



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
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, Jacob Constant, Elizabeth Mercer, Daniel Currier, Nicholas Palumbo, Isabella Moniz, Anderson Dallaire, William Connor, Travis McLoughlin, Melissa Kuzmeski, Puru Sharma, Christopher Lannan, Sophia Rebenciuc

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Brenna Guiliani, Micheala Vittum

Also, present and participating were SGA Advisors Laura Cafaro and Ryan Meersman.

President Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. It was announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded. Members were asked to review the meeting agenda, and a roll call was taken of members present (listed above).

Approval of the Minutes: President Joseph Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10th, 2024, general meeting.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to approve the minutes of the September 10th, 2024, general meeting.

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

President's Report: **Joseph Bonilla**

Joseph introduced our guest speaker, Joshua Hettrick.

After Joshua's presentation Joseph continued with his report. On September 11th, he had a productive meeting with faculty partners regarding future collaboration what we are calling "registration week". Meaning that department chairs will be providing resources on voter registration and civic engagement. As well as offering non-partisan resources. The proposed dates for "registration week" are Monday, October 21st from 10 AM till 12 PM location TBD, Wednesday October 23rd from 5:30 PM till 7:30 PM location TBD, then finally Friday, October 25th from 1:40 till 2:55 PM location TBD. Joseph then mentioned how last Wednesday SGA Executive Board members went around campus handing out water bottles and gum to students and we will be doing it again this Wednesday from 10 AM till 12 PM and we

encourage all senators to join as it's a great opportunity to engage with our peers and promote initiatives. Joseph will be speaking at the pep rally that will be held on the green tomorrow at 6:45 PM, encouraging all to attend. Joseph also thanked everyone who participated in our collaborations with Veteran and Military Services on September 11th where we were able to climb over 600 flights of stairs in honor of the losses incurred over 20 years ago. Lastly, he mentioned the mandatory training session taking place right after the meeting.

- I. Jacob Constant – Let everyone know if they want to sign up to help hand out the water bottles and gum a paper will be going around.

A. Associate Director of Space Management/ Parking Clerk: Joshua Hettrick [Full Speech](#)
Joshua went over several things regarding Parking Roles and Responsibilities, Parking Rules and Regulations, Main Lot Parking vs South Lot Plus Permit Program, Financial Aid Requests, Citation Data Fall 2024, Student Visitor, University Guest and Event Parking. Firstly, Joshua went over the different responsibilities of each role of parking on campus including the Parking Clerk, University Police, Parking Control Board, and Parking & Traffic Appeals Board. Secondly, he went over the changes to the Rules & Regulations, the biggest being removed decals for parking, violator notifications, Number of Vehicles allowed, and defining what happens with late fees. Then he went over the Main Lot Parking vs South Lot Parking Plus Parking explaining that the new system has been utilized so much more than the previous system. After that he went over the Financial Aid requests, 177 submitted requests, and went down the list of explaining what happened with the 177. Then he went over the citation data so far this semester and showed where the citations are being given out by permit type and then by the parking lot. Finally, he went over the difference between Student Visitors, University Guests, and Event Parking. Then proposing new changes that he wants to make to the system after the beginning of this year this far.

- II. Zeke – Asked about why the ticket says “Apartment Commuter” if it is now Main lot.
 - a. Joshua Hettrick said he will look into it.
- III. Isabella Moniz – Asked about the maintainer parking on the side of New Hall which has been turned into Main Lot.
 - a. Joshua Hettrick said that the spots behind New Hall were made available for the maintainers for that very situation.
- IV. Sarah Harrington – Sarah asked about family weekend coming up and what the plan was for that.
 - a. Chief of Police, Tony Cascino said all parents and anyone visiting should be parked in the commuter lot.
 - b. Joshua Hettrick added that it would be considered event parking meaning nobody would need to make an account to park.
 - c. Chief of Police, Tony Cascino added that there should be plenty of spaces.
- V. Ethan Haynes – Asked about what happens for the students that are from out of state regarding the permits and it going to the RMV.
 - a. Joshua Hettrick mentions that if it comes to the point of going to the RMV it will more than likely be that your vehicle gets towed.
 - b. Chief of Police, Tony Cascino clarifies that it would show in the system that you would have gotten a lot of citations
- VI. Chief of Police, Tony Cascino mentions that if you are getting a lot of citations and you don't have a decal someone will reach out to you as to why.
- VII. Christopher Lannan – Let everyone know about the parking control board committee and asked for other students to be a part of it.
- VIII. Anderson Dallaire – Asked if someone who is staying the night needs a pass otherwise, they will be ticketed.
 - a. Joshua Hettrick responded with Yes.

- b. Anderson Dallaire then continued and asked if students could park in commuter parking lots on the weekends.
- c. Joshua Hettrick responded with Yes.
- d. Anderson Dallaire asked about the Alumni Passes like how it is for the gym but other areas around campus.
- e. Joshua Hettrick the gym pass was requested by the gym, but nobody has used it. However, for the other areas around campus the parking control board would need to look it over, review it and vote on it.

Student Trustee Report: **Daniel Currier**

Daniel started by talking about the September 11th remembrance event, explaining that it was a moving experience hearing the faculty and staff talk about where they were on that fateful day. Including that it is important for the post-9/11 generations actively work to ensure that we never forget what happened on Tuesday, September 11th, 2001. Daniel went over briefly about his orientation meeting with the Student Advisory Council and that he spoke to the Chair of the Council to bring up the concerns of deferred maintenance, and he hopes that we will have greater clarity about how the state will address the crisis. Daniel later mentioned that Human Resources have digitized the vast majority of its forms and utilizes DocuSign to easily move the forms to different people within the approval process. Mentioning that it would be best if the Registrar's office adopts the changes as well. He also mentioned that he had the change to go to two receptions over the weekend one to celebrate the appointments of Dr. William Salka as Provost and Melinda Phelps as the new Vice President of Government & Community Relations and Chief of Staff. Then the second being the 75th anniversary of Stanley Park. Then finally, he said he will be meeting with Dr. Thompson later this week. As well as attending the annual foundation meeting.

Vice President's Report-Student Life: **Justin Wald**

Justin explained that he had a meeting with Dr. Hearn and Maureen Socha from Facilities. They discussed the campus's appearance more, aligning it more closely with the aesthetic of Westfield State. That includes the mats around campus in every building with the nestor logo. Adding that Maureen also extended an invitation about the beautification study but cannot share any information as of yet. Also including that he has a meeting this Thursday with Sarah Lazar, the Director of the Benaco's Center, to discuss accessibility around campus.

- I. Zeke – Mentioned about the handicap button not working in front of the DC
 - a. Justin said he will bring it up at the food services meeting.

A. Student Affairs Committee: **Justin Wald**

Justin went over that the Student Affairs Committee met last Friday and had a nearly full meeting. The meeting primarily focused on recruitment and engagement strategies for the committee. One of the ideas being tabling in the DC once per semester. Then the committee discussed the possible make-up of the remaining student seats, and every member agreed that they would like us to pull from a wide variety of groups on campus including athletes, lead scholars, affinity groups, and first year students.

B. Food Services Committee: **Jacob Constant**

Jacob went over a number of things including why the chicken tenders were moved to Owl Cafe, Portions at the Bistro. The create-your-own option on the GET app or in person at all locations that can customize things. Possibly having a microphone for Shawn at the DC allowing students to hear him better when their food is ready allowing less food waste. Having meal swipes at Ely Harvest be on the GET app soon. Then Maria's cooking class is coming up on the 25th.

- I. Christopher Lannon – Gave a point of information about how there was an issue with the staff not knowing about the create your own option but explaining that it was already resolved.
- II. Elizabeth Mercer – Talked about the number system from last semester.

- a. Jacob explained that the number system from last semester was worst because people would forget their numbers and not remember what they got, compared to the names system that there is now it was worse.
- III. Isabella Moniz – Asked about the CYO option being on the GET app.
 - a. Jacob mentioned that Justin added it to the agenda for the next food meeting.
- IV. Anderson Dallaire – Asked about instead of using the microphone system use the same kind of system that is being used at Ely Harvest where they give you a slip with your number or waiting at the counter like what happens with the stir fry.
 - a. Jacob mentioned that it would be on the agenda.
- V. Zeke – Asked about a meal-swipe option at Owl Cafe but every time he asks about it the workers say it isn't set up yet.
 - a. Jacob mentioned that he might have gotten confused with Ely Harvest because a meal like that is offered at that location that offers a 6-inch sub, a drink and a bag of chips.

Vice President's Report-Academic Life: *Sarah Harrington*
No Report

Vice President's Report-Finance: *Austin Morgan*

Austin mentioned how well the club and involvement fair went with having over 60 clubs and interests' tables and over 100 students who attended the event. Also mentioned that there will be a mandatory finance training being held on Thursday at 5:30 PM for clubs in University Hall MPR. Making all clubs aware of the new process and how to use it. Austin also mentioned that he will be attending the annual foundation meeting. Finally, he asked the room to go over the FY25 budget that the Executive Council unanimously endorsed further explaining that the salaries of all the SAIL employees were being absorbed by the university meaning the students got the money back with has opened up roughly 180,000 dollars in funding for both SGA and CAB.

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Travis Mclaughlin, to approve the minutes of the September 10th, 2024, general meeting.

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

- I. Anderson Dallaire – Asked if the club sports budget gets dispersed across all the clubs.
 - a. Austin responded with yes to all active club sports.
- II. Anderson Dallaire had a follow-up question about getting more funds for the club sports. To help with costs regarding league costs and allowing the budget to pay for most things rather than the players out of their own pockets.
 - a. Austin mentioned it is something that we can look into it.
 - b. Daniel Currier gave a point of information about the process moving forward due the budget being approved the executive council does have the discretion to by majority vote to adjust the budget as necessary, however the club sports cannot go through the finance proposal process as it is only for the registered student organizations.
- III. Christopher Lannan – explained that he is grateful for giving the class councils more money to help with events throughout the year.
- IV. Anderson Dallaire – Asks if SGA doesn't handle the information who does he talk to.
 - a. Daniel Currier gave a point of information about how it would be through Todd Ditmar who is the point person meaning he talks to all the captains of the teams and know the finances for the teams.

- b. Austin mentioned an increase to the club sports budget due to the addition of more club sports.

Vice President's Report-Publicity: **Elizabeth Mercer**
No Report

Executive Secretary Report: **Jacob Constant**

Jacob mentioned that signature papers are due September 20th 5:30 PM. Then elections will be held on Monday and Tuesday next week then the results will be on Wednesday. Then explaining that there will be a mandatory training for all the senators directly after the meeting so don't leave right away.

New Business:

Announcements:

- I. Elizabeth Mercer explains that during the onboarding there will be a part on the special community on publicity and external relations so she will make her announcement then.
- II. Daniel Currier begins his weekly tradition about the accounting and finance club and about everyone should join them at their welcoming this Thursday, explaining that there will be pizza and drinks there.
- III. Nicholas Palumbo: 241 days to commencement.

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 September 10th, 2024.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

Signed: **Jacob Constant**

Date: **9/12/2024**