

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA**  
**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

- I. ROLL CALL: Joseph Bonilla, Loïc Black, and Lukas Apel were absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022- Minutes Approved
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Aaron Lessing**  
A. **President Linda Thompson, DrPH**

Thank you, Aaron. You know, it's my pleasure to be here this evening with you and just wanted to say I was in Washington, DC last week, there are three students doing a semester and are in Washington right now. I had a chance to meet all three of them and the things that they're doing and they're experiencing in DC were just amazing. The internships that they were able to get. I just want to put a plug in, that many of you could think about doing an experience where you're doing that internship in Washington. You should think about it. And the other thing that I spoke to the President of that of the Washington Center, is looking at ways that we can do some intensives. So you may not need to spend a whole semester but people interested in different areas of policy perhaps, we could you know we can make that happen for students who have an interest. I just want you to help me think about how to do that so we can take a group. You know it's such a pleasure to come and meet with people who are our future leaders in the United States. Not only leaders, but I see you as the potential policymakers. We already have some people who are demonstrating their skills of being policymakers already. For example, Dan and who is trying to influence or influencing our strategy for the campus for sustainability. I hope all of you feel comfortable enough to let me know if you see an issue or a problem. That you will come and let me know what that problem is and you'll help you think about a solution. As some of you all know, I really admire and respect people who are trying to not only volunteer like you're doing right now, but you're trying to guide, lead and influence and teach other people about ways that we can make Westfield State University one of the best universities in the United States. And the more that you help me, the stronger we will be making that reality happen. Just want to plug in tomorrow, Governor Baker is going to be here. And we have 46 books that we're going to give out to the first 46 people who show up to clear Governor Baker is from 4 to five, right? I've had a chance to read the book that talks about different issues and problems that he has experienced in his and his work life and the strategy that he used in order to achieve results. That book, I think would be a good book for any of you to use as you go out and pursue your career because we all face problems. We all need the strategy and how to achieve results, so just say please show up. People up here, because of your volunteering, I'm going to give you one. So, you know, these are the things that I worry about right now, is how do we achieve them and how do we really embrace democracy? The thing that I love about the work that you do here is you're participating. You're participating, and you're engaged and we need more people to be engaged in civil society and understand this is the way democracies work. And you know the thing that I also think about in terms of a leader is you need to be fair, you need to be kind. You have to have the ability to listen to the needs of people and try to figure out ways that you can create solutions for them. And I just want to say over the next year, I'm going to be starting with the next generation of the strategic plan for Westfield State University to create a blueprint for us to move into 2030 and beyond. In 2024, our university is going to be 185 years old. That's a long time to be here. That we need to do is make sure we're strong and effective so we can last another 185 years. I know we won't be there. But we can try right now to make this place the best, and I want you to help me develop that vision. And that direction for

our campus for the next several years and people in government, Student Government are the best people to help me do that. You know, last year when I started, it was right after COVID you all lived through it. I know I was really tired of staying at home. I'm sure you were too. But the thing that I talked about was the bridge to the future and restore our health. That was the message that I talked a lot about. And it was just because of the, you know, what was happening to the mental health and what happened with the pandemic and the strain that it took on all of us trying to make a difference. A lot of you were probably trying get through your coursework either in high school or in college, but that was really a hard thing for us to go through, and as a campus we needed to really look at that. The other thing we needed to focus on last year was to make sure our fiscal health was good. Right now, my worry is about our enrollment. And the reason why I worry about our enrollment is because our birth rate has been that robust in the United States. So, we do need to think about immigrant populations. I was just talking about Haiti as a as a place, we right now have this large group of Haitian refugees in Massachusetts. Families who are escaping poverty and all of the things that that's happening in that country. And they're asking universities to help out. We have an empty dorm. I'm just sharing this with you because I haven't made a decision yet, but I need you to help me think through it because I said, you know, we don't have a lot of Haitians out here. But, you know, I'm just saying they've been asking us to figure out how we can help with these groups of people who are immigrating, trying to immigrate to our country. So might be, might see some people from Haiti on our campus, you might see it. Ever decided yet, but it is something that I say. Our campus is a welcoming and inclusive campus, a campus that's going to look at ways that we can do the best for people. And we really need to figure out a way that we are welcoming people from other cultures as well as people from our country because that is how we will be able to move forward as a strong, not only as strong campus, but a strong society. And Westfield State, as you have heard me say in the past, is one of these campuses that started out with this idea of being an inclusive campus. We started out with the idea of teaching people how to be engaged in democracy, which was an experiment when our university was started. In 1839 we were a new country, and we are trying to teach people how to be involved in government and government because before that we had kings and queens. It was not an autocratic society and teaching people how to participate in governance was a new thing. So that was a new idea. And this was the first university to admit, to become coed and admit women. The first university to admit people of color, so this idea of Westfield State being a participatory type of place that taught people how to engage in democracy, was how our campus became a space for big thinkers and the space for people to learn. And then to think and to think about how do we move forward. So I have embraced this concept of idea. I think that is I D E A and I also have the S the end, which is solutions or ideas, will be the focus for me this year. We're going to focus on I innovation. We will be asking people to tell us how to make education on our campus the best, how to seek new ways to work, to teach, and to help people learn. How we will invest in innovative strategies for teaching. We have computer scientists back there or a future computer scientist, right? A lot of the ways that learning is going to take place in the future is going to be using technology and how do we embrace those technological tools in order to make learning better? In a few weeks, I'm going to be going out to California, to talk to people from Dreamscape. Hollywood is starting to get involved in this teaching space and the President of Arizona State, someone who I've been following for most of my career, is bringing together educators with people from Hollywood to talk about how we make learning, fun, interesting and different. I'd love to get you guys to help me think about how we can do that better, and maybe, you know, it's the computer scientists, it's the artist, it's the creative juices

that young people have that's going to make the methodology of the future for teaching better. So it's not only that you will be sitting in a classroom listening but you're going to be immersed in a world where you will be experiencing something new. That's what they're trying to do using Metaverse. Using technology as a tool and I've seen using technology where can take a person back to and immerse them in the 1800s. You can go and experience what they were doing back then. Where you can experience a hurricane where you put on those goggles. It still makes me sick when I put on these goggles. I get a little bit queasy when I put them on. But that is one of these innovations. Things that we are looking at doing on our campus, and I have created a fund to invest in innovation and students could probably apply for an innovative grant. If you come together, bring together the artist, bring together the computer scientist, and come up with some creative way to teach something. I'd love to see what you guys come up with. The D is for diversity. We're going to commit to diversity. LaRue Pierce is in the that nobody can miss him because he's over 6 feet tall. He's a tall man and he's a big man. He's going to be helping to bring diversity onto our campus. Diversity not only of people and backgrounds, but diversity of thought. We need to be able to have conversations with people who think differently than we think. And not be disagreeable. You know, Nancy Pelosi's husband was hit in the head with a hammer. And people are saying that it didn't happen. You know how crazy is that? This man is an intensive care unit, had surgery because he had a dent in his skull and who knows how long it's going to take him to recover from that. And people are talking about that on TV. I heard something like that this morning when I was looking at the news. We need to be able to be in different camps. A Democrat or Republican, it doesn't matter. We're all human beings. We all are. You know, we live in a society where we have to learn how to get along. And so I do need us to teach people who come to this campus to be able to be to listen. You don't have to agree. But you don't have to be disagreeable, and you don't have to be mean and mad and angry at someone because they're different in the way they think than you. That's not how our campus was formed. Our campus was to teach people how to do that. And so, diversity, inclusive, inclusive excellence, where we believe that all people have a right to be heard, that all people are welcomed and supported if they choose to come to this campus. That's what I want. And so LaRue help me get there and all of you are going to help me get there by developing these strategies. Over the last couple of months, we've had two meetings. Logan has been at both of those meetings where were talking about bringing the city of Westfield together with the university to begin to figure out how we can engage with this campus with not only on our campus, but off campus to make the city the best place for people to live, work, play and raise family. They want your input. They want you to serve on a board of trustees. I'm on the board of trustees for Stanley Park. We have some openings on it. Let me know if you want me to nominate you because I told them we need people under 40 on this board of trustees. Everybody is over 40. I'm not going to tell you how old I am, but everybody's over 40. But we need and I said you need to get the perspective of different age groups in order to know how to plan for the future, because they are the future, not us. And so just let me know if you want to be on that board. But it is something that we're all looking at, this whole idea of engagement for our students to be engaged. The other thing I just loved about being in Washington DC last week was meeting with some of our alumni. You know, one of our alumni is the head coach of the hockey team in Washington, DC. I don't know much about hockey at all. But I did have a chance to go and see them play. And I asked them if, you know, the hockey coach, if we plan an event when they're here in Boston and I can take some people to see their game. I also met with the head coach of George Washington's basketball team. And he was talking about his time here on our campus,

where in his room there was a fire. This is the craziest story he talked about that they went out and there was this windstorm and they had a fan in the window. And there was a guitar on the bed. The wind blew the fan on the guitar and it started running around like the fan does. And it caused the fire. He said he loved being on this campus and he would love to come back and meet you guys and talk to you about his experience here on our campus and. And I think the thing that I want to do next year for a homecoming, we have homecoming just few days ago. That was the biggest homecoming I'm told that we've had. I would love for it to be bigger and invite these types of alums back. I saw one of our alums talked to one of students from Washington, DC. A female. This alum is working for the FBI. She talked to that student for over an hour. About how to shape their own career, about what she needed to do in order to influence law enforcement in this country, she says there's only 15%. Of the of the people working for the FBI who are women and we need more. And she talked to her about doing that. And that's the reason why this engagement is so important. I want us to be engaged with community, our alums, our government and business leaders, bringing people like the governor here tomorrow for you to listen to him and his story. And how he is going to teach you about yourselves. So higher education really needs to begin to do more engagement. We need to worry about our enrollment. We need to worry about this uncertain future. But if you help me. Go out and tell people that this is the best place to come and go to school. To choose us. If you can help me think about ways that we can do curriculum in a quicker way or easier way, like these intensives I talked about doing the Washington DC they'll come to us. But I need you to help me think through that. Finally, advancement. Raising money. That's what I talked to all our alums about. Can you help me raise money for scholarships for students? A lot of students need to have a leg up to be able to afford college. A lot of you probably won't be able to do that that study in Washington, DC because you need money to help you to do that. If they can help me raise money, I can do that. We need to look at ways that we can also advance the culture on this campus to make it a really wonderful place for people to be, but advancement and then all of those things. Looking at how you can work with me on solutions is the framework that I want to adapt for our campus. And I know that our enrollment is going to go up because that's what I'm going to focus on. I want to look at how we can do a better job with how we hire and keep people, making people feel welcome and hard. Figuring out a way that we can create goals that are measurable and looking at ways that we can help people make the decision about your discipline or degree that you want to focus on. But all of you in this room are going to have a lot of jobs. Because their jobs out there, that don't exist that you're going to have. You're going to create those opportunities for yourself. You know, I always call myself a gypsy that lived and worked in 10 different universities. Yes, people say I can't keep a job, but I've worked in a lot of different places, and I have really found a home here. At this university, I have found that people who inspire me. The faculty, the staff. The students are some of the best people I've seen, even though I've worked at two different things. So I want to thank you for asking me to come and talk to you. Mike is going to give you all up here above the first 46 coming tomorrow will get a book and we purchased these books for you. And if you like them, let me know, we can make them available for a course that people are taking. So if you have any questions, I'd love to answer any questions that you might have.

- i. Aaron Lessing: The idea about having Haitians come, I think that's a great idea. I honestly would really encourage it. We have that building that's not being used. If you're really looking into that, I would really encourage it. I think that's great for our community as well as just the University in general.
- ii. President Thompson: Thank you so much.

- iii. Chris Lannan: Hi, thank you for coming first. I'd like to say that I know some people the cabinet have pointed out that the theme of this year is rebuilding the best. Personally, I know I'm on the diversity inclusion committee. I know Rodney brought up that within the next year we may be getting 100 plus Asian American transfer students. Is there any way you talked about inclusivity and diversity? Is there any way we can like get information to make those students feel more comfortable and being on campus? Especially since it's like a culture shock to them because. You know it's a very rural area and a suburban campus. But also. I brought up the idea of a mural project to the diversity and Inclusion Committee. I was wondering what you think of that and what you would like to see if I appreciate out to the club presidents. Yeah. I don't know what you think about that.
- iv. President Thompson: I like that! What do you think about that LaRue? I'd love to listen to the committee and hear your perspective on how you want that to move forward and you help us think of the best way to do it. There is a small group of Asian students, there's a club, the Asian Pacific Islanders Student Union on our campus already and one of the other things that I'll ask LaRue to do is to work with that small group of students to see how we can embrace the students who choose to come here from China. We will also look at a way that we can engage with the faculty who are from China on our campus and see if we can find a way to get them more engaged with the Asian community here in Massachusetts. There is a fairly large group of people from Asia here in our state. I did meet with someone from Belfast when I was in Washington DC and they also want to figure out a way that they can develop a relationship with us. So we are looking at a way that we can have some summer people coming from different countries and having our students do the same. I want you to help us think through this.
- v. Dan Currier: I know last year and even earlier this year you mentioned about partnerships with other universities one if you can give us any updates on those partnerships and where we are on the progress with that?
- vi. President Thompson: Right now, I think that the focus has been on partnerships really more local. So we've been connecting with all of the community colleges in the area, Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical, The Berkshires and Greenfield Technical University. So those are the places that we've been paying attention to and looking at a way that we can develop a strong relationship. Right now, we've we're signing an MOU we signed an MOU to work with the a campus in in China. We are looking at working with developing a relationship with the university in Vietnam and. You know I just mentioned developing relationship with those two universities in Belfast. I went to Hampton University this summer. They are interested in a relationship with our campus as well. That's an HBCU which is a historical black college and university. We are work wanting to work with them because we hope to develop that university because it followed our blueprint of the normal school. And that President and I have been talking and right now the two provosts are talking to see about how we can develop that relationship. So more to come and I'll tell you how we move forward on that.
- vii. Chris Lannan: So another thing I wanted to bring up was, I know the governor's coming down tomorrow. Another thing we could possibly do, because I know my school for the 2020 election, we brought Pete Buttigieg. It could be possible, like when it comes to 2024, since that's going to be such a crucial election for every aspect of it. you bring in like Senate candidates, presidential candidates, and house candidates to come in and tell

people and like get people motivated to vote and why they should vote.

- viii. President Thompson: I think that the best group to ask them to come is this group right here. You know the the reason? You know. Sometimes they think you're not registered to vote and they want to encourage you to get registered to vote and they see younger people as the future constituents. And so I will be happy to work with you to help you think through strategy on bringing different candidates to campus. You know, having debates. I love that idea. You know, Tim, how can you help them do this?
- ix. Point of Information from guest: The invitation for any candidate coming to campus has to come from student government because the President's office can't invite them. If you invite one candidate, you have to offer equal time to the other candidates. But it can be done and it's a great idea.
- x. President Thompson: So he told you why I can't do it.
  - B. Presidents Council: No Report
  - C. Items not listed on Agenda:

First thing is that the cornhole tournament is going on tonight, so please after our meeting go over to university hall to support their cause to fight against breast cancer!

Next thing, our SGA bonding trip, which is a ropes course, is happening on November 12th, we will be meeting in front of Scanlon Hall around 8:30 am to leave on the bus to go to Springfield College. The ropes course is challenge by choice so you can do the hardest course or nothing at all. Please dress warm as we will be outside if you need winter clothes, please talk to Laura. Also, if you have any food allergies please talk to Laura as well.

If you are not in the GroupMe that we use to send out information to you all, please see me after the meeting.

Finally, I move to appoint Konstantinos Tasopoulos as a Representative at Large for the remainder of the 2022-2023 academic year. *Motion*

*Passes*

- i. Nick Palumbo: You said that we'd meet for that bus at 8AM right?
  - ii. Aaron Lessing: 8:30 in front of Scanlon.
- IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Chloë Sanfaçon**
- A. All University Committee: No Report
  - B. Student Advisory Council: No Report

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Logan Terenzi**

Hello everyone, last week I met with John Zocco the assistant director of res life. A few of the things we went over:

The res halls are filled and in doing so has caused a more vibrant and active community within them. He says space wise there is room for changes in living situation, though getting singles is going to be difficult. Dickinson is going to be closed for the spring, but expected to be back up for next fall. RA's seem to be doing well and their events are larger in popularity than pervious semesters averaging 15-30 students showing up. We talked about recycling for res halls and ways to improve education and communication with facilities and students so it is easier to understand what can and cannot be recycled. Res Life has data for energy consumption of each hall and is thinking about doing programs for energy saving..

They are looking at getting more graduate housing up and running.

I also met with Dean of Students Maggie Balch today, we talked about a few things:

The lived name committee will be meeting tomorrow at 9am

Student Affairs is looking into getting a consultant to come in an look at the counseling center and health services to give recommendations on how to change and improve them. The newest counselor just started her name is Raven and she is bilingual which is going to be very helpful to students. There is an open house this weekend. Off campus activities

are alive and well but they wanted me to remind everyone they can be a health and safety issue, and to be respectful to the Westfield community.

- i. Sarah Harrington: Going into the spring semester, are they for people who are looking to do room changes. Are they just going to put people in open places or do you still need to go through the whole process of making sure that students are ok with it.
- ii. Logan Terenzi: They are definitely going to be making sure people are ok with living with other people. That's always kind of been the basis for the housing process. But with the change in semesters there is always a drop in attendance here so there will be more housing available typically because of either study abroad, transfer students, or people dropping out.
- iii. Dan Currier: I was wondering if Reslife could make sure that students are aware of the maintenance request form because there are a lot of people who are complaining about things that would just be better if they sent in a request on Myhousing.
  - A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report
  - B. Food Services Committee: Adam Carpenter

Hey Y'all,

Welcome to the Food Service's Report Adam's Version. I'm just going to run you through the quick highlights because everything was pretty straight forward. The first thing that is important to talk about is getting feedback on the chairs from all of you so please share that. The second thing is something that I don't want you to hold me on since I know that you've heard it before but the acclimator for the dishwasher is supposed to ship out by November 8<sup>th</sup> and it will take a week on top of that for it to be installed and that week will be a full paper week. The trash cans are not going to be there because there was a sizable amount of silverware that was being thrown away. We are also looking into a system for the DC that would operate similar to a jukebox but there are still aspects to consider such as the cost and technology but whoever is giving the Food Service's report next week will keep you updated as things develop. I also want to quickly address the images that surfaced on social media which showed that there was a metal wire found in the pizza in the DC. Rest assured that this will be brought up at food services and we will get to the bottom of it.

Have a great week!

- i. Sarah Harrington: For the speakers in the DC, is there anything that we can do about the one speaker in the DC that is incredibly loud.
- ii. Adam Carpenter: I will bring that up. I could hear it from outside yesterday and that was very annoying.
- iii. Katie Egan: Do you know about the salad toss, the Happy Meal, or Cheeseburgers in the bistro?
- iv. Adam Carpenter: I was told that I would get an email updating me on that and I am yet to receive that. I was told that I would get the Email on the day of after food services last Wednesday and I am still yet to receive that. It has been a week so I will ask again.
  - C. Substance Advisory Committee: No Report
  - D. Student Athletic Advisory Board: No Report
  - E. Veteran Affairs Report: No Report
  - F. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

#### VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Emily Fluet*

- A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
- B. Curriculum Committee: No Report
- C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): No Report
- D. New England Council of Higher Education (NECHE) Self-Study Committee: No Report

- E. Parking Control Board: No Report
- F. Parking Appeals Board: No Report

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT EQUITY: **Rodney Duteau**

Hello everyone. Last week on Wednesday I was able to attend the Muslim Student organization's first meeting. During the meeting, I was able to have a conversation with the Advisors of the club and we were talking about how the DC has certification that the chicken that they provide is "Halal". Essentially practicing Muslims can only eat chicken and other foods, if it is cooked and processed a certain way. The DC did show MSO the certification but students in MSO and their advisor would like to have a meeting with Bill to discuss how the chicken is handled in the kitchen. I will help organize this meeting, and support MSO as much as I can. If you have any concerns about the global causes station in the DC or any issue regarding student equity, diversity and inclusion please reach out to me.

- A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report
- B. Student of Color Council Report: No Report

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE: **Daniel Currier**

Dan Currier gave a presentation on the October Budget

- A. Finance Committee: No Report
- B. Foundation Report: No Report
- C. ITSAC Report: No Report

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - PUBLICITY: **Elizabeth Mercer**

- A. Neighborhood Advisory Board: No Report
- B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: No Report
- C. Spring Semiformal Committee: No Report
- D. Blue Key Committee: No Report

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: **Adam Carpenter**

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Liam Connor**

- A. Rules and Regulations Committee: No Report
- B. Constitutional Review Committee: No Report

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Commuter Council: No Report
- B. Senior Class: Mikayla Evans

I move to appoint Ari Bannish as a class of 2023 representative for the remainder of the 2022-2023 academic year. *Motion Passes*

- C. Junior Class: No Report
- D. Sophomore Class: No Report
- E. First Year Class: No Report
- F. Apartment Complex: No Report
- G. Courtney Hall: No Report
- H. Davis Hall: No Report
- I. Dickinson Hall: No Report
- J. Lammers Hall: No Report
- K. New Hall: No Report
- L. University Hall: No Report

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened) N/A

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ethan Haynes: Today is one week from Election day, make sure that you have a plan to vote.

Aaron Lessing: Please try and see Governor Baker tomorrow in Loughlin living room and go to the cornhole tournament to support them after the meeting.

Dan Currier: I am going to be hosting a focus group on Teleconferencing and technology in the classroom for ITSAC on Friday at 3:30. I invited a few people most of whom have not responded yet so I assume they are not coming so. If anyone here wants to come feel free.

Mikayla Evans: 199 days to commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Joseph Bonilla and Lukas Apel were absent.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned until November 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.

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