**Student Government Association Minutes**

September 9, 2014

1. ROLL CALL: Scott Seskevich, Bradford Trafford and Connor Swan were absent.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 29, 2014: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Rebecca DiVico*
4. Welcome back Everyone. First we have Dr.Carlton Pickron the Vice President of Student Affairs and Sue LaMontagne, Dean of Students.
5. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: Thanks Rebecca for giving us a moment. But out of tradition, protocol and all of those wonderful things, we have the President of Westfield State University amongst us. So, the President must come forward and say a few words.
6. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston:** Good afternoon. I really did just stop by to welcome you all back. If you have questions when Carlton Pickron and Sue LaMontagne are done here I would be happy to answer them but I did really just stop by to say hello and thank you guys for being here tonight.
7. **Dr. Carlton Pickron:** Hey, Welcome back and congratulations. I know this isn’t everyone but when we have a full senate here I we are about 83-84 or something like that a very large and phenomenal number. Welcome back and congratulations on your election. Congratulations on all the work you are about to embark upon.
8. I noticed that many of you probably paid attention to the fact that there are some trees missing. The wonderful new Science Building’s groundbreaking will begin on September 18 along with Senior Convocation.
9. On the note of seniors, Class of 2015, May 16, 4:00 pm will be here real soon. Sooner than you probably want it to be. The key is to enjoy the time from now until May 16 at 4:00 pm. Enjoy this time. It is the last time for you. All of you seniors do well.
10. For all members of the council, and I will say this again when the full senate is here, it is important that you stay focused on your goal here at Westfield State University which is to earn you baccalaureate degree. Yes, you are student leaders and have a critical voice on this campus, but remember to take care of your academic business while you are here. And I know you will because all of you do a phenomenal job outside the classroom and most of you do great inside the classroom. It is critical that we remember that and keep our eyes on the prize.
11. I hope you had a great summer, had some relaxation, made some money, the Red Sox and Yankees both won’t be playing too much longer, Patriots are starting out a low enc. But, Westfield State Athletics is rocking and rolling. We have a soccer game going on right now as we speak.
12. Welcome Back, Congratulations: Let’s have a great year with lots of progress and many accomplishments. Go Owls.
13. Thank you Dr. Pickron. Now please welcome Dean Sue LaMontagne
14. **Sue LaMontagne**: Welcome back everyone! It’s really good to see you all. I’m going to save my big welcome for when the full senate is here. No, but I do say to my priest sometimes that if there are only five people at Mass, there is no need for a really long sermon.
15. It is really great to see you all. Stop by anytime. I’m happy to talk, debate, discuss, anything really.
16. Are you Patriots fans? I watched the Patriots the other day and they started losing as soon as I walked in. I’m a wicked superstitious sports fan so I won’t watch them again because I brought them bad luck. But, I was here on Friday for our football team and they won. So, I will have to come back for those. Once they lose while I’m there, I’ll stop.
17. Okay, have a good rest of your night. I’ll be much more welcoming and serious to the whole group in a few weeks.
18. **Barbara Han**d: Would you entertain Evelyn Dina having a unit opportunity if senators sop into see Sue LaMontagne before the full meeting?
19. **Sue LaMontagne**: Yes, Absolutely.
20. **Evelyn Dina**: I agree.
21. **Sue LaMontagne**: Also, bring pet pictures if you haven’t yet.
22. **Matthew Carling**: Will there be photos from pet therapy up there?
23. **Sue LaMontagne**: Someone did take photos of the cute puppies today so, as long as we can get some names, then yes.
24. Thank you Dean LaMontagne
25. Now I would like to welcome Michael Basmajian, the Campus Organizer of MASSPIRG, to update us about what’s going on with MASSPIRG this semester.
26. **Michael Basmajian**: Hello everyone and thanks for having me. I am the new campus organizer of MASSPIRG.I graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2013. I studied Political Science and Communications and I’m really excited to be working on campus. I’ve worked on a variety of campaigns including the ACLU, the OxFam America, and a variety of other campaigns throughout my collegiate career.
27. I am excited to be on the ground there to be working on the voter registration process. Our goal is to register 500 Westfield students to vote this semester. We want to make over 1,200 voter contacts before the midterm elections on November 4. And so, we have a lot of big plans to make sure students know about elections and actually participate. So, we’re running a big recruitment drive to get the word out. We’re getting people to pledge to vote and it’s going really well. We’ve already got 400 pledges to vote from students.
28. We are really excited to partner with you guys and if any committees or other student groups that you all are part of would be willing, we would love to come and make an announcement about the elections this semester.
