nametags or if I have been pronouncing your name wrong please see me after.
40. **John Coulombe**: New senators if you need a committee come to CAB tomorrow at 5:00pm.
41. Maddie Creamer: Please see me if you’d like to donate blood tomorrow or volunteer. 228 Days until Commencement.
42. ROLL CALL: Mika Lapre, Jon Kelland, Sandra Mercer, Hanna Christ, Courtney Smith, Kyle Szczepanek, Angela Riley, Ethan Goodfellow, Nicholas Kooyomijan and Thalita Neves were absent.
43. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please turn off your cell phone before the meeting*