Student Government Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 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, Alyssa Hanafin, Celia Rocino, Adian Gomez, Karlie Beamenderfer, Cole Dos Santos, Lorraine Fernández, Raymond Croteau, Lucia Sadura, Barney Garcia, Melissa Kuzmeski, Maria Renta-Marrero, Jacob Constant, Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval, Fabian Morales, Oliva Carney, Eli Baez

Members Excused: Angelina Cassella, Brenna Guiliani, Zara Rivett, Julan Auger

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 April 07, 2026 were approved unanimously by VOCAL VOTE.

President's Report: Justin Wald gave a brief report thanking all members of senate and reflecting all the different events and things that the organization has accomplished this year. Thanked Dr. Kevin Hearn about all of the different things he has helped this organization with this year, as well as Maggie Balch and Matthew Dellea for being a great advisor and doing it solo. Justin then reminded everyone about the Banquet next week and reminded everyone that the banquet will be formal. Also told everyone that there will be a picture taken at the end of the meeting because it will be given at the banquet as the Advisor Awards. Then goes into the University Improvements from SGA in the Apartment Complex courtyard and it would be buying and having a massive project to donate to the campus from the Class of 2026 and this year's Executive Board.

Guest Speaker: Melissa Sikes provided a financial and operational update for the 2025-2026 academic year. Analysis of transaction data showed that the Owl Café consistently outperforms the Bistro, leading to the decision to take the Bistro offline next year for evaluation during FY28 planning. The Dining Commons will introduce a new rice bowl concept during this time, and the Owl Café will revamp its menu this summer to include popular items from the Bistro.

Operational changes were also announced for the Late Night Bistro and Market Place to improve efficiency. Late Night Bistro will transition to being closed from Friday through Sunday, while the Market Place will adjust its hours to close earlier on weeknights and open later on weekends. These initiatives, including labor reductions and food cost mitigation, have resulted in a total projected savings of $204,600. These savings allowed the university to avoid increasing student meal plan rates for the upcoming year.

- Karlie Beamenderfer asked a clarifying question that if the student bill is still going to rise even with the closure of the Bistro.
    - Melissa Sikes explained that yes because they are still falling short by about 2%.
- Luke Stehley asked a clarifying question regarding the hours of the Late Night Bistro for next year.
    - Melissa Sikes explained that the hours are confirmed.
- Christopher Lannan asked a question regarding the hours and if students were polled before hand as well as had a question for the majors that get out of class very late and what would be done for them.
    - Melissa Sikes explained that no student knew about this change, then went into explaining that this is the first we are talking about this and still going through all of the logistics but wanted to let students know that this is what is planned for next year.
- Lucia Sadara asked if the Rice Bowl in the DC would be a grab and go or just sit down option
    - Melissa Sikes explained that it would be a sit down option but looking for other ways to make it grab-and-go but explains that she wishes that she had more answers but still working through the process.
- Luke Stehley asked a question regarding other fan favorites at the Bistro.
    - Melissa Sikes explained that they will be spreading them out around campus at other dining locations.
- Theodore Lucier asked about the total projected saving and where is that located.
    - Melissa Sikes explained that the savings will be located directly in Dining's Budget as that is where it is falling short.
- Olivia Carney asked if there was any hot options after 8:00 PM on Friday-Sunday?
    - Melissa Sikes explained that there will not be at Bistro but having better grab and go options at the Marketplace.
- Fabian Morales asked about other grab and go options in the DC.
    - Melissa Sikes explained that she doesn't have an answer currently but would love to sit down and chat about the answers to question asked.
- Christopher Lannan asked about a meal swipe option at every campus location?
    - Melissa Sikes confirmed that there will be a meal swipe option at every location and looking to increasing the amount you can use per-period.

<u>Guest Speaker:</u> Kevin Hearn thanked everyone for the work that everyone has done in the Student Government then gave a presentation about new letters here on campus to give students a signature spot to know that they are here at Westfield State University for incoming students as well as students leaving the University. Explains that the letters would be coming from the Students as a gift to the University.

- Lucia Sadura asked a question if the "Westfield State University" at the bottom of the letters is on all of them.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that yes the name is on all of the versions.
- Christopher Lannan asked a clarifying question about the vote.
    - Justin Wald explains that it would be a vote for both of the projects to submit as a recommendation to the President and the Board of Trustee's to take the money out of our reserves.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that we have a lot more in our reserves then what we are using.
- Olivia Carney asked what is the timeframe about the project.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that they are looking to get it done by the latest Alumni weekend in October.
- Luke Stehley stated he does really like the idea of this and the fact that this is all about the student's decision.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that it would be a great opportunity, it would be a landmark here on campus.
- Aidan Gomez asked about the lighting that would be required.

    - Kevin Hearn explains that the lighting would be exterior to the letters as a cost saving measures.
- Raymond Croteau asked about the money that the University would be giving.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that the initial cost would be from the Student Government and it wouldn't be a dollar for dollar match from the University but it would be paid for year after year for like electricity from the University and maintenance.
- Christopher Lannan explains that the idea is great and this would be an incredible opportunity and we would leave a legacy.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that the years of students before us have left us this opportunity to do this.
- Fabian Morales asked about the materials for the project.
    - Kevin Hearn explains that they are not there yet but will be coming soon, and they want it to be here for decades.

MOTION TO GIVE $130,000 TO FUND THE PROJECTS ELECTRONIC VOTE WAS UNANIMOUSLY YES

- Christopher Lannan asked to ammend the motion to include a $10,000 buffer making it $130,000.
- Raymond asked how much we have in our accounts.
    - Matthew Dellea stated without checking it is around $430,000.
- Justin Wald explains that it would be nice to have a buffer.
- Jacob Constant MOTIONS for a 5 MINUTE RECESS to RETURN at 6:21

Student Trustee Report: Barney Garcia delivered his final report as Student Trustee, detailing the Board of Trustees' Audit and Finance subcommittee meetings held on April 13, 2026. The Finance subcommittee reviewed the university's investment portfolio, noting a 14% year-over-year increase in aggregated earnings despite market volatility linked to geopolitical events in Iran and upcoming midterm elections. A strategic asset rebalancing occurred on March 2nd to phase out cash equivalents in favor of higher allocation targets for public equity and fixed income.

Regarding the FY'26 budget, Admin & Finance reported a $3.8 million loss (2.9% variance) on $129 million in revenue, primarily due to an enrollment shortfall of 37 students. While spending was 4% higher than targeted, the university anticipates breaking even within 1-2% by year-end. Looking ahead to FY'27–FY'30, projections show a continued decline of approximately 107 full-time billable students due to the "enrollment cliff," though relief is expected starting in FY'28 through maturing debt and potential state appropriations.

The committee also recommended policy adjustments to trust fund management to account for inflation and streamline spending authority for cabinet members. Finally, a $1.4 million preliminary capital budget was presented for deferred maintenance, including water main replacements, Horace Mann boiler updates, and lighting improvements at Woodward Field House. The Audit committee concluded by selecting WithumSmith & Brown PC as the external auditor for the FY'26 budget.

University Curriculum Committee Report: Melissa Kuzmeski reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on April 17, 2026, to approve a significant number of course updates and new academic pathways. The committee passed revisions for several Health Sciences courses (HESC 201, 250, 350, and 380) to include updated prerequisites and approved a new Pharmacy Tech course (HESC 4XX) designed to prepare students for certification testing. In the Art department, ART 420, 431, and 451 were updated to include WISE designations and minor revisions to course structures.

A major highlight of the meeting was the approval of the Accelerated Pathway in Sports Medicine and Human Performance, a new three-year program designed to prepare students for the 3 + 2 Master of Athletic Training. To support this and other advanced tracks, several Movement Science courses (MOVP 234, 235, and 319) were renumbered to 400-level status with updated junior-standing requirements. Additionally, the committee approved five new MOVP courses Introduction to Clinical Assessment (1 credit), Orthopedic Pathology (3 credits),

Pharmacology in Sports Medicine (3 credits), Protective Equipment and Materials (1 credit), Therapeutic Intervention (3 credits). Finally, the committee voted to include WISE designations for several introductory activity courses, including Fitness and Walking, Basketball, Golf 1, Initiative Games and Ropes, Rock Climbing, and First Aid and Emergency.

Finance Committee Report: Theodore Lucier gave a brief report regarding a few final Finance Proposals.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING IN CASE THEY STILL REQUIRE FUNDING VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS YES

MOTION TO APPROVE WITH AMMENDMENTS FOR MARCH MELLOWS CHOPSTICKS IS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

- Matthew Dellea explains that the SGA Constitution does not allow funding prizes.
- Travis Mcloughlin asked if all of the money is for prizes.
    - Theodore Lucier explains that it is not and goes into detail where the money is going.
- Christopher Lannan explains that we should just deny the whole thing.
- Matthew Dellea explains that they broke it down on the form and we can approve everything but $13.99.
- Travis Mcloughlin makes a MOTION TO AMMEND TO APPROVE EVERYTHING BUT THE $13.99.

Campus Actives Board Report: Matthew Crusha announced the highly anticipated Spring Weekend lineup, beginning Thursday, April 23rd, at 6:00 PM with a Latin concert on the green featuring Alex Torres & His Latin Orchestra. Festivities continue on Friday, April 24th, with a concert pre-show on the green from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM—including goat yoga, inflatables, and laser domination—followed by SprinGo at 8:30 PM in Scanlon.

The weekend culminates on Saturday, April 25th, with the Spring Concert events, starting with a 1:00 PM tailgate on the green featuring tie-dye, lawn games, and refreshments. Evening activities move to Woodward at 6:00 PM with food trucks and a beer garden, featuring opening act Carmen Dianne followed by headliner MKTO at 7:30 PM.

New Business:

MOTION TO OPEN NEW BUSINESS PASSED

Karlie Beamenderfer explains in detail the changes that are being made to the Blue Key Bylaws as well as the Finance Bylaws. Changes and discussion of the Motion's can be found Here.

MOTION TO APPROVE NEW THE BLUE KEY BYLAWS ELECTRONIC VOTE PASSED

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEW FINANCE BYLAWS ELECTRONIC VOTE

MOTION TO CLOSE NEW BUSINESS PASSED

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Celia Rocino explains to send the pictures for Anti-SGA to her by Friday!
- Jacob Constant reminded everyone to vote in the elections!
- Justin Wald reminded everyone to stay after the meeting for a picture.
- Matthew Dellea asked for anyone that has any special food restrictions to please see him after the meeting for next week's banquet.
- Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval reminded everyone that there are 24 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 21, 2026.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant