



# Student Government Association Eastern Connecticut State University

Fall 2025 Senate Session • General Board

## Student Government Association General Board Minutes

Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

3:00 p.m., Gelsi-Young Building, Connecticut Room

**E-Board:** Mia Sommers, Cassidy Irwin, Devin Greene, Mathew Biadun, Molly Hinrichs

**Senators:** Mariangel Duran Galvis, Vianney Escobedo Herrera, Randy Madore, Gabrielle Papale, Jack Luby

**Advisors:** Casey Kensey

**Guests:** President Ismaili, Ryan Quigley, Tony Hayes, Michelle Delaney, Lamar Coleman, Kemesha Wilmot, Ben Pauley, Phil Ellmore

I. **Call to Order:** 3:05pm

II. **Roll Call:**

III. **President Report:**

a. Acceptance of Minutes from 09/29/2025

1. Motion #19 to accept the minutes from 09/29/2025, M. Biadun, M. Duran Galvis, all approve.

b. Meeting with President Ismaili & The Cabinet: Listening and learning tour went well- one of the concerns was with Hurley not labeling food anymore, which will be investigated. There were other concerns about advising and registration, such as what courses are being offered. Mia and President Ismaili signed a document of Eastern's values. On October 23, the Board of Regents will be holding a meeting in the BTR, President Ismaili would like to give his speaking time to a student. President Ismaili teaches an LAC course called "Why Universities Matter," which highlights the importance of an education and community like Eastern.

1. With the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan coming to a close, what are the university's strategic goals for the next several years, and how do you envision these goals enhancing the student experience?

a. There will be a session on Wednesday to open a conversation for the next strategic plan. It will build on the listening and learning tour, where we are as an institution, student input, and work that the Board of Regents requires. There are five pillars that will be highlighted (see below).

b. 1. Enhance student experience 2. Clear academic identity 3. Envision connection with the town 4. Bringing resources to campus 5. Highlight inclusivity

c. There's a lot that will be affirmed, but also a lot that still needs to be looked at. One example of this is regarding artificial intelligence use and how it integrates with our future.

2. What key insights have you gathered from the Learning and Listening Tour thus far, and how have those findings influenced recent decisions or initiatives?

- a. The Listening and Learning Tours always start with what is going well, what needs to be improved, and how are you a difference maker/who is a difference maker for you?
  - b. There have been overwhelmingly positive comments, but there are also many obstacles that students wish to address (financial office, courses/registration). The constructive feedback that has been given to the cabinet has been very helpful thus far in creating change, and they encourage students to keep bringing these concerns to their attention.
3. Parking has become increasingly challenging for both commuter and residential students, especially with the recent decision to allow first-year students to bring cars to campus. How does the administration plan to address the current parking limitations and improve accessibility for all students? Do we know many students have registered their vehicles in the new parking permit system so far, or how that number compares to the amount of students who registered last year?
  - a. The new parking system is going well, parking registration is currently in the thousands. They will take into consideration the new system when ticketing starts (it will begin with warnings).
  - b. Some current concerns from students is that with allowing all freshman to have cars, how will this affect parking bans during the winter. Otherwise, the new system seems to be successful.
  - c. To address limitations, the cabinet is looking to expand parking on South Campus (they have a new plan that will hopefully add ~25 spots). Some buildings and houses will be looked at to see if they are unusable, if they can be converted to parking. They are continuing to monitor the new parking system.
4. How sound is Eastern's financial footing? Are we running a deficit? How does Eastern's finances compare to Western, Southern, and Central?
  - a. This fiscal year, Eastern is projected to have a smaller operating deficit that will be covered by reserves. However, it is looking good at this time. It is hard to predict how the next fiscal year will look, but the University does have healthy reserves. Everything is looked at by a five-year plan, with an emphasis on growing enrollment.
5. The baseball field has been dug up and new turf is being put in. It's for safety and updating. Bonds from the state partially paid for it. The field should be done and ready for opening day. There is a new women's flag football team that will begin in fall 2026. A search for a coach is underway. Eastern will be 1 of 30 DIII universities with a women's flag football team. It is a growing sport and Eastern is excited to be a part of it. The current rugby field will also be updated to turf for use by women's and men's rugby, as well as women's flag football.
6. How is the University continuing to emphasize student voices when listening and learning tours end?
  - a. The cabinet hopes to continue the listening and learning sessions and make sure that student voices are heard. They want to be sure that they continue to

highlight student feedback. There was a creation of a Warrior Spirit Group as a response to students encouraging more school spirit on campus.

7. Denise, the shuttle driver, said the drivers have been having a lot of problems lately with the police department and the shuttle system and hours. She also said they don't have sick time. There's a new policy on campus where students can get sick leave. Is there a way this problem can be addressed?
  - a. The shuttle drivers are a specific classification (not unionized, but there is an overseer). They are following the state contract as required through DAS, and not through the University. The University has had problems filling the position, but they are always actively recruiting. At UConn, they outsource from WRTD because of low retention rate.
8. Students have been worried about a lack of across-the-board requirements through departments. Some departments do not allow paid internships, while other departments encourage paid internships. There is a gray area where some students are getting paid while earning credit, while some are not allowed. Students urge the provost's office to take into consideration these discrepancies to make sure students are fairly treated.
  - a. The provost will be attending our November 7<sup>th</sup> general board meeting!
9. \$1500 of the emergency fund has been used. This has had a very positive impact on our campus community!
- c. SGA Constitution Review- tabled for next week!

#### **IV. Vice President Report:**

- a. SGA Representatives & External Committee Connections: Assignments have been made! Check your email and email her with any concerns.
- b. Internal Committee Reports
  1. BAM
    - a. Meeting 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Wednesday
  2. Student Issues- nothing to report.
  3. Public Relations- nothing to report.
- c. External Committee Reports

#### **V. Treasurer Report:**

- a. SGA Account Updates
  1. General Board (SGAG03) - \$7,365.85
  2. Executive Board (SGAG04) - \$11,800.00
  3. Revitalization (SGAG05) - \$162,400.00

#### **VI. Secretary Report:**

- a. Seeking Fill-In University Senate Attendee, tomorrow from 3:30-4:30, SCI 301
  1. Mariangel is filling in this week. Thank you!!

#### **VII. Advisor Report:**

- a. The Adirondack chair has gone up in the Fine Arts circle! We should make a post about it to promote.
- b. October 30<sup>th</sup> the President is having an open house from 3-4 in the President's suite.
- c. The Academy for Small Business is starting in the middle of the month- we should put up a post for this.

d. Leadership Council tomorrow at 1:15-2:45pm in the BTR. Mariangel will be attending!

VIII. **Old Business:**

IX. **Open Floor:**

X. **New Business:**

**Motion #20 to adjourn at 4:06pm, M. Hinrichs, M. Duran Galvis, all approve.**