**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**September 18, 2018**

I. ROLL CALL: Tommy Howard, and Luke Morrison were absent. Marcus Payne was excused.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 11, 2018: Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC REMARKS: No Remarks

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Marcus DiBacco**
   1. Hello again my friends, I hope you have all settled into the year nicely. Next week, September 25 will be our first full meeting of the year, meaning that the new Hall Councils and the First Year Class council will be joining us. As we continue on through the next couple of weeks, class and hall council positions will begin to be filled more and more. On a similar note, last week Exec interviewed several candidates for the open Rep-at-Large position. After much deliberation, we decided that Jake O’Kane was the best fit for the position.
   2. I move to appoint Jake O’Kane as SGA Rep-at-large for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Motion carries.
   3. One of the projects that we will work on this year is the development of a vision and mission. Our advisor, Ryan Meersman, will be helping us with this and to get us started he is going to tell us a little bit about the process.
2. **Ryan Meersman**: Welcome back everyone. I like this new set up a lot. If you don’t know me my name is Ryan Meersman, I work over in the Horace Mann Center in Graduate and Continuing Education; however I don’t work with Graduate or Continuing Education students. I am the Early College Access Coordinator, so I work with early college students, dual enrolled students, so high school students that take college courses through Westfield State work with me. If you heard, if you were here last year or have seen anything for The Westfield State Promise, it’s a college pathway program, that’s the program that I coordinate with five area high schools. I have had the pleasure of working with plenty of students, like Connor Kennedy, he has been an orientation leader for me, and this year we have our first 12th grade cohort actually in day division courses, on campus kind of mixed in with you guys, especially our first year students. It’s very exciting.
3. What I wanted to talk to you about, what Marcus DiBacco invited me to talk to you about tonight was a little bit about visions and goal setting for the year. All I really want to go over with you is first off you have an Executive Council that over the last few weeks has really worked hard to develop a vision for themselves and a vision really to me as I define it as what future success looks like. So you all come in, you grab your binders from your cubby holes; you have those in front of you. I would encourage you to really look at the constitution, look at what he purpose of student government is, because you all are here to fulfill that purpose and you want to really make sure that you are doing that on a daily basis.
4. You guys have a lot of influence on this campus, more than you probably realize, I know that now that I am an employee here, I spent four years on Student Government when I was a student, I look back on that and say wow we did a lot or even know in my roll of how can we get some student input on this to help me to make a decision. You guys have a lot that you can contribute to this campus community and I think that this is a really important year, moving to the new college structure, allows for students to have a lot of input hopefully with the new Deans and with that new structure. On how do you want your school, your college, your university to look? And how do you want it to perform for you? And as an SGA how are you representing your constituents, your students and doing the best by them.
5. One of the things we worked on over the last couple weeks was, this Exec really keyed in on a few themes that they wanted to focus on based on that SGA purpose. I think Marcus DiBacco is going to go over the details of where they are at with that vision and what they will do from there, is set some specific goals for themselves based on the purpose of Student Government, what they want to do as a division for the year so by the end of the year, what is a successful SGA year going to look like for them? What are those? They have three themes that they really want to focus on and then from there, building out some goals so they can be specific and they know are within reach and those they know that they can potential measure to show by the end of the year.
6. Look we were able to be successful at this part of our vision. I think for example I used this while we were meeting with Exec and I’ll use it again. If for CAB Matt Howe is really looking at increasing attendance at events, taking a look at setting a goal that’s reasonable, measurable, okay, for these specific events our attendance has been 50 students pretty consistently every month. We want to increase that to 75 this year. So, for brown bag bingo or something you are going to increase that to 75 and then building out some things on how do we want to do that? How are we going to get that number? What else do we need to do to make sure students are participating and know about these events and stuff like that? You may want to do that same thing for your Class Council, or whatever council you’re on.
7. Think about what is your purpose within SGA that fulfills the larger purpose of SGA and then what are some things that you want to focus on, as a Class Council. I know Reps at Large probably work with Cam Swan and Maddy Scott to come up with representing students on some of the major Governance Committees. What are some of the goals that you have for the year? That’s really all.
8. Again, I know in a couple weeks you will be taking a vote on us as advisors. So you can kick me right out the door if you wanted to, but happy to stay on. You know I am always here as a resource, whether I am here or not if you want to give a call or an email or stop by all the way down In Horace Mann. I’ll be resource for you.
   1. For many organizations, the vision and mission statements act as the purpose. As we already have a purpose stated in our Constitution we do not need to be overly lofty or demanding with our vision and mission. However, I want to incorporate the goals of connectedness, communication, community, and representation into our own words. So here is what we have so far: It is the vision of the SGA that through our collaborative efforts on campus that we will sponsor a community based on connectedness and communication at Westfield State University. In the coming week or so I want you all to think about this statement. Consider what it means to you, SGA, and the University and bring your feedback back to senate. This concept is an important one and it will act as our guiding principles for the year. Thank you
   2. Items not listed on the agenda.
9. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Cameron Swan**
   1. All University Committee: **No Report**

B. NEASC Steering Committee: **No Report**

C. Strategic Planning Committee: **No Report**

D. Student Advisory Council: **No Report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Nickalena Richards**
   1. Good evening everyone, I hope you are all transitioning smoothly into the third week. Few things to mention on my agenda for this evening.
2. I would like to mention that Student Affairs Committee met last Friday, September 14 and we went further into discussion about plans and arrangements of ways to implement the life-skills management workshops.
3. We are still in the midst of collaboration efforts as far as conjoining of ideas, but you should know that we may be using this idea as a base to connect to the Westfield State Experience and we are attempting to make this goal a creative, fun, interactive approach for students.
4. We also discussed possibly trying to team up with campus entities such as Res Life, Banacos Center, TRIO, and Urban Education. Lisa Plantefaber the Dean of Institutional Research and Assessment is invited to our next meeting on October 12 to help us further our ideas as far as ways of connecting with students to find out what their basic desires and needs are in relation to this idea. Additional information will be brought to your attention in the coming weeks.
5. We also went further into conversation about aid for students who wish to take summer courses. It is on my agenda to have Catherine Ryan or Simone Laplante from Financial Aid come down to have a conversation about how and if that can be a possible implementation.
6. I’d like to add the renovations to Parenzo Hall are still in the midst at phase 1 of the planning process, and Dr. Carlton Pickron has encouraged student attendance during future open forums to understand the technicalities of what is happening. This will be very informative to where the project stands and what direction it is headed in. Exact dates are TBA.
7. The Parking Board and Appeals Committee are looking for prospective, interested members to sit on the committee. If any of you are interested, please either see me after the meeting or send me an email.
8. With respect to the Student Conduct Board, the signup sheet pertaining to interview times is on Kim Hosmer’s desk if you or any of your peers are still looking to sign up. Interviews will be conducted sporadically Wednesday, September 26 and Thursday, September 27 and then again on Wednesday, October 3. I want to reiterate that if you have any concerns pertaining to time and dates, please feel free to speak with me and I will work with you within reason.
9. Don’t forget that September 27 is Westfield Day at the Big E. Marchers would be greatly appreciated and it is an awesome opportunity to get further connected to your surrounding communities and enjoy a fulfilling time with friends and acquaintances.
10. Marcus DiBacco and I participated in the Puerto Rican Day parade this past Sunday in Springfield and the sense of togetherness it held was truly inspiring to say the least.
11. **Sammantha Dorazio**: Do you know when and if there will be a signup sheet going on to students for Westfield Day?
12. **Nickalena Richards**: No I do not know.
13. **Dr. Carlton Pickron:** Big E, Westfield day, what you need to do is go to the S.A.I.L. window and you wil lfillour a Student Travel Waiver form and they put your name on the list to take the bus. Even if you plan to drive to the BIG E you still need to fill out that Student Travel Waiver form. If you are taking the bus or you think last minute that you might do it, we are still going to have some forms on the bus for you to fill out. The bus will be leaving from the Woodward Center at 4:00 pm on Thursday, September 27. You can stop by the S.A.I.L. office and sign up anytime. They are open from 3:00 pm until 11:00 pm.
14. **Marcus DiBacco**: Wwhen it comes to the Parenzo Hall renovations, the Parenzo Gym is obviously a huge, huge, part of what we do here. Scotty Howe, Joey Joyal and I have had some fun times, them playing basketball and me trying to play basketball there, slight disadvantage when I am playing with those two. But that is like the home of our intramural sports, and intramurals are the things people do most here. So, the conversation will come up through that. There will be many people who try to get rid of the Parenzo Hall Gym. We cannot allow that to happen. Okay? That is like the one thing I am going to fight for the death for if anything.
15. **Scotty Howe**: On top of that, just adding on, I think that if we are talking about community which is one of our goals, Parenzo is one of the exceptions on campus where people don’t care who you are, or if they know you or not. If you go any day between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm there are complete strangers playing with each other, every day, so it’s one of our biggest places that bring people together.
    1. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
    2. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **Mitchell McKittrick**
16. It has been brought to my attention that the information I gave you all last meeting regarding representation on the Diversity/Inclusion Committee is incorrect. The required representation is one representative from Class Council, One Representative at Large, one Representative from Hall Council and one Representative from Commuter Council. I do not need to have a Representative from every Class and Hall. Meeting times still have yet to be determined. I have decided to wait until Hall Councils and First year Class Council are elected to start meeting times or until I have the full committee. I have received interest from a Class Council Representative and a Rep at Large. If those people are able to join the committee then I will only need a Hall Council Representative and a Commuter Representative.
17. I don’t plan to necessarily cap the committee at this number, however, considering the topic of this committee, I feel it would be counterintuitive to not allow as many perspectives as possible. Capping the committee, in my opinion, would hinder the ability of the Committee to be as inclusive and diverse as possible, and also could potentially prevent certain marginalized groups to not be represented on the committee at all.
18. I would like to keep the committee open to everyone, however, I still need the required representative as a minimum. I will be starting an email list so if you are interested please see me after the meeting and I will add you to the list, and will be emailing prospective meeting times to gauge when people are available.
19. There is another event taking place this month that I am particularly excited about. Writer and Activist Shaun King will be speaking at Scanlon Hall on September 24 at 5:15 pm. King is a writer for The Intercept and is also one of the most prominent social media activist on Twitter, amassing over a million followers, he is written and spoken extensively about mass incarceration, racism and the Black Lives Matter movement. He will speak about “Civil Rights Today” which will discuss unpacking the ways the racism has transformed since the 1960s and what can be done in the modern era to create a more just world.
    1. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
    2. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
    3. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
    4. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
    5. Veteran’s Affairs Report: **No Report**
20. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Madeleine Scott**
    1. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
    2. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
    3. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
    4. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
    5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No Report**
    6. Writing Liaison Committee: **No Report**
    7. Guest Lecture Committee: **No Report**
21. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: **Thalita Neves**
    1. Hi everybody! I just wanted to thank everybody who attended the Club Fair last week. It was a huge success and I appreciate it if any of you attended it, told people to go to it, or helped a first year find it. Dean Sue LaMontagne also judged a contest between all the clubs at the Club Fair for best overall presentation and publicity for their club and the Outing Club won. So congrats to them! Hope you guys have a great rest of your week!
    2. Finance Committee: **No Report**
    3. Foundation Report: **No Report**
    4. Student Organization Council: **No Report**
22. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: **Matthew Howe**
23. Hey guys, hope you all had on your hydrophobic clothing today, as it was fairly wet outside. There are a few events going on in the world of programming.
24. Tonight is the first Open Mic Night of the semester at 8:00pm in the Owl’s Nest. All types of performances are welcome.
25. Then tomorrow night, September 19 is CAB’s first trivia night of the year. The theme is Disney! Come to the Owl’s Nest at 8:00pm for your chance to win Owl Bucks!
26. On Thursday, September 20 the Grit ‘N Wit Race is from 4:00pm-6:00pm on the Green. There is still time to sign up!
27. Also on September 20, we have Thrifty Thursday in the Owl’s Nest at 9:00pm. Come down for a DIY Maple Leaf Candle Holder.
28. Following in the theme of firsts this week; we have the first Rec The Night event on Friday, September 21 from 9:00pm-11:00pm in the Parenzo Gym. The event is indoor soccer.
29. If you’re looking for something to do this weekend, come to Paint A Sip in the Owl’s Nest Saturday night, September 22 beginning at 8:00pm.
30. If you did not make it to the CAB Big E trip this past Sunday, you have another time to go this Thursday, September 20! Join the Westfield State Spirit Bus to march in the Big E Parade. The bus leaves at 4:00pm at the Woodward Center and leaves the Big E at 9:00pm. You can sign up now in Ely 208 from 9:00am-3:00pm and then at the SAIL Center from 3:00pm-11:00pm.
31. Just a reminder, if you have not yet registered for Homecoming/Family Weekend you have until Thursday, September 20 to purchase your tickets for $20.00, after that the price increases.
32. CAB meets right in here tomorrow, September 19 at 5:00pm. Thanks!
33. **Shane Stocker**: What exactly is going to happen at homecoming? What would you be buying tickets for?
34. **Matthew Howe**: It’s a weekend long event. Starts Thursday, October 18 and goes until Saturday, October 20. It’s just a bunch of different events. You can actually go on the Westfield home page and type in homecoming and it will show you the list.
35. **Mitchell McKittrick**: About the trivia, are there prizes for second and third or are the Owl Bucks only go to first place?
36. **Matthew Howe**: It is just first place.
37. Campus Activities Board: **No Report**
38. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No Report**
39. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **Annamarie Jackson**
40. Hi my name is Anna and this year I am the com Fund Representative, Which basically means I help with the Blood Drive, and Turkey Drive throughout the year. Our first Blood Drive is Wednesday, October 3 from 1:00pm until 7:00pm and I am looking for some volunteers. Volunteering counts for your office hours that week, and it looks great on resumes.
41. I am also looking for represntatives for the Community Relations and Fundraising Committee, so if you are interested please let me know.
42. SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Sammantha Dorazio/Courtney Smith**
    1. Executive Secretary Report: **Sammantha Dorazio**
43. The polls for the Class of 2022 elections are open and will remain open until Tomorrow, September 19 at 11:59 pm. voting is taking place on MyWestfield. Please make sure you pass the word along to people you know in the Class of 2022. It is really important that we get them involved. If anyone has questions about the Class of 2022 elections please see me after the meeting.
44. Hall elections also took place this week. Res Life will have the results to us soon.
45. Next week we will meet as a full senate.
    1. Legislative Secretary Report: **No Report**
46. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:
47. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No Report**
48. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**
49. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
    1. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No Report**
    2. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No Report**
    3. Advisory Committee on the CURCA: **No Report**
    4. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No Report**
    5. Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Affirmative Action: **No Report**
    6. College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Search: **No Report**
    7. College of Mathematics and Sciences Search Committee: **No Report**
    8. College of Education, Health and Human Services Search: **No Report**
50. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
51. Commuter Council: **No Report**
52. Senior Class: **No Report**
53. Junior Class**: No Report**
54. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
55. First Year Class: **No Report**
56. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
57. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
58. Davis Hall: **No Report**
59. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
60. Lammers Hall**: No Report**
61. Lansdowne Place: **No Report**
62. New Hall**: No Report**
63. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
64. University Hall: **No Report**
65. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
66. NEW BUSINESS: Moved and seconded to enter new business. Motion carries.
    1. Moved and seconded to Enter Executive Session.
67. **Cameron Swan**: Point of Information: Motion to go into Executive Session states that basically advisors and any quests would leave the room and it would just be the senate.
    1. Motion Carries.
    2. SGA discussed details of policy changes within the division of Student Affairs. On September 18, 2018. Tommy Howard, Joey Joyal and Luke Morrison were absent. Marcus Payne was excused.
    3. Moved and seconded to exit Executive Session. Motion Carries
    4. Moved and seconded to close New Business. Motion Carries.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   1. Cameron Swan: Can I see Representative at Large after the meeting, it will be really quick.
   2. **Marcus DiBacco:** 242 days until commencement**.**

1. ROLL CALL: Tommy Howard, Joey Joyal and Luke Morrison were absent. Marcus Payne was excused.
2. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please refrain from ANY cell phone use during the meeting.*

*Please also note that for accurate record keeping purposes, SGA meetings are recorded and kept on file by the SGA Executive Secretary.*