



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing also took place on YouTube.

Members Present: Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald, Sarah Harrington, Austin Morgan, Lorraine Fernández, Daniel Currier, Jacob Constant, Nicholas Palumbo, Isabella Moniz, Anderson Dallaire, Travis McLoughin, Brenna Guliani, Jakob Trainor, Cody Hoisington, Melissa Kuzmeski, Barney Garcia, Ethan Mallinson, Christopher Lannan, Ali Sutherland, Angelina Cassella, Puru Sharma, Irihi Mahida, Ethan Haynes, Benny Rosas, Dominic Zajko, Raymond Croteau, Troyelle Nosal, Raul Rosario, Evelyn Aiello, Isabella Centrella, Sophia Rebenciuc

Members Absent: SAAC Representative, GianCarlos Arteaga, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Mariza Monteiro

Also present and participating was Guest Speakers the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs William Salka and the Director of Belonging, Inclusion and Learning Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola.

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

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the March 4th, 2024, meeting, were approved.

Guest Speakers: Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs William Salka explained and asked for questions about the Success Grant, a grant that has given Westfield State 1.5 million dollars to boost efforts for students which are things we are not already doing and that will target Pell Eligible students.

- Christopher Lannan explained about helping students that are Financially Insecure, possibly helping out Banacos and other areas around campus.
 - Provost Salka responded by explaining that they have already allocated some of the money to financial aid.
- Isabella Moniz appreciated the enthusiasm and explained having students that are “at risk” be put in a specific housing area and put resources around them to allow them to be able to be helped more accessible.
 - Provost Salka explained how they are very good ideas and explained that we don’t keep track of as much data then what we should.
- Joseph Bonilla explained some of his work on the Governors Commission and explained about how important it is to meet students where they are at, and to focus on really attacking the issue at hand.
 - Provost Salka explained that in his previous role as a Provost they created something called Duel Advising and explained what it was about.

- Ali Sutherland gave an issue about commuter lots and the lighting in them. Then, talking about with being in his role of Veteran Affairs Representative explained that people in the
- Daniel Currier asked about the mentoring program that he has talked about with the president.
 - Provost Salka explained that they have added peer mentors into the FYJ courses and to reach out to him about becoming one.
- Joseph Bonilla built off Daniel's point and explained that as we moved forward and how learning isn't just learning from a textbook and learning more from anywhere, then how we could focus on an internal network that students already existing in.
- Evelyn Aiello
 - Showed interest in becoming a Peer Mentor.
- Christopher Lannan explained something that he could have used in his Freshman and Sophomore years was having a Counciler on call after hours and on the weekends.
 - Isabella Moniz gave a Point of Information that there is a Counciler on call after hours.
 - Anderson Dallaire gave a Point of Information that there is a Counciler on call on weekends.

Director of Belonging, Inclusion and Learning Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola introduced herself to the government as well as thank everyone for what they have done with being in the role. Jenyka also introduced the office of Belonging, Inclusion and Learning and what it means to the campus and really built out a fundamental belief for the department. Starting with Belonging, and how it is not just a feeling but a foundation, Then Inclusion is not just a goal but a practice and something that everyone is actively seeking out, and then finally Learning is not just an academic pursuit but a lifelong Journey. Many of the events that Jenyka explained were also mentioned in our Vice President of Student Equity Report. One that was not mentioned fully is the Sankofa event happening on April 24th.

- Sarah Harrington asked a clarification question regarding Sankofa and its date if it was the date of the nominations or the celebration.
 - Director Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola responded that the date of the celebration and nominations would be out soon.

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla introduced the guest speakers the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs William Salka and the Director of Belonging, Inclusion and Learning Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola,

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Sarah Harrington, to appoint Isabella Centrella as a New Hall Representative for the remainder of the Fall 2024, Spring 2025 academic year.

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

Then after the speakers he went on and explained about things that are happening this week as well as the location of the Team Bonding trip, going to either Sonny's Place which is an adventure theme park, or a trip to the Southwick Zoo, and it was decided after a poll to the Senate that the place that we would be going to is Sonny's Place. As well as reminder about elections and to come and ask any of the Executive members if they are interested in our roles to learn more about our roles. Then also having a time after the elections to shadow the e-board position that you have won! Also, the notecard-a-thon is happening on Thursday!

- Daniel Currier gave some additional information to the endowed program and asked as many people as possible to donate.
- Austin Morgan let everyone know that there will be food at the Notecard-a-thon!
- Jacob Constant reminded everyone about not being on their phones during the meeting.

Student Trustee: Daniel Currier welcomed everyone back from spring break and shared a bit about his recent trip to Ireland, wishing everyone a belated happy Saint Patrick's Day and encouraging them to try Irish food if they ever visit. He noted that the Board of Trustees will not meet again until Tuesday, April 22nd, but highlighted several

upcoming events. On Tuesday, March 19th at 4:00 PM in Dever Auditorium, President Thompson will host a conversation with New York Times best-selling author Victoria Christopher Murray, with RSVPs encouraged due to limited space. On Monday, March 24th at 5:30 PM in Scanlon Banquet Hall, two journalists—Carl Hurse from The New York Times and Paul Kane from The Washington Post—will visit campus to speak, with no RSVP required. From Tuesday, March 25th through Thursday, March 27th, Jen Scumaci from SME Strategy Consulting will be holding a Strategic Plan Open House in the SGA meeting room, and all members of the campus community are invited to participate. On Thursday, April 10th, Daniel will travel to the Massachusetts State House with Vice President Phelps, Joseph, and Barney to advocate for the passage of the BRIGHT Act and increased support for state universities to address deferred maintenance. He closed with advice passed down from former SGA President Aaron Lessing, encouraging seniors to stay engaged and finish strong in their roles, reminding everyone that while the end of the year is near, there is still important work left to do. He invited anyone with questions to reach out.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald reminded everyone that Relay for Life is just about two weeks away, with only 18 days left to fundraise and raise awareness. He playfully pointed out that no one has yet dethroned Dan Currier as the team's top fundraiser. He shared that this year's Relay will feature several new sideline activities including trivia, games, themed hours like the 80s, a prize for most steps taken, airbrush tattoos, pet therapy, contests, free food, and more. He encouraged everyone to join the team, make a donation, or simply come out on Saturday, March 22nd, from 11 am to 11 pm to walk or participate in the activities. He ended by reminding everyone of the power of community and urged them to keep fighting together.

- Melissa Kuzmeski asked if she needed to come in early to help with setup.
 - Joseph Bonilla responded that it should be all set.

Vice President of Finance Report: Austin Morgan went over the discussed proposed line items that the Executive Council went over. Some being, donating to the American Cancer Society, additional money to different items on the budget like the SGA Apparel, a secret item that the Executive Council is working on something involving the Dining Commons, and then improvements to the SGA room.

- Joseph Bonilla gave some information regarding the donation to the American Cancer Society. Then explained that we will be giving \$5,000 to the endowed program.
- Isabella Moniz asked about the secret project that is happening to the Dining Commons.

Vice President of Student Equity Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that she met with Jenyka and Jane from the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning on Monday, March 17th, to discuss planning for the upcoming Sankofa Ceremony and Unity Week. Unity Week is scheduled for April 7th through April 13th and will feature daily events hosted by various affinity clubs, culminating in a Unity Fest that weekend, a celebratory event with cultural activities and food. She expressed excitement for the week and encouraged everyone to participate. She also announced that the Office of BIL now has its own Instagram account, formerly the JEDI account, now updated to @westfieldstatebil, and urged everyone to follow for updates. Jane Kungu, Senior Coordinator for Multicultural Programming, has been hosting successful monthly affinity group dinners, with the next one scheduled for March 27th. Lorraine extended an invitation to any senators interested in the Standing Committee of Belonging and Inclusion, formerly known as ACAER, to attend the dinner and engage with affinity group members. She encouraged those who had already signed up to speak with her after the meeting for more details. Lastly, she reminded everyone about her Women's History Month event, "The Art of Being a Woman: What Does Being a Woman Mean to You?" happening tomorrow, Wednesday, March 19th, from 5 to 7 PM at the Owl's Nest. The event is an art and painting workshop where participants will receive supplies to create their own pieces, enjoy a hot cocoa bar and cookies, and hear opening remarks from award-winning poet and mental health advocate Katie Kramer. She expressed her excitement for the event and thanked everyone.

Vice President of Publicity: Elizabeth Mercer reported that the Owl Ball Committee met and finalized the menu, glasses, and decorations for the upcoming Owl Ball, which will be held on April 11th. She expressed pride in the

committee's work and excitement for the event. She also invited anyone interested in running for her role next year to speak with her after the meeting.

- Anderson Dallaire asked when Owl Ball Tickets will go on sale.
 - Elizabeth Mercer explained that they are on sale now and that they are \$25.
- Sophia Rebenciuc asked if we could bring guests from other schools.
 - Elizabeth Mercer explained that they are allowed to come.
 - Matthew Dellea explained that you are allowed a single guest.

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant welcomed everyone back and reminded senators to complete their office hours this week. He announced that if the constitution passes its second round of voting tonight, signature papers for elections will be released on Friday in the SGA room. He encouraged anyone interested in running for an Executive Board position to reach out and learn more about the responsibilities, noting that most of the current executive board will be graduating. He emphasized that all roles are open and encouraged opposed elections to give everyone a fair opportunity. He invited anyone with questions about signature papers or the election process to contact him.

- Joseph Bonilla encouraged everyone to run for roles!

Rules and Regulations Committee Report: Ethan Haynes reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee met on March 5th to review two club constitutions. The first was for All Out, which is replacing QSA, and the second was for NAMfE, a club for music education majors. Both constitutions had only minor issues, and the committee voted to recommend approval of both clubs pending minor edits that have already been sent out. He requested a motion to approve the All Out club and a separate motion to approve the NAMfE club, both pending minor edits. He also noted that the committee will be meeting again tomorrow to discuss two new club constitutions and invited any questions, comments, or concerns.

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Jacob Constant, to approve the NAMfE Club .

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

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Jacob Constant, to approve the All Out Club .

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

Senior Class Report: Anderson Dallaire kicked off his report with a reminder that the 50 Days event is happening next Thursday at Westfield River Brewing Company, with buses beginning at 6:45 PM outside Scanlon and running throughout the night. He announced the first of two Senior Send-Off events: on Friday, April 4th, 140 seniors will be bused to Foxwoods for an evening of fun, with an informational email going out to all seniors the following day. The second event is an on-campus celebration scheduled for Friday, May 2nd, featuring food, drinks, shared memories, and even a mechanical bull. Anderson also reminded seniors that cords are available for purchase for \$20.25 to wear at commencement, with proceeds supporting the senior gift, and that lawn signs are still available for sale. He closed his report on a playful note, wishing everyone a super cali fragilistic expialidocious week and signing off with, "Catch ya on the flippity flip! Peace out girl scouts."

- Jacob Constant explained that it was a great report.

First-Year Class Report: Jakob Traynor reported that the Class of 2028 met on March 18th to continue planning upcoming events. They are aiming to launch their Penny Wars competition next Wednesday, with the event running until April 11th. A meeting with the RDs of Courtney and Davis Halls is scheduled for Thursday to finalize details, and confirmation is expected by the next SGA meeting. The class will also have a table at Relay for Life featuring jump rope and hula hooping activities, and they are planning to collaborate with CAB on a spring event where they will host a kickball game and sell ice pops. Jakob encouraged anyone with ideas to reach out to him at any time.

New Business:

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Jacob Constant, to open new business.

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

Constitution Review Committee: Ethan Haynes reported that following the last lengthy presentation on Constitutional Review, he would keep this update brief. Based on feedback from the body, some slight revisions were made to the constitution, including updates to excuse absences and definitions. He also ensured that the entire document is now in a consistent font. He thanked all members of the Constitutional Review Committee for their work and concluded by asking for approval of SGA Resolution FY25-010, which would officially adopt the new constitution.

MOTION made by Ethan Haynes, seconded by Daniel Currier, to amend the Constitution and Bylaws on the Recommendation of the Constitutional Review Committee, Rules and Regulations Committee and the Executive Council.

There being no discussion, **ROLL CALL VOTE 31 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSTAIN** passed.

MOTION made by Joseph Bonilla, seconded by Jacob Constant, to close new business.

- Jacob Constant explained that there will be new constitutions printed tomorrow.

VOICE VOTE passed, unanimously.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Sarah Harrington explained that she has a meeting with the provost and if anyone has anything to please let her know.
- Lorraine Fernández explained that LAfe's Krispy Kreme's fundraiser pickup is around 3
- Isabella Moniz explained that her event is happening next week for Woman's history lounge!
- Joseph Bonilla explained that there will be another service trip to the soup kitchen on April 4th.
- Sarah Harrington explained the dates would be sometime this week when she will get the information out.
- Austin Morgan congratulated Ali Sutherland and Brenna Guliani for doing an alternate spring break and doing an amazing job.
- John Zocco explained that StarRez should be going live tomorrow.
- Justin Wald asked for the commuter council to come see him after the meeting.
- Christopher Lannan explained that if you don't win your election if you run don't be discouraged
- Matthew Dellea reminded everyone to apply for Orientation Leader!
- Jacob Constant explained that he applied for Summer OL!
- Nicholas Palumbo stated that there are 59 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Joseph Bonilla adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Student Government Association (SGA) general meeting held on March 18, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant