**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**Special Meeting**

**September 20, 2017**

1. ROLL CALL: Kelsey Kiltonic was absent and Katherine Lindberg sent an alternate.

 II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Brendan McKee**

1. Good evening everyone, thank you all for being here tonight and coming together to discuss this incredibly important matter at hand. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Brendan McKee and I am the Student Government President. To my left is my Executive Council. I would also like to recognize the administrative staff that is present for tonight’s meeting. Thank you for your time.
2. Before we get to our guest speaker I would like it to be stated loud and clear that Westfield State University and the members of its community do not condone racism, sexism, or hate speech of any kind. The fact that instances of racism, sexism and hate speech are still occurring on our campus us horrific and unacceptable, as no student or person should ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe just for being themselves.
3. I understand emotions are running very high right now, but I want to establish that our goals for this meeting are to allow voices to be heard in a civil, respectful manner and to communicate ideas that we as student leaders in this room can carry out to come together in unifying our campus.
4. The format of our meeting tonight will be as follows: we will start by having Aubri Alves and Kiara Dade speak in regards to the continued events that took place in New Hall, and then we will open the floor for 30 minutes to allow attendees to respectfully speak their minds about recent events. Following this, there will be another 20 minutes for discussion regarding how all of us as student leaders at Westfield can fight back against these continued acts of racism and hate speech to unite our campus for a common, positive culture.
5. Through discussions with administration, there will be an opportunity for future meetings to take place to further discuss the impact of these racist actions as well as the responsibility of all in the campus community when these actions occur. Therefore, if you do not have the opportunity to speak tonight, I urge you to take advantage of these future meetings to ensure that your voice is heard. Every single one of your voices is incredibly important, and as your elected student leaders, we want nothing more than to make sure that everyone of your thoughts, ideas and opinions are heard and taken into consideration.
6. I would like to introduce our speakers for tonight, Kaira Dade and Aubri Alves:
7. **Kiara Dade**: Hi, I’m Kiara and this is Aubri. We are going to talk to you guys a little bit about what happened in New Hall because I know some of you don’t know and some of you do know. Over the past three days we have come home to our apartment to racial slurs and degrading remarks written on our doors and door tag. They were very offensive and degrading to us as females and especially females of color. We felt really uncomfortable with how we don’t know who did it, it was an anonymous act. We were clearly targeted because no one else had anything on our doors and we decided together as a team last night that enough was enough and that it was time that we spoke up so the campus can take students of color more seriously with our concerns of how racism gets handled on campus. We want students to be held more accountable for the actions that they are taking and how they feel toward students of color on campus because we deserve to be here just as much as everyone else in this room.
8. **Aubri Alves**: First off I would just like to say if you know anybody who knows anything please say something. I’m not mad at whoever did it, it’s more upsetting that it continues to happen and nothing gets done. We know racism is there, but at the same time as a community it’s important for us to get together and fight it, it’s not something that we have to let go on and I want to give my biggest props to the President for responding so fast. We still have stuff going on after everything we went through today. We still have people doing the dumb things that they do. So for us to get together as a unit and walk outside those doors at 9:00pm and tell everyone out there that’s doing the dumb stuff that we are here as a unit, that’s the most important thing we can do right now. We are not here to play, we are fed up because at Westfield this is not who we are and that’s not who we are going to continue to be. I hope all of you, after this, walk out with us and stand as one around the globe. We’ll update everyone and know that we stand as one and you can continue to bullshit but we are going to continue to fight as one.
9. Thank you Kaira Dade and Aubri Alves. At this time, I would like to open the floor up to all of you to speak for the next 30 minutes in regards to these recent event on campus. I would like to say once more that this time should not be used for bashing members of the campus community, but rather as a means to be able to voice felling in a safe space with a room full of people supporting your statements. I open the floor for discussion.
10. **Sean Bacon**: I am an RA in Dickinson Hall. I have heard all about the events that have happened in New Hall today and I am extremely distressed about it. It’s just unacceptable at the fact that as I was leaving my hall today to go to the department meeting, where we were addressing this issue, I heard somebody say I don’t get the issue with the whole black lives matter thing, don’t all lives matter. It really upsets me that people don’t understand this matter today. This happened on our campus, we need to own it and we as student leaders need to take action. Don’t just stand by and let stuff like this slide because we see what happens when you let this stuff slide. It escalates and people are targeted and feel threatened in their own home. Nobody should feel threated in their own home and I will do everything I can in my position to educate people and discuss why this is not acceptable and why this should not be who we are. I just encourage you all here today, don’t ever be just bystanders because the more you speak up the more we can address this issue and this hatred.
11. **Arielyss Santiago**: In my four years here we’ve seen these kinds of things happen but never in this magnitude and we shouldn’t wait for things like this to happen. Just because something doesn’t directly affect you doesn’t mean you should brush it off and act like it’s not an issue. If we say we’re a campus community this should be something that we stand united on across the board. The fact that there are students who sit next to us in classrooms that are the people writing these things and think racism is ok. I have a right to be here just as much as the guy next to me. I worked my way to get here. Don’t ever let anyone make you feel like you’re only here because you are a minority that’s not what it’s about. Get involved and show everybody that we’re worth more than what people put us up to be. Stop brushing things off because this is happening to people next to you every day.
12. **Jon Kelland**: I have a message from Dick Lenfest and the Athletic Department: WSU Athletics is committed to providing support for our student athletes to allow them the opportunity to achieve high levels of performance in their sport and in the classroom. The Athletics Department also promotes leadership development, social responsibility, and be contributing members of the Westfield State community. Dick Lenfest, Nancy Bals, and Marlee Berg are meeting with SAAC members tomorrow and captains of selected teams. I can speak for my team and for everyone else in saying that Athletics is committed to excellence on and off the field and everyone is welcome down at Woodward and the Athletics Department.
13. **Mika Lapre**: I’m actually the Diversity and Inclusion Rep for SGA. These issues that have been brought up are very important to us and to me especially. I know that I haven’t gotten to speak with Aubri Alves or Kiara Dade about the incident, but I know that there are things that led up to it and I want to be your gateway to make things happen and make a difference. I don’t want you to think that you don’t have anybody to turn to or that your voice isn’t going to be heard. If even the smallest thing happens and you don’t feel comfortable or you feel like you were degraded and belittled you can always come to me and I will be your voice.
14. **Nyasia Valasquez**: I’m a senior now and my major is Ethnic and Gender studies. This is something that I have been studying for the past three years. I just want to put out there that as women we cannot let the patriarchy crush our beings it’s very important that we remember we are all here together as women and you are allowed to be sexual, you are allowed to be whoever you want to be. Who you are is allowed and I want everyone to know that I am here to love everyone and I need everyone else to know that you are supposed to be here so I need everyone to remember that, it’s very important.
15. **John Gawin**: I’m the President of the Black Student Union. This is obviously offensive to me and it’s more offensive the fact that it seems as though when the image of WSU of threatened is when things are addressed. Everybody knows that this is not the first time that this has happened. This is offensive not just because this happened, this is messed up because it’s the first time I’ve seen this before in my life at this school. All I’m saying is don’t make it something just because this is the thing to be right now. Other people are watching.
16. **Natel Lewis**: I actually graduated from here in 2012 and just want to know what progress has been implemented since I’ve been gone? Because like you said this is not a new thing so what is the school doing do get rid of this kind of behavior?
17. **Imani Hill**: Are we going to get an answer to that question? This is not something new. As John Gawin said the only reason we are in this room right now is because it looks bad on the professional staff. As staff we should feel like we’re supported and it’s ok to be ourselves. We shouldn’t have to walk into our Res Halls and see that plastered on our door or in the elevator. We shouldn’t have to see that at all. I’d like to know if there’s going to be an answer to that question because as she said it’s been happening since 2012. It’s 2017 is it going to change, are you all going to do something now?
18. **President Ramon Torrecilha**: I appreciate the question. Thank you for being here I think it’s important to acknowledge that what’s transpired here is unacceptable and I know the work ahead of us remains. That the institution has not replied and put into place a program to process this to deal with questions of inclusion. Access to education is one of our values, but access is not enough you have to have access and you have to support success and to support success you have to have an environment where everyone can succeed and everyone feels part of the community. I know the incidents that took place in the past few days does not reflect our values and does not reflect where we want to be as a community. But I want to be the first one to acknowledge that there is work to be done. I don’t have the magic answer to those questions and the issues of inclusions, it’s something that we have to do together and emphasize that as a community we stand as one. We don’t have a plan right now and these are things that we need to work on so what is happening here tonight and what will happen on Friday is the beginning. By all means this is not going to go away and you can have my word that this is something that we are going to work on together. I share your pain and I share your disappointment.
19. **Imani Hill**: I respect what you just said President Torrecilha. I don’t think it’s an inclusion issue, it’s a crime. It’s a hate crime at that. It’s directed predominantly at the students of color. It’s not an inclusion issue, it’s not at all. We don’t need that, we need the fact that somebody felt comfortable enough to even write it. It says a lot about our campus, it says a lot about the professional staff of this campus. I just don’t think it’s an inclusion issue sir, it’s a crime.
20. **John Gawin**: It seems so complicated. We are not asking you to fix racism, all we are asking is for you to care, just care about the issues more than other people do.
21. **Derek Estrella**: This is a message for the people who were not directly affected. I as a person of color and I’m sure that a lot of people of color can relate that I was uncomfortable on my first day coming to Westfield State. I was uncomfortable for several days. I have become comfortable with being uncomfortable here and I need you to understand that. I understand that you may not completely relate because you’re not a person of color, but imagine every day of your life coming to class and not being able to see representation of your people. Imagine how that feels, that doesn’t feel good you know. This is a predominantly white institution. We know better we should do better we all have to hold each other accountable. We have one another, which is all we have. Thank you.
22. **Ashley Deleon**: For those of who that have spoken so far, I’m sorry, I truly am, but I want you to know that the people in this room right now aren’t the people you have to convince. Everyone who came down here came because they care. We came down here to show our support and the problem is the people who don’t show their support. They’re the ones we have to get to and we can talk back and forth all night and say administration isn’t doing anything and you guys want a solution I understand that, but we’re the ones here for you. We called this special meeting for you because it was necessary. As someone who has worked in the President’s office for work study, I have been there for two administrations and I can tell you that 2012 was a completely different administration than it is now and we know that. I think, at this point, I am curious as to what you guys want. We can look at the administration and say “what are you doing?”, but I don’t know if they are going to have that plan that’s going to help everybody. Where do you want to start? We’re here we’re showing our support, I’m sorry that it’s taken us so long. I’m sorry that you’re going through this daily; it shouldn’t take one retweet for us to come down and show our support. I support you, everyone here I supports you. I know we have worked hard to get here so where do we go now?
23. **Brian Palmer**: I’m also from the class of 2012. This is painful. I can hear you guys talking and I can feel your pain. This is an experience that is not unique and even before that when we were students the alumni were coming in and relaying their experiences to us. What you have going on at 9:00pm is a really good first step for what’s next. I’m happy to see that everyone here, right now, talking about this and you have decided that this is your campus this is your home and you are taking it back for yourself. I just want to applaud everyone who has spoken and who has organized this and used their voices because our voices are the most powerful weapons that we have. When you leave school you’re going to face this, I hear this with my coworkers and management. These problems are that big and I think the same approach to speaking up and speaking out is just as powerful. So I just encourage you guys to continue to do that.
24. **Luvron Brice**: I’m a first year here. But I just also wanted to say that we also have typical standards. Like for example I am the only person of color running for President of my Class and I just feel like at first a little bit defeated because I just felt like there was more of them then there is me. But at the same time I just feel like you can’t show the fear or show that you feel like they have a one up on you because really we’re all unique in our own ways and we have to embrace each other’s diversity and each other’s inclusions. At first I was ready to cry because I didn’t like my government class, but over time when I realized I can’t just run away from everything I have to face stuff it just made me feel more stronger and now in the class when I speak out it’s more educating people on what it is they don’t know or are uneducated about. I just feel the more we educate people on being open minded to each other things will progress and move on.
25. **Julia Santos**: What I would like to see, especially from the administration, is that people are held accountable for what they have done. I just feel like it’s not fair that people remain on our campus and community when they just disrespect our community and members of our community. I feel like I shouldn’t look behind me and see the person who just called me the “N” word.
26. **Aubri Alves**: I just spoke, but I have one last thing to say. She asked what do we do from here right? Let’s figure out what’s protocol? When Public Safety gets called and we say we got racial slurs on our door, what’s protocol? They come and take a report, but what do they do after that report? I sat there with Kiara Dade next to me and I asked them, “are you ever going to catch the person?” and they said, “I don’t know, there’s really not much we can do.” There’s no cameras in Residence Halls, we don’t have cameras across campus. We have cameras in the parking lot of course. We have to pay $100 to park for what? What’s going to happen there? What’s so important when everything that happens is where we are? What’s protocol? What can we do from here? What can you do for us for and what can we do for you all to understand where we’re coming from, why we’re so hurt, why we’re so upset. What can we do to let you all understand because you all understand from the books point of view, but do you all understand from the reality? It’s not just about being book smart, it’s about understanding what’s going on here right now, tomorrow, and the next day, and so forth. In your classes you can have this discussion, it’s important to have this discussion. It changed my life having a discussion about racism, that’s why I’m here now. So we’re going to continue to fight like I said. We’re going to continue to put stuff out. We just need you all to be there right now. What can you all do for us right now, is be there.
27. **Remani Lizana**: I’m a freshman here. As you were saying before this is a hate crime so why is it not being treated like so? There is a mandatory course for alcohol prevention that everybody on campus has to take and on sexual assault, why is there not a mandatory course on racism? Like you were saying before the people here right now are the people who care, the people who are not here are the ones who need the message. Before I got here I moved in one day early to take Ashiah Richeme’s diversity class. The only people who were there were people of color, that’s it. We understand that we need to educate ourselves, but the people who are not here need to be educated as well. So what are we going to do about the people that are not here and need to hear the message?
28. **Gileny Alvarado**: Based off of what the last two people have said, I feel like it’s not something that us people of color have to educated other people. I feel like allies have to educate too just because it’s not affecting you doesn’t mean you have to keep your mouth shut. It’s up to you, if you hear someone that you relate to because of your race and you hear them say something you don’t have to stay shut just because it’s not directed at you. It’s your job to educate them and say that’s not right.
29. **Phil Dimenez**: I transferred from Cape Cod Community College and when I first heard this I was really upset and I just pray this gets resolved and trust in my higher power and I think we should stand together because there’s a lot going on in the world and people are suffering and this is unacceptable.
30. **Natel Lewis**: You have the power to control certain things and implementing policies. People need to understand that when you do something like this it isn’t without consequence. Something needs to be done so that people discouraged from doing this in the future.
31. Our time for this discussion is up, thank you to all who were able to share their thoughts and speak their minds. These last 20 minutes now shift the focus as to how everybody in this room can come together and work for that goal of unifying the campus in a time of disunion. This is an opportunity to speak your mind about ways we can fight back against this intolerable behavior that is entirely against what we as human being are about. I open the floor for discussion.
32. **Alyssah Delgado**: I’m the Vice President of Multicultural Student Association. You guys are asking for a solution, but I think the most important things is that we’ve got to stand together. We can’t do this by ourselves. When I see this kind of stuff it breaks my heart. Not one of us can fix this, we all have to fix this so we have to stick together guys.
33. **Crystal Vazquez**: I’m a sophomore here. I think the first thing that needs to be done is this needs to be acknowledged more than what it is right now. I’ve been here for two years and I’ve seen other incidents that haven’t been reported yet and it’s not just with race. All race, gender, and sexuality crimes need to be noted and need to be acknowledged. We need to know that we are supported here and we will not be pushed aside and feel as though are voices are not heard. So I think that’s the first step that we need to do.
34. **Derek Estrella**: I would just like to hear from the faculty and staff that have showed up today. Just thoughts, feelings, what you guys want to do.
35. **Kiara Dade**: In res halls if you chip paint on the door you get fined. You have a little dent in the door you get fined. I feel like writing, scribbling in the elevator, writing on the walls, and vandalizing doors that’s destruction of property and I feel like the whole building needs to get fined. Sorry not sorry. That’s basically what’s it come to. People are damaging our building. I feel like basically that’s definitely a solution that needs to be discussed with Res Life staff. Send a message and maybe it will cut down a bit.
36. **Bryan Pimentel**: I think going forward that we can’t forget that this happened because I feel a lot of time with these issues people gather and then a week later no one’s talking about it, no one’s doing anything, nobody cares and then people get comfortable enough to do it again. So going forward we need a reminder that we are all together here and we all belong here and we can’t get to the point where people are comfortable to do this again. We have to remain united.
37. **Chris Mansini**: I just wanted to kind of talk about solutions and to really get to the solution you need to address the problem and that is the racists that are doing this. The only reason they are doing this is because they feel comfortable doing this and you really have to turn that against them. You need to realize that the racists are the minority here and those are the ones we need to turn against racists. They are the minority we need to target and change their minds. We just need to realize that they are the problem.
38. **Tori Lind**: This is kind of a question for faculty going forward. I want to know if the faculty are going to be having a discussion in their classes about what happened.
39. **Zuleyka Contreras**: I’m the HRA of Scanlon Hall. I just want to make this clear we’re tired of the sympathy, we’re tired of you being sorry for us. We are tired of this, we want your activism that’s what we want. Stop feeling sorry for us, we hate that, stop doing it. That’s all I have to say.
40. **Erica Burton**: I’m a first year student. I just wanted to second the motion about have a Haven course on this. Why can’t we make these racists sit down and think about their actions and what they believe?
41. **Maddie Creamer**: I’m the Senior Class President. I guess my question is in regards to student conduct, what changes will be made because we took an oath at New Student Orientation that we were going to treat each student with dignity and respect and what I’ve seen is not dignity and respect and these people can’t get away with anymore warnings. Warnings don’t change actions and we need to make a change right now.
42. **Allen Noguiera**: I’m a senior here at Westfield State and I’m the president of a new club on campus that stands for activism, it stands for Inclusive Advancement of Multicultural Students. So one of the things we really want to focus on is inclusiveness so we’re talking about solutions and how we can help the black people here. One of the things that can help us out is recognition. Being here on this campus we don’t get recognized. So supporting the clubs here, supporting the students here will help us feel more comfortable on this campus, will help us be more involved.
43. **Imani Hill**: I just have a quick question. I personally have had multiple encounters with a faculty member that has been racist towards me. I would just like to know how you go about that when you say something and report it. I think another part of solving this is dealing with the faculty that are a part of it. Because it’s not just the students, it’s faculty members. I just want to know how we deal with that when you have a staff member that’s racist. How do you go about that?
44. **Derek Estrella**: Once again I want to encourage faculty and staff to say something. Please take the time to say something, it’s very hard to catch any one of you on this campus at any moment and you’re here now. We want you here now and we would like to hear from all of you.
45. **Shayna Arnott**: I think that having something how we do the Haven courses is a great thing, but we have one for alcohol awareness and people still go to the hospital because of alcohol. We have one for sexual assault and people still get raped on this campus and it’s not talked about. So it’s not the only solution if we do something like this course. We need other things to happen.
46. **Nick Cream:** I am the RD for Courtney hall and I’m white. So I wanted to say that because initially in the beginning we just had pretty much all people of color speaking and I appreciate you all sharing your stories. My sense is that white supremacy is being named on this campus and white supremacy is not going to be dismantled until white people engage in dismantling it and I think we need to start to name it for what it is because white supremacy dies here. And people are saying that this is not us and personally I don’t really know who we are. That’s real to me, I’ve worked here for a little over two years and every single semester something happens and that’s only the stuff that gets reported so I can only imagine the stuff that’s getting talked about behind closed doors. So, my message as a white person is that I need to do internal work myself and we need to get the people that are doing this stuff because racists aren’t the problem white supremacy is the problem. It’s here and it’s alive and we need to dismantle it.
47. **Ashiah Richeme**: I just want to go back to the question of what we’ve been doing and what we’ve done and give some examples of what we are doing. And I just want to say that at times just because you don’t see it doesn’t mean we aren’t doing something or we’re not trying. We are doing the best that we can to do something, but if you feel like we aren’t giving you enough follow-up then challenge us and say so. We have been working to address white fragility. Nick Cream does a training on white fragility. We’re going to departments to do training on racial macroaggressions. Remani talked about the program that we did in the beginning of the summer and it was about how to be successful at a predominantly white and heterosexual campus. To our allies in the room, it’s going to be uncomfortable to challenge your mother, father, your boss to say hey that’s a macroaggression, that’s racist, that’s sexist. But you have to because all of the movements that happened were successful because a privileged person spoke up and moved the movement along. So, yes the people that we want to be in this room are here, but when you leave this room where does that activism go? Utilize us because we don’t know. Half the time something happens it doesn’t get reported because you’re afraid nothing’s going to happen; it will get swept underneath the rug. So please regardless if you feel like nothing’s going to happen say something to someone so we can be an advocate for you. And if you feel you said something to someone and it didn’t go anywhere there’s someone above that person that you can go to. Because we have our degrees, this degree belongs to you and we want you to give back and to come back to support the Owls nation community. So we are here for you and trustfully we are fighting all of us, some of us have been here since 6:00am and we are still here. Believe that we believe in you and are here for you.
48. **Susan Leggett**: I am standing here today in a couple of roles, I am faculty, I stand here as a parent, I stand here as interim Dean of Faculty, and I stand here as a human grateful for the hearing space that you have created here as students tonight to share. When teaching critical theory the first thing we say is the most important first step is to document the world as it is so that we might imagine the world as it might be. So that’s where we are right now with your voices and your stories. You’re telling the stories, you’re documenting the world as it is and it is our responsibility to take that forward as faculty, as humans, as administrators, as students, as parents. To move that forward and faculty today have been contacting the Provost’s office, contacting people on campus, asking what happened I want to talk about it in my classes. We have, as Ashiah Richeme has spoken about, workshops to try and work with faculty on how is it that we actually create proactively positive spaces, which are in fact safe. So we realize we are a predominantly white campus so when students of color walk in to the room that’s the way it is right now and how can that possibly be a safe space, how do we work with that. So faculty are involved in trying to create space in their classrooms as well as adjusting and changing and deepening and developing curriculum that is more reflective of teaching and learning in the world that we actually live in, not the fantasy of the world that might be some kind of ivory tower that doesn’t actually exist. If there is something that happens in a classroom or someplace please tell someone who has the capacity to speak with that person. I’m standing in front of you as a white person I realize I might not be the first person you choose to come talk to, I hope you will come tell me because I can call faculty in to talk to them about this is an experience that someone had in your space. And I think that’s all I have to say.
49. **Vice President Parvis Ansari**: I am the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Let me tell you this, it really aches my heart deeply that something like this happened. We don’t deserve that, we are better, and certainly as a community we have to accept that this is not what we can tolerate. It is a crime, we have to call it a crime and we have to find a way to punish those people that think it is ok to do this, but more importantly we have a commitment to ourselves in being sure that we are coming together as one voice, supporting each other, making sure that we are resisting all the nonsense all the things that are happening around us in one voice. I’m very proud to say that despite this very ugly incident the university wanted to let you know that we acknowledge the pain you go through and wanted to show that we really care and are with you. Being with you is only part of the picture because you need more than that. We need solutions and we need answers. Education does not begin and end in a classroom. It begins with our hearts, it begins with our minds, it begins with the way you talk to people, it begins with the way we relate to our neighbors, friends, and everyone that is in the community. We can’t change the world, but we can change the world around us. We have a duty to ourselves to making sure we stand committed and united as one group and we have people who care about you because as Ashiah Richeme said just because you don’t see things happening doesn’t mean they aren’t happening. We need your support as well. Keep in mind that our first commitment to you and the University is your success. The University is about you, therefore we want to go about making sure that you feel comfortable, you feel supported, and you feel like this is your home away from home. So on that note is there is anything that we can do for you please do not hesitate; you can always call my office. We care about your well beings and that’s why I really want to thank SGA for having this discussion for all of us to come together and show solidarity. Today is just the beginning; don’t think that once you are out of this room your job is done, our job is done. Our job has just begun, we have to find ways to go forward together and I want to thank everybody for voicing your concerns and talking about what you think and allowing us to learn about your pains and your solutions. Thank you.
50. **Dori Dorvilier**: I’m the RD of Scanlon Hall. I just wanted to remind you that as a staff member of color I’m going through it with you. Don’t think that I’m against you, don’t think that I don’t see you. I’m going through it with you, that same faculty member, that same staff member that’s going against you is going against me. Alright that same student that’s going after you is saying the same things to me. So that pain that you’re feeling, I’m feeling that same pain. So I don’t want you to think that I’m not here to support you, I am and I’m feeling everything with you. The way I support my students in my office is always open. I’m always running around campus just trying to make sure students know that I am there for them. That’s how I’m supporting them and that’s the work that I am doing and how I’m an activist on this campus. I’m not quite so I speak my mind and I speak my truth and I’m going to continue to do so. So I just wanted to remind everybody that I’m here with you I’m experiencing the same pain with you and I will always be with you.
51. **Larry Johnson**: I am the Director of Non-discrimination compliance here at the University. It seems that I have the opportunity on many occasions to introduce myself to folks and yet I must be failing in some way because there are still questions about where these issue and where these reports should be sent. I’m responsible for overseeing investigations of this nature and I’m so glad that I’ve had an opportunity to be here though I may be the last to speak here. I get reports regarding incidents of this nature and incidents of sexual misconduct. They come from my office and there are wonderful people on campus who help investigate these. Do the outcomes of these investigations always meet the expectations of all the parties involved, no because they are fact driven and some parameters that we work though, but I will say we have removed people from this university for conduct that is similar to what has happened here. I want to ask for your help for facts, for information. Put your ears to the ground, someone’s doing this, I wasn’t in the residence hall last night when this was going on, but someone knows. Please pass on that information or whatever information you have on this so that we can move forward. Start holding people accountable, although holding people accountable for this one incident that we have indicated here is not the answer, but it’s a start and then we begin the healing beyond that.
52. Thank you all for sharing your thoughts and bringing these ideas forward. From here, our goal as Student Government Association is to gather all of your input and work towards implementing positive change on campus. You can expect a letter to campus sent from the Student Government Executive Board tomorrow, September 21 in regards to these events*.* Additionally, we will take all of your compiled input and find ways to work with all of you to start promoting beneficial change on campus, with the goal being to ensure that every student here at Westfield feels welcome and comfortable at all times. If you have any further comments or concerns you would like to talk about tonight, feel free to reach out to me or any of my executive board members after the meeting.
53. Thank you all for attending and speaking on such an important topic, I hope to be working with many of you soon to start moving things in the right direction.
54. Items not listed on Agenda*:*
55. NEW BUSINESS:
56. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
57. Arielyss Santiago: 9:00pm by the globe.
58. ROLL CALL: Kelsey Kiltonic was absent and Katherine Lindberg sent an alternate.
59. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

*To ensure the courtesy of others,*

*Please turn off your cell phone before the meeting*