

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

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

14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Twenty-Ninth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Salisbury Labs, Room 411

6:00 p.m. – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
  - a. Rotaract is a club about community service and promoting STEM education in schools. Their biggest event is Mr. WPI. For community service, they focus primarily on providing food at different food pantries in Worcester. To promote STEM, they run activities in Elm Park and at Turn Back Time Farm with different projects in physics and biology. They fundraise by selling coffee, masks, and food. They run Project SOAR through their national organization, hold book signings for students, have conventions and different exchanges.
    - i. Senator Guerrero asked how many active senators they have. Rotaract has roughly 30 active members.
    - ii. Chair Bimonte asked about working with other colleges in the area. They are not sure how active other Rotaract clubs are, but would be willing to collaborate.
- IV. Special Orders
  - a. Senator Appointments
    - i. President Wilson appointed Fan Gong and Olivia Bell as Senators
  - b. Interim Senator Appointments
    - i. President Wilson appointed Molly Folino and Megan-Rose Missien
  - c. WSGA Representative
    - i. President Wilson appointed Robert Hager as WSGA Representative
- V. President's Report
  - a. Interim Cabinet Positions
    - i. Internal Affairs Chair Rice and Communications Chair Coelho are going to be inactive during B-Term. Anyone interested in being Interim Chair of Internal Affairs or Communications should reach out to Chair Rice or Chair Coelho as well as President Wilson.
  - b. Anti-Hazing Form
- VI. Vice President's Report
  - a. Assassins Update
  - b. Senator Shoutout Form
    - i. Vice President Toomey will be sending out Senator Shoutout forms. She recommends senators use the form
- VII. Secretary's Report
  - a. Guess the SGA Member
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
  - a. S.9 Appeal

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- i. Treasurer Candy informed Senate that SocComm submitted an appeal to the decision of the S.9 SocComm Big Show funding request. The appeal is for \$96,486. They would like to collaborate with SGA and are bringing more information to the table. The appeal will be heard in Cabinet.
- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
  - a. Elections Timeline
    - i. Parliamentarian Liberacki presented the calendar for elections. Anyone interested in applying to be on exec or slating committee should attend the information sessions after Senate. Applications close on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. Slating Committee will meet on September 27<sup>th</sup> to determine the slate for elections. The slate will be approved on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - ii. Campaigning for execs start at the beginning of B term. Voting for exec will open on October 28<sup>th</sup> and will close on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The secretary election will take place in Senate on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - iii. Senator elections applications are due by November 11<sup>th</sup>. Senator elections will take place from November 18<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the results being posted on November 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - iv. Anyone running for an exec position must sign a form to allow a check for academic standing.
  - b. Trivia
- X. Cluster Reports
  - a. Student Services Cluster
    - i. Excel Tracking Sheets – Chair Hager
      - 1. Academic Improvements has been creating Excel Tracking Sheets for each major. There are drop-down boxes to make it easier for students to use it. The people working on the projects are working on making drop-down boxes for each class. Chair Hager is asking for any senators that are interested to attend the next Academic Improvements meeting.
        - Senator Shalit asked where information about requirements would go. Chair Hager responded that they are unsure at the moment, and are trying to work with Academic Advising to keep the tracking sheets updated.
      - 2. Senator Stabile stated that the purpose of the spreadsheet is to make class tracking easier.
      - 3. Chair Bimonte suggested look-up tables to restrict choices.
      - 4. Senator Cannata thinks this is an incredible and helpful project.
    - ii. Superfan Shirts – Chair Tavares
      - 1. Chair Tavares recommended senators inform clubs of the form to get superfan and Ultrafan shirts at their events.
  - b. Internal Services Cluster
    - i. No Report
  - c. Financials Cluster
    - i. Club Auditing Kickoff– Chair Racca

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1. SGA is auditing clubs to gauge treasurers' knowledge on financial matters and make sure all clubs are following financial rules.
  2. Senators will be assigned constituents on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and senators will need to schedule a meeting with their constituent's president or treasurer. Senators will also analyze the club's Funding Requests and Budgets.
  3. All of the information gathered will be sent out in early October.
  4. Chair Racca will be sending out a guide for the interview process. Senators should ask about when the treasurer started as a treasurer. Senators are discouraged from filling out forms during interviews so the senator can think about each response.
  5. All budgets and Funding Requests will be in a folder that will be linked in the Club Auditing guide for senators to review.
  6. All senators were added to a slack channel to give senators a place to ask financial questions.
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
- a. WSGA Updates – Chair Hager
    - i. WSGA discussed how to get more voter turnout in elections. Newer ideas were to get “I voted” stickers or pins to attract attention
    - ii. Chair LaJeunesse stated that people could take stickers off of them and put them on objects around campus. That was the reason for getting rid of stickers.
    - iii. Accountant Bimonte stated that this would be for publicity for elections, as people would see the stickers and try to figure out what they are for.
    - iv. Chair Racca is against stickers because it doesn't set a good precedent for SGA to allow stickers while clubs aren't allowed stickers.
    - v. Senator Charles asked how many people usually vote in the elections.
      1. President Wilson answered that roughly 650-850 people vote in elections.
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- a. Project Sector Gathering
- XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas
- a. Vice President Toomey wanted to say that being in a leadership position in SGA is a very rewarding experience, and she encourages any Senators interested to run for a position. She also encourages senators run for Slating Committee so they can make an impact on how SGA will be in the future.
  - b. Senator Cannata stated that WPI is looking into closing the I&E Room in the Foise Innovation Studio.
    - i. Technical Coordinator Tocci is against this closure, as the purpose of the space was presented to be vague. He also stated that the school should not build an area for only a specific group of students with the money of the entire student body.

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- ii. President Wilson stated that she reached out to Donna Levin to gather more information. The I&E Room will only be available for the groups listed in the email. Senators with a strong opinion should reach out to those making the decision, and go to the meeting being held to discuss the proper use of the space.
- iii. Chair Bimonte stated that roughly 30% of campus have signed this position. He believes SGA should support this position to keep the area open for all of campus for the time being.
- iv. Senator Silvia asked how many people would be using the room. President Wilson answered that 180 people total will be using the room, but is unsure of the number of students.
- v. Chair Tavares stated that the space in question was intended to be closed for specific projects, but anyone could sign up for the project. Administration opened the space to campus to test how the area would be used.
- vi. Chair Tavares believes that only active WPI students should sign petitions for SGA to consider it valid, as alumni have signed the current petition. He suggests sending out a new petition for only WPI students.
- vii. President Wilson spoke to Dean Heinricher about the area being closed to the public, and her and Treasure Candy have a meeting with Dean Clay, where they will bring up the status of the area and the concerns of the students. She recommended that Senators discuss how this closure effects the students, and options for a compromise.
- viii. Chair Bimonte motioned for SGA to formally back the petition written about the closure. The motion was not heard.
- ix. Chair LaJeunesse mentioned possibly splitting the hours of the room to compromise with the students.
- x. Senator Shalit asked if there were other open places that are closed to the public. President Wilson answered that she is unsure of any other spaces like this.
- xi. Senator Cannata asked what the difference is between space being used for entrepreneurial reasons and for academic reasons. Chair Tavares answered that this space should be used to house different groups of entrepreneurs to gather new ideas and collaborate.
- xii. Chair Bimonte asked if the Director of I&E could come to Senate to talk more about the purpose of this closure.
- xiii. Chair Racca mentioned that our bylaws state that if SGA asks for an administrator to be present for senate, they must attend. This situation is a time when this power could be used.
- xiv. Chair Hager stated that this area is one of the only spacious areas to collaborate. He believes that it isn't fair that the space is going to be closed when there is such a benefit to campus to keep them open.
- xv. Senator Starr suggested making this space available on 25Live.

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1. Senator Moreira stated that if the room isn't in use or booked, students should be able to use it.
  2. Senator Puhalski suggested giving the organizations that are taking the room priority in booking the room, but not closing off the area to the public.
  - xvi. Senator Wisniewski mentioned that only one room is being closed, and not the entire building.
  - xvii. Chair Serven told Senate that there is always going to be a Five-Year Plan that would address the issues being brought up.
  - xviii. Chair LaJeunesse stated that people are struggling with finding study spaces on campus, even after making more space.
    1. Rooms are also being booked very far in advance on 25Live.
- XV. Announcements
- a. Senator Guerrero announced that empanadas will be sold in the CC on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Senator Starr mentioned that trivia and Karaoke at the Goats Head is not on TechSync.
  - c. Chair Giacoman advised people to use bug-spray with the EEE outbreak.
  - d. Chair Tavares announced that ISC is hosting a trip to Boston leaving Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM
- XVI. Advisor's Remarks
- a. Advisor Charry thanked senators for their conversation regarding the closure of the Foise area. She asked senators to buy a band for Shrewsbury Street Shuffle for \$5 in the SAO. Family weekend is the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup>. Lastly, she thanked Vice President Toomey and the rest of exec for hosting Retreat
- XVII. President's Remarks
- a. President Wilson thanked everyone for their discussion on Foise, and will bring up Senators' ideas in her meetings with administration. She asked senators to let people know that SGA is working on the situation. She also thanked everyone for attending retreat.
- XVIII. Adjournment

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