

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA
October 11th, 2022

- I. ROLL CALL: Mikayla Evans, Cade Leavens, Timothy Allen, Maggie Roberts, Alannah Downs, and Ethan Haynes were absent.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 4th, 2022

- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Aaron Lessing**
 - A. **Professor Vanessa Diana and Haley Kane**

Haley Kane: So on Wednesday October 19th. So next Wednesday, the community fundraising committee which I'm kind of part of it and we are kind of partnering with Professor Vanessa Diana. We are having a community conversation with President Linda Thompson and Westfield Mayor Mike McCabe. The community conversation is to hear a lot more about what Westfield State students want to see in the city of Westfield, whether that be for academics or service or just more ways to be involved with the downtown area.

Professor Vanessa Diana: I want to say a little bit about what's happened so far. So, thanks for having me and it's really wonderful to see you all. I hope your semester's off to a great start. I'm Vanessa Diana, if we haven't met yet. I'm in the English department and one of my passion projects is making the city of Westfield feel more like a college town so it can be more fun for you guys and for me too, because I live here too, and even though I go to bed at 9:00 o'clock, knowing you're out there having fun would make me happy. So that's my selfish motivation. But truly, I've been working with Professor Dristi Neog in the geography, planning and Sustainability Department on a first-year class called Discover Westfield. So what this group of first year students is being tasked to do is we go downtown on the PVCA shuttle each week. And they are discovering the gems of Westfield, which they're going to be trying to promote to all of you, their peers here on campus. And they're also going to be making recommendations to the city leaders about how we can improve, especially the downtown core of Westfield to make it more student friendly, a place you actually want to hang out and have fun and make it feel like a college town. Like you could maybe buy a Westfield State T-shirt or see Nestor the owl and that kind of thing. Just being places you want to go and be with your friends so that project is related to the survey that we wanted to encourage you to participate in. So hopefully on your tables you saw this little postcard shaped thing with a QR code. So this is a survey that's trying to get feedback from owls students and staff, your feedback on how you use or perceived downtown Westfield currently and what you'd love to see in the future. So we're hoping that you'd be willing to do that survey maybe tonight. And if so, there is a little raffle going to incentivize you. Haley is going to help by collecting if you just put your name. After you do the survey, Haley will collect them and get it back to me and we're going to pull for the winner gets 25 Owl bucks so there's bribery everywhere you go we try to use it but you should do it. So, this meeting that that Haley and I are really hoping you'll attend next Wednesday night, where we'll have the Mayor and the President in one room, not to mention other city leaders and campus leaders, is an opportunity for students to have a voice about ways that you'd like to see. Increased partnerships and connection and relationship between the city and our university. There was one such meeting back in August when you were all on summer break and it was really well attended with tons of members of the staff here and people from the city. But it was August, so we had two Westfield State students, a few alums, but two current undergrad students out of 74 Attendees, this is not good representation. So those participants came up with a whole bunch of ideas which Haley is going to give you some highlights from. But the important point I want to make is you your

voices weren't part of that August conversation because of the timing. So now we have a round two opportunity to hear from students. So, I'm going to pass the mic back to Haley.

Haley Kane: So I went through the pages of all the notes that were taken at the August meeting, like Professor Vanessa Dana said. There were mainly three different categories that like a lot of the ideas were in. The first one was promoting Westfield in the city and then promoting like city events to Westfield State so college kids can go downtown and participate in some events. But then also the residents in Westfield know about all the amazing things happening on our campus and we want to invite them to them to come. So just more of an awareness of what is going on between the two communities. So an idea with like a shared calendar so everyone can check what's going on campus wide and citywide. A lot more coverage of WSU on Westfield evening news and also in our university like newspaper in the radio station was very important more promotion of campus events, local businesses, and advertising. Also my favorite idea was a yearly September street Festival that welcomes back all the students from Westfield State and brings together everyone. This would include like music, food trucks, and different things for WSU and the City of Westfield. So I really hope that we can bring that together, not just SGA but all the different networks that we are working on together. The next category that was really important in these documents was service. So with my honors internship for service and then the community and fundraising relations position, does services that is very important to me. And there's definitely local nonprofits that Westfield State students can work with and we're just trying to get that information to all of you. I might know about local profits that can use volunteers, but we need to bring Westfield State and the city together. And the last idea was just more ways that specific students can be involved in the city. So with academics like internships is like a big thing and networking with residents of Westfield that might be able to help with jobs after college. One of the main goals about this is really just to get the city of Westfield more connected to the University and vice versa.

- i. Joseph Bonilla: You said that there were some campus events that you want to advertise to the general community. Can you elaborate on that a little bit?
- ii. Haley Kane: With Neighborhood advisory board, one thing that we've talked about is like the plays that happen here at Westfield on campus and different music events are a big thing. I know that's been brought up. The other really big thing is like sporting events that we want to try to go to.
- iii. Vanessa Diana: I'll add that before Covid, members of the community, especially our seniors, love to cook the dining hall. But for lunch, I mean, it's a great deal. And, you know, COVID disrupted it. So many things, including that, right? But that's just one example that we got from community members. They said we'd like to come to campus, but we're not sure like, are we welcome? Will we get a parking ticket? Can we come to stuff? Is it OK? You know, and so, for the inviting our community here to campus. Start with some of the stuff we talked about, but also increasing what we already have some really great examples of, of showcasing all of you downtown. So for example, music students do performances out of creative art space down on Elm Street and members of the community come and it's awesome for the students because they are performers and they're getting professional performance experience. But also, I'm always proud like look at our students. They're awesome. You know it's a way that we're showing off your talent to the public. So it's a win win. We just want to see more of that.
- iv. Haley Kane: Another thing that was listed on this was really like reducing the stigma that college students just want to be here in Westfield to party. You want to show off the positive

benefits that Westfield State students can bring to the city. And I also just wanted to mention that this community conversation next Wednesday night will count as one of your office hours. So, thank you Adam for that. So, we really hope you can come because these are amazing ideas. But like I said, a lot of the students were not there. So, we really want your input and to expand them all these ideas and how you want to be involved.

- v. Vanessa Diana: So I hope that you've all had gotten a copy of the press release about the Wednesday night. But I may not have gotten all of you, so I'll maybe, you know, give them to you if I can see that you don't have one. And I'll leave some extras here in your space. And I hope that you know, between now and next Wednesday you can think collectively or individually about priorities that matter most to you. So if you had a magic wand and could in some way sort of increase the connections between our university, our students especially, and our community, our host community at the city of Westfield, what would do you wish you could, you know, do with that magic wand? And let's make some magic happen, my friends. So I hope to see you next Wednesday night. Thank you so much for inviting me to SGA. You are all wonderful leaders. And I admire you a ton.

B. Captain Mike Foyle & Brittany Rende

Captain Foyle and Brittany Rende gave presentations

C. Presidents Council: No Report

D. Items not listed on Agenda:

The first thing I have is that we just sent out an email today regarding interviews for SGA for our vacant positions. Please spread the word about interviews to students, we want to get as many people as possible on SGA and need your help to do that!

Next week our speakers will be the Vice President of JEDI LaRue Pierce to discuss initiatives going on in JEDI. We will also have Lt. St. George come down and discuss the cornhole tournament that is happening on November 1st and the contributions will be made to the American Cancer Society.

I do want to make some quick points to remind you all about after last week's meeting:

1. We want to try our best to make these meetings move along, try not to make the same point someone else has made or one up someone. If you agree with them, I encourage you to communicate with your agreement quietly
2. Dinner in the DC closes at 8:00 PM, I get hangry
3. Please try to remain quiet near the end of the meeting, we all want to get out of here, but I need to end the meeting the correct way
4. Try to keep on subject with a conversation under a specific report, i.e. don't ask questions about campus programming under Dan's NECHE report
5. Finally, please raise your hand vertically instead of horizontally to get my attention

I will say that I heard the conversation about campus climate/respecting the campus. I am working with President Thompson to have a town hall on campus climate for students and should have more information for you soon. That said, I do want to open up the opportunity for you all to discuss what is going on campus and any ideas for how to fix this. I know Laura, our advisor, gave exec the good idea of having kindness projects around campus and I know that is something Emily Fluett was discussing with Provost Mills but please talk about what students would like to see.

The final thing that I have is the hint for our SGA bonding trip on November 12th which is that it will be in Springfield and outside so dress for the weather.

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

Hi everyone! There is a Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow in the Arno Maris Gallery on the second floor of Ely from 8:30AM-4:00PM. All are

welcome to watch this meeting in person or live-streamed on the Board's website.

Aaron and I will also be attending the first Student Advisory Council meeting of the year, Thursday night via Zoom. This council consists of all SGA Presidents and Student Trustees of all the Massachusetts Higher Education Institutions.

As a reminder for those unfamiliar, the Board of Trustees oversees the University in terms of funding, direction, and following its educational mission. As Student Trustee, I represent the student population at this board level and have the same voting power as any other appointed trustee. It's my duty to bring the board up to date on student issues and advocate for student needs.

This is the first Board meeting of the fall, so I'll be giving an update on the semester so far. If I could, I'd like to hear from a few people about how they feel the semester is going for you and your peers and if there's anything that you feel that the board should know about students right now.

I. Aaron Lessing: Point of Information. I do want to mention that this is a great opportunity to get bigger serious issues on the Board of Trustees and the President's cabinet's agenda. What they hear from Chloe, they consider doing something with. So, if there's anything that you want to suggest this would be a good opportunity.

A. All University Committee: No Report

B. Student Advisory Council: No Report

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

A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report

B. Food Services Committee: Logan Terenzi

Hey everyone, last week in food services we went over some issues, here are some of the answers I got. The online menu is updated for the full week every Tuesday and cannot be changed after. They said there are times that they run into some in house issues, like a shipment not coming in or they run out of something and have to replace it which can be why the menu and stations are not the same.

Allergy info/nutrition info can and will be brought back to all the stations, so there are specific warnings and labels such as peanut, gluten, milk ect.

There are new chairs in the DC being tested, they are from a company in Germany, and we can get one down here to test. These chairs are being looked at to replace all the wooden chairs in the DC as they are more sustainable, durable, and add color and modernize the DC. Any feedback would be appreciated, the transition to these chairs will be in two phases. One phase a semester slowly replacing the chairs, and then the final thing would be replacing all the wooden tables. With new and modern tables, that go well with the chairs.

COVID is going through the staff this past week that is why there has been lower staff, and issues related to that. People keep calling out. Vegan and Vegetarian/ethical sourcing, they can only use cage-free chicken eggs, and gestation free pork. Bill will look into the other things they do but usually they are really good with that stuff.

i. Joseph Bonilla: So as I was mentioning earlier, there was a question about meal swiping in the Bistro, in regard to an unlimited meal plan and what's going on there. If it's unlimited do we get breakfast, lunch, and afterhours as those swipes?

ii. Logan Terenzi: I can bring it up to Bill tomorrow, but from what I know the meal swipes are usually for like one meal period. Like breakfast and lunch. Dinner is not a thing in the bistro anymore that's Latenight and for Latenight you can only use dining dollars. Basically, if you unlimited or any type of meal plan, you go in during that time period and that's your swipe for the meal. It's not interchangeable between the DC and the Bistro. You get that one swipe. The same thing applies for lunch.

- iii. Sarah Harrington: I have a few things. The fruit water is now a dispensary machine thing, I've had people say that they think it's gross and if we could get the normal fruit water back, it would be preferred. They are also wondering if the stir-fry is coming back and finally if we can get the garlic aoli from the Owl Café in DC.
- iv. Logan Terenzi: I'll check up on that. For the stir-fry, they said that was supposed to be up the first week of October. They are waiting for a specific member of staff to come back and they are dealing with personal issues right now. So they would need to train someone completely on how to do stir-fry which I will check up on.
- v. Liam Connor: Can we have cheeseburgers in bistro again please?
- vi. Logan Terenzi: I would love that too.
- 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 guys, I just want to quickly give some information regarding advising and registration. So for honors and Banacos students, advising is from October 11th-19 and then you register for class on October 20th. For seniors, your advising runs from October 17th-20th and you pick classes on October 21st. Juniors, in season athletes and students in the Urban education program have advising from October 24th-27th, and then you register for classes on October 28th. Sophomores have advising from October 31st-November 3rd and you register for classes on November 4th. Lastly, Freshman have advising from November 7th-14th and you select classes on November 15th.

For any freshman or anyone else who is curious, advising is when you meet with your advisor and they help you figure out what classes you should take next semester. They also give you a PIN that you use the morning you take classes. You can pick classes starting at 7am the day you are set to pick. I'd email your advisor as early as possible to schedule your advising session during your assigned time.

- A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
- B. Curriculum Committee: UCC met with the English and Geography, Planning, and Sustainability departments on Friday. In the English department, we approved the getting rid of a few classes that haven't been taught in about 15 years. We also passed the creation of an English minor instead of the current options of either a literature minor or a writing minor. Students can still focus on either one of those they'll just all be considered English minors. For the GPS department, we approved the creation of a few new classes and we started the process of approving 4 new concentrations but ran out of time. The four new concentrations will be Climate and Energy, Food Systems Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development, and Urban Design and Architecture, in addition to the two existing concentrations.
- i. Daniel Currier: Point of information. The English minor has always sort of been a thing. I'm an English minor myself. The literature and writing concentrations they kind of just wanted to get rid of them because there is very low enrollment and were just burden heavy for staff. And the new concentrations, I highly encourage you to look at them. We are going to be having new majors coming to campus as well so take a look at what we have available and you can always talk to Emily because there are a lot of exciting things coming up.
- ii. Adam Carpenter: Just to clarify, the focus isn't like having a concentration right?

- iii. Emily Fluet: You would pick classes that make sense for what you want to focus in. It's not a concentration.
 - C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE):
 - 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**

- A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report
- B. Student of Color Council Report: No Report

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

Last Thursday, I held a meeting with Coordinator for Student Involvement Laura Cafaro and Director of SAIL Matt Dellea regarding the FY23 SGA Budget. I was introduced to the internal budget spreadsheet that will enable us to keep tabs on our spending over the course of the academic year. Once I receive access to the budget spreadsheet in full, I will begin working on a full FY23 SGA Budget presentation and packet for all of you. But before I give my presentation and distribute the budget packet, we must determine where we want to allocate funds not already distributed via a line-item allocation. We have nearly \$70,000 in free cash that can be devoted to club finance proposals and other large expenses, such as the potential replacement of SGA Executive Council desktops and WSKB radio equipment. I will work with the Executive Council on maximum allocations for finance proposals and other important projects involving free cash for FY23. If you have any ideas for free cash expenditures to consider, please let me know and the Executive Council will take your point under consideration.

This Thursday, I will be holding my monthly meeting with Vice President for Administration and Finance Steve Taksar. I intend to discuss spring enrollment projections (which will affect Student Activity Fee revenues), FY24 enrollment projections, updates on the Parenzo Hall Renovation Project, and the adjusted University FY23 budget. I also intend to discuss campus sustainability. If you have any questions or items you'd like me to bring to Vice President Taksar's attention, please let me know.

Speaking of sustainability, I will be presenting before the Westfield State University Board of Trustees tomorrow regarding a roughly seventy-page report that I filed alongside fellow students in an Environmental Geology class this past spring. This report presents the University with a series of thirteen recommendations on how the University can become more sustainable, how we can educate the student body, and how we can increase revenue in sustainability-aligned academic programs. The presentation will be given during the Full Board Meeting, which will take place in the Arno Maris Art Gallery at 2:00pm. All students are welcome to join in-person or watch the livestream available at westfield.ma.edu/live. It is important to note that a Sustainability Committee is in the process of being charged. We will have two (2) student representatives, so keep an eye out for information on potentially joining this committee. Should you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

- i. Joseph Bonilla: To make a suggestion for the allocation of funds. I think that maybe the class councils could get a little more funding but especially the class of 2026, considering that we are kind of coming back from the pandemic. I guess we are all coming back from the pandemic, but specifically as the First year class President, I've seen that there is a lot of social isolation and we want to have social event. And more money would make it possible for us to have more engaging activities and help to be able to create a campus culture that we all want.
- ii. Dan Currier: Thank you, I'll note that.

- iii. Chris Lannan: I agree with that. As the treasurer, I feel like we don't have enough money for our class council because I think it's like 1,250. That's not enough. I feel like the events that we talked about last week is going to be. The two events that we mentioned are going to already cut that down to like half. So I think that with 70,000 available, maybe we could have another 1 or 2 thousand dollars. Not just for our class but for every class because I feel like that money will be well spent.
- iv. Dan Currier: I can certainly look into that. I will say as a counter, that I was treasurer of my class last year and we were given \$1,250 as well. We have to be very frugal with the money and a lot of your money also comes in through fundraising. So definitely consider fund-raising as well because I would love to give clubs all this money. But the issue is however, that all clubs need to fundraise if they can. So definitely look into that if we are unable to give you that cash. And remember that your first year is your first year so you should try to save as much money as possible. I had a policy last year where we did not go below half of the revenue because we are saving that money for senior year where most of the really fun events are.
- v. Joseph Bonilla: I actually had a question about that last thing that you just said. So that 1,250 is that kind of transferring on.
- vi. Dan Currier: Yes
 - A. Finance Committee: No Report
 - B. Foundation Report: Dan Currier

Hello again! The Westfield State Foundation held its annual Sweet Success Scholarship Reception this past Thursday from 7:00pm-8:15pm in Scanlon Banquet Hall. This event allows recipients of Foundation-sponsored scholarships to meet with their donors, chat with Westfield State administrative leaders and faculty members, and congratulate their fellow students over a delicious dessert. As someone who was a benefactor to the several scholarships, it was an honor to meet with those who have helped to make my college journey more affordable. I also wish to congratulate those in this room who were in attendance at the reception and received one or more of the scholarships that the Foundation has available.

I would like to note that the Student Government Association (SGA) allocates \$5,000 annually to support the Student Senate Scholarship, which is administered through the Westfield State Foundation. Several senators and Executive Council members are awarded this scholarship each year, so please consider applying when applications open in February.

Should you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

 - C. ITSAC Report: No Report

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

- 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**

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: None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened)- No new business

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Levi Ekstrom: Tomorrow, QSA is hosting the coming out party at 7PM in the Owl Nest.
- B. Nick Smith: Katie Egan and I are hosting True Crime Trivia in the Owl's nest at 8PM tonight for 60 owl bucks so I'll see you there.
- C. Chloë Sanfacon: There are 227 days until commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Mikayla Evans, Cade Leavens, Timothy Allen, Maggie Roberts, Alannah Downs, and Ethan Haynes were absent.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: If there is no further business, I adjourn the meeting until October 18th. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM

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