

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
AGENDA**

**Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 @ 5:30pm
Ely 017 (SGA Room)**

- I. ROLL CALL: Iris Cerda and Eri'yan Baker were absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 3, 2023 Minutes were approved
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Nicholas Smith**
Right. News today. Very beautiful presentation from previous crew. So, so thank you again for that. OK, so our open forum on Tuesday, November 2nd in the NPRM, the Multipurpose room. University Hall, This is a space we invited that we this is A space where we invited down members of Residence Life to talk about some issues on campus for Residence Life. We asked them to start researching whether bathroom should be locked or unlocked dorm halls, as well as the dining Commons to talk about all things that you see with students with an open forum. Student engagement is critical. So I encourage you all to spread as much to spread the word as much as possible. Again, it will be No This is a big event where we raise money for breast cancer awareness and interact with the chemist here. As mentioned in a previous meeting, the STA next SK will meet next week when the event starts at 5:30 again in the MPR the beginning. So we will try to get out of here as quick as possible to make sure we get there and support this next part. I recommend you guys get a pen and paper out for you, don't give your. Group bonding this year will be on Friday, November 17th again. The SGA group bonding again Friday, November 17th. We will probably leave the SGA room around 615 inch, so keep that in mind. It will be no I am not waking up early. It will be a bit chilly out, so bring a jacket. I will announce where we're going later in the meeting, but just that's some food for thought for you that engaged. Are there any questions, comments. This Saturday there was an open house from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. SA will will be present at the table, so feel free to stop by and say hello. This open house is an excellent way to interact with potential students, answer questions, and represent what it needs to be an adult. There's also a few other dates this semester, and don't worry, you can't make it up to this one, but it will be a good time to represent Western State University. The Brain. The opening was last Friday and it went very well. It was amazing to learn the history of Parenzo and verify his name. Listening to all the stories from people who perform in the auditorium was also incredible. As I mentioned in my speech, I cannot stress enough that Parenza was genuinely designed with the students at the former point. It looks new, it feels fresh, and it's a beautiful aesthetic to keep students in mind. As I said, I encourage the students to take advantage of it beca Hopefully you all enjoyed the right will be as much as I did and thank you for those who attended the next STA training, which is mandatory for all Senators. OK, mandatory for all senators. Gonna repeat. Senators will be next Friday at 1:40 in the afternoon. If you attended the first training, please keep in mind you do not have to attend again. The date will be October 27th at 1:40 in the SA. It's important to go through this training to get a better sense of what it needs to be part of SGA. I know some of you have gone through the training before, but Adam and I have updated this training to make it more informational and hopefully a bit more fun, at least in my eyes. on that note one last reminder please join the groupme the wooden table by your fingers. Skip. At the beginning, for something quick, you wanna mention something that was brought up last meeting with President Thompson. When President Thompson mentioned the Lamberts Hall scenario, she said it would not happen. I want to reinforce that Western State University at this time has not put an official statement out of the matter. This means the information we have given you an SBA

still stands as of right now. Things have not been decided. It's going to reinforce that to make. All of you? OK? There's been no formal statement made. Lastly, my office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:45 to 2:00 PM in the SGA room. If you need to contact me, feel free to reach out to my e-mail president dot SA dot Westfield dot at westfield.ma.edu or you think that my office which I realized had a number today. 116 or the door with the dog on it. Zero 16, my bad. I got this. I thought about the number like 3 hours ago so.

- i. Adam Carpenter: Just as a point of information, Senator training is very important. As a result, if you not even message me that you cannot make the meeting and schedule a. Make up time with me. I will be charging you with two SGA absences as a result because it's very important and I worked very hard at making it so I get frustrated and people don't show up.
- ii. Nicholas Smith: Two of four SGA absences to be clear
- iii. James Macdonald: When was the training again?
- iv. Nicholas Smith: The training is October 27th at 1:40
- v. Isabella Moniz: Hi so, there will be another training for members who do not attend the 1:40 training.
- vi. Nicholas Smith: It will be like a big Senate training like the first one was supposed to be with this one's going to be here. But yeah, so if you go through this for other personal reasons or whatnot, I'm sure Adam and I would be comfortable setting a separate hour just to set aside and in small groups go over what's happening. So. But if you can make it, please, please, please, please, please attend.
- vii. Jakayla Leary: What was the open house date again?
- viii. Nicholas Smith: The open house is this Saturday, it is from 12-2 and it should be in the DC. SGA will have a table in the DC.
- ix. Daniel Currier: Point of information, the open house starts around 8 o'clock. The thing that Nick is mentioning is in the DC from 12-2 to showcase all the clubs and student involvement opportunities to prospective students. We are being very deliberate this year. So what Nick is requesting of you is to be there from 12-2 promoting SGA
- x. Chris Piro: Is there going to be a discussion panel at any open house like there was last year.
- xi. Kaitlyn Egan: Point of information, yes there is a student panel at every open house with students on it from all walks of campus.

A. Westfield State University interim Provost: **Dr. David Caruso**

Good afternoon, everyone. I hope you're having a productive meeting today. I'm. Need to be here to have a chance to address any issues or questions that you all have and I think like to devote you know most of the time that we have together to that, if that makes sense. And I just want to share a couple of key. Initiatives that are underway on campus, critically important is the development of the campuses next five year strategic plan and the current year we're in is the last year of the plan that was developed five years ago. And so this year we'll be going through a process of developing in the next five year strategic plan which will point you direction of our campus out between 2025 and 2030 sounds kind of amazing to me. And so we're really be looking for ways to engage students in especially student the student government Association and the planning process. And part of that is we are simultaneous well a little bit ahead of that. We've been working on the development of a campus academic master plan. That will feed into the campus strategic plan and cover a lot of the issues in that strategic plan for the whole campus, which is much broader than just the academic arena would. It would include facilities, the whole student fares area and much more than that. There's the campus academic master planning process is getting to the final stage this semester,

should be ready by the end of this semester to be a a set of initiatives that will be considered for inclusion in the in the five years strategic part, which points the direction of both new academic programs. Wanted to build up a new general education program that has just been developed here on campus and that will be rolling out over the next four years beginning next fall and the whole set of issues that. so with that briefing I'm open to any questions or issues this morning raise for me to see if we can discuss.

- i. Sarah Harrington: Can you tell us a little bit about the things that you and Dr. Hearn have been collaborating on.
- ii. *Provost Caruso: So much. A really important orientation that I think benefits all of us here on campus, especially our student body, is that. Kevin Hearne, the new vice president for enrollment management and student affairs, and myself, the vice president for academic affairs, are really committed to working really closely together to address issues that are in front of the campus. We're working with all of our teams that report to each of us to build a culture where rather than two teams it's like go over there as the academic affairs team and over there it's the folks and student affairs and enrollment. Our our, our attitude and orientation is we're all on funding and that's the request on State University team and Kevin and I work really well together. We're I think Kevin's almost as new as me. He's been here just since July 1st, I started in August 1st and we're really In the environment between all the folks in academic affairs and the and the folks in student affairs and the important work we all do together on behalf of the student body.*
- iii. Jack Guindon: Do you have any thought on engaging professors and faculty with students more as this is something that we as student government would really like to see more of?
- iv. Provost Caruso: That's important, and it's something that I'm setting as a priority for working with our department chairs and our Deans and ways that we can get faculty more engaged on campus, I think. One of the issues that I've noticed here is the difficult challenges in front of us in terms of everyone being aware of all the opportunities that already exist. Some of our communication systems aren't as effective as we'd like them to be, so a lot of events and activities on campus that faculty are involved in. I don't necessarily rise to the level of awareness among students body that we would like them to. So that's another aspect of that that we're working on. But it's definitely a goal that we would like to move forward with this year.
- v. Adam Carpenter: With the temporary nature of your position, what do you view as the important things to look for in terms of a new provost?
- vi. Provost Caruso: That the president is currently working on putting together the search committee decisions already been made as to who will Co chair that committee and being final decisions are being made in the membership and then the position will be advertised not too long from now and then we'll have candidates around the country. It will be a national search. We'll. Candidates around the country expressing an interest in it. One of the goals of a person like myself in an interim position like this, which is designed to bring in someone who can help their campus manage through a transition and part of the important expectations that campus will have. And this is certainly how I believed it would be when I agreed to come and and take this interim position. And I'm finding now that I'm here, is that I'm hoping and working on addressing issues that we can. Child issues and challenges that we can address this year that will set the table for the new permanent Provost coming in to get started and get off the ground in a positive way, so. Some of those are the way we're organized in academic affairs. That's an issue that

we're taking a look at. Whether we have the. The personnel in the right places and also how are student success offices? Everything that's under the Center for Student Success and Engagement. All the advising and student success and support student support offices are interfacing with our faculty and making sure that there is a good collaboration going on there so that when a new permanent Provost arrives. That's really rolling in a nice way. There's a whole set of initiatives along those lines that that we'll be working on this year, but that is a real important component of a transition year like this. And the president that has asked me to address a number of issues that we can move forward before the new Provost gets here.

- vii. Nicholas Smith: Thank you so much for coming down, We really appreciate it, especially speaking to us on, you know, the big issues here. My question is, you touched upon it a little bit, but how can student government and help with the five year strategic plan coming forward and what is student engagement in that look like?
- viii. Provost Caruso: President. I'm sure there's the way the strategic planning process will work is we have an external Consulting Group that works with campuses and has a lot of experience helping campuses plan the structure of a strategic planning process. The external consultants aren't here to tell us what we should do, but rather just to help us put together a good structure that collects the right information, that gets the right voices at the table. And certainly an important voice in that is the government association leadership, student government in general and students more broadly. So they'll be a strategic planning steering committee developed. That committee of 25 to 30 people will play a major role in guiding the strategic planning process. Two Co chairs of the committee and they'll be spot on that committee for all the constituencies around the campus. So I think I'm pretty sure there's about five spots for faculty members. There's a number of slots on the designated for students. I'm not sure exactly the number and Wendy's here, maybe she could help if she's on the phone outside. Sorry, but I know there will be spots on the steering committee for students. But a lot of the work the steering committee does, guided by this external Consulting Group who I've met, and they're excellent. Some of you might have met him as well. Is how that committee reaches out to the real members of our community and all the different components of the community tonight as the student body to get input and feedback more broadly. The steering committee is a committee to guide the process, not make final decisions or decide what the data and the input and the information that goes into the that is collected through the whole, usually pretty sophisticated process of getting information through surveys, focus groups. Discussions coming to SGA meetings and asking for input. And so membership on the steering committee will include students but students more generally would be invited into the process of giving input and feedback into the system of developing a new strategic plan.
- ix. Kaolin Westcott: Myself and Sarah are on ACAP working on the academic masterplan, so what are you looking for from us in our work on that committee? Is there anything specific that you would like us to focus on as students?
- x. Provost Caruso: Hope that. You bring your voice strongly to the committee, speak up in committee meetings, disagree without with people when you think it you should, you should be. You should feel on the committee like you're an equal to all the other participants on the campus academic master planning committee. Because you're, you know, some of them are faculty, some of them are academic administrators. They might seem like you know

they're professionals up here, but everyone on the committee should have an equal voice. Your voice matters just as much as anyone on the committee, so I hope I expect the committee members to approve, receive the student voice like that and. And I think you bring a unique perspective that's really important for that campus academic master planning process. I really think thanks. Stronger one of one of the one of the areas that is under is under that conduct committees purview to feed to feed and needed to the to the overall campus master plan your plan and is how do we how do we look and look in the view of the future to new academic programs. Programs and games and concentrations and certificate programs that aren't currently part of part of the of the universities. Programs, grants that we have, we have to offer, to offer, offer. Current student students and future students. To this this institution and I really think that think that student voice is really important in that in that what are the things that you hear from your from your peers and friends that go to their institutions When you look you look at the number of number of different major majors we offer here what's missing. What do you do you see, see out there, out there, there will be important, important in your future career, careers as young, young people. That that. Happy that the campus leadership or ship who are who aren't who aren't. You aren't young people might not be thinking about. Would be really an important role for the voice, the voices to students, students in the in the development of the master planner plan. For overall general university many master plan and the academic camp campus academic Demic master plan. They're purpose system this to point to the future and then and then and it's in it's in a sense where we're working on being on developed developing or being a road map. I always say to save it first step in a spin, a strategic plan is where is where are we now. take a hard look at look at our neighborhood and word and where we are.

- xi. Daniel Currier: One thing that I wanted to discuss was early college and dual enrollment. Do you see any opportunities for expansion to those early college pathways given the area?
- xii. Dr. Caruso: You know. I think you're right. Senioritis is a thing. Everyone in this room is gonna senior in high school. Everyone. Actually, me all. Even us old folks. Of course it was a long time ago. And that's where I think early college can really play an important role in in the lives of young people. So we instead of, you know, the senior year be sort of treading water and waiting for college to start. Let's provide as many opportunities as we can for students to get engaged. Start to start to get engaged in college level learning. Start to collect academic credits that can be applied to their degree so that you know when when they get to college. They can reduce the time to degree if you accomplish enough credits. But also you get to spend time while you're in high school and it really early. College can start in the junior year and our Westfield Promise program does and and so in the junior year students are taking classes in high school. Where the their instructors are. The high school teacher made it up with a university professor from Westfield State and the Extra and they're called. I'm blanking on what they're called, but they're those are courses that have enhanced content so they can actually count for both high school credit and college credit and the junior year in high school. Preparing those students to come to take senior level college

classes on campus, we're working. I know that our. Government in the student Success center that works on both of those programs is working hard to build new partnerships with additional high schools to offer those services and those courses more broadly all around Western Mass. And I think a couple of new high schools are coming on board during this academic year. We, I know our President Thompson is really committed to early college experiences and dual enrollment. Dual enrollment opportunities and high school students in around the area have a lot they're there are many institutions that offer dual enrollment especially and I think something some of the things that we do are unique and special and should be really attractive to the to students in the high schools that we collaborate with. But it's definitely an institutional priority for us and it's a priority in Massachusetts. The state, the department, Department of Higher Education is really asking the public institutions in our state to focus on early college and we're really taking up that challenge. We consider it really important.

xiii. Sarah Harrington: We're officially halfway through the semester as of this week. Just wanted to know about like what you've been up to, any achievements that you want to brag about?

xiv. Provost Caruso: It's been it's been a learning a real learning curve for me to get. Especially, you know, I worked at another one of the state universities in the role of Provost before, so I kind of knew how the State University system works. Things like that. But of course, being new to this campus, I didn't know the people. I didn't know nation. You and the others in this room, part of that. And so I've really made an effort during these. First, I've been here about 10 weeks, I guess this is starting 9/11 here on campus to really spend time getting to know the key people around the campus and all the departments and leadership roles. And having people have an opportunity to get to know me and get to know how I work with people, How how my expectations for myself and for my service to them would be delivered, we one of the things that I have explained to the folks that I work with and meet with on campus, both inside and outside the academic. Is that people? I think often. Miss perceived the role of academic administrators like Provost, vice president, Sedins, assistant vice president. And they think, well, the person up there is like, you know, like I I report to that person. I work for him or her, and I really think, especially in higher education, it's the opposite. I I work for the faculty and on behalf of the faculty, my job is to make it possible for our faculty to have a productive, exciting, and vibrant career here at Worcester State College and do the best they can possibly do for our students and our student body, both the current students and prospective students over the years. Need to work with the campus community to communicate that message and to have people feel comfortable with how open I am to receive, to hear from them what they need me to do for them.

xv. Sarah Harrington: Worcester was your previous institution

xvi. Provost Caruso: I worked at Worcester State University as the provost for 5 years and then served as interim provost.

B. Director of the Course Achievement, Retention & Engagement Center and Director of Academic Advising and Transfer Transition: **Nicole West & Dr. Robert Thorton**

A. Thank you all so much. That's everybody doing. We are at Midway. OK next week is the middle of the term. Midterm starts off you're gonna start feeling this sense of Oh my God, well

