



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
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 Fernández, Daniel Currier, Jacob Constant, Nicholas Palumbo, Isabella Moniz, Anderson Dallaire, Travis McLoughin, Brenna Guliani, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Jakob Trainor, Cody Hoisington, Melissa Kuzmeski, Raymond Croteau, Barney Garcia, Mariza Monteiro, Ethan Mallinson, Christopher Lannan, Ali Sutherland, Angelina Cassella, Puru Sharma, Irini Mahida, Ethan Haynes, Benny Rosas, Dominic Zajko, GianCarlos Arteaga, Troyelle Nosal, Elizabeth Mercer, SAAC Representative, Sophia Rebenciuc

Members Absent: Akile Phakos

Also present and participating were Guest Speakers Vice President of Administrations and Finance Stephen Taksar, Director of Athletics Richard Lenfest Jr., Associate Director of Dining Services Sara Chisholm, Associate Director of Residential Life John Zocco, and SGA Advisors Shannon Green, Matt Della, and Ryan Meersman.

Call to Order: Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. It was announced that the meeting was being 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 February 4, 2024, general meeting was approved.

Guest Speakers: Vice President of Administrations and Finance Stephen Taksar, Director of Athletics Richard Lenfest Jr., Associate Director of Dining Services Sara Chisholm, Associate Director of Residential Life John Zocco spoke about their follow-up appearance at Student Government Association to talk about the finances for the University for the following year. A presentation by all the guests, was given where all the information was shared, A link to the livestream for public viewing is found here: [[LINK](#)]. The portion of the meeting that was for our guest speakers will be timestamped: 2:43-29.49.

- A. Irini Mahida asked a question regarding the fitness fee and how many people have a gym membership.
- B. Christopher Lannan thanked members of the Executive board and the Dining Services committee for helping making sure that the fee for Dining did not go up.
- C. Ali Sutherland asked for the PowerPoint to be released to us. Then asked if other clubs and organizations wanted to help with working with the food kitchen who could they reach out to.
 - a. Sara Chisholm responded with at dining@westfield.ma.edu
- D. Ethan Mallinson asked if the fitness would now automatically be in the fee, and we aren't able to waive the fee.
- E. Ethan Haynes asked a follow-up question about the proposed tariffs, if they are going to offset any projects on campus.

- F. Ali Sutherland asked because the fitness fee is being added into the general fee, and people that utilize Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 of the GI bill would they then be covered?

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla introduced our guest speakers Vice President of Administrations and Finance Stephen Taksar, Director of Athletics Richard Lenfest Jr., Associate Director of Dining Services Sara Chisholm, Associate Director of Residential Life John Zocco

Joseph Bonilla then thanked everyone who participated in the Soup Kitchen, then gave brief remarks about the Legislative Breakfast and thanked everyone who attended the event and for talking with all of the legislators. He then let everyone know that next week there will be a Dress-Up meeting as Mayor Reichelt will be joining us. Finally, he accepted the resignation of Angelina Cassella as a Courtney Hall Representative and accepted their appointment as a University Hall Representative. He also appointed Ali Sutherland as a member of the Academic Policies Committee for the remainder of the F24-S25 academic year. Then he accepted the appointment of Will Onorato as the Interim-President for the class of 2028.

- A. Aiden Luciano wanted to thank Joseph Bonilla for everything that he is done in his role as President.

Student Trustee Report: Daniel Currier thanked everyone who attended last Friday's Legislative Breakfast, emphasizing that their participation demonstrated commitment to both SGA and the student body. He and Joseph presented to Beacon Hill legislators about Westfield State's capital needs, advocating for immediate investment and a dedicated revenue stream. Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers expressed agreement, though broader discussions on state debt, administrative priorities, and spending will continue. He remains hopeful that lawmakers will reach a consensus before the passage of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget this summer. He also announced that the next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Thursday, February 20th, in the Owl's Nest and encouraged members to attend to observe governance in action. With graduation in less than 100 days, he reminded members that the Student Trustee election is approaching and urged those interested to attend the meeting for firsthand experience. He invited anyone considering running for the position to reach out with questions.

Student Advisory Committee: Daniel Currier announced that the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education will meet on Thursday, February 13th, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Due to their attendance at the Keeper of the Dream dinner that evening, he and Joseph will be unable to attend. Under SAC's bylaws, they are permitted to appoint designees in their place, with the only requirement being that the designees must be elected members of Westfield State's Student Government Association. He encouraged anyone considering running for an Executive Council position next year, including Student Trustee or President, to take advantage of this opportunity to gain insight into the role. He invited interested members to reach out to him or Joseph directly for more information.

- A. Joseph Bonilla added that there are members of the Legislature that the Executive Council deliberated to invite.

University Curriculum Committee Report: Melissa Kuzmeski reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on Friday, February 7, 2025, from 1:40 PM to 3:00 PM. The meeting began with the approval of MOVP 01XX Pickleball for Wellness, which had been un-tabled from the previous session. EDUC 208, 219, and 220, all WISE-inclusive courses, were reviewed and approved with revisions to better align with course content and learning objectives. ENGL 363, Sheltered English Immersion, received updates to its course description, now requiring fieldwork and a minimum grade of B or better, which was approved. A new 18-credit Education Minor was introduced, requiring six courses and excluding Education Majors, with course selections to be made in consultation with the department chair; the proposal passed. Mathematics and Advanced Math for Elementary Education were tabled due to the absence of a speaker to discuss updates. Geology 3XX A Sense of Place, a WISE-inclusive course, was approved for cross-listing with Geography to improve accessibility for students. GPS 101 World Regional Geography was revised to update course content, ensure WISE inclusion, and improve student learning outcomes, which was approved. GPS 106 Sustainable Planet was also approved, now including a lab component and updated course content. ART 108 My Brand, My Story, Computer Graphics for Art Applications was tabled due to incomplete final forms. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 21.

- A. Christopher Lannan asked when the Education minor will be taking place.

Vice President of Publicity Report: Elizabeth Mercer started her report by reminding everyone about Owl Ball committee and explained what the committee will be doing over the course of the semester leading up to Owl Ball. Elizabeth then explained the Blue Key Committee and asked for 2 nominations for each class starting with the First-year class.

NOMINATIONS

- A. Jakob Traynor nominated Cody Hoisington and Angelina Cassella to serve on the committee for the First-year class and they both accepted.
- B. Brenna Guiliani nominated herself and Aviannah-Leigh Saulters to serve on the committee for the Sophomore class and they both accepted.
- C. Justin Wald nominated Travis McLoughlin to serve on the committee for the Junior Class he accepted.
- D. Travis McLoughlin nominated Justin Wald to serve on the committee for the Junior Class he accepted.
- E. Christopher Lannan nominated Irini Mahida to serve on the committee for the Junior Class.
- F. Irini Mahida nominated Christopher Lannan to serve on the committee for the Junior Class.
A secret ballot vote was held and the determined members for the Junior class to serve on the committee was Justin Wald and Travis McLoughlin.
- G. Nicholas Palumbo nominated William Connor to serve on the committee for the Senior Class he accepted.
- H. William Connor nominated Nicholas Palumbo to serve on the committee for the Senior Class he accepted.

QUESTIONS

- A. Christopher Lannan asked for a 2-minute recess however the motion was denied as it was not seconded.
- B. Justin Wald asked to explain about how Owl Ball works for anyone that wasn't there last year!
- C. Sarah Harrington added that a meal is included in the ticket.
- D. Ethan Mallinson asked for the projected cost of the ticket.

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant reminded everyone to complete and submit their office hours. He also announced that next week's speaker will be Mayor Reichelt of West Springfield. He wished everyone a great rest of their week.

- A. Justin Wald gave a point of information that he is also on the Board of Trustees for Westfield.
- B. Daniel Currier also reminded everyone about Tuesday being a Monday schedule to reach out to Jacob if you can't make the meeting.
- C. Joseph Bonilla let everyone know that it is an expectation that you go to your class and miss the meeting if you have a class at that time.
- D. Irini Mahida confirmed that there is a meeting next week.
- E. Sarah Harrington also reminded everyone that she will be unavailable next week.

Rules and Regulations Report: Ethan Haynes reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee met on Wednesday, February 5th, to review the constitutions of the Greenhouse and Gardens Club, the Occupational Therapy Assistant Club, and the Dance Company, which was up for renewal this year. The committee recommended approval for all three, as the only issues were minor formatting errors such as bolding, misplaced subsections, and the safety waiver not being on its own page. He also reminded everyone to check their emails and announced that Rules and Regulations will not be meeting this week.

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Daniel Currier, to table the three constitutions for approval at a later date.

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

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Ethan Haynes, for a 15-minute recess to get food and to check our emails.

- a. Isabella Moniz asked which email that Austin is talking about.
- b. Ethan Haynes reminded everyone that has not signed the confidentiality agreement to contact him.
- c. Sarah Harrington gave a Point of Information with the clarification of what email it was.

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

New Business:

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Daniel Currier, to open new Business.

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

MOTION made by Daniel Currier, seconded by Justin Wald, to enter Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A section 21(A)(I) to discuss a complaint filed against a member of the SGA.

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

Following approval, Daniel Currier read a statement requesting that all non-SGA members leave the room with the exception of SGA Advisors Matthew Dellea, Shannon Green and Ryan Meersman, as well as Maggie Balch, Father Warren Savage and Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola.

The SGA entered Executive Session at: 6:26 pm.

The SGA reconvened in open session at 6:59 pm ¹.

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Daniel Currier, to close new Business.

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

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Sarah Harrington reminded everyone that the Executive Board is here for you.
- Nicholas Palumbo stated that there are 94 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ethan Haynes adjourned the meeting at 6:19 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 January 28, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

¹ This portion of the meeting until adjournment was not livestreamed.

Signed: _____

Date: _____