

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA
February 14, 2023

- I. ROLL CALL: Cade Leavens, Nicholas Smith, Loïc Black, Nick Palumbo, and Sarah Harrington were absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: February 7, 2023
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Aaron Lessing**
First, I move to appoint Jack Guindon as Vice President of Student Life for the remainder of the 2022-2023 academic year. *Motion passes.*

Dan Forster came into our exec meeting yesterday to discuss the refugees coming to campus and did mention that any questions you have please send to me by Friday the latest, as he would like time to get the information for you all.

Finally, you might be aware about the mass shooting that took place at Michigan State University yesterday, President Thompson did send out an email regarding this and it provides mental health resources for those that need it at this time.

A. NECHE: **Provost Mills**

Provost Mills gave a presentation.

- i. *Adam Carpenter: Thank you for coming down. Earlier you referred to institution centered as the lens that we should look at this review process through. Could you elaborate a little bit more on what that would look like?*
- ii. *Provost Mills: So institution centered, that's a really good question. It's a balanced approach you're looking at the voice of faculty, students, and staff. That's what you call institution centered. Sometimes we look at only one side of the coin where this is the faculty viewpoint, or this is the student viewpoint. But never quite connect to give the consensus as to what it means for the institution and so it's moving away from this is my lane this is my lane to how are we really coming together to build the institution. So that's so when you read the self-study you're going to notice that it's a balance of that viewpoint. When you read it take a look at the summary the executive summary at the front. I should have said this before, and that is really the institution viewpoint. It gives the lens of here's the positive here's the negative and it's not really talking about one group only throughout the self-study it talks about pretty much all groups in the sense in the sense study including academic staff including non-academic staff. So, it has to be everybody's voice.*
- iii. *Aaron Lessing: Thanks for coming. I know you somewhere in the public comments time so I was just wondering you said you could look at them so I was just wondering if there's anything that you saw that maybe we missed in this NECHE?*
- iv. *Provost Mills: That's also a good question. So when I say I look at them I look at others. I'm not going to be able to see anything related to Westfield state sitting on the Commission. I don't get to see anything from Westfield and I don't get to see any of our sister schools either or UMass. What I get to see is other schools outside of our Commonwealth schools. So that's the experience I gave you looking at those. Ours we'll probably get to all see them because they will come to us and then we will post them on the NECHE site so you'll get to see them if we have any there.*
- v. *Chris Lannan: Hi thank you for coming down. I just wanted to know you mentioned that there's a student discussion on March 6 I believe in the university multi-purpose room. I was wondering how*

we should go about advertising to the average student so that we can have more students in attendance.

- vi. Provost Mills: We are going to send out a notification to everyone. But from your perspective it is pointing out how important this is for all students and ask the students that you're familiar with. I think that personal touch is here and to explain it just like the way I explained it today. Say that this is important for us because if you take federal financial aid and if you want to make sure that the quality of your education is good then please come out and give your feedback that's the lens.
- vii. Chloë Sanfaçon: Kind of bouncing off that I was wondering if you might be able to encourage professors to talk to their students about this as well and advertise this to their students. I think that professors would be able to explain it pretty well for the most part so it might be a good idea.
- viii. Provost Mills: So I think we can do that when we send out the one for faculty just ask them to remind students to come out because we want to have a good showing of that we are engaged in the life of the institution.
- ix. Dan Currier: thanks for coming down. Just wondering about how this will inform our next strategic plan you know that's going to be out in 2024. So how that will this all come together with the strategic planning committee?
- x. Provost Mills: That is very good question Dan. So all the projections when you look in the study all the projections including I think I come back in a couple of weeks to talk about CAMP and some other things that are happening so all those information will go to the strategic planning committee to work through to then build the next strategic plan. One of the things that I want to point out here this is a really good time for Westfield state. When an institution has reached a point where it's everything is not new and that's where we are so we're taking existing documents that we've worked on existing projects and now we're rolling them forward and so that's part of what the strategic planning process will do and it will become a lot easier for us the same for NECHE. This has been a heavy lift. 75 people have been involved in this process. In my former life institution it's five people. But you have to have a structure in place so that's what we did this time around was build the structure and so the next go around in four years it'll be just a small group that will literally take this existing work build upon it and then shoot it back out to the respective areas to say is this correct. So the process becomes easier. I'll also add that we've invested in the technology to do this as well and so the institution doesn't have to continually be heavy lifting so we can start to really more these strategic. I think speaking of student voice, student voice becomes stronger because the system now allows you to have more robust engagement in it. So we're not just you know sometimes for people that are doing it. You're so focused on getting the system that by the time you get to the voice piece it's short and so now we build these systems so we can have really good engagement in them in the process.
- xi. Chris Lannan: There was another thing I wanted to bring up. All the student support services with when it comes to students withdrawing from the university. I just wanted to know. I had a couple talks with people last semester about this because they knew support were in place but they didn't receive any from whoever that may be. So you talk about who they would receive it from and what specifically there is?
- xii. Provost Mills: It depends on the student and so what we've tried to do is what we call comprehensive holistic student support services and Doctor Seymour who's responsible for the Center for student success she can also talk more about it. But

we've done so for example with advising and so we have an office that advises all students now, in addition to that each student is supposed to have a faculty advisor. I think that's the first step in the 360 process. I think we have made improvements, but I think we could get better at it by having faculty put in when they notice something with students. I think that's something that we need to work better at we're getting there but it's could be more I think we could have 100% engagement. But what I find to be a challenge is that these are tough times and students need different services and one of the things that I've been thinking about is how do we create a way in which it's fingertip services wherein you don't have to wonder where to go or who to go to like a question that you're asking. You can immediately once you come in through these doors you know how to get your services. The services could be mental health. It could be learning disability. It could be food insecurity. It could be housing. There are so many things that we need to be looking at for our students right now. I don't think we're quite there yet where it is you know fingertip touch services. I think we need we have some ways to go across the board so that's what I would say I think we we've made strides but it needs much more.

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

- A. All University Committee:
- B. Student Advisory Council:

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE: **Jack Guindon**

Hello, my name is Jack Guindon, I am the new VP of student life. I am a sophomore Poly Si major and English and history minor. And I am also a commuter, my office hours are Tuesday 2-5 and Wednesday 3-4:30. I look forward to working with all of you to make the student experience here at Westfield State the best it can be.

- A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report
- B. Food Services Committee: **Adam Carpenter**

Last Wednesday, We had the first meeting of the semester where we discussed a bunch of things. The first thing that we discussed was about food services as a committee and how we could get more people to food services committee. We discussed that we would maybe put out advertisements for the meetings so that we could get more feedback on the dining program here. Next, the Bistro has time frames for swipes with the breakfast one being from open to 11:00 and lunch from 11:30 to close of lunch. I know that's not the answer that people were really looking to hear but it is what it is. Dining also wanted to let us know that they are aware of the drop off in the quality of late night and they are working to rectify it. Another late night related piece of info is that they maybe will get custom smoothies on the GET app. Next, this is the time to share if you have any ideas for new foods in the DC since this is when the spring menu is in development. Next, unfortunately regarding Touch tunes which we discussed last semester, that is not going to happen anymore because the space was too big for it to actually work but fixes to the speakers is being looked into. Penultimately, in terms of the accuracy of menus a system is currently being tried out where an accurate menu is posted on social media prior to the opening of the meal period as at least something. Finally, for the piece of news that people really care about. Wild Blue is about 2 weeks off. There will be 4 sushi options for swipes to start off. Boba tea will also eventually appear but it will not be a meal swipe. The last thing is that this will be the same thing as bistro where the window system will be in practice and if you use a swipe at Wild Blue you can't walk over to bistro in the same meal period. That's all that I have for today.

- i. Mikayla Evans: First off, I like how the DC is posting on Instagram. I really appreciate that. Secondly, do you know what the hours for the Sushi place are going to be?
- ii. Adam Carpenter: I can get them to you soon but I don't remember off the top of my head.
- iii. Chris Lannan: I had a couple of suggestions from students about turning like maybe some days of the week the stir fry station into a make your own like burrito bar kind of thing. I was wondering if that's something we could do maybe not every night but sometimes.
- iv. Adam Carpenter: I can bring it up at food services.
- v. Aaron Lessing: I don't want to go against what Chris is saying but I think we should have a larger discussion on stir fry if we want to get rid of it some nights because it's really popular and I think a lot of people will be angry.
- vi. Adam Carpenter: Yeah, that's definitely also true. I will say also that it could be like an equipment issue of putting burritos there like it's a stir fry station for a reason, I'll say that. But I'll bring it up and it can go for further discussion because I see merits on both sides.
- vii. Dan Currier: Hi Adam, so I mentioned before the fall but I definitely the marketing of the dining program to outside partners like you know people who want to come to the university it's lacking. It's really just here are our five different dining options and here's our menu of the day and that's it. Other universities will have full pages about each place, a spotlight to the staff, and stuff like that. Marketing across institution is not great at the moment. WE need to do a better job if we want to get more students here. It depends on marketing and also that students feel that the quality of food is good, so we need to make sure that all around it's good.
- viii. Adam Carpenter: something that I've also noticed where we're really not utilizing dining to its fullest extent. I'll say something else that I didn't report on but for new student perspective they were talking about maybe getting part of orientation talking about dining they would consider asking that about that. That's what I've been told. I know I can see from your face that this the first you're hearing of it but that's what they told me, was that they think people aren't using the dining program effectively and it's that they wanted to make more information out there.
- ix. Katie Egan: I'm sorry, Adam. Just something you can bring up in food services at your next meeting. Last night we were excited to see that there were Mashed potato bowls in the Bistro and we ordered them from the GET app. They weren't there so they replaced them with other foods and then like it was chaos from the staff because everyone was complaining and asking to replace them for different things. So if we have the GET app be accurate so because so that doesn't happen for the staff and students that would be great.
- x. Adam Carpenter: Yeah, that definitely is something that we need to address with the GET app not reflecting what's actually available. I don't know I'll bring it up we'll see what happens. I'm sure we'll have fun.
- xi. Emily Fluet: I appreciate that they are working on making the menu being an accurate reflection of what is actually there. But they really need to work on the advertising of ingredients and the accuracy of the ingredients because like half the time the ingredients just says water. So I can't eat it since I don't know what's in it. And Global Cuisine never has the ingredients so I can never eat that. There is a lot of people that have reasons to read the ingredients and they are not available.

- xii. Adam Carpenter: Yeah. In the interest of being perfectly candid, when we were discussing the idea of that social media thing, we said to include ingredients as well. For that reason, I will bring it up again. I know that we have been in a little bit of a battle about showing the ingredients for at least the last year, but probably longer. But we'll get on it again.
- xiii. Liam Connor: so last year on a random afternoon one time they had a crab dip and I really liked it a lot and I was hoping that you bring that back again. Thank you.
- xiv. Adam Carpenter: I'll put that in my notes for the next meeting.
- xv. Chloë Sanfaçon: I got two parts all right. First we did have my freshman year at Tex-Mex station next to stir fry where they made little rice bowl for, you so that was fun. My second part, do you know why the DC was too big like did they give for like solid reason why it was too big.
- xvi. Adam Carpenter: They just said that the space was too big like from the main node it was too far away. Like bars that it is usually used in are much smaller so like the space was too big to the point that the speaker and the central system wouldn't link. I don't really understand but that is what I was told. It was a lot of tech jargon that I don't understand.
- xvii. Chris Lannan: Hi, so it is certainly not my intent to try and get rid of Stir fry. I personally love it but at the same time I think that students want to see some variety of burritos of whether any kind of burrito station on in the DC. As well I think with the menus on Instagram. I think we should try to send out like emails with the menu in it once a month because for once however often everyone knows that what's going to be for the menu because I know not a lot of people don't look at the Instagram story or not follow the dining page. So I'm just wondering if you can send out an e-mail, granted not everybody is going to check their e-mail but we could try.
- xviii. Adam Carpenter: Alright, so I have a two-fold response to that. First up tell your friends to follow Instagram. Give them some more clout that's always appreciated from their end. The second thing I guess is just like it starts it's two weeks out but they kind of plan out their menus. So I'll bring it up. I'll see if they go. If they don't go I'll push on it a little bit more and say emails maybe. Also it's available on the website for a menu too so encourage your friends to use that as well.
- xix. Aaron Lessing: They have rotational menus. It's not a two-week new thing so like they should be aware of what they're cooking with like months ahead of time. I don't know how many people I know that had an allergy and have been given a hard time. Like it's been countless. They fight with people that have gluten allergies that don't want a meal plan like this thing has been going on for a long time.
- xx. Alan Blair: Point of information about what Chloë was asking. Why the size of that space is a problem. It's a proprietary system which means it will not integrate with anything else so putting it in that space anybody that sat near there would be able to hear it but anybody on the other side of the DC will not be able to.
- xxi. Adam Carpenter: Thank you for explaining technology to me.
- 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, the main thing I want to talk about is my meeting with the Provost on Friday. We talked briefly about NECHE, but she also just

covered a lot of it earlier tonight. I just want to emphasize that this is an opportunity for students to give some important feedback on how the university can improve and what it is doing well. The open student forum will be Monday, March 6th from 5:20-6:10 in the University Hall multipurpose room and I encourage you all to go if you are able to. We also discussed the Provost Student Advisory Board and I was able to clarify the purpose of the committee a little bit. It is not meant to counsel the Provost but instead work to improve academics at the university for each department and as a whole.

For the international students that will be coming next fall, there will be someone coming to visit in late March or early April to do another assessment, and the Provost estimates that we will likely have about 30 students coming. They will all be Sports Medicine and Human Performance majors.

Lastly, in terms of registration and advising, honors student advising began yesterday so if you are in the honors program make sure you are getting in touch with your advisors. Honors students can pick classes on Friday, February 24th.

- i. Dan Currier: I would just like to make a comment. I don't know why it is called the Provost Advisory Committee. I would just like to say publicly and on the record that it should be made clear that it is focused solely on academics and if it goes into other areas it should be the president's job. I think that President Thompson should be in charge of all university matters and if it's on any other areas it should be up to the division's vice President and the Provost should stick to things solely under her purview.
- ii. Emily Fluet: Yeah, she told me it's called that because the provost is in charge of academics and from what she said to me it is supposed to be just academics but I will be on it now so I will know if it isn't.
 - A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
 - B. Curriculum Committee: No Report
 - C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): No Report
 - 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
 - G. CAMP: Emily Fluet

CAMP, which is the Campus Academic Master Plan committee, met on Friday. We currently have a master plan document and we are working on combining things from what each department listed as their 1, 3, and 5 year goals onto the document. The plan is meant to be reevaluated in 5 and 10 years, but it is a living document until then as well. The members of the committee also want to know what the best way is to get student feedback on the Master Plan, so please let me know. Some things they brought up were town halls or surveys, but let me know what you think of either of those or if you have any other ideas

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

- A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report

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

Dan gave a presentation.

- i. Ethan Haynes: I just have a comment. Please keep the memes coming because that was one of the most interesting financial timeline presentations that I have ever seen.
 - A. Finance Committee: No Report
 - B. Foundation Report: Daniel Currier

Good evening, everyone!

Are you tired of wasting your hard-earned money on flowers, chocolates, cards, and gifts while not getting anything in return? Do you want your money to go to something meaningful? Introducing Give a Hoot Day - Westfield State's Hallmark holiday with a purpose. Proudly sponsored by the ghost of Horace Mann, this day of fundraising will really let our IDEAS shine. Be Nestor's valentine this year by making a tax-deductible donation or assisting us in spreading the love for our students through your networks. Each of you should have picked up a Give a Hoot Advocacy toolkit about how to promote this fundraiser with your networks. Create your Give Campus account today and let your love shine forth. Better yet, you don't need to spend your money on those stale chocolates on sale from CVS, so please assist us in spreading the word regarding Give a Hoot Day in March.

I am pleased to report that the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 has been fruitful to the Westfield State Foundation. Thanks to the efforts of the Institutional Advancement Division, we have raised \$460,330 in gifts and an additional \$479,474 in grants. We have increased our overall donors by 28% and our overall gifts by 9%. The dashboard, which you should have picked up on the way in, provides a great deal of quantitative information on our fundraising activities and I encourage you all to read it in full.

I will be attending a virtual meeting of the Finance & Investments Committee of the Westfield State Foundation tomorrow at 4:30pm to discuss our current financials and investment portfolio. This Thursday at 4:00pm, I will be attending a meeting of the Fundraising Committee of the Westfield State Foundation in downtown Westfield to finalize our plans for Give a Hoot Day. Finally, next Wednesday, I will be attending a Board of Directors meeting of the Westfield State Foundation at 4:30pm in the Horace Mann Center.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

C. ITSAC Report: No Report

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

A. Neighborhood Advisory Board: Elizabeth Mercer

The neighborhood advisory board has sent out a postcard to the local community. We have been working on this postcard since the beginning of the year so I'm really excited to start building a better relationship with Westfield's neighbors.

- i. Aaron Lessing: I was just curious what the postcard was about to the neighbors.
- ii. Elizabeth Mercer: The postcard was sent out to specific wards near Westfield and it has like events that are coming up

and being kind of more inviting to the residents to come to Westfield.

B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: No Report

C. Owl Ball Committee: Elizabeth Mercer

Hi Guys,

Last Wednesday, the Owl Ball committee met and we discussed the theme for owl ball which is a night out on the town and we set the price for tickets being \$25. The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 15th at 2 and tickets will be available tomorrow morning through your email.

D. Blue Key Committee: No Report

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Adam Carpenter

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Liam Connor

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: Mikayla Evans

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to thank all the seniors who attended the 100 Days to Commencement Event this past Thursday! We had an amazing turnout of over 200 people! I also want to thank Laura, Matt and Shannon for helping to chaperon, as well as the alumni association for their donation and helping make the night possible. I also wanted to remind seniors and inform the rest of SGA of our fundraising campaign. The Westfield State Foundation is helping us raise money to help fund our class gift of a mural. The goal is to get students to pay \$20.23 on the giving website and whoever donates receives a cord at graduation. If you are interested in donating you can find more information on our Instagram, as well as in your emails. Lastly, we are selling class T-shirts through the month of February. If you are interested in buying one the link is in your emails.

i. Chloë Sanfaçon: I would really like to thank you and the rest of the senior class council for putting on such a great event. It went wonderfully so a big hand.

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 Unfinished Business

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened) No New Business

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Elizabeth Mercer: Tomorrow night, CAB is having an open mic night from 6-9pm and then on Thursday there is a live Jazz concert right outside of Dunkin from 6-8.

Laura Cafaro: The Career Center is looking for students to assist with the career fair. It is February 28th from 11-3:30. The second thing is to send some good luck to Justin who is going to the model UN conference.

Dan Currier: The accounting club is having a meeting tomorrow at 2pm hosting Maria Fuerstein to talk about how the budget is created but if

you know anyone who is interested in what their dollar goes to, send them to Wilson 404 at 2pm

Alan Blair: Wednesday at Westfield tomorrow wear your swag.

Mikayla Evans: 94 days until commencement.

- XV. ROLL CALL: Cade Leavens, Nicholas Smith, Loïc Black, Nick Palumbo, and Sarah Harrington were absent
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:46pm until the next meeting on Tuesday, February 21st.

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