



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, April 08, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing was not able to take place.

Members Present: Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald, Sarah Harrington, Lorraine Fernández, Jacob Constant, Nicholas Palumbo, Anderson Dallaire, Travis McLoughin, Brenna Guliani, Jakob Trainor, Cody Hoisington, Barney Garcia, Ethan Mallinson, Christopher Lannan, Ali Sutherland, Angelina Cassella, Irihi Mahida, Ethan Haynes, Raymond Croteau, Isabella Centrella, Sophia Rebenciuc, Puru Sharma, SAAC Representative, Benny Rosas

Members Absent: Raul Rosario, Dominic Zajko, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Troyelle Nosal*, Evelyn Aiello*, Mariza Monteiro*

Members Excused: Daniel Currier, Austin Morgan, Isabella Moniz, Melissa Kuzmeski

Also present and participating was SGA Advisors Matthew Dellea, Shannon Green, and Ryan Meersman.

Call to Order: President Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:30 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).

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the April 1st, 2024, meeting, were approved.

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla gave a brief report explaining that there is no guest speaker. Thanked everyone that showed up on the Soup Kitchen Trip. Then reminded everyone about the Bonding trip planned for the upcoming week.

- Jacob Constant asked anyone that has not filled out a survey to please fill it out.

Student Trustee: Anderson Dallaire reported on behalf of Daniel Currier, who was unable to attend. He shared that Dan's planned visit to the State House on April 10th to advocate for increased funding for deferred maintenance has been postponed due to a scheduling conflict for Vice President Phelps, with a new date yet to be determined. Despite the delay, Dan remains encouraged by the progress made this year through advocacy efforts from the Council of Presidents, faculty, staff, and students. Dan also participated in student interviews for the Dean of the College of Professional Studies and thanked Chris, Raymond, and Ali for attending. He emphasized the importance of attending the remaining luncheons for candidates for the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Dean of the Division of Graduate & Continuing Education. Last week, Dan, Justin, and Joseph met virtually with SGA Advisor and Director of Alumni Relations Ryan Meersman to finalize plans for the upcoming SGA banquet, which will also

* Missed first roll call

** Missed second roll call

celebrate the 100th anniversary of the SGA's founding. He thanked Ryan and Matt for their behind-the-scenes support and looks forward to the event on April 29th. Dan also encouraged members to assist with Accepted Students Day on April 11th, noting its importance in encouraging students to choose Westfield. Lastly, he shared that he's looking forward to attending his final Owl Ball this Friday, April 11th, and while he might not be dancing this time, he's excited to enjoy the food, wine, and photo opportunities with everyone. Anderson concluded by inviting anyone with questions to reach out to Dan directly via Microsoft Teams.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald reported that Health Services will be hosting a Healthy Relationship Workshop tomorrow from 5–7 PM in the Tekoa Room at the Dining Commons, encouraging students to attend and learn about the signs of both healthy and unhealthy relationships. He also shared that the Dance Company is looking for volunteers to help sell tickets at their Spring Dance Performances on Saturday, April 26th, and Sunday, April 27th, from 1:15 to 2:10 PM, and encouraged anyone available to assist. The parking and towing email discussed in last week's meeting has been finalized and approved by the Executive Council and will be sent out soon with key information and tips to help students avoid violations. Regarding housing, Justin acknowledged the stress of the recent selection process and praised the Housing team for doing an outstanding job given the challenging circumstances, including Lammers being offline, apartment complex renovations, and the launch of the new housing service. He reminded students that while many may not have received their ideal placements, it's important to recognize the limitations and efforts made under the current conditions. He invited anyone with questions or concerns about housing to reach out to him directly. He ended on a lighter note by sharing that the new ice cream freezer has officially arrived and is now up and running in the DC, adding that it might even be better than the old one.

- Irini Mahida asked if the Dance Company volunteering could count as an Office Hour
 - Jacob Constant responded with that it will.

Student Affairs Committee Report: Justin Wald reported that the Student Affairs Committee met last Friday and discussed the recent updates to the Ely student lounge, which now includes foosball and air hockey in addition to the arcade machines. The final addition will be new furniture, expected to arrive by early May. With those renovations nearly complete, the committee is shifting its focus to other student spaces in need of improvement. Areas under consideration include the commuter lounge, in collaboration with the Commuter Council, the space outside Dunkin', and several outdoor locations such as the Courtney Courtyard, the area between New Hall and Davis, and the Apartment Complex Quad. Justin invited anyone with suggestions for additional spaces to contact him so he can pass them along to Maureen Clark, the committee chair. The committee also discussed initiatives aimed at strengthening connections between students, faculty, and staff through shared activities. One proposal includes launching a Life Skills Series in the fall that would offer workshops on topics like tax prep, cooking, and post-grad planning, combined with fun events to encourage participation and engagement.

University Curriculum Committee Report: Jacob Constant reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 1:40 PM to 3:30 PM. The meeting began with the English Writing Minor, which received clarification and an updated program description to better reflect learning content; the motion to move forward passed. The English Minor, an 18-credit program requiring one 300-level course and allowing up to 3 credits from an internship, was approved with a note that students may not double dip by earning both the English minor and major. A proposal for the Data Science program to substitute the computational course for computer organization and architecture, along with updated course descriptions, also passed. CAIS 351 Theory of Computation received approval for prerequisite revisions to require MATH 220 and a high-level language course. POLS 310 Non-Western Political Thought, a WISE-inclusive course, was updated to reflect learning objectives and passed. A new course, POLS 03XX Capstone Seminar in Political Science, was introduced requiring senior status and Political Science major or minor standing, and is being proposed as a 400-level course; the recommendation to move forward passed. POLS 321 and POLS 03XX Healthcare Policy were tabled for further clarification. HESC 01XX Owl Embroidery Guild, a 1.5-credit WISE-inclusive course under Wellbeing: Caring for the Holistic Self, was approved as a therapeutic art-based offering. The Nursing BSN program underwent revisions to increase flexibility in course selection, and NURS 201 saw updates to prerequisites and co-requisites, both of which were

approved. BIO 2XX Bioinformatics, a new interdisciplinary 3-credit course combining Biology, Computer Science, Math, and Stats, was approved, along with the Bioinformatics Minor, which cannot count toward a Biology Major and includes 6 core components across 11 courses. Biology Teacher Licensure Program B.S. received updates to align with Gen Ed guidelines and was approved. The meeting concluded with revisions to HIST 132 United States History Since 1900, a WISE-inclusive course with a title change and updated learning outcomes; the motion passed. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for May 2.

- Joseph Bonilla gave 2 points of order during the report as senators were not paying attention.

Vice President of Finance Report: William Connor reported on behalf of Austin Morgan, who was attending an award ceremony with Dan Currier. The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, April 2nd to review two proposals from the Accounting & Finance Club, both submitted on time and within SGA bylaws. The allocation pool currently sits at approximately \$5,000. The first proposal was for a Financial Literacy Night on April 10th, with a request for full funding of \$99.96 for catering. The committee voted unanimously to approve the full amount, which will require a two-thirds majority vote. The second proposal was for a Tax Season Celebration on April 16th, with a request for \$53.47, or 50% of the catering cost, with the remainder being covered by the club's block grant. This request was also unanimously approved by the committee. William asked if there was a motion to approve each amount and encouraged anyone with questions to email Austin.

MOTION made by William Connor, seconded by Jacob Constant, to give the Accounting and Finance club \$99.96 for an event about how finances work.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed.

MOTION made by William Connor, seconded by Jacob Constant, to give the Accounting and Finance club \$53.47 for an event to celebrate the conclusion of Tax Season.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed.

Vice President of Publicity Report: Elizabeth Mercer gave a shoutout to the Owl Ball Committee for their outstanding work and dedication in bringing the event to life, encouraging everyone to have fun on Friday and take plenty of pictures to be featured on the SGA Instagram. She then announced the Senator of the Month, awarding it to Brenna for her confidence, positive energy, and ability to balance her demanding role as a nursing major while actively contributing to SGA. Brenna played a key role on the Owl Ball Committee, especially as the lead on the social media reels, and brought creativity and kindness to every meeting. Elizabeth concluded by asking members of the Blue Key Committee to see her after the meeting.

- Joseph Bonilla added and thanked Brenna and her class council to help with projects put on by the exec board!

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant shared a few updates, starting with the announcement that the debate scheduled for tomorrow has been canceled due to one of the candidates dropping out of the race. He reminded everyone that elections will go live next week on April 15th and run through April 16th. Candidates must send in their photo and bio by replying to the email he sent on Friday or by emailing him directly by Sunday; any submissions received after Sunday night will not be included in the campus-wide bio document. He also reminded everyone to continue completing their office hours, noting that while the end of the year is approaching, it's important to stay consistent. He encouraged anyone with questions to reach out.

Rules and Regulations Committee Report: Ethan Haynes reported that the Creative Writing Club is seeking official recognition and that the Rules and Regulations Committee supports the idea. He requested a motion to fully approve the Creative Writing Club of Westfield State, pending minor edits.

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Ali Sutherland, to approve the Creative Writing Club of Westfield State pending edits.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed.

Senior Class Report: Nicholas Palumbo thanked everyone who attended the Foxwoods trip last Friday, noting that it was a great experience and that many seniors left feeling lucky after their time at the Fox Tower. With the end of the year quickly approaching, the Senior Class is finalizing details for the May 2nd event, which will be promoted this week under the name “Senior Send-Off Part 2: The Final Bash,” promising a memorable evening. He also reminded everyone that yard sign sales will close this Friday, and an email regarding distribution for those who purchased signs will be sent out this week. He closed by thanking everyone and wishing them a great day.

- Sarah Harrington asked about for the people that ordered a Lawn Sign when should they expect to receive it.
 - Nicholas Palumbo said it would all be in the email sent out, however it should be the end of next week or the week after.

First-Year Class Report: Jakob Traynor reported that the Class of 2028 met earlier today to discuss their ongoing Jar Wars fundraiser, which is currently set to end this Friday, April 11th. William Onorato and Celia tabled in the DC yesterday and raised around \$10. The group is considering extending the deadline for the fundraiser but has not yet decided on a new end date. Jakob also shared that the Class of 2028 will have a table at Accepted Students Day this Friday and invited everyone to stop by and say hello.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Sarah Harrington reminded everyone about the Dean luncheon’s.
- Angelina Cassella explained that because it is the last week of Jar Wars they will be hanging around the jars more, then also reminded everyone about the Into The Woods Musical next week!
- Nicholas Palumbo stated that there are 38 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Acting Chair Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 6:31 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 08, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant