

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 5:30pm
Ely 017 (SGA Room)

- I. ROLL CALL: Haley Kane, Maggie Roberts, James MacDonald, Loic Black, Jakayla Leary, and Eri'yan Baker were absent

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: October 3, 2023 *Minutes were approved*

- III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Nicholas Smith**

Hey, Everyone. I hope you are all doing well. I appreciate all of you for dressing up today and making sure you took the time to look presentable; you all look dapper.

My report, thankfully, isn't too long. For starters, trustee Dan and I are meeting with the president soon, so if you have anything you want us to ask or something we discussed tonight that you would like us to discuss further, please let Dan or me know.

Next up, the SGA open forum date has been changed, and we have nailed down some topics we want to work on. The topics will focus on dining and meal plans and an issue we have discussed before whether we should keep doors to bathrooms unlocked or not in dorm halls. This would be for resident halls where you must scan into your identified gender's bathroom. We have discussed these topics in the past, so hopefully, students will have much to say. The planned date is Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. in the MPR or multi-purpose room in the University hall. I encourage you all to work in your respective groups and find ways to spread the word to students to ensure we have students' opinions at the town hall. On the topic of campus engagement, some activities are going on that you should try and attend,

Public Safety is hosting its annual cornhole tournament for breast cancer awareness. It will cost 12.50 per person or 25 for two players on a team. It will be happening again in the MPR room of Uni on October 24th. For those who are calendar inclined and have realized, the 24th is an SGA meeting day, but I will ensure we get out as fast as possible so we can stop by and support. This is a great event, and I encourage you to help out in any way. And it is a great way to engage with the campus community.

Again, with campus events, Homecoming is this weekend, and I have been asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help. I need about 6 to 8 of you; if any of you can help, that would be a great way to engage with the Westfield State community. Ryan will send around a sign-up sheet, so please write down if you can help.

The SCORE committee has responded to me and said they are willing to attend an SGA meeting. This is super exciting for SGA because students' engagement on the matter is critical. However, this will be discussed later on in Sara's report.

SGA exec is doing our engagement activity this week. Today, we were in the dc, encouraging students to tell us why Westfield State is not perfect. This was done to see what students wanted us to work on. Tomorrow and Friday, we will have a table in the computer lounge, and on Thursday, we will be back in the dc!

One thing I wanted to address was something that happened this weekend. As much of you may have heard or read, President Thompson also emailed campus. There was an attack on Israel over the weekend. On Behalf of SGA, I would like to stand by President Thompson's words. SGA and the executive board would like to extend our condolences to all who may be affected, and we would like to acknowledge that it is unfortunate when such events happen. We want to foster an inclusive. I also want to reinforce that there are resources on campus if you need to talk to them, like the counselling or interfaith centers. Please get in touch with me if you would like to

connect them. As a student body, we need to foster inclusivity so that when we go into the world, we make decisions we want to stand by, and I know you all will do that to the best you can in your current leadership roles!

you still need to join the SGA groupme, please see me after the meeting; we must get you in as soon as possible! I would also like to apologize for sending the wrong link to you all. For those who need clarification, the link I emailed you all today was one for our executive group chat, so we had to remove you all; please rejoin if you joined today.

- i. *Ryan Meersman: Before I sent around this sign up sheet for Ontario at Homecoming this weekend. I just wanted to give a little bit of context for what that is. And by the way, I just want to really give you guys A lot of praise for the comments and questions you asked the President as the Director of Alumni Relations, I love hearing about traditions and those things that keep people loving this place. So one of the things that we did last year is we were revamping homecoming. Coming out of Homecoming was implemented a tent tailgating village. So this is Our football families signed up for Tense. What they do is they sign up for a tent space. They bring their, you know, twelve by ten easy up 10, their grill. They're coolers, decorations for tent decorating contest, and they just have a really good time out on the field outside of the softball field. Just as you're like you're looking at Alumni Field on the side of the Woodward Center and everyone just like gathers there, has an awesome time goes in and out of the football game. And what we need are What they do is park over in the horseman center so that it's only a quick walk with their tents and coolers and food and everything. And last year we had a group of students who helped us. They had a wagon, they carried things, and to have students be able to greet people. Welcome them, Get them to their spot. It was just a really nice way to start off the day for those folks. So if you are able to give us a little bit of time, we're hoping so 10 tailgating 's from 12 to five. We've let people know that they need to be in place at their sites by two by the start of the football game. And So what I'm looking for is a number of people to help out from 11:00 to 2:00. So we give it a little bit of time ahead of our sort of start time for those early birds. I have spots for 15 people here. I don't necessarily need 15, but if I do get 15 people to sign up, we might be able to do a couple of different like time shifts for an hour or so. And I will also provide you with a ticket so you can go and get something to eat over at game site once you're done during the game. So I'll send this around and if someone could just get it to me at the end, that'd be awesome. Thank you very much.*
- ii. *Adam Carpenter: Mine is just a general comment on what Ryan just said. Please volunteer if you can last year there were only three of and that was a lot so please help out if you can.*
- iii. *Justin Wald: Hey Nick, can you just remind me what the date is for the forum.*
- iv. *Nick Smith: It is November 2nd at 6pm at I believe the University Hall MPR room is the tentative space. That may be subject to change but as of right now it is MPR.*

A. **Westfield State University President: Dr. Linda Thompson**
It's always wonderful to be around our students who are the reason why we are all here so thank you for inviting me to come down. As it was indigenous peoples day yesterday, I would like to do a land acknowledgement before we get started. Westfield State University is built on unseeded ancestral lands of the Nipmuc, Agawam, and Woronoco. This acknowledgement compels up all to not only honor those people past and present but also to consider our individual, collective and institutional relationships top the history of settling and settler

colonialism. Displace most of these indigenous people and took their sacred homeland. And we, in order to honor those populations that we did that to our campus, just created an endowment to pay their fees. They get free tuition by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts already if you're an indigenous person. And so we're going to add on to that. So I think that's wonderful that people here want to do something like that. Alright, let me just talk to you a little bit about. The things that I'm hoping to do this this year on our campus, and as I was thinking about history, I did give some thought to really one of my dear friends who was Palestinian. She when I was in Israel, probably about 20 years ago, I was there on a mission with the Jewish community and. And. Baltimore and she came and picked me up and took me over to her. For helps that she showed me the place where her family had lived since 1400s and probably about 10 years ago she was, she was stabbed in the heart. And so you know that this whole thing about what's happening over in Israel deeply troubles me and I hope you guys are troubled. But I hope as you think about it that you think about all sides and I am. You know when I was looking at what was going on there, I said this is just so crazy. One of the things I hope. As students here on this campus, that you learn how to think about everybody in this world is important. That all of us have value, and that violence is not a way to solve any conflict. And the other thing I was just down in DC last week and I ran into two of my former professors. And both of them are now what we call living legends in their field. And the reason why I do a lot of the things that I do today is because of those two women and the things that they taught me. And this is also the week of homecoming. And I hope 10 years from today you'll come back during Homecoming week. And reach out to those faculty who you thought did something wonderful for you. And this year, the three things that I'm focused on the most is improving our culture. And improving that our culture means making sure that everyone on this campus cares about it and that you want to make this campus one of the best places for you to learn to play. I know you do that to, you know, just to get to know each other. You're the people who are going to be your best friends in the future. Are sitting right next to you and sitting in this room right now and you need to begin to figure out and learn about culture from people who you don't have any idea what their culture is like. Just talk to them and learn how to be welcoming and inclusive. The thing that I love about the students on this campus though, and I I'm just going to talk a little bit about last year's all that I went to. You guys are amazing and so inclusive. You guys really welcome just about everyone and I just want to acknowledge our, my, my boss over there. Dan, who's a member of our board of trustees, tomorrow I'm going to spend all day with them. So he said he has to start 8:00 in the morning and he's going to get through at 5:00. So he represents you really well. But I just want to acknowledge our board of trustee members. So culture is one of the most important things. And I know Doctor Hearn there. You all know Doctor Hearn, our new Vice President of Student Fairs and Enrollment Management is helping me to make this culture a better place for our campus and helping me to connect more to the students here on our campus. You just thinking about our ideas about how we can make this a good place to be so. If we get our culture right, then we will be able to enroll more people on our campus and keep them. Those three things are important to me. And finally, if we do all of that, we'll have the money. the money that we need in order to make this place a better place for all of you to go to school and we'll have money to help cover the cost of tuition for those students who don't have the resources to come to college. You know I have been Also troubled by people who say college educated people getting a college education is not that important. That when you go to college, you become too liberal. And I always wonder, what does that mean becoming too liberal? Well, when I say it means it should going to be able to make more money than the average high school person. People who go to college tend to

make more money. They live longer because you learn a lot of things when you're in college. And I just hope that whenever you go out and talk to people in your high school class and your high schools where you want, you tell good stories about being a student here at Westfield State. You tell good stories to your class, to your friends and your neighborhood about why it's important to go to college, and you tell good stories about. The people you meet. Going to college to meet people that you would not have met because you're not in your same neighborhood. You're meeting people for a little different than you, and you're meeting people that might be writing your letter of recommendation when you go on to that job. So just let me first say I want to thank all of you who chose to serve. Serving on your Student Government Association means that you have extra work to do. It means that you are taking the time and you're committed to representing your. Your fellow student population on campus and you are the voice of the students and you talk about things that you worry about to people like me so that I can make it better for all of you. And I just want to say me and my executive team are so pleased that you made that decision to serve. And you know, this is the third year. I'm moving in to being here at Westfield State University and one of the things that I wanted to do when I came here is to look not only at what we were doing now, but to begin to think about a future state of Westville State University. So this year we're starting our strategic planning process that's going to take us through the next five years. Liberation graciously sent me names of people who want to serve on our strategic planning committee, but I'd love to have one session with as many students as we can to get your perspective about what you think our campus needs to be like in the next 5 to 10 years. The things that you will be doing to help us shape the the next five years is going to launch us into another 20 years. And I need to make sure that we are offering programs that you think are important that we're doing things that you think need to be need to be done in order to make this this campus place that is promoting the health and well-being of everyone and promoting the opportunities for you to do all of the things that you need to do. So please serve and tell us what you think This campus needs to be like as we move forward in the next several years. The other thing we're doing is we're launching a search for new Provost, and I know people have been nominated by your leader here to serve on that committee, but those representatives need to come back and get your opinion about what you want. What kind of person you want to serve as a next academic leader on campus? So get them to let you know and let other people know. And the other thing that is going to be happening this year is we're going to be launching our strategy for turning 185 years old next year. We're going to be turning 185, and the thing that I loved about coming to this campus was the fact that you were one of the first universities in the United States to educate women and I. Also, I'm just so happy that you were one of the first universities in the United States to admit people of color at Slaves. We have a building on our campus named after Samuel Courtney, who was a person of color who went on to become a physician and graduated from Harvard. Harvard College graduated from that medical school, so there's a lot of wonderful history on this campus. And as we move into the next 185 years, I want to be a welcoming place for people. I think some of you might want to help make that happen, but I want it to be a welcoming place for people. You know, for the last two years we were talking about NECHE. We did, OK. And it was because of you that we did OK and that chief people who came to site visitors who came to our campus talked about the students. They talked about the pride that the students talked about and the praise the students had for both faculty and staff and your commitment to this community. So it's because of you. And a few other people that we were able to get accredited the two things that they want us to focus on student learning outcomes. And looking at our general education court, and I know that a lot of you

have been serving on the committee to reexamine our our, you know, our general education course. So they'll be talking more to you about that. Our current interim Provost is going to be soliciting from students. Your ideas about what students need to look like when they graduated from our campus. So thank you for being involved. And telling the NECHE site team about all of the positive things that you think are happening on our campus and so. Enrollment. So that's enrolling and retaining people culture. All of that will lead to having a wonderful economic health for our campus and help to shape the new direction for us. You know, on Friday we're going to have the grand opening of the new parental site. How many of you have been in that building already? I'm also calling that building our innovation Hub. We have a collab that's in there that is going to allow students and faculty to partner with business communities in this region and begin to think about entrepreneurial types of activities. So please keep that in mind when you go over there and figure out a way that you can work with the Mace, the Mace with the person handling her God. So she's going to be doing work over in the Parenzo Innovation Hub to help you think about entrepreneurial and Activities and. We are also going to be the first university that is a liberal arts university like ours to have a health maker space. We are partnering with two professors from MIT to help develop the Help Makerspace. I think those are wonderful, wonderful opportunities for you to begin to think about what you can do as an entrepreneur. Used singer health makers face. Let me just tell you a little bit about what you can do if you think about it so. Clothing. We want to have embedded sensors that we want to put in clothing. So when you're walking around and you're your blood pressure gets too high, it'll notify you if you get too, you know, too hot because of you know what's as you exercise it will also notify you that you're having a problem and we wanted to do that. Clothing. We want to also look at other things that I haven't even thought about and to monitor the health and well-being of people. The health maker Space will help us to begin to think about ideas. You know, Gatorade, which all of you drink when you're exercising, was developed at a university, University of Florida. It was. It was developed with by working with the athletes there. So that's an example of what you can do with things that you are developing for monitoring the health status of people. So I hope we can have a Gatorade type product here and if we do then I won't have to worry about money as much anymore. But it is an opportunity for us to really begin to to do some interesting things. So I'm happy that you invited me here today. My goal is to get to know all of you. I want us all to work and and try to make Westfield State University one of the best universities in the country. I also want you to know that I need to work with you in order to make that happen. We all do a better job. When we work together, when we are a team, we all do a better job. When you see something happening that you think needs to be changed and you have the courage to come and tell me that that needs to be changed, you know. Some of you just tell me that, you know, I understand that you have a concern about. You've chosen name as opposed to the name that your parents gave you. We're working on that. So have a little faith that we're working on. The other thing that I know some of you are concerned about is the idea that migrants or immigrants are going to be infamous. I heard from some of your parents about that. I heard from other people's parents about that too. I don't know if they were yours, but a lot of people talked to me about it. You know one of the things that. Was disturbing as I wish we could have been able to accommodate people who are scaping conflict and violence and loss of opportunities in their own country on our campus. FLG was not the appropriate place for people to be. It didn't. It would. A child anyone under the age of five would have had, would have had a hard time taking a bath because there's no bathtubs, only showers. Would be hard for a mom or a dad to get up in the middle of the night to heat up a bottle to feed. Would be would have been hard to have young people and families gather for

meals. It's really not appropriate. For family. But the other thing that was deeply disturbing to me when that was a potential possibility is the negative things that I've heard people saying. So, umm. I hope you know that I'm having negative thinking person and I hope that none of you are negative like that too. I heard some of the worst things for people and you know most of us come from a common gene pool, even though you may not believe that we all came out of Africa. And the, the, the, the, I would say the phenotype, the way we look outside is not what we are and our genotype inside, there's more commonalities of all of us than differences. So that's not going to happen. So you can tell your family members too that it's not going to happen. But it did open my eyes to a lot of issues here. And I hope that when you all are graduates and making decisions about what makes the society better, that you think about housing for more people and you think about how do we create infrastructure for more people because we didn't have that as well. We don't have enough healthcare facilities. We don't have the transportation infrastructure for someone gets working as to a public school. So those are things I just wanted to talk about in case you had a question about it and just to let you know that we are, we did talk to people about solving that problem. So I just want to say. Let's keep making Westfield State the best regional university in the country. I hope that over the next several years we can make it a little bit more than just a regional university. But make it more of a National University so we have people who are choosing to come here from different parts of the country because of the wonderful programs that we offer on this campus. Some I am open for any questions.

i. Adam Carpenter: I just wanted to know what we can do as an SGA body to help you with improving the culture of the school just as kind of a general question.

ii. VP Hearn: A few. It's a great question. When you said it, the fact that you're thinking that way about how helping this president within the culture, so important because I think Doctor Thompson's got a great vantage point what needs to happen on the faculty staff side. But we are a reflection of the student body. So what you can do is just when you're doing the encouraging other people to participate. I know one of the goals that executive board chair could be was trying to bring more people into sue government. That would be a great place to start to really talk about how to bring different people into this room to talk about a variety of different issues to be inclusive is a wonderful way for us to come together in university and build that culture. So I think that's a great place to start. The other is traditions being formed that are celebrations of culture at the institution. So I appreciate those conversations are already in place. It's a great question. Great more people to your organization and a strong culture will follow. You know, there's a quote that says culture eats strategy for breakfast. As Doctor Thompson said we very much want to be able to address the culture first so the most important means of the culture and the institution they're students you do what you're doing.

iii. President Thompson: There was a values conversation a couple of weeks ago. I don't know how many of you were able to go to it, but it was really very well done. And I know I was talking to a couple of faculty members from the theater department. Part of the way they were talking about history and culture and values and how we make. how we think about other people which using people as actors and I learned so much from the way they did the students need to think about is how do we do more of these types of interactive and valuation type of programming that you help us decide on what you want us to do. So that we reflect your, your ideas of what needs to happen. And I'd love to see more of that on our campus so. And today someone asked me about, you know, having more people come to campus to debate and just want to talk

about the, the, the, the legacy. You know, when I first started I talked about getting 1000 people have donated \$1000 to campus to something probably. Saying that right. You know, to date I've raised almost \$500,000. I haven't been talking about it anymore but I do want to talk about it because having just a minimum of \$1,000,000 that I can hand out a scholarship to students would allow me to pay \$10,000 to to at least four students to come to our campus. So the more ways that I can get people to make donations and to think about it. And when you think about just \$1000 and he's like drinking coffee or tea, you know, not paying \$5 for that for about, you know, a few days and saving it up or, you know, getting people to. You know, to donate that we I really am trying really hard to get people to start thinking about reaching back and bringing someone else along. And that's part of that idea of getting 1000 people to do \$1000. So we'll be announcing it on Thursday. The different scholarships that we've that we've just started and I just hope that I, you know, I already told Dan when he becomes the millionaire that he can endow something and I'm sure some of the people in this room are going to become billionaires. So just think about it any other questions.

- iv. Jack Guindon: first i wanted to thank you for coming down President Thompson. Jack Guindon vice president student life. With homecoming being this week, I just wanted to ask what event are you looking forward to the most?
- v. President Thompson: I'm looking forward to him, but I am looking forward to the scholarship dinner because we are going to be honoring people who chose to make donations and one of the people we're going to be talking about on, you know on Thursday, this is a gentleman who graduated in the 50s. He came and had lunch with me this summer and you know, and just walker and everything. He's coming. On Thursday the son is bringing out. But you know here this man is coming to campus and he has made a pledge of \$40,000. So I am just grateful here, here, he could have done anything with this money, but he is making a decision to help our campus. So those are the types of people who will be here on Thursday. And I know I invited some students to come in and come to our scholarship dinner, but it's not going to be as many people as I was hoping for. and I hope next year we'll have a whole room full of people I'm just saying I needed I wanted to have a large number of people showing up and you know it's not that expensive to buy a table is what I was thinking but this this this man I am going to be taking his picture and because he didn't have to do it he could left all of his money to his kids so that's going to be my favorite.
- vi. Joseph Bonilla: Thank you for coming down President Thompson, it's always great to hear you speak. I just wanted to thank you for starting off with a land acknowledgement because we often forget about the contributions of indigenous peoples, so I think that it was really good of you to start that way so thank you for that.
- vii. President Thompson: Thank you, for those of you who don't know Joseph. He is serving on the governor's committee. To look at how we can make our campuses more diverse and it was following the Supreme Court decision that we that we. You know this whole attack on affirmative action but that has been something that our governor wanted to understand from the student perspective. So he represents our campus for all of the universities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to help the governor think about what is it that we can do in order to make sure that our student population. So thank you for serving on that.
- viii. Ethan Haynes: Student Government Parliamentarian Ethan Haynes. I really want to thank you for coming down it is a massive honor

to hear from you. As an out of state transfer student. I have never felt more welcomed by a community. I want to thank you and everyone else in the room for fostering this great community that I call home now.

- ix. President Thompson: Where are you from?
- x. Ethan Haynes: North Dakota.
- xi. President Thompson: North Dakota! Oh boy. Thank you for coming here. A couple of weeks ago, I met somebody from England who is on our campus. He is on our campus. And I said what made you come here and he said he wasn't sure but that what he does know is that he loves it and he said that people here have made him feel so welcome. So he is going to go back to his neighborhood and encourage other people to come here. So thank you for coming for North Dakota.
- xii. Sarah Harrington: Dan, Jack and I have met recently to discuss Common Hour. This was something brought up by Aaron Lessing you might know about. We were and of looking for more should outreach regarding commuters and being able to form more relationships between professors. How do you feel like it made great time for common hours and have their office hours. It's. Have their students today. I was wondering what you would think about it and opinions that we can take into consideration?
- xiii. President Thompson: That's part of culture, that you're describing, and I love that idea. Did we come up with the time for that hour? Was there a day during the week? Was it Wednesday?
- xiv. Sarah Harrington: We currently have one on Friday.
- xv. President Thompson: Yeah but you are trying to have another one right. On Tuesday, ok. You know, One of the things I'd love for you to also. Help me think about other activities that I can we can do in order to bring faculty and students together more. Good. A couple of years ago. So you get to know him as real people. So maybe I know the communications department does the pizza party all the time. If you can give me some ideas of what we can do to support every department on campus of doing something with students on a regular basis. I'd love to to learn more about what you would like that to look like. And once I know that we can even set aside a little bit of money to help support those kind of activities. Because I think it's really critical for you to really embrace to get to know the faculty that you know our graduation. Last year told me that there was one faculty member that helped him decide on what he wanted to do with his life and when I become a social worker, he opened a company for geriatric services and sold his company a few years ago. I've just been talking to him about trying to create an endowment for our campus. So those are the kinds of relationships that you build. And you never, you know faculty, you never know who you touched and how they responded to the way they were touching your soul, and your ideas of what you wanted to do with your life. So I'll try to make sure that we can do more of that.
- xvi. Chris Piro: I wanted to talk about enrollment. I wanted to ask you that with enrollment on the decline and Westfield trying to stick out more from other state schools and incentivize students to go here. So I want to propose something, whereby a student senior year if they have stayed here for all of the other years and have stayed in good academic standing and have kept a certain GPA for all three years that they would be able to get maybe 10 or 20 percent off their last two semester bills to kind of incentivize students to come and stay at the University. Obviously enrollment is declining and I think it would help us recruit over other schools and if not what plans do you have to help stabilize enrollment and make our school stand out from the rest.

xvii. President Thompson: How to make our our campus stand out. I have to talk to our vice president of finance induction tuition by 10% that that is a good idea I would you know but I you know I need to talk to say yes to that but. But the thing that I, I have, I did talk to people about today and this might be able to be a way to reduce your cost is how do we hire more students? And and on our campus to do things that are part of their career and if we are able to do that though forces in order to maintain. You're. Studies. It's the other thing that I, you know I was just down in in DC and one of the. Cameron graduated with graduated last year. I saw him twice when I was down here. I had two receptions that he came to to all of them, but he did the Washington Center program. How many of you are thinking about doing the Washington? Cameron. So if you want to be able decided she wants to do what he had, he worked while he was down in DC with the law and had a wonderful experience learning about the the types of cases that they were handling. And so when he graduated and was looking to get a job, he notified them and asked them if they would write a letter of recommendation. They offered him the job because of the work that he did while he was there and the the the thing that I'm. Looking at and I've talked to a a friend of mine who knows what she number of the of the program officers or the people in charge of different agencies and and the and the federal government and different people there, she said. She would help me think about a way that I could get more of our students internships at different agencies and Washington DC. Most of the students who have gone through that program in the past have been students interested in government, political science, criminal justice and and those kind of areas. This year we have someone who is interested in mental health. Who's there? Dianne is. But. He's there working with the Democratic Committee. There are so many different opportunities that you know for you in order to go to a place like that, even with people from all over the United States, and learn how to get around on scooters. And and there was learning how to use the subway and then just think this is part of the United States and most of those. Stay there. So looking at more ways that I can find for for a scholarship support. And the thing that I was thinking about to make us a little bit different is to talk about the reason why this campus was formulated in the at the beginning it was about democracy, teaching people how to to live in a democratic society as opposed to an autocratic society, which is what people lived in before. But looking at it in terms of global democracy and then how do you develop policies for of government agencies or democracy based on evidence? Instead of based on your theory or based on what you believe, because we really need to use the best evidence for when we start any type of programming. And that has been kind of going, you know, rolling around in my head. And I did talk to a Doctor Caruso this afternoon about if that there's an opportunity for us to begin to embed information like that into our curriculum, so maybe next semester. I'll have better answers for you on that question.

xviii. Kaitlyn Egan: I'm looking forward to the homecoming scholarships celebration. I was actually the first recipient of the Jerry Gravels Scholarship so I am really looking forward to showing my appreciation. That was certainly an honor. It's crazy that we are seniors now for any of the seniors in the room. We started our career at Westfield State over Zoom, we started student government over zoom. With that being said the senior class is working really hard to make our last year special so we are working on bringing senior week back. We are working on our hundred days until commencement event. But, one of the things that I have really been thinking about is about is that senior

- gift portion. And as I was hearing you talked about on the campus culture, I was wondering if we could possibly make a gift or make or give a gift that sort of combines those goals. I know that this is putting you on the spot, but like if there was like if there was a way that we could that we could work together on that, I would love to give like giving gifts that is impactful, not just like a rock with our name on it. Which is lovely, but just something that maybe would serve that purpose. So it's students who are setting that example.
- xix. President Thompson: Thank you so much for even thinking like that. Unless you talk to her and the service. Times that we can connect and think about, about ways that you could do that. And I'd also love for you to talk to Lisa McMahon, who is our advancement of Vice President, to see how we can, you know, really make that work. But thank you for thinking about that. I think it's a no it the, you know, starting traditions and thinking about, you know, how to make this campus a better, better campus. And improving our culture is so important to me and I'm sure it's so important to everyone in this room because lasting relationships, lasting memories are the things that make college going. The best and make you want to go back and see people again. They are so. He'll get, he'll be in contact with you and I'll see you on Thursday that you know the students who helped to develop that scholarship were so moved by that person and they really wanted to honor him with a, you know with the scholarship support. So you you're going to be you represent a very special person.
- xx. Nicholas Smith: Thank you for coming down first off, I'm glad that SGA has a really strong bond with the president of the university and I am looking to continue it this year and into years to come. My question pertains to the history of Westfield. How do we preserve the history of Westfield and how do we pass it on to future owls because I think that you brought up Courtney Hall and that was something that I learned today. And more specifically how do you see SGA playing a role in preserving that history?
- xxi. President Thompson: You know, wonderful question. When I first started I said what land are we on? I must have asked 10 people and I, when Rhonda was coming for our values convert conversation on campus a faculty member that I didn't even ask this, I asked history people to tell me. Went to went to this, this institution that that is dedicated to indigenous populations and she gave did all the research. I mean I have a map of the United States. I think that that preserving the history could be something that could become a that can become a a project for a class. And I know we did, you know, that was something that was done. Brian for interviewing people, is there some way that we can create and that for 185? The story of our campus and get someone to help us write it. There's a a faculty member by the last name is Brown. I've never met him, but he was consulted and he verified the land that we were on after I'd asked all of these people. But I love to figure out a way that we can, you know, tell the history and get pictures and all of that. So will you be able to help me with that?
- xxii. Ryan Meersman: One of my big personal interests as well so I will make sure that it is done. And Nick you'll be on my list to join the committee.
- xxiii. Daniel Currier: For our meeting tomorrow, I know that we are talking about the graduate division and how things are changing with that and about some new exciting graduate degrees that may be coming soon. I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about that because I know a lot of people here in SGA are looking to stay here for their graduate degrees.

xxiv. President Thompson: We used to have a college, a graduate college, and A and a continuing education division. We are going to reestablish that and you know People wanted to get their masters degree in public administration, chose not to come here, They wanted it in a public policy. So that's one of the degrees that we're looking at offering a masters of public policy, but also looking at a way that we can add certificates at the undergraduate level to peak your interest in going on to go to graduate, going to Graduate School. We're looking at finance and business and the thing that I'd love for you to help me think about with graduate education is as we're doing our strategic planning and as you interview potential candidates for the Provost position is get your perspective on what they've done in order to grow graduate enrollment but also as we start thinking about planning for graduate education, I would like you to think about this part of the country and the reason why I am saying this is because Massachusetts is one of the hubs in the world in the world. For life sciences research in the world, not just in the United States, you know the the the COVID vaccine is done here. The the, you know, the the helping people who couldn't get a ventilator. So us help to create a different type of of of machine to help people with breathing. And I was talking to one of the vice presidents and I said so you create a machine like we used to do with kids. You know, and he said, yeah, for adults. But it's it's, it's, it's there are so many things that that we could do. If you think about the the the what's happening just in this state, how I can get people to choose to come here and how we can get people to choose to stay here just because of the the types of things that are going on. We also are doing a lot of. Of manufacturing in this area to manufacture things for the Department of Defense to manufacture. These submarines are that are able to go and and and certain types of depths so that the the the strategic planning that we need to be thinking about should really be based on where their opportunities for the future for people. But there's a there's a wealth of of opportunities here and I just want us to start thinking about where the where you can if you do it you'll be get that degree you might be able to you know do a tech transfer and have a patent and be able to. Go on and and and sell that pad that you know things that you're making and and do really well in your life. But it's going to be based on on Massachusetts in this region. So it's not when I say this region, I'm talking about this entire region. So you talk about Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York.

xxv. Sarah Harrington: You just mentioned the Provost search committee. I had a meeting with Doctor Caruso and I asked him the same question. I know you said like you want to know what we're looking for in the provost but just I think just as important what are you looking for in a new provost?

xxvi. President Thompson: I want someone with student center. When you first came there, who is? Who is? Who has experience with developing new programs and developing people? You know that that let me just say the Provost job is a really complicated job because the you know, your your, you know, dealing with with faculty and and staff a lot who don't always agree. People who go on to get a PhD or doctoral degree, you know, they're always the most brilliant person. And when you're and and a lot of times you don't listen to other people, so you want someone who can listen and who can take in multiple perspectives. I'd like to to also make sure we have someone who's not spent all of their life at one institution. So that there's some diversity in their perspective on what needs to to happen and someone who is willing to meet with people outside of the campus to come up with ideas

for curriculum. So it it's I'm looking for, you know, I would like someone who's flexible. Who's willing to take some calculated risk? Who is willing to put students first? And who's willing to develop people? When I say develop people, you know, part of the role of being a Provost is developing faculty and being, you know, being willing to not take credit for everything. So you're going, you know, a person who will be looking for, for, for opportunities to make sure that we, we recruit the top talent. And that we can keep on and those are really important, you know?

SGA Advisors: No Report

B. President's Council:

C. Items not listed on Agenda:

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT: Daniel Currier

The Board of Trustees will be meeting tomorrow from 8:00am-6:30pm in the President's Boardroom on the second floor of the Horace Mann Center. I would encourage all members of SGA to consider attending a portion of the meeting in-person and/or watch the livestream of the meeting at westfield.ma.edu/live. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- 8:00am-8:30am - Governance & Nomination Committee
- 8:30am-10:00am - Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Committee
- 10:10am-11:00am - Advancement, Marketing & External Affairs Committee
- 11:00am-12:00pm - Academic Affairs Committee
- 12:30pm-2:00pm - Financial Affairs Committee
- 2:00pm-3:30pm - Audit Committee
- 3:40pm-4:30pm - Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee
- 4:30pm-6:30pm - Full Board Meeting

Last Wednesday, I held a meeting with Human Resources, Financial Aid, and the Career Center to discuss the centralization of on-campus student job postings. The meeting was productive and I am pleased to report that progress will be made on this project this semester. Junior Delgado, Director of the Career Center, will be checking the technical feasibility of utilizing the Handshake platform for job postings. From there, buy-in from all stakeholders will be required, and trainings and templates will need to be developed in order for offices and departments to effectively utilize the platform and create consistent language across job postings. Conversations will continue on updates to a long-dormant Student Employment Handbook and the potential development of a Student Employment Policy, which will cover the definitions of work-study and trust fund jobs, how student jobs are approved, how the wage rate is set for each position, and much more. Finally, it was suggested that I look into how funding for trust fund jobs are distributed, and I look forward to working with Kaolin in setting up a meeting with Maria Feuerstein, Associate Vice President for Strategic Finance & Institutional Planning, regarding this matter.

- i. Adam Carpenter: I just wanted to ask, what would you recommend as the most important parts of the board of trustees meeting if they were just going to tune in to part of it.
- ii. Daniel Currier: The things that I would look for are DR. Hearn's presentation on enrollment. As Dr. Thompson mentioned enrollment and retention are two big priorities for the university. The financial presentation is also something that you may want to see and my student trustee report.
- iii. Laura Cafaro: Can you share what it is that the board of trustees does and what the preparation for this meeting was like for you?
- iv. Daniel Currier: Of course, the board of Trustees is an 11 member body mostly appointed by the governor, tasked with overseeing the University not running it but having more of a focus on the strategic planning for the University. I prepared for my report by first consulting with the executive board about things going on campus. The board of trustees has a 5 minute

limit so I had to work on narrowing that down and I also worked with Dean of Students Maggie Balch on it. We agreed that it was good and that is the report that I will be giving tomorrow.

A. All University Committee: No Report

B. Student Advisory Council: **Daniel Currier**

The Student Advisory Council will meet this Thursday, October 12th from 4:00pm-7:00pm. The Student Advisory Council, which is comprised of the student government presidents and student trustees from all Massachusetts public higher education institutions, will be discussing current initiatives by the Department of Higher Education regarding campus safety and sexual assault, open educational resources, student basic needs security, and financial aid. We will also be electing our Executive Board. Both Nick and I will be in attendance, though I will leave early in order to attend the President's Scholarship Dinner.

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

Good Evening everyone, I am Jack Guindon the VP of student life.

First off, I wanted to remind everyone that SGA has a team at CAB's Scarecrow building comp on the 12th. So hopefully as many of you all will go so, we can win this, as I am not a fan of losing.

This Morning I met with Maggie to discuss my upcoming meeting with Bill from Dinning and Chris from Res life. She recommended that I get Sga feedback on what I should bring up. I have two things to ask Seante tonight, One is what changes would you all want to see on the meal plan structure. Not the food or how the DC works but the meal plans themselves. Some ideas floated that we could push for are, do we want a system to swap a meal swipe for dining dollars, or do we want to create a program to donate guest swipes at the end of the semester? That way students who are here over winter break could use them and not have to pay too much for a longer meal plan. If there are any Ideas, you all want brought up?

The other thing I brought up was the shuttle and re working how the shuttle works. I plan on working with Public safety to see if we can get a button on Rave that will summon the shuttle so students can call for it when they need it. I also am working on reaching out to other universities to see how there programs that track the shuttle work. And am working to see if we could get a program like that started here at Westfield State.

One other thing is If you have a problem with handicap buttons such as them getting stuck or not working. Please put in a work order with Res life and they will handle it.

I also Met with Vp Hearn today and we discussed,

A student is expected to communicate with their factually member.

Regarding any type of absences, as a faculty member is the only person who can excuse a student. The past practice of having the Dean of students or health services provide a sick note is no longer in place. You should communicate with your professors directly.

- i. Kaitlyn Egan: I think that a really big thing would be to trust students to know what they need instead of forcing students to get meal plans. A lot of students are wasting a lot of money on only going to the DC for dinner but needing a bigger plan. The hoot 5 and the gold 10 have a pretty significant difference between them in terms of cost to students. So if they live in a different res hall or they are in a different class year, I think that it is best to just trust that they know what they need. Everyone eats differently and everyone has different schedules so we should allow for students to pick the plans that fit their schedules. If you treat us like adults then you need to trust us to advocate for ourselves
- ii. Jack Guindon: My goal for the meeting is to see to it that students are able to pick the meal plan which fits them best. It

- shouldn't matter what class you are in or what building you live in.
- iii. Joseph Bonilla: I think that I love the idea of donating guest swipes. That is great thing for food insecure students.
 - iv. Jack Guindon: I think that idea will work because I know that Maggie has brought it up a few times and it will save students from having to purchase a whole supplementary meal plan if enough people donate meal swipes.
 - v. Chris Piro: Hi Jack, I just wanted to say that I agree with Katie and Joseph but I think that as someone with the ten meal plan, I only use like 5 per week. I think it is best to let students pick what is best for them but obviously maybe open it up to the students outside of SGA. Maybe send out a survey.
 - vi. Jack Guindon: At the open forum open to all students the meal plans will be a major focus of the discussion. Meeting with Bill and Chris will really be to set the stage and bring forward student complaints before going to the forum and then giving them the feedback that we receive.
 - vii. Chris Piro: I also think first year should be able to be on the 10 plan because I know some of them that don't like to eat at the DC. I don't think that we should limit them.
 - viii. Jack Guindon: That is something that can be discussed.
 - ix. Joseph Bonilla: With the policy which leaves excused absences to the professors. I have heard concerns from students that when issues regard mental health, you may need to out yourselves to your professor and that may not be something that students are comfortable with it. There are many reasons why students are uncomfortable with disclosing these things to their students. Do you or Maggie have any advice on what to do if this is the case because I know that it is specific but it is an experience that happens.
 - x. Maggie Balch: This is what I typically do when a student comes to me for any reason that they can't go to class. I encourage the student to say that they can't make it to class and what they can do to make it up and often times that is enough. The student may come back needing more assistance, then I help them. I can't disclose information. The only time that I do is for serious things like a student being in the hospital and then all I say is that the student will be missing class until you hear back from us. This is an opportunity to share whatever you would like with your professor. It is up to the faculty to say if the absence is excused.
 - xi. Joseph Bonilla: I have two things to say. I was wondering if there was potential that a student could communicate with the counselling center and get some sort of backing on that end. It's the whole thing of feeling comfortable and it has more weight if it is being backed by the counselling center.
 - xii. Maggie Balch: I think that goes back to the health services issue where it is a situation where if you are unable to do go to class we will send a note but this is in extreme situations where we need to advocate on behalf of the student but it is an opportunity to reach out to faculty.
 - xiii. Jack Guindon: Health services doesn't write notes because the professor is the only one that can excuse you so the doctors note could be rejected as it could be against their attendance policies.
 - xiv. Isabella Moniz: I'm going back to the meal plan conversation. I like the idea of donating guest swipes if they aren't being used to students who may be housing or food insecure but if there is not enough swipes that have been donated is there possibly a way that we could lower the cost for meal plans for those students who are housing or food insecure for extended breaks because it is a huge burden on those students.

xv. Jack Guindon: The meal swipe bank is secondary and the break meal plans to be as cheap as possible and making sure that it is accessible. It may not be three meals a day but we are looking to make sure that it is at least two meals a day over these breaks and the summer. The other idea that was floated was to raise the meal plan price for all students a little bit to accommodate this cost but I don't think that is the best idea so I am trying to work with housing and dining to keep these meal plans cheap without doing that.

xvi. Chris Piro: Point of redundancy, I move to end debate.

Motion fails

xvii. Laura Cafaro: I just have some information based on what Isabella was sharing, there is some faculty on a committee called fostering success network working with dining to try to fill those gaps. Last winter during break there wasn't an extended meal plan so we are working to try to plan ahead to support those students all year.

xviii. Kaolin Westcott: Going back to the shuttle tracking I don't know if we have reached out to them but I know that Bridgewater has that sort of technology in use so if you haven't maybe reach out to them.

xix. Jack Guindon: I reached out but didn't get a response so I will be continuing to follow up with them.

A. Student Affairs Committee: No Report

B. Food Services Committee: **Adam Carpenter**

Food Service was pretty uneventful this past week so this will be a very short report. Bill was on vacation this past week so we didn't discuss too much. The first thing that we talked about is that there will be a chicken parm sandwich this week at late night for this week. The second thing is that we will be rotating the refreshers that are in owl café to keep things fresh this week it is back to Strawberry Dragon fruit. That is all.

C. Substance Advisory Committee: No Report

D. Student Athletic Advisory Board: No Report

E. Veteran Affairs Report: No Report

F. Enrollment Management Committee: No Report

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

Hi everyone! Last Friday, University Curriculum Committee met with guests, Dr. Megan Kennedy and Dr. Lynn Shelly to review the SCORE progress report 5. Most of the meeting was spent reviewing the new practice standards, course name changes, and description changes. The goal is by Fall 2024, the first years will be taking courses under the new gen-ed. We decided to group a few of the agenda items together and remove English 102 and 204 as a prerequisite for English 333, 371, and 385. The only prerequisite needed for these courses now is English 101. After this meeting, I sat down with Student Trustee, Dan Currier, VP of Student Life, Jack Guidon, and Laura Cafaro to discuss the continuation of a new common hour proposal that was brought up and looked into towards the end of last year. Having another common hour at some point in the middle of the week would help professors, campus residents, and commuters. This would be the perfect opportunity for professors to hold mid-day office hours for student support. Campus activities and events could be held during this time to allow all students including commuters to participate. During the common hour, there are still a few labs and classes being held. Having multiple common hours occurs at other schools such as UMass and Worcester State. Overall, the idea is to build more of a campus community and allow for a unified free time for everyone to engage in things other than class. Today I met with quite a few people. The first being Dr. Kennedy to clarify what has been going on in SCORE. I just want to clarify, double dipping will be allowed in the new gen-ed reform. The act that SCORE is restricting is dipping across areas. For example, students can take Theory of Critical

Multicultural Education to cover their Power and Perspectives requirement as well as their Education requirement, but cannot cover two areas like power and perspectives on top of Individuals in Context. This is due to the fact that some students aren't reaching their 40-credit minimum put in place by NECHE. I would also like to explain the difference between progress reports 4 and 5. Progress report 4, where double-dipping was first brought up, were preliminary guidelines. It has not been approved through governance and were, simply put, suggestions. Progress Report 5 presents the current model and learning outcomes. It cleans up what has been missed and adjusted. Dr. Kennedy was super receptive to my questions and ideas that I brought to her attention. I mentioned the idea that a student-centered report could be beneficial because often the progress reports can be rich in language and vocabulary that the average student may not know. This would not be done for every report. The idea was a monthly overview of the reports that had been sent out that month. SCORE prioritizes students however, they cannot fully understand the student experience without a student voice present. I strongly urge all of you to consider being on SCORE if you have the time. It is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45-11 on Zoom. I understand that this is time-consuming, but not all meetings will be mandatory. We cannot expect professors and staff to know what the students want and need without one in attendance. Dr. Kennedy asked me to tell you all that she and Dr. Shelly are excited to attend our meeting next month and they look forward to meaningful, student-forward conversations. Lastly, I had my first meeting with the Provost today right before this meeting. I brought up to him the common hour proposal. He thought the idea was great, especially for campus engagement. He told me he would bring it to the attention of governance and ask around for opinions on things like day and time. If you did not know already, Provost Caruso is not applying to be the official provost for the next academic year. This was unexpected for me to hear, but I talked to him a little about what he expects and wants to see out of the new Provost. Finally, I asked him what he would like out of you all on Senate and I. He just wants to be kept in the loop. If there are any emerging concerns, he would like for me to bring them to him. I cannot do this alone. If you all could help me with this by bringing these things to my attention so I can, in turn, bring them to his attention. I will be informing everyone the Tuesday before I meet with him. Please feel free to pull me aside after an SGA meeting, when you see me on campus, or just through an email. Daniel Lyons, if you could see me after this meeting. I will now conclude the longest report I have ever given with the usual. My email is vpacademiclife.sga@westfield.ma.edu. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:30 and Fridays from 12:30-1:30. Thank you!

- I. Daniel Currier: I was wondering if in your meeting with Dr Kennedy, if she mentioned any progress with the student survey they were going to send out.
- II. Sarah Harrington: This is something to talk about when she comes down because that isn't even an idea that I heard about being floated.
- III. Adam Carpenter: I just want to for the last time clarify about double dipping, that it is that you cannot cover two parts of your common core with one class.
- IV. Sarah Harrington: Yes

A. Academic Policies Committee: **Joseph Bonilla**

As mentioned, I will be reporting on the Academic Policies Committee. We last met on Friday, October 6. We discussed potentially rearranging meeting times from what currently is the first and third Friday of the month to the second and fourth Friday of the month to accommodate for finals and such. We ultimately decided against the motion. We briefly discussed submitting a recommendation to All University Committee on the matter of finals. It is thought by members on this committee that maybe instead of rearranging scheduling for finals that

finals should not take place during the common hour when governance committees meet.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 20th at 1:40PM. These meetings are open to the public and I encourage you to sit in on any of our meetings. If you have any questions, I will take them after my report

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

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

Good afternoon, everyone!

Thank you for taking the time to come down today.

As many of you may be aware, last Friday there was a soft launch of a myWestfield portal upgrade (i.e., Banner 9). I encourage you all to take a moment this week or over the weekend and give it a run-through. I am very pleased with the work that IT has produced within their capacity on the Preferred and Chosen name matter.

I also want to note that I am excited with the progress that has been made on a multi-departmental level though there is still so much more to be done. Small wins are wins and I can assure you that I have made it clear that this should be a priority. Myself and the rest of the executive board will support the Preferred/Chosen Name Committee in seeing this process through completion.

Last week, I was asked if we have the capacity to change the emails of students who have submitted a preferred name change form and the answer is yes. In a meeting that I had with Alan Blair, the Chief Information Officer of Information and Instructional Technology here at Westfield State, it was explained to me that it is actually a fairly simple procedure. There is a form of software used with emails called a "smart-tag" which links a displayed name to a corresponding email address making it easily remedied.

After corresponding with the co-chairs of the Preferred/Chosen Name Committee, a meeting was convened this afternoon. We discussed the aforementioned and what this process will look like going forward. One particular topic of conversation was around how to work with third party organizations to engage with the matter in a holistic and inclusive manner. I will be meeting with the co-chairs and other administration in the near future to gameplan for what's to come.

I will have further updates in our next meeting. Also, one where Alan Blair will report further on the specifics of Banner 9.

Please feel free to reach out to me via email, or in-person after this meeting and during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

As always, I will leave you with a quote. Angela Davis once said, "I am no longer accepting the things that I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept".

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

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

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

First, I would like to congratulate the Senator of the Month award to someone who has shown enthusiasm in each meeting, asks questions and raises good points in discussions, is very kind and an active member on campus, especially raising questions for the concerns of other students, Desiree Brown. Congratulations and keep up the good work! Also, on Thursday the 12th, from 2-7 on the Campus Green, there will be a Scarecrow building contest on the Campus Green. Parenzo Ribbon

Cutting is at 11:00 am in the front entrance of Parenzo Hall on Friday. CAB is hosting a number of events this Friday the 13th. There will be Candied Apples from 6-7, Apple Cider and Doughnuts from 7-9, Pumpkin Carving from 7-9, Caricature Artist from 7-9, Hayride from 8-10, T-shirt and Tie-dye from 8-10pm and pumpkin smashing from 10-11pm. Saturday the 14th is the Tent Tailgating where there will be drinks, food, and alumni. Hope to see you all there.

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

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Adam Carpenter

This is another quick one from me today. My first update is that senator binders are updated at the moment with a new welcome packet this week. The next update that I have is that I am making Roberts rules cheat sheets for our senators. If there is anything that you would find helpful to include in this please let me know. The final update that I have is that the senator training was very poorly attended and I will reach for availability on a second training day.

- i. Austin Morgan: If you went to the first training, then will the second also be required?
- ii. Adam Carpenter: No, if you went to the first one you are all set and you have already been checked off as having been trained.

X. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Ethan Haynes

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

XI. COMMUTER COUNCIL AND CLASS COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. Commuter Council: **Abby Glasheen**

On October 6th the Commuter Council met for the first time, with Laura Cafaro. We have declared November 14th Commuter Appreciation Day for Westfield State. Nothing has been solidified for this day of appreciation, we are open to all ideas please feel free to share with us. We are currently in the processes of interviewing for a Secretary for Commuter Council, and we are looking for a publicist to help run our Instagram and manage all other publicity duties, please email me if interested- and spread the word. Finally, we have decided to open a "suggestion box" which will be located in the Commuter Lounge in Wilson, as a place for commuter students to raise concerns/questions/suggestions and advocate for themselves directly to Commuter Council.

We are planning to report next week with more solidified plans regarding the Commuter Appreciation Day.

- i. Sarah Harrington: I love the idea of a commuter appreciation day, I would maybe do something in the Owl café as it is the commuter hub and maybe make an event where you could sample the treats that they have there. Maybe working with dining to get them for three. Maybe a commuter car tag.
- ii. Jack Guindon: I wanted to congratulate commuter council as we haven't had one in a few years, and second if you need help with anything I'm happy to do it.
- iii. Kaitlyn Egan: The class of 2024 is also willing to help if you need anything for commuter appreciation day.
- iv. Nick Smith: SGA is also more than willing to help with anything.

- B. Senior Class: No Report
- C. Junior Class: No Report
- D. Sophomore Class: No Report
- E. First Year Class: **Benjamin Burnham**

Don't worry, it'll be pretty quick. My name is Benjamin Burnham. I'm a class of 2037 representative to Senate. We had our first meeting last Friday. It was all pretty. Preliminary I'd like to introduce our President, Patty Sowa and our representative to senate Jakayla and I think our publicist Miles Jordan and our Treasurer all the way in the back there Savannah, we discussed what class councils is about, important information for members, and the agenda. Further discussion included talks about fundraising possible eventually set up and expectations for members. Also present in the discourse were a few ideas, one of which was a campus cleanup. But again, it was all pretty preliminary, so I don't have many details on the actual logistics. Also, we will also be holding interviews for open positions. the two main ones are secretary and historian and we also representative to senate available.

- i. Jack Guindon: If you need anything reach out to me or anyone else on Exec.
- ii. Nick Palumbo: We are your sister class so if you need anything we are happy to help you.
 - 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: **Austin Morgan**

My name is Austin Morgan, and I am a representative at large. Today I will give the rep-at-large report on behalf of the nine of us. The purpose of this report is to bring a voice to the everyday student who may feel as though the things they experience on campus go unheard, a task that is paramount. It is imperative that we discuss these items so that we can return to the student body with answers. Now to get into the business, as of October 9th students are experiencing issues with the automatic door opener on both the Dining Commons and Ely Campus center, some students say they open extremely slowly if at all. It is important we find out why this is happening and when this will be fixed. In the residence halls, students are experiencing varying problems with laundry machines, outages of multiple machines in every hall, clothing going missing, and the washing machines leaving behind a sticky residue on clothing that is still present after a second wash. Students feel as though their clothing is not being fully washed or that they are unable to do their laundry at a convenient time because multiple machines are out of service. In New Hall, on the fourth floor, many students have noticed that there is a hole in the ceiling and that when it rains the hole leaks, causing a wet floor in the middle of the hallway, they wonder when it will be fixed and if anything in terms of heating or ventilation is being affected by this hole. On dining, many students have experienced issues with their food being stolen from either Owl Cafe or Late-Night bistro, a student highlighted that they placed an order and arrived ten minutes later to find the order taken.

Students are beginning to refrain from online ordering fearing that it may be stolen or that they will have to pay for a second meal. In terms of TJ Bistro students are unaware that when they order online that they must grab the sauce packets they want themselves and fill up their drink cups themselves, students have been putting their drink and sauce orders into the "notes" part of their meal. A concern from our athletes is that they are running out of dining dollars too quickly because their only choice some nights during the week is Late Night. Both their class and practice schedule take away their ability to eat healthy meals during the week because the dining commons closes too early for them especially when they have night practices. The men's soccer team practices at 8 PM most nights and does not return until almost 11PM, they are running out of dining dollars quickly because Late night is their only possibility. Many questions have also been raised about the prices of items at Marketplace, things seem overpriced and dining dollars are limited. To end things positively, we have been gathering more students at our food service meetings, more students at events being put on by CAB, and students complaining less about the food overall. They are enjoying having rice bowls back and love the new addition of fried pickles

- i. Adam Carpenter: I have a couple of quick points of information. My first one is that people need to get their own drinks and sauces themselves, I know that it's a little thing, but I believe that it would be nice if the message was relayed. The next thing that I had is that this has been an ongoing issue with the leaking ceiling because I lived on the fourth floor. I think that Sam will probably want to respond to this further. My last thing is about the prices in the marketplace. So basically, the way that our contracts are especially with the Pepsi products there is a set price in terms of what we are able to sell them for. So that is kind of a sticking point and also we do not have the same purchasing power as a small community as opposed to something like a grocery store. So that explains why prices are more expensive. And if it helps you think of it as not real money, I kind of do girl math and say that if it's dining dollars, it's not my real money. So that might help a little bit.
- ii. Jack Guindon: Just another point of information about the automatic door and the washing machines. There should be a qr code on the machines that you can scan and put a work order in and for the buttons just email Reslife and they will put a work order in.
- iii. Isabella Moniz: As a New hall representative, that is very concerning to me so if you can have students contact me in some fashion, I would like to do a meeting with the 4th floor. We can then get in touch with Reslife because that really just shouldn't be happening.
- iv. Austin Morgan: I live on the 4th floor and I slipped. It gets really slick when it's raining especially.
- v. Isabella Moniz: I have noticed it but there hasn't been any communication between the floor and myself.
- vi. Sam Tsongolis: I'm sorry to speak out of turn and I'm very sorry about you slipping. I am very aware of the hole. For those of you who aren't aware I'm the ARD of New Hall and I'm just going to throw it out there that no one from student government has spoken to me about hole though I am aware of it. I mean this

in the nicest way possible because I know that you are all doing your jobs, but the fastest way to solve almost any problem is to go to the office directly and speak to them about that problem. I do know about the hole, I have been bringing up the hole every week. I have been told that itself is in the roof but it is apparently from the HVAC system and it is waiting to be fixed. I know that isn't the best answer but it is the one I have. The hole is not made up, it is there but we know about it.

- vii. Dan Currier: The first point, I have is about the marketplace. How it works is that 11% of what you all pay goes back to the University so we do have to actually make money off of our dining operation. That's what other universities do when they have private contracts. But you can probably see the price gouging taking place. My second thing is that I know that mold has been a problem with New Hall before and I'm wondering if there is possibly any mold which is being created as a result of the hole.
- viii. Sam Tsongolis: There shouldn't be. If you have mold in your apartment please fill out a Maintenance request immediately to let us know. I have office hours from 10-3. There is no mold from the hole, it is from your HVAC system and we need to make sure that it is taken care of but it would be a part of a different problem.
- ix. Katie Egan: SACC last year was able to get another hour added onto the DC from 8 to 9 to support the athlete. I'll continue to work with the mens soccer team. I guess a suggestion would be using the meal exchanges to save on the dining dollars.
- x. Maggie Balch: I am unaware of any mold in any of the buildings. I don't want anyone to leave here and say oh my goodness, there is a big mold outbreak. If there were a big mold outbreak, I would know about it. In 4 years this is the first time that I have heard of a hole in New Hall.
- xi. Adam Carpenter: I don't want to assume Dan's intentions but I think that the point that you were trying to make is that when water comes mold often follows so to just look into that rather than a specific mold issue. Just to sort of clarify the verbiage of the statement.
- xii. Maggie Balch: I understand that. I just want to make sure that everyone understands that.
- xiii. Dan Currier: I know that we have just discussed it historically and that is something to consider and finally you may notice the ceiling tiles ripped up in the SGA offices, just wanted to make sure everything is ok.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Adam Carpenter: I just want to congratulate all the senators who it is their first time reporting. I know that it can be scary going up there for the first time but you all did great and we appreciate hearing more voices from Senate.

Kaolin Westcott: I'm sure that you have already seen this in your email several times today but I was talking to the career center earlier today and they are looking for help for the career fair that is being hosted in Woodward on Thursday the 12th. The career fair is happening from 1-3:30 however they do need help with set up starting at 11. If you are interested talk to me after the meeting or email the career center. I will be in contact the career center tomorrow.

Sarah Harrington: First I want to congratulate Desire for senator of the month. Next, I strongly urge all of you to report if you can. So for example class of 2027 reporting, I would love to see all of you giving a report at some point this year. It is a great opportunity to

get experience especially if you have interest in being on exec at some point.

Chris Piro: I just want to put on the record, I voted no because the debate was unorganized and not in accordance with Roberts rules.

Nick Smith: Point of information, you can't do a point of redundancy and a motion at the same time that is not in accordance with Robert's rules. Just for the future it is something for you to know.

Justin Wald: I am one of the students on the provost search committee so if you have any feedback reach out.

Daniel Currier: In addition to the homecoming facilities, if you have any wealthy parents there will be an online auction to raise money so encourage them to bid.

Nick Smith: We will be streaming the Trustee Meeting Tomorrow.

Austin Morgan: I know Elizabeth mentioned it but we have fall fest this Friday please come to at least one of our events. It would be very appreciated.

Kaitlyn Egan: It isn't too late to buy a calendar and support your senior class and 220 days until commencement.

XV. ROLL CALL: Haley Kane, Maggie Roberts, James MacDonald, Loic Black, and Eri'yan Baker were absent.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 until the meeting on October 17th 2023

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