**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**April 6, 2021**

1. ROLL CALL: Jordyn Carpenter, Katherine Pinney, Kaylin Carpenter, Catherine Eynation, Hunter Hassett, Adanna Duanys, Ariana Torres, and Emily Walden were absent. Alex Dotiwalla and Logan Terenzi were excused.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: March 30, 2021, minutes were approved.
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ***Samuel Tsongalis***
4. I would first like to note that we do have a speaker today, however because they are an active member of the Presidential Search, they are currently meeting with one of the candidates for the search. Here to update us is Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Westfield State Foundation, Erica Broman.
5. Vice President Broman: It has been a crazy day I think I'm here to talk to you about Give a Hoot, because we still have about six hours left in that, and I am so pleased to say that we have blown past our financial goal. We still have a number of donors we would like to reach, which is 350, so I would invite you to join with the other leadership on the campus, who we received 100% participation. It is not necessarily an effort to get the largest gifts but, to get the broadest participation because all the money we're raising, is going to go back to support the student experience, here at Westfield.
6. We just blew the doors down on the student scholarship, so you know that were centered on helping the students. Where we are still trying to play a little bit of catch up, is athletics, and that's kind of interesting because last year that team was very competitive. But the Owls Helping Owls is doing well and is the fund that we started last year. It is specifically designed to help students who need help with securities, that might be food, transportation, technology, and housing. We have been able to award those pretty quickly, to the students who most need them. That's done by a committee on the campus, that includes a number of folks who are in Student Affairs, Reslife, and Social Work etc.
7. We still have a little bit of a ways to go, but we did exceptionally well. We have raised our goal by about 20% this year and I must admit, I was a little bit nervous a couple of days ago, but by noon today we had made our financial goal and we still have some coming in, so I would highly encourage you to give whatever you can or whatever you're comfortable doing or continuing to share it on social media.
8. I asked for Barb Hand to share the link so, if you want to send that out to others you know and encourage others to give I would appreciate it. We're committed to getting more alumni. We did that quite successfully and we have a number of people in the community that supported it and we're anxious to get those resources out and working for the students.
9. **Kelson Burke:** I was just wondering, if you knew or could tell us how much money you have already made and how many donors do you have?
10. **Vice President Broman:** I'm currently away from my laptop right now, I'm actually on the phone, but I last checked one hour ago and we made $63,000 and our goal was $55,000 and we have 350 donors as our goal and we have currently 250. We've noticed that a lot of the donors are alumni of Westfield and on the spectrum it's either a lot of an amount or very little there's not really a middle ground of amount. Just a reminder that Give a Hoot day does end tonight, at midnight. If you want to donate or spread the word you have until midnight. We still want to raise as much as possible because in the end, they do go back to the students, whether it be with the scholarships or the Westfield fund, which is unrestricted money, which is used if we want to support something or plan something, you can just go and take that money. It's definitely important to get that amount up. But you can go in and donate to a specific area in the section so, if you want to donate to athletics or if you want to donate to you know whatever, it maybe you can go in and donate to that specific area.
11. **Kelson Burke**: Once Give a Hoot day is over, what are you kind of looking forward to, or have plans for the rest of the semester?
12. **Vice President Broman:** Thank you for asking that, the council has an Evening of Discovery coming up and typically you know, we have a student celebration each May where we highlight a different college of the campus and this year, we're doing it virtually by nature of Covid. It is for the College of Mathematics and Science. This year, students can go into it together in groups but, we are selling golf balls for $100.00 and once we get all the golf balls sold we will actually going to drop them from the air about 200 feet, and whichever golf balls are closest to the target or tee can win up to the $10,000.00 prize. That's actually what's coming next and then after that we are going to be campaigning to renovate the seating in Parenzo. As it goes under construction we're going to be raising the $200,000.00 to actually redo the stage in Parenzo.
13. **Kelson Burke**: What about the ice hockey lockers?
14. Vice President Broman: Yes, we have raised $75,000.00 of the 100,000, that is our goal. We did raise enough to actually do the renovation but we wanted to raise more in case, down the road, we need to fix a locker or we needed to redo something else, we wanted that cushion. We're also trying to do a Jerry Gravel scholarship, he was a chair here and track coach and we are going give this to a student, who needs to be a sophomore, and a Movement Science major the scholarship of $100,000.
15. **Kelson Burke:** Thank you so much, and thanks for coming to the meeting.
