Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 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, Raymond Croteau, Brenna Guiliani, Lucia Sadura, Barney Garcia, Melissa Kuzmeski, Maria Renta-Marrero, Jacob Constant, Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval

Members Absent: Eli Baez

Members Excused: Angelina Cassella, Fabian Morales, Oliva Carney

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 and guest speaker University President Dr. Linda Thompson and Vice President of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Student Affairs Dr. Kevin Hearn.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the March 10th, 2026 and March 24th, 2026 were approved unanimously by VOCAL VOTE.

President's Report: Justin Wald welcomed University President Dr. Linda Thompson as the guest speaker and thanked her for supporting student initiatives in campus governance. He reminded the assembly that U.S. Representative Richard Neal will be in the Ely Library this Friday at 11:00 AM for a speech and moderated Q&A session. Wald announced that the first candidate for Vice President of Administration and Finance will participate in an open forum and student meeting tomorrow afternoon in Scanlon Banquet Hall, with potential community engagement hours available for attendees. He shared an opportunity for students to be interviewed by a *MassLive* reporter regarding the challenges of the current job market. Finally, Wald addressed a recent Supreme Court ruling, condemning its impact on the LGBTQIA+ community and reiterating SGA's commitment to maintaining an inclusive campus while encouraging students to utilize the Counseling Center for support.

Following the report, Iyana Gordon was invited to share updates regarding her new work with campus affinity groups.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Linda Thompson started by explaining how important the end of the semester is. Then going into a bunch of remarks thanking the Student Government because we make sure that the student voices are heard. He then goes into explaining the new Health Sciences hub. Then she went into the BRIGHT Act explaining what it will do for the University and congratulated and thanked everyone involved helping make the BRIGHT Ace being

passed because students met with Elected officials. Dr. Thompson then went into the direction about the new Strategic Plan and how it was just approved by the Board of Higher Education earlier today April 7th. She then went into how important student input is for the interviews for the Vice President of Administration and Finance. Also mentioning that they have selected 4 members for Honorary Degree's.

Dr. Kevin Hearn answered questions on the President's behalf.

- Justin Wald asked about the announcement of the suspension of the Occupational Therapy Program at the University and what is the University doing after making this announcement.
    - Dr. Kevin Hearn explains that he doesn't have anymore information other than what was shared with the University Community, however he does say that the Office of the Provost will be meeting with all the students in the program have the support and know what they need to move forward. He explains that the reason they suspended the program is because a 2-year program is all that is required and a 4-year program is unnecessary.
    - Justin Wald readdressed and asked if the information was supposed to be shared to the entire campus community or if it was only meant for campus faculty and administrators.
    - Dr. Kevin Hearn explained that he will be reaching out to the correct office to get it sorted.
- Chris Lannan asked retention and enrollment and if there are any efforts being put in to help increase the enrollment numbers back to what they are doing.
    - Dr. Kevin Hearn explains that enrollment is a big term and first focuses on retention rate and that it is currently 70% and working on getting that number up. He goes into that over the past decade that numbers have been going down but because of the efforts of students they have been going up.
- Zara Rivett asked about the removal of the OTA program will affect enrollment.
    - Dr. Kevin Hearn explains that because you don't need a 4-year degree so students are looking into other ways of obtaining that.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Travis McLoughlin highlighted recent updates in athletics and provided final reminders for major upcoming events. He announced that Fresh Check Day will be held this Thursday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Scanlon Banquet Hall, emphasizing that all volunteers must complete the required training or watch the training video prior to the event. Additionally, he invited all student organization members to the Annual Club Celebration in the SGA room this Thursday from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM. The celebration will feature free pizza, garlic bread, and ice cream, along with a raffle and awards recognizing the university's top-performing Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs).

Vice President of Outreach Report: Celia Rocino thanked everyone for attending Owl Ball and thanked the committee for all the hard work that was put into the event. Also explaining that the SGA Banquet will be on April 28th and to send images for Anti-SGA. Then Celia went into awarding the Senator of the Month for the month of March and it was awarded to Cole Dos Santos.

Vice President of Student Belonging Report: Lorraine Fernández expressed her gratitude to the assembly for their dedication and hard work throughout the academic year. She reported that the Blue Key Committee met on March 29th for an extensive five-hour session to review all award nominations. Following a final meeting on April 1st, the committee unanimously selected six recipients for this year's Blue Key Award. These winners will be officially recognized for their contributions at the Student Leadership Awards, scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th, at 5:30 PM in the Scanlon Banquet Hall.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BLUE KEY DECISION FROM THE COMMITTEE VOCAL VOTE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Belonging Committee Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that the Belonging Committee held its final meeting of the semester on April 2, 2026. To accommodate scheduling conflicts, the committee has transitioned to using a

Google Form to coordinate filming for the Campus Climate Survey promotional video during the week of April 13th–17th. Planning continued for the Language & Culture Appreciation Pop-Up, with the committee deciding to host two separate sessions during lunch and dinner to ensure accessibility for commuter students.

The meeting also featured guests Azanda Seymour and Iyana Gordon, who engaged in a productive dialogue with committee members regarding improved support strategies for campus affinity group leaders. Finally, members were encouraged to attend the Intergenerational Listening Circle on Tuesday, April 14th, at 5:00 PM in the Interfaith Center.

University Curriculum Committee Report: Julian Auger reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on April 3, 2026, to approve a variety of new courses and program revisions. Key approvals included the creation of "Introduction to Environmental Science" and an Illustration Minor specifically designed for non-art majors. The B.F.A. in Graphic Design was updated to include an additional art history course to expand student opportunities, while several Education courses (EDUC 207, 305, 314, 325, and 329) received updates to titles, descriptions, and prerequisites to reflect current content accurately.

The Spanish department (LSPA) underwent significant changes, including the deletion of three courses, renumbering capstone and internship courses to the 400-level, and the introduction of a new course, "Intro to Spanish Interpreting". Additionally, the committee passed program description updates for Liberal Arts and approved two new Economics courses: "Capitalism and/or Democracy," which is WISE inclusive, and "Time Series and Forecasting".

- Melissa Kuzmeski congratulated Julian Auger on his first report!

Rules and Regulations Report: Karlie Beamenderfer reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee met on April 6, 2026, to finalize several constitutional reviews. The committee officially approved the Black Student Union constitution following the incorporation of previously requested revisions. Additionally, the Environmental Planning Club and the Athletic Training Club constitutions were approved, though both will be returned for minor grammatical and formatting adjustments. The review for the InterVarsity Christian Group was tabled due to a missing safety waiver, which must be added before the committee revisits the document. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13th, at 5:00 PM.

Finance Committee Report: Theodore Lucier reported that the Westfield State Car Club got $2,600.00 for meal vouchers for their car show food trucks charity event. All Out for $1,250.00 for their guest speaker. Nursing Club requested $46.00 for the purchases of their mid-wife event. Then finally for Circle K Internation club $1,800.00 for student and chaperone travel to and from Dallas, Texas for a conference.

Parking Control Board Report: Chris Lannan reported that the Parking Control Board met on March 25, 2026, to review campus parking data and finalize several regulatory updates. From September 1st through March 25th, the university issued 3,895 tickets totaling $143,290 in fines, with an estimated additional $50,000 in late fees. Main Lot areas near the Apartments, Lammers, and New Hall remain the most frequent locations for violations, accounting for approximately 30% of all citations. To address high demand, the board announced that Main Lot capacity will increase from 108 to 130 spaces for the next academic year, with most new spots located near New Hall and Davis Hall.

Additional updates included the decision to grant commuter parking passes to Physician Assistant (PA) students to accommodate their clinical schedules. Lannan noted that while the board discussed raising the standard $35 citation fee, the proposal was rejected as such changes require Board of Trustees approval. He also highlighted that the success rate for parking appeals is currently less than 10% and announced that the committee unanimously approved two designated parking spots behind the Dining Commons for Facilities, Media Services, and IT vans. As a graduating senior, Lannan encouraged fellow students to join the board next semester, noting its critical role in campus operations despite only meeting once or twice per term.

New Business:

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Theodore Lucier explained that 10:00 PM tonight the History Club is doing a Family Feud event in Wilson Auditorium A.
- Brenna Guliani explained the Blood Drive is tomorrow.
- Travis McLoughlin explained that we are celebrating the NCAA Division 3 week, Saturday is a game!
- Matthew Dellea asked to see the Wisdom and Merit Committee after the meeting.
- Chris Lannan reminded everyone that there are 30 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 April 07, 2026.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant