Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 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: Justin Wald, Travis Mcloughlin, Luke Stehley, Matthew Crusha, Christopher Lannan, Zara Rivett, Alyssa Hanafin, Celia Rocino, Adian Gomez, Karlie Beamenderfer, Cole Dos Santos, , Lorraine Fernández, Julian Auger, Fabian Morales, Raymond Croteau, Brenna Guiliani, Olivia Carney, Lucia Sadura, Barney Garcia, Melissa Kuzmeski, Maria Renta-Marrero, Jacob Constant

Members Absent: Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval, Eli Baez

Members Excused: Angelina Cassella

Executive Secretary Comment: For the President and the Guest Speaker reports, there were comments however due to technical issues those comments could not be recorded, Thank you for your understanding.

Call to Order: President Justin Wald called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. 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.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the February 24th, 2026, meeting were approved.

President's Report: Justin Wald welcomed Sam Tsongalis from the Department of Residential Life to lead a professional development session on student advocacy. He reported that the February 26th State House advocacy trip was a success, noting that the BRIGHT Act passed the Senate unanimously and has moved to a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions. Wald announced an upcoming dinner with President Thompson to discuss campus issues and shared that the Executive Council is finalizing a comprehensive recruitment plan for the next election cycle, including town halls and new promotional materials. Finally, he introduced proposed constitutional amendments for the Class and Commuter Councils to ensure organizational uniformity, along with updates to specific SGA positions to clarify roles for prospective election candidates.

Guest Speaker: Samuel Tsongalis presented a professional development workshop titled "The Governmental Bakery," which explored the evolving relationship between higher education and local, state, and federal government. The presentation provided a historical overview of American education, highlighting the contributions of Horace Mann and the impact of federal legislation such as the Morrill Act and the G.I. Bill. Tsongalis discussed how government initiatives, including the National Defense Education Act and the establishment of Pell Grants, have historically expanded access to higher education for the working class. The session emphasized the difference between educational theory and practice, encouraging students to understand which levels of government make specific policy decisions and how they can navigate these systems as active advocates. The workshop concluded by

identifying key resources for student advocacy, including the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and various federal student loan programs.

Guest Speaker: Vice President Kevin Hearn gave a brief presentation about the new brand of Westfield State.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Travis McLoughlin announced that SGA will host the "Empowerment" booth at the upcoming Fresh Check Day, an initiative focused on addressing BIPOC mental health disparities and promoting responsible allyship through interactive games and obstacle courses. He provided informational packets regarding the booth and noted that a volunteer sign-up sheet and details on required training will be available at the next meeting. In residential life news, he reported personnel changes including Ireland's appointment as the Resident Director of Courtney Hall and RD Victor's transition to University Hall. Additionally, he reminded students that the downtown shuttle will be suspended during Spring Break and urged everyone to monitor their emails for ongoing housing selection and roommate group formation deadlines.

Vice President of Student Belonging Report: Cole Dos Santos reported on behalf of Lorraine Fernández, noting her recent meeting with the Director of the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning to coordinate Unity Week. The celebration, which focuses on diversity and inclusive spaces, is scheduled to take place from Monday, April 6th, through Sunday, April 12th. The report also highlighted the success of the Affinity Listening Session held on February 18th, where student feedback was gathered to guide future university programming; plans are currently underway to host a follow-up session shortly after Spring Break. Finally, students were encouraged to enjoy a restful and productive break.

- Melissa Kuzmeski congratulated Cole on her first report!

Vice President of Finance Report: Theodore Lucier introduced himself as the new Vice President of Finance and reported on several significant updates from the Finance Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is streamlining the Financial Bylaws by moving repetitive definitions to an appendix and revising sections to clarify the SGA-recognition process and meal approval requirements for clubs. A major policy change was announced, raising the starting annual budget for all registered clubs and organizations to $250. Additionally, the Finance Committee approved $300 for the Girls' Volleyball Team's transportation to their finals in Rhode Island. Lucier also highlighted the "Give A Hoot" notecard-a-thon on March 26th to support the campus investment lab and announced his new office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:15 PM to 4:15 PM.

- Justin Wald mentioned that there needs to be a vote for the Volley Ball.
- MOTION TO GIVE $300 for the Volleyball Team's Transportation. VOICE VOTE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Melissa Kuzmeski congratulated Theodore on his first report!
- Jacob Constant encouraged everyone to go to the Notecard-a-thon as it is a fun event!

Vice President of Community Engagement and Outreach Report: Celia Rocino presented the Senator of the Month award to Liv Carney.

Belonging Committee Report: Cole Dos Santos reported that the Belonging Committee met on March 5th to coordinate the filming of a promotional video for the spring release of the Campus Climate Survey, with recording scheduled for March 25th and 26th. The committee reflected on the recent Community Care Pop-up, noting that while snow affected attendance, student feedback highlighted a strong sense of peer support but a perceived lack of support from faculty and staff. Future initiatives discussed include a diversity-focused event in April featuring a world map for students to share their languages and origins, as well as ongoing planning for Unity Week. He noted that affinity groups are currently being asked to submit participation forms for Unity Week and confirmed that the committee unanimously supports pursuing a potential collaboration with the local business NO KINGS.

- Adian Gomez congratulated Cole on her second report of the day!

University Curriculum Committee Report: Melissa Kuzmeski reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on March 6, 2026, to approve several updates within the Marketing, Communication, and Art departments. Marketing revisions included streamlining registration for AI in Business and adding two new courses to the Marketing minor and major. The Communication department approved reducing the total credits required for the major to 42, removing Communication Theory from core requirements, and introducing "Intro to Sports Media" and "Social Media Analytics" to various concentrations. Within the Art department, "Writing for Art and Artist" and "Animation Foundations" were updated to be WISE inclusive, and the Art B.A. added more options to satisfy upper-level history requirements. Additionally, Kuzmeski announced several lunch interview opportunities for the new Dean of Professional Studies on March 11, 23, 24, and 25; students interested in attending for community engagement hours should RSVP to Lisa Campbell.

- Christopher Lannan asks for Communication credit clarification.
    - Melissa Kuzmeski gave the clarification that was requested.

Dining Services Report: Jacob Constant reported that the Dining Services committee met on February 27th, noting that upcoming meetings on March 27th and April 10th are canceled due to Accepted Students Days. He shared that students have provided positive feedback on new menu additions, including sushi and global options, leading to the permanent addition of Chicken Bacon Ranch sandwiches at Ely Harvest. In response to feedback regarding snow day operations, students indicated that later opening hours are acceptable. Upcoming dining highlights include a Dr. Seuss birthday event, a "Shamrock Shake" feature at the Owl Cafe, and new programming from an incoming intern dietitian. Students are also encouraged to complete the Common Goods survey to provide further feedback.

Rules and Regulations Report: Karlie Beamenderfer reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee held its first meeting of the semester on March 9, 2026. The committee reviewed and approved constitutional amendments for both the Class Council and Commuter Council, noting that only minor grammatical changes were required. Additionally, the committee reviewed the Black Student Union constitution, which will be returned to the organization for minor edits. Beamenderfer announced that her updated office hours are Tuesdays from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Wednesdays from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM, and Fridays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, and noted that the committee will reconvene on March 23rd at 5:00 PM.

- Justin Wald gave some information regarding the Class Council and Commuter Council constitutions and what was changed about them.
- Jacob Constant congratulated Celia Rocino on her first report!
- Christopher Lannan asked if it would be possible to also remove the Community Relations and Fundraiser role.
    - Justin Wald explained that it can happen in the future but won't be in the current amendments.
    - Christopher Lannan reiterated that it would be a good idea.
    - Justin Wald explained that it needs to be passed today because signature papers are being handed out after elections.
- Zara Rivett asked what happens to people who are currently in the Historian role.
    - Justin Wald explained that they would have to run for a different position during the elections.
- Justin Wald MOTION to approve the Class and Commuter Council constitutions. CLICKER VOTE PASSED.

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant announced that the annual election season is approaching, with signature papers scheduled for release on Monday, March 23rd, through April 3rd. He highlighted a significant update to the election process: all relevant documents, including role descriptions, open positions, and signature papers, will be available digitally via the SGA Involve page. Physical copies of these materials will also remain available in the SGA room for student access.

Campus Activities Board Report: Matthew Crusha reported that over the past three weeks, the Campus Activities Board successfully hosted Drag Bingo and a decade-themed dance party. He announced the upcoming "Owl Be

There For You" signature week, starting Tuesday, March 24th, with a "Friends" watch party and bingo in the Owl's Nest. The week continues with a trivia night in the SGA room on Wednesday, a featured speaker in Dever Stage on Thursday, and a comedy show in the Owl's Nest on Friday, March 27th. The series will conclude on Saturday, March 28th, with a day-long wellness event featuring various activities throughout the basement level of Ely.

New Business:

- MOTION TO OPEN NEW BUSINESS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
- Justin Wald gave a brief presentation regarding the changes that were being made to the constitution.
- MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMMENDMENTS PROVIDED BY JUSTIN WALD ELECTRONIC VOTE PASSED.
- Jacob Constant asked will happen now that it has been approved once.
    - Matthew Dellea explained that it will be put in place before the next meeting due to the start of signature papers, but will be a second vote at the next meeting.
- MOTION TO CLOSE NEW BUSINESS PASSED UNANMOUSLY

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Jacob Constant congratulated Celia on her first report!
- Christopher Lannan reminded everyone that there is 67 days till commencement!

Adjournment: There being no further business, Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 7:12 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 March 10, 2026.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant