**Student Government Association Minutes**

September 22, 2015

1. ROLL CALL: Christian Capalbo was absent and Casey Hiltz sent an alternate. Michael Janchuk was excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 15, 2015: Minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Evelyn Dina*
4. Hello everyone. We have our first speakers tonight. We have Dr. Marsha Marotta the Vice President of Academic Affairs along with Dr. Holly Noun from the Movement Science Department and Associate Dean Dr. Jennifer Hixon. They would like to speak with you all about the new proposed Physician’s Assistant program.
5. **Dr. Marsha Marotta**: Good afternoon everyone, welcome back to another school year. I know you haven’t seated your residence halls yet, and we’re happy to come back another time, if you have more questions or if you think that the larger group would have question. We’re talking about more than just the Physician’s Assistant, we filed with the governance the intent to establish a Department of Health Sciences that would be new at Westfield, and in that department will be three programs under construction.
6. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, which is the farthest developed at this point, as it is ready to go to the Graduate Education Council, which is the body in governance that deals with Graduate Programming.
7. We have an undergraduate major in Health Sciences.
8. We also have the EMT program.
9. That’s a lot of programming, which is why we decided we need a new department.
10. I think you all know there are a lot of jobs in the healthcare field, so we would like to help prepare our students for jobs. This is an area, which in Western Massachusetts, is also key because of the state of healthcare in Western Massachusetts and the shortage of healthcare providers; so we feel like this is not just helping prepare our students for jobs, but also fulfilling our mission as a public institution and the particular public institution that Westfield is.
11. If we create this PA program, it will be the first public PA program in New England. It is a lot of work to put these programs together, so you can see why that might be the case, but because the graduate program is a program in the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, it will be a self-supporting program. It will charge a tuition that’s far higher than what any of you pay, but also far higher than what any of our other graduate programs cost, because it’s an expensive program to put on; however, you will get a job, 100% employment I think Jen Hixon will tell you when she gets up here.
12. If you get that degree and pass the national exam, you pretty much guarantee the job, and I don’t want to overstate this, but $90,000 to $100,000 out the door easily so it’s a good field to be in.
13. The PA program is a two-year program, and then we have the undergraduate major. We have a lot of students on campus who are already trying to do this so they can go to some sort of medical professional program after they graduate from Westfield, whether it’s PA, OT, PT, any of those and so on, they’re already putting it together, but it’s not on the transcript by the courses. This will provide for them what they need on their transcript, this Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Major.
14. Then the post-bac program is another DGCE program, which helps students who either try to raise their GPA, their science classes are old, they didn’t take enough science classes, now they want to do this kind of work when they graduate.
15. We’ve had EMT on campus for a while; it hasn’t really had a home so it would have a home in this department.
16. The intent to establish a department is in governance now, it’s in the curriculum committee, the PA program is going to GEC, the Undergraduate Health Science Major is going to AUC and Curriculum Committee, and all of these committees have student members.
17. I would like Jennifer Hixon and Holly Noun to speak to you all now, and then we will answer any questions about the programs.
18. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: Good afternoon everybody and thanks for the invitation. Great to see all of you. I know you might have questions about the program, and I’ll be happy to answer those, but let me tell you about myself and the intent of the program, and what’s been established. I’ve been a PA for 30 years, I guess that makes me one of the founding grandmothers of the program, and it is certainly life-changing. Starting a public Physician’s Assistant Program in New England has really been an ambition of mine forever. I have been in an academic setting as a program director for over 20 years, I have trained hundreds of PA’s at public and private institutions, and they’re out in practice. Every one of them, that I spoke to, even when I was leaving my last department, when I told them what my intent was, to start an affordable public program, they cheered from a student’s perspective. Maybe they just wanted to get rid of me, I don’t know, but the point is that I think this is long overdue. It has been sorely missed in our state and all of New England states for a long time. When speaking at the State House to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, she looked at me and she said, ‘why hasn’t anyone done this already?’ so I’m here, intently interested in developing this program for you, the public school students of Massachusetts, UMass, Westfield State, all the public institutions.
19. The program is 24 months in length, the curriculum has been designed, it is someone innovative, it is modular-based, it is system based, and it is fast, furious, and very difficult. But that is every PA program in the country; it’s like taking a drink of water from a fire hydrant, so this is not for the lighthearted. I will tell you that at the end of the road it is life changing, and I hope we can offer some solutions in our regions for all of the healthcare problems we have in Western Mass. and the state, doing it in an affordable fashion for the first time in all of these years in our region. Thanks, and we’ll be back.
20. **Dr. Holly Noun:** I’m bringing up the caboose. The one thing I want to add to what Marsha and Jen are saying is that it’s not just the presence of these programs that will be special for our University or Western Massachusetts. It’s actually going to be what is unique about each program that is going to separate us from our sister institutions, that have Health Science programs that basically serve as vessels to earn your prerequisites to go to professional programs in PT, OT, PA, and the like. What we have as part of our programs, and I think Dr. Hixon didn’t go into a lot of detail, but there are specific aspects of her PA program that were designed to address the health needs of Western Massachusetts, specific and unique to Western Massachusetts. The Health Sciences program that we have goes beyond that sort of blanket prerequisites to say we’re going to give you or work with you to develop a set of skills so that you can communicate in an inter-professional way with other health care practitioners so that you can prevent medical errors. What is the number one cause of medical errors, anywhere? The number one cause of error within the healthcare system is lack of communication or miscommunication. That’s what that has become, and folks, one of the exciting things that we’re doing is this is growing from grass roots, this was faculty members sitting in chemical and physical sciences three years ago saying ‘holy smokes, what are we going to do about the growing population of students that all need Chemistry I?’ Well, where the heck are you going to fit, right? So, how are we going to service the needs of those of you who are trying to do this already, and give chairs of departments ways of knowing where you are and who you are so that we can advise you appropriately, so that you can optimize your time and education here. So, this isn’t just about having these programs, because gang, if you go on the internet and look at our sister schools, you’ll see health sciences all over the place. Out here in Western Mass., almost every school has a Health Sciences program. I promise you not one single school can do what our program will do to prepare you for the healthcare world that’s out there, and our changing healthcare system. I can’t even begin to go about explaining the importance of the link or the bridge that health sciences can serve between our Undergraduate Programs here and the PA program that Dr. Hixon is leading for us. One more thing, one of the important rules of a public institution is to be a catalyst, to help solve public problems. I think that’s one thing we can agree on; it’s one of the important aspects of the public university. The biggest problem we have, not just in Western Massachusetts although, it’s sort of focused in Western Massachusetts, is health and access to health. Some of that is education, we just need more practitioners. It seems like a no brainer to me. Questions would be fantastic.
21. **Haley Batchelder:** You said that prices would be more than the usual master’s program at Westfield, does that apply to the undergrad major as well, or is it just the Master’s program?
22. **Dr. Marsha Marotta**: Just the master’s program. The undergrad major will be the same as whatever the tuition is for whatever anyone else pays. One of the things I should add about the master’s program is that it will bring revenue into the university. We will make an investment in the program, it will pay back that investment, and it will bring revenue in in a couple of ways. One way is any DGCE program has to return 20% of what it makes and brings in to the University; so at a time when the State is giving us less and less, this is going to be important to us. Also, as the State turns to performance funding for State Universities, that means you get credit for graduating students who get jobs in healthcare. So the Health Sciences major and the PA program will give us credit toward that, and that will ensure a little more state aid than we’d otherwise be getting**.**
23. **Brendan McKee:** What are the requirements to get into the Graduate PA program; are there certain under graduated degrees needed in order to be accepted into this program?
24. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: The PA program will require specific course work, so 30 credits of sciences in there, some specifics, which would make sense. Anatomy and Physiology, Micro, Genetics, Biochemistry. We would also require a course in Psychology, preferably in Abnormal Psych, but not necessarily, and Ethics and Statistics. Now, there are not many programs in the United States that require Ethics, but I think that should be a message, that we should put ourselves forward on the right foot and show what we would expect of a graduate student from Westfield State University. So, those are the coursework specifics, there are also other requirements; 500 hours of patient care contact. That’s about entering students understanding what a sick person looks like, it isn’t about the medicine because I’m going to teach them that, it is about being able to interact with someone who is a patient. And they also will be required to do a personal statement as part of the application, and that personal statement is the most important exercise as a graduate, any student can do it applying to graduate school, so that’s a really important pre-req. Institutionally, if GREs are required, we would do that, although they do not correlate to success in a PA program. It doesn’t correlate to success on the boards, so why should I make you do it?
25. **Brendan McKee**: A student does not need a specific major or degree, just as long as their classes fit the curriculum?
26. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon:** Actually, PA programs tend to attract people from all majors so it could be someone that’s an Engineering student, or it could be an English teacher that wants to change their career. Provided they have this coursework, which is partly why we created the Post-Bac program, because it will give the student without the appropriate degree all the courses they would need to apply. Major doesn’t matter; typically, it’s Biology, Movement Science, Pre-med, Nursing, but not required for Westfield’s program.
27. **Jon Kelland**: I’m just curious as to if there would be any hiring of additional faculty, any specific numbers?
28. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: Of course, so the RPA requires a Program Director, three additional faculty and a Medical Director. The Medical Director does not have to be full time. There will probably be two other staff members, also required by the RPA, so these are mandates from our accrediting agency. Two out of the three must be Physician Assistants, and the third one could be all sorts of other things.
29. **Shannon Cullinane**: You were saying how the PA program is really expensive in private institutes and you want it to become public, so what would be the difference, how much is it for a PA Masters at private compared to what we would offer here?
30. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: The price is hard because so many institutions are across the price line. We certainly would hope to shoot for 30% less, we are still a couple years off, so that may grow to be even more, depending on what other people do with their tuition, but it’ll be less. I will tell you after working in all those very expensive private institutions, not one time did I have a student withdraw for financial reasons, because the amount of loan money available for graduate students becoming PA’s is basically unlimited, because they know you’re going to graduate, get a job that pays about $100,000 a year and you’ll have the ability to pay it back. Again, my whole goal to do this is to create a more affordable pathway for you.
31. **Andrew Morin**: Knowing how competitive these kinds of programs are, I’m wondering how many seats there will be in the Undergraduate Program as well as the Master’s Program.
32. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: The PA program will start with 24. It’s a great number because you can have three groups of eight, four groups of six, six groups of four, two groups of twelve, it’s a magic number. We hope to grow to 30, but I hope not to be much bigger. Medicine is an intimate thing to teach, you can’t just keep adding seats in the auditorium because at the end, we answer to patients. All of those 30 people are going to have my name on their certificate, so believe me I’m going to know that they can do it when they get out. So small, intimate rounded in excellence. It will be competitive, but the idea is to create this for the public institution student.
33. **Dr. Holly Noun**: One of the important aspects of the Undergraduate Program is that it is multidisciplinary. In this program we have a Communication course, a Medical Anthropology course Out of Ethnic and Gender studies, Psych courses, Movement Science courses, Biology courses, Math courses, and rightly so because we hope to draw students from each of these majors and make it accessible. The answer to the cap for students is a tricky one because you balance it with resources. We already know there’s a population of students on campus that need these courses, so is that population the same size of say, a population of 24, which is an awesome number, cohort? It’s larger than that. We have to balance where these departments with classrooms and faculty members and things like that, so we can manage this as we go. Is there an ability to manage so that this can grow in a reasonable way? Absolutely, we just have to do so carefully, to make sure we identify the students and make sure they are in a multidisciplinary communications circle with all of the departments involved to manage the resources in that way. 24 is sort of the magic number for the classroom because of the multiple ways you can split the groups up, this is a multidisciplinary inter-professional teamwork exercise to most effectively serve patients.
34. **Ryan Losco**: Right now we are in the process of getting through committees and governance; I was just wondering what the plan is to launch the program, what the start date will be for the graduate program and the undergrad program.
35. **Dr. Marsha Marotta**: For the graduate program, because that’s about to go to GEC probably next week, we would hope to open in June of 2017. That’s our goal; however, that depends on when we can have our site visit for provisional accreditation. We have to have that site visit before we can open. If we can’t get that done in time to open, then we can open in January of 2018 or June of 2018. Our preference is if we can move through the schedule that we have set, which goes through the governance process, the board of trustees, the department of HigherEd and board of HigherEd of Massachusetts, and we have to go to the national accrediting agency, RPA. For the undergraduate major, if this makes it through governance this academic year, it can start in the fall of 2016 with the opening of the new
Science and Innovation center, which is fabulous timing. The Post-Bac program is kind of attached to that as well, the Health Science Undergrad program does require State approval because it is a new major, but the Post-Bac program doesn’t have to go to the State so it just piggybacks on the undergrad program.
36. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: I would just like to add to that, rest assured that at my prior institution, I had to go through the Department of HigherEd, through that provisional site visit without citation, so I know what to do and I’m prepared to do it. It’s a lot of work, so it’s not being downplayed in anyway, I want you to have the confidence to know that we can do it.
37. Brendan McKee: I was confused about how the implementation of all of these new programs would play in with related majors such as Nursing, AT, and Exercise Science, in the sense of changes relating to those degrees, how their curriculum is set up, and the people that try to enter those programs. For example, the Nursing degree now is Nursing and Allied Sciences, and I’ve heard that it’s being changed to Nursing only. Basically, does this have any effect on what these specific majors already have going for them?
38. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: From the graduate perspective, we certainly would welcome Nursing, AT, and Exercise Science students to apply to the program as it sound like a perfect fit. I specifically chose the prerequisites so that students that are here would be able to take every course that’s required. I don’t care about anyone else really; if they have to take Ethics at another institution, let them. I chose those pre-requisites by what I needed from academic knowledge to enter the program and what they absolutely could get as undergraduate students here at Westfield. From a graduate perspective, nobody has to change anything.
39. **Dr. Marsha Marotta**: I would initially say it wouldn’t change anything for nursing majors. The name of the department will change because we never populated Allied Health and we decided that these programs could use a different department, it makes more sense. It won’t change Movement Science or Biology majors, it will offer, to those students who want to, a double major or a minor or, they might switch their major. We have a lot of students right now who are Liberal Studies majors who are putting together three areas; Biology, Movement Science, and Psychology so that they can do what the Health Sciences program will allow them to do. Instead of them cobbling it together with their degree saying Liberal Studies, they will have an organized program of studies that says Health Sciences, which is what a lot of the grad schools like to see.
40. **Dr. Holly Noun**: The population most impacted would be Movement Science; the key is Sports Medicine students are the population that’s primarily doing this right now. The beauty of this is that it provides a more clear delineation for them, the students that want to remain with the physically active and athletic population will stay in our department in Sports Medicine doing those courses with the rest of our department. The students who really want more general practice positions, be it PA, Med school, etc., will be able to. If they want to completely switch, they can, but if they want the double major, they can also do that. We have a small semantics problem on campus, if I were to talk to each of you about all of your friends that are trying to do this, they’re all probably speaking a slightly different language as to how they’re managing it, this is a way to make those semantics and the language a bit more streamlined. If it makes sense here, more than likely it’s going to make sense in the world, grad schools, etc.
41. **Jon Cubetus**: I was wondering, I know that this program, at least the undergrad Health Sciences degree, is aimed more towards the 200 or so student who are making their own degree out of it, but the attractiveness of the program, such as it being the only one in a public institution in New England and the affordability of it, I’m just curious as to how that’s going to play out for enrollment and acceptance of students. Are we going to be more of a selective institution because of the more people who see our program and our statement as a professional program? I’m just curious as to how that plays out, because I know right now it’s more aimed towards the group that we already have, but I’m kind of hesitant to say it won’t attract new people.
42. **Dr. Holly Noun**: Two things with that, it’s happening already, and I keep telling the Movement Science students the moons are in alignment, I mean the world is catching on that physical activity is the key to health and wellness along with prevention to disease treatment. We are a professional program that values immensely our liberal arts core, which makes us different from other institutions, in particular the private institutions. The one thing I will say is Dr. Hixon’s program is the only public program in New England; everybody’s got a Health Sciences program, public private, Pshh. Ours is better, so of course they should come here. So it’s not a question without merit, how do we manage that incoming population, but I would argue we do it in the same way we’re doing it now. Students that applied to Movement Science that don’t get in because it’s full, they are the students that come in and do the Liberal Studies, or they’re the undeclared students that try to get it when we’re still full and they do the Liberal Studies. I really believe in my gut that we’re already seeing this population come in this year. It’s just going to be a different way to manage it.
43. **Dr. Marsha Marotta**: I would just add to that, Jon, that the intent of the Health Sciences undergrad major is not to grow the size of the University, but it could very well end up raising us up, our status, average GPA, all of that, because of who might come here because of us offering the program this way, and because of the PA after grad program. We’re not intending to grow the University with this, I’m not saying the University is not going to grow; when we have a new President coming in, we have no idea what the future holds in some ways, but that’s not the intent of this program.
44. **Ryan Losco:** In some schools, if you want to get a Law degree, you can do your undergraduate and get your Law degree at the same institution. Are there any plans to do that sort of bridge program where you come in as an undergrad, you do your Health Sciences, and then you move onto the graduate program and end up with two degrees in four years opposed to five or six?
45. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon:** First of all, the amount of content required would never allow it to happen in four years. Programs have done it; Springfield has done it in five years, three plus two. To tell you the truth right now, the employers in our area don’t want that student anymore; that graduate. They want a more mature student, so Springfield recently changed their program to actually a four plus three, so they are now a seven-year entry-level program. The model currently is that it will be a graduate stand-alone program, so all students would have to go through the application process. Most likely, because of that patient care requirement, all those things must be satisfied before a student is able to apply, so it may be undergrad year, gap year and then apply as a more typical model. I will tell you that, calling the employers in the region; that is the graduate they want.
46. **Ryan Losco**: How long is the program set up to take?
47. **Dr. Jennifer Hixon**: Twenty four months, two years. It’s an academic year and a clinical year. The second year is in the community in its entirety, so you work full time as a PA student, 40 to 60 hours a week if you’re in a surgical environment. It’s a big chunk.
48. Thank you Dr. Marotta, Dr. Noun and Dr. Hixon.
49. I move to appoint Sandra Mercer as Representative at large for the 2015-2016 academic year. Motion carries.
50. For those interested PHENOM, the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts group is having their first interest meeting and kickoff event on Monday, October 5 at 5:30 pm in room 346. They’re going to be giving out information and gathering signatures of those interested in volunteering or working with them on issues such as increased tuition. Pizza will also be available and they just wanted to extend the invitation to SGA for anyone who is interested.
51. The Library is holding a website usability study and looking for student participants on Monday, September 28 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. There will be pizza and a brief research activity to help them in reorganizing the homepage for the Library. If anyone is interested, please see me after the meeting and I can send you the sign up link.
52. Items not listed on the agenda.

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Justin Connolly*
2. The Student Trustee will be sworn in at the SGA meeting on September 29.
3. **Shannon Cullinane**: Do we have to dress up for the Trustee’s being here next week?
4. **Justin Connolly**: The Trustee’s won’t be here, you won’t have to dress up.
5. All University Committee**: No Report**
6. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: Justin Connolly**
7. The Neighborhood Advisory Board met yesterday, September 21 at 5:00pm in Horace Mann. We had a brief visit from Dr. Carlton Pickron and Mike Knapik from the Foundation. Mike had come down to give his hellos and to catch the board up on what the Foundation is up to since the beginning of the school year.
8. Sargent Hall from the Westfield Police Department also attended and we had discussed the success of last year’s Downtown Neighborhood Social as well as started the early planning process for some of the neighborhood events.
9. If you are interested in joining Neighborhood Advisory, please see me after the meeting or email me at trustee.sga@westfield.ma.edu
10. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Matthew Carlin*
11. Hello everyone, I would like to remind everyone that the Parking Control Board will be having its first meeting tomorrow, September 23 at 3:00pm in the conference room next to Dunkin Donuts E003. If I could please see students that were interested in joining after the meeting, I will hand out the agenda.
12. I would like to mention that the deadline for student Conduct Board Applications has passed and that interviews will be starting tomorrow night September 23 and end on Thursday night September 24.
13. I am looking for a Student Representative for the Substance Advisory Committee; if you are interested please see me after the meeting.
14. I am looking for three additional members for the Student Affairs Committee, which meets about once a month on Friday at 2:30pm in the SGA conference room E020. Please see me after the meeting if you are interested.
15. Here are a few quick updates from the Student Affairs Committee meeting: The HAVEN program that every student must complete the first section of before October 31 has been taken by roughly 1600 students so far. Thank you to everyone who has taken it so far and please remind others to take it, there is still a good amount of students who haven’t. You do not want to be charged for it.
16. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
17. Multicultural Committee**: Ivana McGlinchey**
18. Sonia Sotomayor was on Wednesday, Sept 9 we took two buses full of student and the Westfield State Foundation sponsored five students and DISA director for the dinner.
19. Westfield alumni invited and waived registration fees for student to take part in the PR parade in Springfield two weeks ago on September 13. There were about 15 students, alumni Nestor and they also made Mass Live coverage.
20. At the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony the Westfield State Foundation invited and is sponsoring six selected student to attend the Springfield Latino Chamber of Commerce Heritage Gala on October 2.
21. This month is Hispanic/Latin Heritage month from September 15 to October 15 and today is the Latina Welcome Reception in the Scanlon Banquet Hall it is from 6:00pm until 7:30pm and there will be Puerto Rican food and drinks, so if you could stop by after meeting that would be great.
22. The Diversity and Inclusion committee will be meeting next Thursday, October 1 time and place is to be announced if you are interested in coming it is open to all student, please have them email me.
23. **Morgan Suddeth**: I just wanted to say that I went to the Sonya Sotomayor event and when we were walking through the auditorium, we were stopped and asked what school we were from. They said they were extremely proud of the representative from Westfield State, so props to everyone who went out, it was so fantastic.
24. Food Services Committee**: Andrew Manchino**
25. Hello everyone. I am excited to say this is my first report ever. So bear with me here. I have some information for you guys about the Real Food Challenge (RFC). I’ve spoken to Tlaloc Vasquez who works for the RFC. He wanted me to see if anyone on campus was interested in being a part of this. I have a brief explanation of what the RFC is: “The Real Food Challenge leverages the power of youth and universities to create a healthy, fair and green food system. Our primary campaign is to shift $1 billion of existing university food budgets away from industrial farms and junk food and towards local/community –based, fair, ecologically sound and humane food sources-what we call ”real food” by 2020. The Real Food Challenge also maintains a national network of student food activists-providing opportunities for networking, learning, and leadership development for thousands of emerging leaders.” So if anyone is interested about being a part of this let me know and I can put you in contact with Tlaloc Vasquez.
26. Sodexo offers a shoe string menu, which allows student groups to have catering events. Just contact Sodexo’s catering.
27. Friday, September 25 is National Pancake Day. So don’t expect any.
28. If you went to know more about what Sodexo is doing, check them out online.
29. **Jon Cubetus**: I noticed there were Farm Stands in the DC, are we going to see those more often?
30. **Andrew Manchino**: I will relay the message. As far as I know, they don’t have any more planned. After hearing positive feedback though, they’ll probably be more inclined to do so.
31. **Justin Connolly:** Point of Information**:** Today was a special fall harvest type of thing, but I’d love to see more of that.
32. **Ashley Deleon:** I live in an apartment so, I don’t really go to the DC too often, but I had a few complaints in my nutrition class today about the Banana Split sundae at the deli. They didn’t know the deli would be closed for it, and a lot of people at lunch rely very heavily on thedeli, I just wanted to relay that message.
33. **Andrew Manchino**: They just wanted to try something new, but I will let them know.
34. Our next scheduled meeting is September 22 at 4:00pm in the Tekoa Room.
35. Health Committee: **No Report**
36. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
37. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
38. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
39. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Marissa Cremin**
40. Hi everyone, I hope you’re all having a great week so far.
41. Our first blood bash is two weeks from tomorrow, October 7. Hopefully we can get about 100 students signed up t ogive blood, plus some walk in donors, and members of the community to have approximately 120 donors total. I’m going to pass around the paper for appointments and volunteering again tonight. Thank you to everyone who has already taken a time slot. I need some people to sit in the DC the days leading up to the blood drive to get donors signed up.
42. Also, to update you on the Community Relations and Fundraising Committee: it looks like we will most likely be meeting on Thursdays from 6:00pm until 7:00pm because this is the time that worked for most people, of those that showed interest. I am thinking of making Thursday, October 1 our first official meeting date and the location is to be announced. This committee can count as one of your official committees for SGA and we will be meeting twice a month. Please let me know if you’re interested in joining.
43. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Jon Cubetus*
44. Hello and welcome, everyone. I would like to first thank Vice President Marotta, Dr. Noun and Dr. Dixon for visiting us today. Your wealth of information is extremely helpful. Additionally, if anyone has any questions that they think of after the meeting or hear from other students, please feel free to send them my way and I will forward them if I do not have a compete answer. This new program will be a step in a new direction for the University and it is essential that all student voices and concerns are heard.
45. This past week, Curriculum Committee met to discuss a few housekeeping items, but the majority of our discussions revolved around the Health Sciences proposal and assessment of the Common Core. Questions were solicited from the members of the committee regarding the effects that Health Sciences will have on the University and are due to be answered more in-depth during our next meeting. Discussions of the Common Core assessment began with reports form the Special Committee on Core Assessment (SCCA) regarding English Composition. There was trouble with the overall definition of assessment and how the University should go about it in the future. Overall, assessment will be a large discussion of Curriculum Committee this year.
46. On another note, Academic Policies Committee Still needs one more student representative. APC will be meeting on alternating Thursdays and Fridays. Meetings on Thursdays will be held from 9:45am until 11:00am and Friday meetings will be from 1:40pm until 3:00pm. I also have a detailed schedule of all meeting times if anyone is interested.
47. I met with Associate Dean McCartney this afternoon and we discussed recent accomplishments within the area of Academic Achievement. The supplemental instruction program has expanded t include nine courses being covered from the original four in Spring of 2014. The TriO program has also been funded for an additional five years, which provides assistance to first generation college students and other similar demographics. The las bit of information that Dean McCartney provided was that, as of yesterday, the Board of Higher Education has granted the University internship scholarship funds for this year. The state will match up to $111,000 of funds raised by the Foundation, creating the potential for $222,000 in scholarship funds. However, unfortunately, this is subject to change.
48. I would like to announce that APC will be meeting this Friday, September 25 at 1:40pm and Curriculum will be meeting next Tuesday, September 29 at 12:45pm.
49. **Evelyn Dina**: Regarding matching of scholarship money, is that going to be from the Foundation?
50. **Jon Cubetus**: Yes, the Foundation is in charge of raising the money, and depending on how much money they raise, we’ll get a certain amount of money.
51. **Ryan Losco**: When would this money be readily available?
52. **Jon Cubetus**: Unfortunately, due to fundraising, it probably will not be available until Spring 2016. Therefore, if you’re looking to do an internship in the Spring or Summer, that’s probably the best thing to do in order to get scholarship money.
53. **Sara Palis**: I know I looked into getting internship incentive for this summer, but the money was needed for STEM and I know that’ what the University is focusing on more, is that going to be the same for this?
54. Jon Cubetus: I don’t know particulars; I just know that for the Washington Center, if you’re a Massachusetts resident with a 3.0 GPA or above, you qualify automatically for that scholarship. I don’t know anything more than that. I can get more information about it.
55. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
56. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
57. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
58. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
59. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
60. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
61. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
62. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Haley Batchelder*
63. Programming update**: Haley Batchelder**
64. Hey everyone, I hope you’re all having a good day. I don’t have much to report, just a few updates.
65. Family Day was a success. We had over 1342 people come and Westfield State on Stage was standing room only. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.
66. We have Brown Bag Bingo Friday, September 25 at 10:00 pm in Scanlon Banquet Hall.
67. Tickets for Six Flags go on sale, online, September 29, which is next Tuesday, at 8:00am. Tickets are $15.00 and will bring students to Six Flags at 2:00pm and we will leave the park at 8:00 pm.
68. I’ll be available after the meeting if you have any questions about our upcoming event.
69. Evelyn Dina: I wanted to congratulate Haley Batchelder and all of CAB for having an awesome Family Day.
70. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 23 at 5:00 pm in the Owls nest.
71. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Brandon Trafford*
72. Finance Report: **No Report**
73. Foundation Report: **No Report**
74. SERETARY’S REPORT: Brendan McKee*/Jacob Lotter*
75. Executive Secretary Report: **Brendan McKee**
76. First year elections polls are currently active on MyWestfield from now until tomorrow, September 23 at 11:59pm. I will keep you updated as far as elections go as soon as I get results and such. We are shooting for 15% for voting. As of right now 115 students have voted which is 8.29%.
77. The other thing I have to talk about is when the report delegates to questions, comments and concerns. I have my phone recording the minutes, so you have to speak up to make sure it catches what you say. Also, please stand up when it’s your turn to speak so everyone in the room can see who is speaking and it is more audible.
78. Eveline Dina: We’re going to be going over procedural things again, next week with orientation for new senators after the next meeting.
79. Legislative Secretary Report: **Jacob Lotter**
80. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:

Rules and Regulations Committee:

1. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
2. Commuter Council: **No Report**
3. Senior Class: **Ryan Losco**
4. We had our senior Kick Off and Convocation event last Thursday, September 17. We had 90 seniors attend and about 120 people in the audience which was awesome. From the feedback I heard everyone seemed to have a good time and they enjoyed our faculty speaker, Dr. Alice Perry. I just want to thank Dr. Pickron and Dean Prusank, for helping us with this event. And of course to the council for all their hard work. Thank you to 2018 also.
5. I will be back next week with some more updates on senior events for you.
6. Our next scheduled meeting is on September 28 at 6:30 pm in the SGA Club Room E021.
7. Junior Class: **Andrew Morin**
8. Hi everyone, I hope you all had a nice week.
9. I move to appoint Rehana Yusif as a Representative to SGA for the Class of 2017 for the remainder of the 2015-2016 academic year. Motion carries.
10. The Class of 2017 will be creating a social media blast about our officers, similar to the “Who’s Your Senator” posters that SGA did last year, so be on the lookout for that.
11. Be sure to like us on Facebook at “Westfield State Class of 2017 Council” and follow u son Twitter @wsu\_classof2017and Instagram @wsu\_2017.
12. Mr. Westfield is moving right along. I am still unable to confirm a sold date for the Spring, as scheduling for all things happening in Dever, this spring, is moving at a slow pace, but I am confident to have one soon.
13. Interest meetings for Mr. Westfield will be held Tuesday, September 29 and Monday, October 5 at 8:00pm right her in SGA. Please encourage any of your male friends that would be interested in competing to come on down and listen in, even if they are not necessarily nominated. Nomination boxes and forms are available in every residence hall at the RA desk or somewhere close to it. There is also one located in the Commuter Café. Please try your best to nominate as many friends as you can.
14. Justin Connolly: Do you want Mr. Westfield there?
15. Andrew Morin: If you want to come, you’re more than welcome.
16. Evelyn Dina: Is the reason why a date is not confirmed associated with contacting Dever?
17. Andrew Morin: I’ve been working a lot with Sue LaMontagne to figure out dates for everything in the Spring, and I’m working very closely with the Music Department too because academics come first, it’s an academic space. Basically, with the lack of staff to run Dever, Chris Hirtle, who’s the Director of Media Services has taken over, and he’s trying to reformat the way things are scheduled in Dever because the way it had been done was very old school and inefficient, so until that’s figured out, no one knows when anything is going up.
18. Our next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, September 24 at 4:00pm in conference room E003.
19. Sophomore Class**: Maddie Creamer**
20. Hi everyone, I have just a few updates about our Class Council. We held interviews last night, September 21 and found three awesome members to fill the vacant positions. We’re excited to have a full council and to get started planning the Buzz Off and other evetns.
21. Also we are looking to sell long sleeve Class of 2018 shirts, so keep an eye out for them.
22. **Shannon Cullinane**: Are you having people order them and then buying based off the orders?
23. **Maddie Creamer**: Yes, we’re having people order them so we don’t have a large amount leftover, like you guys.
24. **Jacob Lotter**: When should we see those order forms?
25. **Maddie Creamer**: We should have designs at our Class Council meeting not this week, but the week after. We’ll decide on a design and they should be out at the beginning of October.
26. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 28 at 5:00pm in conference room E003 next to Dunkin Donuts.
27. First Year Class: **No Report**
28. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
29. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
30. Davis Hall: **No Report**
31. Dickinson Hall**: No Report**
32. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
33. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
34. New Hall**: No Report**
35. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
36. University Hall**: No Report**
37. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**

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1. NEW BUSINESS:
2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
3. **Andrew Morin**: STA’s production of *A Night of David Ives* is being held this weekend; I encourage you all to see it.
4. **Jocob Lotter**: Can I see Ivanna McGlinchey, Sandra Mercer, and Rehana Yusif after the meeting?
5. **Brendan McKee**: Stand up and speak up please.
6. **Jon Cubetus**: APC position is available.
7. **Matthew Carlin**: If you’re interested I any of the committees I mentioned before, see me after the meeting.
8. **Justin Connolly**: If you are interested in Neighborhood Advisory Board, see me after the meeting.
9. **Ivana McGlinchey**: The Latin Reception is still going on, so come get some food.
10. **Matthew Carlin** The first issue of *The Westfield Voice* is coming out this Friday, Please pick one up.
11. Evelyn Dina: Please come see me for the Library website usability, it’s an hour, and there will be free pizza.
12. **Emily McKenelley:** 241 days until commencement.
13. ROLL CALL: Marissa Cremin and Christian Capalbo were absent. Casey Hiltz sent an alternate. Michael Janchuk was excused.
14. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.