this semester and you might start to find that you need some support in your courses So the course achievement retention engagement center or care center to steer to support you with that new this semester instead of the workshops, we used to have academic strategies workshops that were hosted by us in the Banacos academic Center that were at certain times. We know that you don't want to wait for a workshop to potentially get the help that you need for exam preparation, study skills, time management, have it building all of that stuff. So instead what we're doing is creating those in a one-on-one session. We have three staff members, two Gravis assistants and an MSW intern who are here to support students one-on-one Monday through Thursday via. Or in person, where you can talk to them about whatever it is that you might be needing in order to support your success here at the. You can find size in 360. If you need to book an appointment with them, you can e-mail us at care at Westfield na.edu. We'll send you a helpful little video that will show you how to make an appointment with them so that you can meet with them at any point if one of them isn't available. Joseph Seal, Margie Rodriguez and myself were also available for anybody. All of us are trained to provide students with the support that they need the minute they feel that they need at. We're also going to be engaging with faculty members, so the mid semester progress report will go out. So how many of you have ever gotten an e-mail from W2360? Kudos saying keep up the great work, great job. Yes, how many of you may have in this one? You don't have to show commands, you can just sign up. But we also sent emails out to students who may not be doing well in their courses. They may be missing in late assignments. They might be but not participating in the classroom discussion, which many of our courses require that as a portion of your grade. When you get that e-mail, it allows you to follow up with the faculty member, but then also see how to meet with one of us. How to see us in WC 360 Book an appointment with us at a time that works best for you, so that you can be as successful as possible in the current courses that you're in. So the mid semester progress report will actually go live to faculty this coming Monday. So your faculty are actually going to be asked to tell us how you're doing, and we do that so that that progress survey will close on November 6th, giving us plenty of time between that date and the November 21st course withdrawal deadline. How many of you have ever really felt like this course is way too much and it's making me struggle and all the other classes? OK, so the university has of course withdrawal process and policy that allows you to withdraw from a course at this point during the term in order to manage your other courses in a better way so that your GPA stays nice and high so that you don't fall in academic warning. Any questions about the care center and the things that we do. We are also offering care packages. These are workshops, so we haven't totally done, done, done away with workshops, but our workshops are now in collaboration with other offices. If you find us on Presence, you are the network, you can see our organization there and the three upcoming there packages. Four actually, if you include the one with the advising center. So we have one next tomorrow the emotional care package Charlotte Symphony Amaya from Trio will come over and do some mindfulness stress reduction exercises from 2:30 to 3:30 and then next week. We have Kelly Tom from Health Services coming to talk about your physical Wellness and how it impacts your academics. How many of you have gotten sick since you've been here? Got called. Yeah. So Kelly's

going to come and talk about how to make sure that you're checking in with yourself physically so that you can be doing well academically. Then on the 30th of October, we'll be partnering with the advising center to do an academic advising. Package. And then in November we have a follow up to our social care package with the counseling center to talk about relationship building and conflict resolution and things like that.

- i. Nick Smith: I know that it is an experience that many of us can relate to feeling very overwhelmed in a class. Do you have any CARE center certified advice?
- ii. Nicole West: So we want you to come and talk to us. So before you judge up in withdrawal from the class, make sure that you're having a conversation with your faculty. I'm sure again, everyone in the room could relate to feeling like you're doing so much worse. And of course that when you actually talk to the professor, they give you some insight that you might actually be OK in the class. You still have plenty of opportunities to make that some missed work or get back on track. So if you are feeling like you're in that position, don't just make a rash decision to just say I gotta get out of it. Sometimes we are faced with a problem and the instinct is to just get rid of the problem and eliminate the problem. Talk to someone first, see what we can do in order to support you, because that will help you grow and learn for the next time. One semester of struggle. It's not it. It's going to happen again and again. So it's better to develop some skills and some resiliency around those topics before you just jump ship. That's my advice.
- iii. Laura Cafaro: Where is the CARE Center located?
- iv. Nicole West: Great question! So we are a part of the center for student success and engagement but we sit outside of that physical space and we're actually up in the library on the second floor of the library. So many people will go up to the second floor of early and trying and access, you can't. You have to go into the library and up to the second floor like you're going to want to study hall rooms and we're up there and we have this big open space, that space is open for you to use even if you're not meeting with anybody. If you have found that you need different space in the library t And we're getting some updates to space so that we have more charging ports because we heard last year Chloe, who was the student representative to the board of 50s like that lives here and they're working on that facilities will be helping us out.
- v. Kaolin Westcott: hi hi so kill muscat my question is for students that are maybe taking 12 credits that might still be feeling overwhelmed and need that extra help or may possibly be feeling like they need to withdraw but are on financial aid what are some tips that you have for them because i know a lot of students on this campus are fall under financial aid?
- vi. Nicole West: Great Question! So we always tell students to have a conversation with financial aid if they're worried that any of their aid is going to be impacted by the decision to withdraw from a course. We can reasonably say right now that if a student were to block drop below 12 credits, it would not impact the financial aid package that they have for this current term or the next current term. What it could impact is their long term aid at the end of every academic year, and this is definitely something I welcome you to invite someone to speak to the students from Financial Aid, so I'm going to try and make sure I've categorized all this or summarize it. At the end of every academic year, Financial Aid reviews the amount of credits that you've earned compared to the amount of credits you've attempted. If you've earned 67% of the attempted, then you're fine and

you've done your passport. You'll receive a financial aid package for the next academic year. If you fall below 67%, you may be asked to complete an appeal. It's a very simple online appeal process. And Simone will tell you that historically students who appeal are typically granted their first appeal and given the opportunity to get that percentage up. OK. So financial aid can give a better explanation of that, but that's the background of the financial aid. That's why on the course withdrawal form. Students are required to not only sign it and have the instructor sign it, but the course withdrawal form does require an adviser to sign it. We recommend that when you go to your advisor to have them sign it, you don't decide here. Can you sign this. You actually should be asking them questions. What does this mean for my graduation timeline? How could this potentially affect my financial aid? That's why that signature is on there. If you feel as though that conversation should be had with a professional advisor and the advising center. In the care center, if you're part of Urban Education Trio Student Support Services, that advisor can sign it as well too as your advisor. It doesn't need to be your faculty advisor, it doesn't say faculty advisor, it just says advisor. Makes sense?

Dr. Thornton: Coming up first very quickly. So as Nikki mentioned, we're having a advising care collaboration next week. We encourage any students to have any questions about the advising and registration process to attend that care package session next week on Monday from 3:35 or 3:30 to 4:30. We're also hosting A advising and registration tutorial session of a majority of our incoming first year. Students may have had something very similar to this during the New Student orientation in September. So we're running a similar workshop again on November 1st. We'll talk about how do you go through the Midwest will process, how do you identify classes to take and what are some of the other tips and tricks to navigating and successful advising and registration. So we're definitely going to encourage our first year students to to attend because this is their first time exploring this process. So if there's any questions though our advising center located in the newly renovated Parenzo Hall, first floor, Room 163 and you soon is welcome to come in and ask the pro advisor or peer advisor questions about advising orchestration. Should I withdraw? Should I take 18 credits next semester? Hey, I wanna switch my major. How do I do that? I wanna declare a minor any of that information we can address. Speaking of withdrawal and Nikki did a really good job capturing the process. November 21st is the deadline for full course semester withdraw. We really want you to have a conversation with somebody, especially a professional advisor or a faculty advisor, about what's the implications of withdrawing. How does that impact my degree progress? What does that look like for financial aid? How do I navigate this so that I'm not doing the same thing over and over? So we strongly encourage students to have that conversation. Our office is open. No judgment, no questions. Let's talk about it. Let's walk through this process together. How do you do this? Where do I start so we can address those questions and you know, the dates, the deadlines? They hit us quickly in this midterm. So if you're in a Special admissions Opportunity Program, if you're an honor student, may the odds of being your favorite this week. Seniors this Friday, you know they're being in favor juniors next week. Good luck when we get down to the sophomores in the first year, since we know how challenging it is to try to find open and available seats, especially if you're looking for specific courses. Our Advising Center is ready and available to try to address those questions and concerns, even after November 13th. Web registration is going to. In open until November 28th, so students have some time to make some decisions if if we have to pivot or navigate finding that 5th class. So we're gonna be open, available, we're gonna market our open walk in hours within the next few weeks and what that

looks like, so I cannot emphasize. That's enough. Please talk to either professional or Faculty Advisor if you're considering something like a course withdrawal.

- B. SGA Advisors:
- C. President's Council:
- D. Items not listed on the Agenda:

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: *Daniel Currier*

The Board of Trustees met last Wednesday and held seven committee meetings and one full Board meeting over the course of a marathon ten-and-a-half hour long session. I can't possibly report on everything from this meeting, but I would like to note some of the most important items discussed and motions agreed to:

- Dr. Hearn presented on his current strategy to stabilize and grow our institutional enrollment through admission and retention efforts. These include the introduction of regional admissions events, engaging alumni in virtual events, moving tours to Parenzo Hall, and being aggressive with our marketing. The Board is pleased with the direction Dr. Hearn is going in, and we hope these efforts will yield positive enrollment numbers for the University.

- The Office of Strategic Marketing & Communications will soon be selecting a vendor for a campus branding study, which students will have an opportunity to engage in over the course of the academic year. Further improvements to the University website will be made, particularly to academic department and student life webpages, and new print materials will also be developed.

- The Board heard from Dr. Lamis Jarvinen, Executive Director for the Research, Innovation, Design & Entrepreneurial (RIDE) Center, regarding this new space and the opportunities that will be available for students. I highly encourage all of you to check out this new space on the Western Avenue side of the first floor of Parenzo Hall. This space truly speaks to the institution's commitment to offering a relevant, 21st century curriculum to its students.

- Provost Caruso shared with the Board information concerning undergraduate and graduate programs in development. These include bachelors degrees in green entrepreneurship, business analytics, data analytics, interdisciplinary studies, and interdisciplinary arts; and masters degrees in athletic training, public health, nurse practitioner, psychology, and business administration. The Board is excited to see the development of these programs that will be beneficial to future students and the University.

- Proposed changes were shared regarding Graduate & Continuing Education. Those that were here in 2021 may recall that UEAAC - a committee organized to investigate redundancies and improve efficiencies across the campus - recommended that the College of Graduate & Continuing Education cease to exist, with operations transferred to multiple areas. Since that time, numerous issues have been noted by faculty, staff, and students with regard to this area, thus the Provost is recommending that a new Dean of Graduate & Continuing Education be hired to support this area.

- The Board approved the FY24 operating budget and \$2 million in separate strategic investments requested by the Cabinet to be used to support enrollment stabilization and growth, institutional economic health, and campus culture. Full details of how this funding was spent will be shared during the December Board meeting.

- Finally, Dr. Pierce shared a revised University JEDI Statement for Board approval that is more inclusive of all community members. The Board voted unanimously to adopt this statement.

The Investment Subcommittee of the Financial Affairs Committee will be meeting this Friday at 1:30pm in the Horace Mann Center to discuss third-quarter investment updates and our strategy going forward. You are able to livestream this meeting at westfield.ma.edu/live.

- i. Kaitlyn Egan: I just. I guess I just want to say that I think that the continuing. Would be a really good idea. I'm in the masters program for the four plus one for criminal justice, and getting into it would be really hard because I didn't know who to talk to and I thought that could be discouraging students from continuing their education here. That's a great program, but a lot of people don't know about it because of the lack of a lack of staff. They didn't even have a space last year. so just like having that like more formal more formal space with elective professionals who would be really helpful. It's a really great program but just not a lot of people know about it.
- ii. Daniel Currier: I know that right now the email that you can use for all graduate related questions is graudate@westfield.ma.edu. The university is focusing a lot on the marketing of graduate programs and the internal marketing to students. That is an area that we need to grow. Another area that was noted in this was getting graduate students to be able to be more engaged on campus. This is a priority that we will be focused on both internally and externally in CGCE. The board fully agrees that there needs to be a Dean for this area but there is disagreement about whether associate deans are necessary.
- iii. Austin Morgan: You mentioned something about campus culture, could you just expand on that please?
- iv. Daniel Currier: This is really twofold. One with the students and the other is with the employees. You may recall that Dr. Freeman mentioned that when he came here it was really like a shellshock for him. Seeing the trauma among employees and students from some of our institutional problems. They are looking to enhance campus culture. They are recognizing the achievements of students and faculty alike.
- v. Kaolin Westcott: This is more of a point of information about the graduate student issues. So we have had a lot of grad students reaching out to myself and Dan already this semester and I have been working with Laura on finding a point person for them and that point person is Jess Tansey. So if you know any grad students who are having issues please have them reach out to her.
- vi. Chris Piro: Can you talk a little bit about what VP Pierce's report was about?
- vii. Daniel Currier: There were two segments of Dr. Pierce's report. The first was about the updated JEDI statement. There will be an update to the diversity and inclusion tab on the Westfield website in order to make it a more inclusive statement. The second part of the meeting was with Trish Bonica who is the associate vice-president for HR. She shared with the board information concerning investigations whether that be title IX, equal opportunity, or whatever it is. How many issues there were and the nature of them. This was all included in those sections of the reports.

