

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
Ely 017 (SGA Room)

- I. ROLL CALL: Scott Doan, Eri'Yan Baker, Miles Jordan, Loic Black, and Iris Cerda were absent.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 17, 2023 Minutes were approved.
- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Nicholas Smith**
- A. Today, we have a very special guest joining us down today - the Assistant Director of Veteran & Military Services, Robert Vigneault.
1. **Robert Vigneault**: Thank you so much for the invitation! The first thing I'd like to say ... the Office of Veteran & Military Services - under new management! I got here in June and it has been a phenomenal ride finding out how many people across this campus are interested in collaborating with our Office. The primary mission of my Office is we are we school-certifying officials, which means we are VA-trained to certify anybody using VA benefits. The great thing about that is that it's not just for veterans - it's for any military-connected students; military-connected being if your mom, dad, your spouses, your dependents, anything like that, that is military-connected. The great things that I have the honor to support here is that we have the Military Community Excellence Center. Now it's a center set aside for our military-connected students - it's a great little space. We have laptops in there, students access computers, we have our own printer, which is huge I think around here, right? We also have a snack bar! I've always got a good cup of coffee going. The phenomenal thing about this group right here is that you are so intertwined with this campus; it is amazing to see how many people (yeah, you know what I'm talking about) are intertwined throughout all of these different offices. That is actually something that's a little bit different. I'm coming up from a community college where, you know, two years you get your degree and you're out. We're now talking about having people on-campus in the dorms, here for four years - it's phenomenal to see this type of attendance. Speaking of this, let me see if anybody here is military-connected. Nobody? ... Oh, okay. Can you tell me how?
 - a. **Abby Glasheen**: My Dad was in the Air Force.
 2. **Robert Vigneault**: The Air Force is great! So, have you been to the Center?
 - a. **Abby Glasheen**: No.
 3. **Robert Vigneault**: Did you know about the Center?
 - a. **Abby Glasheen**: I did, but I didn't think it was military-connected.
 4. **Robert Vigneault**: That's one of the great things that we want to get the word out about is military-connected. It's not just about veterans ... I know that veterans is used quite a bit, but that is the spearhead of this tip and that tip is that we can't do what we do as veterans

without the support of our family. We are down in Bates Hall - they call it the Garden Level, but it's the basement. It is really easy to find - we have big letters above our door that says "Veteran & Military Services." Please come down! We'd love it and if you want to bring classmates with you that you want to do a work study or a group study or something like that, you're more than welcome to do that.

- a. **Nicholas Smith:** Thank you for coming down to our garden level! Are there any big takeaways besides military family and dependents that you want students to take away ... resources you guys provide students aren't aware of or any big changes from the previous Veteran & Military Services?
- b. **Robert Vigneault:** Yes, absolutely! One of the things that we do is that we also host events. The two big events of the year are the Veterans Day Ceremony and the Memorial Day Ceremony. 8th of November, right over in the University Hall Multipurpose Room, we're going to hold a Veterans Day Ceremony. It's going to be a little bit different than what Westfield State has done in the past. Senator John Velis is going to give our opening remarks. The Base Commander for Barnes is going to be my keynote speaker. If any of you have the time or availability, it starts at 11:00 (I'm sorry, I was about to use 24-hour time) and goes to 1:00. For those of you that do know military or 24-hour time, it's 1100 to 1300. University Hall, 8th of November, that's our big one. I'll send you some information on that tomorrow. The other thing that we want to get the word out is that we want to open up the doors to the Veterans & Military Center to start engaging more across the campus. That's one of the things that we're trying to lead our transitioning military, so people coming out of the military - they are transitioning from boots to books (that's basically our motto right there). Shining more light on what we do and how we've done it and the paths we've walked. We want to get that out there as well.
- c. **Desiree Brown:** Thank you for coming today! What other type of academic services do you provide for the veterans and their families?
- d. **Robert Vigneault:** Academic how, what do you mean?
- e. **Desiree Brown:** Do you offer tutoring sessions like TRiO and the Banacos Center?
- f. **Robert Vigneault:** No, actually, that's one of the reasons why we want to move out to working with other groups so that we're not sequestered, more or less, in just the Center. A lot of the resources we have is local, state, and national. If anybody has any questions about veterans or military-related, we can either show you what we have or point you in the right direction. I don't know ... did everybody see the obstacle course out there on the Green? I was unfortunately in Norfolk for a veterans conference ... I missed the whole thing. How did it go? Any feedback from y'all? That's actually going to be

coming back. That was the Massachusetts National Guard that brought that out and it's actually going to be coming back so challenges are going out. I wanna see some SGA's out there running that!

- g. **Joseph Bonilla:** I want to thank you for coming down. I remember having a conversation with you earlier this semester. It's not really a question, but I just wanted to thank you! Kudos for all the effort that you're putting in with collaborating with other groups. It's well-perceived.
 - h. **Robert Vigneault:** Absolutely, thank you! I appreciate everybody being so open about this! I've never talked to a group like this. When I got the invitation I was like, woah, it kind of sent me back because I'm not used to having so many people just be open to what we do and what we want to do so thank you, I appreciate that.
 - i. **Christopher Piro:** Hi, thank you for coming down and thank you for everything you do. I just want to say that. Going back to the Army obstacle course, is there any way we can let students know in advance that it's happening on-campus, because I feel like a lot of students didn't really know about it the first time. I think it's a really good opportunity.
 - j. **Robert Vigneault:** Yes, absolutely. When I get the information on when they're coming back, I'll send it to you (*referring to Nicholas Smith*) if that is okay. We can give that out and that would be great.
 - k. **Katie Egan:** If you ever need help publicizing flyers for events our anything, we have a social media presence that we're able to help you out should you need it.
 - l. **Robert Vigneault:** Thank you! Yeah, the social media aspects is huge for us right now and I would really like to delve more into that so I'll definitely be reaching out on that especially for the Veterans Day Ceremony.
5. A quick introduction about myself, my name is Nicholas Smith. I am the current Student Government Association President. For our new members in the room (since there are some new members), first of all, welcome and congratulations! SGA is a super fun time commitment. We do a lot of great things and I want to thank you for helping our Senate a little bit larger and helping with the issues on-campus that SGA focuses on. As the SGA President, my job is to run these meetings with all of you on Tuesdays. I work with my Executive Board to help get things done on-campus and with the rest of you guys in Senate to help push your agendas forward. In my role, that is communicating with the higher-ups on-campus, like the Dean of Students and the President of the University. Any way I can help facilitate that for you, please reach out! My email is president.sga@westfield.ma.edu. My office is over there!
6. There is an open forum for all students on November 2nd to discuss dining and bathrooms in residence halls. Res Life sent a survey out today about the bathrooms in predominantly first-year dorm halls; I still need to

look at it; however, thank all of our Res Life friends for getting that out to students as soon as we could. Please ensure that if you are a student on campus, you engage with this, as it will be presented as data at the Open Forum. Dining will also be at this meeting, giving you all a chance to share your thoughts on Dining. I do want to reinforce the fact that this is an opportunity that we are granted to discuss with members in these positions, so please make sure you come to it and represent us well. Just keep in mind critical questions.

7. November 17th is the SGA group bonding trip. I know I said I would mention it last time - it slipped my brain. So we are going, drum roll please, to the Springfield Thunderbirds game. When I was younger, I was a massive fan of the Springfield Falcon, however the Thunderbirds are still a great team. This will be our SGA bonding event this year. It will be a great time for all of us to eat hot dogs together while watching my favorite sport with hopefully all 41 of you. You don't have to eat hot dogs with me; nachos or pretzels are acceptable.
8. Corn Hole is tonight. Please support us after the meeting. There will be a food truck, raffles, and all-out fun. The event is put on by Public Safety. It is an excellent chance to support breast cancer awareness.
9. Senator training is happening on Friday, which is mandatory. It will happen in the Owl's Nest at 1:40pm. Please email me by tomorrow if you can not make it for extenuating reasons. You must attend if you can. It will work on Roberts's rules of order, report writing, and how to formulate answers that reflect SGA and our values. These are essential leadership values we deem you know, so please attend. I, however, will not be there, because I am attending a conference on Friday, however, don't worry, I have been reading Roberts's Rules of Order with the ninth edition in my office from 1976, so I am still doing my diligence. The rest of Exec will be present and can hopefully explain my jokes better than I can.
10. Dan and I, along with Joseph, meet with President Thompson tomorrow, so if you want us to bring anything up to the President, please let me know. I know Dan, Joseph, and I are very excited to meet with her.
11. If you still need to join the group, please come up to the podium to scan the QR code. I need to be able to reach out to all of you. Sometimes, an email is not the best way so if you guys are not in the group, you can come up right now and scan the QR code ... that's why it is here. No one? Katie, buddy, thank you (*senators proceed to scan QR code at President's podium*)! I realized that putting it on the table by your agendas might not be the best thing so I appreciate all of you for having the courage to walk up to me and scan the QR code. I know sometimes Group Me can sometimes have problems, so if that is a thing, let me know. Besides that, you guys should really be in it if you are not.
12. I want to let you guys know that we have a dress-up meeting next week ... sorry for the short notice. Next Tuesday is Halloween, so we have a Halloween costume

dress-up meeting. It's not formal wear. I encourage you guys to wear a costume. I haven't run it by Laura yet, but I have some fake LED candles and probably throw on your tables and they're controlled by a magic wand ... it's super cool! Anyways, it is a costume meeting, so I encourage you to dress up. I'll be dressed up, hopefully the rest of Exec will. I hope you guys do as well!

13. I want to take this time to swear in our new senators so Gavin and Savannah, if you are here, can you please stand up for a second? Thank you!
14. **MOTION:** To swear-in Gavin Fazio and Savannah Sousa for the rest of the 2023-2024 academic year. **Motion carries unanimously.**
15. Like I said, Student Government can be fun and it's a super big honor so congratulations!
16. Lastly, our agenda has been updated. We want to focus on a more streamlined agenda this year, and redacting some parts that don't report regularly helps make it read more smoothly. This does not mean if you are on a committee this week, you cannot report on it next week; please do! I will just be adding it back next week. I will also send out a master copy of the previous agenda so you can see all the tabs that can report if you would still like to report in your respective area. Also, with this change, it becomes more critical to let Adam know on Mondays by 12pm if you are reporting and what you are reporting on so I can formulate the agenda and send it out to you guys by 2pm and have it for today. Thanks all!
 - a. **Adam Carpenter:** I have a point of information. Please, if you are going to miss Senator Training, also, at the very least, please CC me on the email, because I'm the one that is going to be running the training so I would like to know who will be there and who will not. Once again, if you've already been to a training, you do not need to go to another training if it was in this academic year.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: **Daniel Currier**

A. General Report: **Daniel Currier**

1. I'm Dan - I'm the Student Trustee. So for those that are new, basically what I do is I sit on the Board of Trustees. It's the governing board of the University and I help to pass various motion given to us that could include the annual budget, tuition and fees, etc., so it is a very powerful position on the campus.
2. The Investment Subcommittee met last Friday to discuss our third quarter investment performance and our plan moving forward.
3. For context, the University holds tens of millions in reserves - extra money that we have on hand that can be used in an emergency and reinvested for innovative and capital purposes. A portion of these reserves are invested in a long-term investment portfolio through our contracted investment managers, Corient.
4. The third quarter did not bode well for the Westfield State University portfolio, which declined from approximately \$23.7 million to \$23.1 million, or a roughly 2.6% decline net of fees. Our portfolio,

however, has increased 6% this year and 15.4% since the portfolio's inception in September 2019.

5. Our primary conversation revolved around whether we wanted to (a) add more money to a long-term investment portfolio and reap greater returns and (b) whether our investment portfolio should be put into an index fund, which is not actively managed by an investment manager, or remain as an active management fund. Active management is basically, when a group of investment managers make individual decisions on acquiring particular stocks. For example, whether to buy Amazon, Ford, etc.
 6. The Subcommittee agreed that it would be prudent for us to add additional dollars to our long-term investment portfolio and to strongly consider moving toward an index fund, as we do not believe our current active management strategy is working. Additional research will be occurring over the next month and further conversations may occur in December.
 7. Barring a special meeting, our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 19.
- B. All University Committee: **No Report**
C. Student Advisory Council: **No Report**

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

- A. General Report: **Jack Guindon**
1. I'm Jack Guindon, Vice President of Student Life. I believe I interviewed the two new senators so I'm not going to bore you with telling you about my title again.
 2. Last Friday, Student Affairs Committee met. We discussed two main topics: the first is bridging the gap between staff and faculty to students, and the second is student mental health.
 3. We discussed a few ideas for both. One for the staff and students topic was to have professors post their events on Presence. I think it's a good idea as students will be able to know what events are going on on the academic side. Secondly, someone brought up the Week at a Glance and how we should utilize that to include professors' events as well. Maggie's idea for this was to have a Social Hour meet and greet with some members of the University staff. For instance, it could be people like Steve Taksar, Vice President for Administration & Finance, and some of his team so students can come and meet people that work for the University that they might not otherwise and than can help connect the Nest a little bit.
 4. The other thing we brought up was students' mental health. One thing that was brought up was mental health days and how to deal with that if a student is abusing it and that way it doesn't take away from other students who need them.
 5. This committee meets again on November 17th, so if you want anything brought up at that meeting that you want Student Affairs to address, please email me at vpstudentlife.sga@westfield.ma.edu or find me after the meeting.
 6. Last week, I met with Res Life. I just found out they sent out that survey today so I can skip over most of this. Please fill it out. It's important to get student feedback on the bathroom locks. That was pretty much all

that our meeting was about. Just go to the Open Forum and fill out that survey.

7. Last Saturday was the first of three fall open houses. Around 200 students registered and 115 of them went - it was a great turnout and helped show a lot of potential students our campus and what we're about here at Westfield State. There will be two more open houses coming up - one in November and one in December, so if you're on a club, I'd recommend you go and have a table that way students can see what different clubs and organizations are here at Westfield State. In my meeting Vice President Hearn yesterday, he said "let SGA know that I was very happy with the clubs and organizations that went and want to thank everyone in advance for going to the next two and helping out." So, you guys ... bug expectations there!

- B. Student Affairs Committee: **No Report**
- C. Food Services Committee: **No Report**
- D. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**

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

- A. General Report: **Sarah Harrington**
 1. Hi everyone! To all of our new senators, my name is Sarah Harrington, and I'm the Vice President for Academic Life. Please come to me with any problems regarding curriculum, professors, and any stuff of that nature.
 2. The University Curriculum Committee met this past Friday during the common hour. We continued to look at the revisions made to Progress Report 5 with Dr. Kennedy and Lynn Shelley. We confirmed the endorsement of the Area Descriptions, Model, and Learning Outcomes as "Ready to Pilot". We reviewed more of the English courses and reviewed any prerequisites other than English 101.
 3. On Thursday at 11:30, Dan and I met to discuss the common hour proposal further. We reviewed the draft policy Dan made for the proposal and talked about the pros of the suggested time block. We were thinking of having it on Tuesdays from 11:15- 12:30. The idea is that any labs or one-credit/one day classes would be held during this time on Thursdays. We will be continuing to review with Jack and Laura before we send the proposal off.
 4. Quick reminder, you all need to sit on two committees and SGA is not one of them. Grade Appeals Committee, Academic Honesty, Parking Control Board, and SCORE all still need members. Please come up to me after the meeting if you would like to get more information or join any.
 5. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:30 and Fridays from 12:30-1:30. Email me at vpacademiclife.sga@westfield.ma.edu.
- B. Academic Policies Committee: **Joseph Bonilla**
 1. Academic Policies Committee (APC) met on Friday, October 20th during the common meeting time from 1:40 - 2:55 PM. We discussed two proposals: one on utilizing AI tools in the classroom and the other on potentially allowing students access to aides during academic dishonesty hearings.
 2. The Committee ultimately decided on tabling both proposals as we felt it was difficult to make an informed decision without discussing either matter with

legal counsel or further understanding of the social parameters within each matter respectively. Due to this, the Committee then created a subcommittee, which both Brandon and I will be on, to collect further information on the topics and work on further suggestions for the proposals.

3. Please feel free to let me know any questions you may have after this report or during either of the office hours of those on this committee.
 - a. **Austin Morgan:** Can you explain a little bit more about what you meant by academic dishonesty, like what was that?
 - b. **Joseph Bonilla:** I was brief just for the sake of the report, but basically I'll dive into it a little and explain, so Academic Policies Committee obviously looks over all proposals that have to do with any policies in relation to academics and also the calendar. There was a proposal that was put out and there's this thing called the Academic Honesty Committee. It's basically like the student conduct process but for academic dishonesty, so during those hearing you would have a panel who you would meet with and they would decide what the further proceedings would be due to your academic dishonesty. Some of the topics we discussed was that it may be inequitable for some people who are foreign exchange students or people who speak English as a second language. They may need an aid during the time that they are in the hearing because some of their language may be misconstrued and the conversation may not be as helpful for them. They may not get fair judgement in the process by a faculty member. Some of the language we weren't sure of because it had to do with legal parameters because we were limiting some people being allowed and then the discussion came about whether or not they should allow parents come on their behalf. Dr. Monique Lopez from the Registrar's Office brought up the fact that other institutions like Salem State University say that anyone besides parents are allowed, so there's just specific language we want to talk to the University's lawyers about, but first we want to get some more research on the area to make sure that we're being inclusive.
- C. University Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
- D. Special Committee on Reforming General Education (SCORE): **No Report**

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

- A. General Report: **Joseph Bonilla**
 1. Sarah, Dan, and I met with Dr. Azanda Seymour and Nicole West last week to discuss student retention as well as the Student Achievement Gap that I mentioned earlier this year.
 2. During the meeting, we discussed potential reasons for such a large achievement gap between non-white and white students. For those who don't remember, it's a twenty to twenty-two point difference between non-white students and white students at Westfield State.
 3. Dan and Sarah focused on retention whereas my focus was on the Student Achievement Gap since that's more on the Student Equity side. As far as the retention portion,

Dr. Azanda Seymour will be assisting in the creation of a strategic enrollment plan and she will be meeting with Dr. Hearn this week if they haven't already. Retention will be the main focus.

4. Dr. Seymour said that Urban Education (one of the programs within the Center for Student Success & Engagement) actually has the highest retention rate out of their programs and compared to the University. They may be looking at that model and see what they're doing correctly and how we can then apply that on a University level.
5. We also discussed faculty and how they engage with students. That may be an area of difficulty for retention - the way that students perceive the way that professors interact with them. Attendance in class was one of the discussions brought forth by both students and Dr. Seymour and Nicole West.
6. We discussed Academic Advising and how they've registered 333 to 376 students just via transfers and whatnot.
7. We discussed students not already affiliated with CSSE. The CSSE, for those that don't know, includes programs such as Urban Education, the Banacos Academic Center, TRiO, Veteran & Military Services, etc. We discussed where students may be falling through the cracks and how we can support them and one of the main theories that we discussed was just the fact that when we're collecting data, there's something going on that makes us unable to ... you know when you go to register, some of your professors or your advisor checks and sees if you're affiliated with the Honors Program or the Urban Education Program ... one of the difficulties may be that if you are both an Urban Education student and a TRiO student, you may not be able to see both on that online data system via Banner, meaning you may not be getting all the support that you need. There's a limited amount of information that we're allowed to put in there, so you know the idea is that more advisors creates more support, so if I have my academic advisor and there's an advisor for Urban Education because I'm also an Urban Education student, I get all that support and I'm able to go to multiple people and even if I have an advisor that may not be so great, I have two others ... that's kind of the theory.
8. We additionally discussed potentially including CSSE onboarding when faculty and staff come to the University. They were in talks with HR about this. They told us that's something that they may be doing which may potentially support students in that issues with faculty who aren't understanding specific situations regarding the diaspora of the student experience.
9. They also discussed the three high-risk things that fall together that really make sure that we're able to support our students when they come here and that would be understanding, (1) socioeconomic status, (2) first-generation status, and (3) racial and ethnic status. In that respect, if you have all three of those, you are categorized as one of the more high risk students because you don't have the support in specific senses so like Urban Education with first-generation students and, you know, across the board between marginalities and that's pretty much it.

10. The Governor's Advisory Council for the Advancement of Representation in Education convened at UMASS Boston to discuss access and admissions to higher education. Governor Healey and Attorney General Campbell jointly issued an overview and FAQ document regarding the Council and work being done to mitigate the issues caused by removing affirmative action. The Governor and the Attorney General issued a press advisory last week discussing announcements at the event. If you'd like to read more information about it, you can do so. It should be on the mass.gov website.
11. On Monday, October 30th, myself and other members of the Chaplain's Council will be presenting on hunger, food insecurity, and poverty at the Interfaith Center from 3:10pm to 4:25pm. While this is an interaction between the Interfaith Center and a specific course, if you'd like to hear that discussion whether it's 50 minutes or the entire time, it's going to be an interesting discussion. You might take something from it!
12. I will be having my 1:1 with Dr. Pierce, our institution's Vice President for Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) this Thursday so if you'd like to have me bring up anything during our discussion, please feel free to let me know either after this report or during my office hours! Please feel free to reach out to me during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am-1:30pm or via email at vpequity.sga@westfield.ma.edu.
13. As always, I will leave you with a quote. Andrea Jones once said "I'm planting a tree to teach me to gather my strength for my deepest roots."

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

- A. General Report: **No Report**
- B. Finance Committee: **Kaolin Westcott**
 1. Hello everyone, I have two proposals for you today on behalf of the Finance Committee. Just to preface, we have \$20,000 to allocate for finance proposals for the year.
 2. The first proposal is from the Exercise Science Club. The club current balance is \$1100 and the total for the event is \$1035. They are requesting a total of \$535 to aid in conference fees for their yearly NEACSM Conference. This was voted on with the unanimous decision to support the full amount.
 3. **Motion:** To accept Finance Proposal F23-001 and to allocate \$535 to the Exercise Science Club. **Motion carries unanimously.**
 4. The second proposal is from the Westfield State Dance Team for their Nationals Competition. They originally requested \$4,000 on their request but once we talked to their representatives, they informed us that that number had dropped to \$1,417. The Club has a current balance of \$3,840, and total cost of Nationals is averaging \$24,932. The Finance Committee decided unanimously to allocate \$500 for ground travel.
 - a. **Daniel Currier:** Just for clarification, is this the Dance Company and not the Dance Team through Athletics?
 - b. **Kaolin Westcott:** This is the Dance Team through Athletics.

5. **Motion:** To approve Finance Proposal F23-002 and to allocate \$500 to the Westfield State Dance Team. **Motion carries.**
- C. Westfield State Foundation: **No Report**
- D. Information Technology Strategic Advisory Committee: **No Report**

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

- A. General Report: **Elizabeth Mercer**
 1. Today, after the meeting, there is a Cornhole Tournament. It will take place in University Hall.
 2. On Wednesday from 8:00pm-11:00pm, Courtney Hall is hosting the Hate Free Unity Tree event where you can sign your name on the Hate Free Tree and receive a door tag.
 3. SAIL is hosting a vintage clothing and accessory vendor outside of Ely from 10:30am-5:00pm.
 4. Tomorrow, the Physical CARE Package will take place at 3:30pm on the second floor of the Ely Library, Room 230. This event is focused on the wellbeing of students with help from Kelly Palm and the CARE Center.
 5. Just a reminder that the Open Forum is on November 2nd at 6:00pm in the University Hall Multi-Purpose Room.
 6. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped out with Thrills & Chills Weekend events last week that SAIL hosted. You guys did an amazing job!
 7. We will be making a TikTok after this meeting. If you want to be in it, please let me know. Just see me after. Thank you.
- B. Neighborhood Advisory Board: **Haley Kane**
 1. My name is Haley Kane, and I am the Community Relations & Fundraising Representative for SGA. I'm a senior and I double major in elementary education and psychology major.
 2. Tonight, I'm reporting about a project I'm working on for the Neighborhood Advisory Board. Years ago, when this committee was active, they used to write newsletters for the residents of Westfield specifically for the ones who live near campus. Now that this group is back up and running, we would love to bring back the newsletters. Since last year, I have been working closely with President Thompson on how we can increase connections between the University and the City. She has asked me specifically to be the student writing these newsletters (with the help of the rest of the Board and Marketing). I have been going through the older newsletters and brainstorming what these new newsletters should include. So far, I know we want to include the hours of the Dining Commons and any other places that the community can come to. We will also be including a calendar of events here on campus (last year when I was talking to some of the neighbors at the pizza party, they were telling me that they would like one calendar of events so they know what is happening at the University). I'm also thinking of maybe including student spotlights/club spotlights so we can highlight all the amazing work our students are doing. I'm open to any ideas that you all have so please let me know your thoughts! We are hoping to send this newsletter out after our NAB meeting (so anytime after November 9th). Thank you all!
- C. Community Relations/Fundraising Report: **Haley Kane**

1. For tonight's report, I wanted to let you all know about the Annual Turkey Drive. For those who are new, each year we raise money for the Salvation Army to help support them in purchasing food items specifically for the holidays. It is called the Turkey Drive because we used to raise funds to purchase turkeys for families for Thanksgiving. However, in the past couple of years, we realized that it is beneficial to raise money for the Salvation Army to purchase specifically what they need.
2. For this drive to be successful, we need everyone's help. Starting November 1st and going until November 9th, we will be going around to all the buildings here on-campus and collecting money. Typically, we have a few senators for each building so we can make sure we are reaching everyone. There will be sign up sheets for each building so please sign up for what works best for you!
3. I always love this fundraiser and am always so proud of how this campus community comes together to help. If anyone has any questions about the Turkey Drive or is unsure about collecting money, please let me know. Thank you all so much for your help!
 - a. **Daniel Currier:** So I remember when I was going last year than the only concern among some faculty and staff was they had to give cash and not anything else. Is there a possibility we could use University Tickets or some other site for getting people, whether faculty, staff, or students or outside of campus to donate?
 - b. **Haley Kane:** I can talk to Laura about that see if there's any other way. I know that was a concern last year too, so thank you.
 - c. **Laura Cafaro:** When Haley and I met, we discussed going around campus and collecting funds but also, with the help of Matt with the Turkey Trot that CAB is putting on, to enter the 5k (I know Jack will be racing it) there are options to either donate \$10 to the Turkey Drive, to donate a canned good for the Common Goods Food Pantry, or help with another project of supporting homeless people around the community. The donations have already started coming in and we're just looking to keep it going.
 - d. **Joseph Bonilla:** I just want to say thank you for everything. You know that the newsletter is a big thing so thank you for leading that.
 - e. **Nicholas Smith:** First of all, thank you. The Turkey Drive is a always a really big fundraiser we do. For our new senators and some of the ones from last year, you raise a lot of money. I encourage you if you have the funds to donate to it. Always kind of feels good helping out, but also I do want to highlight, like Laura said, the Turkey Trot is a pretty good event. I'm going to try to run it despite not being a 5k person, so I encourage you all to get involved and put on your running shoes and do it!

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

- A. General Report: **No Report**

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: **Ethan Haynes**

- A. Rules and Regulations Committee: **Ethan Haynes**

1. The Rules & Regulations Committee met today. We reviewed two constitutions.
 2. First, the Diversity in Healthcare Club. This constitution was approved pending some edits that they need to do - just minor formatting issues.
 3. We also reviewed the Music Listening Club's constitution, which wishes to become a new organized club on-campus. We agreed to table unanimously pending a further meeting between myself and potentially SGA staff.
 4. The next Rules & Regulations Committee meeting will be held on October 31st at 3pm in the SGA Conference Room.
 5. If you need to reach me individually, my email is parli.sga@westfield.ma.edu and my office hours are: Monday from 12:30-1:30, Tuesday from 12:45-4:00, and Wednesday from 12:30-4pm.
- B. Constitutional Review Committee: **No Report**

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Commuter Council: **Desiree Brown**
1. The Commuter Council met this past Friday in the Commuter Lounge. All members of our Council were present, as well as Laura Cafaro and Kaolin Westcott.
 2. One of the things we primarily talked about was our Commuter Appreciation Day on November 14th. The timing for this event I scheduled to be from 12:30am-1:00pm in the Commuter Lounge. We are working on ordering a large foam poster for the event, along with commuter-related merchandise to hand out during the event. Ideas of umbrellas, headphones, air fresheners, and car scrapers were discussed. Catering will be provided at the Commuter Appreciation Day; we're thinking brunch/breakfast-style foods. Laura is working to reach out to Marketing to inquire about a possibility of doing commuter stickers.
 3. We are going to utilize the current Commuter Council Instagram profile for doing reports and also for other publicity things.
 4. We interviewed a candidate to be Secretary/Publicist for the Commuter Council. We're still waiting on an update as to whether or not they have decided to join us.
 5. The suggestion box as discussed previously has been ordered and will be set up in the Commuter Lounge soon.
 6. An idea to "chalk" commuter parking spots and bus pickup areas who either drive or take the bus for the Commuter Appreciation Day so we'll just show them some love. Members of the Council are planning a day in November to meet and chalk these spots. Updates on that event to come.
- B. Senior Class: **Kaitlyn Egan**
1. I wanted to first come up and introduce myself for all the newer senators in the room. My name is Kaitlyn Egan, and I'm the Senior Class President. I double major in Criminal Justice and English with a minor in Sociology and I'm on the Women's Golf Team.
 2. I have a few updates for you regarding what the senior class has been up to. We are nearing the end of our Calendar Fundraiser drawings and I hope that you have had fun following along with us as we pick a new winner every day. The prizes are only getting bigger from here, so stay tuned! Congratulations to Dan on winning today!

3. We are currently focusing on our 100 Days to Commencement Toast at Westfield River Brewing Company scheduled for February 8th, 2024, which sounds crazy that I am saying 2024 already. I am excited to share the details as they are solidified.
4. Finally, as I mentioned in my previous report, the Class of 2024 wants to be the first class to bring back the senior week tradition at Westfield State. Although it will be a lot of money and a lot of planning, I am confident in my council and in Laura and Matt that we will be able to do it. We have made a plan for the week and are working on approval so we can begin nailing down details and assembling packages for purchase, hopefully before the holidays.
 - a. **Desiree Brown:** When was the last time that Senior Week was held?
 - b. **Kaitlyn Egan:** The last time it was held was in 2012, so a long time ago. It is usually the week before Commencement and celebrates you being a senior and your undergraduate degree, so it's events just for seniors. We would be moving back on-campus for a week staying in the Apartments or somewhere like that and we're planning super fun events every day. Again, just seniors. So we're talking about going to Treehouse Brewery, going to MGM, having a darty on the Green, having a brunch with invited professors and faculty that have really impacted our career at Westfield State, things like that. So we're hoping to bring that back because we haven't had it for a while and I think it's a great thing to start just to celebrate all we've accomplished.
- C. Junior Class: **No Report**
- D. Sophomore Class: **No Report**
- E. First Year Class: **Patty Sowa**
 1. I want to share that the Class Council and I have made some progress over this past week regarding installing more trash and recycling cans around the campus.
 2. I have reached out to Officer Bernard St. George to see how we can actually get more cans and if we would be allowed to decorate them as an event (painting and purifying) to make people aware of their placements on campus and dynamically add student personality to our nest. We are planning to work with CAB and the Environmental Planning Club, but I am still waiting for a reply from Officer Bernard before I reach out to them to collaborate. I will keep everyone updated on the status of the event as we get more details.
 3. I would also like to mention that I will be starting campus clean-ups very soon. I just have to coordinate the times and dates with my schedule before anything is set in stone. I will be advertising this around campus as soon as everything is planned out and I am looking forward to helping reduce littering before and hopefully after we get trash cans installed to promote an environmentally friendly campus for all.
- F. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
- G. Courtney Hall: **No Report**
- H. Davis Hall: **No Report**
- I. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
- J. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
- K. New Hall: **No Report**
- L. University Hall: **No Report**
- M. Representative at Large: **No Report**

- XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS: (Requires majority vote to be opened)
- XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- A. **Daniel Currier:** If you are interested in embezzling money, the Accounting & Finance Club will be hosting an event this Thursday to talk about fraud. So we highly encourage you to go if that is something you want in your future.
 - B. **Joseph Bonilla:** I have a few announcements. The Division of Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion in collaboration with the Career Center will be hosting a Disabilities in the Workplace event tomorrow in Parenzo Hall Conference Room 107. There is a flyer on their Instagram and across campus. It's from 12:30pm to 1:30pm so stop by and there is another event on Monday which is Disability History Trivia Night. So if you have been seeing trivia questions on the Instagram, I have been posting them. You should definitely come by! The winner gets a boo basket (don't ask me what's in it) and a \$10 Dunkin gift card. It's in the Owl's Nest.
 - C. **Isabella Moniz:** The Social Work Association is putting on their first fundraiser of the year so we would appreciate your support! We will be in the Dining Commons both tomorrow and Thursday. We are selling \$1 Halloween candy grams. You can send them to your friends or to yourself!
 - D. **Adam Carpenter:** I want to give a shout out to the first-year class because they are first constituency to have every senator report, so good for them!
 - E. **Chris Piro:** I was told to announce if Jack didn't talk about it, but I was told to announce that Dining will no longer be posting menus on social media once Nutra Slice is live.
 - F. **Sarah Harrington:** The Education Department is putting on Trunk or Treat this weekend on Saturday from 3:30 to 6 in front of the church.
 - G. **Jack Guindon:** Reminder to go to senator training on Friday.
 - H. **Joseph Bonilla:** Sorry, forgot another one, so the Gerontology Club at its last meeting were writing letters to hospice patients since the holidays are coming up. If any of you want to make a Thanksgiving letter or anything like that, please do so. Either give it to me as the President or bring it to the Health Sciences Department. Be sure to include large print because some of these people have sensory disability so they can see what you draw and be able to read it.
 - I. **Elizabeth Mercer:** If you guys are free on Friday, I have my first club hockey game at Springfield Smead Arena at 6
 - J. **Kaitlyn Egan:** 206 days until Commencement.
- XV. ROLL CALL: Eri'Yan Baker, Miles Jordan, Loic Black, and Iris Cerda were absent
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 5:30pm in Ely 017 (SGA Room).

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

This meeting was livestreamed. To view a recording of this meeting, please visit the Student Government Association's Youtube Channel.