

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Ely 017 (SGA Room)

- I. ROLL CALL: Timothy Allen, Crystal Mills, Miles Jordan, Daniel Lyons, and Liam Connor were absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: February 20, 2024 Minutes were approved.
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Nicholas Smith**
 - A. Executive Director of the Research Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurial Center (RIDE): **Dr. Lamis Jarvinen**
Lamis gave a presentation about the RIDE center

Chris Piro: How are you planning on getting the word out for the RIDE center.

Lamis Jarvinen: Honestly that's a really good question. As far as I am aware the best way that this is done is through the use of Instagram and we also have presence which can be used for this.

Jack Guindon: Is the use of this center major dependent or can it be done as a student of any discipline?

Lamis Jarvinen: We are looking into a lot of different ways that we can incorporate this area into whatever area that students are interested in. Some examples of this are

Sarah Harrington: I think a white board to generate ideas of what students want in the RIDE center would be good for getting the word out to students.

Lamis Jarvinen: I think that's a great idea because we are looking to make this a student focused space so that information would be essential to that end.

- B. Senior Program Coordinator for the Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion division(JEDI): **Sierra Alexander**
Sierra Alexander gave a presentation about JEDI

Jack Guindon: How did programming for Black History Month go?

Sierra Alexander: Programming went very well and

Kaitlyn Egan: I would love to have you meet with class councils in order to form a partnership and make us more active in your spaces.

Sierra Alexander: I'm no stranger to working with those groups but I am happy to meet with those groups more if they are interested.

Sarah Harrington: Can you give us a little sneak peak to Women's history month programming?

Sierra Alexander: We are going to have two women's Herstory trivia events, are looking to plan a women in nursing event, and much more. All are welcome but these events are going to be in order to celebrate women.

Jacob Constant: Are you able remain completely anonymous on a bias incident report.

Sierra Alexander: It is possible to remain anonymous on a report and still have it be seen by the BEST team.

- IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Daniel Currier**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21, the Board of Trustees met in executive session at 3:00pm this afternoon for the following reasons as stipulated publicly on the open meeting agenda:

- (1) To discuss complaints filed against an administrator of the University.
- (2) To conduct a strategy session in relation to negotiations with nonunion personnel.
- (3) To discuss litigation strategy.

Given the confidential matter discussed, I am unable to provide any further details.

On a lighter note, I am looking for senators who would be interested in joining a working group that will organize a civic engagement day for our campus. As Student Trustee, I am responsible for serving as the student liaison between our campus and the state government. Informing students about state issues that matter to them is critical. As we gear up for the presidential election this fall, I hope that we can come together to put on a day of events designed to engage students in civic engagement activities. That might include a station to register to vote, a discussion on local and state governance, a workshop on writing emails and letters to elected officials, and much more. Please see me after today's meeting if you are interested in serving on a working group for this event. Additionally, please let me know of any students from outside SGA who would be interested. I am aiming for a diverse group of students for this initiative.

A. Strategic Planning Committee: **Daniel Currier**

The Strategic Planning Committee met at noon yesterday to refine the three institutional priorities we agreed to during our three-day retreat with SME Strategy Consulting. Our committee was divided into three smaller groups, and we each worked to refine the wording and meaning of each of these priorities.

This week, we will be dividing into three subcommittees – each focusing on one of the three institutional priorities identified. We will be meeting as subcommittees and the full committee on alternate weeks through May. We look forward to developing Westfield State University's next five-year strategic plan and move our institution forward.

As I mentioned previously, my role is to help inform not only this body, but the student body at-large regarding the strategic plan. I have consulted with the Executive Council regarding a potential communications strategy, and I appreciate their feedback. One of the ideas shared, for example, was a postcard mailing to all first-years, sophomores, and juniors, which would more likely be read and considered important by students as opposed to yet another email communication. Please let me know if you have any other ideas on how to best inform students about the strategic plan and its importance in relation to their experience at Westfield State University.

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: A. Food Services Committee: **Jacob Constant**

Hello all, I am Jacob Constant and I am back for a second report but this time for the Food Committee.

The Food Committee met last Friday, February 23rd, and we discussed the progress on the counter, new food ideas, and moving the committee meetings to bi-weekly being on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Giving the committee more topics to talk about in the meetings, however it was mentioned that anyone can still go up to Sara, Bill, or anyone in dining if they have any issues that they want heard at the time of the issue.

The update on the drink counter. The wall that was holding up the old counter will start to be rebuilt in the next two weeks. Then tile will be drilled out and fixed and will likely be a new color as the current color has been discontinued by the manufacturer. The backsplash will be a white tile that will be much easier to clean. They are also adding a dedicated water line to each machine they plan to add to help with issues if and when they come up. The counter itself is moving along

in good shape from what we have been told and is expected to be installed in 8-10 weeks right around commencement.

Then finally we talked about a food showing that happened last week and I was fortunate enough to be asked to join in because I was in the DC. The food was greek products. We tried 2 types of Swiss cheese, Traditional pies which were Traditional Spinach and cheese pie, Mediterranean with tomato and a Vegan spinach and cheese substitute pie which in my opinion was the best out of the three. We also tried some pastries which they referred to as sticks and there were a few different kinds, one being a savory cheese one and my favorite an Apple pie with sugar. They also brought some Greek beans which will be added to the rotation in the salad bar.

Anderson Dallaire: I have a question about fish Fridays, why did fish Fridays increase after I know that

Justin Wald: It's an lent based thing.

Anderson Dallaire: We are not a Catholic school so I don't fully understand why we are catering to that faith so much.

Dan Currier: It is only one meal a week and it is helpful to Catholic students so I don't see the problem.

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE:

A. University Curriculum Committee: **Scott Doan**

Good afternoon everyone, UCC meet last week to review and revise courses in astronomy, geography, biology, environmental science, political science, and math. Starting with Astronomy, we reviewed 1 courses where both included changes to the description and course structure.

Physical Geography saw a slight revision to course description.

Biology saw a change to be made to 3 courses but then was resulted in tabling.

Environmental science saw a change to a new course.

Political science saw course revision to 2 courses.

And finally math saw a change to a new course.

Jack Guindon: Do you happen to know what the revised political science classes are?

Scott Doan: For Political Science, it was American National Government and Stakeholder representation.

Nick Palumbo: What was environmental science class?

Scott Doan: The Environmental Science class was applied Sciences for the Environment.

Dan Currier: If any of you wonder what courses are going through governance you are able to see that online as it is happening.

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT EQUITY:

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE: **Kaolin Westcott**

The Finance Committee Met last Wednesday 21st and reviewed several Finance Proposals.

Proposal S24-005

The first proposal is from Chess Club. The club is requesting \$611 for general club equipment and for catering for an event they are hosting. The request is within the limits of the finance bylaws. The finance committee decided unanimously to accept the proposal as is.

I motion to accept the Chess Clubs proposal of \$611. For the purchase of club equipment and catering. **Motion Carries**

Questions on motion:

Dan Currier: Are they officially a club?

Laura Cafaro: Yes

Chris Piro: How much money is currently in their account?

Kaolin Westcott: Not very much as they just reactivated the club recently.

Proposal S24-007

The second proposal is from the Black Student Union. The club is requesting \$200 for a Talent Showcase the club is hosting. The funds will be used towards the cost of an outside performer. The request is within the limits of the finance bylaws. The finance committee decided unanimously to accept the proposal as is.

I motion to accept the Black Student Union proposal of \$200. For the cost of an outside performer. **Motion Carries**

Chris Piro: How much money do they have in their club account?

Laura Cafaro: \$517

Brandon Rita: This group does a lot with a very small budget so I think we should try to help them if we can.

Proposal S24-008

The last proposal is from the Music Therapy Club. The club is requesting \$2,783.50 for the annual New England Region of the American Music Therapy Association Conference. The funds will be used towards the cost of registration, transportation, hotel, and club licenses. The request is within the limits of the finance bylaws. The finance committee decided unanimously to accept the proposal as is.

I motion to accept the Music Therapy Club proposal of \$2,783.50. For the Purchase of registration, transportation, hotel, and club licenses. **Motion Carries**

Questions:

Chris Piro: How much money is in their club account?

Kaolin Westcott: About \$1,000 is in the club event and they do a lot of fundraising and they will also be charging the members of their club to fund whatever SGA can't provide.

IX. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PUBLICITY:

A. Owl Ball committee: **Elizabeth Mercer**

Last Owl Ball meeting we made a reel and we look forward to announcing the theme and posting about it on social media. The Owl Ball committee is excited and hope you all are too. As a reminder, Owl Ball is on April 5th, so mark your calendars.

B. Senator of the Month: **Elizabeth Mercer**

Congratulations to the senator of the month who has put in so much work, effort, and passion into his role. He leads by example and is always willing to help in any way he can. He embodies what a student leader is. He has not only participated in his class council meetings helping fundraise with sweatshirts, but he also volunteered to attend the 185th dinner alongside the Executive Board. We're proud of you and congratulations to Anderson.

X. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:

XI. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:

XII. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. Class of 2024: *Katie Egan*

I hope you are all doing well. I have lots to share with you tonight, so I will go right into it. First, I am happy to share with you that our 100 Days to Commencement celebration was a big success. We were hoping to get as many seniors as last year's class did, and we were surprised to have surpassed our goal significantly with about 350 seniors in attendance. We have gotten a great deal of positive feedback about the event and I am glad that everyone had a great time. Because we planned catering around last year's numbers though, we ran out of food quickly and the lines for the bar were extremely long. It was a great problem to have, but we will modify our estimations for other upcoming events. Speaking of, VP Hearn asked us to put on a 50 day and 25 day celebration because of the interest we got in 100 days. In our class council meeting yesterday, we discussed what these days would look like with the support of the Vice President. We decided to market the 50 days celebration as a "Fifty Day Getaway-senior year has been stressful, so come take a getaway with us." It will be hosted again at Westfield River Brewing Company, but we will have the outside patio space to utilize as well. We will have two food trucks, live music, a Photo Booth that prints photo strips, free 2024 koozies, and maybe a signature drink in addition to the regular brewery menu. We will have tropical decorations and photo opportunities as well for students to enjoy, and potentially fire pits to roast s'mores. There is a quick turnaround for this event being on Thursday, March 28th, but I am confident that we can get it done. We are discussing the 25 day celebration taking the form of a senior cookout either in the Dower Lot or in the Pavilion at Stanley Park. There will be more information to come on this. Finally, I am disappointed to say that we did not reach our goal for Senior week and have had to decide to cancel the event. Information about refunds to the seniors that have purchased a ticket will be coming out soon. In an attempt to still be able to celebrate the senior class, we are hoping to host a Senior Weekend before we move off campus. The biggest feedback we have gotten as to why people did not purchase a ticket was they are too expensive and moving off campus to move back in a few weeks later was unattractive, though this is commonplace at other institutions. Senior Weekend will hopefully address these concerns and start to bring this tradition back to campus on a smaller scale. Regardless, I hope that you all will consider putting on your own 50 Day celebrations and even 25 days too. I would love to establish more traditions for students to look forward to at Westfield State

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIV. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened)

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan Currier: There is an event for the accounting and finance club

Isabella MoniZ: There is a social work association game night coming up.

Jack Guindon: History Club has its Historical Figures dinner.

Sarah Harrington: Read across Westfield is this Sunday.

Matt Dellea: Take care of your mental health as student leaders.

Austin Morgan: Relay for life is being hosted by CAB.

Scott Doan: There are 80 days until commencement

- XVI. ROLL CALL: Timothy Allen, Crystal Mills, Miles Jordan, Daniel Lyons, and Liam Connor were absent
- XVII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at ___6:31___ until our meeting on Tuesday March 5th

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