



Board of Trustees

February 19, 2026

4:00 to 5:30 PM

President's Boardroom, Horace Mann Building

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing will also take place at the following link:

<https://www.westfield.ma.edu/live>

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- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Board Chair Ali Salehi |
| 2. Approval of Minutes | Board Chair Ali Salehi |
| a. Draft Minutes of December 18, 2025- full Board Meeting | |
| b. Draft Minutes of February 2, 2026 – Special Meeting | |
| 3. General Announcements | Board Chair Ali Salehi |
| 4. President's Report | Dr. Linda Thompson |
| 5. Student Trustee Report | Trustee Barney Garcia |
| 6. <u>Student Success & Learning</u> | Committee Chair Chris Montemayor |
| a. Items for Information | |
| b. Items for Action | Board Chair Ali Salehi |
| c. Approval of Honorary Degree Recipients | |
| i. Motion – General Clara Adams-Ender (Ret.) | |
| ii. Motion – Kevin Queenin | |
| iii. Motion – Lawrence Gwozdz | |
| iv. Motion – Maurice Watson | |
| 7. <u>University Success Committee</u> | Committee Chair William Reichelt |
| a. Items for Information | |
| 8. <u>Finance Committee</u> | Committee Chair George Gilmer |
| a. Items for Information | |
| b. Items for Action | Board Chair Ali Salehi |
| i. Motion – Merging Investment Accounts | |
| ii. Motion – FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule | |
| 9. <u>Audit Committee</u> | Committee Chair Theresa Jasmin |
| a. Items for Information | |
| b. Items for Action | Board Chair Ali Salehi |
| i. Motion – Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Aid Report (OSFA) | |
| ii. Motion – Uniform Guidance Report | |

10. Other Business

Board Chair Ali Salehi

11. Adjournment

Board Chair Ali Salehi

Attachments:

- a. Draft Minutes of
- b. President's Presentation
- c. Student Trustee Presentation

Student Success & Learning Committee

- a. Draft Minutes of December 18, 2025, Academic Affairs Committee
- b. Draft Minutes of December 18, 2025, JEDI Committee
- c. Power Point: SU SUCCESS Grant
- d. Power Point: Athletics Success Feb 2026
- e. Motion. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters recipient, General Clara Adams-Ender (Ret)
- f. Supporting documents: General Clara Adams-Ender (Ret)
- g. Motion. Honorary Doctor of Public Service recipient, Mr. Kevin Queenin
- h. Supporting documents: Mr. Kevin Queenin
- i. Motion. Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient, Mr. Maurice Watson, J.D.
- j. Supporting documents: Mr. Maurice Watson, Esquire
- k. Motion. Honorary Doctor of Human Letters recipient, Mr. Lawrence Gwozdz
- l. Supporting documents: Mr. Lawrence Gwozdz

University Success Committee:

- a. Minutes – 12.18.25
- b. WSU Revised Board Committee Topics
- c. University Success PPT

Finance Committee:

- a. Minutes 12-18-25 (Draft)
- b. University Cash Summary
- c. FY26 Monthly Budget to Actual (Narrative)
- d. FY26 Monthly Budget to Actual (YoY)
- e. FY27 Budget Planning
- f. 4Q Investment Report
- g. Motion – Merging Investment Accounts
- h. Merging Investment Accounts (Memo)
- i. Motion – FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule
- j. FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule (Narrative)
- k. FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule (Day)
- l. FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule (DGCE Narrative)
- m. FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule (DGCE)
- n. Policy - Information Security Policy (0580) TRACK CHANGES
- o. Travel Expenses for the President and the President's Direct Reports July 25 – December 25

Audit Committee:

- p. Minutes 10-21-25 (Draft)
- q. Motion – Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Aid Report (OSFA)

- r. Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Aid Report (Draft)
- s. Motion – Uniform Guidance Report
- t. Uniform Guidance Report (Draft)
- u. Motion – Internal Audit Plan
- v. Internal Audit Plan (Memo)
- w. External Audit Update – Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard
- x. Internal Audit Tracker (Summary)
- y. Internal Audit Tracker



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

December 18, 2025 3:45 p.m.

Loughman Living Room, Scanlon Hall

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing will also take place at the following link:

<https://www.westfield.ma.edu/live>

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ali Salehi, Vice Chair Melissa Alvarado, and Trustees, Barney Garcia, George Gilmer, Tessa Lucey, Chris Montemayor, Michael O'Rourke, William Reichelt and Gloria Williams.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Theresa Jasmin and Jason Queenin.

Also present and participating was Westfield State University President Dr. Linda Thompson.

Board Chair Salehi called the meeting to order at 3:46 PM. He announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

MOTION made by Trustee Garcia and seconded by Trustee O'Rourke, to approve the meeting minutes of October 21, 2025. There being no discussion, a roll call was conducted, **motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- Recognition of Vice President of Administration and Finance Stephen Taksar for informative presentations on the campus budget.
 - Steve effectively articulated current financial realities and future challenges.
 - His transparent approach was valued by all.
- Steve's key message: "Every student matters."
 - Understanding the need to adjust how business is done.
 - Hope that the presentation assisted in creating a better understanding of how resources are generated and allocated.

Student Connection

- Connecting directly with students is a priority.
- Launch of "Leadership and Lunch":
 - Dean of Students Maggie Balch invites students for lunch in the Tekoa Room.
 - Conversations are relaxed and genuine.
 - Perspectives shared are invaluable.
- Groups invited: student athletes, students in the College of Professional Studies, and first-year students.

Global Engagement

- Global Engagement offers transformative experiences for students to live, work, and learn abroad.
- Network in Ireland has expanded to three institutions with a new partnership with Sacred Heart University in Dingle.
 - Existing partners: University College Cork and Dublin Business School.
 - Grace Flannery, Director of Sacred Heart University, Dingle, and Renee Pang, Director of Global Education, outlined new possibilities for students seeking study abroad opportunities.
- The City of West Springfield is a sister city to Dingle.
- Chief of Staff Dr. Mike Freeman attended the annual Golden Bridges Launch Luncheon at Babson College.
 - Event designed to promote and deepen the relationship, partnerships and transatlantic links between Northwest Region of Ireland and Massachusetts.
 - He reconnected with representatives from Ulster University who are interested in sending students for short stays in spring.
- A fantastic event dedicated to the international student community was held.
 - Thank you to Dr. Kevin Hearn for initiating the President's Reception for international students and to the International Program Office for contributing to the evening.
 - Nearly 60 international students, cabinet members, board members, staff, and faculty gathered.

Faculty Recognition

- Congratulations to Dr. Alexander Moore of the Mathematics Department for his invitation to co-chair the Philosophy of Mathematics and Mathematics Education Research group at the 16th International Congress on Mathematical Education in Prague in July 2028.
 - Selection highlights Dr. Moore as a leading American scholar in the field.
 - Invitation to represent the United States underscores his significant international influence.

Advocacy for Westfield State University

- The President testified before two legislative committees to advocate for vital state funding.
- Testified before the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies regarding the DRIVE Initiative.
 - DRIVE is crucial for growing Massachusetts research and innovation economy and creating thousands of new jobs.
 - The Governor's decision to set aside \$400 million for research and innovation is especially timely.
- Testified before the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets on the BRIGHT Act.
 - Advancement of the BRIGHT Act will address the deferred maintenance backlog and critical infrastructure needs.
 - BRIGHT act investment would allow Westfield State University to develop a human health hub to help meet the urgent workforce demand.
 - Project targets Bates Hall, which is no longer adequate for modern science education.
 - The BRIGHT act has already passed the House with an amendment that would appropriate \$100 million for Westfield State towards phase one of our master plan.
 - Optimistic that this bill will pass and be signed into law by the governor.
 - Need to secure an additional \$20 million to meet the total project goal.

Academic Program Updates

- Three new graduate programs were recently approved by the Department of Higher Education.
 - These programs aim to expand access, strengthen offerings, and address critical career needs.
 - The new offerings include:
 - Master's of Business Administration
 - Master's of Science in Athletic Training
 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program
- Recognition was given to faculty and staff involved in the development of these programs.
 - MPA Program: Dr. Rebecca Morris, Dr. Liem Nguyen, Dr. Erin Moore, Dr. Brian Conz, and Professor Anthony Furnelli.
 - Sports Medicine and Human Performance Department: Dr. Paul Higgins
 - Nursing Department: Dr. Jessica Holden
- The first cohorts into these new programs will be welcomed in the fall of 2026.

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Garcia provided updates on the Student Government Association's activities since the October meeting.

- RSGA has been actively involved in campus events and hosting de-stressor dinners.
- RSGA saw year span initiatives be realized and broke records.

Ely Lounge Grand Reopening

- During Homecoming weekend on October 24, the newly renovated Ely Lounge had its official grand reopening.
- SGA President Justin Wald cut the ribbon, signifying the end of a year-long effort to update the lounge space.
- The lounge serves as a testament to student passion for involvement and change.
- The new Ely Lounge aims to make the university more competitive by offering coherent third spaces.

SGA's Philanthropic Activities

- The annual Turkey Drive kicked off on November 3rd, raising funds to feed Westfield families.
- A total of \$5,012.84 was raised, a 66.3% increase year over year, and the check was handed over to Westfield Public School.
- SGA partnered with Veterans Services and the Interfaith Center for a service trip to the Westfield Soup Kitchen on November 7th, serving hot meals to about 80 people.
- SGA is participating in a piloting run of a new club startup process to better support clubs, with an emphasis on physical and financial resources.

Common Hour Proposal

- A proposal was submitted to the Academic Policies Committee to make official multiple times designated as common hours.
- A survey was sent out to gauge community interest, with scattered results: 27% yes, 29% no, 29% dependent on time, and 15% uninterested.
- Preference was open to a potential late Monday or Wednesday block.
- Concerns remain around the implementation of additional common hours, but the benefits of extracurricular enrichment and community engagement are stressed.

Connection and Collaboration

- Focus on personal connection and the motives that drive a person.
- Attended a reception for international students and a listening session hosted by the Albert and Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center.

- Formed a connection a Trustee at Worcester State University to expand collaboration within the State University system at the SGA level.

Legislative Advocacy

- Efforts are shifting towards advocating for the wholesale passage of the Bright Act, with the concluded amendment of the new Human Health Hub.
- Aiming to grow grassroots awareness around deferred maintenance and its impact on the university.
- Tentatively planning to engage with legislators in February and March, starting with inviting local and regional elected officials back to campus.
- Hoping to leverage connections maintained by the State University's Council of Presidents to widen reach with counterpart student trustees and SGA Presidents, with a summit scheduled for February.
- All efforts will culminate in an Advocacy Day in Boston, meeting with legislators in the State House to express support for legislation like the BRIGHT Act.

Academic Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Chris Montemayor updated the Board:

- Undergraduate enrollment:
 - Has fallen significantly over the past decade around state universities.
 - 2024 marks a turning point with early signs of stabilization and modest growth.
 - In 2020, there were 3,789 undergraduates enrolled, increasing to 3,854 in 2024.
- High school GPA of incoming students:
 - GPAs above 3.5 increased from 24% in 2015 to 38% in 2024.
 - GPAs 2.5 or below also increased from 10% to 15%.
 - Highlights the increased need to provide honors or high achievers opportunities as well as targeted academic assistance for at risk students.
- Retention numbers for Westfield (2023):
 - 734 of returning students from first students when they first come in in the fall.
 - This number is pretty much the same average across all the other state universities.
 - Highlights the importance of providing resources to students when they first arrive.
 - Goal to increase this number, potentially as a KPI.

MOTION made by Trustee O'Rourke and seconded by Trustee Montemayor, to approve the granting of Faculty Emeritus/a status, effective December 18, 2025, to the following individuals: Dr. Stephen Adams, English and Ms. Jamie Wainwright, Art. There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE**, motion passed unanimously.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

Committee Chair Tessa Lucey updated the Board:

- Reorganization of the office:
 - Still underway, but meaningful progress has already been made.
 - Office has been physically relocated to the library, creating a central welcoming space.
 - The move aligns with requirements from the new administration and helps ensure compliance with evolving regulatory expectations.
- New structure:
 - Includes two co-directors reporting to Provost Salka.
 - One position focuses on student and campus experience, the other on institutional culture and external partnerships.

- The university is not moving away from DEI, rather restructuring, strengthening, and broadening the work.
- Assessment practices:
 - Need to begin implementing more consistent and real-time assessment practices.
 - A campus survey was done in two parts.
 - Part one was done earlier this year which will provide a baseline.
 - Another assessment is planned for mid-March to gauge progress.
- Other points:
 - Provost Salka acknowledged the anxiety present across college campuses due to the national climate.
 - A half-million-dollar Davis grant will fund faculty development.
 - Plan to return to the board in April with more detailed timelines, data collection clarity, and a roadmap for evaluation.

Enrollment Management & Student Affairs

Committee Chair William Reichelt updated the Board on the following:

- Graduating continuing education strategy:
 - Conversation and presentation about recruiting at two-year schools.
 - Looking at new degrees and opportunities to bring in new students.
- New brand platform:
 - Set to tentatively launch in March.
 - Going out across campus to get feedback from students, faculty, and staff.
 - Another update potentially in February.
- Open house in November:
 - Sold out.
 - Great to see the amount of people that were excited to learn about Westfield State and hopefully come to Westfield State in the fall.

Governance and Nomination Committee

Committee Chair Melissa Alvarado updated the Board:

- Streamlining from eight committees to five to align with the strategic plan.
- Motion will be tabled for a special meeting in January to incorporate feedback.
- New committees: Finance, Audit, Student Success and Learning, University Success, and Executive Committee.

Advancement, Marketing and External Relations

Committee Chair Gloria Williams updated the Board:

- Fundraising efforts have been diligent.
- Analysis of the 2015 report indicates a 68% increase in gifts and giving, bringing in more than \$2 million.
- Fall appeal saw 37% growth.
- In 2024, Laura Blockel was hired as a Director of Corporate and Foundation Grants.
 - By 2025, she secured two grants totaling \$85,000.
 - She has worked collaboratively to secure more than \$1.9 million, with another \$250,000 anticipated.
 - Expected to secure \$2 million by the end of 2026.
- Three campaign priorities (core pillars): Advancing access to student success, Innovation in Teaching, Learning and career Readiness, Regional impact and Health, Human Development and Community well-being.

Dr. Thompson's Initiative

- Initiative titled "We Did It," aiming for 1,000 donors with \$1,000 per donor.
- Surpassed \$1 million, establishing the Dr. Linda Thompson Scholarship for Student Access and Student Success.

MOTION made by Trustee Alvarado, seconded by Trustee Lucey, to affirm the campaign direction and scale, and commit up to \$3.1M for a multi-year (5+ years) campaign budget to be refined by the next Vice President of Institutional Advancement. There being no discussion, a roll call was conducted, **motion passed unanimously**.

MOTION made by Trustee O'Rourke, seconded by Trustee Montemayor, to approve the granting of staff emeriti status, effective December 18, 2025, to the following individuals: Louisa (Tina) Bonés and Janet Garcia. There being no discussion, a roll call was conducted, **motion passed unanimously**.

Financial Affairs Committee

Committee Chair George Gilmer updated the Board on the following:

- From July through November of fiscal year 2026, the university generated \$119 million in revenue, \$52 million in expenses, and \$67 million in income, which is \$2.7 million better than the prior year.
- The University has \$86 million in cash, up \$2 million from the prior year.
 - \$43 million is in an investment portfolio (up from \$39 million).
 - \$43 million is in working capital (down from \$45 million).
- The average age of the university's buildings is 40 years old, and the deferred maintenance is \$561 million.
- The board discussed various forms of funding available to the university, including MSCBA, DCAM, and the campus itself.
- The board also talked about the investment that they're making in deferred maintenance and some of the projects that they're working on right now, like the Eli pool and the R22H HVAC project.
- The cost of the apartment plumbing project is not as significant as originally anticipated.
- The board reviewed the annual debt report and ratios, including the debt burden ratio, visibility ratio, primary reserve ratio, return on net assets ratio, and net operating revenues ratio.
- The board approved the Revised Procurement Process Policy 0320, a minor editorial change about aggregating individual charges up to \$5,000.

MOTION made by Trustee Montemayor and seconded by Trustee Gilmer, to approve the revised Procurement Process Policy (0320), as presented. There being no discussion, a roll call was conducted, and **motion passed unanimously**.

There being no further business,

MOTION made by Trustee Gilmer, and seconded by Trustee Garcia, to adjourn. A roll call was conducted, **motion passed unanimously**.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m..

Attachments:

- a. Full Board Minutes – 10.21.25
- b. President’s PowerPoint
- c. Student Trustee PowerPoint

Academic Affairs Committee

- a. Minutes of October 21, 2025
- b. Power Point Persistence and Retention
- c. Motion: Faculty Emeritus/a – Dr. Stephen Adams and Ms. Jamie Wainright
- d. Faculty Emeritus/a supporting letter

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

- a. Minutes of June 11, 2025
- b. JEDI Presentation

Enrollment Management, & Student Affairs Committee

- a. Minutes- October 21, 2025
- b. DGCE Admissions Strategy PowerPoint
- c. Introduction to the new brand platform PowerPoint

Governance & Nomination Committee

- a. Meeting Minutes: 10.21.25
- b. Motion – Charters and Bylaws
- c. WSU Revised Board Committee Structure
- d. Executive Committee Charter New
- e. Finance Committee Charter New
- f. Audit Committee Charter New
- g. Student Success Committee Charter New
- h. University Success Committee Charter New
- i. BYLAWS of Trustees as Amended 12.18.25 New (CLEAN)

Advancement, Marketing, & External Relations Committee

- a. Draft Minutes of October 21, 2025
- b. Howrigan Consulting PowerPoint
- c. Westfield State Campaign Planning Study Report
- d. Motion – Fundraising Campaign
- e. Motion – Staff Emeriti
- f. Staff Emeriti Biographies

Financial Affairs Committee

- a. Minutes 10-21-25 (Draft)
- b. Motion – Procurement Process Policy (0320)
- c. Policy – Procurement Process (0320) SUMMARY
- d. Policy – Procurement Process (0320) TRACK CHANGES
- e. Policy – Procurement Process (0320) CLEAN
- f. FY26 Budget Reporting (YOY Actual Comparison)
- g. FY26 Budget Reporting (YOY Actuals)
- h. FY26 Budget Reporting (Dashboard)
- i. University Cash Summary
- j. Capital Project Strategy (Summary)
- k. Capital Project Strategy (HE Capital Working Group)
- l. Capital Project Strategy (Dashboard)
- m. Annual Debt Report and Ratios (Summary)
- n. Annual Debt Report and Ratios (Ratio Tables)

- o. Fixed Assets Inventory Progress Report
- p. Remote Access Policy (0620) TRACK CHANGES
- q. Data Classification Policy (0630) TRACK CHANGES

Secretary's Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Westfield State University Board of Trustees meeting held on December 18, 2025.

Dr. Gloria Williams, Secretary

Date



Board of Trustees

Special Meeting

February 2, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Remote: Zoom

A live stream of the meeting for public viewing will also take place at the following link:

<https://www.westfield.ma.edu/live>

Board Members Present: Board Chair Ali Salehi, Vice Chair Melissa Alvarado, Secretary Dr. Gloria Williams, Members: Barney Garcia, George Gilmer, Theresa Jasmin, Tessa Lucey, Chris Montemayor, Michael O'Rourke, and William Reichelt.

Member Absent: Jay Queenin

Board Chair Salehi called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM. He announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

Bylaws and Committee Structure

- Many were involved in getting the process through all the channels legally and ethically.
- The board talked about making the committee more effective and dealing with things at a high level at the board retreat on August, 8, 2025.
- The new committee structure would help the University grow, prosper, and be more effective.

MOTION made by Trustee Jasmin and seconded by Trustee O'Rourke: to approve the bylaws and charters as presented. A roll call was taken and there being no discussion, **motion passed unanimously**.

Revised Motion for Capital Campaign Motion

- The source of the funding wasn't specified in the previous motion but discussed at the board of Trustees meeting on December 18, 2025.
- The motion lacked documentation of where the funds were coming from.
- The current motion includes the origin of those funds.

MOTION made by Trustee Jasmin and seconded by Trustee Lucey: to approve the allocation of up to \$3.1 million from university reserves, to be expended over a five-year period, to support the university's comprehensive campaign. A roll call was taken and there being no discussion, **motion passed unanimously**.

Capital Campaign Discussion

- This is a big deal for the University.
- There hasn't been a real capital campaign in decades, at least 20 years.

- The title of the capital campaign is "Together We Soar".
 - Areas of opportunity align with the strategic plan: student success, innovation, and community impact.
 - Pushing for a space to focus on human health and related sciences.

Upcoming Meeting Information

- Chair Salehi stated at the February 19, 2026 meeting more information will be provided regarding meetings.

There being no further business,

MOTION made by Trustee Williams and seconded by Trustee O'Rourke to adjourn the meeting. There being no discussion, **motion passed unanimously**.

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Attachment(s):

- a. Motion – Charters and Bylaws
- b. WSU Revised Board Committee Structure
- c. Executive Committee Charter New
- d. Finance Committee Charter New
- e. Audit Committee Charter New
- f. Student Success Committee Charter New
- g. University Success Committee Charter New
- h. BYLAWS of Trustees as Amended 12.18.25 New
- i. Motion – revised campaign funds

Secretary's Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Westfield State University Board of Trustees Special meeting held on February 2, 2026.

Gloria Williams, Secretary

Date



Dr. Linda Thompson

President

Board of Trustees Meeting, February 19, 2026



Realities facing higher education

- Declining demographics;
- Evolving federal and state requirements;
- Financial pressures;
- Changing workforce demands; and
- Shifting student expectations.



Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal 1

FOSTER INNOVATIVE LEARNING

Align institutional resources with innovative and relevant academic programs that equip students with the knowledge, leadership skills, and experiences necessary to thrive in emerging career opportunities and contribute meaningfully to a rapidly changing world.



Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal 3

OPTIMIZE STEWARDSHIP OF CAMPUS RESOURCES

Strengthen, broaden, and enhance the use of campus resources by strategically aligning human, financial, and facilities to the University's institutional priorities.

Infinite Opportunities

Goal 2

ADVANCE STUDENT SUCCESS

Create an environment where every student has the opportunity to access resources, support, and community needed to successfully complete their program, is prepared to find gainful employment after graduation, and is ready to lead in their local and regional communities.



Goals, Objectives, and Actions

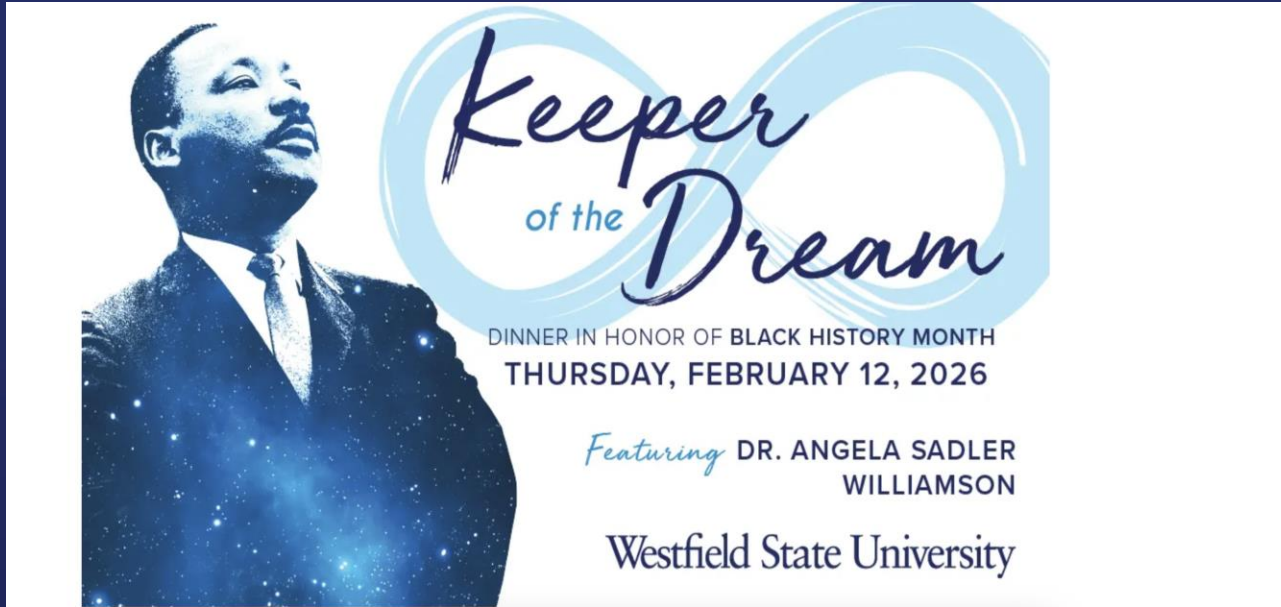
Goal 4

AMPLIFY INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

Foster a vibrant community of engaged scholars and learners who drive innovation, applied research, and creativity through purposeful scholarship and transformative partnerships.



Keeper of the Dream



Dr. King believed in the transformative power of nonviolent action, civil disobedience, grassroots organizing, and the strength of intellect guided by moral courage. His legacy continues to inspire us—and to challenge us—to do better, reach further, and act with purpose.



Human Health Hub proposal

This collaboration will establish
a regional hub for
interdisciplinary health
education, workforce
stabilization, and innovative
models of broad health care
delivery.





Dora D. Robinson Speaker Series



At this year's event we will welcome Regina Wallace-Jones. The series shines a spotlight on women's achievements and leadership, highlighting stories of resilience, courage, and transformative impact.



As Schools Match Wits documentary

Produced in partnership with New England Public Media, the film features archival footage, interviews, and behind-the-scenes stories tracing the show from its 1961 beginnings to today.



Dining Services: Employer of the Year

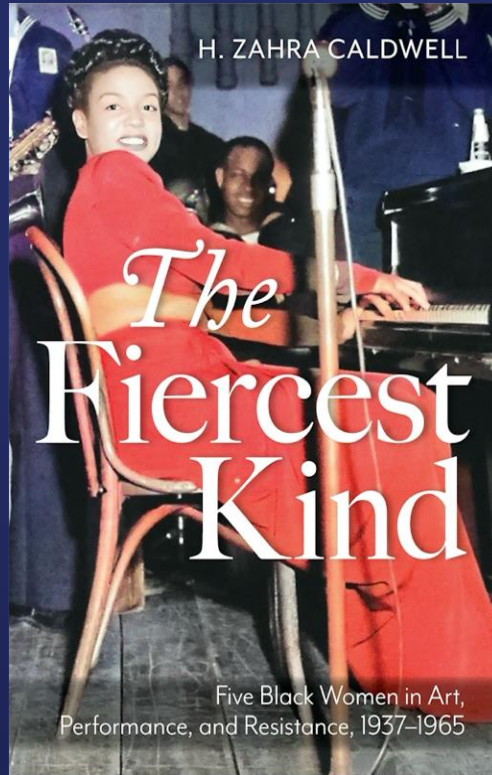
Congratulations to the Dining team on receiving the Employer of the Year Award from Viability.

This award reflects Dining Services' dedication to fostering an inclusive workplace culture, creating accessible environments, and building meaningful partnerships that support long-term employment.



Faculty builds on strong reputation

Dr. Zahra Caldwell explores how five pioneering African American artists leveraged their elite professional success to fight racism and sexism during the mid-20th century



Dr. Princy Mennella from the Psychology Department is using a new state-of-the-art insect incubator to enhance student research.



Facilities, Operations keeping us safe



Throughout the snow event, Facilities staff worked tirelessly in difficult conditions to keep roads, walkways, residence halls, and essential operations safe and accessible.





Thank you



Student Trustee Report

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Barney Garcia '26, Student Trustee



New Year, More Progress

- Technology Improvements

- Projector & screen torn out. Screens mounted and wall painted
- Agendas and meeting materials digitized. SGA is now paper-free!

- Investments Into SGA, Clubs

- Implementation of digital clickers for member use during votes later this semester
- Revising of finance policy to provide clubs with funds at start of fiscal year



Final Stretch

- 100 Days to Commencement
 - Kickoff of events for Senior students, led by the Class Council of 2026
 - Based in tradition, a great night to celebrate progress!
- Building Traditions & Legacy
 - More activities in the woodworks, part of having a great Senior send-off
 - A strong component of retention in action, community & belonging



Atop Beacon Hill

- State Universities' Advocacy Day
 - This month, Thursday, February 26th, organized with SUM Council of Presidents
 - All nine sister institutions invited with heavy Student Government presence
- Passing the BRIGHT Act
 - Urging respective elected officials to vote **YES** on the BRIGHT Act as amended
 - Senate to vote on legislation on day of our visit



New Beginnings

- Western Massachusetts Summit of SGAs
 - Inviting Student Governments in the region
 - Opportunity to collaborate on local and systemic issues
- Creating and Strengthening Pipelines
 - Relationship building with Community College SGAs
 - Start of a new tradition?



The Semester Ahead

- Civic & Campus Engagement
 - Recurring student listening sessions on safety & belonging
 - Freedom of Speech on campus, encouraging dialogue
- Planning for Unity Fest
 - 2nd annual celebration in early April, week of events
 - Importance of celebrating affinity groups and diverse cultures on campus





Thank you



Board of Trustees

February 19, 2026

MOTION

To accept the agreed upon procedures report pursuant to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance attestation guide for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as prepared by the firm of WithumSmith and Brown P.C., and to authorize the submission of this report to the State Comptroller's Office and the Department of Higher Education.

Ali R. Salehi, Chair

Date

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

(an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE PURSUANT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ATTESTATION GUIDE

JUNE 30, 2025

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CLUSTER

To the Board of Trustees of
Westfield State University:

We have examined Westfield State University's' ("the University") compliance with the following requirements as specified in the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance ("MOSFA") *Student Financial Assistance Attestation Guide, Sixth Edition* (the "Guide") for the year ended June 30, 2025:

- Institutional Eligibility
- Student Eligibility
- Reporting
- Disbursements
- Refunds

Management is responsible for the University's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the University's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the University complied with the specified requirements referenced above in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the University complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the University's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the University complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above during the year ended June 30, 2025.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud, and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements that have a material effect on the University's compliance with the specified requirements and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on the University's compliance with the specified requirements and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over the specified requirements or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions. The results of our tests disclosed no matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Restricted Use

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the Board of Trustees and management of the University and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

DATE

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2025.

The University has not been subjected to these procedures since fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, in accordance with the standard timing for such examinations per the MOFSA Attestation Guide. The University did not trigger any of the specific criteria that would have required an annual examination and was not requested by the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance to have an examination performed during the years ended June 30, 2024 or June 30, 2023.

DRAFT

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Summary Schedule of Prior Findings

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

There were no prior findings.

DRAFT

Westfield State University
Schedule of Population, Items Tested, and Findings for the
Massachusetts State Financial Assistance Program Cluster

Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Description of Category</u>	<u>Number of students</u>	<u>Percent of population</u>	<u>Amount of awards</u>	<u>Percent of population</u>
Adams Scholarship	Population	277	100%	\$ 254,625	100%
	Tested	2	1%	1,940	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Behavioral Health Workforce Scholarship	Population	34	100%	374,000	100%
	Tested	-	0%	-	0%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Catagorical Tuition Waiver: Native American, Senior Citizen, Commission for the Blind, Rehab Commission, Veterans Tuition	Population	39	100%	177,170	100%
	Tested	1	3%	485	0%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Christian Herter Scholarship	Population	1	100%	1,300	100%
	Tested	1	100%	1,300	100%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Commonwealth Commitment	Population	2	100%	1,092	100%
	Tested	1	50%	546	50%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Completion Incentive Grant Fund	Population	60	100%	79,400	100%
	Tested	2	3%	2,678	3%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
DCF Adopted Child Fee Assistance	Population	45	100%	444,812	100%
	Tested	3	7%	23,177	5%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
DCF Foster Child Tuition and Fee Waiver	Population	32	100%	341,875	100%
	Tested	1	3%	12,179	4%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Early Educators Scholarship	Population	7	100%	59,950	100%
	Tested	1	14%	4,950	8%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
GEER Emergency Grant	Population	97	100%	112,360	100%
	Tested	3	3%	2,513	2%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
In-Demand Scholarship	Population	87	100%	381,000	100%
	Tested	1	1%	5,000	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%

See accompanying report.

Westfield State University
Schedule of Population, Items Tested, and Findings for the
Massachusetts State Financial Assistance Program Cluster - Continued

Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Description of Category	Number of students	Percent of population	Amount of awards	Percent of population
Mass Grant	Population	1,093	100%	2,603,358	100%
	Tested	17	2%	38,150	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
MassGrant Plus	Population	1,168	100%	3,624,690	100%
	Tested	15	1%	54,174	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
MASSGrant Plus Expansion	Population	214	100%	776,996	100%
	Tested	2	1%	6,210	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Massachusetts Cash Grant	Population	515	100%	900,153	100%
	Tested	9	2%	19,034	2%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Massachusetts Foster Child Grant	Population	20	100%	97,750	100%
	Tested	1	5%	6,000	6%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Massachusetts GEAR UP Scholarship	Population	8	100%	\$ 6,600	100%
	Tested	1	13%	600	9%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Massachusetts High Demand Scholarship	Population	21	100%	156,000	100%
	Tested	2	10%	12,000	8%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Massachusetts Transfer Tuition Waiver	Population	102	100%	87,785	100%
	Tested	2	2%	1,940	2%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%

See accompanying report.

Westfield State University
Schedule of Population, Items Tested, and Findings for the
Massachusetts State Financial Assistance Program Cluster - Continued

Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Description of Category</u>	<u>Number of students</u>	<u>Percent of population</u>	<u>Amount of awards</u>	<u>Percent of population</u>
National Guard Tuition & Fee Assistance	Population	46	100%	94,106	100%
	Tested	1	2%	970	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Need Based Tuition Waiver	Population	591	100%	515,555	100%
	Tested	8	1%	6,790	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant	Population	1	100%	6,600	100%
	Tested	1	100%	6,600	100%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Part Time Student Grant Program	Population	14	100%	12,991	100%
	Tested	1	7%	750	6%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Paul E. Tsongas Scholarship Tuition Waiver	Population	12	100%	11,155	100%
	Tested	1	8%	970	9%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
State University Internship Incentive Program	Population	60	100%	\$ 229,902	100%
	Tested	1	2%	1,500	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Support for Behavioral Health Field Placements	Population	46	100%	400,000	100%
	Tested	1	2%	5,000	1%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%
Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship	Population	62	100%	1,061,473	100%
	Tested	1	2%	3,248	0%
	Findings	-	0%	-	0%

See accompanying report.



Board of Trustees

February 19, 2026

MOTION

To accept the audit report on the audit procedures required pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as prepared by the firm of WithumSmith and Brown P.C., and to authorize the submission of this report to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse and to other parties as required by OMB Uniform Guidance and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ali R. Salehi, Chair

Date

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS AS REQUIRED
BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE AND *GOVERNMENT*
AUDITING STANDARDS AND RELATED
INFORMATION**

JUNE 30, 2025

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

**Independent Auditor's Reports as Required by the Uniform Guidance
and *Government Auditing Standards* and Related Information**

June 30, 2025

C O N T E N T S

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

To the Board of Trustees of
Westfield State University:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Westfield State University's (an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) (the "University") compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the University's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. The University's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the University's complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS"); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (the "Uniform Guidance"). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the University and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the University's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the University's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the University's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the University's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the University's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the University's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed an instance of noncompliance which is required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2025-001. Our opinion on each major federal program is not modified with respect to these matters.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the University's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Westfield State University's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, as discussed above, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2025-001 to be a significant deficiency.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the University's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Westfield State University's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the University, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated October 21, 2025, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from, and relates directly to, the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

February 19, 2026

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Trustees of
Westfield State University:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of Westfield State University (the "University"), and its discretely presented major component unit, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 21, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the University's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the University's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report of Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the University's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the University's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

October 21, 2025

DRAFT

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
OF FEDERAL AWARDS**

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Pass-Through Entity</u>	<u>Pass-Through Entity Award Number</u>	<u>Federal Expenditures</u>	<u>Through to Subrecipients</u>
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CLUSTER					
U.S. Department of Education:					
Direct Awards:					
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	84.007	N/A	N/A	\$ 295,448	\$ -
Federal Work-Study Program	84.033	N/A	N/A	361,963	-
Federal Pell Grant Program	84.063	N/A	N/A	9,205,069	-
Federal Perkins Loan Program (beginning of year)	84.038	N/A	N/A	97,909	-
Federal Direct Student Loans (Note 4)	84.268	N/A	N/A	22,706,413	-
Total Student Financial Assistance Cluster				<u>32,666,802</u>	<u>-</u>
TRIO CLUSTER					
U.S. Department of Education:					
Direct Awards:					
TRIO Student Support Services	84.042	N/A	N/A	340,253	-
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER					
National Science Foundation:					
Direct Awards:					
STEM Education	47.076	N/A	N/A	324,127	-
NON-CLUSTER					
Library of Congress					
Pass-through Awards:					
Teaching with Primary Sources	42.010	Waynesburg University	GA08C0016	343	-
U.S. Department of Education					
Direct Awards:					
Child Care Access Means Parents in School	84.335	N/A	N/A	117,779	-
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education	84.116Z	N/A	N/A	79,914	-
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services					
Direct Awards:					
Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grants	93.732	N/A	N/A	353,983	-
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance	93.243	N/A	N/A	29,936	-
U.S. Department of the Interior					
Direct Awards:					
National Wild and Scenic Rivers System	15.962	N/A	N/A	174,193	-
U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services					
Pass-through Awards:					
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	45.313	Cornell University, Inc.	156601-22444	1,954	-
Total Noncluster				<u>758,102</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Federal Funds				<u>\$ 34,089,284</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See accompanying notes to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Note 1 - Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of Westfield State University (the "University") under programs of the Federal Government for the year ended June 30, 2025. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance"). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the University, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of the University.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance.

Note 3 - Indirect Cost Rate

The University has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

Note 4 - Federal Student Loan Programs

Perkins Loan Program

The Federal Perkins Loan Program ("Perkins") is administered directly by the University and balances and transactions relating to this program are included in the University's basic financial statements. During the year ended June 30, 2025, there were no loans advanced under the Perkins program. During the year ended June 30, 2025, no administrative costs were incurred. As of June 30, 2025, loan balances receivable, net under Perkins was \$0. During the year ended June 30, 2025 the University terminated its participation in the Perkins loan program and returned all outstanding Federal funding related to this program.

There was no federal capital contribution or match by the University during the current year.

Direct Student Loans

The University disbursed \$22,706,413 of loans under the Federal Direct Student Loans program, which include Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and Parent Plus Loans. It is not practical to determine the balances of the loans outstanding to students of the University under the program as of June 30, 2025. The University is only responsible for the performance of certain administrative duties and, accordingly, these loans are not included in the University's financial statements.

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Section I – Summary of Auditor’s Results:

Financial Statements

Type of auditor’s report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weaknesses identified? ☐ yes ☒ no
- Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses? ☐ yes ☒ no
- Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? ☐ yes ☒ no

Federal Awards

Type of auditor’s report issued on compliance for major programs:

Unmodified

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weaknesses identified? ☐ yes ☒ no
- Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses? ☒ yes ☐ no
- Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance? ☒ yes ☐ no

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Identification of Major Programs

Name of Federal Program or Cluster	Assistance Listing Number
Student Financial Assistance Cluster:	
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	84.007
Federal Work-Study Program	84.033
Federal Perkins Loan Program	84.038
Federal Pell Grant Program	84.063
Federal Direct Student Loans	84.268

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between
type A and type B programs:

\$750,000

Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee?

☒ yes ☐ no

Section II – Financial Statement Findings:

None

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs:

Finding number: 2025-001
Federal agency: U.S. Department of Education
Programs: Student Financial Assistance Cluster
Assistance Listing #: 84.007, 84.063, 84.268
Award year: 2025

Criteria

According to 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XI Compliance Supplement updated May 2024:

Under the Pell Grant and loan programs, institutions must complete and return within 15 days the Enrollment Reporting roster file placed in their Student Aid Internet Gateway mailboxes sent by ED or accessed on the Enrollment Maintenance Page via the National Student Loan Data System ("NSLDS"). The institution determines how often it receives the Enrollment Reporting roster file with the default set at a minimum of every 60 days. Once received, the institution must update for changes in student status, report the date the enrollment status was effective, enter the new anticipated completion date, and submit the changes electronically through the batch method or the NSLDS website. Institutions are responsible for timely reporting, whether they report directly or via a third-party servicer.

Condition

The Federal Government requires Westfield State University to report student enrollment changes to the National Student Loan Data System ("NSLDS") within 60 days. During our testing, 3 out of 40 students was reported late to the NSLDS by 220 days.

Cause

Westfield State University did not have the proper review procedures in place to ensure enrollment status changes were being reported to NSLDS timely.

Effect

Westfield State University did not report the student's correct status within the required timeframe, which may impact the students' loan grace periods.

Questioned Costs

Not applicable

Perspective

Our sample was not, and was not intended to be, statistically valid. Of the 40 students selected for testing, 3 students, or 7.5% of our sample was not reported within the required timeframe.

Identification as a Repeat Finding, if applicable

See finding 2024-001 included in Management's Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
(an Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Recommendation

The University should strengthen its controls surrounding the review of the NSLDS reporting process to ensure they are in compliance with federal regulations.

View of Responsible Officials

Westfield State University agrees with the finding.

DRAFT

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Management's Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Section IV – Management's Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings:

Finding number: 2024-001
Federal agency: U.S. Department of Education
Programs: Student Financial Assistance Cluster
Assistance Listing #: 84.063, 84.268
Award year: 2024

Condition

The Federal Government requires Westfield State University to report student enrollment changes to the National Student Loan Data System ("NSLDS") within 60 days. During our testing, 1 out of 40 students was reported late to the NSLDS by 1 day.

Current Year Status

The corrective action plan was fully implemented related to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 finding of one student being reported late to NSLDS by 1 day.

The Registrar now sends National Clearinghouse reports on a more frequent schedule.

During the academic year 2024-2025, all enrolled students were reported by the Registrar, using the new calendar for reporting, to the National Student Clearinghouse ("NSC").

In regards to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 audit, the three students whose enrollment records were created past 60 days in NSLDS, enrollment status changes were sent to the NSC (they partner with us for enrollment reporting) on time, however, did not get picked up by NSLDS initially because they did not have a social security number on their University student record or file sent to NSC.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Management's Corrective Action Plan

Finding number: 2025-001
Federal agency: U.S. Department of Education
Programs: Student Financial Assistance Cluster
Assistance Listing #: 84.007, 84.063, 84.268
Award year: 2025

The Registrar's Office will perform a mandatory "Missing SSN Report" that picks up missing and invalid SSNs before every enrollment data submission to the National Student Clearinghouse ("NSC"). The Registrar will send the Financial Aid Office a list of students with missing SSNs and Financial Aid will verify if students in the report have a FAFSA on file. If there is a FAFSA on file for a student, Financial Aid will update the SSN in the Banner system and send an email confirmation to the Registrar to confirm all records on the report have been reviewed and/or updated. The next enrollment file submitted to the NSC will include the students with the correct data.

Furthermore, the Registrar Office will send a written communication to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs verifying that all student records sent the National Student Clearing House has a SSN number prior to any reporting deadline. This communication will be kept on file and available for review for the next audit period.

As an additional step, when Financial Aid staff load initially unmatched ISIRs to active Westfield State student records, Banner is now set to automatically populate the student record with the social security number from the matched FAFSA. The goal is to reduce the number of missing social security numbers pulled by the Registrar when they run the "Missing SSN report."

Timeline for Implementation of Corrective Action Plan: Above corrections were implemented in November 2025.

Contact Person: Monique Lopez, Registrar and Simone Backstedt, Director, Financial Aid

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Board of Trustees

February 19, 2026

MOTION

To approve the internal audit plan as recommended by the Boston Consortium in the February 2026 memorandum.

Ali R. Salehi, Chair

Date



To: Audit Committee, Westfield State University
From: Samantha Spezeski, *Director of Internal Audit*
CC: Stephen Taksar, *Vice President for Administration and Finance*
Date: February 2026
Subject: Internal Audit FY26 & FY27 Plan

Clery Act Compliance Review (125 Hours)

- Annual Security Report (ASR) Review
- Hazing Reporting
- Training personnel
- Completeness, timeliness, of required reporting
- Emergency Response and Timely Warnings

Advancement Operations (250 hours)

125 hours for FY26. 125 hours for FY27

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Donor privacy | • Record retention |
| • Gift recording procedures | • Segregation of duties with gift processing |
| • Cash handling procedures | • Process of collecting and maintaining donor information |
| • Payment card industry standards | |
| • Tax receipts | |
| • In kind donations | |
| • Department policy/procedures | |

FY27

Advancement Operations (con't)

- Continued scope from above

Residential Life Part 1 (125 hours)

- Scope to be determined in fall 2026



Board of Trustees

February 19, 2026

MOTION

To approve the FY27 tuition and fee schedule, as presented.

Ali Salehi, Chair

Date

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
Schedule of Annual Tuition and Fees
FY26 - FY27 Comparison
FY27 Recommendations
DRAFT

	APPROVED	PROPOSED		
	FY26	FY27	\$	%
		DRAFT	Change	Change
TUITION:				
✓ Resident	970	970	0	0.0%
Proximity	1,455	1,455	0	0.0%
Non-Resident & Foreign	7,050	7,050	0	0.0%
MANDATORY FEES:				
Student Activity	162	162	0	0.0%
General Fee	10,653	10,972	320	3.0%
Capital Improvement Fee	100	100	0	0.0%
Technology Fee	730	730	0	0.0%
✓ Total Mandatory Fees	11,645	11,964	320	2.9%
Total In-State Tuition/Fees	12,615	12,934	320	2.5%
ROOM RATES:	FY26	FY27		
✓ Standard Room Rate (double, triple, quad)	9,030	9,300	270	3.0%
Single Room Rate	9,530	10,300	770	8.1%
Premium Single Room	11,030	12,300	1,270	11.5%
MEAL PLAN RATES:	FY26	FY27		
✓ Nestor's Plan / (Unlimited)	5,208	5,364	156	3.0%
On The Go	1,704	1,755	51	3.0%
Blue 15	4,978	5,127	149	3.0%
Gold 160	4,920	5,068	148	3.0%
Hoot! 7	3,302	3,327	25	0.8%
Commuter 80 (formerly Commuter 5)	2,838	1,360	(1,478)	-52.1%
Dining Dollar Commuter Plan	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%
21 Flex Plan		6,688	6,688	
Total Recommended Change in Mandatory Fees	26,853	27,599	746	2.8%
OTHER FEES:				
Bad Check Fee	25	25	0	0.0%
ID Card Replacement Fee	40	40	0	0.0%
Late Payment Fee	100	100	0	0.0%
Late Registration Fee	25	25	0	0.0%
Nursing Fee ⁽¹⁾	1,794	1,794	0	0.0%
Parking	100	100	0	0.0%
Parking - CGCE	60	60	0	0.0%
Practical Exam, Equipment and Clinical Fee	240	240	0	0.0%
Reinstatement Fee	50	50	0	0.0%
Student Teaching (practicum) Fee	250	250	0	0.0%
Study Abroad Fee	50	50	0	0.0%
WAIVABLE FEES:				
Lifetime Owls (opt in fee)	75	75	0	0.0%
*Student Health Insurance (see note below)	4,721	Pending		
Fitness Center	0	0	0	0.0%

✓ Average student annual change in fees is calculated using the gray shaded areas.

* Student Health Insurance Plan rate is to be determined once rates are made known by the state

Note:

1. The Nursing Fee includes coverage for clinical requirements by healthcare facilities and payment for Assessment Technology Institutes (ATI).
2. Actual cost of attendance is determined by financial aid and may vary from the weighted average estimated cost of attendance.
3. The fitness center fee of \$185 will be eliminated and \$156 will be permanently added to the general fee.

Westfield State University
Finance Committee

FY27 Tuition and Fee Schedule

February 19, 2026

Overview

The FY27 Planning Assumptions were presented to the Board of Trustees last October with the expectation that cost of attendance increases would fall within a range of 2.5% to 3.0%, as the CPI for last 12 months through September was 2.7%. The campus is committed to keeping the overall cost of attendance as reasonable as possible. However, given the current overall rate of inflation, a fee increase is unavoidable but will not be enough to offset expense increases.

For full time undergraduate students, the recommendation is for a general fee increase of 3.0%, or \$320, going from \$10,653 to \$10,972 (for commuter students). The recommendation for full-time students living in residence halls (including tuition /fees) is a total increase of 2.8% or \$746 (see attached Schedule of Annual Tuition and Fees).

The campus is seeking Board of Trustees' approval for all mandatory fees as represented in the board materials. Non-mandatory fees have already been approved by the President and are summarized. DGCE fees are summarized separately.

Comparison of Tuition and Fees

Undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees at Westfield State are in line with the other state universities. While Westfield State tuition/fees are slightly above average, ranking 4th out of 9 state universities, they remain close to the mid-range of fees charged by the other state universities, which is our desired market position. It is important to note that the posted tuition and fee rates are partially offset by financial aid, state waivers, institutional grants and other state provided funding and that the net price most students pay is less than the "sticker price" on tuition and fees approved today.

Residential Life Fees

Residential Life is continuing its pricing strategy of using a flat fee structure to increase upper class retention rates (reduce the gap of residential hall rates). This change is incentivizing returning students to stay on campus in their junior and senior year and normalize the price for first year students. The result is a year over year room rate increase of 3.0%. The campus will also continue to offer premium single rates (double size room for one person). Furthermore, WSU Rates in FY26 were significantly lower than all other state universities, with WSU being the lowest cost at \$9,030 versus all other state universities within a range of \$9,112 - \$12,240). The requested standard room rate is \$9,300, which is \$270.00 or 3% higher from this year.

Dining Services Fees

Dining Services did not increase their rates in FY26 resulting in WSU's FY26 cost per semester ranking lower than other state universities. While cost saving measures have been taken, higher commodity prices and expected to result in higher food costs (CPI away from home is >4%). Therefore, the campus is recommending an increase averaging 3% for all meal plan rates along with new meal plans requested by students. WSU would still remain very competitive compared to other state or local universities.

New Undergraduate Campus/Lab Fees

The President has the authority to approve a non-mandatory fee or increase. The following is a list of approved non-mandatory fees by course or major:

Business Technology Program Fee	\$ 200
Art Supplies Fee	\$ 40
Course/Lab Fee (Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology, and Physics)	\$ 40
Course/Lab Fee (ECON 0305- Introduction to Econometric Methods)	\$ 50
Course/Lab Fee - Environmental Science	\$ 35
Course Fee - Music Education	\$250/Semester
Production Seminar Course Fee	\$ 25
Theatre Workshop Course Fee	\$ 25
Course Lab Fee - Biology	\$ 40
Business Technology Program Fee	\$ 200
Geography of Beer and Wine (GPS0221) Course Fee	\$ 100

Summary

The recommended increases are within the planning parameters previously presented and discussed at prior Board of Trustee meetings this year and track closely to CPI. Vice President Taksar has met with SGA twice, along with Residential Life and Dining Service staff to discuss university finances and impact on tuition/fees. As previously noted, the President's Cabinet recommended, and the President approved, the fee changes proposed in this document. The price sensitivity of our students is of the utmost importance; however, the current challenging economic conditions have resulted in unavoidable increases in labor, supplies and utilities.

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
Schedule of DGCE Annual Tuition and Fees
FY26 - FY27 Comparison
FY27 Recommendations - 2/19/2026

Graduate and Continuing Education	FY26 Approved	FY27 Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
MANDATORY FEES:				
Undergraduate (per credit)	379	388	9	2.4%
RN-to-BSN (per credit)	368	377	9	2.4%
Graduate - General (per credit) (inclds new MBA prog.)	431	442	11	2.6%
Graduate - Social Work (per credit)	562	576	14	2.5%
Physician's Assistant (per credit) (see note below)	930	953	23	2.5%
Physician's Assistant Exam Fee	420	420	0	0.0%
MS in Physician Assistant Studied Professional Membership Fee		125	125	NEW
Master of Science in Athletic Training (per credit)		525	525	NEW
Master of Nursing in Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner (per credit)		690	690	NEW
MBA Technology Fee (MBA and Certificate Programs)		250	250	NEW
EMT Fee	240	250	10	4.2%
OTHER DGCE FEES:				
Student Teaching (practicum) Fee	250	250	0	0.0%
Nursing Fee*	1,794	1,794	0	0.0%
RN-BSN Capstone Placement Fee**	150	150	0	0.0%
Physician's Assistant program Fee	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Psychology Practicum	100	100	0	0.0%
School Guidance Counseling Practicum Fee	250	250	0	0.0%
Prior Learning Portfolio Assessment Fee	150	150	0	0.0%
Late Registration Fee	50	50	0	0.0%
Late Payment Fee	100	100	0	0.0%
Returned Check Fee	25	25	0	0.0%
Late Withdrawal Fee	25	25	0	0.0%
Replacement ID Card	40	40	0	0.0%
Parking-CGCE	60	60	0	0.0%

Note:

The Physician's Assistant per credit increase is applicable to the new FY27 cohort only. The FY26 cohort will continue to pay \$930/credit/\$18,600 per trimester. The FY27 cohort, with the approved increase, will be \$953/credit/\$19,060 per trimester.

*The Nursing fee applies to full-time enrolled B.S.N Nursing students and rates are recommended by the Day School.

**The RN-BSN Capstone Placement Fee applies to RN-BSN students completing a practicum placement in a hospital setting.

Tuition and Fee Increase Summary (FY27)

Division of Graduate and Continuing Education (DGCE)

The FY27 tuition and fee adjustments are designed to cover rising operating costs while keeping DGCE programs affordable and aligned with the University's public mission. Increases were kept as small and targeted as possible to maintain program quality and ensure long-term sustainability.

Undergraduate General Tuition and Fees

Most mandatory tuition-related fees will increase by **2%**, which reflects modest growth in instructional and basic operating costs. This level of adjustment keeps fees within reasonable affordability ranges for students and remains competitive in the adult learner market.

Graduate Tuition

Graduate per-credit tuition will increase by **3%**. Graduate programs carry higher costs due to specialized faculty needs, accreditation and licensure requirements, and additional instructional support. Even with this adjustment, DGCE's graduate rates remain competitive within the regional market. The newly developed MBA program will utilize the general graduate rate.

Program-Specific Rates for New Programs

Two new programs, the **MS in Athletic Training** and the **MSN: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**, will launch with program-specific tuition rates. These rates reflect the unique expenses tied to clinical coordination, accreditation standards, and specialized instructional resources, while staying aligned with comparable programs in the region. These programs will begin enrollment in Fall 2026.

Targeted Program Fees

A small number of program-specific fees are being introduced or adjusted to cover direct, required expenses:

- The **Physician Assistant Studies professional membership fee** supports participation in required professional organizations.
- A **technology fee for the MBA and related certificate programs** covers specialized software and digital platforms used throughout the curriculum.
- The **EMT program fee** will increase by **4%** to keep pace with rising instructional and equipment costs. This fee had remained unchanged for several years despite inflation and enrollment growth.

Overall Impact

These changes reflect a focused, responsible approach to balancing affordability with the cost of delivering high-quality programs. The adjustments help ensure DGCE can continue offering strong academic experiences, meet accreditation and compliance standards, and avoid the need for larger increases in future years.



Board of Trustees

February 19, 2026

MOTION

To approve the consolidation of Westfield State University's two investment accounts into one, as recommended by investment advisors, Fund Evaluation Group (FEG). The consolidation will simplify reporting and account management. The aggregated account will reflect the integration of the current asset allocation of equities and fixed income.

Ali Salehi, Chair

Date

TO: Westfield State University (WSU)
FROM: Stephen Haines, Vice President, FEG
SUBJECT: Recommendation to merge two investment accounts into one account
DATE: January 30, 2026

FEG recommends WSU merge their two investment accounts at Schwab into one consolidated Schwab account. The merged accounts will result in no changes to underlying investments, but it will create performance reporting and implementation efficiencies benefiting WSU.

Background

At the time of hiring FEG, WSU custodied two different investment accounts at Schwab. One account is approximately 25% of total assets, and that account holds a 100% fixed income allocation. A second investment account is approximately 75% of total assets, and that account holds a combination of equity and fixed income investments. The aggregated two investment accounts target an asset allocation of 60% equities and 40% fixed income.

Recommendation Rational

The recommended change is rooted in improving (1) performance reporting aggregation, and (2) ease of implementing day-to-day account management. Details include:

1. **Performance Reporting:** The existing account structure is generating three performance reports (investment account, fixed income account, and a combined snapshot of both accounts) all benchmarked to the IPS 60/40 target allocation. A single performance report will provide greater visibility into the University's aggregate investment returns.
2. **Improving Ease of Implementation:** FEG uses proprietary systems to monitor WSU's asset allocation, underlying security constraints, and to make rebalance recommendations for the accounts. FEG is currently making distribution recommendations on a pro-rata account basis to maintain the 60/40 target allocation weighting scheme. Managing cash flows and rebalance trades becomes more efficient with one custody account. Finally, FEG is currently calculating an annual spend rate for WSU by aggregating dollar values across accounts, which can be streamlined with one account.

FEG recommends merging the Fixed Income account in-kind with the Investment account, resulting in a single custody investment account at Schwab. FEG recommends merging accounts at the end of March 2026 to maintain orderly performance reporting, or at a month end period that is reasonable to WSU.