Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room

Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing took place on YouTube.

Members Present:

Justin Wald, Travis Mcloughlin, Melissa Kuzmeski, Zeke Tamarkin, Tyler King, Jacob Constant, Barney Garcia, Jakob Traynor, Brenna Guliani, Luke Stehley, Ali Sutherland, Matthew Crusha, Christopher Lannan, Zara Rivett, Megan Fran, Grant Wenhart, Cole Dos Santos, Alyssa Hanafin, Kayleigh Afonso, Fabian Morales, Ethan Haynes, Maria Renta-Marrero, Angelina Cassella, Celia Rocino, Lorraine Fernández, Raymond Croteau, Adian Gomez, Karlie Beamenderfer, Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Will Onorato

Members Excused:

Raul Rosario, Ethan Haynes

Also present and participating was SGA Advisor Matthew Dellea.

Call to Order:

President Justin Wald called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. It was announced that the meeting was being live streamed 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:

The minutes from the October 14th, 2025, meeting was approved.

President's Report:

Justin Wald introduced the guest speakers, Nicole West from the Course Achievement and Tutoring and Learning Center, who was there to discuss the support services her office provides to students. As well as Tyler King representing Westfield informational presentation about marketing. In his own report, Wald thanked the senators who represented SGA at the Open House and announced that SGA will host a table with a carnival game at this weekend's Homecoming. He also informed the senate of another administrative change, noting the recently

* Missed First Roll Call
** Missed Second Roll Call

announced departure of Lisa McMahon, the Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Wald shared that the Executive Council is overhauling the SGA website to reflect the new constitutional changes, which will now feature a picture of the entire senate. He provided an update on the BRIGHT Act initiative, stating that he and Barney Garcia are planning next steps with Attorney Phelps, including a potential visit to Beacon Hill and a meeting with all state university SGAs. He concluded by announcing that the next meeting on October 28th will be the traditional Halloween meeting, and he encouraged everyone to attend in costume.

Following his report he appointed Lucia Sadura to be a University Hall Representative for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Guest Speaker:

Nicole West went into the presentation explaining about what her department does and going into details about each section of the department talking about the new professional tutors that have been hired for the Tutoring and Learning Center. As well as talking about the changes that happened due to the center moving from the Library to Prenzo. As well as Success Coaching. Reminded everyone about WSU360 and explained its use and how you can get involved and become a tutor. Finally concluded by explaining the Laptop sharing program how you can use a laptop if really needed.

Guest Speaker:

Tyler King, reporting on behalf of Student Affairs, delivered a presentation titled "IT STARTS WITH W-S-YOU!" which focused on the responsibilities of serving as a student leader. He emphasized that student leaders are the "face" of the student body, particularly to prospective students and campus guests, making it crucial to project a positive image. The presentation centered on the importance of being mindful of one's words, attitude, and public "face". King advised students to be tactful with their words to avoid spreading misinformation , to be "REAL, don't be NEGATIVE" since their attitude is often seen as reflecting the entire student body , and to remember that "the hat doesn't really come off," urging them to be self-aware of their public actions and social media posts. He concluded by reminding the senate that their commitment is valued and they should strive to represent an institution they are proud of.

Student Trustee Report:

Barney Garcia, after apologizing for his absence at the previous meeting, reported on three recent Board of Trustees meetings. He stated that the Board held a special meeting on October 1st where they unanimously approved the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which has now been submitted to the Department of Higher Education (DHE) for review under heightened federal scrutiny. He then reported on a second special meeting from October 10th, where the Board unanimously approved President Linda Thompson's positive evaluation, commending her for bringing stability and innovation, and subsequently recommended a compensation increase for her to the DHE. Finally, Garcia noted that a regular Board meeting was held earlier in the day, but he would save the detailed report for the next SGA meeting in the interest of time.

Vice President of Student Life Report:

Travis McLoughlin announced three updates in his report, beginning with another extension for the Healthy Minds Survey, which will now close this Friday, the 24th, and he strongly encouraged all students to complete it. He then advertised recruitment for the Student Conduct Board, a serious committee run by Assistant Dean of Students Shannon Green that requires an interview and is responsible for hearing student conduct appeals; he passed around a flyer with a sign-up sheet for those interested. Lastly, McLoughlin announced that the first Residential Life Committee meeting will be held next Monday, the 27th, and invited senators to bring any relevant issues to his attention.

- Justin Wald asked what kind of issues are going to be talked about at the meeting.
    - Travis McLoughlin explained that it will primarily be introductions and getting the committee going.

Student Affairs Committee Report:

Travis McLoughlin reported that the Student Affairs Committee met last Friday and is moving forward with several initiatives, starting with a tabling event in the DC tomorrow at lunchtime to inform students about the committee's work. He passed around the sign-up sheet for the upcoming Coffee Crawl, reminding senators it is an easy way to earn community engagement hours. McLoughlin also announced that the committee will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovated Ely Lounge this Thursday at 2 PM, which will include refreshments and remarks from President Thompson and Justin Wald. He concluded by reiterating that there are still two SGA seats open on the committee and asked interested senators to speak with him or Justin Wald.

University Curriculum Committee Report:

Melissa Kuzmeski began her report by thanking those who attended the "academics express and decompress" session and announced that due to positive feedback, she and Karlie will host an "end of semester decompress dinner," with more details to follow. She then summarized the October 17th University Curriculum Committee meeting, which approved several new courses, including a WISE-inclusive English course on forest bathing and a new Healthcare Policy course. The committee also passed a large block of proposals for the Biology department, including a new WISE course, revisions to Plant Biology and Biotechnology, updates to ten course numbers, and changes to both the Biology minor and the Biotechnology concentration to increase student flexibility. Two courses, American Public Policy and Deviance and Culture, were tabled pending further clarification.

- Ali Sutherland recommended the Biotechnology class he doesn't recommend it enough and he asked if the Healthcare policy course will be offered in the spring.
    - Travis McLoughlin gave a point of information that it will not be.

Vice President of Finance Report:

Ezekiel Tamarkin reported on the recent Academic Policies Committee (APC) meeting, which focused on the proposal for an additional common hour. He explained that a preliminary survey,

which had already been sent to faculty and staff, would soon be distributed to the student body. Tamarkin clarified that this survey had been mistakenly sent out with an email claiming SGA's endorsement, which was not accurate. As a compromise to ensure the common hour policy continues to move forward, the survey will be sent to students, but the accompanying email will be corrected to remove the false endorsement. He concluded by announcing that a new subcommittee, with full SGA oversight, will be formed after the preliminary survey is complete to create a finalized version.

Vice President of Student Belonging Report:

Lorraine Fernández reported on the first meeting of the Belonging Committee, held on Monday, October 20th, which saw good attendance from various student groups and staff support from the BIL office. During the meeting, student groups shared updates, and Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola advised clubs to seek event support early and begin planning for Unity Week. Fernández also announced a new "Citizenship and Public Purpose" initiative launching in November and an upcoming campus climate survey on October 27th, which will be promoted by committee members. The committee also discussed the need for clearer Halal signage in dining areas, and its next meetings were scheduled for November 10th and December 1st.

Vice President of Community Engagement and Outreach Report:

Tyler King announced that he is forming the Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) committee and is actively recruiting six senators to assist with creating promotional materials. He then gave a preliminary announcement for the 2025 SGA Turkey Drive, which will run from November 3rd to November 17th, and invited senators to either share ideas or join his new committee to help create the campaign's flyers and posts. King concluded his report by requesting to film two quick Instagram reels with the senate while they were all gathered, which could be posted at a later date.

A motion to enter a recess was approved unanimously to record videos for the SGA Instagram.

Rules and Regulations Committee Report:

Jakob Traynor reported on the first Rules and Regulations meeting held on Thursday, October 9th, where the committee reviewed 11 proposals for new and reactivated student clubs, clarifying that this is just the first step in the approval process. He stated that nine proposals were passed to the next round, including the WSU Pep Band, Current Events Club, MOSAIC Club, Turning Point USA, and reactivations for the Owl Runway and Philosophy clubs. The Music Listening and Fencing clubs were also allowed to proceed by the chair, despite initial denials, with conditions for securing an advisor and adding a liability clause, respectively. The committee denied the Rollerblading Club proposal due to a lack of an advisor and insufficient student interest, and the Creative Writing Club was denied for its similarity to an existing organization, while the Westfield State Students For Live Music Club was tabled for further clarification of its purpose.

Campus Activities Board Report:

Matthew Crusha reported on the Campus Activities Board (CAB) meeting from October 15th, recapping two recent events: the Salsa Class and Speaker, which had 27 attendees, and Art in Motion, which drew 37 attendees. The main focus of his report was the upcoming Fall Fest Weekend, which is scheduled to run from Thursday, October 23rd, to Saturday, October 25th, and will feature a pumpkin carving competition, a hypnosis show, and a "Spooky Skate Night." Crusha also noted that the Signature Event Committee has already begun planning for their Winter Wonderland event and that CAB's next regular meeting will be held tomorrow, October 22nd.

Commuter Council Report:

Raymond Croteau reported that the Commuter Council is off to a "hot start" after a successful first event on Thursday, October 16th, where they co-sponsored with the University Police to give away hot chocolate and munchkins to over 50 commuter students. He then announced the first Commuter Luncheon, which is scheduled for October 28th from 12 to 1 PM in the Tekoa Room, providing a free lunch for 25 commuter students along with guests Kevin Hearn and a member of the University Police. Croteau concluded by stating that the council plans to host six or seven more luncheons and hopes to expand the number of guests at future events.

Following his report, he appointed Sofia Rudenko to be a Representative to Senate for the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Barney Garcia congratulated the Commuter Council on all their hard work so far this semester.

Announcements:

The following announcements were made:

- Jacob Constant asked his team huddle to meet with him after the meeting.
- Justin Wald asked the Class Council Presidents to see Matt after the meeting.
- Zeke Tamarkin reminded everyone about the auction.
- Tyler King asked for his team huddle to hang back with
- Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval mentioned that there is 206 days till commencement!

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

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 October 21, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

Signed: _____

Date: _____