Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room

Ely Campus Center

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

Members Excused: Ali Sutherland, Kayleigh Afonso, Raymond Croteau

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) Also, participating was advisor Matthew Dellea and Guest Speakers Vice President of Finance and Administration Steven Taksar, Director of Dining Melissa Sikes, and Director of Residential Life Christina Makensie Willenbrock.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the November 18th, 2025, meeting was approved.

President's Report: Justin Wald said his goodbyes to Ethan Haynes and Tyler King as they will be graduating from the University and this meeting would be their last.

Guest Speakers: Vice President Steve Taksar, along with Directors Melissa Sikes and Chris McKenzie Willenbrock, presented the Fiscal Year 2027 preliminary tuition and fee assumptions to the Student Government Association. The presentation outlined the university's budget cycle, noting that state appropriations and tuition revenue are the primary funding sources, while compensation and debt service remain the largest expenses. For FY27, the administration is planning for a 3.0% increase in both Dining Services and Residential Life fees, alongside a 2.5% to 3.0% rise in the General Fee. These proposed adjustments are expected to increase the overall cost of attendance by approximately 2.5%, a figure influenced by a current inflation rate of 3.0%.

Dining Services highlighted improved satisfaction rates from their Fall 2025 survey, which showed notable gains in food quality and customer service. To better serve the student body, the department proposed new options for FY27, including a "19 Flex Plan" that allows students to use 19 meals per week at any campus location and a dedicated

lunch plan for commuters. The presentation emphasized that Westfield State's meal plans remain competitively priced, with the cost of unlimited access plans ranking lower than peer institutions such as Salem State and UMass Amherst.

Residential Life reported that 60 cents of every dollar in their budget is restricted to debt service payments, which creates significant financial pressure. Despite these challenges, the department anticipates a 3.0% rent increase, translating to approximately $270 more per year for a standard room. Even with this increase, the university's room rates remain lower than most competitors in the state university system, including Framingham State and Bridgewater State. Following this preliminary review, the recommended fees will be shared with the SGA in January and submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval in February.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Travis McLoughlin also gave his goodbye remarks to Ethan Haynes and Tyler King.

Dining Services Report: Angelina Cassella delivered a combined report from recent meetings, first noting that dining is addressing theft issues by switching salt shakers and installing new dispensing racks for ice cream. She reported that the "Weigh the Waste" event received neutral feedback but will continue next semester, and she provided clarification regarding Halal dining, stating that while proteins are Halal, the kitchen cannot be fully labeled as such, so new signage will be implemented to avoid confusion. Cassella introduced the "Global Takeovers" initiative for cultural clubs to host dining events and requested an SGA volunteer to help coordinate. She concluded by announcing the Holiday Luncheon for December 10th and noting that meal plans will officially restart on January 18th.

Parking Control Board Report: Christopher Lannan reported on the Parking Control Board meeting held on November 19th, noting that the committee reviewed the effectiveness of the visitor parking resolution and advised students against adding visitor vehicles to their personal accounts to avoid liability for tickets. He expressed support for a proposal allowing graduate assistants to park in faculty and staff spaces during working hours and reported that 108 Main Lot permits were awarded via lottery to seniors and graduate students this year. Lannan clarified that the Lammers lot remains designated for faculty and staff, though it is often utilized by students with medical passes, and highlighted the board's ongoing discussions regarding the redesignation of campus parking zones. The committee also addressed the critical issue of unpaid parking tickets, emphasizing that three unpaid citations make a vehicle eligible for towing, and announced a search for a commuter or GPS student to join the board to provide additional perspectives.

Finance Committee Report:

- Christopher Lannan reminded everyone who is a treasurer of a club to make sure you are submitting your finance proposals with enough time to review.
    - Aviannah-Leigh Saulters asked with time was.
        - Christopher Lannan expained that he believed it was 15 days in the finance by-laws.
            - Zeke Tamarkin clarified that it is 15 business days.
- Matthew Dellea asked to tell everyone about much is in the SGA club proposal pool.
    - Zeke Tamarkin explained about the budget at the beginning of the semester and how much that has been spent so far.

Vice President of Student Belonging Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that the Blue Key Committee will officially be starting in the spring with her serving as the new chair. She explained that the committee will work on recognizing student leadership, involvement, and school spirit throughout the semester, involving an application and nomination process to select Blue Key recipients who will be honored at the end-of-year SGA banquet. She invited anyone interested in joining the committee to reach out or speak with her after the meeting.

Committee on Belonging Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that the Belonging Committee met on December 1st to reflect on the success of the recent Interfaith Listening Center session and to discuss future initiatives, including a First-Generation Listening Circle being led by Senator Aviannah Lee-Salters for the spring semester. She provided a significant update regarding the Halal Signage initiative, noting that Dining Services has agreed to create a specific symbol for "halal protein" to be used on signage across campus and that the Manager of Nutrition Services will meet with the Muslim Student Organization to ensure accurate labeling. Additionally, she outlined plans for Unity Week, which is scheduled for April 6–12 with an "Around the World" theme for Unity Fest, and stated that the committee aims to hold its next meeting during the first week of February.

Rules and Regulations Report Jakob Traynor reported that the Rules and Regulations committee had reviewed several new club proposals as of November 20th, 2025, and was presenting four for Senate approval. He stated that the committee recommended passing the constitutions for the Philosophy Club, WSU Students for Live Music, the WSU Pep Band, and Turning Point USA, all of which received favorable votes during committee review. Conversely, he noted that the School Idol Club, Current Events Club, and Fashion Club were denied due to the need for major edits but would likely be pursued again in the spring semester. He concluded the report by formally moving to approve the four recommended clubs.

MOTION TO APPROVE Seconded by Jacob Constant to approve the club constitution for the Philosophy APPROVED BY VOCAL VOTE.

MOTION TO APPROVE Seconded by Jacob Constant to approve the club constitution for WSU Students for Live Music APPROVED BY VOCAL VOTE.

MOTION TO APPROVE Seconded by Angelina Cassella to approve the club constitution for WSU Pep Band APROOVED BY VOCAL VOTE.

MOTION TO APPROVE Seconded by Tyler King to approve the club constitution for Turning Point USA ROLL CALL VOTE APPROVED WITH A VOTE OF 11 YES, 8 NO, 11 ABSTAINED.

New Hall Report: Ethan Haynes gave his final report which was his farewell remarks.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Jacob Constant said his goodbyes to Ethan and Tyler.
- Christopher Lannan said his goodbyes to Ethan and Tyler.
- Justin Wald reminded everyone about the spring resources links to different things if anyone is interested as well as a student survey.
- Tyler King gave his goodbyes and farewells.
- Matthew Dellea thanked all of the senators for all of their hard work and dedication over the semester and explained that the goals that were done because of everyone and wished everyone good luck with winter break traveling. Then reminded everyone about the organizations values and how they aren't being upheld.
- Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval reminded everyone that there is 156 days till commencement and reminded everyone about 100 days till comencement next semester!

Adjournment: There being no further business, Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 6:01 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 November 18, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant