

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Ely 017 (SGA Room)

I. ROLL CALL: Eri'yan Baker was absent from the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: November 07, 2023 The minutes were approved

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nicholas Smith

I would like to thank you all for being amazing, as I knew you would be last week in my absence. Last Tuesday was quite a long day, and I just needed a night to take a brief breather, which I did, so thank you for all you did under president temporary president Jack Guindon. I also want to highlight my executive board, who did a fantastic job, and Jack, for excelling in my absence. I did realize that I did hide my gavel in my desk, so halfway through the meeting, while I was watching it, because yes, I was watching it, I realized the gavel being used was, in fact, not mine and it made me laugh.

I want to thank all of you who helped with the Turkey Drive: Matt Dellea, who helped us raise some money through the Turkey trot, and Haley Kane, who helps put on the Turkey Drive every year. I want to remind you that part of your role is helping in things like this, so next time something like this comes around, make sure you sign up to help out to help better our community. Thank you to those who signed up and helped; I know you helped collect for a good cause, so a pat on the back to you.

I met with Kurt Morris, the outreach member for the counseling center, today. Kurt and I discussed what counseling means to Westfield State and the campus. Kurt is a person I will be inviting to an SGA meeting to let students know what the counseling center has been doing and what they want to do, as well as to help them engage students a bit more on campus than they currently are. Kurt also asked me to let you know that there will be massage therapy outside the fitness center this Friday. Sessions will be 15 minutes long, and they will be via massage chairs.

Dan and I are meeting with President Thompson for lunch this Friday, so if there are any significant issues, ideas, or thoughts you want us to discuss with her, please let me know after this report when they ask for questions or comments.

Chief Tony, let me know there is now a second shuttle running from 8 pm to 12 am on Sunday night to hopefully make dropping your cars off in the south lot on Sunday nights a bit easier.

This week is our group bonding trip. Please meet me at the front of Scanlon Hall at 5:45 pm because the bus will leave by 6. The T-birds play the Commetts, a New York team, so it should be a good game. If you have yet to like the message in the group about going and want

to go, please like the message or talk to Laura right after the meeting to make sure we reserve your ticket for you.

- A. The Special Committee for Reforming General Education (SCORE)- Megan Kennedy, Beverly Army Williams, Lynn Shelly

Megan Kennedy, Beverly Army Williams, and Lynn Shelly gave a presentation

- i. Daniel Currier: I know that last year I talked a lot about the writing and public speaking and information literacy. I'm very pleased that that was included in the model. I think that from a marketing perspective we need to do a lot of marketing for incoming students. I know we have been test modeling with students through touring and whatnot. You talk a lot about soft skills which is exactly what you want to hear. I was pulled over by the vice president from TJX and that is the number one problem they are facing so parents see that as well and they love that. The one thing that I want to ask is about budget implications. This comes for a perspective of some of these additions to faculty in certain areas. What are the budget implications in some of these areas?
- ii. Megan Kennedy: We are very aware of the financial impacts of this. We are very aware of the sort of state of the union in our world right now. And so that's why I talked about low impact because there are a lot of departments do a lot of service to core and we didn't want those faculty to feel like they didn't have a place in this model those departments did not feel like they have a place in this model so that there were potentially new things they would get to teach but there was that wasn't going to push people out of positions that was really important to us and in our conversations with the Provost and president as we've been starting to talk about our as we move into potentially a hiring cycle of revisiting hiring faculty because we've been on a real hold on that for a while is valuing both contributions to general education and potentially majors in areas because there are some departments I will use education that we have some in Gen. Ed but not very much and their faculty were like I would love to do an exploring complex issues class I would love to add something here and so there are departments that haven't necessarily been budgeted for that the other piece that was really important to us was getting an executive director director because that will also help us be mindful of those resources so that we are mindful of how many courses we're running so that we're you know as concise with that as possible it's wrong word but you know what I mean I think the one other thing that I would say about cost is what I love about the high impact practices is so few of them cost anything they increase the likelihood of all these things and a lot of this is done just by changing curriculum but the budget component is something we've been talking about and you have a good piece that you add to this
- iii. Lynn Shelly: but my good piece is but I'll add that the overall average class size is not going to change for better or for worse however you're gonna see that those writing intensive classes are going to be a little bit smaller and but then that means you know something like intra psych is going to have to be a little bit larger so on average the class size is not going to change because once you start changing the class sizes you start costing lots and lots of money so that's one piece the other piece is this is actually going to save students money students who were who were previously having to complete more than 120 credits in order to graduate by shrinking the size of the core we're really hoping that students will no longer have to go work for for not good reasons will not have to go past that 120 credits so there's so many financial components to this but really that's the one piece where we don't have administration mad at us because we're not costing more money.
- iv. Megan Kennedy: To support this work in the launch score has written grants and we received over almost a \$300,000 grant from the Hearst foundation no Davis said Davis we didn't get there we didn't apply for hours not that we didn't get it and that has been vital in building out these courses so we've been able to compensate faculty for a lot of those works holding professional development all of those pieces that make it better we've been able to do through grant funding really looking for some of those supplemental supports
- v. Sarah Harrington: I love this new model and I am honestly upset to not be a part of. My one question is that it seems like there are going to be a lot of areas. It just seems overwhelming looking at it. My question is are we still going to have major courses in the core for each area

- because it will allow for you to still be able to do the double dipping. So that you are not just taking 15 courses that don't apply to your major at all?
- vi. Megan Kennedy: and speaking from Education uh currently education has multiple courses that are in general education they will be in the new general education as well however the difference is is they're not only going to be restricted to education majors and so that does limit some of the major courses that would make sense to include in general education that's a conversation the end department it's a conversation GPS is having its conversation nursing is having which courses need to be in there for accreditation and you know we know that psych 101 and elementary statistics very popular in a lot of majors so we've worked with those departments to make sure that they are still there when you look at the green column and the purple column those to me feel the most the same as the old model that distributive like you check the different boxes but we do hope as you get used to looking at the model it becomes easier to see that it's you know the 13 courses and then the two university requirements it's just a little different than like social understanding where you have to get nine we're just we're hoping actually making some of that decision easier by pushing you out of your comfort zones in some places because I saw some of your faces when Lynn was talking about creative arts practice I saw it but what if you took a website design branding your own person you know they there's so many applicable things that we're looking at.
- vii. Kaolin Westcott: I'm very glad to see the first year journey classes. I am a transfer student and at my previous institution they had first year seminars there and they were some of the best classes. She had a she had a class that focused on like the Harry Potter series and I did one that was focused on rockets and like I absolutely loved it and like when I was transferring here it's like oh what don't they have that so I'm really glad to see that and then. Yeah before I ended up transferring because I took back course I added astrophysics onto my major so and then the other thing is so I am a transfer student myself and I was a transfer orientation leader of the summer constantly doing transfer tours Ethan over there is also a transfer student so I'd love to talk to you guys more about streamlining that process because I'm also constantly in contact with Brittany and advising and we're constantly talking to transfer students or potential transfer students and what's stopping them from transferring or what is the difficulties especially when it comes to transfer the transfer of credits because that's one thing that I have struggled with.
- viii. Lynn Shelly: it's like I got this one I had the morning talking about this so I know so there's what's gonna happen is you know right now if you're transfer student you come in you have to take everything in the the genetic curriculum regardless of what you've done previously tough not only and if you're transferring them with the compact tough one OK you have your associates are going to take +6 we're really trying to get we're not trying to we're going to get rid of all of that so there's no more no more plus six for the transfer with the compact and also depending on how many credits you transfer in you you're the size of your Gen. Ed curriculum is going to be adjusted so no more are we going to make students go backwards and you know often we have students coming in as juniors you come in with a lot of credits and we're making them go backwards and retake and this is the population that's graduating with 130 a 140 credits and so we're really trying to deal with that by acknowledging that when you transfer in a lot of classes these can check out all these areas so we are absolutely aware of that because it's really disheartening when you look at some of the degree audits of your classmates who have transferred in who are up to 145 credits you know just because they transferred so thank you keep keep us keep us in check because that's so important
- ix. Megan Kennedy: We would love to talk to you
- x. Kaolin Westcott: My next thing is because so right now when you're transferring credits especially when it's Jen add credits you have to go to the Dean of your school is there going to be OK.
- xi. Megan Kennedy: if those of you who haven't transferred you have to get like 18,000 signatures for each course that you want to count in different areas and that's one of the ways we intend to streamline the process is the very essence of the Beverly the edge to help with that and person.
- xii. Chris Piro: wonderful presentation thank you for coming down I would argue to say this is the most important meeting so far this year it's gonna it's gonna determine the future I did want to

- give a couple of comments I first want to say is that sorry I'm looking at my nose the well-being courses I heard from a lot of students remember was SCORE committee last year when I would talk to my friends that they would say like the wellbeing courses those are something like the financial literacy the mental health courses those something that you should be taught in high school and that now we're having here I think it's great.
- xiii. Megan Kennedy: And that was a real response clear what we're seeing about the mental health statistics we couldn't ignore that component of a students experience this day and that was one of the the main things that got you this but i'm loving that you're hearing from people like i didn't get it i want it.
- xiv. Chris Piro: i'm also glad to see that a lot of ideas from last year are implemented for those and mine and Sarah's from this year as well and but the going off with someone said last year Chloe mentioned like when you're talking about the fun topics of professors teaching that our teaching she mentioned like having like maybe a course like the history of Taylor Swift I know a lot of people would love that do you think there's something maybe possible like that?
- xv. Megan Kennedy: that so I have to pause you because I I was thinking about the first year journey and like Taylor Swift joke right now. Lynn can you talk about the Janet Jackson class your son took cause I could see this equivalent being a Taylor Swift course.
- xvi. Lynn Shelly: my son took a first year experience class on Janet Jackson which you know that's old school sorry it's her parents but it was really she she dealt with a lot of stuff sexism racism and nipplegate I know if you're familiar with nipplegate but it was a thing and so I could totally see a first year any course completely on on taylor swift because again think about all the different influences is you have economic issues you have issues of gender you have issues of music and there's just so many issues that you could explore just from one person.
- xvii. Chris Piro: The question I did want to ask is with double dipping especially transfer students how will it result for students in major such as like nursing or education that have a lot of credits yeah and how are they going to take more classes or like summer classes but then the one thing I wanted to ask if you could send it out to me or all of SGA would be if you could have it on hand like all the classes that are being offered which eat with each core section
- xviii. Lynn Shelly: we're not up to the courses we will be soon well within the next three months four months so we're not quite there yet but as soon as we are we definitely want to hear from you we have been deliberately having folks from those highly regulated departments like nursing and education on the committee because we cannot make a core too large that's going to hurt them it's just too it's first of all it's unethical but it's too large of our student population so we have been very deliberate about not blowing things up so so far nursing is going to be okay education is going to be OK criminal justice is going to be OK so these large majors like really been very deliberate about making sure they're not going to have to go over that 120 because again it's it's an issue of ethics you shouldn't come to a university and and be told complete your degrees in 120 credits and then have to go way beyond that.
- xix. Sarah Harrington: you could do a whole class on the eras tour course specifically economics and all that stuff behind that and her whole purpose you know yeah my question is how can there be no restrictions cause like a lot of times that's like a problem with like not enough professors or like offering this many courses and there's only this many seats so I'm just wondering like the logistics within that can i ask you a follow-up question before him
- xx. Megan Kennedy: Before I answer your question, I'm going to ask a question back. When you say restrictions do you mean course
- xxi. Sarah Harrington: Course Restrictions
- xxii. Megan Kennedy: Let me try and if you have a follow up you can ask it. We will go with that so as you know there are courses in general education that are current core that you don't have access to and that isn't general education that's the major pushing stuff into general education so we will still be able to double dip and things like schools and American culture for critical multicultural ED naming 2 Ed courses will still be in general education you just might have other majors in there as well it won't just be education majors so when we're talking with individuals about what courses they want to put in we're making sure that their courses that would work across majors opening some of those things up because this

- actually connects with Dan's point about the finances we are having to cancel classes if they're too restrictive because there's not enough population to fill them so we're also seeing that as an opportunity to expand that is that the question you were answering asking.
- xxiii. Desiree Brown: Transfer students and First Year students are put into the same group where they are just put into classes. A lot of times we are just kind of thrown into whatever fits. Is there anything that you guys are going to help to the transfer students get to have more say in the classes that we take and more like information knowledge of the classes that are open to us.
- xxiv. Megan Kennedy: so the easy answer is absolutely this is definitely something we've noticed and when we've been talking about our transfer policies it ripples up to things like orientation and registration so we want to find ways to streamline those processes and you know if Adriana is not reading something we don't want you we don't want someone putting you in a course that we find there is actually an equivalent so we are working on that process and we're also trying to be mindful of transfer students are not first year first semester students and they need to be treated differently different types of orientation because the the piece that we are concerned about with transfers in the first year journey we see this as a very key like community space here on campus really finding at niche here and so if transfers are coming in without that what are the things that are in that class that they need to be here on campus because we know that there's not always that that consistency of that experience especially for our part time students so we've been thinking through those possibilities. I don't have the full action plan yet but we're going to pull together a little transfer group here
- xxv. Kaolin Westcott: Point of information. I have been working on this as an orientation leader and I did notice that. I've been working with Brittany on how to change that up with the orientation but definitely email me actually you have my number and then i'm going to be working with this group here.
- xxvi. Brandon Rita: I just want to ask you with all of us being on the old gen ed and everything going to the new gen ed will we be affected by the switches to the policies or anything like that.
- xxvii. Megan Kennedy: No. The only way you might be impacted is on the positive end so for example if you're a second year student and we're offering these really interesting exploring complex issues and you're like OK we're back we want you to be able to also take it and match it if you know where does it fit with the old curriculum we've already been thinking through that so if there's gonna be any impact we want us to be on the positive end and we are very aware that we need to keep offering multiple sections of the old record so we're kind of working through both components that.
- xxviii. Sarah Harrington: How do you think that we should keep students on track with not taking all of these fun courses all at the same time like just filling up their schedule with a bunch of hand on nitty gritty fun courses and staying on track with their major and getting stuff done when they are supposed to be for setting themselves up for upcoming years.
- xxix. Megan Kennedy: That's going to land a lot on advisors and in majors to sort of balance some of those components but we want you to walk away with all of them being able to have some fun that was like practically hidden in the chicken Nuggets I didn't even feel like I was learning so our goal is to to better prepare all advisors prepare some documents and work on advocacy so students can advocate for themselves and have a better sense of how to map that out very intentionally we imagine most students will take their first exploring complex issues first semester sophomore year we know that there's a big dip in retention from first year to second year and so we're hoping that that sort of like do I have that course or if it's their second course oh I have that course and I'm I'm ready and excited so.
- xxx. Daniel Currier: I move to end debate Motion Carries

B. Director of Residential Life - Christina Willenbrock

Chris Willenbrock gave a presentation

- i. Jacob Constant: When you say rising it refers to for next fall correct?

- ii. Chris Willenbrock: Correct
- iii. Sarah Harrington: I have a question about the fast pass, are we going to be able to pull the rest of our roommate group with us
- iv. Chris Willenbrock: Yes
- v. Isabella Moniz: I have another question about the Fast Pass. So for students who have housing accommodations, they don't get to pick so what happens if they are pulled. Will you have all the information on those students.
- vi. Chris Willenbrock: That's a great question, we'll look into that. Maybe you can gift it to someone or maybe we can figure it out.
- vii. Chris Piro: If you are a rising junior and you want to live with rising seniors and the rising senior gets the fast pass will they be able to bring the junior with them
- viii. Chris Willenbrock: Yes, so we will accommodate whoever have the fast pass and those connected to them.
- ix. Jack Guindon: I remember last year that there were software issues for a lot of people. I was just wondering if we got a different software or updates.
- x. Chris Willenbrock: We still use THD but knowing that we can kind of address the issues. So if you have specific incidents where there were software glitches it will make it easier to address them before housing takes place. I will share that THD was recently purchased by another company StarRES and now they are beginning to pull some of the support but in the next few years we will be looking into a new software. But that's a larger more long term process.
- xi. Anderson Dallaire: Reslife doing a really good job with fixing situations as they come up when people don't get the placement that they would like and getting them into the situation that they would want or need by the time of move in.
- xii. Brandon Rita: The face-to-face meetings with Residential life were very helpful in order to make communication more effective. I'm a very un person person and those in person conversations were
- xiii. Austin Morgan: Going into my Sophomore Year, I was set to live with a group of 6 but unfortunately since we were sophomores everything filled up and we were put on a list and when the apartments opened up we were actually able to live together in the group. You guys did great at recognizing that we didn't get to do what we wanted and then following up and accommodating it when you
- xiv. Ethan Haynes: I really enjoyed that I could see exactly what rooms were available in the building as that really helped my planning.
- xv. Chris Piro: Thank you for help with adjusting with my bad housing situation and putting me into a better situation.
- xvi. Daniel Currier: The biggest issue that we discussed last semester was that of accommodations. With the closing of Lammers hall most of those students with accommodations ended up moving to New Hall which meant many rising seniors were not able to get into New hall. It was a major concern for us because a lot of accommodations we were hearing that students got and they were concerning for us. We understand reslife are not in control of that process and that that's through Bancos but some of the accommodations were quite frankly ridiculous and we need to make sure that accommodations are reasonable and that students who want that housing are able to get it.
- xvii. Daniel Lyons: I was part of the honors themed housing and last year when we had to choose housing we had to email reslife directly and couldn't do it through the site and so because we couldn't be sure that we had our room reserved, I had to reserve another room nad that is taking a potential room from someone else. I was just wondering if there was a way to do themed housing through the program?
- xviii. Chris Willenbrock: I think there would be a way to do that.
- xix. John Zocco: The themed housing selection is online, if you didn't sign up initially when you had the application. We actually have a day for themed housing before the process so it is within THD typically.
- xx. Nick Smith: Point of information, make sure your comments are about the system and not as much personal situations.

- xxi. Liam Connor: So I had a glitch last year where it said that the system was down for maintenance but it was dated from 5 years prior.
- xxii. Chris Piro: I just wanted to say that going off of accommodations, I know that someone mentioned last year that someone got an accommodation to new hall because they were allergic to dust mites and as someone who has an accommodation for a single I feel like that took away from someone like me. And a lot of sophomores didn't get what they want but I think that the fast pass will remedy some of that
- xxiii. Isabella Moniz: Point of information. When you get accommodations you go through a whole process and there is a list of requirements that are needed and I'm not sure if people are unaware of that lengthy process but it does exist. It's a huge process and definitely talk to Banacos about it.
- xxiv. Sarah Harrington: I was in a roommate group of 5 and by the time we selected we were planning on going somewhere that one of us could buy out a double as we only had 5 people. When we signed up the only places that could accommodate us were in University which you need to fill all the beds in a room. So we were unable to sign up and we had to split up. If there's a way to change the you must fill all the beds that is something that would be helpful to use.
- xxv. Kaitlyn Egan: The first thing that I have is that as a tour guide something that parents and students really like is the housing process having hand selected rooms for the building. That is a pull for many students. I also think that the open forum and the conversation about the bathrooms and the conversations about locking them or not had a lot of great conversation and it would be great if other departments took the time to talk to us like that.
- xxvi. Ethan Haynes: First do you need to request for Coed housing?
- xxvii. Chris Willenbrock: You do not but I'm wondering if there is value in making that a possibility.
- xxviii. Ethan Haynes: So on that last year we were told that there was a cap on Coed dorming.
- xxix. John Zocco: There wasn't a cap on coed the issue is once someone enters a suite already we can't make the department coed since we need to make that room gendered to make students more comfortable because we don't want to assume that students are comfortable in that living situation
- xxx. Chris Piro: When REslife came down last year was as housing was happening so things were already going wrong. This year I think that it is great that you came down this early to be proactive and it alleviates a lot of stress for students.
- xxxi. Chris Willenbrock: I mean it's it's a spoiler alert so you'll notice that we don't have rates we're still in the process of budgeting so room rates and things like that haven't been set yet I believe those are coming up if I'm not mistaken with Steve tax our vice president for administration and finance but we're in the process of doing some of that so I anticipate Chris that they'll be back at least another two to three to four maybe more times to talk through not only what does next year look like but what does the housing process look like and everything like that because we want you all to feel as well educated on it as possible I don't like surprises and so it's I prefer not to surprise people if possible and I recognize there's a lot of anxiety around housing selection so.
- xxxii. Chris Piro: redress Chris hi how do you think because I know obviously we're very involved in the housing process we know how it works how do you think you could get other shows involved that aren't in Austria or aren't involved on campus to not have stress about it and to not like to know how to do it.
- xxxiii. Chris Willenbrock: That is a great great question and if anyone has the answer please let me know I think it's you know I always talk about using a multi pronged approach so you know e-mail certainly is the old default and standby and I say old intentionally because we know that students aren't always connecting to their emails we have I will say we've brought in an intern who's going to be doing a little bit more around social media so our hope is to be a little bit more present and active on Instagram potentially Facebook but you know doing more in terms of social media so that we're being a little bit more relevant and getting the message out maybe in smaller chunks is it Brandon yes to Brandon's point I think anytime that we can make ourselves available to walk someone through a

process is better you know whether that's I think in the past we have done housing sessions where it's like let's walk you through what's going on certainly offering those up again and then you know I believe our staff if we haven't been in the past but I think we have being available during housing selection times and making sure that our office is available so when people are having issues and like literally freaking out because it's like what's going on we're there and we're available to help walk folks through it so it's a little bit of that I think you know anything we can do in terms of tabling in the DC you know putting information out maybe even on presence doing programming around it I think there are a multitude of ways that we can try and get the message out and this is part of why I think we come to you all since you all are the representatives on campus I think we also look to you to talk with your networks and to make sure that students are aware of what's happening or you know you're like oh gosh I I can't remember let's head to residential life and let's let's talk to someone right let's just go get the answer so I think it's a little bit of kind of all of that since people get information a little bit differently I also know John is working with our marketing and communications department to look into software that will help do newsletters and so potentially I know sorry to spam you all with more more e-mail type stuff but having newsletters or some kind of publication that folks can read and take a look at to get some of that information and having it be more consistent as a publication

- xxxiv. Adam Carpenter: so I'll start off now some next I guess with a little bit of confusion that's like a large part of our job is then to make those connections you know that's why we interact with like reslife staff is so then we can then connect the general student who's not as involved to those resources to be able to have those conversations you know like that's that's what makes the magic happen here and then just this isn't as systematic as it could be but it's a very personal one for me it was as someone who applied to be an RA and then initially did not receive the position like I set up all of my plans around like having the position so I didn't want to plan to be in a roommate group of people it's like I didn't wanna like shackle them like having them drop someone from the right group so having some sort of plan in place for those who are applying to RAS just in case maybe something good so that they don't kind of get left astray when they like it's too late in the process and like everyone else already had plans like that was my important fortunately I got the position in the end and loving it so far.
- xxxv. Jacob Constant: I had an idea for maybe one Chris was saying maybe having an RA event and shed light on how the process works.
- xxxvi. Loic Black: last year so the communication wasn't the greatest it was like brickwall it was a lot better than the year prior because there was no communication at all last year but I would like to see some sort of maybe chat feature or something that is much more these are just having somebody making sure that they're monitoring their housing e-mail because every time I've ever or any of my friends would ever reach out to the house and e-mail never have we ever gotten a response we gotta go and e-mail somebody else to get one so I just want to make sure that it's not like running around playing that and mouse it just adds so much stress I know that you guys do try a lot there's so much that's always happening with so many students I guess want to put that out there to try and make it a little bit easier so students can contact you guys and maybe get an answer within a few moments and then puts less stress on y'all so that's already answered thank you thank you
- xxxvii. Chris Willenbrock: follow up question on that how many of you all use teams or are familiar with teams OK because I'm wondering if we might be able to utilize or set up some kind of teams function where folks could reach out and almost do like a chat to some extent in that way so that's something we can maybe look at I'm just thinking of like what I know there are other institutions that have like free chat features but if we have teams if we set something up like that do you think folks would feel comfortable utilizing it I see some nods OK OK awesome awesome thank you.
- xxxviii. Patty Sowa: I just have some feedback. I know that there is a two week housing freeze and I needed some accommodations through Banacos and when I didn't get those

accommodations I had to wait two weeks and it strained my academic. I was wondering if that freeze period could be shortened.

- xxxix. Chris Willenbrock: so the part of the reason why we do a room freeze and and I will admit it is purely administrative so I don't love doing processes that are 4 hour benefit as it were and I think they're so a couple of things one is the reason we institute room freezes is so we can kind of make sure that everyone is where they need to be so it I mean it literally is you you all probably know you see your RA during that time that's like hey are you in your room Yep Yep Yep and so it really is for us a way to double check triple check that we have all of our wonderful residents in their beds where they're supposed to be that type of thing and then we actually are held accountable for what we call our occupancy numbers and we have to send that occupancy report to the MSC BA our folks familiar with the SCBA have you heard of that alphabet soup before yeah so it's basically the building authority that kind of oversees all of the housing housing inventory in all of the state colleges and universities but so it takes us about two weeks to kind of get make sure that we have everyone where we need them to be but that having been said um there are certainly times where you know we know pretty early on that we need to make some room changes and so even during that freeze. We will sometimes make moves if it is you know an emergency or some type of an urgent situation and I will say if we're able to get folks and get some of those numbers sooner rather than later then yes that tends to be what drives our our freeze period two weeks is a it's a pretty healthy time and usually we can get it a little bit sooner than that so I think we can try and work to maybe lessen it a little bit but then what I would ask for you all is if you're residential students or if you're working with residents just encourage them to make sure that they're checking in during those you know first couple of days that they're back on campus so we can you know get the OK and make sure that we can move forward so yeah.
- xl. Chris Piro: I want to go back to the point of...
- xli. Daniel Currier: Point of Redundancy

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: Daniel Currier

Jack, Sarah, and I met virtually last Friday to finalize our draft Common Hour Policy for submission to Governance. We will be reconvening tomorrow to discuss our letter to Governance explaining our proposal along with the acquisition of data and supporting evidence. Prior to our submission, the Executive Council and the Legislature will have an opportunity to comment on this proposal. I do want to note, however, that this process will take time in order for us to gain stakeholder buy-in.

Jack and I met this afternoon with Dick Lenfest, Director of Athletics, and Carden Brown, Coordinator of Campus Recreation & Intramurals, to discuss how we can effectively market intramurals to prospective and current Westfield State students, utilize the Network for athletic games and events, and expand opportunities for campus recreation. I am pleased to report that the meeting was successful and brought to light some of the challenges that Athletics has been facing over the past several years.

With the anticipated opening of the Parenzo Gym in January 2024, we can expect intramurals to come alive once again. Intramurals will be offered at more convenient times in a more accessible location, the intramural webpage will be updated to reflect current offerings, and marketing will be more streamlined.

Both Jack & I vouched for the use of The Network in order for Athletics to broadcast game information to the campus community, track student engagement, and incentivize engagement through a virtual "Frequent Flyer" program, where students are rewarded for scanning into a certain number of athletic events. More work will be done on this in consultation with SAIL.

Finally, we discussed how to acquire additional funding for campus recreation on-campus. There has been talk in the past about removing the waivable \$92.50 per semester fee for the Fitness Center and requiring a \$75 per semester fee of all students that will be used to support all forms of campus

recreation, including the Fitness Center, intramurals, club sports, and more. To ensure that campus recreation activities are financially supported, this may be an option worth considering moving forward.

- i. Daniel Lyon: If everyone was going to be paying the fee, would you still need to swipe in or would it be open to all students.
- ii. Daniel Currier: so under that plan anyone would be would be able to use the fitness center because you would be required to pay that fee so the current the idea this is just an idea that was thrown out this has been talked about in prior years this is something that I know I've discussed I've discussed with it because currently financially we haven't raised that fee in so long and also we need to support our engineers and our club sports additional funding so that's been something we stuff today.
- iii. Sarah Harrington: You still need to fill out the security form and that is when you get the little sticker on your ID. So you would have to have that sticker and you need to fill out the form.
- iv. Matt Della: You would still need to scan in because they use that as data collection for hours and when staff need to do certain tasks so that will likely stay for that reason.
- v. Daniel Currier: it's just a proposal that's just being discussed so nothing will be finalized.

A. Student Advisory Council: Daniel Currier

The Student Advisory Council met virtually last Thursday, November 9th for a workshop on student basic needs security. The workshop allowed student government presidents and student trustees to discuss various projects at each campus and learn about what the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and state lawmakers are doing to support our fellow students.

The state legislature is currently debating a supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Among the appropriations in this supplemental budget will be funds for public colleges and universities specifically earmarked for behavioral health, student housing support, food insecurity, and much more. These funds will be distributed on a modified enrollment basis.

A bill on Beacon Hill will soon be debated to require all institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, along with middle and high schools, to list the Suicide Prevention Hotline number (988) on student ID cards. The Student Advisory Council was warm to the idea of a joint letter to state lawmakers urging them to pass that bill.

Finally, the Student Advisory Council discussed various projects that our institutions have been working on to address student basic needs security. Some highlights from the meeting include a "Swipe It Forward" Program where students can donate up to ten (10) meal swipes each semester to students in need, a twenty-four (24) hour healthy food program known as "Farm to Fridge," and a centralized 'one-stop-shop' for students facing food and housing insecurity. Some of these ideas, albeit in a modified manner, may be worth considering here at Westfield State University.

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

I met with the commuter council a week or so ago and discussed more things to add to the commuter lounge, if you have any other ideas for that please find me after the meeting.

On Friday I met with VP Hearn to discuss a few things. One thing we brought up was traditions here at Westfield. One of his ideas was to move the owl statue to a place where it would be more accessible, and make it a kind of good luck thing for before a game or test. And his other idea was to get giant letters that

spell out WSU so we have a spot on campus students could use for photos and show they are at Westfield state.

Lastly as you all hopefully saw on Saturday morning public safety sent an email saying six individuals were arrested after attempting to get into south lot. Working with Westfield police they were able to arrest the six individuals. Along with this public safety and facilities are working to get a gate in south lot and it seems this processes is moving long quickly.

- i. Ethan Haynes: I'm very proud of our boys in blue here at Westfield State. They got em. Knowing my car safe is very reassuring. So thank you.
- ii. Kaitlyn Egan: I didn't see a food services report for tonight so I'm going to ask it now. Do you have any idea what the massive garden thing is that seems to be like herbs and stuff?
- iii. Jack Guindon: It is a hydroponic garden to grow fresh vegetables and herbs in the DC.
- iv. Chris Piro: Do you have a cost for it.
- v. Jack Guindon: No but I will follow up and get it

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

Hi everyone! The Advisory Committee for Academic Planning met on Thursday November 9th. We continued going over the individual themes and discussing how and when to use high impact practices. In theme one, Innovative Pedagogy and High-Impact Practices, we discussed better ways of assessing the work done in the classroom, using common language, and better onboarding practices. In theme two, Student Ready and Student Centered, we focused primarily on readiness and practices and how it is important for faculty to be able to work with the ever evolving and changing student population. There are three main ways that students are either prepared or not prepared to enter college which are academic, social, and mental preparedness. We discussed how to support students who may not be prepared. Our rough timeline is as follows: Oct-Dec 2023 we are developing the Academic Master Plan draft in committee and subcommittee sessions. Dec 2023 -distribute draft for feedback. Jan 2024 – re-distribute draft for feedback. Late Jan early Feb 2024 – integrate feedback into a final draft. Feb 21 2024 – submit final plan. Moving on, there is now an open spot on UCC that needs to be filled. We have lots of proposals coming in so our Friday meeting time has been extended to end at 3:30. There will also be an additional meeting time added to compensate for the level of proposals. This date has not been set yet so, if you are interested please let me know after this meeting so that we can get your availability over to the chairs immediately. On to my last point. I met with the Provost today to discuss Dan, Jack, and I's common hour proposal. He said that we could go with him on January 29 to the All Chairs meeting to present this proposal. This will allow us to get a faculty insight before sending it over to governance. We discussed changing in scheduling, since this is an important correlation to adding a common hour. He said that in Fall 24, they will be implementing a restriction on the number of classes held during prime time. Prime time on MWF is 9:30-1:25 and on TR 9:45-2. No department will be allowed to hold more than 60% of their classes during this time. This is to refrain from overlapping mandatory courses in all majors. I know that this has been a big problem for education majors so this exciting news. If you have any ideas or input you would like me to bring to the Provost, my next meeting with him is on December 12. If you need to reach me, my office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:45 and Friday from 12:30-1:30. My email is vpacademiclife.sga@westfield.ma.edu

- i. Laura Cafaro: What is UCC is and why students may be good for it.
- ii. Sarah Harrington: So UCC is University Curriculum Committee and we are basically looking at new courses and changes to courses titles, or descriptions or even the curriculum for a specific course. We get a proposal and vote on it before sending it to the next committee. It is really cool to see the new courses being brought up and it is essential to have a student involved in that process.

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

It is great to see you all this afternoon. I have a brief update on the successor committee I have been working on creating.

I have met with campus partners (i.e., Dr. Pierce, Fr. Savage, Matt Dellea, and others) to review and make revisions to my draft for the charge of the proposed Advisory Committee for the Advancement of Equitable Representation. I met with Laura today and will be reaching out to different areas on campus throughout the next week to begin putting together this committee. With some minor revisions, the committee is expected begin meeting in January for those of you looking to join. Stay tuned for more updates.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions either after this report, via email vpequity.sga@westfield.ma.edu, or during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

As always, I will leave you with a quote. Brene' Brown once said, "you are imperfect, you are wired for struggle, but you are worthy of love and belonging

- i. Laura Cafaro: I just want to give you kudos because you saw a gap in an existing committee and you are taking on a lot of work but it is really important and it is taking a lot of time
- ii. Joseph Bonilla: Thank you

VII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE:

A. Finance Committee: Kaolin Westcott

I would like to preface this report by giving senate a rundown on what finance committee is and its processes.

The Finance Committee is a great opportunity to learn how to make unbiased decisions and to make tough real-world decisions. When Clubs and Organizations submit a finance proposal it will go to Laura for approval and then myself the VP of Finance to then present to Finance Committee. The club / organization are given the opportunity to send a representative to Finance Committee to give the committee more context on the use of the funds, past and future fundraising attempts, etcetera. Once the committee makes a decision to Accept, Amend, Deny, or Table the proposal, it is then sent to senate.

Senate will be given a description of all information presented to Finance Committee via the proposal form and what is discussed with the representative. The reporting member/chair of Finance Committee will then make a motion for the proposal to be accepted, and then the floor is open to questions. After questions are concluded with a vote will be conducted either a voice vote or a rollcall vote. A voice vote is what we have typically done by saying things like I or a roll call vote where it is requested and each individual person is called to state their vote.

I know changing things from what we typically have done may be a little nerve racking but this is the perfect environment where we can learn new skills, and be corrected in a space among peers before entering the workforce.

Now into the Finance Proposals:

Our allocation pool is currently at \$18,925.

Proposal F23-003

The first proposal is from the Gerontology Club. The club is requesting \$50.35 For an Arts and Crafts Night – Writing Letters to Hospice Patients in Long-term Care Facilities. The funds will be used to purchase “the materials necessary to create” the letters. The Finance Committee decided unanimously to allocate \$50.35 for the purchase of materials.

I motion to accept the Gerontology Clubs proposal of \$50.35 for the purchase of materials for their Arts and Crafts Night. Motion carries

- i. Adam Carpenter: Can we get a little bit of clarity as to what is meant by materials as that is super vague.
- ii. Kaolin Westcott: I have not been given that information.
- iii. Joseph Bonilla: The material include cardstock, construction paper, glue, glitter, scissors, markers, and pens.
- iv. Ethan Haynes: I was just wondering if the club had attempted any fundraising to raise this 50 dollars.
- v. Joseph Bonilla: The club is newly running so we haven't had the opportunity to do fundraising yet but we are thinking of fundraising for the spring.
- vi. Daniel Currier: I was wondering if the club had checked to see if other departments had these materials already.
- vii. Joseph Bonilla: No we have gotten supplies from the health sciences department but nothing further has been done.

Proposal F23-004

The second proposal is from the Athletic Training Club for the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association Conference. They originally requested \$2,720.50 on their original request but after communication with representatives they informed us that that number had dropped to \$1,567.50. The club has a current balance of \$1,296.64, has raised \$270 between two fundraisers, with a couple more planned, and total cost of the Conference is averaging close to 4,000. The Finance Committee decided unanimously to amend the amount to \$1,034.50.

I motion to accept the amended Athletic Training Clubs proposal of \$1,034.50 for the Easter Athletic Trainers Association Conference. *Motion Carries*

Chris Piro: You mentioned they were doing fundraising but did they give you specifics?

Kaolin Westcott: They mentioned doing a 20% night at 5 guys and another fast-food chain. They were also working on a few other things.

Daniel Currier: Just for context, has academic affairs funded any of this?

Kaolin Westcott: As far as I know the club hasn't talked to them

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

Last Thursday Haley, Isabella and I met with the neighborhood advisory board and discussed the newsletter & had Tony from the police as our guest speaker. We look forward to continuing planning events for the neighbors to join us on campus.

The dining hall is having a Cooking class with maria tomorrow at 5pm in the dining hall. JEDI is headed to the West Springfield Cinemark to see the Killers of the Flower Moon movie. The Theatre Arts Department is having the Peter and the Starcatcher play at 8pm in the Ely Studio Theatre. The

Gerontology club is having the World Kindness day writing cards to hospice patients on Thursday in the Owl's nest at 4pm. Jedi is also having the Cup decorating night on Thursday at 6pm. Create your own name tag is today in New Hall from 6-8. I look forward to going to the Thunderbirds game this Friday with everyone.

- i. Joseph Bonilla: I have a point of information about the writing letters to hospice patients. The location moved from the Owls Nest to University Hall rooms A and B

A. Neighborhood Advisory Board: Haley Kane

hope you are all having a great week so far. The Neighborhood Advisory Board met last Thursday at 4:00. We discussed the newsletters and I shared our ideas with the rest of the members. One of the suggestions was also adding the bookstore hours in addition to the dining commons and Dunkin donuts hours. Also, Laura and I are going to talk with Colleen at the Interfaith Center to learn more about their events so we can include them. Our next step is to write up drafts of each section of the newsletter and send it out to the rest of the board for feedback. I confirmed that these newsletters will be mailed to all the addresses that we have in our files (the streets that live near the university). Also, the newsletters will be sent in email too. Through our newsletters, we are hoping to collect more emails so when we send out updates, we are reaching more people. Finally, on December 5th there is the Wind Symphony Event at 7:30pm at the new Dever Auditorium. This event will be advertised in our newsletters (as long as we can get marketing to finalize everything before then) and open to all our NAB members. Most likely, there will be a social beforehand so we can greet everyone before the event. The next NAB meeting will be in January, so all feedback for the newsletters will be sent over in email. Please let me know if you have any questions!

- i. Chris Piro: Can I just ask how many people are receiving this newsletter?
- ii. Haley Kane: The streets are anywhere between Rt. 20 and Highland Street School as a rough estimate. I don't have an exact number however.

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Adam Carpenter No Report

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: No Report

A. Rules and Regulations report: Ethan Haynes

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. Class of 2025: Anderson Dallaire

What's up Everyone, I'm Anderson Dallaire our class of 2025 SGA rep, along with our publicist. Class council met yesterday and discussed what direction we are going for fundraising. We will be doing a class of 2025 sweatshirt/ T shirt fundraiser in the next month right in time for the holiday season. We have the design picked up, and are currently working on getting the costs down, and a platform for students and parents to order with a hope to get that out in the next week. Our other fundraiser idea is something we have been brewing up the last few years and are finally going to give a try but it's going to need a few volunteers from the class of 2025, we are thinking of doing a Class of 2025 fireman calendar. Now before you come for our heads. We are planning on having funny pictures of different people each month in the calendar with perhaps a few special guests. We are still working out the kinks to it but wanted to see if anyone would be interested in being a part of the calendar and perhaps having their photo in it for a month? So let me hear your thoughts thanks.

- i. Sarah Harrington: First question, what are you planning for cost for the sweatshirt/t-shirt?
- ii. Anderson Dallaire: I believe that the price point is at \$30 for us to order the product and they would be sold at \$35 because it is a fundraiser so we need to make money.
- iii. Sarah Harrington: Firemen calendar? So just Men?
- iv. Anderson Dallaire: So if you know the type of calendar that I am talking about it is usually men as fireman is traditionally a male dominated profession. That is what the calendars usually are. We did it because the guys on our class council felt comfortable doing it. Do you think that as a girls calendar it would have gone over well or do you think that it should be unisex?
- v. Sarah Harrington: I think that if girls want to do it you should let them.
- vi. Jack Guindon: I volunteer.
- vii. Austin Morgan: I volunteer.
- viii. Brandon Rita: I also volunteer.
- ix. Justin Wald: Can you tell us a little more about the calendar itself?
- x. Anderson Dallaire: I know that it's silly but like I've talked to my family and friends who don't go here and they said that they would buy one because they think that it would be funny to see me on their calendar. It would be a satire and it would be making fun of how over done they are in that area and it would still be funny.
- xi. Ethan Haynes: What is the estimate of cost for these and would preorders be available?
- xii. Anderson Dallaire: We are still working on cost and want to make sure that we have the interest in the calendars in order to make money on this.
- xiii. Kaitlyn Egan: I would caution you about the fact that maybe just friends and relatives being the group that would buy this limiting your pool of buyers on this.
- xiv. Anderson Dallaire: That's why we are kind of trying to open it up to a larger group but we are trying to widen the bubble as much as possible.
- xv. Nicholas Smith: I would maybe caution about going for a photo calendar and go away from the original idea. I'm not sure how student affairs would think about it.
- xvi. Matt Dellea: I like it. It has been done before.
- xvii. Nicholas Smith: I just wanted to say that I trust all of you to have the right conversations about this but wanted to remind you to make sure those conversations happened.
- xviii. Chris Piro: Are you going to be in fireman suits and also I nominate Dan Currier.
- xix. Anderson Dallaire: First off, there are no nominations, and it will be tailored to each month.
- xx. Joseph Bonilla: For a collaborative component of this, maybe send out a form to put people from the classes birthdays on it.
- xxi. Anderson Dallaire: I like that, Nick write that down.

B. New Hall Representative: Isabella Moniz

Good evening everyone, last night myself, James MacDonald the other New Hall Representative, and Sam Tsongalis the New Hall ARD held an event from 5pm-7pm in the New Hall Common Room. The event was to help connect with students living in New Hall. The event was held so if students had any comments, questions or concerns about New Hall they were given the opportunity to voice them as well as have student input for future events students would like to see in New Hall. We had a total of 12 attendees, which was more than we were hoping for! So thank you to all who attended! In the future I will be continuing to meet weekly with Sam about future events, comments, questions and concerns, and hopefully work towards planning more events within New Hall. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact me at imoniz5895@westfield.ma.edu or James MacDonald at jmacdonald2439@westfield.ma.edu.

- i. I want to commend you and James and your ARD for putting this on. These type of things happened pre-covid but it's to see them coming back. I encourage all hall reps to try to meet with their RD or ARD regularly as it is an important part of the job.

B. Community Relations and Fundraising Representative: Haley Kane

Thank you again for everyone's participation in the turkey drive for SGA. We are in the process of counting the donations and we will have an update at the next meeting.

I also want to let you know that I'm a part of the Circle K club here at Westfield and this year we are bringing back Breakfast with Santa. This is a popular community event that has occurred for many years prior to the pandemic. I'm the chair of this event and am looking for volunteers. This event is on Saturday December 2nd in the dining commons. The first seating begins at 8:30 so I ask that volunteers come around 8:15. The second seating begins at 10:30 so for this I ask that volunteers come around 10:15. We are looking for volunteers to help check in guests when they arrive, walk guests to their table, assist with the craft table/coloring table, help with cleanup and much more. Tickets went on sale last week and we are expecting a large crowd at both seats. I understand that this is a busy time of the semester, however, this is a fun community event and the first year we are bringing it back. I know this event will be a success if we have enough volunteers so any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you are interested in helping and I can send you more details.

- i. Kaolin Westcott: So I just want to I love this event, it's amazing I love all of the community events that you do. I'm speaking for CAB year but we would love to help you out with it. So just give us the information to see if we can support you.
- ii. Haley Kane: I know that it's the same day as the New York but it happening on this day is just tradition. And I was advised not to change it.
- iii. Chris Piro: I hope that you are aware that not everyone celebrates Christmas. So what do you think is the implication to students who may be offended by this?
- iv. Haley Kane: I talked to dining and apparently that was an issue in the past but I guess in the past it was historical decorated for Christmas immediately following thanksgiving. Dining's recommendation would be putting the decorations up as close to the event as possible and taking them down right after. I understand your concerns.
- v. Nicholas Smith: Point of information, this is a tradition and the town community has been asking for this back for a while and it is viewed similarly to a mall santa. Their goal is to celebrate all areas.
- vi. Haley Kane: This is also approved by President Thompson directly.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jack Guindon: Thursday Morning at 10:30 VP Hearn and I have our joint office hours so please stop by.

Ethan Haynes: I will be unavailable during my office hours tomorrow so if you need me send an email.

Kaolin Westcott: Just a reminder all finance proposals need to be in 24hours in advance of the Finance Committee Meeting. This semester Finance Committee Meets on Thursdays at 3:30pm, so proposals need to be in by Wednesdays at 3:30pm or they will be tabled to the following week.

Daniel Currier: The Accounting and Finance club will be holding introduction to financial advising services so please invest in your future and be in attendance.

Laura Cafaro: Please reach out if you want to go to the Thunderbirds

Nicholas Smith: There is an open house this weekend so please participate if you can

Kaitlyn Egan: 185 days until commencement

XV. ROLL CALL: Eri' Yan Baker, Naomi Brito, Fabian Morales, and Desiree Brown were absent

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at ____ until our next meeting on November 28th at 5:30pm

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