



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, December 03, 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, Elizabeth Mercer, Jacob Constant, Nicholas Palumbo, Isabella Moniz, Anderson Dallaire, William Connor, Travis McLoughlin, Rachel Luo, Stella Greenberg, Ben Janes, Jakob Trainor, Barney Garcia, Benny Rosas, Brendan Majori, Raymond Croteau, Laura Terry, Mariza Monteiro, Ethan Mallinson, Christopher Lannon, Akile Phakos, Ezekiel Tamarkin, Dominic Zajko, Angel Bethea, Ali Sutherland, SAAC Representative, Angelina Cassella, Puru Sharma, Irini Mahida, Troyelle Nosal, Sophia Rebenciuc, Cody Hoisington, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, GianCarlos Arteaga, Ethan Haynes,

Members Excused: Will Onorato, Sicilia Campbell, Melissa Kuzmeski

Members Absent:

Also present and participating were SGA Advisors Matthew Dellea, Ryan Meersman, and Shannon Green.

Call to Order: 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 November 19, 2024, general meeting.

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla thanked everyone for their dedication, then let everyone know that the Executive Council has written a personal note for everyone, and everyone will be getting pies later in the meeting. Then Joseph announced that SGA will be holding a retreat tentatively for January 20th more details will be announced at a later time. Then Joseph explained that last week he met with the Commission on Higher Education, explaining that they analyzed Massachusetts financial aid programs, exploring leading national models, and discussed primary options for our state. Further explaining that they are looking into reforms to the financial aid programs which looks promising. Joseph then explained that the State of the Campus Address is scheduled for January 31st at 2 PM. Finally, the Legislative Breakfast's tentative date was announced for February 7th.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to appoint GianCarlos Arteaga as a New Hall Representative.

- Ezekiel Tamarkin asked to talk about himself a little.

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

- Sarah Harrington asked to repeat the date for the Retreat.
- Ali Sutherland asked about the meeting from the Commission on Higher Education.
- Christopher Lannan asked about cornhole for a cause.
- Dan gave a point of information said we do usually have a team at the cornhole event however the question would be better suited for public safety.
- Justin Wald added that he can reach out to Tony.
- Daniel Currier asked about the debt free college.

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Ethan Haynes, to enter a 5-minute recess.

- Jason Brewster asked why?

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

Student Trustee Report: Daniel Currier provided updates from the Financial Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, which met on December 1st ahead of the full day of meetings scheduled for Monday, December 9th. The committee voted to dissolve the Investments Subcommittee to improve efficiency, given its overlapping membership with the full committee. They unanimously approved a revised Fiscal Year 2025 budget, with estimated expenses of \$132 million, after adjustments for more accurate rollover projections. The committee also authorized a \$4.4 million borrowing plan through the MSCBA to renovate the Apartment Complex, addressing critical issues like plumbing, emergency stairwells, and heating systems, with renovations occurring over a 12-month period starting in 2025. Additionally, the committee received a Facilities & Capital Planning update, highlighting significant deferred maintenance needs of \$150 million and the cost of achieving Net Zero by 2050, estimated at \$542 million. Daniel and Joseph continue planning the Legislative Breakfast on February 7th to advocate for state funding to address these issues. The full Board will meet on December 9th in Scanlon Hall's Loughman Living Room, with committee meetings throughout the day, livestreamed at westfield.ma.edu/live. Daniel encouraged participation, especially for those interested in the Student Trustee role. He noted trustees will attend the annual holiday reception and a performance by the Irish Tenors following the meeting and invited questions.

- Austin Morgan asked about the dates for the apartment complex closings.
- Christopher Lannan gave a Point of Information about making sure everyone fills out the Campus Master Plan survey.
- Isabella Moniz asked about the moving process.
 - Isabella Moniz readdressed to ask how it will affect graduate students.
- Sarah Harrington asked about the set deadline.
- Ezekiel Tamarkin asked about some things that could go wrong that could extend the deadline.
 - Ezekiel Tamarkin readdressed and asked if the updates finished before the deadline what would happen then?

Student Advisory Council: Daniel Currier reported that the Student Advisory Council met on Tuesday, November 19th, via Zoom to discuss campus issues, including deferred maintenance, and to participate in a comprehensive media training. During the meeting, elections were held for the positions of Parliamentarian and Vice Chair. The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9th, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. Daniel invited anyone with questions to reach out.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald provided updates from Residential Life, noting that interviews for mid-year RA positions are underway and expected to conclude this week, with new hires starting next semester. The Residence Director position for University Hall was posted today, with hopes of hiring someone before the spring semester; in the interim, Kayla Schlenz, Assistant Director of Residential Life, will support University Hall students and RAs. A new system for winter break housing is being implemented, prioritizing housing-insecure students, those with on-campus jobs, and students taking winter classes, while those with off-campus jobs may face challenges in being approved. Justin also announced the "Consent Crawl" event happening tomorrow from 7-9 PM,

which includes interactive, consent-themed activities across Davis Diner, Courtney Café, and Lammers Hall Colors of Consent, with food and drinks provided.

- Ethan Haynes gave a Point of Information that there is an appeals process.
- Brendan Major asked about the event scheduled for tomorrow.

Dining Services Committee: Christopher Lannan reported on the November 22nd meeting of the Dining Services Committee, noting discussions on topics such as the dining survey, upcoming events, and future improvements. The dining survey garnered 413 responses, highlighting improved food quality and diversity, with special recognition for Melissa's leadership and the DC's executive chef incorporating ideas from staff. Updates included milkshake toppings coming to the Bistro, the success of Owl Café sushi, and the December 4th craft fair, which will emphasize student vendors. The holiday dinner on December 5th will feature a build-your-own charcuterie board and desserts, incorporating lessons from the successful Thanksgiving dinner. Other discussions included offering tours of the DC kitchen to students and a preliminary idea to eliminate underused meal plans while maintaining costs. Christopher announced his resignation from the committee effective December 13th, due to his spring pre-practicum, and encouraged interested senators to consider joining, emphasizing the importance of continuing to advocate for dining improvements. He invited anyone interested to contact Jacob or Justin for more information.

- Daniel Currier asked about the amount of pork in the DC.
- Sarah Harrington asked about the meal plan changes.
- Angel Bethea asked which meal-plans have the amount of dining dollars you get with each meal plans.
- Daniel Currier gave a Point of Information that it is all online.
- Justin Wald let everyone know if they have any questions to reach out he is making a meeting with Melissa.
- Jacob Constant gave a Point of Information that in the report the Ice Cream mentioned was about adding dairy free ice cream in the Market Place.
- Ezekiel Tamarkin asked about when these changes for the plans will be getting released.

Vice President of Academic Life Report: Sarah Harrington gave a brief update on her event that she has started.

Parking Appeals Committee: William Connor reported that the Parking Appeals Committee met on November 21st to review ticket appeals. He clarified that tickets must be appealed through the process outlined on the ticket slip or email and that contacting him directly does not influence the outcome, as appeals are handled anonymously. William emphasized that the committee is working diligently with Parking Clerk Joshua Hettrick to address appeals promptly.

Parking Control Board: Christopher Lannan reported on the Parking Control Board meeting held on November 21st in Scanlon Hall, where several topics were discussed. The committee, chaired by Parking Clerk Joshua Hettrick and Captain Michael Foyle, reviewed issues such as visitor parking passes, which were tabled for discussion during the Senate meeting. The committee also voted unanimously to allow graduate assistants to park in faculty/staff spots during their scheduled shifts, recognizing their unique work roles across campus, with plans to implement this fully by fall 2025. Christopher shared data indicating 2,930 parking tickets issued this semester, with 1,822 for vehicles without permits, and noted efforts to make information about using financial aid for parking passes more accessible. He proposed a lottery system for residential students to win parking passes for commuter spaces as a promotional initiative, though this idea requires further development. Christopher reminded senators to prepare for a detailed discussion on visitor parking passes during new business and provided contact information for committee members for further questions or input.

- Justin Wald asked about the lottery system for parking passes.
- Ezekiel Tamarkin gave a Point of Information that the lottery system was a proposed idea, but isn't happening
- Daniel Currier recommends that the parking pass doesn't happen.
- Rachel Luo asked what fast passes are.

- Samantha Dyer asked about south lot plus permit.
- Ali Sutherland asked to expand about how they are thinking about incorporating parking related things into financial aid.

Vice President of Publicity: Elizabeth Mercer gave her Senator of the Month report, and the recipient was Ethan Mallinson our Community Relations and Fundraising Representative, for his hard work with the Turkey Drive, with the long nights counting the money, and making sure we raised a lot of money!

- Joseph Bonilla.

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant reminded senators about the process of reporting, asking those who plan to report to notify both him and Joseph by 2:00 PM the Monday before the meeting and to submit reports by 12:00 PM on the meeting day unless otherwise communicated. He emphasized the importance of completing and logging office hours this week, noting that office hours are canceled next week to allow for finals preparation. Jacob announced tabling events this week, on Wednesday, December 4th, in the DC from 6-7 PM, and Thursday, December 5th, in the Commuter Lounge from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. These events will feature hot chocolate, candy canes, and Hershey kisses, and he is looking for three senators each day to assist, which will count as an office hour. Jacob invited senators interested in helping to see him after the meeting and welcomed any questions.

Rules and Regulations Committee: Ethan Haynes reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee met on November 26th via Zoom to discuss regular business, with the primary focus being the constitution for the Young Americans for Liberty (YAL). After over a month and a half of collaboration with the club, the committee voted unanimously (4-0-0) to recommend approval of the constitution. Ethan requested a motion for the full SGA to approve YAL and welcomed any questions.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Justin Wad, to approve the YAL constitution pending minor edits.

- Brendan Major asked about what the final edits?
- Jacob Constant requested a ROLL CALL VOTE, motion was denied unanimously.
- Christopher Lannan recommends a NO vote on this constitution due to it not reflecting the vaults of Horace Mann who founded the University 185 years ago.
- Justin Wald added that he researched the principles of Horace Mann, and he found that he had six principles of education that he praised, and one of them is that schools shall embrace children from a variety of backgrounds and that is what this is, then explaining that we all have different background and different opinions, and that is what this club is trying to do.
- Daniel Currier explains that he disagrees with Chris and that this is a first amendment issue, and encourages everyone to vote with the first amendment in mind.
- Angel Bethea asked what the club stands for.

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Justin Wald, to enter a 5-minute recess.

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

- Joseph Bonilla explains that we ask to vote based on the process and not opinion.
- Sarah Harrington asked about Appendix A
- Christopher Lannan gave a Point of Information regarding the non-partisan group.
- Daniel Currier explains that this is under both the U.S. Constitution and the State Constitution with it being a free speech issue.
- Justin Wald explains that this is not a dangerous group.
- Aviannah-Leigh Saulters explains that after doing some research that the group has good views.
- Samantha Dyer gave a Point of Information that Wikipedia can always be wrong.

- William Connor mentioned that the past 3 Parliamentarians have looked over this and have nothing wrong with it, along with that the Rules and Regulations Committee has already approved it.

MOTION made by Justin Wald, seconded by William Connor, to end debate.

- Christopher Lannan requested a ROLL CALL VOTE, motion was denied unanimously.

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

Commuter Report: Barney Garcia reported that the Commuter Council met on December 2, 2024, via Zoom to finalize plans for their first event, which took place this morning in the Commuter Lounge at 8:30 AM. The event had a strong turnout, providing an opportunity to engage with peers, gather feedback, and distribute free food and goodies. Attendees were invited to participate in a commuter experience survey, which yielded several suggestions and ideas to guide the council's work in the upcoming semester. Barney noted the enthusiasm within the commuter community and expressed excitement to continue building on this momentum.

- Sarah Harrington congratulated Barney on his first report.

New Business:

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Justin Wald, to open new business.

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

There was a lengthy discussion regarding SGA Resolution #008

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Justin Wald, to endorse changes to the University's parking rules and regulations as recommended by the Parking Control Board, pending minor edits.

- Isabella Moniz gave a Point of Information that the students who were breaking into the cars last year were people from off campus.
- Sarah Harrington asked to revise the Resolution to clarify it better.
- Isabella Moniz asks to clarify if visitors can park in the South Lot for free and pay if they want to pay on campus.

ROLL CALL VOTE passed with a vote of 34 YES, 2 NO, 10 ABSTAIN.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by William Connor, to close new business.

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

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Ethan Haynes thanked everyone for the hard process.
- Nicholas Palumbo There are 164 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 December 03, 2024.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

Signed: _____

Date: _____