

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA
September 27th, 2022

- I. ROLL CALL: Maggie Roberts was absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: September 20th, 2022.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Aaron Lessing**

Hello everyone, I first want to welcome everyone that is new and congratulations on your new position. My name is Aaron, and I am the President for the 2022-2023 academic year. For those of you that are new, please bear with me during this meeting, Robert's Rules of Order can seem intimidating but do not worry we will have a quick training later in the meeting. If you do have any questions for anyone throughout the meeting please wait until we ask if there are any questions then raise your hand, we keep a list of people that want to speak. We do have some guest speakers today, first we have the Dean of Students Maggie Balch, Associate Dean of Students Shannon Green, and the Director of SAIL Matt Dellea.

- A. Dean of Students: **Maggie Balch**,
Associate Dean: **Shannon Green**,
Director of SAIL: **Matt Dellea**

- 1. Maggie Balch: I'm conflicted because I'm used to all of you looking straight at me and not all around. But, I do like the all around because I think that it's more community focused. Hello, and welcome everyone. My name is Maggie, I'm the Dean of Students, my office is upstairs in Ely 209. The Dean of Students is the one who sits in the room and if there aren't any students there, I need to think like a student. I need to think about what your experience is like on campus and I need to advocate for the things that you want that are appropriate and I need to make sure that your voice is heard throughout campus. So this venue is super duper important to me because I learn a lot about your experience, about what you are looking for, about what's working on campus and about what's not working on campus. I learn what you're curious about, if you need more internship opportunities, and I learn an awful lot about dining services. I learn a lot about how you are experiencing your academics so I can go and champion some of your problems. So if as you are thinking about things and moving about your day and you are moving about the campus green, and you think this would be a really great thing for Maggie to think about, please come and find me, I'm here almost every Tuesday and my office is upstairs where I do have office hours. I will ask that if I send an email, that you see a big long email, there's probably something important in there so please read it. In the past three years, I was the Covid updater but I am not anymore. And I'm really glad about that. Covid is still a thing but at this point most everyone is past since they are vaccinated and have kind of transitioned from the pandemic to the endemic phase of things. But if you have Covid questions, I can probably answer them. The departments that I oversee are residential life, health services, the counselling center, S.A.I.L.
- 2. Shannon Green: Matt and I are apparently referred to as Mr. And Mrs. Westfield. So if you see one of us then you'll probably see the other in a variety of different capacities. We are not married despite what the campus thinks, Matt has a wife and a beautiful daughter and I have a beautiful son. Matt also worked for me when he was 18 so that would be awkward and a little bit uncomfortable. So my primary responsibility is handling student conduct which means that I handle all of the behavioral stuff that takes place outside of the classroom. I don't handle plagiarism or things of that nature. I handle what I like to call the fun stuff, the stuff that you all like to read about in the paper the next morning, so the headlines. If someone asks me what I do on a day to day basis, my day can go anything from an alcohol or drug case to a fight, to threat assessment, to crisis management, to all sorts of stuff. So I'm really the one who has a lot of the heavy stuff to look at on campus. I'm kind of the point on those things, questions on policy or student handbook kind of come through me. I'm the one who kind of panics when we have things going on. I'm kind of the what if person and how do we make it work for all of you so you can have the experience that you want to have while also staying within guidelines that keep you safe. You will see me a lot at programs and things with Matt because I am a

support on student activities, student government, new student orientation, and the parent and champion programs. So I do get some fun in my job along with the heavy.

3. Matt Dellea: Hi I'm Mr. Westfield, otherwise known as Matt Dellea. As mentioned before, I'm the Director of student activities involvement in leadership or SAIL. I'm new to the position this year as SAIL has gone through some changes which some of you may or may not be aware of. So I'll talk about those as Student Government Association in the past you have kind of been your own entity of reporting up to our Dean of students office. Moving forward, the office of student activities and student government have come together to form one department where I'll oversee the activity component that's going on. Then underneath that we have Laura who works in our office and is over here working with you all and student government. Then down the hallway we have our campus activities board, student leadership, new student orientation and then behind you in this small office here we also have commuter life with Mia who is in the process of being hired. She's going to be with us a few hours as a graduate student to focus on our commuter student programming. In my role it's really a lot of fun. I'm the one that brings all of those comedians and hypnotists and paint nights and all that fun stuff to campus. While we balance all that fun stuff, I also get the great opportunity to really work day to day with all of you putting on those events and making sure they're all student-run, making sure that your voices are heard on campus and making sure that we're giving you a great experience outside of the classroom. That's what I do every day.

i. Aaron Lessing: Maggie, I know that you said that you are no longer the one that talks about Covid anymore.

ii. Maggie Balch: Well, I'm not quite sure that anybody talks about Covid anymore, but our Covid coordinator is Tiffany Fangman. She is located in health services. So if you were to test positive and somebody were to say call health services. You would be directed to Tiffany, and Tiffany would walk you through the next steps. If you test positive, you need to isolate for five off campus and if your symptoms have diminished after five days, you are welcomed back on campus with mask to go about your day.

iii. Rodney Duteau: This is going back with quarantining, for students who are going through housing insecurities where Westfield is the only place they can stay. How does that apply to them?

iv. Maggie Balch: Thank you for that. If you do not have a place to isolate off campus, we have one available apartment on campus which we are sharing with admissions because it's the admissions showroom. It is the gift that keeps on giving and so if you do not have a place to go, we will not kick you out onto the street. We will stick you in apartment, most likely with other people that have tested positive.

B. SGA Advisors: Ryan Meersman & Laura Cafaro

Aaron Lessing: Our next guest speakers are our SGA advisors, Director of Alumni Relations Ryan Meersman, and our Coordinator of Student Involvement Laura Cafaro.

1. Laura Cafaro: Hi everyone! My name is Laura Cafaro, and I'm the coordinator for student involvement here at Westfield. Mainly with in that position, I advised our wonderful SGA. So it's very fun and exciting to see some new and familiar faces here. So welcome everyone and all of our new students who are joining us today, after our elections went through. We are very happy to have you all here and also see first year students so excited and ready to get engaged and involved on campus. So it's really fun for me to see. A little bit about my position on campus. I mainly advise our SGA, so my office is right to the corner when you walk into our space, I'm on the left. I like to share that if the palm tree is on, that means that I'm also here and happy to help you with anything. I also assist with orientation mainly with our champions network so all of our families, guardians, and any support units that students have as they join us our campus. I help interact with them and help them also acclimate to our campus 'cause they also joined our family when their student joins us. I also help our clubs and organizations on board and help them with any fund-raising process. I've been getting a lot of emails lately about what their club budgets look like so that's fun, It's either an excited voice in response when I share their name or a little bit of an oh no. So I help them and ensure that there's a fund-raising process where they can get some more funding or they can get some more funding through us with the proposal. I also help with any event ideas that people want to see and come into fruition and things like that. I also excitingly will be advising our first year class council, so I'm super excited to be helping them out as a student, I was on my class council so it's kind of fun to be full circle in this position. Our first year folks who are on the class council here today just e-mail me back so we can get sorted with our council

- meetings and get some fun engagement events going for you all. Then, just some background that I'd like to share I recently started here at the university. I started in June, I recently graduated, "yay" from Springfield College from their student affairs administrative program and there for the last two years, I was also advising their SGA, I was helping with their senior class council, and I also Co-advised their CAB which are all very fun corners of our campus that it gets to also help in chat with here at Westfield. So with that I think I just want to say welcome again to our new folks who are joining us I'm very excited to see where this year takes us together.
2. Ryan Meersman: My name is Ryan Meersman, I'm the associate director of alumni relations here at Westfield state. I'm also a double alumnus. I graduated as an undergrad in 2012 and then with my master's in public administration in 2018 and I was also a four year senator while I was here as an undergrad. So for how many of you this is your first meeting you've never been on Senate before? Welcome, I hope it's not too overwhelming. I remember in the fall of 2008, when I came down here for the first time and the room was a lot fuller than it is tonight so make sure you're recruiting other members for student government. I was petrified. I did not want to speak. I did not want to raise my hand and it was really intimidating looking up at the exec board in front of me but I will tell you that it can be an absolutely life changing experience to be on Senate. And to get involved in any way that you can. To sit on governance committees and other committees. Whether its student activities based, governance based, whatever you find yourself curious about. Try to get involved with it because it can lead to a whole world of opportunities. I had the privilege of serving my fellow students as the student trustee for three years. Again, another very intimidating experience at first but it certainly opened a lot of doors and was a huge learning experience. So take as much out of this as you possibly can. What else did I have to say? I've also had the pleasure of serving as a SGA advisor since I think 2017, so I love being down here and getting to know you guys. Don't be afraid to ask any questions that you have. If you're running into some kind of an issue on a committee or something you're not sure how to approach, I'm happy to provide some other historical knowledge or just ways that if I think back to being student how I might approach that situation and how to speak with faculty or staff. I'm happy to help with that. Then, I'd be remiss if I did not mention as part of my role as the alumni director that homecoming is coming up about a month from now October 20th through the 23rd. I have a ton of big events planned if you go onto the Westfield homepage all four days are kind of detailed out there. There's some really exciting new things happening so hopefully we'll see you all down at a lot of those events. Thank you, guys.
 - i. Chris Lannan: I spoke to some students, and they really want a homecoming dance. Is there any way that that is possible.
 - ii. Ryan Meersman: So I will I'm going to answer it this way and I'll let Matt answer differently. This year is the first time in recollection of anybody, since I've been part of this university that we really are trying to get students to be involved and so that kind of got a bit of a late start this year as we rolled out this new plan for homecoming that there would be a lot of student involvement. Our hope in the future is that we have a student committee that would really work on events like that for you guys so I don't know what the status of a lot of like student programming is for that like Friday, Saturday but Matt do you have anything add.
 - iii. Matt Dellea: Come to CAB tomorrow at 5PM where we are on Student Programming for homecoming, and we would love to have your feedback on the dance and see if we can make something happen.
 - iv. Chloë Sanfaçon: Can you describe what homecoming usually is since you said that it is changing.
 - v. Ryan Meersman: Yeah, so in the past homecoming has taken on a couple of different shapes. We try to attract alums back to campus to see what's happening and to reconnect with each other and reconnect with their academic departments if they have the opportunity to and we also give out some awards to alums. Last year for instance was mainly focused on that Saturday of the weekend, where we did distinguished alumnus award down here in SGA for Representative Bud Williams, so we had a nice sort of breakfast reception for him and an award ceremony and then we were down at game side at alumni field for soccer and football and then in the evening there was an event in Scanlon that alums and 21 plus students were able to attend. This year a lot is different. It starts on Thursday. Thursday is the day of the arts so there's going to be a lot of different performances, there's an art talk, galleries will be open, all kinds of things like that. I don't know why I'm blanking on Friday but I know that there's stuff going on Friday.

Friday is spirit day. I think I'm keyed in on that we're doing a big dinner for alums that night. We're now giving out four alumni awards Friday night and we're also honoring Dr Liz Preston from the communication department who recently retired and had been an interim president here a number of years ago. And that dinner the proceeds from that are going to be going towards starting a scholarship in her name. So that's going to be a really special night and we're starting hopefully a tradition where every other year will do this alumni awards night and every other year the athletic Hall of Fame since that traditionally happens on the Friday before homecoming. Saturday we are implementing what I'm hoping will become a tradition, tent tailgating down by the softball field. So groups of alums, students, student orgs, and departments can sign up for a tent spot or multiple tents spots. You bring your easy up tent, your coolers, your little grill, your picnics, and all that kind of stuff. You come and you hang out and set up your tents and just have a great time from 12 to 5. I'm excited because the MPA program has already signed up and the economic society signed up for a tent yesterday. So we're starting to see some of those groups start to sign up and hopefully we'll see a lot of alums come back to see current students and faculty. Then we have game side which will also be happening from 12 to 5. There's a number of games going on there. There's a ton of stuff going on Saturday. There's going to be an alumni basketball game, the field hockey team is having a reunion and they're playing that night so there's a ton happening. Then, 21 plus students and alums are all invited to an event at great awakening brewery that night and then a jazz brunch on Sunday.

- vi. Alan Blair: As a new member of the organization how can we volunteer to help with Homecoming.
- vii. Ryan Meersman: That's a good question and more to come on that.
- viii. Haley Kane: How do we sign up to get a tent.
- ix. Ryan Meersman: On the Westfield State website, there is a section on homecoming. You click on that link and there is a button to sign up for a tent.

C. Presidents Council: No Report

D. Items not listed on Agenda:

1. Aaron Lessing: The first thing that I want to do is accept the results of fall elections.

A motion is made to accept the results of the fall elections for the 2022-2023 academic year. *Motion Carries*

2. Aaron Lessing: I want to introduce myself to those of you that are new to SGA. I am a senior political science and CJ major with a minor in philosophy. I am also a commuter student, and this is my fourth year on SGA. I am currently doing my Seniors Honors Project on the war in Ukraine so if you hear me talk about that a lot, that's why. Some things I like to do include hiking with my dog, bike, drinking coffee, and play chess. My office hours are on the massive white pillar but please feel free to ask me a question around campus, text me, or email me at president.sga@westfield.ma.edu

The first thing I want to mention to you all is that the name change issue with the "Nestwork" aka Presence has been fixed. I want to specifically thank the Director of Data Analytics Josh Hettrick and Matt Dellea for fixing the Nestwork. I also want to thank everyone else that has been working on a permanent fix for the name change issue. I will be sending out an email to students notifying them of this fix for the Nestwork along with notifying students where they can change their names again. I will mention in the last email sent out that there was a mistake regarding how to change your name in PLATO and that will be addressed in this email. The issue is not fixed for Banner however and we

will continue to update you all as new information arises, please correct me if I am wrong Emily, but I do not believe there has been a date set for the Name Change Committee to meet.

I want to mention that the Director of Admissions Mike Mazeika of the Admissions office is asking for students to be on a student panel this Saturday for Open House from 9:15 – 10:15 am. Please let me know after the meeting if you are interested.

Next thing, on Tuesday, October 18th, SGA will be holding a voter registration event from 3 – 5 PM in the SGA Room for those that need to register to vote. We will also provide students with information about absentee ballots at this event. We will have some food and music for this event but if you have other ideas to get more students to come register to vote please share them with me!

The last thing I want to mention is to please take your phone's out and open whatever calendar app you use and block off the morning and afternoon of November 12th for SGA training. We will

be going somewhere as a group to have a bonding experience and I want to make sure most if not all of you are there! It is a secret, that even most of the executive board does not know, but you will find out beforehand where we are going.

- i. Chris Lannan: I will not be at school for the 12th because I need to work.
- ii. Aaron Lessing: That is ok.
- iii. Chris Lannan: I can try because I only need to go back to work for one weekend.
- iv. Aaron Lessing: It is ok. Do not worry about it.

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

Hi everyone! It's so lovely to see some new faces here in Senate today! I just wanted to introduce myself and talk a little bit about my position. My name is Chloë Sanfaçon, I'm a senior English major with a Political Science minor. This is my fourth year on SGA and my second year as the Student Trustee on the Westfield State University Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees oversees the University in terms of funding, direction, and following its educational mission. As Student Trustee, I represent our student population at this board level and have the same voting powers as any other appointed Trustees. It's my duty to bring the board up to date on student issues and to advocate for student needs. As I mentioned, this is my second year in this position so I'm excited to keep it rolling.

Aside from introductions, I have a little bit of business to present to you tonight. The Board of Trustees is conducting a routine evaluation of the University President Linda Thompson and both the Board and the President think that it is important to get the perspective of all members of the campus community, including students. As a result of this, Board Chair Robert Martin and Vice Chair Ali Salahi are holding a student focus group this Thursday, September 29th to get student feedback. Members of our SGA senate as well as members of different groups on campus will be participating in the focus group but I'm hoping to get additional feedback from students before that meeting.

Some of the feedback I currently have is as follows:

1. The President has done a good job at making herself visible to students by attending events and holding open office hours.
2. It's encouraging to see her taking on new programs and initiatives; focusing on innovation and moving the University forward.
3. The President's Communication via email is an improvement compared to past Presidencies but there is still room for improvement in terms of timeliness

If there are any other pieces of feedback or student opinion that you think we should bring up Thursday, please let me know either right after my report, after the meeting, or feel free to email me at trustee.sga@westfield.ma.edu. Also my office hours this semester are Monday 1:30-5PM and Tuesdays 3:30-5PM. I'm looking forward to a great year with all of you.

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

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

Hi everyone! I'm super happy to see all these new faces here this week and congratulations to everyone who won their elections. Just to introduce myself for anyone who doesn't know me, my name is Emily and I'm the Vice President of Academic Life, I'm a senior majoring in communication and political science with minors in policy and ethics and regional planning. My office hours are Monday 1-2, Tuesday 11:30-1:30, and Friday 12:30-1:30.

Also, we're going to talk more about committees later but I just want to share the committees I'm in charge of that need people. So those are Academic Policies Committee, University Curriculum committee (these both need 2 more students) SCORE (Special Committee on Reforming Education, Parking Control Board, and Parking Appeals Board. These committees need 1 more student rep.

Also, I'm meeting with Provost Mills on Friday, so if anyone has anything that you'd like me to bring up with her just let me know. And for those of you who don't know her she's the most senior person at the University when it comes to academic affairs.

- A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report
- B. Food Services Committee: Logan Terenzi

Hello! Food Services meets tomorrow 10am in the DC. I brought up everyone's concerns and notes from the last SGA Meeting. So before getting to a lot of the new stuff, let me run through last week's issues.

1. DC Closed an hour earlier than it should've or ran out of food an hour earlier. I mentioned this to them, and I tried to explain as best as I could but everyone in the meeting had no idea what I

was talking about and said in either scenario they would've know because that is their lunch break time.

2. They are going to get their signs back for when they have menu transition periods, they DC never "closes" during operation hours which are 7am – 8pm, Late Night Bistro is 8pm – 11pm. But they do transition menus for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Typically, Pizza, Salad, and Burgers are a constant option during these periods. They are doing their best to keep up.
3. The certain cashier(s) who have been turning people away during transition or saying there is no food so they can't swipe was told the correct information now and there should be no more problems. There was miscommunication, so if you are going in for a coffee or cereal or a fruit bowl you can even if there is no main foods readily available and not get turned away.
4. If you would like a breakfast sausage egg sandwich with no cheese, all you need to do is ask the lady at the grill and she will make you one.
5. I mentioned how well received the slushies were in market and there was a mention of expanding flavors, such as Apple Cider flavor.
6. Bill's recommendation for student athletes where they are getting held up at practice and unable to get food. Which is to get the to-go boxes and then get their dinner or food and then keep it in their fridge for after practice. They are talking to athletics about this they said.
7. Late night bistro meal swipes were temporary for when bistro options were moved into the DC last year. But now that late night is back in place it went back to how it normally goes.
8. Make your own for paninis and smoothies will return to the Bistro as soon as they get more people manning the stations, currently one person per station.

New

1. The food winner of the 20-vendor lunch last week was the middle table with the Asian cuisine, which were three different dumplings and fried rice. Dining will be incorporating them into menus and in a rotating bowl in bistro.
2. Bistro will be incorporating a rotating 7 option menu such as Asian bowls, uncrusted pizza, the current burrito bowls, ect.
3. There will be weekly new food testing at the center table in the DC, last week they did a different type of salad. So go test those out.
4. Latinx Week will be next week at the international station.
5. Pepsi Gatorade Sampling, as well as new Starbucks seasonal bottle frappe option sampling in the DC coming in the next month or so. Part of the Wilson Café changing up to seasonal menu items.
6. Marketplace is looking into getting pizza and grill options.
7. October the DC is making the switch to serving Hot and Cold Apple Cider. In November and December, they will be serving Hot Chocolate.
8. Stir-fry will be back around the 1st week of October.
9. DC looking into local partnerships with local farms for fresh produce.
10. The DC needs students to work, they will hire even if it is one day a week.
11. Philly Cheese Steak premade melt will be available within the next week in Bistro.
 - i. Aaron Lessing: I'm not mad that the dumplings won, but can you have them consider bringing the smoothies that were there. Because the smoothies were amazing as well and they would be much better than the smoothies in Bistro.
 - ii. Logan Terenzi: I will ask that. I really liked the smoothies too.
 - iii. Dan Currier: Do you have any updates on dining dollars conversation for bistro late night.
 - iv. Logan Terenzi: Yes, I somehow skipped over that. That last semester last year when late night was moved into the DC. Just for ease of access to late night in the DC, they did a temporary switch to using meal swipes at late night. That is not how it usually works and actually has never been the case in the past and it was just because Bistro was shut down. Bistro is now open and fully functioning so it's back to how it usually is where you must have dining dollars for late night. It's always been like that since I got here and that's just how it works.
 - v. Chris Lannan: One of the things that the whole freshman class is asking for is energy drinks in the DC. Is there any option where we can get them?
 - vi. Logan Terenzi: I will bring it up with Bill tomorrow.
 - vii. Guest question: I know that a lot of students has also been asking for cheese stuffed pretzels to be served more often.
 - viii. Logan Terenzi: Alright, I'll bring it up.
 - ix. Mikayla Evans: Can you just explain the egg sandwiches in bistro and where to go to ask for them because I think there are two locations and I just want to clarify.
 - x. Logan Terenzi: When you walk into Bistro, you want to go to the left where the drinks are and usually there's the grill and pickup options. Right where that little window is where you

can see the lady grilling, you want to flag her down and say I want an egg sandwich with no cheese and she'll make it for you and hand it to you. Last semester, they used to make chicken sandwiches to order and it's basically the same thing with this.

- C. Substance Advisory Committee: No Report
- D. Student Athletic Advisory Board: No Report
- E. Veteran Affairs Report: No Report
- F. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

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

Hi everyone! I'm super happy to see all these new faces here this week and congratulations to everyone who won their elections. Just to introduce myself for anyone who doesn't know me, my name is Emily and I'm the Vice President of Academic Life, I'm a senior majoring in communication and political science with minors in policy and ethics and regional planning. My office hours are Monday 1-2, Tuesday 11:30-1:30, and Friday 12:30-1:30.

Also, we're going to talk more about committees later but I just want to share the committees I'm in charge of that need people. So those are Academic Policies Committee, University Curriculum committee (these both need 2 more students) SCORE (Special Committee on Reforming Education, Parking Control Board, and Parking Appeals Board. These committees need 1 more student rep.

Also, I'm meeting with Provost Mills on Friday, so if anyone has anything that you'd like me to bring up with her just let me know. And for those of you who don't know her she's the most senior person at the University when it comes to academic affairs.

- i. Daniel Currier: One thing that I would mention to Provost Mills, so I found this out with Vice President Taksar, is that they didn't get the number of first years that they were looking for in nursing that they would have hoped. So they are actually increasing the number of spots in the nursing program by 30 per year over the next couple years. But, how are they going to get that number if they can't get it now.
- ii. Emily Fluet: Good to know.
 - A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
 - B. Curriculum Committee: No Report
 - C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): **Emily Fluet**

So, first for anyone here who doesn't know, I just want to explain what SCORE is. So basically, the model of Gen Ed-which are the classes that everyone has to take-hasn't been updated in a really long time, so this committee is working to create a new model. We're expecting to start using the new model in Fall of 2024 so people who start coming here as a freshman then will use the new model.

Last week, SCORE split up into our subcommittees, I'm on the stakeholder engagement committee so we did some work to prepare for the department visits that will be happening this semester. I also want to note that the university is in the process of hiring a new staff member that will deal with Gen Ed, I think their title will be the Gen Ed Director or something along those lines. I'm not exactly sure what stage of the hiring process we're currently in but I just wanted to keep everybody in the loop on that.

Also, we need one more student rep for SCORE so if anyone is interested just let me know.

- i. Aaron Lessing: So I'm just curious, the person being hired for GenEd, do you know what they will be doing since SCORE is like finished doing that.
- ii. Emily Fluet: I think that they had called them like a Gen Ed Liaison at one point if that makes a little more sense. I think maybe, that they are going to make sure that everything runs smoothly the first few years, I don't know if it's a temporary position.
 - D. New England Council of Higher Education (NECHE) Self-Study Committee: No Report
 - E. Parking Control Board: No Report
 - F. Parking Appeals Board: No Report

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

Hello everyone, If you don't already know, my name is Rodney Duteau. I am the new Vice president of Student Equity. This position's role is to help promote more inclusivity amongst the student body as well as to help create a bridge between SGA and all the affinity groups on campus. My counterpart in the faculty position is Larue Pierce, our new vice president of JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion).

This past week, I was able to meet with Larue Pierces to discuss some of the things that we would like to achieve this school year. We discussed how he would like to create a multi-cultural office as well as a committee that would compose of all the leaders from all the affinity groups on

campus, such as BSU, LAFE, JSO, MSO, etc... The specifics are still being discussed, but this is something that we are striving for regardless.

LAFE was able to send out a list of Latin cuisine that they want to be served in the DC for Latin heritage month. I spoke to Bill, and he would like for me to reach out to different affinity groups on campus and give them the same opportunities of having their cultural cruise made in the DC at some point this semester.

- i. Chris Lannan: Is there any possibility of for like May serving Asian food or like other heritage months serving foods from those cultures.
- ii. Rodney Duteau: Yeah, that's exactly what the conversation entailed for the most part. As speaking if like Asian cuisine, the South Asian and Pacific Islander Student Union are going to be reached out to soon and ask them for a list of cuisines that they would like to be served. I'm also planning on doing the same to BSU but I'm also going to look into all the months that represent different cultures to see if the DC can start doing that because there is a global cuisine option in the DC, but I would like the cuisine to sort of mirror the different heritage months.

A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report

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

Good evening everyone, and congratulations to our new members!

My name is Daniel Currier and it is my honor to serve the student body in the capacity of Student Government Association Vice President for Finance. For those new to SGA, the Vice President for Finance is responsible for overseeing the distribution of funds from the SGA Trust Fund and working with clubs on financial matters, including fundraisers and finance proposals for additional funds. The Vice President for Finance is also charged under Article IV of the *Student Government Association Bylaws* to uphold the our finance rules and regulations. The Vice President for Finance serves as chair of the Finance Committee, Student Organization Council, and the SGA Club Representative Committee, and serves as the Student Director on the Westfield State Foundation Board of Directors. I am also serving on the Interfaith Advisory Council, New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) 2023 Self-Study Committee, Information Technology Strategic Advisory Commission (ITSAC), and the Academic Policy Committee (APC).

In line with my responsibilities, I have a motion tonight concerning finance proposals. At this time, Finance Committee (which I will explain during new business) has not been filled for the 2022-2023 academic year. Although the Executive Council is able to approve club constitutions when the Rules & Regulations Committee is not in session under Article IX, Section 3, Subsection J of the *Student Government Association Constitution*, the approval of finance proposals is left ambiguous. A club has emailed me expressing interest in submitting a finance proposal. I hope to have this heard by the Executive Council on Monday and approved by the Student Government Association on Tuesday in accordance with Article IV, Section 5 of the *Student Government Association Bylaws*. Although I will be looking to change the Finance Bylaws this semester to allow the Executive Council to fill in for the Finance Committee when they are not in session, I want to ensure that any discussion we have prior to the passage of amendments is in line with statute. Therefore, I will be making the following motion:

I move to grant the Executive Council the authority to review finance proposals submitted by SGA-recognized clubs and organizations under Article IV, Section 5 of the Student Government

Association Bylaws and submit an opinion to the Legislature for final approval. The terms of this motion shall expire upon the first meeting of the Finance Committee for the 2022-2023 academic year. *Motion carries*

Thank you all. I would like to note that I will have office hours this semester from 4:00pm-5:00pm on Tuesdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm on Wednesdays, and 10:00am-11:00am on Thursdays. You can reach out to me via email at vpfinance.sga@westfield.ma.edu or by phone/text at (413) 642-1892.

- A. Finance Committee: No Report
- B. Foundation Report: Dan Currier

Hello again! The Westfield State Foundation Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2022 in the University Hall Meeting Room at 4:30pm. The meeting was attended by members of the Westfield State Foundation Board of Directors, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lisa McMahon and members of the Institutional Advancement Team, and President Linda Thompson.

The highlights of the meeting include the approval of an unmodified (or good) opinion of the Foundation's financial statements for FY22; a presentation on the Foundation's investment portfolio, which is down by nearly \$2.5 million due to the ongoing Wall Street selloff; the approval of the Interfaith Center budget; and a report by Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lisa McMahon and her staff on the upcoming scholarship fundraiser, Homecoming Weekend, the Fall Appeal, and the recently-held Golf Tournament. President Thompson also gave a report on what she has been doing to advance the mission of our University.

A dashboard was also provided which I have printed for all of you so you can understand the impact that the Westfield State Foundation and the contributions of nearly 1,500 donors have on our campus as of the conclusion of the 4th Quarter of FY22. The number of donors has increased to the highest level since before the COVID-19 pandemic for FY22. Most of our donors graduated from Westfield State University (then known as Westfield State College) in the 1970s and 1980s. The Institutional Advancement Team has worked to integrate payment through Venmo, Paypal, and Apple Pay as a means of acquiring greater fundraising dollars from our younger alumni.

The Foundation spent over \$600,000 on scholarships for our students last year and looks forward to continuing to support students when scholarship applications open next spring. Pursuant to the *Memorandum of Agreement* between the Westfield State Foundation and Westfield State University, the Foundation will also be providing \$350,000 in recruitment and retention support, \$100,000 in a final payment for Dever Stage seats, \$125,000 for internship support, \$30,000 for student emergency support, and much more!

I gave a report to the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the meeting that spoke to SGA's theme of "Building the Nest," but in the context of the Foundation and the University in general, "Rebuilding the Nest." I spoke about the proposed Expedition Owl Program whereby

students could act as ambassadors for Westfield State University at their high school and beyond, which was met with enthusiasm. I also discussed the relaunch of the Nestwork and the several opportunities we have working with the Office of Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership.

Following our regular meeting, we held the Annual Meeting of the Corporation in the University Hall Multi-Purpose Room, which was complete with a buffet dinner and alcoholic beverages, so it was odd being the only director under the age of 21. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation saw an address by President Thompson focusing on the need for philanthropy to cover our outstanding needs here on-campus, an overview of Interfaith Center operations by Father Savage, a speech by our own Vice President for Academic Life Emily Fluet on student scholarships, and a heart-wrenching ceremony where the Foundation presented a local company and their employees an award for going above and beyond in offering support to the Common Goods Food Pantry and our students who are in foster care and/or are housing insecure. Fifty first-year and transfer students fall into this category this year, so it is important that all members of our community assist those who need our support.

I will keep you all posted on fall philanthropy efforts, including the Fall Appeal, as they approach. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

C. ITSAC Report: No Report

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - PUBLICITY: **Elizabeth Mercer**

Hey everyone, first off, I'm so happy to see a full room tonight. I missed you all and I'm so excited to meet the new senators. Welcome and congratulations to the Class of 2026. I'm excited to meet everyone and if this is your first time being in SGA and have any questions or want to talk, I'm always here. Anyways, I'm Elizabeth and I am the Vice President of Publicity. I run the SGA Instagram account and I advertise events, meetings, clubs, and anything regarding student government. I give out the Senator of the Week award to a selected senator that goes above and beyond their duties and hang their award in the back bulletin board. I'm on the Neighborhood Advisory Board which is a committee that helps to reach out to the community and create a connection between the University and the neighbors who live in close proximity to Westfield. Outside of Student Government, I am a member of LAFE (or Latin Association for Empowerment) and I'm on the women's club ice hockey team and I'm a psychology major. I look forward to working with you all and supporting each of you. That's all and thank you.

- 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**

Hello Everyone,

It's great to see so many new faces on Senate today as well as some nice old ones. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Adam Carpenter, the executive secretary of the Student Government Association. My job primarily consists of keeping minutes for the meetings, running elections in the fall and spring, setting up the SGA office, and making sure that senators attend their office hours and our meetings every Tuesday at 5:30. A little bit about me personally, I'm a junior elementary education and liberal arts double major with a concentration in history. I love to read and play sports, especially soccer and volleyball. Also, for those of you who haven't seen a report from me before, don't be surprised if I talk about my socks. Speaking of the socks of the

week today are these cool Friends socks that I got last year at the Natick Mall. Moving swiftly on, to my actual report. The elections just concluded yesterday, September 26, 2022. It went very well, and we filled a lot of positions but there are still positions available which will be interviewed for in the near future. If you have any interest in those positions, please reach out to Aaron. Finally, in honor of this being the first SGA meeting in fall this year, I googled the first fall joke that I could find. "What do farmers wear over their shirt when they're cold? A Har-vest. Before, I forget again as well my office hours are finally posted and they are from 2-3 on Monday and from 9-12 on Tuesdays. I apologize for the delay in getting that out to you. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and I'll answer to the best of my ability. That's all that I have for you tonight. Thank you!

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: Motion to made to open New Business. The *motion carries*.

- i. Aaron Lessing: The first one is that we wanted to nominate Parliamentarian for Student Government. For those that don't know what a Parliamentarian is. It is basically the rule-keeper of SGA. It's the person that is responsible for making sure all of Robert's Rules of Order are followed in our meetings. And that is someone from the legislature that will sit up here with the executive board members. They are supposed to be a neutral party in all things for Robert's Rules and voting and such. So that is their responsibilities. Additional responsibilities are that they will serve as the chair of SGA meetings when directed by the President which basically means that when I'm at the podium, they are serving as chair next to me. They are in charge of two committees. The Rules and Regulations committee which look at club constitutions, rules and regulations of SGA. They are also in charge of Constitutional Review which occurs every three years, and we conducted it last year so there is really only one committee for them this year. They refrain from voting. You do have to have 4 office hours in the SGA room as the Parliamentarian. Are there any questions before I start opening it up to nominations. There are no self-nominations, it has to be a nomination from another person.
- ii. Chloë Sanfacon: What are Robert's Rules?
- iii. Aaron Lessing: We are going to get into what Robert's Rules are. But basically, it is the way that we go about doing things in this room, like motions, I made a motion earlier to accept the results of the election and Dan made a motion for Finance Committee. There's a lot of different motions, but I can rattle some off in my head. Point of information is when you are either requesting or giving information about a certain topic that no one knows about. There will be more, we are going to do an SGA Training, which will have many more rules. We

follow Robert's Rules, but we aren't going to be too hard about it. If you mess up, you mess up. I do all the time, so it's fine. Are there any other questions about the position? Are there any nominations for Parliamentarian?

Iv. Nick Palumbo: I nominate William Connor

v. Aaron Lessing: Do you accept the nomination.

Vi. William Connor: I accept.

Vii. Aaron Lessing: Are there any other nominations for Parliamentarian? Or is there anyone wanting to be nominated but doesn't have anyone to do so. Seeing only one person being nominated.

Viii. Motion to appoint William Connor as Parliamentarian for Student Government for the remainder of the 2022-23 academic year. *Motion carries*

xi. Aaron Lessing: Congratulations William. He will be sitting up here next week.

x. Motion to Suspend Robert's Rules of Order. *Motion carries*

A. Adam and Aaron give a presentation on SGA Training

B. Senator Interest in Committees was determined.

Aaron Lessing: Motion to reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. *Motion carries*

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Rodney Duteau: I have three announcements. As I mentioned in my address the dining commons is reaching out to Bill about what other foods that are wanted in the DC to see. If there's any type of cuisine which is based on your ethnic or cultural background, please reach out to either me or Logan so that it can be provided. Also, in regard to the flags in the DC, currently the flags in the DC are reflective of a lot of the international students that are off campus. I'm planning on talking to LAFE and BSU and other students to see what flags they would want in the DC that reflect their ancestry. I know that there are a few students from West Africa, from Liberia, and Ghana who would like to have those flags up. I'm Haitian and I would love to see a Haitian flag up there. I'd love to see an Italian Irish flag up there. But if there is any other flag that reflects your ancestry or just a flag that you want to see up in the DC. Feel free to reach out. Finally, I was talking to the President of LAFE and the President of the Nursing Club and they are working together to create a donation initiative to send supplies to Puerto Rico in regard to a hurricane which devastated the island. There will be a drop box in SGA in the coming weeks as well as in each residence hall across campus so keep an eye out for that. I will also send an email to all the Class President's with a flier which I encourage them to post on their class social media.

B. Mikayla Evans: There are days until commencement

XV. ROLL CALL: Kaitlyn Egan, Nicholas Smith, Maggie Roberts, Levi Ekstrom, and Alannah Downs were absent

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM

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