

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
AGENDA
Tuesday, February 06, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Ely 017 (SGA Room)

- I. ROLL CALL: Crystal Mills, Naomi Brito, Eri'yan Baker, Abby Glasheen, Haley Kane, Miles Jordan, Gavin Fazio, Daniel Lyon were absent.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: January 30, 2024
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Nicholas Smith**

Nick Smith discussed FASFA information session coming soon, elections coming up soon, and the parking system being fixed.

A. The Director of Financial Aid **Simone Backtsedt** & Financial Aid Counselor
Cece Winiarski
Cece Winiarski gave a presentation.

Questions:

Brandon Rita asked a question about private loans and whether students should just accept private loans while packages are still in the air since that is something that some students need to do to supplement federal loans.

Cece Winiarski discussed that you should wait until your financial packet has been received before just taking loans since there may be more aid that you are eligible for with this new process.

Sarah Harrington asked about when the FASFA sessions are and where they are.

Cece Winiarski said that there will be financial aid sessions on the 6th, 13th, and March 13th. They will be on Zoom at 6pm.

Chris Piro asked if there was an impact on receiving first year commitments and our admissions

Cece Winiarski said that yes there is an impact but it is the same at other institutions as well as a lot of people haven't committed until they know their aid packet.

Dan Currier asked about whether these FASFA info sessions are for perspective students and current students or just perspective students.

Cece Winiarski said that it is mostly for perspective students but current students are also allowed to attend these sessions.

Isabella Moniz asked if there will be an impact on when bills are coming out given financial aid being delayed significantly.

Cece Winiarski: As of right now there is no difference in the date but that may happen at some point but as of right now it is not a thing.

Kaitlyn Egan said a positive remark about the financial aid office sharing a personal story about

Laura Cafaro mentioned the FASFA information session this Friday.

- IV. Senator of the Month Report: Nicholas Smith

The senator of the month goes to someone who has worked tirelessly on celebrating the seniors. She has done a phenomenal job with senior week, putting in effort towards great events and activities for the end of the year. We are very proud of her because she has done an outstanding job for all four years of her presidency. Keep up the good job!

Congratulations Kaitlyn Egan.

V. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: *Daniel Currier*

The Board of Trustees will be meeting this Thursday, February 8th in the President's Boardroom, located on the second floor of the Horace Mann Center. The following are the times that each committee will meet:

- 9:00am-10:00am – Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Committee
- 10:00am-10:45am – Advancement, Marketing & External Relations Committee
- 10:45am-11:45am – Academic Affairs Committee
- 12:30pm-2:00pm – Financial Affairs Committee
- 2:00pm-2:45pm – Audit Committee
- 3:00pm-5:00pm – Full Board Meeting

I will be presenting my Student Trustee report during the Full Board meeting, where I will be highlighting recent campus events, the valiant efforts of the University community in meeting the challenge to put on multicultural programming in the wake of Dr. Pierce's departure, and our forthcoming Relay for Life event. I will also be spotlighting various students for their athletic and scholastic achievements, providing updates on SGA issues and initiatives, and recapping progress on my own initiatives, including the centralization of student job postings. I'd strongly encourage you all to watch my report and our proceedings as a Board in-person or watch the livestream at westfield.ma.edu/live. There will also be an Investments Subcommittee meeting on Friday, February 9th at 2:00pm. We will be meeting virtually to discuss our quarterly investment earnings, progress related to the establishment of a new bond portfolio, and the initial groundwork needed to select our next investment advisors. This meeting will also be livestreamed for viewing by the campus community.

A. *Strategic Planning Committee: Daniel Currier*

The Strategic Planning Committee has just completed its second full day session with our consultants, SME Strategy Consulting, as the Committee works to develop a strategic plan for the next five years.

As a reminder, the University is approaching the end of its current five-year strategic plan. A five-year strategic plan is required by the state's Board of Higher Education, and is intended to guide the University in its decision-making over those five years. Due to the pandemic, the UEAAC process, change in leadership, and numerous other factors, you probably have no idea what our current strategic plan contains.

Our committee is committed to developing a bold strategic plan that addresses the challenges the University is facing, can be bought into by the entire campus community, and can be tracked easily to gauge our progress. Although each member of the committee may differ on quantifiable goals, we are aligned in our expectation that the next strategic plan focus on increasing enrollment, stabilizing our finances, engaging the entire campus community (including students), and providing a relevant education to the next generation. We will, however, need to prioritize particular items in order to have a strong chance of accomplishing what we will set out to do.

Today's exercises focused on the future of Westfield State University and the risks and roadblocks we are likely encounter over the next five years. None of us can truly predict the future, however. Who would've thought in 2019 that everyone would be sent home in March 2020? We did, however, note potential roadblocks in the next few years, including the lack of faculty buy-in, the chance of a cyber attack, major scandals and bad PR, the rise in University consolidation efforts, and change in University leadership. Tomorrow, the Committee will begin to set its top priorities and action steps. Everyone in that room is eager to get into the details and change Westfield State University for the better.

The next Strategic Plan is expected to be drafted, brought to various constituencies for review, and ready for Board approval this June before being sent to the Board of Higher Education.

B. Common Hour Policy Taskforce: Jack Guindon

Last week the Common Meeting Hour Taskforce met to discuss the all chairs meeting from Monday. There seemed to be a little support for our proposal. The areas that need to be worked on like explaining the rationale for the time block we recommended and how the effects of this hour would only be a positive. We also discussed the MSCA meeting that we have and what to talk about. We also discussed the IRB process. We discussed what other groups that we need to reach out to.

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE:

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: Sarah Harrington

A. University Curriculum Committee: Scott Doan

Good evening, everyone UCC met last Friday to review and discuss courses in the Math department.

Where half the discussion lied in new general ed proposals and the other half in non general ed proposals.

Starting with the new general education, math courses form 104 to 153 (104, 105, 108, 110, 111, 113,

115, 123, and 153) were all either slightly revised or unrevised within their course descriptions.

With the second half of the discussion, courses 306 to 348 (306, 334, 342, 343, 348 and 03XX) were all

also either revised or unrevised except to courses 334, 342 and 348. Where a change in description and

prerequisites lie in 334 and 342 but 348 was to be deleted as a course.

Questions:

Dan asked about the fact that there were additional dates for UCC as a way of making sure that SCORE proposals will all be gotten through.

Sarah Harrington provided a point of information about the plan being for it to be ready.

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-PUBLICITY: Sarah Harrington

Owl Ball met last Sunday and will meet again soon.

Blue Committee Nominations occurred.

For the first year class nominations were Jakayla Leary and Patricia Sowa

For the sophomore class the nominations were

For the junior class the nominations were Nick Palumbo and Jack Guindon.

For the senior class the nominations were Scott Doan and Timothy Allen

IX. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Justin Wald**

Rules and Regulations committee met last Friday since we had a few club constitutions that we needed to discuss the first of these is Turning Point USA which was tabled due to issues with the constitution. We are also working on approving the constitutions for the class councils and the commuter council.

X. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

Class of 2027 report: Jakayla Leary

Good evening everyone, the 2027 Council met for the first time this semester last Friday. We discussed new social media outreach so please stay tuned to our Instagram at Westfieldstate.2027. We are very excited to share that are developing a fundraising plan for March. Please keep a look out for more information- maybe having to do with some luck around March! I also want to wish everyone good luck for upcoming elections and encourage you all to share what SGA is and invite them to run for roles in March!

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan Currier shared about a tax event that is being hosted by accounting and finance club.
Katie Egan shared those 100 days to commencement is this Thursday and
Scott Doan shared that there are 101 days until commencement

XIV. ROLL CALL: Crystal Mills, Eri'yan Baker, Abby Glasheen, Haley Kane, Miles Jordan, Daniel Lyon were absent.

XV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm until the next meeting on Tuesday February 13th.

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