



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

Members Present: Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald, Sarah Harrington, Austin Morgan, Lorraine Fernandez, Daniel Currier, Ethan Haynes, Nicholas Palumbo, Isabella Moniz, Anderson Dallaire, William Connor, Travis McLoughin, Rachel Luo, Stella Greenberg, Ben Janes, Jakob Trainor, Barney Garcia, Benny Rosas, Brendan Major, Melissa Kuzmeski, Raymond Croteau, Sicilia Campbell, Laura Terry, Mariza Monteiro, Ethan Mallinson, Christopher Lannon, Akile Phakos, Ezekiel Tamarkin, Dominic Zajko, Will Onorato, Avianna Lee-Saulters, Angel Bethea, Ali Sutherland, SAAC Representative, Angelina Cassella

Members Excused: Irini Mahida, Troyelle Nosal, Puru Sharma, Cody Hoisington

Also present and participating were Director's Christina Willenbrock and Melissa Sikes, and SGA Advisors Matthew Dellea, Ryan Meersman, and Shannon Green.

Call to Order: President Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. It was announced that the meeting was being livestreamed 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: Due to extenuating circumstances, the approval of the minutes from the October 29, 2024 general meeting was tabled to a future meeting.

Guest Speaker – Director of Residential Life and Director of Dining Services:

President Joseph Bonilla introduced Director of Residential Life Christina Willenbrock, then Director of Dining Services Melissa Sikes, Assistant Direct of Dining Sara Chisholm, and Dining Commons Manager Maria Lees.

- Ethan Haynes asked if there will be a charge for winter housing.
- Christopher Lannan asked about the process for the closing of the Apartment Complex.
- Sarah Harrington asked about Grad students in Welsh Hall.
- Daniel Currier asked about the ID card access control for bathrooms.
- Jacob Constant asked about the change away from Xfinity and how it would affect students that utilize it for sporting events.
- Anderson Dallaire asked about the timeline and then to clarify about the bathroom locks.

Members from Dining gave their presentation.

- Joseph Bonilla asked about protein shakes at Ely Harvest.
- Justin Wald thanked Dining for how quickly they have resolved any issue this year and thanked them for all things that have done this far.
- Sarah Harrington asked about having a virtual walkthrough of the kitchen.
- Brandan Major asked about milk shakes at late night.
- Christopher Lannan gave a Point of Information regarding how important dining services committee is.
- Daniel Currier asked about the catering, and it being well communicated with the students.
- Ezekiel Tamarkin asked about the to-go containers from last year.

President's Report: President Joseph Bonilla began by thanking the guest speakers for coming down. Then he mentioned how Student Trustee Daniel Currier and himself met with Attorney Melinda Philps, about setting up the Legislation Breakfast, and more information will be providing more information as it is received. Then explained that there will be a team bonding trip next week! Then finally he accepted the resignation of Emma Bowes as a University Hall Representative.

- Daniel Currier gave some extra information about the Legislation Breakfast.

All University Committee: Joseph Bonilla explained that the committee met briefly to approve the SCORE report to UCC with recommendations.

Sustainability Report: Laura Terry gave a report and explained that Sicilia Campbell and herself were introduced to the committee. Key updates and News were discussed including the DCAMM Decarbonization Presentation, and the MA Department of Climate Chief Presentation. Then explaining that the committee went into groups and discussed different issues. Ending on the Committee-Wise sustainability action plans and when the committee will meet next.

- Sarah Harrington congratulated Laura on her first report!
- Daniel Currier gave a little bit of history about the committee, and how it was started by students.
- Sicilia Campbell thanked Laura for doing the first Sustainability Committee report!

Student Trustee Report: Daniel Currier reported that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees will meet this Friday, November 15th, at 2 p.m. via Zoom, immediately followed by a special full Board meeting at 2:30 p.m., also via Zoom. The purpose of these meetings is to review and approve a comprehensive evaluation of Dr. Thompson as she concludes her third year as President of Westfield State University. Earlier this fall, trustees conducted in-depth interviews with faculty, staff, librarians, students, and community leaders to gather perspectives on Dr. Thompson's leadership. Chair Ali Salehi and Vice Chair Melissa Alvarado compiled the findings into an evaluation document, which has not been shared with trustees yet to comply with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. The evaluation will be posted online before the meeting for public review. During the meeting, the Board will discuss the evaluation and decide whether to submit it to the Department of Higher Education, which will determine any salary adjustments. The Board previously unanimously recommended the largest salary increase possible for Dr. Thompson in recognition of her dedication. The meeting will be livestreamed at westfield.ma.edu/live, and Daniel encouraged questions from anyone interested.

- Branden Major asked about a message sent to everyone about the report from the Trustees'.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald reported that Austin and himself met last week to discuss preliminary ideas for the first meeting of the Special Committee on Club Relations and Celebrations. They reviewed the committee's charge and brainstormed ways to achieve its goals, including improving club outreach and support, creating a club "cheat sheet," planning the OWL Celebration, establishing club awards, and encouraging better utilization of the Nestwork system. They decided the committee's first meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th, in the SGA Conference Room and will focus on generating ideas to kickstart the committee's initiatives.

- Joseph Bonilla asked to reiterate when the committee will be meeting.

Student Affairs Committee: Justin Wald reported that the Student Affairs Committee, tasked by the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, is launching a project to redesign the area outside the Fitness Center in Ely. Led by a subcommittee under Dominique Chapman, the goal is to transform the space into a Campus Center or "Student Union," creating a new hangout area with activities for student relaxation and decompression. The project has been funded and is on a fast timeline, with a planned completion before winter break. Justin Wald encouraged senators to share any suggestions or questions about the redesign, either during the meeting or via email.

- Joseph Bonilla gave a note that the Student Affairs committee meetings are open meetings, and anyone can show up.
- Daniel Currier gave some information about what could be possible.
- Isabella Moniz asked about where specifically the areas that will be affected.

Dining Services Committee: Jacob Constant reported that the Dining Services Committee met last Friday in the Tekoa Room of the DC, discussing several topics. The dining survey results will be presented at the next meeting. Jacob proposed reintroducing to-go cups for warm and cold beverages in the DC, suggesting that they be requested at the cashier to prevent theft, with the addition of hot cocoa in the marketplace as a potential deterrent. The committee also discussed increasing variety at Ely Harvest by introducing a "Chip of the Week" post on Instagram. Upcoming dining events include a Thanksgiving event on November 21st featuring a session on using leftovers in dorms, a student craft fair on December 4th, a holiday buffet in the DC on December 5th, and Breakfast with Santa on December 7th, coinciding with CAB's New York trip. Maria proposed keeping the OWL Café open at night during finals week to support students. Jacob emphasized that student feedback has been instrumental, both through surveys and nightly interactions. He invited any additional questions.

- Justin Wald gave some insight about something he is planning after the Survey has ended.
- Isabella Moniz asked why we are planning on possibly having Owl Café open at night.
- Brendan Major asked to make sure it will be announced.
- Christopher Lannan asked to make sure to let everyone know that we have staff available for when we want to get it done.

Vice President of Academic Life Report: Sarah Harrington began her report by expressing gratitude to everyone who contributed to the common hour proposal, highlighting the significant efforts of Dan Currier in leading this initiative to reimagine the student course schedule, a testament to the importance of shared governance at Westfield. She encouraged students to get involved in governance and announced an open spot on the University Curriculum Committee, which she hopes to fill by the next meeting on November 15. Additionally, there is an opening on SCORE/WISE, where the focus is on adding more classes and streamlining the General Education rollout. Sarah invited anyone interested in these opportunities to reach out and reminded senators that her next meeting with Provost Salka is on November 14, asking for input on discussion topics. She closed by wishing everyone a good week and humorously tying her song of the day, "Please, Please, Please" by Sabrina Carpenter, to her call for committee volunteers.

- Joseph Bonilla gave a comment to make sure everyone is taking care of themselves with it being past the halfway point of the semester!

University Curriculum Committee: Melissa Kuzmeski reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on Friday, November 1st, from 1:40 to 3:30 p.m. The meeting began with discussions with SCORE about pilot courses and the General Education Progress Report, which were tabled for further clarification. Several course proposals were reviewed and passed, including Political Science 105 for the common core with minor civics changes, History 131 with a title and description update, and History 279 for the new Gen Ed core perspective section. Two English courses were approved: Digital Storytelling, focusing on holistic wellbeing, and Tutoring Writing, which added credit changes and prerequisites. The Data Analytics minor proposal was passed, requiring 3 credits in Economics, Math, or Computer Science to enhance career readiness. Updates to Economics courses for better navigation and a new Economics internship course (Econ 3xx) with specific prerequisites were also approved. Title changes for two

Management courses were passed to better reflect course content, while the Pre-Licensure program proposal was tabled until the next meeting. Melissa invited questions for further clarification.

Finance Committee: Austin Morgan reported for the Finance Committee, sharing that last week the committee recommended, and Exec approved a \$48.49 funding request from the Accounting & Finance Club for catering at a time-sensitive event. The Finance Committee also met on November 8, 2024, to discuss a \$5,434 funding request from the Athletic Training Club for a conference that includes networking and learning opportunities. The committee reviewed each line item and made the following recommendations: \$1,675 for event registration for 15 students and 1 advisor was approved, \$394 for hotel costs for 1 advisor was approved, and \$1,576 for 50% of hotel costs for 15 students was approved. However, the decision on transportation costs was tabled to allow the club to clarify their needs.

- Daniel Currier explained that we can up to \$2,000 with no limits

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to approve line item 1 for the finance proposal.

