

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2023 @ 5:30pm**  
**Ely 017 (SGA Room)**

- I. ROLL CALL: Isabella Catao was absent
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: September 12, 2023
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: *Nicholas Smith***

Good Evening, everyone.

I hope you are all doing well. I once again hope your classes are going well and that your first official week of classes last week went as smoothly as it could. I first thank all of you for your help with the national voter registration day, where we let students know the voting process, but also highlighted our own process for SGA and how our voting works! A brief introduction, My name is Nicholas Smith, and I am this academic year's SGA or student government association president. This means that it is my job to not only hold the SGA meetings like the one you are currently at but also help the student body voice concerns, thoughts, or ideas on things, and working along side my executive board to figure out what we can do to help. This is a huge honor so I embrace to talk to me and exec if you every need anything. The best way to reach me is with my email President.SGA@westfield.ma.edu. Besides that, Public Safety wanted me to make you all aware that they are doing their cornhole tournament this year, it will be October 24th at 5:30pm in the MPR (multi-purpose room), there will be an SGA meeting that day, however, we will try to get through it as quick as we can to get us there to show our support. Teams will be 25\$ and information for signing up should available to register soon. There are many departments on campus that are also going to help out, so I encourage your class councils to come out or support a team and reach out to some departments to see if they can be a sponsor. This year we are trying to make sure students are focused in governance committees that that they want to be apart of. I'm sure someone else were report more on governance committees, so I won't but, make sure you are each on two committees, class council counts as one, so make sure you are getting on another one! Lastly, I have created and emailed you all a link and QR code for an SGA group me. Please join the group me and make sure you are keeping the group me for quick but important SGA topics. Things like asking when the dress up meeting is, or even offering help for an SGA event. As well as updating things you may be doing where SGA can help. That's all I have thanks!

**A. Coordinator of Student-Athlete Leadership, Inclusion, & Engagement: *Nyindu Kabangu***

Hello, I'm going to have a sort of informal spiel real quick so I'm sorry if that's not what you are used to. Like Nick just said, I'm Nyindu from Athletics. I just recently started over there so I'm still just getting used to Westfield State. But I'm just here to tell you first of all that. In Athletics students get all games free with there ID except for Ice Hockey which you have to pay a dollar for. Then, we are really trying to get students and athletes to support each other in Athletic Games as well as Student Government things or on campus activities. So some of the things that we have coming up are our pep rally on September 28<sup>th</sup> on Thursday which will be on the green from 6:30 to 8:30 so if any of you can help to spread the word or have any suggestions for that please feel free to reach out to me. Nick has my email so you can get it from him. We are also actively recruiting for a Nestor so if you know anyone who is energetic and fun and likes to interact with people and also reach out to me with that

information. That person does get paid. We want to reiterate we want athletes and students to support each other in all events on campus and not just athletic events. If you any of those events I will get it out to them.

- i. Nick Smith: I was wondering what can we do as student government to help you guys out. I know you said like resharing but is there anything else you want to do?
- ii. Nyindu Kabangu: Off the top of my head, like I said helping to get the word out and also letting us know what the students really want and what they want to see because obviously all of us are here to serve the student body so that's really what we want to get more information on.
- iii. Sarah Harington: what do you think is the best way for us to have athletes be more involved in our activities like this how we can reach out to them to get them just sit in on our meetings and just be more of a part in our environment as well?
- iv. Nyindu Kabangu: That's a good question. So I'm thinking that I'm since I'm new I'm trying to build our relationship with them also and then tell them about these types of things so that they can be more involved in campus and not just involved in the sport that they play so as of now that's kind of my strategy building relationship and then give them more information about it after I do that.
- v. Adam Carpenter: Just from your short time here has there been any particular concerns that you have heard from Athletes that we could help facilitate processes for different athletes on campus to get services that they need and feel like more of a part of campus.
- vi. Nyindu Kabangu: As of right now, no but we do have a student athlete advisory council meeting on Monday so I might have some soon.

B. SGA Advisors:

C. President's Council:

D. Items not listed on Agenda:

#### **IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: *Kaolin Westcott***

Dan held a meeting with Simone Backstedt, Director of Financial Aid, alongside myself and Laura Cafaro, to discuss the possibility of centralizing and standardizing on-campus student employment postings on-campus. Given her role as Director of Financial Aid, Dan coordinated the meeting to focus on the work-study component of student jobs on-campus. All parties agreed that we need to centralize the posting of jobs on-campus in order to maximize the advertising of these positions. Several ideas and strategies were shared during this meeting, including both short-term and long-term solutions. Following this meeting, Dan received a call from Trish Bonica, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, Title IX & Equal Opportunity. She has agreed to meet with Dan alongside Tracy Daborowski, Director of Human Resources, and Meghan Woodruff, Human Resources Generalist, sometime later this month or early next month to discuss on-campus student employment from the Human Resources perspective. Following this meeting, Dan will start developing a recommendation on the centralization and standardization of on-campus student employment postings. If you are interested in helping Dan out and getting involved in this project, please reach out to him via email. Finally, Dan is currently finishing up a Board retreat at Great Horse Country Club in Hampden, MA, which included a governance workshop and a strategic visioning session. He looks forward to working alongside the Board this academic year in advancing the University to new heights. As a reminder, Dan's office hours are Mondays 3:30pm-

4:30pm, Tuesdays 8:30am-9:30am & 4:00pm-5:00pm, Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am, and Fridays 2:00pm-3:00pm. Dan can be reached at trustee.sga@westfield.ma.edu or by phone at (413) 642-1892.

- A. All University Committee:
- B. Student Advisory Council:

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

Hi everyone, hope you are doing well. I just wanted to update you all on what I have been up to the last week. Currently I am working on a grand opening for the commuter lounge, I have been working to find giant scissors to use at the opening. Now the university has two pairs so if you ever need any, we have two. As well as making sure everyone can attend who I have reached out to be there. I hope some of you will be able to attend as well. It will be on September 27th at 9am. And there will hopefully be food there. I also Meet with the Student affairs committee last week on Friday. We discussed how the committee will meet and what our goals for the year are. One thing I brought up is connecting the Students and the staff, As a lot of the committee is Professor. The room seemed open to this idea and had some other ideas to further this. I believe this will be one of the goals of the committee going forward for the year. For the next meeting I want to bring up any problems the students might have so if you have any things for me to bring up, please find me after the meeting. Also if you are interested in joining the committee I do need students for it, so if you are interested find me after the meeting. My last thing is I have joint office hours with VP Hearn this Thursday at 10am in the room by Dunkin, so please spread the word, and my other office hour not in the SGA room will be on Friday in the commuter lounge to reach the wider student body.

- A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report
- B. Food Services Committee: **Adam Carpenter**

Good evening everyone,  
Food services met last Friday during the common meeting hour and we were able to put the issue to bed regarding the rice bowls. I'm going to be honest some concessions needed to be made in order to get the them back. These were all statistically driven in terms of what stayed and what went in conjunction with the financial side of things. For example I will address the two ones that I've heard the biggest uproar about so far. The first of these is the decision to only have chicken and no more pork, this comes as a result of people ordering chicken 3 times as often as pork and also that pork is up significantly in terms of price and accessibility to current shortages. The second of these is the current absence of guac which is as a result of being the most expensive thing that they have so it was really the last straw that had to break in order to get them back. The agreement that I made in this regard is that it will be available at a dining dollar cost as an add-on once you have meal swiped for your rice bowl. But now that I've addressed some of the negatives, I think that we should really just celebrate that we were able to get something done. I know that I have received a lot of positive feedback on the issue and am including some quotes that have been said. "Adam you the goat!", "This is so fire!", "You are the people's princess", and "In Adam we trust!". In regard to the people's princess comment, I will be careful around cars and tunnels for the next few weeks. In all seriousness, this is really significant for me

personally as this is really the first time that anything that I have done has been met with a positive public response to something that I have done and that sort of help is what I do this job for. I personally would like to thank my team because you were all of great assistance in this battle. In other news, there has been a little bit of additional dining news to share. The program Nutrislice which is being launched in the next couple of weeks in order to list ingredients is starting to be launched now. The web menus that are not on the Instagram are tied directly to this program so they will be back up following this roll out so just for now we need to rely on those Instagram stories for our source of news. That's really all that I have for you today so please let me know if you have any thoughts or concerns.

- i. Joseph Bonilla: I wanted to ask about what happened to Salads at late night that we had last year? I think it was very important so that students didn't have to eat only fried food.
- ii. Adam Carpenter: I will look into where they went and see about getting them back.
- iii. Elizabeth Mercer: Where did the Greek Yogurt and Un crustables go that were in the bistro as a side option.
- iv. Adam Carpenter: I'll look into it.
- v. Sarah Harrington: Thank you for everything that you do because I know it can't be easy.

- C. Substance Advisory Committee: No Report
- D. Student Athletic Advisory Board: No Report
- E. Veteran Affairs Report: No Report
- F. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

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

Hi Everyone! I hope all is well. On Friday, September 15, Academic Policies Committee met in Parenzo for the first meeting of the semester. The committee elected and voted for positions. Janet Gebelt was voted as Chair, Princy Manella as Co-Chair, and Robin White as Secretary. After the bylaws were approved. There are presidential changes that are going to be made for 24-25 academic year. If you have used Curriculog before, you will be happy to hear that it has been updated to be more clear and user-friendly. Nick and I sat in the committee, but were unable to vote. Once Student Government approves the governance committee's bylaws, student representatives will be able to vote on said committees. These committees include Academic Policies Committee, University Curriculum Committee, All University Committee, and Student Affairs Committee. Students are still able to sit in on these committees, but again, cannot vote until we approve the bylaws. If you are looking to sit on any of these committees please reach out to me either through email or after this meeting. All of the meetings are on Fridays during the common hour. APC, UCC, And AUC are the first and third Friday of the month and SAC is only the third Friday. The next APC meeting will be the first week in October. If you would like to meet with me, my office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:30 and Friday from 12:30-1:30. My email is vpademiclife.sga@westfield.ma.edu. Have a good rest of the week!

- i. Joseph Bonilla: Point of information. The person who is likely to come down so that we can approve the bylaws is Professor Claudia Ciano-Boyce.

- A. Academic Policies Committee: No Report
- B. Curriculum Committee: No Report

- C. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): No Report
- D. Campus Academic Master Plan (CAMP): No Report
- E. Parking Control Board: No Report
- F. Parking Appeals Board: No Report

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

Good afternoon, everyone!

Thank you for meeting with us today. In the last week, I have met with Robert Vigneault from Veteran and Military Services, Kelly Palm from Health Services, and leadership in the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA). In the next week, I will be meeting with Dr. Pierce, our Vice President for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, La-toya Wilson, the Director of the Urban Education Program, and leadership from the Latino Association for Empowerment (LafE). Should there be anything that you would like me to bring up at any of these meetings please feel free to let me know after this report. Beyond my meta-goal of campus engagement and integration, which I discussed last week, I plan on addressing the following concerns in my role: the achievement gap, the prevalence of sexual violence, the pursuit and access to healthcare for marginalized groups on campus, and so on. I will be a member of the Academic Policies Committee for the fall 2023 - spring 2024 academic year. One of my key concerns, which I intend to address on this committee, is the achievement disparity across racial/ethnic groups on campus. In terms of complete credit accumulation after four years, there is a statistically significant difference between typical white students and typical non-white students. The 74% of the typical white student at Westfield achieves full credit accumulation after four years whereas 52% of black/African American students achieve full credit accumulation after four years and 54% Hispanic/Latinx students achieve full credit accumulation after four years at Westfield State University. A disparity of 20 and 22 points is unacceptable, and I will investigate solutions to this problem. I also wanted to make you all aware that on Saturday, September 30, 2023, the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) will be hosting its 2023 ALPFA Boston's Student Summit on Empowering Access. This group is the first national Latinx professional association in the U.S. and they aim to provide high-quality professional development opportunities to students and professionals in Massachusetts. If you would like to attend this, please refer to your emails as you should have received a communication regarding this earlier this afternoon. Additionally, going forward I will be dissolving the Diversity and Inclusion Committee as I am in the process of developing a successor committee. My goal for this committee is to begin to bridge gaps in equity on campus and begin establishing a dialogue and relationship between affinity groups and our Student Government Association. Membership on this committee will include liaison positions from affinity groups and others. Please stay tuned for more details. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns either after my report, during my office hours, or via email at [vpequity.sga@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:vpequity.sga@westfield.ma.edu). I will leave you with this, Raja Krishnamoorthi once said "when the norm is decency, other virtues can thrive: integrity, honesty, compassion, kindness, and trust."

- A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: No Report

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

Hello everyone, I'm going to keep my report short today. I just wanted to thank everyone that helped with and participated in the Club fair last Thursday. We ended up having more students and clubs than originally expected and I couldn't be happier with the overall results. I also wanted to give everyone a heads up for next Tuesdays meeting, I will be asking for students interested in Finance Committee to meet with me. And if anyone has any questions, please reach out to my vp finance email or find me during my office hours which are, Mondays 9-11 in the Commuter Lounge, and Tuesdays 3-5 in the SGA room.

- A. Finance Committee: No Report
- B. Foundation Report: No Report
- C. ITSAC Report: No Report

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

This month is Hispanic Heritage month and LAFE is hosting an event on Wednesday at 6pm in Davis to celebrate. I hope to see you all there. On Friday, CAB is hosting Karaoke Night in the Owl's Nest at 8pm and on Saturday, they are hosting a Home Run Derby event on the green from 2-4pm. Also, the student's accounts office is looking for students who are work study eligible. If you are interested, please email studentsaccounts@westfield.ma.edu . Thank you.

- A. Neighborhood Advisory Board: No Report
- B. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: No Report
- C. Owl Ball Committee: No Report
- D. Blue Key Committee: No Report

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

Good evening SGA,

The SGA elections are in full swing with some of our most important dates having occurred just this week. The first of these is that signature papers were due yesterday and tonight an email is going out this evening to tell people that they are going to be on the ballot and to send me a picture and a bio. These shall be due on Thursday and Elections will commence this Friday through this Sunday before results are published on Monday. I would also like to announce that we got 30 signature papers for this election which is very exciting. Finally, the joke of the week. What do you call a small mother? A mini-mum! Thank you!

**X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:**

- A. Rules and Regulations Committee: No Report
- B. Constitutional Review Committee: No Report

**XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- A. Commuter Council: No Report
- B. Senior Class: No Report
- C. Junior Class: No Report
- D. Sophomore Class: No Report
- E. First Year Class: No Report

- F. Apartment Complex: No Report
- G. Courtney Hall: No Report
- H. Davis Hall: No Report
- I. Dickinson Hall: No Report
- J. Lammers Hall: No Report
- K. New Hall: No Report
- L. University Hall: No Report

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened) No New Business

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Adam Carpenter: Just as a point of information on the procedural side of things, we only clap as the speaker is approaching the podium and not as they are leaving unless it is the guest speaker. It's no big deal just wanted to take the teaching moment.

Katie Egan: 241 days until commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Isabella Catao is absent.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 until the next meeting until September 26<sup>th</sup>.

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