

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

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

9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Twenty-Ninth Undergraduate Student Government Association  
To be held in the Rubin Campus Center, Hagglund Room  
6:00 p.m. – April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
  - a. Syzygy Allen presented in Senate about RHS's Philanthropy event on Friday, April 12th. It is a summer themed competition, and the winning team will receive money for a philanthropy of the winning team's choice. Syzygy asked Senators for support with advertising, volunteering, and outreach to other organizations for participation.
- IV. Special Orders
  - a. Club of the Week – Game Development Club
    - i. The Game Development Club is a club that creates, plays, and discusses games. They strive to create an atmosphere for students to be able to stay active in the gaming community. They hold Saturday Night Gaming in the Campus Center to play games, and hold Game Jams and Pitch Meetings to create games. A subset of the Game Development Club is the WPI Esports organization. They hold large scale tournaments and events at WPI for students to compete against each other for prizes. They also have viewing parties to watch live video game tournaments. Anyone interested in video games can participate in the GDC, the development competitions and events, and the Esports tournaments. They meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Beckett Conference Room, and development meetings on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Higgins Labs, Room 230. They have a Facebook, Twitter and Discord Server for students to contact the club. Their Twitter handles are @WPIEsports and @WPIGDC. Chair Hager Recommended they reach out to offer Superfan shirts at their events.
  - b. Interim Appointments
    - i. President Wilson appointed Leila Card as an Interim Senator.
- V. President's Report
  - a. Promoting SGA
    - i. President Wilson asked senators to brainstorm ways of showing campus the work SGA does. Any suggestions should be directed to Chair Hager and Senator Starr.
- VI. Vice President's Report
  - a. Mentor/Mentee
    - i. Vice president Barrett will be sending out Mentor/Mentee forms for people to fill out. Mentors will act as a resource for their mentee so the new senator can learn more about SGA.
  - b. Bonding Event

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- i. Vice President Barrett reminded senators of the Senator Bonding event this Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM on the Campus Center Patio. Senators should sign up with an item of food they would like to bring, as this event will be a potluck.
  - VII. Secretary's Report
    - a. No Report
  - VIII. Treasurer's Report
    - a. No Report
  - IX. Parliamentarian's Report
    - a. Trivia
  - X. Cluster Reports
    - a. Student Services Cluster
      - i. Thank you – Chair Hager
        - 1. Chair Hager thanked all senators who assisted with the Relay for Life Barbecue.
    - b. Internal Services Cluster
      - i. No Report
    - c. Financials Cluster
      - i. Club Auditing Discussion – Chair Racca
        - 1. Chair Racca thanked everyone who attended appeals board
        - 2. The Club Audit Project group originally was interested in auditing clubs in person, but that would prove to be difficult as there may not be enough time. They suggested creating a recording or questions, and clubs can record their answer, similar to an online video interview. They will be asking clubs about how they manage their budgets and request financial documentation. Senator Nieves recommended auditing similar to budgeting, and have senators meet with clubs in person. Senator Stabile does not see the video recording method to be more successful than a standard google form. Chair Racca clarified that the purpose of this project is to make club audits as quick and easy as possible.
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
  - a. Chair Bimonte announced the Project Lead the Way networking event will be on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at Revolution Pie and Pint. Anyone interested can register for the event by going to the events page under SGA on TechSync.
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
  - a. S.6 B.9 African Percussion and Dance Ensemble (\$1,644.00)
    - i. Treasurer Candy reminded Senate that an appeal is a request for a club to receive money that may have been cut from their budget. This appeal is being heard in Senate because the Appeals Board did not come to a definite conclusion. African Percussion and Dance Ensemble has an instructor that leads them in practices and performances, perform on campus and in the community, and act as an outlet for African Culture.

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The organization originally requested for instructor fees for 6 rehearsals per term, totaling \$1,644.00. They indicated on TechSync that they had 12 active members, which made their cost per capita very large. Their budget was cut to a total of \$4,932, which took away  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their rehearsals per term. Because their total active membership count was underestimated, with the organization having 16 active members, they are appealing for their total request of \$6,567 to be reinstated in their budget.

### ii. **Questions/Points of Information**

1. Chair Rice asked if the addition of members came after the budgeting process. Treasurer Candy clarified that there was an underestimation during the budgeting process.
2. Senator Zuccolillo asked if they requested the same amount last year. Treasurer Candy answered that their budget was nearly identical, but the organization had a total of 24 members.

### iii. **Pros and Cons:**

1. Senator Charles stated that their performances impact campus more than just their members. Senator Nieves stated that the more performances they have, the more people are aware of the club.
- iv. Chair Racca motioned to amend the requested budget to have 5 rehearsals per term instead of 6, bringing a total to \$5,480 allocated in their budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

#### 1. **Pros:**

- Senator Puhalski believes that this may be more money per capita, and there are organizations that cost much less per capita. When everything is balanced, these two even out.

#### 2. **Cons:**

- Senator Nieves is against this motion since they stated that 6 rehearsals were barely enough to be sustainable, and 5 rehearsals may be too difficult to sustain.

#### 3. **Outcome:**

- **Motion Failed**

- v. Chair Bimonte is against this appeal as their performance schedule is fairly unknown, and they can submit a funding request each term when information is finalized.
- vi. Senator Nieves is in favor this appeal as any organization can have them as a performance, and the organization largely affects campus.
- vii. Chair Rice is in favor this appeal as this event affects campus in a large way, and the money allows them to function at the scale they would like to.
- viii. Chair LaJeunesse stated that even with the new accurate number of students in the organization, the per capita cost is still larger than most organizations.
- ix. Chair Hager is in favor of this appeal as the previously approved budget would prevent the organization to run effectively.

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- x. Chair Bimonte stated that even though we act as a resource for campus, we should make a compromise or find a different effective solution to meet organizations between what they want and what we hope to provide.
- xi. Technical Coordinator Tocci is in favor of this appeal, as working with a term-by-term basis would prove to be overly difficult.
- xii. Chair LaJeunesse stated that their budget is only for rehearsals, and that events are requested in a Funding Request.
- xiii. **Outcome:**

### 1. Appeal Passed

- b. S.7 Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal
    - i. Chair LaJeunesse presented that the amount requested in budgeting before cuts was 1,070,903.44. After cuts, the total amount approved was 622,846.67. The Appeals Board approved an additional \$89,759.88, bringing the total amount approved for club budgets to \$712,606.55. In Mandatory Transfers, the total amount of money requested was \$286,950.00, with a total approved at \$288,670.00. This increase was due to the need for more money for SNAP and more money for SAO programming. The student life fee next year will be \$316 per students. Estimating 4,250 students next year, the total amount available is \$1,350,000.00. The SGA sponsorship account will contain \$348,723.45. This money will be used for Funding Requests.
    - ii. Chair LaJeunesse motioned to vote on the approved budgets.
      - 1. Treasurer Candy motioned to table this vote until next Senate
        - **Outcome:**
          - i. **Motion Passed**
    - iii. Treasurer Candy will send updated budgeting information within the week so senators can reflect on updated information.
  - c. S.8 Superfan Slogan Voting
    - i. Senators voted on the top four ideas for superfan slogans that will be voted on by campus. The slogans “You Can’t Handle the Herd,” “You’ve Goat a Friend in Me,” “Goat with the Flow,” and “We Goat Your Back” will be presented to campus to be voted on. Campus will be able to vote on these slogans beginning on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas
- a. Secretary Burack reminded senators that they should reach out to him prior to Senate if they are unable to attend the meeting.
  - b. Senator Gangaramaney asked if there was going to be a scavenger hunt event later in the term. Chair Hager answered that there will be a scavenger hunt event.
- XV. Announcements
- a. Secretary Burack announced that SocComm will be showing Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald on the Quad on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The movie will begin at 8:00 PM with activities and snacks beforehand.
  - b. Jonathan Coelho announced that Trivia will be at the Goats Head on Tuesday nights.

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- c. Chair Nunez announced that next week is Quadfest. The Food Truck Festival will be on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, where food trucks will be gathered in Boynton Lot. Field Day will be on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. A Paint Night will be on the evening of Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Quackfest scavenger hunt will be on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, the Spring Big Show will be on the evening of Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Chair Serven announced that SocComm will be having a Smoothie Day on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Senator Nistler requests that anyone interested in Smoothie Day should bring their own cups.
- XVI. Advisor's Remarks
- a. Advisor Sharry announced that it is Beyond Disabilities week. The Student Activities Office is hosting a Creating Accessible Programming lunch, focusing on how to make programming more accessible for all students. She also asks that senators volunteer to be Commencement Ushers
- XVII. President's Remarks
- a. President Wilson thanked everyone for a great discussion and urges senators to prepare for the budgeting vote during next senate. Next week will be campus hearing board elections and superfan voting, and senators should promote both of these surveys.
- XVIII. Adjournment

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