29. We’ve got a really great group of students here already. Just this past week, we gained ten new student leaders to our organization and in addition to advocating for student’s to vote, we are also going to be working on other exciting campaigns such as the hunger and homelessness campaign, affordable textbooks campaign, and updating the bottle bill to expand recycling here in Massachusetts.
30. Again, I’m just really excited to be working with students here on campus and I’m looking forward to a really fun and productive semester. So, thanks a lot for having me. I also brought Dan Powers with too.
31. Thank you Michael.
32. I accept the resignation of Andrew Morin as a Representative to Senate for the Class of 2017.
33. I move to appoint Andrew Morin as our Executive Secretary for the 2014-2015 academic year. Motion passed.
34. **Rebecca DiVico**: I just want to say that Andrew was interviewed at the end of last semester and we see a lot of potential in him.
35. **Ashley Deleon**: Congratulations, Andrew.
36. On September 18 at 2:00 pm there will be the groundbreaking for the new academic building, next to Wilson Hall. Interim President Dr. Preston and I will be speaking and it will be a unit opportunity.
37. Does everyone remember “Who’s Your Senator” posters from last year? Well those will be, actually, happening this year. Tonight or tomorrow I will be sending out an email of the three questions that I need you to answer. I also want to start taking pictures next week, so get excited.
38. A reminder for future meetings, that if you want to report please email me at [president.sga@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:president.sga@westfield.ma.edu) no later than 3:00 pm on that Tuesday, so that I can add you to the agenda.
39. The Leadership Voyage will be on October 3 through October 5 in Beckett. Applications will be e-mailed tomorrow, September 10.
40. Today is primary voting day; please go vote polls are open until 8:00 pm.
41. Items not listed on the agenda.

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Joshua Frank*
2. I hope everyone had a great summer. I actually have a rather long report tonight so bear with me.
3. I am sure most of you saw the email, I sent out in June or the Facebook post about the lack of support for the state budget and to call your reps to try to gain support. I know many of you called and I really appreciate your efforts. However, even with our efforts the State Universities lacked the support from the state budget, specifically the 50/50 agreement. So, this meant that all the State Universities went through some sort of tuition increase.
4. Which now brings me to the June 26 Board of Trustees meeting. So, at the meeting the University moved to increase the general fee for FY15 by not more than $435.00 provided such fee increase when added to the University’s state appropriation budget does not exceed $27,663,411.00. So, basically what this means is that if the State Universities were to receive more support during the year our fee increase would go down to match that number.
5. Also at that meeting we adopted the updated procurement card use and process, which was minimally changed. I do have the changed policy in my office if any of you want to see it after the meeting. The Trustees also accepted the updated university smoke free/tobacco free campus policy and involuntary medical withdrawal of students for physical or mental health reason that Sue LaMontagne brought to us last year. However, they tabled the proposed changes to the alcohol and other drug policy because they were worried about the change to prohibit medical marijuana on campus. They tabled it to consult with our legal team and it was then approved a t a special meeting that was held in July.
6. The Trustees then discussed the presidential search. First they moved to wait to fill the vacant Board of Trustee spots before starting the Presidential search. This process should be completed shortly, we already have the nominations, we are just waiting for the Governor’s office to approve them The board also moved to allocate $125,000.00 to the Presidential search committee to conduct their search.
7. There was another Board meeting on August 27. I am sure most o you know the OIG report has been released which can be found on the school’s website. Whit the release of this report the board voted to forward I to a number of State and Federal organizations, including the State Ethics Commission, the Massachusetts State Retirement Board, the Hampden County District Attorney, the Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney, the Office of the Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney. We also accepted changes to the motor vehicle acquisitions, replacements, damage, and motor vehicle and van use and the sexual misconduct, domestic violence and stalking policies. I have both policies with their changes in my office if anyone wants to see them after the meeting.
8. Also, on September 25, Rebecca DiVico and I will be going to the first Student Advisory Council meeting at Worcester State. For those of you who don’t know what that is SAC is a board of the Student Trustees and SGA Presidents from each State University, Community College and UMass System.
9. Also, I am proud to announce that Westfield State University ranked in the top 50 best colleges for Veterans.
10. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be October 8, in the Presidents Board Room.
11. Can I see all the Reps at Large by the circle table, at the end of the meeting?
12. All University Committee**: No Report**
13. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
14. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Joshua Clark*
15. Hello everyone, my name is Joshua Clark and I am your Vice President of Student Life. I am excited to be working with the Executive Council this year and hope that we have a productive and fun year.
16. During my first meeting with Dr. Jon Conlogue, I went on an tour of Davis Hall. There were renovations made over the summer and the results are fabulous. They removed the bathrooms from the hallway and put them in what would be a student room. They replace the bathroom with a little area for studying and reading. If you haven’t been over there, I suggest taking a look around because it is really nice.
17. Student Conduct applications are available over there by the mailboxes. Encourage your constituents to apply for the board. The applications are available until September 19. We are holding interviews on September 24 and 25. Times are on a sheet taped to Kim Hosmer’s desk.
18. I am looking for students to sit on the Student Affairs Committee. We need eight more students for the committee, which meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 2:30 pm in the SGA Club Room. The next meeting is September 22. I am going to pass around a sheet for anybody interested to sign up.
19. **Ariana Roche:** Is there a time set for the Student Affairs committee yet?
20. Joshua Clark: On the sheet, you’ll find that we are meeting on the Fourthe Monday of every monthe in the SGA Club room at 2:30 pm.
21. I have now met with all of the Class Presidents that are in office so; I thank Richard Darrach, Ryan Losco and Scott Seskevich for taking the time to share their goals and aspirations with me. On that note, I will be creating a rotating schedule for meetings with class and hall councils, once all of the councils have been elected, I will want to know the times that they meet so I can stop in and say hello. It’s part of an initiative of open communication between me and the councils.
22. If anybody would like to sit and talk with me after the meeting, I am available, other than that, my office e hours are Monday, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm and Wednesdays from 2:15 pm to 4:15 pm.
23. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
24. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
25. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
26. Health Committee: **No Report**
27. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
28. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
29. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
30. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**
31. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Olivia Dumas*
32. We’ve been busy preparing and that includes lots of meetings. I’ve been updated that Civic Engagement Courses are underway and we are looking at more options and more ways to work with this. If anyone has any ideas, please email me at [vpacademiclife.sga@Westfield.ma.edu](mailto:vpacademiclife.sga@Westfield.ma.edu).
33. Also, next Monday, September 15 there will be an interest meeting to be a peer mentor for the ICE program at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in Parenzo 208. There will be light refreshments.
34. Can I see the Reps at large in the conference room?
35. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
36. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
37. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
38. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
39. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
40. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
41. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
42. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Shannon Cullinane*
43. Programming update**: Shannon Cullinane**
44. Hi, I just wanted to give you guys an update on what CAB is up to.
45. For first year move in day, we had about 175 first years come to the mind reader Eric Dittleman.
46. On Saturday night, August 30, we had our first Bingo. Eric O’Shea opened up and did a great job. There were almost 200 people for Eric O’Shea and Bingo.
47. Big E tickets are still being sold for $5.00 in the SGA room and just a reminder the Big E event is Sunday, September 14 with buses leaving Scanlon Hall at 4:30 pm and coming back to campus at 9:30 pm. You must take the bus if you are purchasing a ticket.
48. **Olivia Dumas**: Request for Information. When you are buying the Big E ticket, you’re buying the bus ticket, not a ticket to the Big E, correct?
49. **Shannon Cullinane**: No. The $5.00 goes towards admission into the Big E and transportation.
50. **Barbara Hand**: But the ticket you get when you pay for it in SGA it is not a Big E ticket. That is the ticket that will get you on the bus and once you’re on the bus, you will receive your Big E ticket.
51. If you are interested in joining CAB or having it as your committee our first meeting is tomorrow at 5:00 pm in the Owl’s Nest.
52. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Matthew Carlin*
53. I will repeat the previous Vice Presidents before when I say welcome back to SGA. I will hopefully be short and sweet.
54. Just a reminder that Thursday, September 11 between 4:00pm and 6:00 pm in the Garden Level of Ely, is our annual Club Fair. There will be music and refreshments served. We need your help to get the word out. There are flyers for the event and I am hoping you will help make them visible around campus.
55. There will be an prize award to the club with the most creative club set up, which will be a party sized pizza for their first meeting or for whenever they want it.
56. Also, if you are aware of any club that has not contacted Kim Hosmer, please have them do so, so she can reserve a table for them.
57. Just so everyone knows, it is never too early to send in your fundraising requests. Already we have 3 bake sale requests, so let’s get those going. Requests are dealt with on a first come first served basis.
58. Finance Report: **No Report**
59. Foundation Report: **No Report**
60. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Andrew Morin/Evelyn Dina*
61. Executive Secretary Report: **Andrew Morin**
62. Hi everyone and welcome back. I hope you’re all as excited for this semester as I am. Just a few house keeping things. That I will go over more during orientation, when we have a full legislature.
63. Please speak clearly, loudly and concisely when reporting and asking questions. The recorder needs to be able to pick you up and I need to hear you.
64. When writing your reports, they need to be written incomplete sentences and in neat handwriting and on the report forms. I don’t want a bunch of line paper because we print report forms for a reason and they make everything easier for Kim Hosmer and I. I also recommend typing reports, but if you have to hand write them, it’s okay. Also, please only say what is written on your report.
65. The Class of 2018 elections papers came out last Friday, September 5th and are due Monday the 15. Actually, elections will be September 23 and 24 on My Westfield. Please encourage your first year friends to run for SGA and/or vote in the elections.
66. Senator of the Week is going to be a little different this year. Nominations for senator of the week can be submitted by anyone including fellow senators, exec members or advisors. Evelyn Dina will talk a little bit more about the unit lotto, in a minute, during her report but if you win senator of the week and completer your units for the month, you will be entered into the unit lotto twice. Senator of the week does not count as a unit. If you don’t do your units at all, you don’t get into the lotto, regardless.
67. The Senator of the Week is Alex Doming. So, Alex, assuming you complete your units for this month, which I know you will, you will be entered into the lotto twice.
68. Legislative Secretary Report: **Evelyn Dina**
69. Hello, welcome back. I’m glad to be back myself.
70. I’m going to start by encouraging you all to go check out my Unit Calendar for September; it’s The Lion King themed. I spent a lot of time on it so please use it. There are four units due at the end of September. I did not include away games on the calendar because there are a lot this month, but away games still count as two units since they are off campus.
71. I’m doing a couple of things a little different this year, I want to mention. As Andrew Morin stated whoever is given senator of the week, and completes all their monthly units, their name will be entered into the unit lotto twice. Just to be clear, senator of the week does not count as a unit. It will only give you another chance in the lotto, if you complete your units. Whoever wins in the Unit lotto will win 20 Owl Bucks’. Also, there will still be a big unit winner each month.
72. As for attendance, there are guidelines in your binders but I’m sure you’re all familiar with the rules. One thing that was changed during Constitution review, last year that I want to reiterate is the committee attendance. Whoever is chair or is reporting for a committee must send me the attendance or the minutes with the attendance. Please do not forget to send it to me. I really do not want to have to track anyone down. If it gets to point where I have to ask you weekly or whenever your committee meets, I will have to start giving half absences to whoever is responsible.
73. I’m going to pass around a contact sheet, just right your name, position, email and cell phone number. If you feel comfortable about writing your number, just remember that nobody will see this contact sheet except for exec.
74. Remember to get your binders.
75. **Richard Darrach**: Regarding the new attendance rule, is that weekly or monthly?
76. **Evelyn Dina**: It depends on committees and how often they meet but, I want attendance after each meeting so, for class councils, weekly. It might be easy to have your secretary just send me her minutes because that usually has the attendance.
77. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:

Rules and Regulations Committee:

1. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
2. Commuter Council: **No Report**
3. Senior Class: **Richard Darrach**
4. We’re interviewing for open positions on Council, this Friday, September 12 at 2:30 pm. The positions open are two Reps to SGA, Publicity Coordinator and Interim Historian. Please email [classof2015@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:classof2015@westfield.ma.edu). to schedule an appointment.
5. Senior Convocation is on Thursday, September 18 at 4:00 pm in Scanlon. Unfortunately Governor Deval Patrick will be unable to join us as originally thought. The official invitation went out tonight and further advertisement is to follow.
6. Our next scheduled meeting is September 12 at 2:30 pm in the SGA conference room.
7. Junior Class: **Ryan Losco**
8. Hello everyone and welcome back. The Class of 2016 is seeking two students to fill open seats on council. We are looking for one Representative to Senate and a Historian. If you know of anybody in the Class of 2016 who might be interested please have them contact me via email. We are holding interviews on Monday, September 15 starting at 5:30 pm.
9. The Council had its first meeting Monday, September 8 and we have a lot of stuff coming out. So, be on the lookout for that. Have a great week.
10. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 15 at 5:30 in the University Hall meeting room.
11. Sophomore Class**: Scott Seskevich**
12. First Year Class: **No Report**
13. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
14. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
15. Davis Hall: **No Report**
16. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
17. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
18. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
19. New Hall**: No Report**
20. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
21. University Hall**: No Report**
22. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**

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1. NEW BUSINESS:
2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
3. **Mike Mazeika**: Hi everyone. I am looking for tour guides, in admissions for open house and just general tour guides in training. I have applications back here if you want to grab one after the meeting.
4. **Joshua Frank**: Reps-at-Large please meet in the back after the meeting.
5. **Joshua Clark**: Can I get the sheet back for the Student Affairs committee and may I see Scott Seskevich after the meeting?
6. **Andrew Morin**: If I didn’t get your report form, please be sure that I do before you leave.
7. **Evelyn Dina**: Contact sheet back to me please.
8. **Courtney Keddy**: 249 Days until commencement.
9. ROLL CALL: Bradon Trafford and Connor Swan were absent.
10. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.