



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, September 10th, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting could not be taken due to technical issues.

Members Present: Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald, Sarah Harrington, Austin Morgan, Jacob Constant, Elizabeth Mercer, Daniel Currier, Nicholas Palumbo, Isabella Moniz, Anderson Dallaire, William Connor, Travis McLoughlin, Melissa Kuzmeski, Puru Sharma, Christopher Lannan, Sophia Rebenciuc

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Brenna Guiliani, Micheala Vittum

Also, present and participating were SGA Advisors Laura Cafaro and Ryan Meersman.

President Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members were asked to review the meeting agenda, and a roll call was taken of members present (listed above).

Approval of the Minutes: President Joseph Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23rd, 2024, general meeting.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to approve the minutes of the April 23rd, 2024, general meeting.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed unanimously.

President's Report: **Joseph Bonilla**

Joseph introduced himself and gave a good introduction to all the new senate thanking everyone that has joined. Mentioned that this year is the centennial year for SGA, letting everyone know that because it is such a big year we have a mission to make the governing body of the students to be more approachable with a lot of civic engagement. Joseph then brought up the new initiative that the Executive Board is bringing out called "Team Huddles." Explaining that the initiative is about being able to better support the roles of the senators, both professionally and personally. Allowing us to foster more collaboration and communication within the organization, ensuring everyone feels connected and supported. Additionally, the structural changes to the traditional office hours shifting away to focus more on civic engagement and service were mentioned. Joseph also let everyone know about his meeting the following day September 11th, 2024, about meeting with campus partners to discuss collaborations for voter registration events that are planned to happen in early October. He finally mentioned how SGA will be handing out water bottles

and gum to students over the next week to help connect with our peers, inviting senate to volunteer with some of their time if they are able to.

- SGA Advisors ***Laura Cafaro & Ryan Meersman***

Laura mentioned that she is the S.A.I.L. senior coordinator and how she is one of the advisors for student government. Laura also mentioned how there are a lot of vacancies in the student government and how students should ask their peers to join the student government association. Ryan mentioned how he is a part of the Alumni Association and how he is also one of the advisors for the Student Government Association and if anyone has any questions about Roberts Rules of order to reach out to him. He also mentioned that he was in our role at one point in time and he understands our roles.

Student Trustee Report: ***Daniel Currier***

Daniel introduced himself and gave a little overview of his role as Student Trustee, he serves on the Board of Trustees', which is an eleven-member group predominantly appointed by the Governor. Overseeing and safeguarding the institution we call home. Voting on different issues around campus, granting tenure and promotion to faculty, the evaluation of President Thompson, and much more. He explains two key caveats about his role. First being that he has a duty of loyalty and fiduciary responsibility to the institution meaning that he would be in the conversation about tuition and fees, and he needs to be thinking about the financial state of the institution in mind, and while being in these conversations they are safeguarded and confidential. A meeting can be in executive session, or closed-door meetings where they talk about legal and/or HR-related matters. Daniel also mentioned that tomorrow morning September 11th will be a remembrance event outside the Ely Campus Center for those who lost their lives in the September 11th, 2001, attacks. Daniel also talks about his new Student Trustee Instagram account.

- Student Advisory Council ***Daniel Currier***

Daniel mentions that he serves on the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education. Explaining that it is a group, which is comprised of the student trustees and SGA presidents from each of the public institutions in the Commonwealth. Daniel mentioned that he intends to work with the Student Advisory Council about deferred maintenance, which is a critical issue the campus is facing. With repairs and updates needed on the campus estimated to be around \$100 million. Including the systems that heat the buildings to the classrooms and residence halls. The state, despite owning all the buildings on campus, provides no funding in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. He has reached out to Niki Nguyen a UMass Boston student who serves as the President of the Student Advisory Council and the voting member of the Board of Higher Education.

Vice President's Report-Student Life: ***Justin Wald***

Justin introduced himself and discussed what his role entails such as everything that he oversees. He talked about his meeting with Melissa, the new Director of Dining. Things mentioned were strategic changes such as switching from Wild Blue to Ely Harvest, removing the to go containers, and moving late night to the DC. These changes help with balancing the dining budget deficit. Melissa is also extremely excited to meet with the food services committee. Justin also mentioned the changes to the food services committee that he is making this year such as only focusing on big picture issues, menu changes, and important topics related to money. Then with his meeting with Dr. Hearn they discussed reinvigorating the campus culture and traditions. Such as bringing giant letters to campus that relate to the university.

With the idea of no matter where you look you know you can tell that you are at Westfield State. They ended the discussion with how Dr. Hearn wanting SGA and CAB (Campus Activities Board) to work together to create a robust and vibrant experience to bring the campus together.

Vice President's Report-Academic Life: ***Sarah Harrington***

Sarah introduced herself and discussed what her role entails explaining everything that she oversees. Mentioning that Joshua Hettrick will be at the meeting next week for anyone that has questions regarding parking. Sarah asked for people to sit on governance committees as it is where they discuss different areas around campus such as UCC dealing with course numbers, titles, and the addition of new courses where they discuss different areas around campus such as UCC dealing with course numbers, titles, and the addition of new courses. She said she is meeting with the provost next Tuesday, September 17th at 8 AM, so if you have questions, please let her know. She also mentions that we have a new Provost, Dr. William Salka and how during their last meeting they talked about the idea of starting up a Provost Advisory Board.

I. Joseph Bonilla gave a point of information about Joshua Hettrick that he works in Facilities and that he is the Parking Clerk.

Vice President's Report-Finance: ***Austin Morgan***

Austin introduced himself and discussed what his role entails, and he mentioned that he met with Vice President Taksar last week and they talked about the upcoming challenges that the University is facing when it comes to the budget. He mentioned that the pool needs attention, and it will cost 4 million dollars. VP Taksar believes that enrollment is going to be increasing this year, and he will have a better projection on how University fees will look come December and January. Austin also mentioned that SGA has a larger budget this year and will be able to do more. With the hope of accomplishing more with civic engagement. Finally, Austin mentioned that the Club & Involvement fair will be taking place this Thursday, September 12th from 4-6 PM on the green near the globe.

Vice President's Report-Publicity: ***Elizabeth Mercer***

Elizabeth introduced herself, then talked about the Special Committee on Publicity & External Relations.

Executive Secretary Report: ***Jacob Constant***

Jacob discussed what his role entails and mentioned that signature sheets were released yesterday, Monday, September 9th and how they will be present at the Club Fair.

I. Daniel Currier asked about the changes in how the minutes are written for the meetings.

Jacob responded about how the minutes will now be extremely summary based making the time required for making the minutes significantly shorter.

Commuter Council and Class Council Reports:

A. Senior Class: ***Nicholas Palumbo***

Nicholas Palumbo appointed Anderson Dallaire and William Connor as Representative's to Senate for the Class of 2025

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to appoint Anderson Dallaire and William Connor as Class of 2025 Rep's.

There being no discussion, VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

He then mentions that he has been working diligently to bring back the tradition of the “Welcome back Senior Toast” with the first annual Welcome back BBQ. Having it set to take place on Friday, September 27th from 6-9 PM at the Woodward Center. The event would be 21+ having live music, food, games, a cash bar and even raffle drawings with prizes such as a free cap and gown and more.

I. Daniel Currier asked about any plans for Senior Week

Nicholas responded with mentioning that they will be worrying about it after the welcome back toast, and he also mentioned it would be a Senior Weekend.

New Business:

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, opens new business.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed unanimously.

In new business the Special Committee on Club Relations and Celebrations. The committee charge was read aloud.

I. Jason Brewster asked about the formation of new clubs and if the new committee was going to be dealing with them or if it was still the responsibility of the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Daniel responded that the Rules and Regulations Committee is still in charge of new clubs.

II. Christopher Lannan gave a point of information about that RSO's are Registered Student Organizations.

III. Joseph Bonilla gave a point of information reiterating that this is specific to the way we operate within our own body.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, approve the Special Committee on Club Relations and Celebrations.

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously

The Special Committee on Publicity and External Relations' charge was read aloud

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, approve the Special Committee on Publicity and External Relations.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed unanimously.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, adjourn new business.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed unanimously.

Announcements:

I. Daniel Currier mentioned that the debate is tonight September 10th, and everyone should watch it.

II. Nicholas Palumbo: 248 days to commencement.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Student Government Association (SGA) general meeting held on September 10th, 2024.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

Signed: **Jacob Constant**

Date: **9/12/2024**