

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## 29<sup>th</sup> Student Government Association

7<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Twenty-Ninth Undergraduate Student Government Association  
To be held in the Rubin Campus Center, Hagglund Room  
6:00 p.m. – March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Special Orders
  - a. Club of the week – Coin and Currency Club
    - i. Coin and Currency club came to this Senate to get advice on how to increase membership. They go to conventions and encourage members to bring coins from around the world and from all eras. They have activities where members can participate in activities to win coins. They meet once every two weeks and hold their small internal events. They attempted to hold a round-table sitting to gain more members. Senator Starr recommended club members bring a few friends to get more people in the room to gain more interest, and maybe hold a larger event once the club has a large enough membership. Senator Charles Recommended partnering with Trivia at the Goats Head to get the club's name to campus more. Senator Hendry suggested posting to the WPI Class of 2023 Facebook group to get extra exposure with the incoming class.
- V. President's Report
  - a. F.45 Executive Veto
    - i. A senator requested Exec to veto the F.45 funding request so the request could come to Senate. Since this request passed, the funding request will be heard during Senate.
  - b. Campus Hearing Board Elections
    - i. Our bylaws say that Campus Hearing Board Elections must start on the second Monday of D term unless voted to move by exec. Exec decided to move those elections by one week to coincide with Superfan Slogan voting
- VI. Vice President's Report
  - a. Senator Shoutouts
    - i. Senators shouted out to Chair Racca, Chair Nunez, and Chair Coelho for their work in their project groups.
- VII. Secretary's Report
  - a. Office Rearrangement
    - i. Secretary Burack rearranged the SGA office so it would be more suitable for both individual work and group meetings.
  - b. Senator Stabile asked if all senators should have access to the SGA office. Secretary Burack stated that all senators should have access to the SGA office, and should reach out to him if they do not.
- VIII. Treasurer's Report

*The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.*

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
  - a. Professional Development Activity
  - b. Trivia
- X. Cluster Reports
  - a. Student Services Cluster
    - i. Superfan Slogan Contest and Relay BBQ – Chair Hager
      - 1. Senators should sign up for tablesitting for the Superfan Slogan competition and for Accepted Students day.
    - ii. Subreddit – Chair Nunez
      - 1. Chair Nunez thanked all senators for their assistance with the reddit project, as SGA now can create a subreddit. She also asks for senators to reach out to her or her project group to become admins for the SGA subreddit.
  - b. Internal Services Cluster
    - i. Bylaws Update and Interest in helping– Chair Rice
      - 1. All they bylaws have been pulled together and a new document is being put together for the new structure.
    - ii. Internal Affairs Office Hours – Chair Rice
      - 1. Chair Rice's office hours will be on Mondays from 1 PM to 2 PM
  - c. Financials Cluster
    - i. Budgeting Updates – Chair LaJeunesse
      - 1. This past weekend was Treasurer Talk it Out, and this weekend will be the due date for appeals.
    - ii. Financial Trends – Chair Racca
      - 1. Trends were developed based on the 12<sup>th</sup> Financial Board, looking at the types of Funding Requests and Clubs found.
      - 2. There was a total of 151 requests, with \$381,452 requested. the total approved funds was closer to \$300,000.
      - 3. Most requests were made for Supplied, campus wide programming, and conferences. Most requests funded were for campus wide programming, which also included SGA requests such as Superfan shirts. Supplies requests are the next most common request approves.
      - 4. Clubs that requested for funds were broken up into the following categories: campus wide, club sports, international clubs, cultural clubs, performance and media, professional, selective membership. Most funds are approved for club sports, campus wide clubs, and international clubs.
      - 5. More requests seen are for campus wide programming, which are requested mostly by international and cultural organization.
      - 6. From these trends, the project group recommends keeping the current rules of thumb consistent, make this process a part of the internal audit, look at how much the clubs request vs. what they spend, encourage other clubs to look into campus wide

*The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.*

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

programming, investigate possible options into club sports, and make this information publicly available on the SGA Website.

- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
  - a. Worcester Bike Share Update
    - i. The taskforce met on Friday and tested bikes that are electric assisted. The taskforce decided to move forward with Linebike for the city, and the electric bikes for college campuses.
  - b. Chair Bimonte announced a WSGA meeting that will be this Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Elections will be done for WSGA shortly.
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
  - a. S.5 F.45 African Percussion and Dance Ensemble Funding Request (\$1,224.00)
    - i. **Purpose of Funds**
      - 1. The club plays African percussion instruments and are a diverse organization by bringing African culture to campus through music. They hold concerts for campus and for the public. They are requesting funds from their performances in C term and equipment. Their performances were on 2/9, 2/13, and 2/16. Most of the funds are for paying their lead instructor.
      - 2. They made a Funding Request in A-Term for performances that have happened in the past and believed that this would be a precedent set.
      - 3. They understand the current bylaw against reimbursements, and hope Senate can make an exception
    - ii. **Questions**
      - 1. Senator Starr asked if funds were given to the instructor for practices. The representatives answered saying that they are budgeted a certain number of events, and they submit funding requests for the instructor.
      - 2. Senator Bradley asked if they knew how many drumsticks they are asking for. The representatives said that the instructor buys the drumsticks in bulk, with the bulk amount costing \$150. The organization does need to request sticks often. Senator Gruner-Mitchell asked how often the drums need to be repaired. The representatives answered that the drums do not need to be repaired often. However, two drums are in need of repair so they can continue to be used.
      - 3. Senator Bradley also asked how the number of \$278 per performance was calculated. The representatives said that this was costs made by the instructor.
      - 4. Senator Charles asked how far in advance the organization knows when their gigs will be. The representatives answered that they may not know if/when performances will happen until as late as the day before the performance.

*The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.*

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

5. Senator Heinle asked if they had a line item in their budget for drum repairs and sticks. The representatives answered no.
6. Senator Heinle asked if they FR for drumsticks each year. The representatives answered that they request for drumsticks when needed.
7. Senator Lang asked if they had any gigs planned this year. The representatives stated that they have a gig for Relay for Life planned and will be presenting a Funding Request this week in Financial Board.

### iii. Discussion

#### 1. Questions and Points of Information:

- Senator Silvia asked if they are allowed to have gigs before requesting for funds?
  - i. Treasurer Candy read the SGA bylaws stating that reimbursements are considered as any form of event where payment is promised.
- Chair LaJeunesse clarified that Financial Board asks clubs to submit funding requests for repairs.
- Senator Starr asked why the original decision was denied.
  - i. Treasurer Candy clarified that the request was denied due to the reimbursement bylaw.
  - ii. Chair Bimonte clarified that approving the repairs would not be breaking the bylaw.
- Chair Hager stated that we have established this precedent in the past, and that is the reason why
- Chair Racca clarified that this may not be a precedent of this Financial Board as this was from a previous Financial Board
- Senator Bradley asked if they ever get funding for this in the budget.
  - i. Their budget only contains money for paying the instructor.
- Chair Bimonte motioned to amend the request to not include the cost of the gigs that have already happened.

#### i. Questions and Points of Information:

- VIII> Senator Stabile asked what SGA planned to do to assist this organization with this payment?
- a. Treasurer Candy stated that the bylaw was made to prevent pressure from reimbursements. This bylaw is to prevent the situation that African Percussion is presenting.

*The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.*

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

- IX> Chair LaJeunesse stated that SGA is not the only source of money on campus, and they could reach out for other funding. We can suggest alternative funding methods.
- X> Senator Gruner-Mitchell asked if this point was made after the first request. Chair Racca stated that the previous Financial Board did not notice the error.
- XI> Senator Silvia asked if they had a copy of SGA Bylaws to know that this request would go against bylaws. Treasurer Candy stated that the club knowingly checks a box stating that the organization will abide by the bylaws of SGA.
- XII> Senator Bradley said we should be looking at this as a musical society, and that gigs are not always able to be planned very far in the future.
- XIII> Senator Charles asked, since they expect 4 gigs per term, if they could request for those gigs before they happen. Treasurer Candy said that this was doable.

### ii. Pros:

- VIII> Chair Bimonte is in favor of this motion because we have these bylaws for organizations to follow.
- IX> Senator Charles is in favor of this as it upholds to our bylaws.
- X> Chair Rice, as Chair of Internal Affairs, is in favor of this motion as it upholds the bylaws.

### iii. Cons:

- VIII> Chair Hager believes this is a matter of responsibility. We made a mistake in the past, so we should uphold to that to prevent financial problems in the future.
- IX> This error acts as a way of informing campus of what constitutes as a reimbursement.

### iv. Outcome:

- VIII> **Motion Passed. Request will now be for \$390**

*The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.*

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

### 2. Pros:

- Senator Charles is in favor of this because it is essential for the club.
- Senator Bradley is in favor of this request with the exception of the drumsticks, as they do not need so many of them.
  - i. Chair Bimonte and senator Nieves clarified that the drumsticks break easily and that they do need many replacements.

### 3. Outcome:

- **Funding Request Passed for \$390**

#### XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas

- a. Chair Nunez, speaking as the MSEC chair of SocComm, invited any senator available to help volunteer in the setup and takedown for Big Show, as there is a lot of money that goes into the organization. SocComm would like senators to understand the amount of work that goes into this event, and why this event is so expensive.
- b. Chair Giacoman asked for senators to fill out a survey to assist SGA Continuous Improvements.

#### XV. Announcements

- a. Senator Starr announced that next week will be Greek Week. One event will be Take Back The Night in the Odeum on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This event is for people to talk about their struggles of mental health.
- b. Chair Coelho announced that there will be Trivia at the Goats Head.
- c. Senator Gruner Mitchell announced that Chi Omega will be putting an event at Wooberry on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with proceeds going to Make A Wish
- d. Senator Starr asked that clubs put events on Techsync 2 weeks before

#### XVI. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Clubs should submit events before Friday at 3PM so they get approved by the SAO. There are only a few more tickets for the Worcester Railers, with a flash sale for tickets for \$10.

#### XVII. President's Remarks

- a. President Wilson thanked senators for a great discussion for the complicated funding request. She also recommended senators remember Roberts Rules hand signals, so future discussions in Senate can be managed easier.

#### XVIII. Adjournment

*The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.*