

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 @ 5:30 pm

Ely 017 (SGA Room)

I. ROLL CALL: Scott Doan, Anderson Dallaire, Crystal Mills, Travis McLoughlin, Jakayla Leary, Isabella Moniz, Nic Black, and Angela Hayes were absent

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: April 02, 2024

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nicholas Smith

Hello Friends, for the last time officially, I hope you are all doing well. You all look fantastic today. In my report today, there is not much going on for SGA; however, next week, we will be having our SGA banquet, which is a celebration where we reflect on the past year in SGA, as well as give out some awards to thank you for your dedication to SGA, and all the fantastic work you have done this year. After the banquet, we will come

back here for an SGA tradition and get the chance to say goodbye to each other for the LAST TIME EVER.

This weekend, there is an accepted students' day, so if you can attend, please sign up on the paper. It will be the last one this year, so please attend.

Election results have gone out recently, so thank you all for your dedication to SGA and for running and supporting it through everything. Congratulations to those who were elected. You can now make SGA your own next year. I could get all sappy and sad this week, but I would much prefer to save it for next week.

Thank you all for all your fantastic work this year and support, and I would like to congratulate our winners. To our friends who might not have won, please stay involved. You are all doing fantastic work, and we would love to see you keep the energy up. That is all I have for ya.

A. Westfield State University: President Linda Thompson

Westfield is turning 185 this year. Thank you to those of you who are graduating, and I have enjoyed working with you over the last year. President Thompson was very glad to continue the tradition of meeting with Nick and Dan this past year and is excited to do it again next year with those who were elected. President Thompson is very excited about the speaker for commencement because she was so much of a get with her role in Irish politics. Excited to see that Senator Velis is here tonight as she loves to hear him speak.

B. Massachusetts State Senator: John Velis

Senator Velis is talking about the work that he has done recently on the two committees that he chairs. Senator Velis is the Chair of the Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery and the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. He focused on some of the things which he was able to talk about. Senator Velis shared that he would say that the biggest issue which faces the commonwealth is the state of mental. He is very interested in the idea of happiness and what makes people happy. Shared an anecdote about an experience in Africa and finding very happy people. Saw that people who were not very fortunate in belongings were very happy. Talked about how the state government was more limited in terms of things. The biggest issue which needs to be discussed in Political Science classes regarding the federal government being absolute clowns. This extends to every issue because the system doesn't work when everyone has a different policy. This becomes an issue as

Daniel Currier: Capital Funding for Institutions of Higher Education. Do you have any update on what the budget may say in terms of funding for the house of representations.

Senator Velis: Very timely question as I was just talking about deferred maintenance. There is a lot of deferred maintenance and it's a difference in priority and I think there will be a lively debate. I expect the senate to prioritize it. John Velis also talked about the impact of AI on the political scene.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: Daniel Currier

The Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Committee met last Tuesday. Dr. Hearn provided the committee with exciting data on Fall 2024 admissions and visitations to campus. We are currently ahead in deposits for the Fall 2024 semester among first-year students despite persistent issues with the FAFSA. Visitations to campus have also skyrocketed as of late, with all of our accepted students day events selling out. All of this would not be possible without the leadership of Dr. Hearn, the entire Admissions staff (including our tour guides), and the many volunteers on Accepted Students Day, including all of you. As mentioned by Nick earlier, we have an Owl Preview Day this Saturday - the last opportunity for accepted students to see our campus and a chance for current juniors to check out our campus prior to their summer break. If you can, please volunteer and help us build the nest one new student at a time.

The Committee also received a presentation by Dean of Student Maggie Balch and Director of Residential Life Chris Willenbrock regarding the development of a strategic plan specific to Residential Life. For years, Residential Life has been woefully understaffed and unable to think from a strategic lens, instead putting out fires and doing strictly operational tasks. Chris has now been leading the charge to develop a roadmap for the future of Residential Life, including the fostering of a robust residential culture. Some of the

initiatives designed to fulfill this goal are already underway, including the decision to house all first-year students predominantly within Courtney Hall. An

expansion of themed housing and living learning communities will help to enhance culture and bridge the divide between Residential Life and Academic Affairs.

A significant amount of time was spent discussing a concept that has been adopted at many other institutions across the country as a means of fostering a stronger sense of community among first-year students - the requirement that all first-year students stay on-campus in their first year. I want to state at the outset, as Dr. Hearn mentioned during the meeting, that this concept is only being explored but by no means will be implemented anytime soon. For context, over 80% of our first-year students are residential and we are the most residential state university.

This Thursday, the Board of Trustees will be meeting throughout the day in the Loughman Living Room, located at the front of Scanlon Hall. Our meeting schedule is as follows:

- 9:00am-9:30am - Governance & Nomination Committee
- 9:30am-10:30am - Advancement, Marketing & External Relations Committee
- 10:40am-11:40am - Academic Affairs Committee
- 12:30pm-2:00pm - Financial Affairs Committee
- 2:00pm-3:00pm - Audit Committee
- 3:10pm-5:00pm - Full Board Meeting

During the Full Board meeting, I will be presenting my Student Trustee report. My report will highlight campus life, our recent Give a Hoot campaign, two students who have exhibited leadership on our campus and beyond, and I will provide an update on our Common Hour Policy proposal.

A. Strategic Planning Committee: Daniel Currier

The Strategic Planning Committee held a town hall yesterday at 12:00pm in Dever Auditorium. Dr. Kevin Hearn and Dr. Sabine Klein, our two co-chairs, presented on our progress and current objectives under each of our three goals - campus culture, optimized value for the student, and financial stewardship. Over fifty faculty and staff members attended the town hall and provided their feedback and asked questions. In general, concerns were raised about changing student needs, particularly those who experienced substantial learning loss during the pandemic and those with learning disabilities. We

do, however, appear to be moving forward in the right direction as a Strategic Planning Committee.

Please mark your calendars for our Student Town Hall, which will be facilitated by myself and fellow student representative Alexis Pratt, on Tuesday, April 30th from 3:30pm-4:30pm. The location will be announced via email. Please encourage your friends and constituents to attend this town hall meeting to learn more about our strategic plan and provide feedback.

As for next steps, the Strategic Planning Committee will be refining our plan through mid-May. On May 20th, the Committee will be meeting with a representative from the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to discuss progress. The Board of Trustees must approve the plan before it is submitted for approval by the Board of Higher Education.

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

Student affairs committee met for the last time this year. We talked about ways to improve for the future, how to reach different pockets on campus to get students with a wider perspective. And how to make sure whoever is the chair next year knows how to run it and what to do when it comes to the meetings. After that we reflected on the committee this year and what we have done and what we want to have them do next year. Lastly, we talked about the coffee crawl and what went well and what we can improve on. There is a form going out to staff and faculty this week to get their feedback on it.

The only two things I have an update on are Shuttle tracking is a work in progress I plan on Meeting with Chief Cassiano this week, to discuss our options for it before bringing it to VP Hearn. I am also still working on the Owl statue we have had some movement in that area so hopefully this continues into the summer, and the giant letters that would be a photo spot and great place for prospective students to take a photo are a work in progress also.

The last thing is a few dining things, I have is our final food service meeting is this Friday. Sadly, I will not be able to go on Friday as we have dining interviews for the new director of dining this week and next. However, if there is anything you would like brought up at the last meeting, please reach out to me via email. As for the updates from the last food service meeting. First Green containers are going away, this is going to save the DC around 100k. This would go a long way towards helping the dining budget. Next update is late night is moving to the DC instead of in bistro. This will allow students to have a meal swipe and have pizza pasta grill and a nightly special. This does not mean the late-night foods are going away, fried foods will still be on the Get app and you can pick them up in the dc. The dining

hours will be changing, dinner will end at 8 now and the late night will be from 8-11. Last update is there will be a full-time dietitian hired through dining.

Questions:

Chris Piro: Possible Pizza Delivery Service

Jack Guindon: That is a possibility but we will have to wait and see on that.

Katie Egan: Did they consider Athletics at all, with the later time and the discontinuation of the Togo containers?

Justin Wald: Marlee proposed the idea of meeting with exec next year to try to start the conversation between athletics and us.

Sarah Harrington: When was this discussion taking place? They just made this decision.

Jack Guindon: They kind of just gave us the PowerPoint last food services and a lot of this comes down to cost because we have a 450,000-dollar deficit and these are all cost cutting measures.

Sarah Harrington: So they gave you a PowerPoint and said that these decisions were made? So these decisions were made outside of food services.

Jack Guindon: The Green container conversation happened in food services. But the hours and late night were not.

Jacob Constant: They have told us that if there is demand they will extend the hours.

Jack: They have mentioned that students aren't really utilizing the late-night hour but I feel that students are utilizing the 8 to 9 hour in the DC. So I will keep trying to push for that.

Justin Wald: They said it's much easier and cost effective to add something than to take it away.

Nick Smith: As a point of information dining requested to come to us but there wasn't time in our schedule.

Liam Connor: two years ago we were told that they were moving it from the DC to the Bistro to save money and now they are telling us the same thing in reverse. Can you help make that make sense.

Jack Guindon: A lot of the reasoning comes down to staff where they need much less staff if late night is in the DC.

Chris Piro: For the record, I understand the decision to get rid of To-go containers but I don't support them going away especially for people who are easily overstimulated.

Jack Guindon: These containers were funded by a grant and that grant has run out.

Katie Egan: I just know that Adam worked hard with the Student Athletes Advisory Council to extend that hour and I know that it really helped student athletes to have that time and they were super grateful for that, and we just got it instated and now they are taking it away. It's just a little

frustrating and senators who are returning just don't forget this idea as student athletes are not very well represented in this room.

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

Hi everyone! The Provost and I had our final meeting of the academic year today at 1. I brought with me the results from Dan, Jack, and I's common hour survey. He agreed that this information is extremely valuable for the continuation of this proposal. He was able to give me a sheet showing what percentage of rooms were being used at each hour of the school week and the percentage of chairs being filled in each room, for the past fall semester. This was surprising to look at, seeing that about 90% of rooms are being used during our proposed common time. The fear with all of these rooms being filled at the same time is the overlap with classes being held at this time. A lot of students encounter the problem where they need to take two courses that are only available during the same period. This is another reason why he is pushing for professors to spread out when they hold their courses more throughout the day. He brought this sheet to the chair's meeting this past week and mentioned that "he felt it was eye-opening for them". He then urged me to bring the common hour proposal to the attention of the upcoming Provost once we start meeting. In regards to the Provost search, the President has been given all recommendations and feedback regarding the candidates and will be making her decision within the next couple of weeks. Provost Caruso said he hopes to hear by the first week in May. He will be working alongside whoever the President decides this summer to help with the transition, briefing them on what challenges they may face, upcoming programming, budget issues, and more. He wants this next Provost to continue pushing for the 60:40 divide of classes throughout the day. As I will be continuing in this role next year, I asked what he expects from me regarding upholding the next Provost's efforts. He stated that the Provost is always hearing from Faculty and Staff so I need to help be a pipeline to the student perspective and voice. Speaking of student voices! The next Town Hall for the strategic plan is coming up and will be for students only, focusing on the area of "Student Values". Dan will have more information about the date, time, and location. The Provost said that "all of student government should be there" his words, not mine, don't let him down. Have a good week! Thank you!

A. Common Hour Policy Taskforce report: Daniel Carrier

Thank you to all of those that completed our IRB-approved survey earlier this month. We received 186 valid responses - 127 from students, 34 from faculty, 22 from staff, and 3 from librarians. The Common Hour Policy Task Force will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the results from this survey and determine next steps.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

B. University Curriculum Committee: Scott Doan

UCC reviewed and revised over courses in the gen ed inclusion section of perspectives: social groups and culture and the gen ed inclusion: exploring complex issues- arts and humanities.

In the first section included courses in Theater, philosophy, history, economics, poli-sci and sociology.

In the second section included courses in philosophy and English.

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

Joseph talked about Unity Week and congratulated all those who participated or hosted it. Joseph talked about APC and how they are wrapping up a few proposals. The last thing is that I met with Westfield Alumni Association to talk with their diversity sub-committee to see where they can better support students as there has been a real trend of them being unable to reach people of color.

VIII. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT-FINANCE:

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

Hi everyone, I hope you guys are doing well as the end of semester is coming up. Good luck on everyone's finals. Just a reminder to send me pictures and videos for Anti-SGA. And thank you to those who have already sent me them.

A. Senator of the Month: Elizabeth Mercer

Congratulations to the Senator of the Month who has gone above and beyond throughout the year. Not only does he go the extra mile commuting from home to help in anyway he can, but he does it all with a smile. You exemplify what it means to be a leader and all of SGA is proud of you. Keep up the good work, Fabian Morales!

B. Neighbor Hood Advisory Board: Haley Kane

Haley Kane talked about the Neighborhood Advisory Board annual pizza party. There were 80 neighbors in attendance which was more than last year. Apparently President Thompson wants to have events that are hosted throughout the year next year.

X. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:

XI. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT:

XII. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. Class of 2025 Class Council: Nicholas Palumbo

What's up fellow SGAers,

The class of 2025 has been working behind the scenes diligently these last few weeks on some really exciting things for senior year, which we are proud to finally announce. Following in the footsteps of Katie and the class of 2024 we wanted to bring back a former tradition of our sleeves with a modernized spin to it. With that said we will be having a Welcome back BBQ in the courtyard with food, raffles, games, and a beer garden Thursday September 5th 7-10. We have been working hard on this event to try and reinstate a tradition here on campus. In addition to our Welcome back BBQ, A special shout out to the number one supporter of the class of 2025 and their inspiration, we have been working on a lawn sign fundraiser. Remember the signs your school put out in front of your house when you graduated High School, or when you chose Westfield? We will be designing and selling yard signs for parents to purchase and put in front of their house to help celebrate the accomplishment and let the whole neighborhood know your a Class of 2025 Westfield state Graduate, with all the proceeds going toward our senior weekend and making the effort to lower the cost so we can get max amount of participation. Now with this being our last report of the year, Id thank to give all the seniors a shout out for what they accomplished for SGA in their tenure, and a special shout out to Katie for getting these traditions under way and being a valuable resource for our council, and we look forward to carrying on the traditions you and your council started this year. Thanks that's all I got.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan Currier there is an accounting and finance club event tomorrow in Wilson 404.

Joseph Bonnilla: OWL Celebration is taking place on Thursday to celebrate our clubs and orgs and Interfiath is putting on a communication circle.

Jacob Constant: Congrats to those who won elections.

Nick Smith: Take back the night walk will be happening as part of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month.

Katie Egan: 24 Days until commencement and senior send off is going to be coming soon.

XVI. ROLL CALL: Scott Doan, Anderson Dallaire, Crystal Mills, Travis McLoughlin, Jakayla Leary, Isabella Moniz, Nic Black, Isabella Moniz, Abby Glasheen, and Angela Hayes were absent

XVII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 until our last meeting of the year on Tuesday April 30th.

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