



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 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, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Jakob Trainor, Cody Hoisington, Melissa Kuzmeski, Raymond Croteau, Barney Garcia, Mariza Monteiro, Ethan Mallinson, Christopher Lannan, Ali Sutherland, Angelina Cassella, Puru Sharma, Irini Mahida, Ethan Haynes, Benny Rosas, Dominic Zajko,

Members Excused: Sophia Rebenciuc

Members Absent: Akile Phakos, SAAC Representative, GianCarlos Arteaga, Troyelle Nosal, Elizabeth Mercer

Also present and participating were Guest Speakers Director Trish Bonica and Marleigh Strait, and SGA Advisor Shannon Green.

Call to Order: Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. 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 January 28, 2024, general meeting was approved.

Guest Speakers: Director Trish Bonica and Marleigh Strait spoke about the climate survey that they sent out. It was created by the commissioner of education to create a statewide taskforce to help and prepare our campus to access from our point of view of our sexual health and wellbeing. Director Trish Bonica explained that it is around a 20-minute survey and asks that as we are student leaders that we should help participate in the survey.

- A. Ethan Haynes explained to anyone viewing the live stream or the minutes that on the paper given to everyone that there is a \$50 owl buck incentive for completing the survey. Then explained that Grub Hub does allow owl bucks.
- B. Irini Mahida asked when the date of the survey would be released.
- C. Daniel Currier asked about the other surveys that are done on campus and asked if the data would be benchmarked with this data.

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla introduced our guest speakers Director Trish Bonica and Marleigh Strait.

Then Joseph thanked all those who attended the State of the Campus but wished there were more students there. He also mentioned that the email of who won the TV raffle would be going out tomorrow morning. He also explains that as senators it is part of your role you should be going to events and being able to speak to your peers because

even though you are supposed to listen you also need to engage in the campus to get feedback. After that Joseph talked about two events happening on Friday; The Soup Kitchen event and the Legislative Breakfast and asked for everyone interested to reach out.

- A. Christopher Lannan gave a Point of Information to make sure that everyone goes to the Legislative Breakfast and the Soup Kitchen.
- B. Irini Mahida asked if there would be other opportunities to go to other soup kitchens.
- C. Ali Sutherland asked why Dining is involved in the soup kitchen.

Student Trustee Report: Daniel Currier reported that on Friday, February 7th, at 8:30 AM, the Student Government Association will host a student-led Legislative Breakfast in the meeting room. Twelve members of the Massachusetts State Legislature, along with aides and interns, will be in attendance. He and Joseph will present on the challenges of deferred maintenance and the need for the BRIGHT Act, a proposal by Governor Healey to invest up to \$3 billion in higher education capital improvements over the next ten years. The presentation will be followed by a tour of Bates Hall and a stop at the RIDE Center, highlighting the impact of state support. He strongly encouraged members to attend, emphasizing the value of civic engagement, and requested that attendees wear formal attire if possible. Those interested should email or message him on Teams.

- A. Joseph Bonilla mentioned that the Legislative Breakfast will be a great networking opportunity.
- B. Melissa Kuzmeski asked about how long the event will be.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald reported that he is working on establishing the Residential Life Committee, coordinating schedules between Senators and the Residential Life team. He also announced that this Friday, the Ely Campus Center Lounge Remodel Subcommittee will travel to Pittsfield, MA, to test furniture and select fabrics and colors for the project. Additionally, he provided updates from Dining Services, including Palentine's Day in the Dining Commons on February 13 (5:00-7:30 PM), a Valentine's Day special dinner on February 14, and mocktails at both events. Other dining updates include Super Bowl Sunday boneless wings on the grill, an educational event on greens and their benefits this Thursday, and recognition of Heart Health Month. He invited members to reach out with any questions.

- A. Isabella Moniz asked about the Ice Cream Freezer.
 - a. Jacob Constant explained that a new one is on the way.
- B. Irini Mahida asked about the trip for the student affairs committee meeting.

Vice President of Academic Life Report: Sarah Harrington reported that she met with the Provost and discussed the rollout of new course evaluations, noting low response rates. To improve participation, professors are encouraged to print QR codes linking to the evals and allow class time for completion. She clarified that the rumor about fines for not completing course evaluations is false but emphasized their importance. She also announced that the Registrar's Office has digitized forms via DocuSign, which will be operational soon. Dean searches are now underway, with student engagement opportunities similar to the Provost search, possibly including meet-the-candidate sessions in the Tekoa Room with meals to encourage attendance. Regarding the Success Fund, she confirmed that the spending plan, approved by the President, focuses on student retention and includes hiring an Assistant Provost for Educational Excellence and Retention, an additional position to oversee Starfish/WSU360, and possible funding for student financial aid, summer/winter courses, and professional development. The state will evaluate spending to determine future funding. She also addressed concerns regarding course catalog inaccuracies, where students select WSU based on listed courses only to find they are no longer offered. The Provost plans to prioritize curriculum review for relevance and clarity to reflect accurate course offerings. Lastly, she relayed a university protocol update regarding ICE officials on campus, stating that as a public university, officials can legally be present, but students should direct any inquiries to Public Safety or Attorney Melinda Phelps. She encouraged members interested in governance or curriculum to join UCC, which meets on the first and third Friday of the month from 1:40-3:30 PM. She closed by hoping for a snow day on Thursday and recommended "Let It Snow" as the song of the day.

- A. Isabella Moniz asked about the DEI policies regarding some majors and how some words restrict some majors from getting state funding.

University Curriculum Committee Report: Melissa Kuzmeski reported that the University Curriculum Committee met on Friday, January 31, 2025, from 1:40 PM to 3:00 PM. The meeting began with a discussion on EGST 260: Medical Anthropology, a WISE-inclusive course, with approved changes to its description and title, as well as an update on prerequisites limiting them to COMP 101 or an FYJ course. Movement course updates followed, with MOVP 162 (Strength Training) and MOVP 183 (Relaxation Techniques), both WISE courses, receiving approved credit, title, and description modifications. Two new MOVP courses were introduced: Pickleball for Wellness, which was tabled for further clarification, and MOVP Dance Explorations, which was approved to explore cultural expression through dance. All movement courses were confirmed as 8-week courses. The discussion concluded with proposed changes to Music 170, 171, 172, 173, 270, 271, and 272, introducing credit options based on one-on-one instruction time and updating descriptions to align with course content and learning objectives; these recommendations were approved. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2025.

- A. Sarah Harrington asked a question regarding the pickle ball class.
 - a. Jacob Constant gave a Point of Information that the reason why it was tabled was because they were getting more information from the pickleball court downtown.

Vice President of Student Equity Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that in recognition of Black History Month, she emphasized the importance of honoring Black individuals’ contributions, resilience, and the ongoing pursuit of justice and equality. She announced the formation of the Advisory Committee for the Advancement of Equitable Representation (ACAER), which was approved last semester with her as chair. The committee will include representatives from Faith & Heritage organizations, SGA, FACES, the Center for Student Success and Engagement, and potentially the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning. Recruitment is ongoing, with one SGA representative position still open. She encouraged those interested to reach out. She also highlighted several significant events on Friday, February 7, including the Legislative Breakfast, a Westfield Soup Kitchen volunteer trip, and a Black History Month event featuring guest speaker Bilqis Abdul-Qaadir, the first female Muslim Division I college basketball player to compete wearing a hijab. The event, co-hosted by the Muslim Student Organization and the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning, will take place at 7:00 PM in the Loughman Living Room, Scanlon Hall. She invited anyone interested in attending or learning more to speak with her after the meeting. She concluded by expressing her commitment to fostering change on campus and offering support to those in need of guidance or a listening ear.

Vice President of Finance Report: Austin Morgan reported that the Executive Council met to discuss a previously tabled finance proposal from the Music Therapy Club, which is requesting \$5,401 for conference registration and hotel accommodations. The Dower Center will cover travel costs, and the faculty chaperone will pay their own expenses. The Executive Council unanimously approved the request, bringing the allocation pool to approximately \$25,000, and the proposal requires a two-thirds majority vote. Additionally, Ethan Mallinson has been appointed as the first-year representative for the Finance Committee, which will now meet on Thursdays at 3:45 PM in the SGA conference room.

MOTION made by Austin Morgan, seconded by Daniel Currier, approve the Music Therapy Club Finance Proposal of \$5,401.00.

- A. Joseph Bonilla and Daniel Currier gave more insight about the conference and what we are paying for.
- B. Daniel Currier gave more information regarding the money.
- C. Christopher Lannan requested a Roll Call Vote.

Nicholas Palumbo	Yes
Anderson Dallaire	Yes
Isabella Moniz	Yes
William Connor	Yes
Travis McLoughlin	Yes
Brenna Guliani	Yes
Aviannah-Leigh Saulters	Yes

Jakob Traynor	Yes
Cody Hoisington	Yes
Melissa Kuzmeski	Yes
Raymond Croteau	Yes
Barney Garcia	Yes
Ethan Mallinson	Yes
Ali Sutherland	Yes
Angelina Cassella	Yes
Christopher Lannan	Abstain
Irini Mahida	Abstain
Benny Rosas	Yes
Dominic Zajko	Yes
Puru Sharma	Yes
Joseph Bonilla	Yes
Justin Wald	Yes
Sarah Harrington	Yes
Austin Morgan	Yes
Lorraine Fernández	Yes
Daniel Currier	Yes
Jacob Constant	Yes

ROLL CALL VOTE with a result of **27 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSTAIN**. Motion passed.

Vice President of Publicity Report: Justin Wald reported on behalf of Elizabeth Mercer doing the Senator of the Month and it being Ali Sutherland!

Executive Secretary Report: Jacob Constant reported that only nine people logged their office hours last week and reminded everyone to complete them, as failing to do so counts as a half absence. He emphasized that office hours are a responsibility of being a senator and encouraged members to reach out if they have conflicts so arrangements can be made. He also noted that UCC still needs one more member and encouraged anyone interested to reach out. Finally, he announced that next week’s speaker will be Steven Taksar. He invited members to reach out with any questions.

- A. Joseph Bonilla gave a Point of Information that it would be VP Taksar coming down.

Parliamentarian Report: Ethan Haynes reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee will meet tomorrow to review club constitutions, with a vote on approvals expected next week. He also provided an update on Constitutional Review, stating that the main constitution has been completed, and the committee is now focusing on the bylaws, aiming to have a full report ready before spring break in March. He emphasized the importance of regularly checking emails, noting that some members have been unresponsive and reminding everyone that responding to communications is a key responsibility. Lastly, he announced that his office hours have changed and directed members to check the back pillar for the updated schedule.

- A. Ali Sutherland mentioned to everyone that it is a good idea to download teams.

Senior Class Report: Nicholas Palumbo reported on upcoming senior class events, beginning with a reminder about the 100 Days Toast taking place this Thursday from 7:00-9:00 PM at Westfield River Brewing Company with a tropical theme, encouraging seniors to attend. He mentioned that an email with bus information had been or would

soon be sent out. He then introduced Senior Send-Off, previously known as Senior Week, confirming the ticket price at \$120 and announcing that ticket sales will open this week, with the event schedule shared on social media. He urged students to purchase tickets to revive this pre-COVID tradition. The itinerary includes Westy Day on May 12, featuring yard games, cap decorating, a senior sunset with s'mores, and a movie on the green. Mohegan Day on May 13 includes a student-faculty lunch, professional cap and gown photos, and an evening at Mohegan Sun's Comics Roadhouse with activities such as karaoke and mechanical bull riding. Block Island/Paddy's Day on May 14 includes breakfast, a ferry to Block Island with free time, and dinner at Paddy's Beach Bar. The final day, May 15, is designated for residence hall checkout starting at noon. He encouraged seniors to spread the word to ensure a strong turnout and a memorable send-off.

- A. Justin Wald asked about the movies they have in mind.
- B. Austin Morgan asked why he isn't on the email chain.
- C. Christopher Lannan thanked for giving advise to start planning early.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Daniel Currier explained that there will be a bake sale next Thursday in the Owl Cafe from 11-1.
- Nicholas Palumbo stated that there are 101 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Bonilla adjourned the meeting at 6:19 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 January 28, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant

Signed: _____

Date: _____