16. Since we are on the topic of the Presidential Search, I just want to say thank you to everyone who came to the student forum, whether they came in person or via zoom. It was great to meet Dr. Somerville, as well as listen to all the great questions that you had for her. Additionally, I would like to thank Thalita Neves for all of her hard work and dedication to the search. In Exec we have only been able to follow the search, as well as through all the open forums, including leading a session for students yesterday, her time and dedication cannot go unnoticed. Thank you Thalita. The next candidate will be coming to campus this Thursday at 3:30. For additional information please seek out Thalita, and I strongly encourage each of you to join.
17. I would like to give you all an update on the policy referring to the common core. After our meeting last Tuesday, Thalita Neves and I met with President Saigo the next day. In which I was ready to lay out a strong argument on why the policy must change, but to no shock, Dr. Saigo had prepared for this conversation and had already met with the University Curriculum Committee and All University Committee Chairs and worked to a compromise. Something he seemed extremely certain about I might add.
18. I am pleased to let you all know that on Friday, April 2, UCC decided to revisit their vote from earlier in the week and had decided to drop the level-300 class amendment to the core. Some will mention that this was a friendly amendment, but unfortunately because there was so much confusion and pressure on the vote, AUC had voted no on the policy, thus seeking reconciliation instead. AUC then approved reconciliation and has forwarded the policy to the President's Office. I have already received word from the President's Office, and I am excited to announce that the policy will receive the President’s signature.
19. The policy will take effect for all students starting in the 2021-2022 Academic Year. To those who have not completed the core, do not fret, this is only a core reduction of the following credits:

* 3 Credits in Literary and Philosophical Analysis (reduced from 6)
* 6 Credits in Social Science/Social Understanding (reduced from 9)
* 3 Credits in Appreciation of the Arts (reduced from 6)

1. To those who have already completed these new requirements or even the old ones that may have been affected by this, I am sorry but because you have already completed this part of your core, there will be no change in the number of classes that you had to take or will have to take because, well you already took them.
2. In all this reduces current core, in a total of 9 credits, making the Westfield State University Common Core 38-41 Credit Hours. The lowest it has been in decades. With this new policy SCORE will work to replace this temporary core with a more permanent core that will better fit students in their majors, giving them more opportunities to explore their perspective fields.
3. It seems that with every literal hour that passed by with this policy, it got a little more complicated, and a little more unlikely its ability to pass. Nevertheless, University Governance, including this very legislative body received dozens, if not hundreds of letters, from students, faculty, and even whole departments, coming forward with support and compromises to the policy. It is for all this feedback and dire information, that we are reminded that governance at work, is the will of the people at work. I would like to thank everyone who not only wrote to us about this policy, but to the students who made sure that this policy was a true win for the students. Their names are Lyric Lamagdelaine, Lindsay McNulty, Logan Terenzi and Audrey Therriault. Thank you for seeing this policy through.
4. AUC will next Friday, April 9, at 1:40 pm.
5. I would like to read off some information on COVID-19 on Campus from a brief statement from Dean of Students Maggie Balch and Associate Dean of Students Shannon Broderick. The statement reads as follows:
6. This is a statement from Dean Maggie Balch: In a strange aligning of the planets, neither Gloria Lopez, Shannon Broderick or I can make the meeting tonight. Could things: the week's testing numbers are below. We are in the home stretch. We need to keep up the good work. The state numbers are going up, so there is still reason to be wearing masks, washing hands, etc.
7. We are trying to get people pre-registered for the vaccine. Look for the QR codes around campus, at testing, at the DC etc.
8. Once you get vaccinated, please send a picture/copy of your vaccine card to Health Services for your on campus health records.
9. There were 8 Positives last week through testing, 1 was residential. The COVID Snapshot is as follows: 12 positives total, 2 residential, 9 commuters and 1 employee. We had 15 contacts total with 2 residential, 12 commuters and 1 employee. Landsdowne has zero positives and 2 contacts.
10. This is a statement from Associate Dean Shannon Broderick: Not much has been sent through the system. I think the
11. One last reminder that if you are considering running for a position next year, please make sure to submit your email of intent. If any of you would like to talk to me about my position, I would be more than happy to.
12. A few of you have asked me to talk a little bit about it. In a nutshell, my predecessor probably said it best “as the President, your job is to fill the gaps.” You never really know what may come your way.
13. In addition to running Exec, and SGA, you must also meet with the University President monthly, work with the President’s Office to convene joint monthly Exec/Cabinet Meetings, and ultimately meet with whoever asks you for a meeting. Again, these are just a few. Every President does everything a little different but heads up, there are a ton of moving parts. Barb Hand will be your best friend. Barb, I know I say this every time we talk, which is almost daily, but I cannot express how thankful I am for all your help with literally everything. Without getting too much into goodbyes or anything as such, because we still have a month left, I can say that without a doubt, it has been a genuine honor. Please take some time to consider running for not only the role as President, but any position. I thank you all for your time and effort for this year.
14. Items not listed on Agenda.
15. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: ***Thalita Neves***
16. All University Committee: **No report**
17. Student Advisory Council: **No report**
18. Safe Opening Task Force: **No report**
19. Presidential Search Committee: **No report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: ***Aaron Lessing***
2. Student Affairs Committee: **No report**
3. Diversity/Inclusion Committee: **No report**
4. Food Services Committee: **Aaron Lessing**
5. Per our discussion last week, we decided that the DC will continue to offer peanut butter. Next semester, the peanut butter will be prepackaged to further protect those with a peanut butter allergy.
6. We are about to finish testing out all of the reusable containers, it has been narrowed down to three and Food Services Committee will pick the winner on Friday, April 9.
7. Food Services Committee is looking into getting more picnic tables for the University and the DC will be buying around 30 metal picnic tables to have spread out around main campus.
8. Frappuccino’s are new to the Bistro, so please check those out, they have been selling like crazy.
9. The last few weeks of the semester will be Chef’s choice in the DC because Dining Services will need to remove all appliances and food from the building for a floor remodel that is occurring over the summer.
10. Bill Connor is curious about if the students would like to switch Ice Cream vendors from Ben & Jerry’s to a local business. We have three options, no, partially, or full switch. I am assuming you all might have strong opinions on the matter so please let me know. Sara Chisholm and I are against the idea, however Bill asks that we at least do a sampling, so on Friday, April 9 in the Tekoa Room we are sampling The Northside Creamery’s ice cream. If you want to come and taste some to give your opinion, please stop by at 11:30 am.
11. **Lyric Lamagdelaine:** I just want to voice my opinion that Ben and Jerry's have a wide variety, including dairy free, low calorie and I was just wondering if this local business had the same.
12. **Aaron Lessing:** No, the local place has the basic flavors; I can send an email of the flavors that this company has.
13. **Olivia Houde:** I think it's cool that we're supporting small local businesses, but at the same time a lot of people like the Ben and Jerry's so, I was just wondering is it a price thing, will it be cheaper?
14. **Aaron Lessing**: I know the reasoning behind it is support local businesses, I don't believe it has anything to do with the price, but I definitely can ask.
15. **Joey Joyal:** Is the taste testing for the ice cream for only on campus students?
16. **Aaron Lessing:** Yes, if you live on campus you can come, obviously there's not going to be a zoom, but if you are off campus you can come, obviously wear your mask and be tested.
17. **Lindsey Mcnulty**: I just want to point out that two weeks ago the marketplace didn't have Ben and Jerry's, they were sold out and I got a lot of complaints and opinions about this. I don't think it would be a good idea to just get rid of it. I know a lot of people would be upset.
18. **Aaron Lessing:** Yes, I definitely agree that everyone loves the Ben and Jerry's and we are scared as a committee that changing everything would be troublesome. We're still kind of in the process of getting everybody's opinions.
19. **Lyric Lamagdelaine:** What is the packaging like? Is it the same as Ben and Jerry's? Is it going to be a pint or is it going to be smaller or bigger containers?
20. **Aaron Lessing:** I'm not 100% sure but I can get back to you on that.
21. **Cam Kelleher:** I'm just wondering if you can relay this to Bill Connor that students are already on edge and I don't think changing something, that's not a problem, is a smart idea.
22. **Aaron Lessing:** I agree with you Cam.
23. **Olivia Houde:** I was just wondering if maybe instead of getting rid of it all together, we can add it in a different area, like in the DC or when we do ice cream sundae days. You know just so we don't have to get rid of it 100%, but we're still supporting that local business.
24. **Aaron Lessing:** That is a great idea and there's definitely potential for partial support and possibly doing both still. I know that the company actually came to us and asked if we would help support them and all their workers, so definitely having them on campus and still keeping the fan favorite of Ben and Jerry's is a great idea.
25. Parking Control Board: **No report**
26. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No report**
27. Substance Advisory Committee: **No report**
28. Veteran Affairs Report: **No report**
29. Parking Appeals Board: **No report**

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: ***Lyric Lamagdelaine***
   1. Academic Policies Committee: **No report**
   2. Curriculum Committee: **No report**
   3. Enrollment Management Committee: **No report**
   4. International Programs Committee: **No report**
   5. Academic Technology and Information Services Committee: **No report**
2. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: ***Kelson Burke***
3. Finance Committee: **No report**
4. Foundation Report: **No report**
5. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: ***Cameron Kelleher***
6. Just wanted to remind those people in CAB that CAB election submissions are now open, and you can submit your letter of intent to the vpprogramming email. If you are in CAB, you would have gotten the info today.
7. If anybody is interested in running for my position, please feel free to ask me any questions about it if you are interested! Have a good week.
8. Campus Activities Board: **Cameron Kelleher**
9. LEGISLATIVE SECRETARTY: ***Elizabeth Ferrara***
10. **Samual Tsongalis for Elizabeth Ferrara**: As you know, Blue Key is happening right now. Applications were due yesterday. I never heard back from seven of the nominees so, I am holding it open until the end of the day today, hopefully a few more will submit.
11. As far as our committee meeting goes, there was no one time that worked for everyone in the doodle poll I sent out. I’m going to send another one and if nothing changes, we will have to meet after an SGA meeting, I apologize, I know that is not ideal. I will however keep the meeting going as fast as possible. You can expect to receive an email from me tomorrow morning, after I close the applications, with the packet, more info, and a new doodle poll. Text or email me with any questions.
12. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **No report**
13. Community Relations/Fundraising**: No report**
14. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: ***Kimberly Fish***
15. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:
16. Rules and Regulations Committee: **No report**
17. Constitutional Review Committee: **No report**
18. ADVISORY COMMITTEES:
19. Advisory Committee on Facilities Planning: **No report**
20. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: **No report**
21. Advisory Committee on Budget Planning: **No report**
22. Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: **No report**
23. University Efficiency Analysis Advisory Committee: **No report**
24. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:
25. Commuter Council: **No report**
26. Senior Class: **No report**
27. Junior Class: **No report**
28. Sophomore Class: **No report**
29. First Year Class: **No report**
30. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. NEW BUSINESS:
2. It was moved by Aaron Lessing and seconded to open New Business. The motion was accepted.
3. Aaron moves to amend the name changes into the constitution in articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.
4. The motion was accepted.
5. It was moved and seconded to close new business. Motion is accepted.
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
7. **Olivia Houde:** Just wanted to announce and let you know that the last day to send out our thank you notes to the Counseling Center is tomorrow, April 7, please keep sending them it's super important and we really appreciate it
8. **Nicole Erickson:** MASSPIRG is working hard to promote a lot of new and fun events on social media. We will be holding a social media event for Hunger and Homelessness to advertise the donation feature, in the GET app, that students on campus will be able to use, so if you are interested in joining us to publicize this, let me know! We could use as much attention to this as possible on any social media! We are also going to be meeting with the Librarians to find some more ways to get Open Education Resources to professors on campus, for future classes. For 100% Renewable Energy, we are working on our Earth Week Events that will be coming up later this month, especially our big Earth Day Celebration and Webinar on April 22 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm. We will have professors and students speaking at this event about the importance of a greener planet, and we will have a fun Kahoot with prizes! We also are planning events for the rest of the week. For example, we are going to be holding a Letter to the Editor event to advocate for the 100% Clean Act, and we will be lobbying our Elected Officials on that Tuesday, as well. If you have an idea for an Earth Week event you want to see us do, we would love to hear it! Thank you
9. **Kimberly Fish:** Just wanted to remind everybody that the last day to send in the Email of Intent is this Friday, April 9, so please, if you have not already sent me your emails and would like to run for a position, send me that by Friday. Barb Hand did send out an email updating everybody and reminding you just wanted to let you guys know again.
10. **Lyric Lamagdelaine:** Reminder that First Years and Sophomores are registering this Friday, April 9.
11. **Thalita Neves:** Just wanted to thank everybody for coming to the President search, the next meeting will be Thursday, April 8 at 3:30 pm, so please join. If you are interested in my position please feel free to reach out.
12. **Aaron Lessing:** Just a reminder that the taste test for ice cream is this Friday, April 9 and if you have any questions on my position please reach out to me as well.
13. **Thalita Neves:** 39 days until commencement
14. ROLL CALL: Jordyn Carpenter, Katherine Pinney, Kaylin Carpenter, Catherine Eynation, Hunter Hassett, Adanna Duanys, Ariana Torres, and Emily Walden were absent. Alex Dotiwalla and Logan Terenzi were excused.
15. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

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