

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

29th Student Government Association

16th Meeting of the Twenty-Ninth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Salisbury Labs, Room 411

6:00 p.m. – September 23rd, 2019

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
 - a. Will Gaddis presented regarding the Major and a Mission program. Major and a Mission is meant to help combine people's passion with their majors. This would give people confidence about their careers and get students excited about their future work. The program runs workshops to explore students' strengths, values, and passions, connect students with faculty involved in their passions, and help schedule classes and projects to match with both the student's passions and major. Major and a Mission is offering a 1/6 credit class in D-Term to explore the ideas of matching passion with careers. They are also offering a workshop on October 19th – 21st to develop skills and work with Boston companies. Lastly, any student can work on the Mission Quest, which will provide students with a counselor who will assist students in finding their dream careers and matching classes with the student's passion.
- IV. Special Orders
 - a. Honorary Appointments
 - i. President Wilson appointed Mia Hopman and Maria Sacristan-Benjet as honorary senators.
- V. President's Report
 - a. B-Term Cabinet Interims
 - i. President Wilson appointed Senator Cannata as the Interim Chair of Communications in B-Term.
 - ii. President Wilson appointed Senator Cataldo as the Interim Chair of Internal Affairs in B-Term.
 - b. Dining Services Council
 - i. The Dining Services council would like to have representatives on their council. They are requesting two senators interested in student life projects, with one that currently lives in WPI Dorms. President Wilson encouraged any senators, especially newer senators, to reach out to her if they are interested in this opportunity.
- VI. Vice President's Report
 - a. Senator Shoutout
 - i. Vice President Toomey shouted out Senators Guerrero and Rossetti for getting people involved in Financial Board. She also shouted out Chair Serven for her work on Gompei's Go-Tos and the Club Audit.
- VII. Secretary's Report
 - a. Dress Code Reminder

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- i. Secretary Burack reminded senators that the attire for Senate is Jeans Casual or Business Casual, which consists of either khakis or jeans with a blouse or polo/button-down shirt, unless stated otherwise.
 - b. Guess the SGA Member
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Club Auditing Update
 - i. Treasurer Candy reminded senators to schedule meetings with their club constituents. Also, he reminded senators to fill out the form for club audits
 - b. Student Census Project
 - i. Senator Rosenthal sent out a form for suggestions for the Student Census, and senators with ideas should fill out that form. This census is not only for financials, so he encourages senators to fill out the form for
- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
 - a. Elections Reminders
 - i. Executive Applicants and Slating Committee Applicants will receive an email regarding the next steps in the process.
 - b. Trivia
- X. Cluster Reports
 - a. Student Services Cluster
 - i. Gompei's Go-To's and Fall Treats – Chair Serven
 - 1. Chair Serven thanked all senators who helped with Gompei's Go-Tos.
 - ii. Senator Pitch – Chair Serven
 - 1. One of the Student Life Improvement Project groups is to develop a pitch to explain what SGA does.
 - Secretary Burack suggested focusing less on financials and more on academic and student life improvements.
 - Senator Charles suggested giving examples of projects SGA worked on.
 - Senator Trey-Masters suggested telling students about faculty panels SGA sits on.
 - Chair LaJeunesse suggested addressing misconceptions about SGA.
 - Senator Silvia suggested people talk about the fun things SGA does inside Senate.
 - Vice President Toomey suggested telling people how easy it is to get in contact with senators.
 - iii. Town Hall – Chair Tavares
 - 1. Chair Tavares announced that SGA will be holding a Town Hall on Thursday, September 26th in Atwater Kent, Room 233. This will be used to update and get feedback from the WPI community. Dean Weekes, President Wilson, and Treasurer Candy will be speaking to attendees regarding SGA.

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- Senator Guerrero suggested giving out superfan shirts at the Town Hall. Chair Tavares does not believe that would improve the event, as there will be plenty of confirmed attendees.
- Chair Bimonte suggested raffling an Ultrafan from a randomly selected opinion. This would draw people who may not be in the larger organizations on campus.
- iv. Throwing Superfans – Chair Tavares
 - 1. Chair Tavares and Senator Trey-Masters will be posting the schedule for throwing out Superfans to sports games this weekend.
- b. Internal Services Cluster
 - i. No Report
- c. Financials Cluster
 - i. No Report
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
 - a. Senator Shalit announced that the Safety Committee decided to give immunizations to students on October 2nd and October 3rd in the Campus Center.
- XII. New Business
 - a. S.11 SGA Constitution Updates
 - i. Chair Bimonte made a motion to put in a section for student petitions, adjustments to the approval of the standing rules, and changing the roles of the Secretary and Vice President.
 - 1. The petition section would mean that any petition with 15% of student body signatures must be heard in Senate.
 - Treasurer Candy asked what would happen in the case of more than 10 academic days passing before a Senate meeting. Chair Bimonte
 - Chair Tavares is against this change as we may not be able to question the validity of the people signing the petition. We may not be able to confirm that only current WPI students are signing the petition. We also may not be able to take a stance on something only because a small section of campus is signing the petition. Chair Bimonte responded by saying that there would be a clause stating that a special project sector would be formed to validate the petition
 - Senator Cataldo asked why this should be put in the constitution instead of the bylaws of standing rules. Chair Bimonte stated that it would be a bad image to not have this valid rule for a year if the next executive board is against it. It should also not be in the bylaws because they are more subject to change than the constitution.
 - Senator Stabile does not see a purpose for this in the constitution as this has not been thought over for a very

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- long time. There hasn't been a problem with petitions not being heard in Senate if there is validity.
2. Chair Bimonte explained that the standing rules could be approved after one week of discussion instead of two weeks, taking a 2/3 vote for adoption. This would allow each senate to have their own standing rules.
 3. Chair Bimonte explained that his proposed changes would have the Vice President oversee the Internal Services cluster, while the Secretary would oversee the Student Services cluster.
 - Senator Charles is against this change, as keeping the current structure would be better for newer senators
 4. Chair Tavares motioned to remove the requested changes for the petition clause and the changes in the duties of the Vice President and Secretary.
 - Secretary Burack is more in favor of the change in roles as the Vice President is more of an internally focused position.
 - Vice President Toomey believes that there is validity on both arguments.
 - Chair Tavares asked if the president has the power to determine which cluster the execs oversee.
 - i. Chair Bimonte showed that it is clearly stated in the Constitution, so the president would not have the authority to change it.
 - Senator Barrett asked if Vice President is considered to be more internal than the Vice President, especially with the Secretary Elections being internal.
 - i. Senator Charles stated that campus does not see much of the actions of the secretary.
 - Chair Bimonte stated that the documentation of projects should also be the duty of the Secretary, and not the Vice President.
 - i. President Wilson stated that it is more of the duty of the chairs to document projects.
 - **Outcome:**
 - i. **Motion Passed. The only remaining amendment to the constitution is the clause of the standing rules.**
 5. Treasurer Candy asked for the reasoning behind the amendments to the Standing Rules.
 - Chair Bimonte stated that the standing rules should be specific to each Senate.
 6. Chair LaJeunesse asked who writes the Standing Rules.
 - President Wilson explained that the Standing Rules are usually made as an executive board.

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7. Senator Cataldo is against this amendment because he doesn't believe there will be a circumstance where this will be necessary. Giving two weeks would give senators time to review the Standing Rules.
8. Chair Tavares is against this motion to give all senators the chance to fully review the document.
9. Senator Trey-Masters is in favor of this change as it will speed up the abilities of Senate.
10. Chair Hager is against this motion as there is no need to change it.
11. Chair Tavares asked how much of the standing rules remains consistent.
 - President Wilson stated that the majority of the Standing Rules remain consistent.
12. **Outcome:**
 - **Motion Does Not Pass.**
- ii. Treasurer Candy motioned to give Secretary the ability to vote in Cabinet.
 1. **Outcome:**
 - **Motion Passed**
- iii. Treasurer Candy motioned to re-add the article that outlines the procedures of removing an exec-elect.
 1. Chair Bimonte asked if this would be cabinet or exec voting.
 - Treasurer Candy answered that it would only be voted by exec.
 2. Treasurer Candy stated that there is not anything outlined that prevents an exec-elect from being removed if they are not doing their duties in the transition.
 3. Chair Tavares asked how an exec-elect would be removed.
 - President Wilson stated that this would be done only if the exec-elect is not performing their duties.
 4. Chair Serven asked if this situation would be a vote of only exec, or by cabinet?
 - President Wilson stated that the previous version of the constitution required a 2/3 vote of exec to remove an exec elect.
 5. Senator Cannata is for this motion because the slating committee may not be able to determine the future of the candidate.
 6. Chair Bimonte is against this motion because this clause would give the executive board a large amount of power to adjust the campus vote.
 7. Senator Cataldo believes that this would need to be reworded to state the voting members.
 8. Chair Tavares stated that this decision should be more of a cabinet decision.

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- Chair LaJeunesse is against an exec elect being voted by cabinet, as they may not know all problems that the executive board would experience.
- 9. Chair Tavares motioned to change the wording from 2/3 to a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
 - **Outcome:**
 - i. **Motion Passed**
- 10. Senator Charles stated that there could be the possibility of an existing voting executive member of the executive board as the exec-elect of the next Senate. If the president wishes to remove the exec-elect that is on the current executive board, that exec-elect could prevent that motion due to their vote on the executive board.
 - Senator Barrett asked if this would be a time when the President could vote, since it is a very similar situation to Slating Committee.
- 11. Senator Cannata recommended that if the exec-elect does not meet their duties, there should not be a vote.
- 12. Chair Giacomani motioned to table this decision.
 - Treasurer Candy is against this motion because we should decide on this now, so we do not enter a motion within a motion during the next Senate. Treasurer Candy motioned to reenter discussion.
 - i. Chair Bimonte is in favor of this motion, since it would allow senators to go over the constitution as a whole over the next week
 - ii. Chair Hager is against this motion, since we should spend more time to think about this decision.
 - iii. **Outcome:**
 - VIII> **Motion does not pass.**
 - **Outcome:**
 - i. **Motion Passed. Constitution changes will be tabled until the next Senate.**

XIII. Questions, Comments and Ideas

- a. Senator Cordova will be postponing headshots until next Senate.
- b. Vice President Toomey asked senators about what they would like to see for the next retreat. Previously, the retreat was to Boda Borg and Fire and ice as a day trip. Before that, Senate would spend a weekend overnight doing team bonding activities. She also asked if senators would prefer the weekend before classes, or the first weekend of the term.
 - i. Chair Bimonte is in favor of the overnight, as it allowed more senator bonding. Chair LaJeunesse agreed.
 - ii. Senator Silvia would be more in favor of the overnight.
 - iii. Senator Guerrero preferred the weekend after school starts. Chair Bimonte agreed that it would bring more attendance.

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- c. Chair Tavares recommended that before major discussions, new senators should discuss with old senators to assess how senate will receive proposed changes.
 - d. Senator Shalit asked about changing the layout of the rooms so senators are in a circle.
 - i. President Wilson respond that it would be difficult to fit a circle inside the room.
 - e. Senator Sanchez stated that the first-generation upper classmen are looking to make a club similar to Connections for freshmen.
- XIV. Announcements
- a. Trivia will be in the Goats Head on Tuesday Nights at 9:00 PM
 - b. Senator Wisniewski announced that anyone interested in sorority recruitment should attend the information sessions on Wednesday, October 2nd and in B-term.
 - c. The Jeopardy online test for college students will be opening on October 1st at 8:00 PM. WPI previously had a student compete, and it would be awesome to have another WPI contestant.
 - d.
- XV. Advisor's Remarks
- a. Advisor Sharry thanked senators for their help and support with family weekend. The last trip for A-Term is to the Wrentham Outlets on Saturday, September 28th. The SAO is hosting a coffee chat on campus life as part of a student leadership program.
- XVI. President's Remarks
- a. President Wilson thanked senators for good discussions in Senate, and advises all senators to take a look at the constitution to formulate opinions. She encourages senators to speak to each other and email her for suggestions.
- XVII. Adjournment

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