Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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, Jacob Constant, Barney Garcia, Luke Stehley, Matthew Crusha, Christopher Lannan, Zara Rivett, Alyssa Hanafin, Maria Renta-Marrero, Celia Rocino, Adian Gomez, Karlie Beamenderfer, Will Onorato, Cole Dos Santos, Brenna Guliani, Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval, Lorraine Fernández, Melissa Kuzmeski, Julian Auger, Eli Baez

Members Absent: Sofia Rudenko

Members Excused: Fabian Morales, Ali Sutherland, Angelina Cassella, 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 Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola and Dr. Azanda Seymour.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the February 3rd, 2025, meeting were approved.

President's Report: Justin Wald welcomed Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola and Dr. Azanda Seymour from the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning to present findings from the campus Climate Survey. He opened his report by acknowledging Black History Month, emphasizing its importance to the campus community and affirming SGA's commitment to resolving recent planning and funding challenges for heritage month events. Wald announced a State University Advocacy Day scheduled for Thursday, February 26th, inviting students to travel to the State House to meet with legislators regarding public higher education issues. He also highlighted that the Westfield State Foundation has opened applications for over 100 scholarships totaling $250,000, which are available until March 25th. Additionally, he reported on a recent meeting with the University Cabinet where the Executive Council addressed faculty resistance to the Common Hour, reduced institutional support for affinity groups, and ongoing concerns regarding free expression on campus. The report concluded with a call for volunteers to fill open governance seats on the AUC, APC, and UCC committees. Two motions were given to Senate stated below. As well as stated to senate that the Executive Council voted to table a finance proposal until the event gets approved.

MOTION to approve finance proposals for Environmental Planning, seconded by Travis McLoughlin motion was approved unanimously by VOCAL VOTE.

MOTION to approve funding the club baseball team, seconded by Melissa Kuzmeski, motion was approved unanimously by VOCAL VOTE.

- Travis McLoughlin asked about Keeper of the Dream?
    - Justin Wald explains to look out for the teams tomorrow!

Guest Speakers:

- Barney Garcia asked what is the action plan based on the survey and if there will be a student facing things that the office is doing.
    - Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola explained that the short answer is yes, about that there will still be a student facing work. Then explained that this new work is just an addon to what the department is doing.
- Justin Wald would you be able to give information about the transition so that students are aware.
    - Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola explains that the department has been moved from Academic Affairs to Human Resources, and explains that she doesn't know if the name will change.
- Kishana Sharpe asks how can students make other students feel like they are comfortable, and that they can do and speak what they want to.
    - Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola explains that with set of data it isn't clear, but leading with your voices and minds. However, it isn't just a student problem.
- Justin Wald asks a follow-up question to what he said earlier about if the department is dealing with more Human Recourses things how would that look like for the student support. Asking if that means the office is moving to Horace Mann or staying on Main campus.
    - Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola explains that for the time being the office is staying on main campus but she is not sure about if that will change in the future. Then Jenyka explains that it is in a unique spot that the department is dealing with both staff/faculty things as well as student things which hasn't been done before.
- Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval asked if because the department is under HR are there any other departments that might go under BIL.
    - Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola gives the question to Azanda.
    - Azanda Seymour explains that FACES will report to her and that will be all.
- Celia Rocino asked what we can expect from the campus climate survey coming up in March?
    - Jenka Spitz-Gassnola explains that many of the questions will remain the same and explains what the difference will be and tailoring it to the Spring semester.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Travis McLoughlin issued a follow-up call for volunteers to participate in the lunch interview for the Counseling Center's Outreach Counselor position, scheduled for Thursday, February 12th, from 12:15 to 1:15 PM in the Dining Commons. He noted that participation in this interview counts toward the required ten community engagement hours students must complete each semester. Additionally, he reminded the Senate that nominations for the Student Leadership Awards remain open until Friday, February 20th.

University Curriculum Committee Report: Aidan Gomez reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on February 6, 2026, to discuss a significant volume of English and Criminal Justice department revisions. Key approvals for the English department included reducing foreign language requirements for majors, deleting outdated honors courses, and renumbering a batch of courses to accurately reflect content levels. Several English courses, such as "Exploring Global Stories" (formerly World Literature), received updates to align with WISE inclusive standards and new general education requirements. In Criminal Justice, the committee approved moving the Field Practicum to a 400-level course and established a new Senior Seminar. Additionally, the committee passed program description updates for History B.A. and Licensure programs to better reflect current student learning outcomes

- Melissa Kuzmeski congratulated Aidan on his first report!

Vice President of Student Belonging Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that the collaborative trip to the Westfield Soup Kitchen on February 6th was a success, with 40 volunteers providing a meal of chicken pot pie, salad, and dessert to the community. She announced that nominations for the Blue Key Award opened today and will remain active until March 10th, with the committee meeting tomorrow, February 11th, to begin the review process.

Additionally, she noted that the Belonging Committee will meet this Friday via Zoom, and she will be co-hosting a tabling pop-up event in front of the SGA room on February 18th to connect with students. Finally, she shared upcoming Black History Month programming, including a guest speaker on February 25th, a movie night on February 26th, and a forthcoming collaboration dinner with Dining Services.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Jacob Constant asked if Julian and Eli can see him after the meeting.
- Celia Rocino reminded everyone to check out the instagram about the Owl Ball theme and to follow the instagram!
- Justin Wald told everyone who is interested in going to the Keeper of the Dream event Thursday night to reach out to him after the meeting, explaining that this is a formal University Event.
- Barney Garcia let everyone know his new office hours.
- Lorraine Fernandez reminded everyone that there is 94 days till commencement!

Adjournment: There being no further business, Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 6:23 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 February 10, 2026.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant