**Student Government Association Minutes**

September 17, 2013

1. ROLL CALL: Luis Arzola was absent
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 10, 2013: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Taylor Fote*
4. Hello everyone. First off tonight we have Charlotte Graham from MASSPirg here to talk to us.
5. Charlotte Graham: Thank you Taylor. Hi Everone, I’m Charlotte Graham and I’m the MASSPirg Campus Organizer for this year here at Westfield State. I’d like to thank you for having me come and talk to you tonight. I’ll make it really quick.
6. Since you guys are all involved with Student Government, you might already know what MASSPirg is up to, but I’ll give you a rundown of what we’re doing this year. MASSPirg is a state-wide, student directed and student funded activism and public interest group. We have a 40 year track record of standing up to powerful special interests and winning concrete victories on social issues. Recently, for example, we helped pass a policy that will invest $700 million in public transit projects right here in MA. For those of you who use the PVTA a lot, that’s good news, they’ll be getting a big chunk of that money. We also helped pass a policy that will provide $3 billion in Federal Student Aid. Last year, we registered over 11,000 students for the elections and young people’s voices were heard louder than ever. The thing that makes us so effective is that students here at Westfield State voted to fund MASSPirg through a $9 per semester waivable fee. We pool those funds across the state to higher professionals like advocates, lawyers, and organizers like myself, and we work on local and state-wide campaigns on behalf of students, were big decisions are being made in Boston and Washington, D.C. For those of you keeping score, MASSPirg has a reaffirmation vote coming up this spring, so I’d like to work with you guys on SGA to talk about getting the vote out for that, since the vote is part of your elections at the end of the year. I think we can work together to get a lot of students to vote on this.
7. What we’re working on this fall this fall is increasing recycling in Massachusetts, because we throw away over 1 billion beverage containers in our state, which is enough to fill up Fenway Park past the bleachers. Massachusetts have one of the most effective recycling program in the country, which is the Bottle Bill, which is the five cent deposit on beer and soda bottles. About 80% of containers that have that deposit on them end up getting recycled, but only 23% of containers without that deposit get recycled. We are working on a better Bottle Bill that will include water, juice, and sports drinks containers. We have been working on this for the past decade. We are going to be taking this straight to the people and put it on the ballot in 2014. In order to qualify this ballot initiative, we’re going to be collecting 100,000 citizen signatures across the state this fall. 2,000 of those will be collected by students, right here at Westfield State. SO it’s a really exciting opportunity for students to get involved with the political system in our state, engage with our democracy, because we’re one of only 13 states in the country that allow citizens to form a ballot initiative like this. It’s exciting and I’m looking forward to helping students work towards this becoming a law.
8. We’re having our big kick-off meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, September 18th in Ely 338 at 7:30 to talk about this and other issues like poverty, textbook affordability, and student debt. We’re in room 013 around the corner. I’m here all day Monday’s, Tuesdays and Fridays.
9. Thank you, Charlotte.
10. Don’t forget the University hall ribbon cutting this Thursday at 4:00 pm. I will be speaking so that’s pretty exciting for you guys. After that is the Senior Convocation at 5:00 pm in The Scanlon Banquet Hall with appetizers after, so I hope to see every senior there as well as supporting sister classes.
11. I would like to introduce, to everyone; the new marketing idea Exec has come up with this year. Our goal as an Executive Board and SGA is for students to know who we are. So we’ve created these posters, each of you will have one done and they will be in your corresponding hall or in academic buildings.
12. I am still looking for Volunteers for the ICE program or the Littleville mentoring Program; if you are interested please see me after the meeting.
13. The Leadership Voyage is quickly approaching, so I hope everyone has applied. All of the SGA Executive Council will be there and well we’re a good time, so that should be enough to come. If not, it’s a really great opportunity to meet fellow student leaders, and work together, so we can have a really cohesive group among our leaders. There will be no units due for October if you go to the Leadership Voyage.
14. Don’t forget to vote for your Hall Councils today, September 17th and Tomorrow September 18th. Also please encourage students to vote for the Class of 2017, elections are later next week.
15. May I please see Ryan Losco and Rich Darrach after the meeting?
16. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 24th at 5:30 pm.
17. Items not listed on Agenda.
18. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
19. Tonight I’m going to highlight on the tow special meetings that happened in August.
20. There was a special meeting called in the middle of July for a special meeting of the Board in August, the only agenda item was to act on the Inspector General’s request for documents, we approved them after entering executive session to speak with counsel. This was when the initial media stories were coming out.
21. We had a meeting right at the beginning of the school year, where we were briefed by an independent account’s report. The meeting brought the Board up to speed but little action was taken. We approved the publishing of the report and Dr. Dobelle’s “response” to it. We moved to have new finance policies and are actively complying with the IG, AG, and Secretary of Educations request. The Board still awaits their results.
22. I’m sure some of you have seen that Dr. Dobelle and the Board have been asked to appear in Boston to meet with the chair, Commissioner and Secretary. That will be on Friday, September 20th and I will be there. I will have a report about that next meeting I’m sure.
23. **Jen McDiarmid**: Since the Board and President Dobelle have been asked to appear in Boston, does that mean the investigation is over or is it part of it?
24. **Stone Koury**: The technical investigation by the IG, AG and Secretary of Education is ongoing. This is the Secretary of Education’s part in it. I believe this meeting was called by the chair of the Board of Higher Education, Dr. Desmond, and I think it’s because Boston has questions that they would like answers for before the IG and AG release their official findings.
25. **Isaac Matson**: I assume this is a public meeting?
26. **Stone Koury**: Correct. It should be an open meeting.
27. Joshua Clark: I’m not sure if there was a time table for the report from the IG and AG, but is this part of the time table or does this throw a wrench in it?
28. Stone Koury: I have not received a time tabled of when to expect official findings from the AG or IG, but I don’t think this meeting will throw off the investigations; it’s just running parallel to it.
29. Finally on Thursday, September 19th we are meeting as a Board to approve the Capital Improvement Plan pertaining to the 2 phase plan. The Finance Sub-Committee has approved it already and it will be the only agenda item. The main piece of it is the borrowing of $10 million of the $50 million, which will be paid off by student fees starting Fiscal year 2017.
30. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 19th at 2:00 pm in University Hall.
31. All University Committee**: Joshua Clark**
32. The All University Committee discussed the bylaws. They also transferred some items to subcommittees.
33. We un-tabled and re-tabled the Academic Calendar for 2016-2017 as per the recommendation of Marsha Marotta**.**
34. Our next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, September 18th at 4:30 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
35. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
36. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Rebecca DiVico*
37. Hi everyone. So my threat to cry worked, more people have come to pick up some applications.
38. I’m looking to generate some ideas to have some type of celebration for the students for the 175th Anniversary. If you guys have any ideas, see me after the meeting.
39. Just to give you a future event, the first Blood Drive will be during the first week of October. University Hall bug problem is fixed, but keep an eye out.
40. **Kevin Soucie**: Any specific type of bugs? Like stink bugs?
41. **Rebecca DiVico**: I believe they were mostly fruit flies and gnats, but other types as well.
42. **Tom Durkee**: Point of Interest: There have been a lot of bugs on the first floor of New Hall.
43. **Rebecca DiVico**: So please bring attention to these issues to your RA campus wide, regardless of the building.
44. Can I see the Class Presidents over by the back table after the meeting?
45. Health Committee: **No Report**
46. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
47. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
48. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
49. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Andrew McCormick*
2. Hello everyone, I met with Dean Marsha Marotta last week and we discussed First Year Convocation and we started to discuss next years.
3. We discussed whether to have it in Scanlon again or move it back to Woodward. I am thinking that we should have it in Dever Stage if we are expecting such a good turnout.
4. We also talked about a Student Speaker with the thought of opening it up to the campus and allowing people to interview as a speaker. The thought as of now was that Trustee Hill was very good and to bring him back.
5. Academic Policies Committee: **Victoria Landry**
6. Today, the Academic Policies Committee discussed creating bylaws for the committee and considered creating a group on Plato to do our voting and file sharing for meetings.
7. The big topic of our meeting was the Academic Honesty policy. We discussed the technicalities of hearings ofr graduating seniors, adding that hearings for academic dishonesty must convene by May 31st. We also went through other terminology in the policy per the request of the all University committee.
8. At our next meeting we will be reviewing the Student Conduct Policy.
9. Our next scheduled meeting in on September 30th at 1:40 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
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 had our first general member meeting last week on Wednesday, September 11th. It was well attended, especially by first year students, so we are very excited about that.
19. Our next event is tomorrow, September 18th at 8:00 pm in the Owls next as we are hosting Trivia. This year we ar doing Owl Bucks for the prize, so the winning team will receive $60.00 in Owl Bucks, so go for a one person team or 10 each for a 6 person team. There will be Pizza as well during Trivia.
20. The Campus Activities Board is also contributing to parent Family Day. We will be helping setup, running carnival games a blow up obstacle course and possibly doing face painting.
21. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 18th at 5:00 pm in the Owls Nest.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. So last Thursday, September 12th was the Club Fair and it was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended and I want to give a special thank you to the SGA Executive Board and Kim Hosmer for helping out.
3. Finance Report: **No Report**
4. Foundation Report**: Joshua Frank**
5. The Foundation met last Thursday, September 12th and we discussed many things. We met with President Dobelle, as well as our accountant. We reviewed a draft of our financial statement, and an official audit will be done within the next couple of months.
6. We also discussed a big event that will be happening, next semester. Sodexo donated $50,000 to the Foundation to hold a 175th Gala on campus. This Gala is going to be a huge donor event, so we are expecting a large return.
7. Our next scheduled meeting is going to me our annual membership dinner, which will be sometime next month.
8. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
9. Executive Secretary Report: **Alexis Wagner**
10. Signature papers for the Class of 2017 elections are due tomorrow; September 18th at 5:00 pm. Information technology is working hard to get our online voting system running, since we have retired Collegiate Link. That being said R.A.’s and O.L.’s, anyone who interacts with First-Years in sports, activities, classes, anything; please encourage them to run for a position. They can easily get 25 signatures by 5:00 pm, September 18th.
11. Also, please nominate a fellow senator for Senator of the Week.
12. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
13. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Isaac Matson
14. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
15. Commuter Council: **No Report**
16. Senior Class: **Emily Baker**
17. Thursday, September 19th is Senior Convocation at 5:00 pm in Scanlon Banquet Hall. We will be raffling off a free Senior Fest Packet for Senior Week in May. Every senior who attends will get a raffle ticket, and we will pick a winner at the end of Convocation. Also, there will be a special musical performance from Tim Hockenberry, who competed on America’s got talent last year.
18. **Tom Durkee**: Point of Interest: to win a Senior Fest Packet, you must be there at the end.
19. **Emily Baker**: Yes, please stay there the whole time.
20. **Steve Mailloux**: what is the approximate cost of the Senior Fest Packet this year?
21. **Emily Baker**: Around $200.00, we believe.
22. Someone from Make-a-Wish will be there to collect the check from Mr. Westfield.
23. Friday, September 20th is the Senior Luau in the apartment Complex courtyard from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. come hang out for a bit and enjoy a smoothie and games.
24. Saturday, September 21st is the Senior trip to Mohegan Sun. The buses will leave from Scanlon at 4:00pm not 4:30 pm and return to campus around midnight.
25. Please encourage your friends to take part in our senior events this week. We are looking forward to a fun time.
26. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, September 18th at 3:00 pm in the SGA Conference Room 20.
27. Junior Class: **Richard Darrach**
28. MoFroYo fundraiser was just confirmed for November 1st. we’re going to have another interest/follow-up Dancing with the Stars meeting. Details to follow.
29. See everyone at Family Day. Buy a t-shirt, draw string back pac and knee socks.
30. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 18th at 4:00 pm in the Conference Room 003 next to Dunkin Donuts
31. Sophomore Class**: Ryan Losco**
32. Presidents Parking Space raffle tickets are on sale now. Get them at the campus center window, in the Student Government Association office, Commuter Council Café, and the Dinning Commons. The raffle tickets are $2.00 for one or $5.00 for three.
33. **Kevin Soucie**: Where exactly is the parking spot?
34. **Ryan Losko**: It’s right by the doorway to the mailroom for Parenzo.
35. Our t-shirts are also on sale in the campus window for $10.00.
36. We are working on some fundraisers right now for the Class of 2016. Our charity and wer will have more information in the upcoming weeks.
37. We will be at Family Day selling t-shirts and raffle tickets.
38. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 24th at 6:30 pm in the Ely Conference Room 003.
39. Freshman Class: **No Report**
40. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
41. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
42. Davis Hall: **No Report**
43. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
44. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
45. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
46. New Hall: **No Report**
47. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
48. University Hall**: No Report**
49. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
50. NEW BUSINESS:
51. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
52. **Josh Clark**: The next AUC meeting is Tomorrow, September 18th at 4:30 pm in the Parenzo Board Room.
53. **Sarah Hegarty**: Do your units, and get your council to do units to increase your chances in the unit lotto.
54. **Brittany Walters**: Speaking of units, I have a general signup for the Blood Drive, Which Rebecca Mentioned in October 9th, so if you want to volunteer and get a unit, see me at the end of the meeting.
55. **Stone Koury**: Can I see all The Reps at Large in the SGA Conference Room.
56. **Rebecca DiVico**: Can I see Rich Darrach, Ryan Losco, and Brittany Moniz after the meeting?
57. **Sue LaMontagne**: The dogs will be on the green on Thursday, September 19th from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm, sponsored by the Counseling Center
58. **Sarah Hegarty**: Visiting Dean Sue LaMontagne and Vice President Carlton Pickron are each worth a unit.
59. **Tom Durkee**: 241 Days until Commencement.
60. ROLL CALL: Luis Arzola was absent
61. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.