

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Ely 017 (SGA Room)

Boohoo Halloween meeting

I. ROLL CALL: Timothy Allen, Jakayla Leary, Eri'Yan Baker, Miles Jordan were absent

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 24, 2023 *Minutes were approved*

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Nicholas Smith**

Before I begin my report, I want to speak to you all on behalf of something that happened this weekend. This is a challenging matter to discuss, so if you want to step out for a second or need to at any point, I invite you to feel comfortable doing so and will allow you to do so now.

As I am sure you all know, we unfortunately lost a student over the weekend. This is a ripple that we are all feeling through our whole community, and I wanted to process it for a second with you all. First and foremost, this is always a challenging topic to mention, so I want to do so respectfully and delicately. It is always hard when we lose a member of our community, so I want to remind you all that there are people here for you to talk to, listen to, or process with you if you need anything. Please give yourself some time to focus on what you need to, and make sure you are being kind to yourself. On behalf of SGA, we would like to share our deepest condolences to anyone this may have affected, and we are here for you all. Also, there are campus resources like the interfaith center, counseling center, the TELUS health app, or even going to a trusted faculty or staff member, or even reaching out to a friend or a roommate. If you need help getting connected to this

source, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone in this room you may trust, and we can connect you where you need to.

I would also like you all to join me in a moment of silence, which we will be doing now.

Thank you,

For the rest of my report. We are going to a Thunderbirds game on November 17th at 6:15 p.m. We are going to be taking a bus. This will be our senate bonding this year, so I encourage you to sit with people you typically don't sit next to and just enjoy the night.

Something else I wanted to mention is the open forum is this Thursday in the MPR room in the university hall. Again, Thursday, November 2nd, at 6 p.m. in the MPR room. We will have light refreshments, desserts, fruit and cheese, and crackers. Please keep making sure to tell all your friends, roommates, and professors about this event so we can make sure there are as many people there as we can get. SGA hosting an open forum is a big event, so please represent us in all your fantastic fashion. You must attend, being you are all members of SGA. So please make sure to be there, and make sure to ask good critical questions! You all have great thoughts and ideas we get to share every week, so this is your time to mention ideas you may have to others.

Next off we have the turkey drive which is an annual event that we put on as an SGA starting tomorrow November 1st. We are collecting cash donations in order to buy food for families in need. In this process,

we will need help from senate. Typically, we go around to dorm halls and to academic buildings and ask for money from professors, faculty, staff, and students. This is brought back to SGA everyday and that helps with our collection. We have a sign up sheet that you can sign up after the meeting for different buildings and areas that you can help to collect money on. Each Executive board member is also going to sign up for a building and you can team up with one of us. We are also doing tabling in the DC which is a new format for the turkey drive this year. The tabling will also be a collection for the turkey drive. There is also the turkey trot this weekend which has already collected over \$300 so far.

Lastly, I like all the costumes in the crowd; you all look great! Thanks for dressing up, and Happy Halloween! Fun fact: the next SGA meeting to be on Halloween if we keep the meeting time as the current Tuesdays, will be in 2028.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: Daniel Currier

Continued progress is being made on the project I am working on to centralize student job postings on our campus. The Career Center has been reviewing the feasibility of posting student jobs via Handshake – the platform that we use to advertise internships and full-time opportunities to our students. This review will include an assessment of whether individual departments can be created on the platform and post their students jobs, both work study and trust fund positions, from their department pages on Handshake.

I will be meeting with Junior Delgado, Director of the Career Center, tomorrow to discuss their progress and our next steps. These next steps are likely to include getting buy-in from Cabinet and the Student Affairs Committee along with the development of a timeline for implementation. The rollout will not be as easy as flicking a light switch; training for employees will be needed, effective marketing will be essential for student knowledge, and templates for job postings will need to be developed to create a consistent language across job postings. If you have any questions or comments concerning this project, please let me know at the end of this report.

Finally, as has been mentioned in previous meetings, I am working alongside Vice President for Student Life Jack Guindon and Vice President for Academic Life Sarah Harrington, along with our advisors, to draft a Common Hour Policy for the campus that will codify expectations, scheduling procedures, and underlying principles for common hours. The hope is that the campus will have at least two common hours: one for general use of the campus community, which will serve as an opportunity for extracurricular and co-curricular programming, academic support, and much more; and another that will serve exclusively for governance committees and other committees to meet as is current practice. At this time, a draft policy has been developed and is being reviewed internally. Once we finalize our policy, we will give the Executive Council and all of you the opportunity to review it and vote on endorsing it prior to its submission to Governance, where faculty, staff, and students will have the final say on whether it is accepted. We will also seek to gather letters of support from key stakeholders.

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

Good Evening everyone and happy Halloween, if you cant tell I am Anakin Skywalker, I know nerdy.

Last Friday I met with Chris from Res life, and we discussed the open forum and then general res life updates. The first thing we talked about is the survey they put out, and how on the first day they got a 130 peoples responses to it. The changes, if there were to be any, would be made in the spring semester. Locks have been an issue, but it's been much worst this year

Card readers as they age become harder to fix or get parts for and causes the why to where we are now. Two top options right now is to keep them locked by gender or allow anyone to swipe into their selected gender in any building. I asked about shower stalls for the showers in country as there is only currents

currently. The idea could also be Davis and Dickson is locked to any student whereas Courtney is locked by gender designation. Another option would be do we have a bathroom or space designated as an all-gender restroom. Meaning that the current lock structure could stay in place on majority of the bathrooms and each floor could have one unlocked for an all-gender restroom. For the open forum we should all attend and give feed back to res life about our thoughts on these ideas, and invite everyone you know to go and give there feedback. It is important we all go as SGA is holding this event, and we should all represent if your able to go.

Last res life update is some forms the told me will be or are on my housing.

Also have spring intent process for every res student, To collect a general sense of plans for the spring semester

Do you plan on staying or going away or transferring or commuting so please fill this out for res life

Other piece is if you plan to stay over thanksgiving break you need to fill out a form so they can know whose here. I recommend sharing this with people you know.

The last thing I have is that a few cars were broken into in South Lot this week. Public Safety wanted everyone to know that they are increasing patrols in South Lot an d have notified the people who have been affected.

My last thing that I have is that my joint office hours with VP Hearn that were supposed to be held on Thursday November 2nd have been moved to next week. This was done due to concerns that students may confuse this with the open forum and we do not want to limit the amount of people who attend that since it is such an important discussion.

- i. Dan Currier: I am not really surprised by the results of the survey, my only concern is that if we are going to have different policies by residence hall. I think that we should have things be consistent across residence halls since it doesn't really make sense for it to be different by Res hall.
- ii. Jack Guindon: I just think that the idea of having it be different for different buildings is that for like the Courtney situation where the showers are only curtains and not stall doors. That way people would feel safer with the doors locked. It was just one idea to try to come up with a solution.
- iii. Chris Piro: Hi, I was just wondering if you know what is going on with the mold in the stacks on the 4th floor of Ely?
- iv. Jack Guindon: I do not but I will reach out and let you know.
- v. Kaitlyn Egan: I was just wondering if in your conversation about making the residence halls different if that would be a yearly thing based on who lives in the building and their opinions or if it is just a flat decision for that building.
- vi. Jack Guindon: That's a good question. We didn't discuss if it would change from year to year so I'll also reach out about that and get back to you on that.

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

Hi everyone! The Advisory Committee for Academic Planning met on Thursday, October 26 at 8:50 am. We continued reviewing the themes, considering where we could combine info, add, or remove. These themes will be the frameworks of where to start when we begin forming the strategic plan. This is why we are spending a lot of time discussing and organizing the themes. For the turkey drive, I will be doing Parenzo. If you would like to join me, I will be walking around this Thursday, November 2, starting at 11

and Tuesday, November 7 at 11 as well. If you need me, my office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 11-12:30 and Friday from 12:30-1:30. My email vpacademiclife.sga@westfield.ma.edu.

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

Good evening, everyone!

It is great to see so many of you in your costumes.

Yesterday some of the members of the Interfaith Chaplains Council and I met with students enrolled in a Geography, Planning, and Sustainability course to discuss hunger, food insecurity, and poverty.

We began with an activity that was a sort of relay race on life. Participants were given a slip detailing their lived experiences for the purpose of the activity. Participants began the relay; some walked, some ran, some had to walk on one leg and others none. At the end of the relay, they were to pick up resources (basic necessities, a college education, a house, money, etc.). We then discussed some disparities experienced while participating in the activity. One of the more notable points made during this discussion was the topic of invisibility associated with marginality, furthermore, Invisibility associated with disparity.

I will be meeting with the Interfaith Chaplains Council tomorrow morning at 9:00AM. If there is anything that you would like to discuss or bring to light during this meeting, please let me know after my report.

Please feel free to reach me via email at vpequity.sga@westfield.ma.edu or during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 to 1:30.

As always, I will leave you with a quote. Fr. Savage Warren shared with me yesterday that his mother would always tell him, "To remember where [he] came from" and in that same vein, "to not cook for just [himself] but to leave a plate for the unknown guest".

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE:

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

Hello, Happy Halloween,

I hope everyone had a fun weekend and congratulations to everyone who went to NACA. The events that are happening today are bubble tea in University hall, a Halloween costume party at 8 in Dickinson and Treats in New Hall at 9 at the front desk. Tomorrow LAFE is hosting Dia de Los Muertos with face painting music and food. On Thursday, the Interfaith Center is holding spirituality and nature at 12:30 in the meditation garden. The open forum is this Thursday at 6 in the University Hall MPR. The class of 2025 is holding the Aloha dance this Friday at 8 in Scanlon Banquet Hall. The turkey trot is this Saturday at 10. This Months Senator of the month goes to someone who goes above and beyond each meeting asking what she can do to help out more, is an active student leader of campus as she does tours and is a member of the Social Work Association. She does an amazing job fundraising including last week in the DC. Her inviting personality and willingness to serve the community is exactly what it takes to make a phenomenal leader. Thank you for all that you do Isabella Moniz.

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Adam Carpenter

Good evening everyone,

First off, I am loving everyone's costume and thank you all for dressing up. I would also like to thank everyone who attended the senator training this past Friday in the Owls Nest. The turn out was much improved from the previous training and I feel like everyone really gained a lot out of it. I would also like to thank Sarah for her help and being my cohost of sorts for the training and providing me with a cute little teacher pointer. I felt like a real teacher for a second. That's all that I really have to report. Have a good week everyone.

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Ethan Haynes**

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. Junior class: **Nicholas Palumbo**

Aloha everyone,

Aloha Junior year is taking place this Friday November 3rd from 8-11 in Scanlon Banquet Hall. It is our halfway there Luau to celebrate the achievements from our first 2 years here at school and look forward to the time we have left here. We will be giving out Lays at the entrance to help symbolize our friendships we made along the way and how we hope to continue them. We will also be having a bunch of games consisting of corn hole, spike ball, and Can jam. We will also have snacks, along with a limbo contest around 9:30 where the winner will get a prize. So put on your tropical attire and come on out this Friday November 3rd from 8-11 and have some fun. AND ALSO Happy Taco Tuesday!!!!

- i. Kaitlyn Egan: Hi Nick, I'm so glad that you guys are doing a half way there event. For anyone who doesn't know we started the halfway there event last year hoping that it would become a tradition so 1st years and sophomores keep that in mind. This is a something we hope to keep going and good luck on yours.

B. Sophomore class: **Daniel Lyons**

On October 26th the Class of 2026 held a raffle outside the SGA Room (and Sustainability Thrift Store) and while we think it went well, we think we'd do better if we had advertised it further in advance. Therefore, we will be conducting another raffle this week, hopefully in the DC. The start time is currently pending and will be announced soon on our Instagram.

We are also currently working on a weeklong event from November 27th to December 1st. It will be centered around giving back to our community. We will be hosting a different event each day to get everyone into the spirit. Some of the ideas we've come up with are playing movies in the DC and writing notes to Professors, Staff, Students, and others. We also want to get people to donate canned goods and clothing to support the greater Westfield area. We are working on dividing the campus into teams and having a point system which will lead to a grand prize at the end of the week for the winning team!

We are also working on getting a new advisor as one of ours has resigned due to the busy nature of their proper position on campus. The split was amicable and while we enjoyed working with them, we do wish

them well. We will be interviewing new candidates for the advisor position out of those brought forth by the members of our class council.

- i. Sarah Harrington: Congrats on your first report.
- ii. Justin Wald: Just as a point of information, we are doing it tomorrow from 12-1:30 in the DC for the 50-50 raffle.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Daniel Currier: I want you all to mark your calendar for next Wednesday, you may have seen the posters going around or the email from the Provosts office. We are having the President and CEO of Westfield bank come to the campus on Wednesday November 8th in the Loughman living room of Scanlon Hall. He will be discussing his career, financing, and also the economic outlook of the primary ballots. So we highly recommend that you attend as this is a very good opportunity for you.

Nicholas Smith: This weekend we have Owls giveback which is an event that I have done a lot of work on. Friday is the Note-card-a-thon where we are writing thank you notes to faculty and maintainers, that included the maintainers in res halls, we are also going to be writing to the food service staff. I am going to be providing food for you. We are going to follow that up with the stuff-a-plush. It is recommended that you give the plus to someone that you care about and if you want to donate it then we are going to be donating to the YWCA which is like the YMCA but with a greater focus on women, specifically those that bring children of sexual assault victimization and violence. So we are going to give those away. Saturday is the Turkey Trot, with a fun little after party following it. We are also going to be making gift bags for housing insecure individuals in the community and Sunday we are going to have a relaxation station to give back to all you owls and all that you do on campus.

Chirs Piro: The history club is watching the National Treasure next Thursday November 8th at 4. So if you want to learn how to steal the declaration of independence then please watch that.

Haley Kane: First off, I just want to say thank you to all of you for your help in the Turkey Drive. I love that we do this every year and I really appreciate it. I will be tabling in the DC with Nick next Tuesday from 7-8 so if you would like to join us that would be great. Also next Thursday from 2-4 with Jack. If you ever have any Turkey Drive please let me know or reach out to one of the Exec Board members

Laura Cafaro: Just a reminder that we have Whoopie Pies here from Jacks family business Joey's Deli so take one of those so they don't go to waste. Also on your way out you will see a sign up for the Turkey Drive. Also on Thursday the police department on campus will be doing a test of the emergency alert system with our neighbors so you might here that or get an alert.

Chris Piro: Westfield State Dining will no longer be posting menus on the Instagram because the Nutra slice program has been implemented.

Kaitlyn Egan: 199 days until commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Timothy Allen, Jakayla Leary, Eri'Yan Baker, Miles Jordan were absent

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 until the next meeting on Tuesday November 7th.

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