Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 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, Luke Stehley, Ali Sutherland, Matthew Crusha, Christopher Lannan, Zara Rivett, Megan Fran, Grant Wenhart, Alyssa Hanafin, 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: Cole Dos Santos, Brenna Guliani, Kayliegh Afonso

Members Absent: Sofia Rudenko

Also present and participating was SGA Advisor Matthew Dellea.

Call to Order: President Justin Wald called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 21th, 2025, meeting was approved.

President's Report: Justin Wald began by introducing the guest speaker, Kurt Morris from the Counseling Center, who was there to lead a professional development session on relaxation and stress management. In his report, Wald thanked the presenters, everyone who wore a costume for the Halloween-themed meeting, and all the senators who helped staff the SGA and Class of 2026 tents during Homecoming. He then announced a significant financial decision: the Executive Council voted unanimously to reallocate surplus funds, originally designated for PVTA bussing, to cover a nearly $37,000 budget shortfall for both SGA and CAB that resulted from lower-than-projected student enrollment, thereby preventing any cuts to planned events or initiatives. He concluded by reporting that the SGA website has been almost completely updated to reflect the new constitution and current executive council, with only a few photos and bios left to be added.

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

Guest Speaker: Kurt Morris, Austin Sullivan, and Lorraine Fernández delivered a professional development workshop on stress management, defining stress as a natural life response and management as the skills used to cope. The presentation, which began with group discussion questions asking members of senate, outlined several

key techniques, including grounding exercises, healthy venting, and skill-building exercises like practicing gratitude and positive journaling to build resilience. A primary focus was on mindfulness, described as a practice of awareness and acceptance without judgment. The workshop concluded with a guided activity using the "RAIN" acronym—Recognize, Allow, Investigate, and Nurture—as a step-by-step process for internal reflection and self-care.

- Jacob Constant asked everyone to see an Executive Member after the meeting to get participation credit for being at the workshop.

Student Trustee Report: Barney Garcia reported on the recent Board of Trustees meeting, which focused on the theme of resilience in the face of significant financial challenges. He explained that university enrollment was 200 students short of projections, resulting in a $2.8 million revenue loss. To legally maintain a balanced budget, the university has enacted $2.6 million in cuts, with $1.1 million coming from department operations, and has also instituted a 90-day hiring freeze to save $909,042. Garcia noted that all capital projects not already approved have been deferred, though essential projects like the campus water main replacement, HVAC refrigerant replacement, and the Ely Pool renovation will proceed using university reserves.

Despite these cuts, Garcia highlighted several areas of progress. The Board unanimously approved two new graduate programs: a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master of Science in Athletics Training. He also noted that the SUCCESS program is entering its second year, and the Board conducted its first review of university policies since 2015, nullifying three and reallocating thirty others to the Academic Policies Committee. He concluded on a positive note, sharing that the university's investment fund saw an 11.2% return, a gain of $4.2 million, which prompted the Board to re-balance its investment stance to 60% equities.

Residential Life Committee Report: Travis McLoughlin reported that the first Residential Life Committee meeting of the semester consisted mainly of introductions and reviewing the committee's charge. The committee discussed the Skyfactor Survey, which is currently open only to residential students and asks for feedback on residence halls and staff in exchange for incentives like Owl Bucks and a "housing fast pass" for early housing selection. He also shared that the committee is planning the beautification of the "drearier" Apartment Complex quad. To guide this project, he concluded by officially opening the floor to gather student feedback and ideas for improving the Apartment Complex quad or any other residence halls on campus.

- Ali Sutherland to work with the RIDE center for maybe swings.
- Justin Wald suggests adding string lights.
- Ali Sutherland asked about getting more big emergency lights in general on campus.
- Ethan Haynes too much pine needles, cauing it to be too slippery when it rains.
- Melissa Kuzmeski mentioned maybe sidewalk lights.
- Zeke Tamarkin birdhouses.
- John Zocco said so far what he is heard everything is possible.
- Zara Rivett the stairs going to the parking lot making sure that there is ice melt on it.
- Angelina Cassella areas of flowers, and something in the center of it like the owl in front of Bates.
- Fabian Morales repaving the area because when it rains and snows its difficult to clean.

Vice President of Academic Life Report: Melissa Kuzmeski reported on her recent meeting with Hillary Shattuck-Taylor, sharing that the CCSE's reorganization is proceeding well, with more tutors and success coaches being hired to improve student access, and noting an increase in referrals to FACES, which is now "student basic needs" in Parenzo 142. She addressed concerns about the spring catalog, explaining that some course sections were cut due to a funding deficit from lower student attendance and recent faculty retirements. As a solution, seating caps in many academic courses will be raised to 25 to accommodate more students. Kuzmeski concluded by advising any

graduating seniors who are missing a required course to contact their department head to arrange an independent study or a similar accommodation to fulfill their graduation requirements.

- Zara Rivett asked about if the registrar's office could be open earlier on registration days incase of issues.
- Christopher Lannan gave a point of information explaining that when he worked in advising that nobody came for help at that time.

Vice President of Community Engagement and Outreach Report: Tyler King announced the official plans for the annual SGA Turkey Drive, which will run from November 3rd to November 17th to raise monetary donations for Westfield Public Schools' Thanksgiving meals. He stressed that this is a collective SGA effort with mandatory participation, outlining a schedule that includes tabling in the Dining Commons and Commuter Lounge, a promotional day with a food truck, and a "door-knocking" requirement for each huddle. He also put out a call for volunteers for the SAIL Turkey Trot on November 17th and announced that the Community Engagement and Outreach committee still has three open spots for senators interested in helping with promotions. King concluded his report by congratulating Raymond Croteau as the October Senator of the Month, recognizing him for his hard work in rebuilding the Commuter Council.

- Aviannah-Leigh Saulters asked how much we got last year
    - Matthew Dellea responded with $3,015 and we will beat it this year.

Rules and Regulations Committee Report: Jakob Traynor reported that the Rules and Regulations committee met last Thursday to revisit the proposal for the "Westfield State Students for Live Music club" (WSSLM), which had previously been tabled pending further clarification. He explained that although he could not meet with the club's president, the president submitted a rewritten proposal that successfully clarified the club's purpose and goals. With this new information, the committee unanimously voted to approve the club, allowing it to move on in the recognition process. Traynor concluded by reminding senators to contact him if they are interested in joining the committee.

- Angelina Cassella asked when rules and regulations meet.
    - Jakob Traynor responded with Thursday's 2:30-3:30.
- Ali Sutherland asked where does the committee meet.
    - Jakob Traynor responded with in the Banaco's confrence room.
- Ethan Haynes asked if someone came up to someone in rules and regulations about something that is in the pipeline who should they go too.
    - Jakob Traynor responded with himself or Matthew Dellea.

Campus Activities Board Report: Matthew Crusha reported on the successful turnout for CAB's recent Fall Fest Weekend, noting that the event on the green drew 278 attendees, followed by 34 at the hypnosis show and 40 at Spooky Skate Night. He then announced two upcoming events for this week: an Open Mic Night to be held at 7 PM in the University MPR and a Family Fright Night scheduled for Wednesday from 3 to 9 PM on campus. Crusha concluded by noting that the next regular CAB meeting will be held tomorrow, October 29th.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Jacob Constant reminded everyone to see the Executive Council at the end of the meeting.
- Travis McLoughlin reminded everyone who got an email about the student conduct board to schedule a time for an interview.
- Lorraine Fernández reminded everyone about the campus climate survey.
- Angelina Cassella reminded everyone about RA applications being open for the winter.
- Mathew Dellea reminded everyone about Family Fright Night and Trunk or Treat being tomorrow from 5-9 and if you are helping to

- Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval mentioned that there is 199 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 28, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant