

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- I. ROLL CALL: Kaitlyn Egan was absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: September 13, 2022 were approved
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Aaron Lessing**

A. Hello everyone, I hope you all are doing well I have a few updates for you all. First, the executive board has been talking about some big ideas for SGA this year and one we want to really work on is accessibility to and with SGA, which Adam gave the great name "Build the Nest". Some ideas we have for this include, livestreaming meetings, having SGA Drop boxes and posters around campus, and get flags in the SGA room. This is something I am passionate about because I want to get students in the SGA room daily and have them know that we are a resource for them. If you have any ideas for "Build the Nest" please speak up and we can discuss how to make it work. Next update I have for you all is regarding "The Network" aka Presence. The name change issue has been fixed only on "The Network" with the help from the Director of Data Analytics Josh Hettrick. I believe SAIL will be having a relaunch of presence which SGA will start to use again! Next, Matt Dellea has asked for volunteers for Family Weekend this weekend, we are passing around a sign-up sheet, please sign up if you are already attending stuff or would like to help! Next, we still need help and ideas for student events for Homecoming so please brainstorm some ideas and let me know if you would like to be involved in planning and what kind of student events you would like to see that weekend. Last thing, if you all have any ideas for outreach events for SGA, we are trying to plan some this year to get out to students more often. Please let me know if you have any ideas for that too. And before I forget Mike Mazeika has asked for the accepted students days if we could get a panel with some students for each day. It's going to be from 9:15 to 10:15 on October 1<sup>st</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being on the panel for students that would be great. So yeah, You can email Mike at Mmazeika@westfield.ma.edu You can email me at president.sga@westfield.ma.edu, text me, or find me in the SGA Room or around campus. I did post my office hours on the wall so check those out. Thanks!

- i. Chloe Sanfaçon: Can you say the dates for the accepted student's times and days again?
- ii. Aaron Lessing: Yeah, It's going to be from 9:15 to 10:15 on October 1<sup>st</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and November 5<sup>th</sup>

- A. Presidents Council: No Report
- B. Items not listed on Agenda: No Report

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Chloë Sanfaçon**

- A. All University Committee: No Report
- B. Student Advisory Council: No Report

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Logan Terenzi**

A. Hello everyone! I'll keep my report as short as I can. Food Services Committee will be meeting tomorrow at 10:00am, join us in the DC if you want. Substance Advisory will be meeting tomorrow at 2:00pm – 3:00pm. Enrollment Management is TBD, and Student Affairs Committee will be meeting the 3rd Friday 1:40pm a month. I need someone to sit on Student Affairs so please contact me or let me know after the meeting if you can. I met with the Vice President of Enrollment Management Dan Forster last week, and we talk about a variety of issues and topics. Once being the rate of enrollment and interest, and for this year there seems to be a similar rate as the year before. Universally across all institutions there has been a decline in enrollment that has been happening for a while. We talked about the attitudes towards alcohol on campus and what we can do with it to increase enrollment and students staying on campus. How can we create an environment of not encouraging drinking, but if you are on campus be responsible. We also spoke about marketing on campus and off campus, I suggested there should be some collaboration in outreach with the communications department and maybe a class or internship students can do where we have actual students advertising to other students. We also spoke of having an open discussion meeting with affinity groups on campus, student leaders, and administration where we can find ways to support, and advertise to encourage Students of Color to come to Westfield state and advertise these groups on campus so it is more know that these resources are available to students who don't know or don't have the connections. Today I met earlier with the Dr. Parshall, Bill Connor, Sustainability Club, Enviro Planning Club, and Biology Club Presidents. We discussed ways we could be collaborating together to create a more sustainable campus. There were a lot of great ideas and all varying. We narrowed it down to 3 big things we can focus on for this year. What we decided is that this is the year of the Bee. More specifically, Gardens and Pollinator's on campus. Our goals would be to renovate and get the Horrace Mann Community Garden, the DC Garden Plots, existing pollinator gardens back up and sustained. Then adding new gardens in areas across the campus, mainly areas that can be beautified with natural fauna instead of it just being flat cut grass. Possibly more areas where we can let the lawns grow into natural lawns, doing restorative ecology. Then the big things would be getting beehives on campus, and bee habitats. Our campus was designated or recognized that we can possibly be one. Bill from

dinning is working on getting honey from a local apiary in Southwick, and Dr. Parshall has connections in the regional or national beekeepers' association. NOTE: These are not going to be dangerous bees, and there will not be a massive swarm on campus if this becomes a thing. These are honey/bumble bees, they are not aggressive and only sting if you step on or harm them. There is going to be a date in early October where we will organize a clean up and fixing of the gardens at Horace and the DC, so stayed tuned. Substance Advisory will meet tomorrow to review the draft of the Alcohol

Amnesty Policy before being brought to the Board of Trustees.

- i. Daniel Currier: Just as a quick comment, this is a note for everybody. AUC has charged a new sustainability committee. They'll be talking about this more and there will be some reports going out. So a lot of student organizations are involved and a lot of departments are involved and I know Vice President Taksar in my meeting on Friday has mentioned he wants to be on this committee as well and is just waiting for the president to appoint him. So there's a lot of moving parts this but hopefully by next year we'll have a good plan in place and a strategic plan in place for us. Just to comment on that.
- ii. Logan Terenzi: Thank you, Dan.

B. Student Affairs Committee: No Report

C. Food Services Committee: Logan Terenzi

Food Services tomorrow at 10am, Bread Bowls in the DC will not happen it is going to be reduced and they will add tongs for the stations on the racks so people can use them to take them out of the bag. Bistro lines have been fixed; tray conveyor is six weeks away should be back by beginning of November. Vending machines in the Ely basement seem to be fixed. Also, Bill is looking at local farms and farmers markets to see if there can be an increase of more organic product that is more available. Tomorrow I will tell bill to add signs for when the DC is closed with change of menu, so people don't go in and see there is nothing for them to eat. I have been told that one of the cashiers is pushing people away from the DC when there is food, so I'll tell him to stop. Also, that the sausage egg sandwich needs a cheese less option in bistro, and people have been saying that the slushies in market are fire and you guys should try them out.

- i. Liam Connor: I've received complaints from student athletes who are getting out practice late at night and they can't go to the Dining Commons because it's closed and they have to go to Bistro and spend dining dollars there and they're not happy about that.
- ii. Logan Terenzi: Ok
- iii. Maggie Roberts: I was actually going to say the same thing. A lot of people have been complaining that they

- iv. Logan Terenzi: Ok
  - v. Rodney Duteau: I have two complaints. I briefly mentioned it to you earlier. The first is there this person in front of the dining commons who at the end of breakfast will tell people that there is no food in the DC during transition times. When there is still options and he's like misleading a lot of students who are leaving and I personally had an encounter where I had to press and re-explain to him, that I'm just here to get a cup of coffee where I shouldn't have to be doing that. The second complaint is also similar. Today the DC closed at 2 instead of it's normal 3 o'clock where the transitional period starts from lunch to dinner. And not only were there barely any fries or burgers but there was also no pizza so there was really no food option for students. There were just a whole bunch of students walking around in the DC confused because they just got out of class.
  - vi. Mikayla Evans: In the Bistro, you know how Ely used to have make your own sandwiches. Sarah from dining said at orientation that that was still going to be a thing in the Bistro. But it's not. I was just wondering if that was a possibility.
  - vii. Logan Terenzi: Yeah so, same thing with the make your own smoothies that Ely used to have. That option is coming they just need to have the manpower where they can have a station where you order it and then like make your own melt or sandwich.
- D. Substance Advisory Committee: No Report
  - E. Student Athletic Advisory Board: No Report
  - F. Veteran Affairs Report: No Report
  - G. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Emily Fluet*

- A. Hi Everyone, I don't have a lot to report on in a general sense besides committees, but I just want to talk quickly about a meeting I had with Catherine Savini who is in charge of the Reading and Writing Center. I met with her to talk about how SGA and the RWC can work together more, and she really emphasized promoting the department and encouraging people to use it. I've used it before and I found it really helpful and I encourage others to use it as well if they need help on a paper or another written assignment. The RWC has actually moved so its in the mezzanine of the Library, where CURCA used to be if that's helpful. She also wanted me to tell you guys about some things they have planned for the semester, which include English conversation sessions for students who use English as a second language, "All Write Together" sessions, which are group writing sessions, and National Day on Writing on October 20th where they'll be doing some activities around campus.

Academic Policies Committee: Daniel Currier: Good Evening!

The Academic Policies Committee met last Friday during the Common Meeting Time in Wilson 109 and via Zoom to discuss proposed revisions to our bylaws crafted by Professor Karsten Theis of the Department of Chemical & Physical Sciences. The revisions were developed in response to the development of a hybrid meeting format. Upon review of the

proposed bylaws and an offering of feedback, Professor Theis has revised the proposed bylaws and will present them at our next meeting.

For those that do not know what the Academic Policies Committee is, it is a campus governance committee composed of sixteen MSCA (or faculty) Union members, of which one must be a librarian, three students appointed by the Student Government Association, and three administrators appointed by the President. Our charge is to review academic policy revisions sent to us via the All University Committee for review and approval. These changes would then go to the All University Committee for final approval before being sent to the President and Registrar for ratification.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2022, where we will review proposed changes to the Academic Honesty Policy. It is my hope to have two additional student representatives appointed shortly after our first full meeting. If you have a knack for academic policy revisions, please let me know and I'd be happy to have you join us.

Curriculum Committee: Emily Fluet:

UCC (University Curriculum Committee) met on Friday. The first thing we approved to move through governance was a new program in the math department called Advanced Mathematics for Elementary Education. It's not a new major, it's more like a concentration. Students who want to go into this program must already be enrolled in either an elementary education or special education pre-k-8 licensure program.

The other thing that we approved was providing an option for math students to choose to get their degree either as a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science. Currently it is just a Bachelor of Arts, but the member from the math department said that depending on career goals and interests students may want a Bachelor of Science instead. He also noted that this will bring us up to speed with the other state universities in Massachusetts. The programs would be exactly the same; the only difference would be on the diploma. The ethnic and Gender Studies Department submitted a proposal to cross list some classes with a LTNX department, but since these classes and this department don't exist we tabled it. There wasn't anyone from the department to explain the proposal.

The next meeting will be Friday, October 7th at 1:40. We get two student reps on this committee so if anyone is interested just let me know.

B. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

C. Special Committee On Reforming General Education(SCORE):Emily Fluet:

SCORE met on Tuesday and Thursday last week. Tuesday was a faculty listening session so a mix of faculty from different departments wrote their questions and comments on a document, most of their notes were about specific classes they thought might be useful in certain areas of the core, and faculty from stricter majors like nursing or education had some concerns about how their students would fit in the classes they need to take. However, the new core will be 40 credits which is essentially the same as the current core. (give or take a credit or two depending on the courses chosen).

On Thursday we talked about planning the department visits that will be happening this fall and the best way to go about each one because different departments will have different questions and needs. The committee also applied for a grant to help faculty develop some new courses for the new

core.

There will also be 7 subcommittees this fall, one of them will be stakeholder engagement, which includes students, so I plan to be on that subcommittee. Lastly, the committee discussed how these changes will affect transfer students, and the plan is to focus on this in the spring and work with Monique Lopez on it.

D. New England Council of Higher Education (NECHE) Self-Study Committee: Dan Currier:  
Good Evening!

As a follow-up to my report given at last week's meeting, Co-Chair Kim Tobin has sent a copy of the draft comprehensive NECHE Self-Study to the nearly ninety members of the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) 2023 Self-Study Committee. She has asked that all members provide constructive feedback no later than next Wednesday, September 28, 2022 to receive full consideration by the Steering Committee. Please note that the draft report will not be made available to the general campus community until next month.

The co-chairs will be reaching out to SGA this week to gather additional student feedback. We will likely have them down sometime within the next month or so.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to let me know

E. Parking Control Board:

F. Parking Appeals Board:

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT EQUITY: **Rodney Duteau**

A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE: **Daniel Currier**

A. Good Evening Everyone! I hope that you are doing well.

This past Friday, I held my monthly meeting with Vice President for Administration and Finance Steve Taksar to discuss a variety of topics important to our overall fiscal health and to the student experience.

The beginning of our meeting focused heavily on enrollment for the Fall 2022 semester and future enrollment projections. Vice President Taksar noted that although they will not have final enrollment figures until next week due to late applicants and withdrawals, it is expected that we will fall just shy of our enrollment target for traditional undergraduate day students as stated in the Provisional FY23 Budget. The good news is that occupancy in residence halls is higher than anticipated, with an estimated 50 to 100 students beyond projections. Vice President Taksar believes the revised pricing

model is working and that more students, regardless of class level, are looking to remain on-campus and have that traditional college experience.

Next, we discussed the Innovation Fund. For those that do not know, the Innovation Fund is a one-time strategic use of \$300,000 in University reserves to be used as seed money for projects across campus that are anticipated to have a strong return-on-investment. In an email from August 1<sup>st</sup>, Maria Feuerstein, Assistant Vice President of Strategic Finance and Institutional Planning, announced that \$139,250 had been allocated to four projects: the Westfield Emerging Leaders Academy, Campus and Conference Creation, Strategic Recruitment Travel for Targeted Geographical Expansion, and a new Center for Interdisciplinary Informatics. \$160,750 remains outstanding, with an additional request for proposals to come late this month, with a final award date set for October 14, 2022.

The remainder of the meeting was primarily spent discussing deferred maintenance and progress on the Parenzo Renovation Project. Currently, the institution is burdened by \$150,000,000 in deferred maintenance across our campus, with a number of systems past their useful life. The renovation of Parenzo Hall, however, will help to decrease this burden, but not by nearly enough. Parenzo Hall is slated to have its renovations complete by the start of the Fall 2023 semester, but Vice President Taksar cautioned that the University still has yet to receive orders from last fall due to supply chain issues. It is hoped that these problems will lessen in severity, but there is concern that necessary equipment may not be able to arrive on time. It is anticipated that Scanlon Hall will remain office space, however this has yet to be decided. In the case that the University wishes to permanently switch the building from residential hall status to office building status, the institution will need to sign an Intergovernmental Service Agreement (ISA) that would transfer control of the building from the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA) to the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM). The issue is that the Commonwealth wishes for Westfield State University to pay up to \$10,000,000 to cover the transfer. Vice President Taksar is currently working to prevent the University from having to pay off this liability and instead focus on other financial priorities.

Club training will continue this Thursday from 12:45pm-2:15pm and Friday from 1:45pm-3:15pm. Please remind all club leaders that if they did not attend our session yesterday that at least one member of each club is required to attend one of our trainings here in the SGA Room.

Tomorrow, I will be meeting with the Westfield State Foundation Board of Directors as part of my constitutional responsibilities as a Student Director. I will be reporting on SGA's "rebuild the nest" theme and what we are doing to accomplish this goal. I will let you all know how the meeting goes next Tuesday.

As a reminder, my office hours are Tuesdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm, Wednesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm, and Thursdays from 10:00am-11:00am. You can reach me via email at [vpfinance.sga@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:vpfinance.sga@westfield.ma.edu).

Thank you, and I hope you have a great rest of your week.

- i. Aaron Lessing: I know you mentioned with what housing was doing for making a flat residential fee. I know one of the goals was to keep upperclassmen on campus. I wasn't sure if that goal had been met.
- ii. Daniel Currier: He didn't specifically say. I'm going to guess personally yes because I think it helped them to understand that even though the sticker price off campus is cheaper it is actually more expensive off campus than living on it.
- iii. Dan Forester: You are right, Dan. We have seen an increase of upperclassmen returning to residence halls in comparison to the past.

B. Finance Committee: No Report

C. Foundation Report: No Report

D. ITSAC Report: Daniel Currier:

Good Evening!

The Information Technology Strategic Advisory Committee (ITSAC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00am this morning via Zoom. This committee was formed out a University Efficiency Analysis Advisory Committee (UEAAC) recommendation calling for a committee changed by the President that would review (on a monthly basis) how the University is doing with regard to information technology across multiple sectors of the University. The committee is chaired by Chief Information Officer Alan Blair and composed of various IT professional staff, an MSCA Union representative, an APA Union representative, an AFSCME representative, a non-unit professional representative, and a student representative (that being me).

Our meeting today focused on hitting the ground running within our subcommittees. I am serving on two subcommittees: the Student Experience and Classroom & Conferencing Technologies. The Student Experience Subcommittee will be sending out a survey this spring regarding how students view the technology offered by the University, ranging from wifi to campus desktops. The Classroom & Conferencing Technologies Subcommittee will soon be gathering focus groups of students interested in providing feedback on academic and extracurricular technologies, such as projectors, webcams, etc. I may be asking some of you to participate in a focus group next month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2022. Should you have any questions, please let me know.



- A. Neighborhood Advisory Board: No Report
- B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: No Report
- C. Spring Semiformal Committee: No Report
- D. Blue Key Committee: No Report

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: *Adam Carpenter*

A. Hi Y'all,

This is just going to be a quick report tonight to brief you on the way that the elections are going but first off, we are going all admire my cool Kraft Mac'n Cheese socks. Thank you for the kind words y'all. Moving on to my actual report, signature papers were due yesterday and I've sent out an email last night to everyone who is going to be on the ballot asking for bios. Campaigning also started yesterday at 5 immediately after the signature papers were due. If you ran for a different position or are just attending the meeting, please refer to my email for the expectations for the candidate. Elections will start this Friday and will continue until Sunday with results being announced on Monday provided everything goes as planned. Things are looking great for these elections. Thanks everyone and have a great night.

- i. Guest Question: So, how does the Rep at Large Position work?
- ii. Adam Carpenter: So the Representative at large position is really like actually where you're sitting now is pretty much where you're going to sit. You sit there. You come every Tuesday at 5:30 for our meeting and you are going to sit on two committees. You just represent some of your fellow students. Just reach out to your fellow students get a gist of what their problems are and then you kind of just come back to us and tell us if there's anything that's going on for them.
- iii. Logan Terenzi point of information: Also you for the committees you sit on you can be asked to report so it's not just exec that's doing all the reporting.

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:

- A. Rules and Regulations Committee: No Report
- B. Constitutional Review Committee: No Report

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Commuter Council: No Report
- B. Senior Class: No Report
- C. Junior Class: No Report
- D. Sophomore Class: No Report
- E. First Year Class: No Report
- F. Apartment Complex: No Report
- G. Courtney Hall: No Report
- H. Davis Hall: No Report
- I. Dickinson Hall: No Report
- J. Lammers Hall: No Report
- K. New Hall: No Report
- L. University Hall: No Report

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened)

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Rodney Duteau: Just a friendly reminder, I was talking last week about how I was going to be in charge of the Diversity and Inclusion committee. As we are getting closer to having a full SGA, I want to encourage all of you to be a part of this committee. Personally, I would like senators and individuals to be part of a committee they are actually passionate about the topic of diversity and inclusion. So once again please consider it as we continue.
- B. Daniel Currier: We are going to be talking about finance committee in a week or two. So please join finance committee if you like budgets you're coming with us. WE are going to be reviewing our finance bylaws. But it is a good committee to go on in reviewing different finance proposals. We need one member from each class and it looks great on your resume.
- C. Logan Terenzi: Like I said earlier, I need someone for Student Affairs committee. Please come willingly or I will appoint you.
- D. Mikayla Evans: 241 days until commencement

XV. ROLL CALL: No Absences

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: SGA adjourned at 6:04PM

*Please also note that for accurate record keeping purposes, SGA meetings are recorded and kept on file by the SGA Executive Secretary.*