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

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to approve line item 2 for the finance proposal.

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

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to approve line item 3 for the finance proposal.

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

Vice President of Publicity: Elizabeth Mercer gave her Senator of the Month report, and it was given to Ben Janes.

Community Relation and Fundraising Report: Ethan Mallinson gave a report that the Turkey Drive has started and gave a brief explanation about it and said that the Turkey Trot that was held last weekend made \$1,175!

- Joseph Bonilla let everyone know to meet with their team huddle people after the meeting.

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant, introduced himself to the new senators, explaining his responsibilities, including attendance, roll call, and onboarding. He reminded new senators to check their emails for his welcome/onboarding email to schedule a time if they haven't already. Regarding attendance, Jacob emphasized the importance of notifying him and Joseph before meetings if unable to attend, noting that missing a committee meeting counts as 0.5 absences and missing an SGA meeting counts as a full absence, with removal from SGA occurring after four absences per the Constitution. He also outlined office hour opportunities for the rest of the semester: assisting Sarah with her Goodie Bag Workshop on Friday, November 22nd (1:30-3:00 p.m.), tabling in the DC on Wednesday, December 4th (6-7 p.m.), tabling in the Commuter Lounge on Thursday, December 5th (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), and participating in "Chat with SGA" events. No office hours will be required during Thanksgiving week or the week before finals, December 9th-13th, to allow for studying. Jacob invited senators to reach out with any questions.

- Joseph Bonilla mentioned that Jacob will be posting these into the team's chat. As well as gave information that to make sure everyone communicates with Jacob and himself.
- Sarah Harrington gave information about her event, and if the items for the event don't come in time then the event won't be held.

Constitution Review Committee: Ethan Haynes reported that the Constitutional Review Committee met last Wednesday and has already identified over 10 potential amendments after reviewing only four articles. He thanked the committee members for their hard work and contributions. Ethan also announced that, upon the recommendation of Student Trustee Daniel Currier, Barney Garcia has been appointed to the committee due to his prior experience with HCC's student government and as their student trustee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. in the SGA conference room.

Commuter Report: Sophia gave a quick report updating on different events that are planned such as their hot cocoa event with baked goods and a raffle. As well as introducing herself to all of the new senators in the room.

- Joseph Bonilla ask for the time of the event.

Senior Class Report: Anderson Dallaire shared updates from the senior class council, beginning with their Senior Lawn Sign fundraiser, which launches next week with signs priced at \$20. He then outlined the itinerary for Senior Weekend, scheduled to start on Monday, May 12th, with move-in and a highlight trip to Mohegan Sun, including access to the Game On Room. Tuesday, May 13th, features a Westfield-themed day with a senior sunset and a trip to Gabe's. Wednesday, May 14th, includes a trip to Boston, capped off by a 10 p.m. harbor cruise. Thursday, May 15th, concludes the weekend with move-out. Tickets for Senior Weekend will go on sale next week for \$150. Anderson also reminded everyone about the 100 Days event on February 6th at Westfield Brewing Company, featuring a tropical theme and a special surprise.

- Daniel Currier asked about the timing of the harbor cruise.
- Christopher Lannan asked a question regarding living situation during senior weekend.
- Sarah Harrington asked about what step of the process they are in for renting out Gabes.

Junior Class Report: No Report

- Christopher Lannan mentioned that their are still 3 open seats on the Junior Class Council.

Sophomore Class Report: Samantha Dyer gave a report and introduced herself and mentioned that she will be the president's delegate for the rest of the semester for Brenna Guliani. Also mentioning that they are interviewing for more of their class council to get it filled.

First-Year Class Report: Ben Janes gave a report updating about events they want to hold this semester, one of which being a meet and greet event so the freshman can meet their class council. Then it was mentioned that they want to hold a Week of Kindness like their sister class did.

New Business: President Joseph Bonilla asked for a motion to open new business.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Ethan Haynes, to open new business.

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

President Joseph Bonilla began by noting that he neglected to ask for motions to appoint the new members of the Student Government Association (SGA) during his report. He asked that each new senators stand individually and for motions to be made to appoint each of the below-mentioned senators:

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Ethan Haynes, to appoint Angelina Cassella as a Courtney Hall Representative for the remainder of the 2024-2025 academic year.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed with two (2) abstentions.

Each new member was congratulated on their appointment.

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Justin Wald, to close new business.

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

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Daniel Currier mentioned that the Accounting and Finance club is holding an event on Thursday and Lisa McMahon will be there, along with food.
- Justin Wald mentioned that there will be an entrepreneur speaker series coming up and it will be open up to all students and faculty.
- Christopher Lannan let everyone know that the office of advising has open advising hours from today, until Monday.
- Ben Janes gave a correction from his report that the event will be free treats not paid.
- There are 185 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Bonilla adjourned the meeting at 7:04 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 November 12, 2024.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

Signed: _____

Date: _____