A. All University Committee:

B. Student Advisory Council: **Daniel Currier**

The Student Advisory Council met last Thursday and heard from various Department of Higher Education officials on their initiatives before voting on its Executive Board. These initiatives include campus safety and sexual assault prevention, open educational resources, student basic needs security, and financial aid. We also heard from Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega, who discussed his priorities for the academic year.

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

Good Evening everyone, I am Jack Guindon the VP of student life. I do have a serious point to address at the start of my report. Yesterday Turning point was here doing there freedom of speech ball event. As a public campus they are allowed to be here. I just wanted to

remind everyone if you interact with any political group on campus to do so as you the student not as a sga member, as we do not want to speak for the whole. We should also only engage with these groups in a respectful way even if you disagree with them or they are not being so. SGA does not stand for hate or making people feel unwelcome. And SGA does not want to shut down political speech on campus, unless it becomes violent or is just hateful speech disguised as political. As we should encourage students of all views to express them in a respectful way to each other and engage politely. As SGA can not stop people from being on the green as we are a public campus, we should also not stop political discussion.

The next think I have is, A big update. Yesterday evening the DC placed all the packers with allergens listed for all stations. This is a big step as they now tell everyone the top 9 allergens that are in the DC. But I still hope to have them tell students all ingredients as some students are allergic to things not in the top 9. And students should have the right to know what is in all the food they eat. On my last dinning note Adam and I meet with bill and Chris last week to discuss meal plans. Adam will update everyone after my report on what was discussed during this meeting.

The next think is I would like to Thank everyone who helped at the scarecrow building comp last week. Sadly, the SGA scarecrow did not win, but next year I have a plan and we will win.

I do have a few Shuttle updates, currently I am looking into a company whose app would track the shuttle, and a company who will install the tracker. This is one of my biggest projects going forward so I will keep all of you in the loop.

- i. Austin Morgan: As someone with a lot of Allergies it is appreciated all that you do to get allergens and I can actually know what it is in the food.
- ii. I wrote it in my report but I kind of skipped over it. I am still going to be pushing dining to get Nutra slice and the website up. I am looking for it to list all of the ingredients and not just the top 9 in order to make sure that all students know what it is that is in their food.
- iii. Isabella Moniz: Can we go over the top 9 allergens that we are speaking about?
- iv. Sarah Harrington: The top 9 allergens refer to milk, peanuts, eggs, shellfish, soy, wheat, sesame, tree nuts, fish.
- v. Jack Guindon: And the DC is fully peanut free.
- vi. Isabella Moniz: What about tree nuts?
- vii. Jack Guindon: I will get back to you on that.
- viii. Kaolin Westcott: So they cater to most tree nuts however things like coconut and whatnot they still have in the DC.
- ix. Jack Guindon: It would be impossible to ban all allergens but once we have the Nutra slice system and the menus up students will be able to see all the ingredients so they can plan around their allergies.
- x. Kaolin Westcott: Just to continue that conversation, for the students that have more niche allergies, they instruct you to talk to one of the administrators to get into contact with their dietician. We have a dietician on campus that can help you to work with that.
- xi. Jack Guindon: The dietician comes on Wednesdays for the most part.
- xii. Chris Piro: People have approached me thankful for the allergens being listed on the placard, so I just want to reiterate what Austin said and say thank you.
- xiii. Jack Guindon: It definitely was a process but it is nice to see that we are making progress.
 - A. Student Affairs Committee:
 - B. Food Services Committee: **Adam Carpenter**

Good evening all,

I come to you with just a few updates this week for you that were discussed at food services as well as the supplementary meeting that Jack, the VP of Student life and I had with the Chris from Reslife and Bill from dining. I will start off with food services because that has significantly less to discuss. The first thing is that they will be introducing a hot and cold cider options to owl café. The other major thing that they discussed was that dining was told that they were going to be asked to take a lot on for the upcoming open-house in terms of dining operations. They will be having an expanded amount of selections and some more exciting foods than you would normally see on a Saturday. They made the claim that it all things that they would normally serve but it would just be more specialty things will be being served at the same time but that is an issue that we've discussed in the past so I will be keeping a very close eye on the offerings. Now moving on to the meal plan discussion that Jack and I had. The main topics that Jack and I wished to discuss were giving more flexibility to dining plans and to discuss the "Unlimited" dining plan. The key takeaways from this meeting were the possibility of a Hoot 7 plan replacing the Hoot 5, the possibility of a block meal plan to replace the gold ten in which you get 160 meals to spend throughout the semester at your discretion, and finally that donating guest swipes or meal swipes is impossible because they are not a real currency attached to a cash value equivalent and they are not factored into the cost of your meal plan. They seemed receptive to ideas and excited to see the results yielded by our open forum. I think that this was a good starting point but Jack and I still have work to do.

- i. Jack Guindon: I was wondering if you could elaborate on what you mean by the unlimited meal plan not really being unlimited?
- ii. Adam Carpenter: Of course, So the unlimited meal plan is actually stating that the amount of swipes that you have in the DC per meal period is unlimited. So you really have 18 meal swipes per week. It is referred to as an unlimited meal plan as of right now but I have been working now for about a month to get them to change the name of the meal plan to be more reflective of what it is that you are actually getting. We are currently in the process of deciding on a new name for the plan.
- iii. Daniel Currier: I first off want to commend dining services for not saying that it is a part of the rotation as they have said in the past. That's always a good sign. The second part though is about the dollar value of a meal plan. I remember all last year when we were having conversations about dining dollars and a threshold to go over before it was considered to be dining dollars and underneath would be considered a meal swipe. So I guess I'm just a little bit confused as an accounting major how that makes any sense.
- iv. Adam Carpenter: Basically your dining dollars are given a 1:1 value in terms of cash when they are factoring in the amount of your meal plan and the cost of that total meal plan. So for every addition dining dollar that we were to add onto a meal plan the price would go up by a dollar. The same can not be said about a meal swipe. Despite the fact that if you were to be paying in cash they would have a certain value attached to them. Which doesn't make perfect sense to me but this is what I have been given as information which I can report on. The additional dimension when it comes to calculating the price of a meal plan is that they use something that they refer to as the missed meal factor which is basically that they are betting on the fact that you are not going to use all of your meal swipes when they are calculating the price of your meal plan. So that is kind of the background that I can provide to you. I'm not a finance bro so I don't have all the information numbers wise.
- v. Daniel Currier: I would recommend that you would meet with Steve Taksar and other people in the accounting field so they can

figure out where the numbers come from because there is a value attached to a meal swipe if you think about it, even if there is that meal factor.

- vi. Adam Carpenter: I am currently in the process of getting the formula of sorts for how they calculate the price of a meal plan so that I can work and use that to determine what the value of a meal swipe is to then further my discussion and maybe have a little bit of a leg to stand on if we were going to continue that discussion on donating meal swipes in the future. Despite being told that it is impossible, I would like to further consider that option and see what we can do to make it possible.
- vii. Sarah Harrington: When Bill and Sarah came to our exec meeting, they mentioned that rice bowls are more than a meal swipe to make them so obviously a meal swipe does have value. I guess that I understand not donating our guest swipes but I know that our dining dollars roll over from semester to semester but a lot of people don't use all of them or raid the marketplace at the end of the semester. Would it be possible to donate those additional dining dollars since they have a cash value?
- viii. Adam Carpenter: I brought that up in the meeting and Bill said that would be a possibility because they already sort of do that with the food pantry. You can donate your dining dollars at the moment in the marketplace to buy goods for the food pantry but they discussed the possibility of students being able to form some sort of reserve which could be used to provide students with meals whether that be over breaks or just in general.
- ix. Isabella Moniz: I mentioned this last week in the meeting if there was any discussion about possibly lowering the cost of the meal plans for students who have to stay for extended periods of time such as over breaks?
- x. Adam Carpenter: If I'm being honest, I forgot to bring that up during our meeting. I will follow up on it during food services and get back to you with an answer.
- xi. Chris Piro: I'm actually pleased to here that the DC is actually going to serve good food for once. I want further elaboration on what you mean by a block structure for a meal plan. So there are 16 weeks in a semester so there are 160 meals. Would that just be ten meals a week and be the same as the gold plan?
- xii. Adam Carpenter: Basically, nothing would change about the total amount of meals that are being provided. The aspect that would be changing is the flexibility which you would be given with those meals. So in a block meal plan style, you would be able to use your meals at any time during the semester rather than being locked into the week they are assigned to. For example, with the ten gold right now you have 10 meal swipes per week. In a block meal plan if you so chose you could swipe into the DC 160 times in a week and you would have no more meal swipes for the semester. That's an extreme example but it really shows a lot about how the system works. It is more like a bank for the semester of meal swipes and you can use it at your discretion because there are meals when students will eat 5 meals for the week and others where they eat 15 in a week. This allows the student to use the meal plan in a way that more closely matches with their schedule.
- xiii. Chris Piro: Would we also have the same amount of dining dollars or would that change as well?
- xiv. Adam Carpenter: The dining dollars would remain the same because those are already sort of in a block structure. They would also continue to roll over between semesters if you had extras.
- xv. Nick Smith: I just want to say to all of you that these are all positive things and I can't emphasize enough going to food

services on Fridays at 1:40 and also at the Town Hall that we are hosting we will be discussing those topics and bringing down dining.

- xvi. Adam Carpenter: I agree, if you have anything bring it up at that open forum. I would urge you to stay more procedural and not say like specific food items that you either liked or didn't like. We are trying to look at dining operations through a systematic lens on how we can improve the dining experience for all students. But if you have any dining related concerns, that is a great opportunity where you can address those concerns directly to dining so I am not operating as the middle person. As Nick said it is always great to have more people at food services and it is open to people outside of SGA as well so if you have any friends who have any complaints have them go there for a direct pipeline. This prevents me from being a passing point and will better allow for complaints to be addressed as they come up. Also Bill is very open about giving out his phone number to get complaints addressed immediately so if you would like it, I'm sure that he is happy to provide it at some point.
- C. Substance Advisory Committee:

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: **Sarah Harrington**

Hi everyone! The Advisory Committee for Academic Planning or ACAP met this Thursday at 8:50 AM. Kaolin and I were in attendance. One of my classes overlaps with the end of the meeting so Kaolin will be updating me each meeting on what I missed. We reviewed the themes put together by the committee last year to see where we can reconstruct and organize. Interest was expressed in combining themes 1 and 3. Theme 1 is Innovation Pedagogy and High Impact Practices. Theme 3 is Cutting Edge Facilities. That is actually all that I have for today surprisingly. My email is vpacademiclife.sga@westfield.ma.edu. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:30 and Fridays from 12:30-1:30. Thank you!

- i. Dan Currier: *I was just wondering if you could detail what the timeframe of that plan would be and what kind of ideas are that plan so far? The campus academic master plan specifically.*
- ii. Sarah Harrington: *We are trying to have the plan done by the end of the year.*
- iii. Daniel Currier: *The timeframe of the plan. Like the strategic plan is from 2025-2030. Is there a timeframe like that for this and what are some of the things that they want to focus on for the plan?*
- iv. Kaolin Westcott: *As of right now the timeframe will be the same as the strategic master plan. The only caveat is that we have until the beginning of December to get that done. Right now, we are going through everything that was presented last December because of the formatting and some of the themes we were not happy with. At our next meeting we will be determining what themes and topics we are going to be going forward with. That's all that we have so far right now.*

A. Academic Policies Committee:

B. Curriculum Committee:

C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE):

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT EQUITY: **Joseph Bonilla**

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE: **Kaolin Westcott**

Finance Committee met for the first-time last Thursday the 12th. We went over general procedures and expectations. The committee is comprised of James McDonald, Angela Hayes, Brandon Rita, and Miles Jordan.

Our first finance proposal we will be working on will be this Thursday at 3:30. Our suggestions will be presented to senate next Tuesday the 24th .

- A. Finance Committee:
- B. Foundation Report:
- C. ITSAC Report:

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

I hope you all had a great homecoming weekend and enjoyed the events and activities on campus. CAB has been putting together events starting Friday throughout the weekend. On Friday from 8pm-11pm there will be a haunted house event in Lammers Hall. On Saturday from 12pm- 2pm there will be a candy crawl, from 8pm-9pm there will be bingo in Scanlon, and a costume party from 9:30-12am in Scanlon. Sunday is Mike's Maze pick up in front of Scanlon from 1-5pm and a drive in movie in Dower Lot from 7pm-9pm.

- I. Austin Morgan: As a point of information, there is going to be another haunted house from 5:30-9:30 for the Westfield Community so there are going to be kids on campus just as a heads up.
- II. Sarah Harrington: Will that be available to students on Wednesday?
- III. Nick Smith: Point of information, to volunteer yes, but it is for the Westfield community so you are not going to be going through the haunted house unless you are going to be a scare actor. We can talk about that later because it is really about community engagement that day.

- A. Neighborhood Advisory Board:
- B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report:
- C. Owl Ball Committee:
- D. Blue Key Committee:

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: **Adam Carpenter**

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Ethan Haynes**

A. Rules and Regulations Committee: Ethan Haynes
Rules and Regs met today. We went over some basic procedures and we did approve the constitutions for the Yearbook club and the Carribean Student Union. We also took a look at the first-generation student affinity groups constitution and it looks good pending a few changes. We look to get that done as soon as possible.

- B. Constitutional Review Committee:

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Commuter Council:
- B. Senior Class:
- C. Junior Class:
- D. Sophomore Class: **Justin Wald**

Hello everyone, I am pleased to announce that the Class of 2026 is in the works for a large event this semester in collaboration with Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Dr. Hearn. In my meeting with him we discussed new ideas to implement into the event like extending it to a whole week as well as adding a donation and competition aspect to it in the spirit of giving and being selfless. Our aim with this donation and competition aspect is to give back to the community and those in need by working on the Westfield spirit and competitiveness. The end goal is to get enough clothes, footwear, food, money, or time donated to show how much we as students here and part-time residents of Westfield care about the greater community. Dr. Hearn expressed a competitive nature but also a very caring and compassionate

one, and my hope is that all of those who participate show the very same compassion and competitiveness. The messaging for the event is giving back but also to get those who feel like they are a part of this community to participate and show that they are a part of it. The competitive aspect will be in the form of teams like Residence halls, classes, departments on campus, administrative divisions, and other offices but these have not been set in stone. Another plan we discussed which was on the lighter side is that we want to do our best to get students, faculty, and staff to wear the most laid back or pajama type clothes they can muster on the day of the big event, which is Friday, December 1st. Hopefully something like this can be achieved in some way. With all that now out of the way, I move to appoint Travis McLoughlin as a Representative to Senate of the Class of 2026 for the 2023-2024 academic year. *Motion Passes*

- i. Dan Currier: I am very excited about the event that you have planned with Dr. Hearn. I will note that in the past as a sort of pre-Covid thing there was hoot day or even hoot week. That is something that you would maybe want to bring back as the name for your event.

E. First Year Class: **Jakayla Leary**

Hi, good afternoon my name is Jakayla Leary, class 2027 representative to senate, last Friday afternoon our class council discussed the agenda and our first event, we are planning an event where students can come and decorate recycle bins to encourage more of a clean campus, while making it into a fun activity and collaborating with other programs on campus. I will have more information on that coming soon! There have also been student concerns still regarding bathrooms, which I will be reaching out to residents life about. Thank you all for your time.

- i. Adam Carpenter: As an RA myself, can you elaborate a little bit further on what the specific bathroom concerns are?
- ii. Jakayla Leary: In Courtney, there is a gender neutral bathroom that you lock it from the inside but you can still get in. And in Davis there are still broken with just getting in.
- iii. Nick Smith: If you are going to continue with this issue, I would advise that you work with the hall reps for that area, but I don't think we have any in those buildings at the moment but more for the future.
- iv. Jack Guindon: I am meeting with Reslife tomorrow morning so if you could see me after the meeting, I'll write them down and make sure that they get addressed.
- v. Dan Currier: I will note that there is a Maintenance request form on myhousing that students could send in. I know that isn't something that students all know about.

- F. Apartment Complex:
- G. Courtney Hall:
- H. Davis Hall:
- I. Dickinson Hall:
- J. Lammers Hall:
- K. New Hall:
- L. University Hall:
- M. Representative at Large

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Elizabeth Mercer: Kelly from Health Services is partnering with Stop and Shop pharmacy for a walk in flu clinic tomorrow from 10am-2pm in Uni 003

Dan Currier: The accounting and finance club in collaboration with the business club will be having a resume writing workshop in the owls nest on Thursday.

Kaolin Westcott: If anyone is interested in helping out with any of the CAB events this week just reach out.

Alan Blair: Tomorrow is Westfield Wednesday, wear your swag.

Kaitlyn Egan: 213 days until commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Iris Cerda and Eri'yan Baker were absent

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm until October 24th.

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