

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGENDA
March 28th, 2023

- I. ROLL CALL: Loic Black, Isabella Catao, and Cade Leavens were absent.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: March 21, 2023 Minutes were approved
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ***Aaron Lessing***

I first want to give a shoutout to both Elizabeth Mercer and Laura Cafaro for all the work in making sure owl ball goes smoothly, it was really successful, and I hope you all had a blast.

Just a few quick updates from me, some members of the executive board have been working on starting the governance process for additional common hours on campus, I was going to bring the proposal to you all first before I submit it in the process, so look out for that next week.

Just a reminder to get your signature papers for elections, also class presidents please remind your class councils to do their signature papers as well.

Another quick thing to put in your calendar is that the SGA Senate Banquet will be on May 1st at 5:30 pm. We do this every year to celebrate with you all and give out awards to those that deserve it!

If you didn't see the President's email regarding the provost search committee, please look at it as it gives an update on what is going on in academic life!

Finally, I wanted to see how people felt about Bill coming down at the last meeting.

- i. Sarah Harrington: I just wanted to point out the chicken wings on an accepted student day.
- ii. Kaitlyn Egan: I have to go to the Student Athletics Advisory Council meeting tonight to give them answers and I honestly don't have any from the questions to Bill. I think he answered them but also did not answer them. So I am going to have a hard time going to them tonight and telling them this is what he said. I know there is going to be a lot of backlash.
- iii. Dan Currier: I really like Bill, I think some of the answers were great but I think that a lot of them were just like a politician kind of going around the answer. I think that there needs to be a lot of truth telling and not just telling us what we want to hear.
- iv. Chris Lannan: I agree with Dan. I think that a lot of the stuff that we ask were kind of dodged around. I think that it was a productive meeting but a lot of students still want to see a lot more from dining going forward.
- v. Jack Guindon: To address Katie's concerns, Adam and I are having a meeting on Wednesday to try to work with the student athletes and Marlee to figure out there needs so that food services can understand what the athletes want and we can hopefully get that fixed.
- vi. Chloë Sanfaçon: I just want to remind everyone that food services in moved to the common meeting hour on Friday so if you think that your voice wasn't heard at this last meeting. That is a time that is available for everybody since there aren't any classes and you can go to make sure that your voice is heard.
- vii. Ethan Haynes: I liked that Bill came down. It showed a lot of courage for being one of the most criticized places on campus. I would like to see more of him coming down here other than just our food service reps. I know not everyone can make the common hours unfortunately so I think that it would be good to have Bill directly in front of the entirety of SGA from time to time.
- viii. Chloë Sanfaçon: Unrelated to food, could you just talk a little bit about what the common hour idea is.
- ix. Aaron Lessing: We've had this conversation a few times but at the moment, for a common hour we only have one which is Friday 1:40 to 2:55 for the purpose of ensuring that governance committees can meet. So that faculty and staff don't have

meetings or class during that time. They have kind of designated that one time across campus to have governance committee meetings. The reason we want more is that there are other committee meetings that need to happen on campus and a lot of those are a struggle to make from the student perspective and some of them just aren't working with student schedules. Also from a programming perspective we are kind of hoping that additional common hours would open a time block for more programming on campus to kind of get everyone together including professors and staff that we don't really see outside the classroom. We are looking for a time earlier in the week midday instead of just a Friday where people can just get out early if there is no governance. So those are kind of the things that we are thinking about. Obviously it can kind of be a pain to refix all the class block schedules but it could be really beneficial. And regarding last weeks meeting with Bill. I was going to set up a meeting with Bill and I because I kind of had some concerns that you were bringing up but also from doing food services with Bill for two years that was not what I was used to with Bill.

A. Director of Residential Life: **John Zocco**

John Zocco gave a presentation.

- i. Aaron Lessing: Was the petition to release free
- ii. John Zocco: There was a period during the pandemic where we allowed to essentially break the housing agreement but that was during the pandemic and has not been there for at least a bit.
- iii. Katie Egan: I apologize if you have already said this but when do you get the time that you are assigned to pick housing? Is it the day of?
- iv. John Zocco: Yes. It is the day of. We try to give as much time to do housing agreements. We allow agreements to come in until the day before and we usually do the work the assigning the day of. The times are going to come out hopefully by noon which is what we are aiming for because we want to give you a heads up for that one and you will get new times each time that you are able to select. So if you are a current junior or senior then you are going to get a time that first day and a new time to select each night.
- v. Aaron Lessing: I was wondering if there has been any conversation regarding unlocking the bathrooms in the dorms? I was also curious if there had been any conversation regarding commuters having access to the dorms for safety reasons?
- vi. John Zocco: I can speak to the bathrooms. That conversation around the bathrooms and whether to lock or unlock has been going on all year. Starting in the fall we've been chatting about what that might look like. I've been reaching out to some other campuses to see what they've done. We are unique in that sense. For those of you that didn't know Dickinson and Davis years ago, you had to walk through the bathroom to get to the other side and they were all single gender floors so I think that is where some of this started from and as with many policies once it starts it just kind of sticks. So there have been conversations, I will put a plug in for those who are currently living on campus to the Skyfactor survey which is a satisfaction survey for housing, dining, and living on campus. I added a question on this year about what the student interest is bathroom wise. Should we fully unlock them or do we still do card access per building? We are looking to see what the interest out there is. If people have feedback put that in the survey. The other issue is with guests and guests of the opposite gender not being able to use the bathroom. As far as commuter students having access to the buildings, that has not been a conversation that has been happening. I think that it definitely needs a further conversation to see what we can do and what we can't do for that. It is again balancing the safety and security and making sure that people who live in the building are comfortable. We need to evaluate the potential impacts that it could have. There would be some concerns about laundry machines and usage. We have free laundry on campus so that could mean commuters coming in and using the laundry that is part of the rates out there. There may be some unintended consequences but it could also build community. Definitely a conversation that is worth having but I think that bathrooms is something that we are a little bit closer to and are working on at the moment.

- vii. Alexandria Mallios: How much is the cancellation fee for housing?
- viii. John Zocco: If you pick housing and decide to opt out of it the cancellation fee is \$750 in order to back out. That is if you are approved. Usually there needs to be a significant change or hardship to be released from your housing contract and if you just have an off campus apartment that is generally not enough to be released. The reason why that is there is not to try to penalize students but because we report to the MSCBA our budget numbers and use that to do our budgeting. We then tell the state how many students that we have on campus. It is recuperating the amount of money that we told them that we were going to have. So that's part of the process. If you move in and decide to withdraw after a few weeks in the semester it is a cancellation fee plus a per rate fee as well.
- B. Presidents Council: No Report
- C. Items not listed on Agenda: No Report

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

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

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

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

Good evening Food Fanatics,

The Food Services committee met for the first time this semester at our new time. I honestly don't have too much to report about this other than that I strongly encourage you to show up at the meeting now that we have changed the time to make it more accessible. I would love to see more people there and I know that we always have ideas to share, and I want people to see some degree of follow through on the requests that they made. The one thing that I have to report is that I am open to opinions from the group especially on late night and where you believe that it is best moving forward into next year whether that be right now or in passing when you see me so we can make an educated decision. I am making an effort to reach out to non-SGA groups to see their thoughts as well because I want the will of the school not just that of SGA.

- i. Sarah Harrington: Can you just say where the meetings are?
- ii. Adam Carpenter: The meetings are in the DC immediately after you come in at the former friendship table. I will say that you get a free meal if you go to the meeting so that's cool.
- iii. Dan Currier: First, I would recommend that a survey goes out to all students via email. And really explain what both options are for late night and what they really mean because moving to the DC does not mean everything will be there. I have spoken with my constituents as well and they say that they like it in the bistro. They understand going back to the DC but they prefer the food in the bistro.
- iv. Adam Carpenter: I would definitely consider a survey, but I will say that we have a history of sending out surveys with no replies. It's just a Westfield State tradition I guess. But, I'll bring up the prospect of doing that. Whenever I reach out to groups I am explaining both options and what they are and doing a little bit of negotiating to maybe add some appeal to one of the options but we will see where that gets me.
- v. Chris Lannan: I'm all for it being in the bistro again. I love getting late night in the bistro. I will say maybe send out a survey because I know a lot of people who are first years didn't get to try out the DC late night so maybe send out a survey. I know that I am personally in favor of DC late night but I can see the cost benefits of keeping it in the bistro.
- vi. Adam Carpenter: I think it is very important to make it clear what each option will mean. I think that as Dan alluded to it will not solve every problem if we move it over there but we'll try to get a survey together to work it out.
- vii. Aaron Lessing: I know Bill talking about wanting to move it to the DC. I know there are a lot of reasons that we moved it to Bistro. He really made it seem like DC late night could solve all the problems but it causes other problems. Food not being out and there were so many problems with DC late night so I would say that is what is easier for dining services but it is not necessarily what the students want.
- viii. Adam Carpenter: I'm really pushing for education to be out there on both options so I'm aware that there were definitely issues with DC late night as well and it won't be a fix all to move it there.
- 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**

- A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
- B. Curriculum Committee: No Report
- C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): No Report
- D. New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Self-Study Committee: No Report
- E. Campus Academic Master Plan (CAMP): No Report
- F. Parking Control Board: No Report
- G. Parking Appeals Board: No Report

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

- A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report
- B. QSA Report: Levi Ekstrom

QSA will be hosting an event called Speak Up: Trans Day of Visibility Activism. We will be requesting senators to be volunteers. The event is on Wednesday the 29th from 4-8 in the SGA room. Volunteers will sign up for time slots to be at one of 4 booths or a "floater". Volunteers will be asked to stand at the tables and guide students to use the QR codes and answer questions. All information will be provided and QSA exec members will be present to answer questions as well.

Our mission is to engage students in learning about and contacting their state and national representatives about the anti-lgbtq legislation. This will be accomplished with 4 booths and many volunteers. Our event needs volunteers to be Greeters and assist in our program which will include information about anti-lgbtq legislation, and information on how to contact State, and National representatives. Each booth will provide infographics, QR codes, drafts, and resources to find their rep/congressmen.

A great opportunity to get students involved in contacting their reps and being activists. All help is greatly appreciated! I can have the sign-up sheet available at the end of the meeting.

While writing this, 430 Anti-LGBT bills have been created nationally. Now is your time to volunteer and help the student body, Speak Up.

- i. Mikayla Evans: Where and when is it?
- ii. Levi Ekstrom: It is going to be in here from 4-8 tomorrow.
- iii. Ethan Haynes: If you can't make it still write to your congress people and state legislators because a lot of people are under attack and it is really not fair to them.
- iv. Levi Ekstrom: We will be sending out an information sheet afterwards but we would rather people come in person first. We really want to build community before opening up that second option for those who couldn't make it.

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

- A. Finance Committee: Daniel Currier

The Finance Committee met yesterday to review two finance proposals – one submitted on behalf of the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) and one submitted on behalf of the Class Council of 2023. In accordance with the SGA Finance Bylaws, the Finance Committee has rendered an advisory opinion on these finance proposals. The sole power to accept, deny, table, or amend lies with the Legislature. Tonight, you will have the final say on these proposals. I will detail the finance proposals in full and will make a motion for each based on the Finance Committee's recommendation. I encourage you to ask questions and provide comments after I make each motion.

First, we will discuss Finance Proposal S23-003, which was submitted on behalf of QSA, which has a balance of \$114.29 in their club account. QSA has requested \$324.50 for refreshments slated to be served at the Drag Bingo event on Friday, March 31, 2023, which is being cosponsored by QSA, the Campus Activities Board (CAB), the Class Council of 2026, Health Services, and the Title IX Office. The total cost of these refreshments is \$649. In

accordance with the SGA Finance Bylaws, QSA is requesting that SGA cover 50% of these costs.

Upon discussion, the Finance Committee believed the amount requested was reasonable and that QSA should be allocated the full amount requested. By a vote of 3-0-1, the Finance Committee endorsed the proposal.

Therefore, I move to approve Finance Proposal S23-003 and to allocate \$324.50 to QSA.

Motion Carries

Next, we will discuss Finance Proposal S23-004, which was submitted on behalf of the Class Council of 2023, which has a balance of \$2,000 in their club account. The Class Council of 2023 initially submitted a proposal for \$2,333.20 to offset costs associated with their Senior Week, which is slated to be held between May 16th and May 19th. The proposal included the following line-items:

1. \$1,833.20 for bus transportation (at 50% in accordance with the SGA Finance Bylaws) to a yard goats game and a brewery visit.
2. \$500 for live music at the brewery.

Upon the request of representatives from the Class Council of 2023, the Finance Committee removed the \$500 allocation for live music. Thanks to the generous support of other offices, clubs, and the Westfield State Foundation, the Class Council of 2023 has been able to acquire funding for live music at the brewery.

Upon discussion, the Finance Committee believed that covering 50% of transportation costs is reasonable and we are happy to see shared financing across multiple sectors.

Therefore, I move to approve Finance Proposal S23-004 as amended and to allocate \$1,833.20 to the Class Council of 2023. *Motion Carries*

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be this Monday, April 3, 2023 at 3:30pm in Ely 020 (SGA Conference Room). Should you have any questions, please let me know.

B. Foundation Report: Daniel Currier

Good evening, everyone!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed and/or spread the word regarding Give a Hoot Day last week. Thanks to your efforts, we have raised \$67,776 from 431 donors, exceeding our goal of 350 donors. Please note that this amount is likely to increase as the Division of Institutional Advancement receives mailed checks over the course of the week.

The funds raised were designated to the following:

- \$21,509 for athletics
- \$21,220 for the unrestricted Westfield Fund
- \$10,818 for student scholarships
- \$7,020 for the investment and data analytics laboratory
- \$4,195 for the Class of 1969 Scholarship Fund
- \$2,748 for the Student Emergency Fund
- \$1,340 for academic departments

\$236 for the Class of 2023 Senior Gift, though some donors also contributed to the unique campaign page and are not included in this number.

On Tuesday, April 4th, I will be attending a meeting of the Fundraising Committee of the Westfield State Foundation Board of Directors to discuss the successes and areas of improvement from this Give a Hoot Day. Overall, however, I am pleased to see another year with successful fundraising numbers and I hope that we can continue this success for years to come. Although the investment and data analytics lab did not see the fundraising numbers we were hoping for, further dollars should be coming in from financial institutions and I will encourage the new Director of Corporate & Foundation Grants within Institutional Advancement and Associate Dean Morris to seek grants that can offset remaining costs.

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: No Report
- B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: No Report
- C. Owl Ball Committee: No Report
- 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 come up here today and report some of the things that we've been working on as a class council the past couple of weeks. First I am happy to say that we have reached 30% of our fundraising goal for a class gift of a mural. If any seniors are interested in donating, the link is in your emails, as well as located in our class Instagram bio. We have also finalized a senior week schedule and are very excited. The week of activities will start on Tuesday, May 16th and will go until May 19th, graduation day. Students who are living on campus during senior week will be living in University Hall. The events of the week include a trip to a Yard Goats game in Connecticut, tailgating on the green with a BBQ, a glow party and bingo, a spa day & professional graduation photo, as well as a trip to Treehouse Brewery. The link to the tickets can be found in seniors' emails as well as within our Instagram bio. Lastly, I wanted to let all graduating seniors know that cap and gowns are for sale in the bookstore as well as on their website. And check your emails from the registrar's office regarding the commencement ceremony RSVPs.

- 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:

Adam Carpenter: Signature papers for SGA elections are available. You have to rerun for your position if you wish to keep it.

Joseph Bonilla: On Friday, we are hosting the event that I have been mentioning for the last couple of weeks at 8pm in Scanlon hall. We are hosting a drag bingo event. There will be everything from mocktails to specially catered cupcakes, and prizes. There will also be educational aspects to the event. It is really relevant with what Levi mentioned. There have been thirteen states trying and succeeding to pass anti-drag bills in these areas. Recently, a similar event was cancelled in Texas.

Elizabeth Mercer: Thanks to everyone that went to Owl Ball.

Laura Cafaro: Remember to stop by for the QSA sign up sheet.

Chloë Sanfaçon: Since Alan isn't here today. Tomorrow is Westfield Wednesday, wear your Westfield attire.

Dan Currier: I will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday so if you do need me send me a text. I will not be checking emails. Also on Thursday the accounting club will be hosting an event about furthering your accounting education so please stop by if you are interested.

Mikayla Evans: 52 days until commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Loic Black was absent.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm until Tuesday, April 4th.

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