STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, December 05, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Ely 017 (SGA Room)

I. ROLL CALL: Gage Glanville, Patty Sowa, Eri'yan Baker, Abby Glasheen, Loic Black, and Miles Jordan were absent.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: November 28, 2023 The minutes were approved

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nicholas Smith

This is our second-to-last meeting of the year, which is unbelievable. We do not have a meeting on December 18th, but we do have a meeting next week. I thank my exceptional executive board members for their hard work this semester. Time has flown by, and it's all thanks to you. So, thank you for your dedication and hard work. As finals are approaching soon, I wish you all the best of luck. I'm saying this all this week because I have no finals during actual finals week, just tests and projects on the last days of my classes, as I'm sure you all do as well.

I also want to remind you all that there is an open house this weekend. If you signed up last week, you are expected to be there for the times you signed up. All senators are expected to help represent SGA, so please come by and help if you are around; this is part of being a senate member

A. Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Taksar, Director of Residential Life Chris Willenbrock,and Director of Dining Services Bill Connor.

Steve Taksar, Chris Willenbrock, and Bill Connor gave a presentation.

i. Desiree Brown: You mentioned a lot of food just gets thrown away. Has the community or the school thought about doing a composting program in collaboration with the local farms and such?
ii. Bill Connor: Yes, we actually do compost. So all of the waste that you consume or don't consume whether it be food scraps or whatever gets turned into compost at a commercial facility here in Westfield. That is then turned into some really great dirt that goes to local farms and then even back to the gardens here on campus. The challenge that we are running into is that we need to shrink what we are throwing awayc so that we produce less and have less expense. Last week it cost $5.83 for every plate that you consume and one of the challenges with that is that is above what our budget is for.
iii. Chris Piro: How much is the closure of Lammers costing the school? Can you discuss a little bit about the ending of the togo program and some of the rationale behind that decision if any decision is to have been made yet?
iv. Chris Willenbrock: I cant speak to the closing but it takes 3 to 5 hundred thousand dollars to run a hall. So it is challenging since there are so many factors like utilities, if we don't fill a hall and we can't cover the 3-5 hundred thousand dollars then we can lose anything up to that.
v. Bill Connor: The To-go box program was meant to be a self sustaining program where students would return the used boxes and then they would get a new one or a keychain which could be exchanged for one. Unfortunately the issue arises that students aren't returning the boxes and at the rate of almost $7 a container we can't continue to spend the

money to replace the cost of those boxes. The other issue is strongarming the cashiers into giving them a box and as a result the boxes have been moved to be behind the cashier to prevent theft. The program is no longer sustainable. The program came about during Covid for students who are fearful of eating in the dining commons. Many of our similar institutions have discontinued tat from their dining program. We were lucky enough to have enough funding to continue the program for this long.

vi. Fabian Morales: Is there a way to track what types of food were being wasted the most to potentially decrease the serving portion of those items.

vii. Bill Connor: Yeah, so we track pre-consumer waste which is any sort of waste prior to it being put on a plate and given to you to eat. We measure that waste whether that be in the form of the peel of a carrot or beef scraps that aren't being eaten. We can measure that in order to take track of waste. That is an important metric for us. The largest factor is that we are not able to separate what is going into the dish room because plates are all scraped into one giant heap and then turned over for compost. We would like to do an educational program where students would be able to see how much food is actually wasted. We are looking at trying to do that in the Spring if not next fall

viii. Jacob Constant: If you have a to-go box will you still be able to continue to use it. Also what is the difference between food and food away from home.

ix. Bill Connor: I think the to go box program will continue into the spring and we will have to evaluate inventory that is left to determine for the fall. That was a bombshell that I didn't share with food committee until today. This is not something that we can fit into our budget ad we would need to make some decisions about the dining program if we wanted to continue it. Food is raw costs like the cost of milk or ground beef for example. Food away from home is the other factors like delivery, transportation, and manufacturing as well.

x. Brandon Rita: Will there be clear communication about the need for these rising costs to the entirety of the student body because it is explained well here but the rest of the school may be outraged if they see rising costs without explanations.

xi. Bill Connor: I will say that overarching we are transparent about our budget. I would say that most of your peers are not interested but will discuss with anyone who asks. There are no secrets. I am willing to share with anyone who asks or to take any suggestions which you all or anyone on campus has. My job is to spend your money in whatever way that it is that you all see fit. I think that the greater knowledge that we are able to share with you all the better. There is however a business side of things that can't be neglected when it comes to this budgeting process.

xii. Chris Willenbrock: I would like to echo what Bill said, please ask anytime if you have questions. I am always happy to talk about our budget and space in the halls. If you have ideas like I said we are brainstorming and my brain is only as good as my brain but I welcome thoughts and ideas from anyone else that is around. I'd love to hear about what are some things that you are hearing about from peers that you think would be attractive in the residence halls, what programs would be attractive, are there ways that we can use the spaces in more creative ways. I think to your point we will be doing additional education because we have a pretty big process to happen in the spring and part of that is making the choice to live on campus which involves explaining the rising costs with that for next year.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: Daniel Currier

I'd like you all to mark your calendars for our next full-day Board of Trustees meeting, which will be occuring next Wednesday, December 13th in Parenzo Hall Conference Room 107/111, which is adjacent to the RIDE Center. With the meeting occurring on main campus, I strongly encourage all of you to attend a portion of the meeting in-person that interests you. Our meeting schedule is as follows:

· 8:00am-9:00am – Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Committee

· 9:00am-10:00am – Academic Affairs Committee

· 10:15am-11:15am – Advancement, Marketing & External Relations Committee

· 11:15am-12:00pm – Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Committee

· 12:30pm-1:30pm – Financial Affairs Committee

· 1:30pm-2:30pm – Audit Committee

· 2:45pm-4:45pm – Full Board

I will be making my Student Trustee report during the Full Board meeting. My report, which was reviewed by the Executive Council last night and by Maggie last week, will touch upon our successful fall semester (including well-attended open houses and philanthropic work done by SGA and other clubs and organizations), SGA issues and initiatives (including our response to the South Lot car break-ins and the development of a Common Hour Policy), and my current initiatives (including centralizing student employment postings and working with intramurals on effective marketing).

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

A. Student Advisory Committee: Daniel Currier

The Student Advisory Council will be meeting virtually this Thursday, December 7th.

The Student Advisory Council will be reviewing House Bill 3761, which (if enacted) will create a fund to support open educational resources at institutions of higher education. For those that don't know, open educational resources are materials available through the public domain or through an open access license that allows for no-cost access for students and instructors. This bill would encourage instructors to utilize open educational resources for their courses, thereby reducing costs for students.

We will also take time to learn more about the Boston Intercollege Government and how we can work together to accomplish our collective goals, including on basic needs security.

i. Jack Guindon: So for that bill, that would be like textbooks right? Like professors would be recommended to use public open access textbooks to save students money?
ii. Daniel Currier: Yes, it would basically be grants to support faculty using open educational resources. We cant force them to have open educational resources per their collective bargaining agreement. But it would be encouraged through various grants from the department of high education.

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: Jack Guindon

Bear with me this might be a bit of a longer report for me.

On November 17th Student Affairs committee met for our monthly meeting.

We discussed a few main topics, one being the Coffee hour idea. We decided to switch it up the committee came up with the idea of doing tours of res halls with a RA and student for faculty and staff. That way they see the rest of the campus. I will be meeting with Res life to see if this is something we can do. One other thing we discussed was working to set up more outdoor seating for students to eat lunch. I am working to get some metal picnic tables outside of the Wilson Commuter lounge on this side of campus. We are still coming up with a name for this event, either Connect the Nest or the nest connections. Our Next meeting is scheduled for before Winter break

Next Last Wednesday Me Dan and Sarah Met to discuss the Common hour proposal. We discussed engaging stakeholders and people who this would affect the most. As well as working to fine tune our proposal for the spring semester as we will be proposing it to the different committees that need to sign off on it before it can hopefully become policy.

On Monday I met with VP Hearn, and we discussed a few things. One is the food truck idea that I will be working on for the spring semester. One other thing is I am going to reach out to facilities and see if we can get the green flooded for a skating rink if it does not freeze on its own in mid-December. As I feel this is something a lot of students would like to use and skate on. As well as talking about the owl statue and how I plan to work with facilities come spring to dig it up and move it by Wilson, and what we want that to look like.

Lastly today I met with Laura, and we discussed the commuter lounge innovation fund request. I continue to work with both Laura, Dan, and Maureen in Facilities as well as with Dominique. To come up with my pitch as well as finalize pricing everything out and getting it ready to be submitted by the end of the week.

Lastly I am looking for one more student on SGA to join Student affairs committee, we meet once per month on the third Friday.

A.Food Services Committee: Adam Carpenter

Food services committee met last Friday and I have a few brief points of discussion that came out of the meeting. The first point of discussion was that dining believes that the food show that occurred this past week was a massive success. This was a second occurrence of a food show type of event which they had last year. I really only have one other update about food services. This is the last food services committee meeting that I will be the chair of. Due to complications with my placement schedule, I will be unable to continue in this role. I leave the committee in the capable hands of Jack Guindon. We've had our highs and lows in this position but it was an honor to serve as your chair for the year that I have sat in this position. I have nothing more to discuss so food services chair signing off.

i. Nicholas Smith: Thank you for all the work that you did on food services in the last years. I'm sure that Bill loved working with you and I hope that you can stop by a food services meeting from time to time.

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE:

A. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: Sarah Harrington

Hi everyone! The Advisory Committee for Academic Planning met on Thursday, November 30 to further review the themes we have decided to be our focus. The first theme we spoke about is reimagining student success, and how to further incorporate HIPs (High Impact Practices) into the classroom. We reviewed the Academic Master Plan from 2018 to see how focuses have shifted and noticed that there was no direct mention of students, so we have shifted to being more student-centric. Theme two was discussed to change the formatting of the goals to support the professional growth of Fac/Staff/and Librarians, this includes reinvigorating support. We then discussed the renaming of Theme three to Redesigning and changing programs. ACAP decided that due to our remaining time this semester, we will be meeting weekly for the next several weeks. Discussions on how to further collect data to help with the finalization of our goals are underway. Thank you!

B. University Curriculum Committee: Scott Doan

UCC meet last Friday, December 1st, to review and revise courses in Economics and Music. Only being

able to meet the matters of Economics courses. With these Economics courses we meet with Professor

Susanne Chuku to review the courses.

Courses of Intro to Mathematical Economics, intro to econometric methods, development of economic

thought and the senior research seminar were all course revisions. With main matters of adding prerequisites such as Math 115 to Econ 204, Microeconomics and macroeconomics to Econ 02XX, Problem solving workshop. One extra credit to 300 and 400 level courses and the idea of variable credits have been brought up. Main concern in Econ is the idea of a two tier major, where a course can relay 2 tracks and 2 concentrations, the ideas of how to accommodate the variable credits to courses such as Econ 204 were discussed. Discussion was then tabled and then brought up after discussion of program revision to Undergraduate Economics BA. Where concentrations morals, experiential courses, 1 credit courses, variable credits and other econ courses were discussed again. Discussion was also then tabled and will be reviewed in a future meeting. UCC will discuss Music courses to review and revise and hopefully get back economic courses

D. Parking Control Board: Liam Connor

The Parking Appeals Committee met last Wednesday, November 27. We appointed a chair for this committee: me. I am told this is a role with no special privileges, duties, or responsibilities—nevertheless a great honor. Afterwards, we, of course, reviewed and appealed some of the tickets. I'll just explain real quick how the appeals process works. If you get a ticket, there is a link at the bottom that leads to either payment, or you can send it to the appeals board with your reasoning for why it should be appealed, and then it comes before us anonymously. And one last thing we found out is that people are being told very different things about who, when, and where they can park, and so that is one of the things we plan to get ahead of so everyone on campus can be on the same page. We will be meeting again on Monday, and that's all I have.

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT EQUITY: Joseph Bonilla

Good good afternoon everyone it is great to see some of you this afternoon after or sorry wow I can't speak English sorry guys good afternoon everyone it is great to see it was great to see some of you this afternoon doctor or Kelly's presentation on the Israel homeless report as many of you may have noticed during the break the division of Jedi sent out an e-mail communication and informing our community that a renewed DEI module has been has become live I encourage you all to complete the diversity inclusion and belonging module to better understand and celebrate our diversity during my one-on-one with doctor Pierce our vice president of justice equity diversity inclusion we discussed various light items including additional updates on banner regarding third party organization compliance and such creating a sense of belonging through various Jedi related programming and or programs and the current student content as far as being is going there really isn't any updates to this point but I will definitely let you guys know both Daniel Currier and I attended Center for Student Success and Engagement's staff meeting last week during the meeting we also had the opportunity to engage with the financial aid presentation on notable upcoming changes to papso we both had the opportunity to report to the CSS E what we personally have been working on as well as the rest of our Student Government Association seeing the scale of the changes to FAFSA for the 20 the 2024-2025 academic year S9 met today to discuss potential gaps of information sessions and workshops for the spring semester stay tuned for more details we will be meeting with Simone backset the director of financial aid later this week to discuss the offer add potential collaborations between the street government association and the office of financial aid I met with the interfaith Advisory Council yesterday and we discussed how to include faith-based clubs with the rest of our campus community through programming marketing and more I'll be meeting with interfaith chaplains council and unity councils tomorrow if you would like to include anything or mention anything during these meetings please let me know after my or as always feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns either after the report via e-mail php.ga.edu or during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM and as always I'll leave you with a quote Nelson Mandela once said the greatest glory in living lies not in never never falling but in rising every time we fall thank you

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE:

X. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - PUBLICITY: Nicholas Smith

I hope everyone who went on the New York Trip had a good time. Today the social work association had a bake sale at 11am today. Today to the 9th, is the door decorating contest in University Hall. Top three doors will win owl bucks. Every Tuesday at 12:30pm the Interfaith center has a moment of peace which is a 5 minute moment of silence in the garden. Koru mindfulness is at 4:15 in the Interfaith center on Tuesdays. Dining services will have Costa Rican dinner tomorrow from 5-8pm. Bars over bars is tomorrow from 5-8pm in the Owl's Nest hosted by Ethan. This is an educational opportunity for students to go over the pricing of drinks at bars and how students can spend their money in better ways. Frosty bites will also take place tomorrow at 7pm in the Dickinson lounge. This event is for cookie decorating hosted by the Apartment Complex. Spirituality in Nature will be on Thursday from 12:20-1:15 pm in the meditation garden gazebo. This will focus on quiet reflection and guidance for all students. JEDI is hosting game night on Thursday at 6pm in the Owl's Nest. This event will have food, games, and a Kahoot game and Guess who and a word search. Also, wear your ugly sweater to be entered into the Ugly sweater competition. Davis after Dark is on Thursday at 7pm in the main lounge. Gingerbread house cookie kit is in Dickinson hall on Thursday at 7pm. First generation Friday will have cocoa and collage making. This will be at 12pm in the Ely Club room on Friday. Wings over New hall will be on Friday at 6pm. Holiday movie night will be in the Dickinson common room at 8pm on Friday. CAB will be hosting a Gingerbread House Competition will be at 8pm on the Second Floor of Ely. Catholic Mass is every Sunday at 11am. I hope you all have a good week. Also My hockey game is on Saturday at 12pm at Amelia. If I miss something or you would like me to include your event in my report, you can email me at vppublicity.sga@westfield.ma.edu

A. Community Fundraising Representative Report: Haley Kane

I hope you are all having a great week. I just wanted to provide a couple of updates and thank everyone for their support this semester. First, our annual turkey drive raised over $2,000. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped collect donations. I hope this turkey drive continues to be a success and I'm looking forward to supporting whoever runs this drive in the future success! We had around 121 people attend the 8:30 seating and around 213 people attend the 10:30 session. All the children had a great time talking to Santa, getting their face painted, making a craft or getting a balloon animal. I'm so proud that we brought this event back to campus and I'm looking forward to seeing it become a bigger event each year.

XI. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:

XII. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:

XIII. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A.Class of 2027 class council: Jakayla Leary

Good evening everyone. The class of 2027 had our first event of the year last Thursday. The council wants to thank everyone who attended this event and making this possible. We met our goal of 40 students and painted all 8 recycling bins! Our council also met Friday and discussed making new changes in marketing and outreach to have even more students join future events. Thank you

B. Class of 2026 class council: Justin Wald

Last week, we wrapped up our weeklong event with some cool activities. The writing workshop on Wednesday went well, the paint and sip on Thursday was a hit, and Friday's bingo night was a blast – everyone loved it! The hall competition is still on, and we'll find out the winner and reveal the prize this Friday. Now, we're looking forward to a nice, relaxing break. When we come back, we're excited to start planning some awesome events for the next semester. The success of last week's activities has us pumped to create even more fun experiences for everyone.

C. Class of 2024 class council: Kaitlyn Egan

I hope you are all doing well. I wanted to come up briefly tonight to share the progress that we have made as a council in the past few weeks.

Our 100 Days to Commencement celebration is scheduled for February 8, 2023, at Westfield River Brewing Company from 6-9pm. We are having it catered, inviting representatives from the Westfield State Alumni Association who are bringing gifts for their soon-to-be newest alumni, decorating a place for photos, and celebrating together. Nestor will also be in attendance! We are looking forward to designing and sending out invitations.

Also, our Senior Week schedule has been approved! I am so excited to share this news with you all. It will be from May 13th to May 17th, and we have exciting events planned for each day, like a trip to MGM on Monday, Boston and the Red Sox on Tuesday, Brownstone and Treehouse Brewery on Wednesday, and a campus green celebration with food trucks and events on Thursday- all leading up to Commencement on Friday. We will be staying in University Hall included in the costs of the packages, which stand right now at $225 per person. To alleviate some of the financial burden, we are hoping to have them available for sale before the holidays, developing a “sponsor a senior” opportunity for donors to pay for a student who attend, and hoping to partner with different departments across campus who would be willing to offer their support. Our goal is 150 students, so please spread the word to your senior friends. We would love to bring back this tradition so you all can host your own senior weeks too and celebrate all you have accomplished at Westfield State.

i. Nick Smith: I just want to thank you again for all of your amazing work. You’ve been president for 4 years and have done a great job. Bringing back senior week is a huge task but I know if there’s anyone who can do it it’s the class of 2024 and you.
ii. Matt Dellea: Contact the SAIL department in the event that senior week is something that a student is unable to afford.

D. Commuter Council: Fabian Morales

On Friday December 1st the Commuter Council met to discuss the previous Commuter Appreciation Day, outcomes and how we could improve for future events. In addition to Commuter Council members, Jules from CAB joined us to share marketing techniques. We discussed ways to publicize our commuter lounge across campus, as well as tips to create a successful infographic for the Commuter Council. We have also unanimously decided on a name for the commuter lounge being, “Commuter Corner”, we are working with facilities to get proper signage in place with the new name. A winner was chosen for our give away merchandise which was held on Commuter Appreciation Day. Finally, we looked through our suggestion box located in the Commuter Corner. Concerns of parking limitation and receiving tickets amongst commuters were raised. We are going to post a poll with questions relating to these issues to gauge this issue amongst the commuter community. Secondly, the idea of a carpool being setup for commuters was shared. We are working to find a way to connect commuters who wish to carpool together and facilitate communication that way.

XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sarah Harrington: I am meeting with provost next Tuesday. Please let me know if there is anything that you want me to bring up to him.

Joseph Bonilla: Gerontology event is taking place Thursday in the Wilson Auditorium.

Chris Piro: The history club is doing a trip to go see the Napoleon movie on December 12th or 13th maybe at West Springfield Cinemark. Transportation is not provided.

Kaitlyn Egan: There are 164 days until commencement

XVII. ROLL CALL: Gage Glanville, Patty Sowa, Eri'yan Baker, Abby Glasheen, Loic Black, and Miles Jordan were absent.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 until our next meeting at 5:30 on December 12th.

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