



Student Government Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing was not able to take place.

Members Present: Joseph Bonilla, Justin Wald, Sarah Harrington, Lorraine Fernández, Jacob Constant, Travis McLoughin, Brenna Guliani, Jakob Trainor, Cody Hoisington, Barney Garcia, Christopher Lannan, Ali Sutherland, Ethan Haynes, Raymond Croteau, Sophia Rebenciuc, Benny Rosas, Daniel Currier, Austin Morgan, Isabella Moniz, Melissa Kuzmeski, Evelyn Aiello*

Members Absent: Nicholas Palumbo, Anderson Dallaire, Raul Rosario, Mariza Monteiro, Isabella Centrella, Dominic Zajko, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters, Troyelle Nosal, Puru Sharma, SAAC Representative, Irini Mahida,

Members Excused: Benny Rosas, Cody Hoisington

Also present and participating was SGA Advisors Matthew Dellea, Shannon Green, and Ryan Meersman.

Call to Order: President Joseph Bonilla called the meeting to order at 5:31 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 April 15th, 2025, meeting, were approved.

President's Report: Joseph Bonilla introduced the guest speaker State Senator John Velis with a brief introduction including his history and the committees that he both serves on and chairs.

Guest Speaker: Senator John Velis starts by talking about and going into more detail about the committees that he serves on and chairs. Then he goes into some detail about how there is so much uncertainty about what is going on around the mission that he is on with his committees as well as the state of the commonwealth. Then he mentions and congratulates everyone who set up the Legislative breakfast, talking about deferred maintenance. John Velis mentions what the feeling that is going on the Federal Government.

Joseph Bonilla asked some prepared questions, first of which being about as student leaders we often seek ways to positively impact the lives of our peers what is one piece of advice that could help us foster meaningful engagement on campus.

- John Velis responded by saying that we live in this day and age that we need to work on basic human skills and bring people together and care about what they are doing because it is going out the window.

The second question being about reflecting on your own journey in leadership and what guidance you would give to your younger self.

- John Velis responded with getting help earlier.

* Missed first roll call

** Missed second roll call

Third question being about the growing concerns of members of the LGBTQIA+ community as well a people with disabilities, how he foresees the state of Massachusetts upholding civil rights at the state level.

- John Velis responded by proposing a question explaining how when the governor of Michigan went to DC spoke to president because of what is going on about them loosing aircraft, that question was answered by several members of the senate.
 - Ali Sutherland stated that it would be best to hold your ground.
 - Joseph Bonilla stated that one of the biggest things is complacency and action.
 - Troyelle Nosal explained that with politics epically now that you always need to walk a fine line.
 - Aviannah-Leigh Saulters uses the analogy that it is hard to play with everyone on your team playing the wrong sport.
 - Evelyn Aiello explained that it is very important to keep in mind the long-term consequences of doing the things you do.

Questions were then opened.

- Daniel Currier asked Senator Velis was asking about the bill that he had filed for on campus housing.
 - John Velis talked too that that there is a legitimate issue about housing and explains the crisis we are facing.
- Isabella Moniz asked about what is going to happen to the people who are going to be losing their jobs and their rights due to the federal government.
 - John Velis mentioned that getting too complex to an answer is difficult right now because how new everything is, and that it is up to the state legislator to fix those issues, but explains that the overall answer to the issue would be the courts.
- Ali Sutherland asked about what his thoughts are about the 99-0 ruling in Virginia, then how he manages being in the National Guard and being a state senator.
 - John Velis explains that it all depends on which hat you are wearing. Then explains that the Virginia issue is an awful piece of legislation and says that he will do everything in his power to make sure that never sees the light of day.

Student Trustee: Daniel Currier summarized the April 22nd Board of Trustees meeting, which began with the approval of numerous faculty promotions and tenure grants effective September 1, 2025. He detailed plans for the university's SUCCESS Fund, which will address five key areas—academic challenges, financial barriers, work-life balance, lack of college know-how, and institutional policies—through new initiatives like peer mentoring, expanded student support services, and the creation of a Center for Belonging, Values, & Impact. Other significant Board actions included reviewing a cautious increase in first-year student deposits amidst FAFSA uncertainties, approving a revised Free Speech Policy, contracting a new audit firm for Fiscal Year 2025, and passing a new Investment Policy. Currier concluded by mentioning his own report to the Board, where he highlighted recent SGA successes and introduced the Student Trustee-Elect, Barney Garcia, before offering his personal thanks and farewell to the student government.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Justin Wald gave no official report but said his goodbyes.

Vice President of Academic Life: Sarah Harrington explains that she has a meeting with the provost next week but she won't be able to report anything as it is the last meeting of the semester. Then a reminder to send pictures to her and Elizabeth for Anti SGA. The report acknowledged two faculty award recipients, starting with Madeleine Cahill, Professor of Communication, who was celebrated for her exceptional student advising. Her nominator highlighted her flexibility, career guidance, and strong support for non-traditional students, noting that they "never felt quite as prepared" as they have since receiving her advisement. The Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Kimberly Tobin, Professor of Criminal Justice, who was nominated by two students. The nominations commended Professor Tobin's dedication to teaching critical thinking, her passion for the subject, and her ability to

connect with students, with one stating her thoughtful feedback made "a lasting impact on [their] academic journey and personal growth."

Vice President of Finance Report: Austin Morgan submitted the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), which anticipates \$486,000 in revenue from the Student Activity Fee. After mandatory distributions to transportation and the Campus Activities Board (CAB), the Student Government Association (SGA) is projected to have an operating budget of \$207,312, representing a 6.3% increase from the previous year. A significant proposal within the budget is to repurpose the \$66,000 transportation fund, historically used for the PVTA bus service, to develop a new transportation model, such as a weekend shuttle, since the PVTA is currently free due to a state grant. The budget introduces funding for two new club sports—co-ed tennis and men's club volleyball—while continuing major allocations like \$20,000 for senior class events, establishing a recurring \$5,000 contribution to the new endowed program for faith and identity RSOs, and maintaining a \$25,000 pool for club finance proposals. It also introduces a \$9,000 fund for new strategic initiatives, including spontaneous campus events and meal support for students remaining on campus during breaks, while retaining over \$15,000 in unallocated "free cash" as a contingency.

- Christopher Lannan thanked Austin and gave a point of information explaining that if there are any clubs that you see or don't see Austin reached out and only some heard back from.
 - Austin Morgan explained more about what that means.
- Daniel Currier thanked Austin for presenting it and wanted to advise class councils that if we are giving you money to please spend it.
 - Sarah Harrington asked a question regarding about money rolling over for class councils
 - Daniel Currier Responded that before we had very limited funding and this year we have a lot more money of free cash on hand do give to the class councils to be able to hold better events.

MOTION seconded by Travis McLoughlin, to approve the preliminary budget for the Fiscal Year 26 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

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

Vice President of Publicity Report: Elizabeth Mercer had no report but gave her goodbyes.

Executive Secretary: Jacob Constant congratulated the newly elected SGA members. He then gave his goodbyes to the outgoing executive members. He concluded by sharing his excitement to work with returning members Justin Wald and Lorraine Fernández in the upcoming academic year and confirmed that he is looking forward to serving as Executive Secretary once again.

Rules and Regulations Committee: Ethan Haynes explained that he has finally completed his long-awaited editing of Article XI for all RSO's in the club construction safety and liability waiver. To include gender neutral pronouns. Then finally the Rules and Regulations committee recommends denying the TPUSA club constitution after failed attempts to reach out to the club over several meetings to fix necessary changes with a vote from the committee of 4-0-2.

MOTION seconded by Evelyn Aiello, to deny Turning Point USA's Club of Westfield State University.

- Travis McLoughlin asked for the reason why
 - Ethan Hanyes explained that the biggest issue is failure to implement specific edits where they were given several times. With 3 additional concerns, the first of which is the fear that the club isn't being run by students over third party individuals. Secondly, in a meeting with the representative from the club did stat that certain parts of the constitution were or were not made by students and it being by a third party. Then finally adhering to the bylaws of the old SGA constitution we can deny a club for lack of interest and participation.

VOICE VOTE passed.

Finally, Ethan gave his goodbyes.

Senior Class Council Report: Isabella Moniz expressed gratitude to the SGA for a successful year before announcing the final event for the Class of 2025. The "Senior Send Off pt. 2" is scheduled for Friday, May 2nd, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM in the Dower Lot and will feature a DJ, cap decorating, food trucks, games, and a free Class of 2025 sherpa blanket for all attending seniors. Moniz also relayed several important reminders for graduating students: to check their email for details on picking up purchased graduation signs, to order their caps and gowns from the bookstore, and to pick up their class cords on May 1st or 2nd. She directed all other inquiries regarding commencement to the university's official webpage, noting she had no updates on the number of guest tickets, and concluded her report with thanks and well wishes.

- Sarah Harrington asked Matt a question about if they have to pick it up this week.
 - Matt Dellea shook his head yes.

Representatives at Large Report: Christopher Lannan provided an overview of the committee's accomplishments throughout the year to ensure full transparency. He highlighted several key achievements, including the impactful work of Puru and Irini on the constitution review committee, a successful resolution he and Zeke introduced to secure free visitor parking in the South Lot, and the approval of a large number of new student clubs by the Rules and Regulations committee on which Zeke and Akile served. Lannan also noted his and Irini's recent contributions to the Owl Ball Committee, which organized a successful event that sold around 230 tickets. He concluded by thanking the Senate for a great year and offering his mentorship and support to the incoming Representatives at Large.

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Joseph Bonilla gave a reminder about the banquet next week.
- Melissa Kuzmeski explained that there is an event going on in University Hall tomorrow.
- Angelina Cassella explained that the class of 2028 has their final event during spring weekend, and it will be a kickball tournament. Then mentioned their ice cream social.
 - Isabella Moniz asked a clarifying question about making sure it doesn't interfere with the block party
- Christopher Lannan gave a point of information to let everyone know to make sure if you didn't win your election to come back next year.
- Sarah Harrington gave a major shoutout to the freshman class for putting on so many events.
- Jacob Constant gave Angelina a big congratulations on having a great performance during Into the Woods.
- Daniel Currier gave his final accounting and finance announcement stating that there is one final event happening next Wednesday in Wilson 404. Then thanked all the advisors for everything they have done for us this year.
- Joseph Bonilla please tell everyone to RSVP for the banquet.
- Angelina Cassella told everyone that they did just appoint both of their advisors for the next year.
- Aviannah-Leigh Saulters class of 2027 is having a dodgeball tournament in the Pranzo Auditorium
- Isabella Moniz stated that there are 24 days till Commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Joseph Bonilla adjourned the meeting at 7:29 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 April 22, 2025.

Executive Secretary Jacob Constant