

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

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

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Foisie Innovation Studio, Room 105

6:00 p.m. – February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
  - a. Amy Beth, Senior Associate Director of Residential Services, came into Senate to give a debrief about housing selection. She started the presentation by sharing some givens (a given is something that is the same from year to year).
    - i. Upperclassman housing is not guaranteed on campus.
    - ii. Residential Services advertises housing from Mid-October to housing application deadline.
    - iii. The date range in terms of due dates and housing documentation is consistent.
    - iv. Residential Services always utilizes student feedback. For example, Last year they prioritized rising sophomores (for which they received negative feedback from both sophomores and seniors), so this year they prioritized based on group size and class year, so far it seems that the process has gone a lot smoother.
  - b. Next, Beth went over common misconceptions.
    - i. There's barely any housing for upperclassman students.
    - ii. Students want their first choice of housing, but this cannot happen because there is simply not enough space.
    - iii. Residential Services is hiding spaces, however, they post all spaces that fit the group size and time period.
    - iv. Example: I am in a group of 3, so there will just be 3 people living in that space when in reality it could be up to 7 people.
  - c. Next, Beth went over some facts and figures.
    - i. There are 973 upperclassman living in WPI housing for AY 20-21.
    - ii. The waitlist is available for anyone who is still interested.
  - d. Finally, Beth opened the floor up to questions.
    - i. I heard a rumor that first year students will not be allowed to commute; Is this true?
      1. This is true. There will no longer be first year commuter students, because research shows that students are happier and perform better when they live on campus.
    - ii. When selecting the new residential hall, Salisbury Estates, I noticed that I am unable to select specific buildings. Why is this?
      1. With construction for the new building, we don't know exactly which spaces the city will provide. As soon as Residential Services knows, students will know.

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## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

- iii. Going back to commuter students, what if someone is financially unable to live on campus?
  - 1. There is an appeal mechanism for students who truly need to commute.
- iv. To clarify, only first year students will be required to live on campus, right?
  - 1. Yes, as well as re-admits and transfer students.
- v. What happens in the case of a transfer student coming in halfway through the year?
  - 1. Residential Services will be able to provide housing.
- vi. What would happen if a student is unable to live in the provided housing due to financial reasons?
  - 1. They should not agree to their assignment and should reapply.
- vii. Is there priority for students who choose their group sooner than others?
  - 1. No, that would not be fair in the eyes of Residential Services.
- viii. How do you know how many places to offer in Salisbury Estates when you just said you are unsure how much space the city will provide?
  - 1. There are employees of WPI who are close to the city, so from them we know the minimum space that will be provided. Residential Services only offered the minimum number of places possible.
- ix. Do you do anything to raise awareness for off campus housing?
  - 1. Residential Services is currently in talks with local realtors who work for WPI. Additionally, they are looking to develop a program for D term for upperclassman to help them stand up for themselves when having a landlord. There will also be a follow-up program during the Fall semester to help students when it comes to signing a lease. Beth also added that stress is created by landlords on purpose.
- x. Comment: Both on and off campus housing should be introduced during NSO, because housing is a big issue for students.
- e. Beth closed with saying how Residential Service's timeline does not change, but Residential Services is available all times of the year. Students can always make a meeting with them; They are here to help.

#### IV. Special Orders

#### V. President's Report

- a. Interim President Tocci announced how Exec has a weekly meeting. We are very open to opening those meetings upon request. If you would like to come in and talk about anything, make sure to communicate this to Exec, and we will find a time to meet with you.
- b. Congratulations to Interim Chair Bradley and Chair Guerrero for being awarded as the Chairs of the Term.
- c. Congratulations to Senator Cierpich for being awarded as the Senator of the Term.
- d. Interim President Tocci closed his report by thanking everyone for a great term.

#### VI. Vice President's Report

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- a. Congratulations to Senator Hager for being selected as the D term Interim Community Outreach Chair.
- b. Interim Vice President Serven thanked Senate for a wonderful term! She is excited to come back in A term.
- VII. Secretary's Report
  - a. No Report
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
  - a. No Report
- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
  - a. Interim Parliamentarian Sanchez thanked Senate for a great term; She had a wonderful time serving as our Parliamentarian. She is looking forward to seeing everyone again in D term.
- X. Cluster Reports
  - a. Internal Services Cluster
    - i. Chair Guerrero asked Senate to vote on our apparel for this year.
  - b. Project Update Presentation for all Clusters (Power Point is Attached)
    - i. Academic Improvements
      - 1. Free printing is in reach!
      - 2. Met with multiple MASH instructors to gain data as well as analyze student feedback. This will continue.
    - ii. Student Life Improvements
      - 1. Go-Green: Working on implementing compost bins in residential halls.
      - 2. Campus feedback: Looking into having open hours and utilizing different communication outlets.
    - iii. Community Outreach
      - 1. Superfans/Ultrafans: Working on scavenger hunt ideas
      - 2. Working on having Town Halls for D Term.
      - 3. Upcoming Events: Relay for Life BBQ, Superfan Slogan Contest, and Planning for Pep Rally in A term
    - iv. Continuous Improvements
      - 1. CI Chit Chats: Did a practice run on Exec and Cabinet.
      - 2. Internal Audit: Goals of C term, and did we reach them?
    - v. Communications
      - 1. Improving Instagram feed, currently planning a photoshoot for next term.
    - vi. FRA
      - 1. Fiscal Trends
      - 2. Financial Transparency
    - vii. Appropriations
      - 1. Financials Canvas
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
  - a. No Reports
- XII. Old Business

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## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

- a. **S.2 Bylaw Revisions**
  - i. Chair Puhalski is in favor of this motion based on last week's discussion.
  - ii. Senator Ripa asked why we are adding a new class. Treasurer Nunez responded that this encourages clubs to reclassify.
    - 1. **Outcome: Motion Passed**
  - iii. Senator Fitzpatrick is for this, it makes sense.
  - iv. Senator Rhodes agrees with these changes. They make sense.
    - 1. **Outcome: Motion Passed**
  - v. Senator Wilde spoke with treasurers about this, and they were excited about these changes, especially the stickers.
  - vi. Interim Chair Bradley asked why stickers were not allowed before. Treasurer Nunez Responded that it was due to a misconception that facilities did not want this.
    - 1. **Outcome: Motion Passed**
  - vii. Treasurer Nunez made a motion to amend the Financials 101 document to specify that SGA does not fund food meetings.
    - 1. Senator Rhodes stated that this motion makes sense.
      - 1. **Outcome: Motion Passed**
  - viii. Senator Rhodes asked why we did not have to table the motion to amend the food meeting changes. Interim President Tocci responded saying that according to Robert's Rules, it is not necessary to provide a grace period to amendments to documents that have already been tabled.
  - ix. Chair Gammel is in favor of these documents being passed.
    - 1. **Outcome: Motion Passed**
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas
- XV. Announcements
  - a. Guerilla Improv is their term show on Thursday.
  - b. Gompei's Goat Cheese is looking to employ new sales representatives.
  - c. Reminder about the Career Fair on Thursday.
  - d. Wednesday is the last day to vote for Mr. WPI.
  - e. SocComm is having an off campus trip, and last day to sign up is Wednesday.
  - f. SocComm is having Academic Advising Day Eve (5-8 pm).
  - g. Tech News is having trivia upstairs in Foisie. There are food and prizes.
  - h. Trivia Upstairs
- XVI. Advisor's Remarks
  - a. No Remarks
- XVII. President's Remarks
  - a. Interim President Tocci thanked Senate again. It has been an absolute honor for him to serve as our President during this term. He reminded senators that their voice matters! All the work that they put in is a step towards making a big positive impact on campus, no matter how small the change. Senate is about going out there and doing the best we can to make a difference. One of his top priorities was to make Senate more fun and enjoyable, and he hopes that this is

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the experience that senators are walking away with, and if this is not true, then Exec will work on this for the future. He hopes that everyone stays amazing as they currently are for when Ryan returns in D term.

XVIII. Adjournment

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