

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 @ 5:30 pm

Ely 017 (SGA Room)

I. ROLL CALL: Timothy Allen, Crystal Mills, Eri'yan Baker, Desiree Brown, and Miles Jordan were absent from the meeting

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: January 23, 2024

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nicholas Smith

After I met with President Thompson, she expressed her desire for leadership across our campus community to be more consistent in acknowledging the land we are on. As president, I may not identify as part of these backgrounds; however, I want to recognize the land from which our university was built to create and foster an inclusive community.

"Westfield State University was built and currently sits on the unceded traditional ancestral territory of the Nip-muc, Poh-cum-tuck, Agawam, and the Wor-o-noco peoples. In recognizing the history and respecting the

sovereignty of Massachusetts Indian Nations, Westfield State University honors the heritage of Indigenous communities and their significant role in shaping the course of this region. Further, we recognize the wrongs done to those forcibly removed from their Homelands and commit to fostering an environment of inclusion that is responsive to the needs of First Peoples through our words, policies, and actions. The preservation and perpetuation of the customs and traditions of Indigenous nations are essential to our shared cultural heritage. A deep understanding of Native peoples' past and present informs the university's teaching, research, and community engagement in its ongoing effort to elevate the dignity of all people and serve as shared stewards of the land.

Hello! I hope you're doing well. I want to address an issue causing trouble on campus, specifically with parking. Many students have been parking in spots not designated for them, causing inconvenience for our

commuter friends who are having trouble finding a place in commuter parking. Faculty and staff need help parking. Our friends in Banacos, who have accommodations and may require closer parking to their classes, are currently unable to do so, which needs to be corrected. This is causing a lot of trouble within the student body, so if you are parked in a spot you are not supposed to be in, please move your vehicle. This is making it very hard for members of our campus who need help parking where they need to. SGA will post to update students on the parking situation soon. I encourage those who have access to your class council's Instagram pages or work with social media for other campus locations to share this post, as it is essential and affects our students, which is our job as student leaders!

As a reminder president, Thompson has her state of the campus this Thursday at 10 am in the Dever auditorium. This is when she will tell students what the

institution has been doing and provide more information about campus culture. It will be a great event, so please do so if you can!

Lastly, SGA elections are coming up soon, and if you have a talent for branding or spreading flyers and media, we'd love your help with marketing. Please let Elizabeth or me know if you're interested in contributing!

- A. Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Taksar, Director of Dining Services Bill Connor, and Director of Residence Life Chris Willenbrock

Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Taksar, Director of Dining Services Bill Connor, and Director of Residence Life Chris Willenbrock gave a presentation

Questions:

Savanah asks if there can be a disposable option in terms of cups to stop theft.

Joseph asked whether it was an option to have people wash to go boxes themselves to save money.

Sarah Harrington asked if there was some sort of process in place to getting the products back if the program is discontinued.

Kaitlyn Egan asks about if the to go program was terminated than how would they be able to serve athletes better.

Bill says that the problem would largely be ruined by abuse of the program and people filling up those containers. Joseph's plan was illegal due to FDA regulations. Sarah's question would also probably not be an option. The dining hall being opened until 9 was for the athletes and there is a working relationship with dining in order to guarantee that they are being appropriately served.

Chris Piro asks a question about students with accommodations for a super single be charged.

Chris Willenbrock answers probably not.

Kaitlyn Egan discussed the idea of Halal products with increasing costs.

Bill says that this was the case in the worry free station as that was something that was considered to be a priority.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: Daniel Currier

Jack & I met with Director of Athletics Dick Lenfest and Carden Brown, Recreation & Intramurals Coordinator, on Friday to primarily discuss the Parenzo Gym renovations and student engagement in intramural activities.

As you all know by now, the Parenzo Gym, which was supposed to be open at the start of this semester, has once again been delayed due to the improper installation of padding on the walls. Barring any further issues, Parenzo Gym should be open within the next 3-4 weeks.

We further discussed student engagement in intramurals, which has been a topic of discussion for the past few months. I am pleased to report that all registration forms for intramurals are now located on the Nestwork, which will allow for a more user-friendly experience and make the process more efficient for Athletics. We have also asked Athletics to work with SAIL to advertise by email and social media that sign-ups are available through the Nestwork moving forward.

Tomorrow, I will be attending the Westfield State Employee Recognition Breakfast as a member of the Board of Trustees, where we will be honoring the contributions of our employees, celebrating milestone work anniversaries, and congratulating our new faculty and staff emerita recipients, including Barbara Hand, who served as an advisor to SGA for over thirty years.

Next week, the Strategic Planning Committee will be holding all-day sessions from Monday, February 5th through Wednesday, February 7th in Scanlon Banquet Hall. Comprehensive responses from the visioning sessions and surveys sent out to the campus have been sent to the Committee for its review prior to our forthcoming meeting. While I

must keep these comments confidential, I will say that there will be a lot to think about as we develop our Strategic Plan.

A. Common Hour Policy Task Force: Sarah Harrington

Hello everyone. The Common Hour Policy Task Force, including Dan, Jack, and I, attended the All Chairs Meeting yesterday to present our proposal. We passed out the proposal, letter to governance, proposed block schedule overview, and Dan's card for contact to provide questions or ideas throughout the week. We discussed our reasonings and explanations, and then we asked for initial thoughts and opinions. As expected the idea of a new common hour, during prime time, had mixed reactions from faculty. Questions were raised about why we chose this time and if students would be willing to have earlier and later classes as a result. We explained that at other universities, taking an 8:15s is a norm and expectation. We had other professors say that this time would really affect their personal schedules, as well as the schedules of the department. We had other propositions for time blocks such as another 1:40-2:55 on Wednesdays or having both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:15-12:30, but getting rid of the current Friday hour. On a positive note, some department chairs were enthusiastic about the proposal and hope we continue moving forward. As emails trickle in with more insight from the chairs, we will continue discussing where to go from here at our meeting tomorrow. Thank you!

Questions:

Chris Piro said that he was opposed to the time which was given as a response to the proposal and that students would be opposed to the

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE:

A. Food Services: Jack Guindon

Some quick updates from food services, order ahead is back online, it was shut off by mistake.

Owl café will have some pre made sandwiches, that you can grab and buy there. These would be egg, egg and ham, and be available at 8am, that way you can get food before an 8:15 class.

Meal plans are going up 5% next year due to inflation.

Big news!!! We now have a plan for summer meal plans, something the committee has been working on with Bill and the rest of the dining team. It sounds like so far, the plan is for dining and res life to have a 12-month contract, for these students. This would allow them to stay on campus year-round and then dining would give them a block meal plan for the summer. As in the months of May-June the meals would be in the bistro, either a late lunch or a dinner of some type. July-August the dc will be open, as summer conferences allows it to as there is more of a demand for it. This is great news as SGA, Dining and Res Life have been working to figure out a solution all fall semester. And we are excited to hear this news.

Also I am passing around a few documents you can all look at, these are events and the other one is the plan for the new drink station. I will explain those both more. The first one is the new drink station, this the plan dining showed us on how it will be the same on each side and meet in the middle, that way there is less of a line for getting drinks,

Next up is the February and March Dining events Calendar, I will shootout some of the bigger events as we get closer to them

Then lastly is the Allergens that are on the little cards in the Dc, the only two on there we don't need to worry about are Peanuts and Tree nuts as the Dc is free of those!

Questions:

Sarah Harrington was looking for clarification regarding the time that Owl Café grab and go would be available and how it is before the

Isabella Moniz is concerned about the 1 period for food despite being in favor of food

VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE:

A. Advisory Committee on Academic Planning: Sarah Harrington

Hi everyone. This past Thursday, January 25th ACAP met to further Discuss the Academic Masterplan. There were two focuses of this meeting. The first was to change the verbiage of theme 3: Invigorating, redesigning, and creating academic program's description. This change is to support and continually assess the Gen Ed Curriculum and support SCORE. Later in the meeting, we broke into groups and workshopped the performance indicators for each sub-section in all three themes. Once the verbiage is finalized and qualitative data is collected from campus groups the Academic Master Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees. Moving forward, we will go back to bi-weekly meetings. Thank you!

Dan asked about qualitative data and whether that was just faculty or also including students.

Sarah answered that the IRB process intends to cover both students and faculty.

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

On Friday, I met with community partners regarding collaborate efforts for this year's Amore Galore. I have confirmed that both Westfield State Health Services and Tapestry – Westfield will be tabling during Amore Galore events on Saturday, February 10th. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the sexual health resources available to them both at the institution and in the Westfield community.

With the changes in the Division of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, the division has restructured their events for the Month of February. I want to make you all aware and encourage you to join the division tomorrow in welcoming 2024 Grammy-nominated Poet, Kevin Powell, to our community. He will be giving his speech "We Gon' Be Alright: Young America and the Future of Our World".

As I will not be seeing you all on Thursday, I want to acknowledge Black History Month and its significance to our- and other- communities across the United States. The month celebrates the contributions of Black Americans to the United States, despite our history of racism and oppression. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history,

from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to those during the civil rights movement to those living in the United States today. This month is a time to reimagine and work toward a better future for the next generation of Black Americans that encompasses the values of dignity and respect for each individual.

Today the Campus Pride Committee's subcommittee on Gender Inclusive Restrooms met with Joshua Hetrick the Associate Director of Space Management in Facilities to discuss the logistics of creating more spaces on our campus and the inquire on updates to current projects. It seems that for spaces like Bates and Dower, we are unable to repurpose existing facilities into Gender-inclusive restrooms due to outdated plumbing codes meaning that renovations must be made to include these new projects. And, considering the scale for a renovation for either of these buildings, the costs exceed our financial bandwidth to work on them. The subcommittee will be convening with the committee at-large to discuss this information and formulate next steps so stay tuned for those details.

As always, please feel free to ask me any questions either after my report or via email at vpequity.sga@westfield.ma.edu.

For today's quote, I would like to share one of Langston Hughes'. In his poem Frosting, he wrote in his book *The Panther & the Lash* in 1926...

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE: Daniel Currier

Finance Committee met for the first-time last Wednesday the 24th to discuss one finance proposal and this semesters meeting time. The Finance Committee will now meet on Wednesdays at 3:00 in the SGA Conference room, which means the cut off for finance proposals to be submitted is 3:00 on Tuesday afternoons.

Now onto the Finance Proposal:

Proposal S24-001

Today's proposal is from Model United Nations (MUN). The club is requesting \$700 for the National Model United Nations Conference in New York. The funds would be used towards the cost of transportation, Hotel, and Tolls/Parking. The request is within limits of the finance bylaws. The Finance Committee decided unanimously to amend the proposal to \$600 for the purchase of transportation, hotel, and tolls/parking.

I motion to accept the amended Model United Nations proposal of \$600 for the purchase of transportation, hotel, and tolls/parking. Motion Carries

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

Last week, NAB met and we discussed our plans for the spring play and the reception for the neighbors. Like last year, we will have pizza before the play and President Thompson will be there. Stay tuned for information regarding dates and more upcoming NAB communications.

Also, thank you to everyone who joined the Owl Ball committee. Please consider joining the Blue Key committee. Through this committee, we are tasked with awarding students the highest award from the SGA highlighting the work they do to better our Westfield State community. We will need one representative from each class year- those interested need to be nominated. Next week, we will hold nominations for this committee. If you have questions regarding this committee, that meets one time, please connect with me.

Sarah asks who nominates

Haley Kane makes a point of information about the newsletters about the fact that there will be one newsletter for the semester.

Chris Piro asks about the amount of senators per class. That serve on Blue Key.

This needs to be looked into further since the exact information was not known at this moment.

X. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Adam Carpenter

Adam updated senate on 4 things. These were that office hour attendance is transitioning to being done virtually rather than on the sheet of paper, the transition into summary minutes, letting senators know that elections are going to be occurring soon and encouraged students to reach out to the Executive board especially himself, and finally that you are required to be on two committees and if that is not the case for you and you haven't already spoken to a member of the executive board please do that.

XI. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Justin Wald

Justin thanks senate for his election as the Parliamentarian. Justin discusses his current projects which are examining the History and Yarn club constitutions and the revision of the safety and liability waiver. The Rules and Regulations committee is working on the finalization of the class council and commuter council constitutions for those clubs.

Sarah Harrington congratulates Justin Wald on his election as Parliamentarian.

XII. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

Class of 2024 Report: Kaitlyn Egan

The Class of 2024 Council has had a busy week. Our 100 Days to Commencement Toast is 8 days away and we have been working hard to make sure that it is a successful event. We toured the space and made sure that all the logistics were in order. The event will include catering, the toast itself, a place for photos, and an open area with cocktail tables for socialization. They also announced that they are raffling off a senior week package. The other item of focus was increasing marketing for senior week greatly in order to reach their goal of 150 seniors by March 1st.

Chris Piro inquired about the progress that was made towards to the goal.

Commuter Council Report: Abby Glasheen

The commuter council met Wednesday January 24th at 3:30 via zoom. Our meetings this semester will continue to be virtual due to schedule conflicts. All members were present and Laura Cafaro. We discussed the upcoming semester and brainstormed plans the council. Firstly, discussing possible ideas for our first event being in February, further information and planning to come. Discussed ways to further utilize our social media presents to engage the commuter community on campus. Lastly, we talked about coming up with a "logo" which we could use as a commuter council logo, to print laptop/water bottle stickers for commuters on campus. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 7th via zoom, and we plan to further solidify logo ideas as well as plans for our February event.

We are excited for the Spring semester for the commuter council, if anyone has any ideas please feel free to connect with us we would love to hear them.

Sarah Recommends a competition for what the design for the logo.

Kaitlyn Egan shares that there has been past success with the type of model that SGA is

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan highlights the accounting and finance holding of an

Justin would like to touch base with the class Presidents

John Zocco shares that RA Applications are currently

Kaitlyn Egan announced that there are 108 days until commencement.

XVI. ROLL CALL: Timothy Allen, Crystal Mills, Eri'yan Baker, Desiree Brown, and Miles Jordan were absent from the meeting.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 until the next meetinh

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