



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing was not able to take place.

Members Present: Justin Wald, Travis McLoughlin, Melissa Kuzmeski, Ezekiel Tamarkin, Lorraine Fernández, Jacob Constant, Barney Garcia, Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval, Raul Rosario, Brenna Guliani, Luke Stehley, Will Onorato, Celia Rocino, Jakob Traynor, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters**

Members Absent: Angelina Cassella

Also present and participating was SGA Advisor Matthew Dellea

Call to Order: President Justin Wald called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. It was announced that the meeting was being live streamed and recorded. Members were asked to review the meeting agenda, and a roll call was taken of members present (listed above).

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the September 9th, 2025, meeting, were approved.

President's Report: Justin Wald reported on the success of the student appreciation food truck event that was held earlier in the day, confirming it is the first in a series of similar events planned for the year. He encouraged senators to attend the Athletics pep rally on the green this Thursday evening and issued a reminder that the deadline to submit signature papers for the upcoming elections is this Friday. Wald also stated his intent to revive the conversation around a new common hour policy, an initiative that has been in development for two years and is currently with a subcommittee of the Academic Policies Committee. He reaffirmed his commitment to pursuing this policy to improve student life and retention and asked for any interested senators to contact him about helping with the effort.

- Ali Sutherland gave some information about APC and the Common Hour policy as he sat on the committee last year. He also recommended that if a survey is going out then it should go out soon as it is the beginning of the year.

Student Trustee: Barney Garcia dedicated his report to the critical campus-wide issue of deferred maintenance, which he described as the growing backlog of necessary repairs and upgrades to the university's aging infrastructure. He cited the recent closure of Lammers Hall as a prime example of the problem's impact and announced that he and President Justin Wald will be meeting with VP Melinda Phelps to discuss the matter. Garcia explained that the main challenge is funding, presenting two options: increasing student fees or securing state aid. He firmly stated his opposition to placing the financial burden on students, arguing that the university cannot realistically handle the costs on its own. He concluded by urging the Senate to advocate for state-level legislation to fund the maintenance backlog, encouraging them to continue the work of their predecessors on this important issue.

* Missed First Roll Call

** Missed Second Roll Call

Vice President of Student Life Report: Travis McLoughlin provided three updates in his report. He first announced a staffing change in Health Services, stating that Kelly Palm will be stepping down from Director to Associate Director, with more details to come at a later date. He then reminded everyone that the Counseling Center has relocated from Lammers Hall to the second floor of Scanlon Hall. McLoughlin concluded by announcing his office hours will be held in the SGA room on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 PM and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 PM, and provided his email for any questions or to schedule an appointment.

Vice President of Academic Life: Melissa Kuzmeski introduced herself and stated that her primary goal for the year is to advocate for students' educational journeys by increasing student engagement and encouraging them to voice their ideas and concerns. She announced that her first meeting with Provost Salka was scheduled for September 10th and invited senators to immediately bring forward any urgent or pressing matters that she could raise on their behalf. Kuzmeski provided her contact email for any future academic issues and concluded by expressing her excitement to work with the Senate for a successful and eventful year.

Vice President of Finance Report: Ezekiel Tamarkin presented the SGA budget proposal for the academic year, stating that it allocates \$284,949.40 and leaves a remainder of \$14,396.24 to be allocated as needed. He announced that the Executive Council endorses the budget as it stands and outlined the process for the Senate, which can now propose amendments with a two-thirds majority vote before approving the final budget with a simple majority. Tamarkin urged the Senate to consider passing the budget promptly, explaining that no SGA funds can be used or reimbursed until it is approved and advising that amendments can still be made later in the year.

MOTION seconded by Travis McLoughlin, to approve the budget for the Fiscal Year 26 as recommended by the Executive Council.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed.

Vice President of Student Belonging: Lorraine Fernández reported on several updates from the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning (BIL), noting its new location on the second floor of the library and a leadership change that shifts the office's focus more toward strategic policy work; she also mentioned they are currently hiring graduate assistants. She then recapped the successful Affinity Collaboration Event held the previous day, which was co-sponsored with SAIL and BIL, explaining that it provided resources to faith and identity groups and resulted in eight students signing up for the Committee on Belonging, which she plans to convene next month. Fernández concluded by announcing her updated office hours for the semester, which are Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 PM and 4:00 to 5:00 PM, and Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval stated that there is 240 days till commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Student Government Association (SGA) general meeting held on September 16, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant