



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

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

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

Members Absent: SAAC Representative, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Mariza Monteiro, Benny Rosas

Also present and participating was Guest Speaker the Chief of Staff Dr. Micheal Freeman, and SGA Advisors Matthew Dellea, Shannon Green, and Ryan Meersman.

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

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the March 18th, 2024, meeting, were approved.

Guest Speakers: Dr. Micheal Freeman introduced a member of SME Strategy Consulting Jen Scumaci who is facilitating the discussion about the new Strategic Plan. Then we discussed what the Strategic plan is. Explaining that it will be the plan moving forward and there are things that would impact it. Also letting everyone know that there was a Strategic plan in place but then Covid hit and everything changed.

Jen Scumaci introduced herself and explained the process that went through to get to the master plan that they created. She then went over all the goals in the master plan, and what her job is this week with her being on campus.

- Irini Mahida asked if they could offer courses from other students to open more doors to students that want to come here.
 - Jen Scumaci explained that it was a great piece of feedback, and it would be something perfect to investigate as it aligns with many of the goals.
 - Evelyn Aiello added to the point explaining that French would be something that they would love that the school offered. As well as better credit exchanges between colleges.
 - Dr. Micheal Freeman explains that Higher-Education is a big bunch of when someone says something they mean a lot of other things and better explains the different goals. As well as touching on the credit explaining issue.

- Christopher Lannan is to add more interactive experiences within your major, such as internships or placements.
 - Daniel Currier gave a point of information to Christopher's point explaining that the information is really for the Provost but explains that the point does relate to the goals.
- Ali Sutherland asked about keeping track of everything going on, asked for their thoughts and asked what they are doing to reach out to the local communities in the strategic plan.
 - Dr. Micheal Freeman responded with explained that with the President she is doing a lot with the local area to help bring more people to Westfield and to support the town.
- Evelyn Aiello explained that there should be better preparation for graduate programs.
 - Daniel Currier explained that there is some programs that we offer to the undergraduate level.
- Joseph Bonilla explained about adding more opportunities for collaboration and included about how SGA has been collaborating with the interfaith center and Dining to go to a food kitchen and help hand out meals.

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla introduced our guest speaker and had no report to follow.

All University Committee Report: Joseph Bonilla explains that the majority part of last week's meeting was discussion about certain majors and programs should be implemented. Talking about a nursing program having a very long conversation. As well as reading the Philosophy Major, few had interest in this, however they wanted to add it for students be able to take.

- Christopher Lannan asked why was adding Philosophy Major decision so split being 5-4.
 - Joseph Bonilla responded that he can't speak for the other members, but he advised Christopher to read the minutes from the meeting to better understand what was said.

Student Trustee: Daniel Currier thanked Jen Scumaci and Mike Freeman for attending the meeting to gather feedback on the Strategic Plan and encouraged everyone to visit the open house happening outside the SGA Room over the next two days. He shared that he had the honor of attending a dinner with Carl Hulse of The New York Times and Paul Kane of The Washington Post following their discussion in Scanlon Hall and noted that a recording of the event will be made available online for those who could not attend. Tomorrow, he will be meeting with Assistant Director of Residential Life Kayla Schlenz to discuss concerns raised during Accepted Students Day about the relocation of the Honors LLC for first-year students from University Hall to Davis Hall. While he understands the rationale provided by Academic Affairs and Residential Life, he expressed concern about the potential impact on admissions, as suite-style housing is a strong factor in some students' decisions to attend Westfield State. He also announced that he will be attending an academic conference from Thursday to Sunday but will remain available via Teams and email if needed.

- Ali Sutherland gave a point to speak on the Honors issue and how the school doesn't have the resources to have such a big honors program.
- Evelyn Aiello explained that there are other suits in Davis and explained that they are in a suite in Davis.
 - Isabella Moniz gave a Point of Information that the suites in Davis are for housing accommodations only.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald thanked all the senators and executive board members who participated in Relay for Life, recognizing the event as meaningful and impactful. He shared that the university raised a total of \$7,300 and SGA contributed \$594. He gave special thanks to Melissa for her fundraising efforts and to Dan and Austin for encouraging friends and family to donate. He emphasized that the funds go toward cancer research, patient care programs, and community support across the country. He also announced an upcoming event on April 24th at 7 pm in Wilson Auditorium, sponsored by Athletics, the Counseling Center, the Dean of Students Office, Health Services, Residential Life, and SAIL. The guest speaker will be Chris Herren, a former NBA player for the Denver Nuggets and Boston Celtics, who will share his story about addiction, recovery, and his mission to make a difference. Justin mentioned that Herren had spoken at his own school in the past and expressed interest in hearing his story again.

- Christopher Lannan asked about an issue that was brought up from a Dining Employee.
 - Justin Wald explained that there has been no mention of that to Jacob or himself about it and if there were a change it would be brought to the committee before doing anything.
 - Matthew Dellea explains that they talk about options for everything every year at this time of year and assume something is happening.
 - Daniel Currier gave a point of information and asked to represent the student concerns and not staff.
 - Christopher Lannan gave a point of information that it was a Dining worker and not a student worker.
 - Joseph Bonilla included that it was the point that Daniel was making.

Vice President of Academic Life: Sarah Harrington reported that the Success Fund is being directed specifically toward supporting at-risk students rather than the entire student population. Updates on the dean searches indicate that campus visits for candidates are currently being scheduled and will probably be catered, and faculty searches have ramped up significantly since spring break. She shared that peer mentoring will now be embedded in FYJ courses, with mentors attending one class per week to build connections with students and help "train" them in independence. Mentor training is expected to take place over the summer, and FYJ courses are intended to help set students up for future success. Finally, she noted that there has been no progress on DocuSign.

- Evelyn Aiello asked if the Peer mentors would be always once a week and that if the role would be like a TA role.
 - Sarah Harrington explained that it would be up the discretion of the Professor and explained that you are there to help the student not the Professor.
- Isabella Moniz asked what program the Peer mentor program would fall under.
 - Sarah Harrington explained that it is something he would be primarily working on and then it would fall under Academic Affairs.
 - Isabella Moniz Readdressed and explained that if it could be expanded outside of academics and about different issues around campus.
 - Sarah Harrington explained that something that he mentioned last week is that you would be able to reach the Peer mentor at times you couldn't reach your professor during the night and explained that it would be there just needs to be emphasized if this will officially be a thing.
 - Isabella Moniz Readdressed asked to aid on a sign of caution to make sure people should be as student first.
 - Sarah Harrington explained that the hope is to have multiple peer mentors and not just one per class.
- Christopher Lannan touched on the catering and explained it would be best to have it be catered over having something in the DC because it would be an incentive to go there.
- Daniel Currier gave a point of information about the Peer Mentorship in general and how it wouldn't just be focused on academics but there would be academic skill building in it but to ask as an afterhours advisor.
- Evelyn Aiello asked to make sure in this program that there would be boundaries.
- Jacob Constant explained something to build off that idea would to possible use a system like WSU360
 - Sarah Harrington explained that the intention would to be accessible as possible and not use a system because not many people would use it.

University Curriculum Committee: Melissa Kuzmeski reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on Friday, March 21, 2025, from 1:40 to 3:00 PM. The committee began by approving changes to Theater 255: Directing: Searching for Theatrical Truth and Unity, a WISE-inclusive course with added prerequisites of FYJ or ENG COMP 101, along with a revised title and course description. Advanced Math for Elementary Education was approved with a new residency requirement and a mandate for two pedagogy-infused courses. Updates to the math minor were approved to better reflect course content. Math Pre-Calculus, also WISE-inclusive, was approved for a credit increase from 3 to 4 to provide students more support in preparing for calculus. GPS 104: Broken Plate: Our Food System was approved with updated prerequisites, title, and description, while GPS 105 and GPS 210 were

revised to meet WISE learning objectives. Two new marketing courses were introduced and approved: AI for Marketing and Management, requiring junior or senior status, and Digital Marketing: Problems and Progress, which is WISE-inclusive and requires FYJ or ENG COMP 101. Nursing proposals were tabled for further updates. ART 108: My Brand/My Story was approved with updated title and description. History proposals included a new WISE-approved course HIST 01XX: Stand Up Comedy History and Practice, and revisions to HIST 278: Women in Latin America and HIST 02XX: What is Science, both of which were approved. PHIL 01XX: Philosophy of Humor, a new WISE-inclusive course, was also approved. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for April 4.

Vice President of Finance Report: Austin Morgan reported that the Finance Committee met on Friday, March 21st, to review multiple finance proposals. He noted that all proposals were submitted on time and are in compliance with the SGA bylaws.

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Jacob Constant, to give the Class of 2026 \$50 for an upcoming Bingo Event.

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

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Jacob Constant, to give WSKB \$784.95 for new equipment.

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

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Daniel Currier to give the All Out Club \$2000 to host Transgender Week of Visibility.

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

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Jacob Constant, to bundle all of the following requests from YAL.

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

MOTION made by Isabella Moniz, seconded by Christopher Lannan, to TABLE the discussion to have further time to review the proposals.

- Daniel Currier asked why to table.
- Isabella Moniz explained that the email was sent to the senate at 12:00 PM today and they were not given enough time to review the proposals.
- Joseph Bonilla asked when their event is scheduled for.
- Christopher Lannan agrees with tabling because it is a lot of information.
- Evelyn Aiello explains that this club is very small, and they anticipate non-students at the event.
- Christopher Lannan gave a point of information and explained that our allocation pool has significantly shrunk.
- Matthew Dellea explains that the vote needs to happen tonight or else the event might not happen because there wouldn't be enough time to process everything.
- Isabella Moniz takes back the motion because the vote has to happen tonight.

VOICE VOTE passed unanimously.

MOTION made by Isabella Moniz, seconded by Christopher Lannan, to enter a 5-minute recess.

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

- Joseph Bonilla explains that it would be possible to table till next week as the constitution allows us 15 days before an event, and Matthew Dellea should be able to make it work.
- Justin Wald explained and asked would we do this for any other club, and have we done this for any other clubs.

MOTION made Isabella Moniz, seconded by Christopher Lannan, to TABLE the discussion to have further time to review the proposals.

- Justin Wald explains that it could have been done all in one finance proposal, but they didn't, it was a mistake because they didn't know that they could.
 - Austin Morgan explains how the process works.
- Matthew Dellea explains that it isn't a requirement for finance proposals to be sent to the senate, that's why we have a finance committee to review them and then make recommendations to senate.
- Evelyn Aiello explains that it is absurd to have to pay to have a police officer at the event because it's just a political group and we shouldn't give them an officer and not others.
 - Isabella Moniz echoes that belief and explains that it would be a lot of money that would not be going to our students.
 - Christopher Lannan agrees with Evelyn Aiello and Isabella Moniz believes as someone that was in the room that if they believe that they would need security at the event.
- Jacob Constant explains that we elect the people who deal with these things, and they make recommendations for these, and we should view them as they are.
- Matthew Dellea explains that YAL is not demanding an officer be present it was after a recommendation from public safety and explained that it would be a long weekend onto of a holiday weekend and there wouldn't be enough staff to be able to coverage that weekend. Then to ensure that there is plenty of coverage on campus they were asked to pay for security
- Ali Sutherland asked to clarify what we would agree to if we approved the motion.
 - Austin Morgan explains that we would be accepting the recommendations from the Finance Committee.
- Evelyn Aiello asked if it would be possible to vote separately for each one.
- Joseph Bonilla explains that anyone is welcome to make a motion to amend to vote separately, explaining that there is tension and that this room is in for discussions and explains that senate has the final decision.
- Justin Wald asked to go over the total that we would be giving them if approved.
 - Austin Morgan explained \$1,478.65.
- Joseph Bonilla requested a roll call vote, after the vote was unclear.
- Christopher Lanna gave a point of privilege and asked if the vote would be for the last motion?
 - Joseph Bonilla responded with yes.

ROLL CALL VOTE was rejected **5 YES, 16 NO, 6 ABSTAIN**.

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Jacob Constant, to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

- Nicholas Palumbo requested a roll call vote.
- ROLL CALL VOTE** passed **11 YES, 8 NO, 9 ABSTAIN**.

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant shared that the new constitutions have been distributed and thanked Matt for the great work on them. He clarified that the campus-wide email about the Commuter Council inadvertently left out that students can run for those positions. Signature papers for elections were released on Friday, and many students have already begun collecting signatures. He reminded everyone that signature papers are due by April 4th at 5 PM and that no late submissions will be accepted. For students running for contested Executive Council positions, a debate will be held on April 9th at 5 PM in Wilson Auditorium. Voting will take place from April 15th

to April 16th. He encouraged anyone interested in running for an executive position to reach out to current board members to learn more about their roles and invited anyone with questions about elections or anything else to contact him.

- Angelina Cassella asked for the date of the Debate.
 - Jacob Constant responded with April 9th.
- Christopher Lannan asked about what happens if there are three people running for the same position.
- Justin Wald gave a point of information and explained that we would probably just have three people answering the questions.
- Daniel Currier reminded everyone not to campaign until after Jacob has sent the email to you. Also including that you are able to endorse other candidates, just not to do it on official pages.

Senior Class Report: Nicholas Palumbo shared a brief but important update from the Senior Class. The 50 Days Toast is happening this Thursday at the Westfield River Brewing Company from 7 to 9 PM with a tropical theme, pizza, ice cream cups, senior video recordings for graduation, and even a special guest appearance. Buses will start running at 6:45 PM from Scanlon and continue back and forth all night. The first part of the Senior Send-Off, a night trip to Foxwoods, has been announced and RSVP forms have been sent out. This off-campus event will take place on Friday, April 4th, with buses leaving at 5 PM sharp from Scanlon. He also reminded everyone that senior signs and cords are still for sale, with sign sales officially closing on April 11. He closed by wishing everyone a splendid week and encouraged them to enjoy the opening day of the MLB season on Friday.

Junior Class Report: Travis McLoughlin invited everyone to the Class of 2026's upcoming event, April Showers: Bingo Hours, taking place on Friday, April 4th from 8 to 10 PM during Late Night at the Dining Commons. The event will feature bingo, tacos, and a grand prize of a Nintendo Switch, along with other fun prizes. The event is open to all students regardless of class year, and commuter meal swipes will be covered. He encouraged everyone to attend for a night of games, food, and fun.

- Sophia Rebenciuc asked to repeat the time.
- Irini Mahida asked to please follow their social media.
 - Travis McLoughlin explains that you might get a second bingo card if you are following the page.
- Christopher Lannan gave a point of information and gave the Instagram handle of the account.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Ali Sutherland explained that Veterans and Military Services are holding events about the anniversaries of the atomic bombs.
- Sarah Harrington explained that the announcement could have been in a report, not to call him out just to mention that it could have been in a report.
- Evelyn Aiello explained that Owl Ball tickets are out, and you should get your tickets and be ready for the funny advertisements that the committee was working on last Thursday.
- Christopher Lannan explained that he had a great opportunity to review the archived minutes and encourages everyone to look at them.
- Nicholas Palumbo asked for all Junior Class members to come see him after the meeting.
- Nicholas Palumbo stated that there are 52 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Joseph Bonilla adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Student Government Association (SGA) general meeting held on March 25, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant