Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room

Ely Campus Center

Live Stream of the meeting was taken place on YouTube.

Members Present: Aidan Gomez, Zara Rivett, Raymond Croteau, Theodore Lucier, Cole Dos Santos, Karlie Beamenderfer, Alyssa Hanafin, Maria Renta-Marrero, Jakob Traynor, Alexa Martin, Jamie Beamenderfer, Matthew Crusha, Liv Carney, Celia Rocino, Zoë Desmarais, Julian Auger, Elijah Frederick, Carlee Yap, Seth Durant, Schellandie Cherrison, Tiffany Rivera, Davey Castegnaro, Maliah DaRosa, Bradley Jones, Lucia Sadura, Jay Touissant, Brianna Ellis, Kianna Hicks, Annie Rosa-Rodriguez

Members Excused: Luke Stehley, Brenna Guliani

Members Absent: Fabian Morales, Raul Rosario, Sybille Laguerre

Call to Order: President Aidan Gomez called the meeting to order at 5:34pm. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded. Members were asked to review the meeting agenda, and a roll call was taken of members present (listed above). Also, participating was advisor Matthew Dellea and guest speaker Simone Backstedt.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from Tuesday, October 20th, 2026, were approved unanimously by VOCAL VOTE.

President's Report: Aidan Gomez thanked everyone for coming and mentioned that everyone looked great in their costumes. He announced that the financial aid applications are now open to apply for. He invited Simone Backstedt, Director of the Financial Aid Office, to present. After the guest speaker's presentation, Aiden reminded Senators to speak into the microphones with questions. He mentioned that the SGA room is undergoing some improvements, and that there may be wet paint, and to be mindful of it. He talked about the opportunity he had to join nursing students at the annual Noble Ball, at the Basketball Hall of Fame to celebrate our healthcare workers. Reminded that next week, Linda Thompson is coming next week, and dress very nicely, and that the photographer will be here to take a full Senate picture. He also mentioned that him and Maria will be having their monthly meeting with Linda, and bring anything anyone wants to them during their meeting.

Simone Backstedt: Simone thanked the Senate for having her speak today and let them know that FASFA is now open and can be applied for and majorly emphasized that you should apply NOW rather than later! She also talked about changes happening at the state and federal level that are impacting student's financial aid. Simone reminded everyone that the number of credits you apply for, changes the amount of financial aid you are awarded **(Full time = 12 or more credits A LOT of financial aid requires you to have full-time student status to receive like MASSGrant or merit aid).** She talked about Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and how to maintain it.

- I missed some check recording or ask Annie
- Last semester for seniors... per credit billing adjustment
- Questions:
    - Annie asked for clarification on if the financial aid adjustments or loss over the fall and spring semesters has to do with if you have at least 12 credits or not
        - Simone clarified that, yes, when you don't have at least 12 credits per semester, it will affect your finical aid, and the threshold to be considered a full-time student is at least 12 credits per semester
    - Tiffany Rivera how does the 24 credits per academic year affect people who graduate in the spring
        - Simone clarified that if you graduate in the spring, you are unaffected by that rule, if you have 12 credits for that fall semester
    - Julian Auger asked if the Financial Aid office had any sort of social media platform
        - Simone said that they don't currently have anything, but would be willing to work with the main Westfield Instagram or SGA to make some informational content

Vice President of Student Life Report: Zara Rivett announced that the annual Coffee Crawl will be happening on November 5th, in University and Courtney Hall, and she is looking for volunteers to help greet faculty and staff, and to answer questions. She also announced that the Apartment complex survey is out and she is looking for volunteers to table in different areas and help spread the word. Zara asked the Hall reps to see her after meeting to take some flyers to post in their residential.

Vice President of Finance Report:

- Met with Dr. Auska?
    - Talked about a new class for the finance students, that begins next semester
- UCC is starting up again, and asked anyone who is a part of it to see him after the meeting
- Club relations committee should also see him after the meeting
- Questions:
    - Annie Rosa Rodriguez asked him to give more information on the finance class
        - Finance 0399
        - Only available for Juniors and Seniors
        - Small class only about ~15 people

Vice President of Outreach Report: Karlie Beamenderfer reminded the Senate that family fright night is tomorrow night and told volunteers to show up in the Owl's Nest whenever possible, and to try to be in costume, and if you need help sorting out a costume to come see her after the meeting. She also mentioned that the Turkey Drive starts next week and she will be sending more information out on Teams later, and she is looking for volunteers to do door knocking to collect donations. She also said to see her after the meeting to take pictures in your costumes!

Finance Committee Report: Theodore Lucier reported that the finance comittee did not end up meeting last week, but instead communicated over teams.

- Car Club request, passed
- Motioned to approve the finance committee's decision to give car club money for trunk or treating
- Clicker vote
    - Passed get numbers later

Rules and Regulations Committee Report: Jakob Traynor reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee met last Wednesday to review some club constitutions. Two were sent back for alterations, one was tabled for next meeting, and the third NAFME was approved by the Committee to be voted on by the Senate.

- Jakob Traynor Reported
- Rules and regs met last Wednesday and reviewed some constitutions
- NAFME constitutions was approved by Rules and Regs
- Motioned to approve the reinstate NAFME
    - Seconded by Maria Renta-Marrero
    - Motion passed get numbers later
- Mentioned that we still need someone from 2028 to join rules and regs

Campus Activities Board Report: Ava Levins reported that CAB has decorated the bulletin board outside the SGA room. She announced things CAB is planning to do for the month of November like trivia, a Dolly Parton Remembrance, and blind box BINGO. She mentioned that CAB is looking for more promotional ideas to get their events out and said if anyone has any ideas, to see her after the meeting. She also mentioned that CAB's Executive Board is going to the NACCA conference to workshop and will come back with all sorts of new events and prize ideas!

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Karlie told everyone in costume to see her after the meeting to get their picture taken!
- Matt Crusha reminded the Senate that the Blood Drive is on October 29th 8am-12:30pm in Parenzo, and that there are 199 days until commencement!
- Aidan Gomez said to RSVP to Linda's office ASAP so that they can figure out catering, and reminded everyone to dress up nicely for that meeting, and reminded everyone that governance committees meet this Friday and asked people on them to connect to their Executive member who chairs after the meeting
- Raymond needs one more member to sit on ACC
- Leon told class presidents to check their emails!

Adjournment: There being no further business, Aidan Gomez adjourned the meeting at 6:27pm.

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 Tuesday, October 27th, 2026.

Executive Secretary Alyssa Hanafin