

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

30th Student Government Association

10th Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Zoom Meeting Room, Meeting ID: 552 439 624

6:00 p.m. – April 21st, 2020

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

III. Public Comments

- a. Eric Beattie from **Facilities** came in to speak to Senate. He spoke on what facilities is doing during this term and how they are doing it. Before jumping into it, he made the point to say that the campus is still looking wonderful, as he was able to give it a quick visit, and he hopes that everyone can return sometime soon. Facilities were designated as essential workers because there are people and aspects of campus that still need to be serviced: There are some students who are unable to go home, some of the labs have delicate things happening in them that need to be protected and maintained, the mail office is still receiving packages and they are figuring out how to deal with these things, and the dining staff is still present. Altogether, there are a couple hundred people (students and staff) that are on campus.

Facilities employs around 100 people, and those people are still performing the custodial work that needs to be done. This work includes repair and grounds work, among other important jobs. Beattie noted that not all facilities employees are present on campus all at once; They have been rotating the staff so that only half are on campus at a time. Also, since the volume of people is not nearly what it normally is, there is not the same amount of work required as normal, so they doing other work that needs to be done such as preparing for the return of students and staff on campus. Additionally, there have been 5 staff members who have received extra training and special equipment for “deep cleaning,” just in case there is a case of COVID-19 on campus.

Beattie also touched on the on-going construction projects. Project managers are overseeing the construction work, making sure that they are following the Governor’s guidelines on safe practices. In addition to enforcing social distancing, everyone checks in in the morning and reports who they have been in contact with and how they are feeling, among other safety checks, and if they do not pass the morning-check, they are immediately sent home. Beattie said that a project they aim to complete this summer is the renovation of Harrington Auditorium. Another project that as suppose to start was the new residence hall at Salisbury Estate. This project is currently on hold since the future working environment is unknown; however, this does not affect the housing situation for next year since it was not going to be ready by then anyways.

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Throughout his comment, Beattie continually reinforced how the Environmental Health and Safety people are playing a key role on campus. They have been on the frontline for planning how to close the campus down, current monitoring of it, and making plans on how to re-open.

i. Questions

Why did they stop construction on Salisbury Estates when they did, and who was hired for construction on the project?

Answer: They had to stop it now or else it would have been more complicated to stop it later. They had reached a point in the project where it was appropriate to stop. They have not awarded any pieces for the project yet.

Are apartments at Salisbury Estates still available?

Answer: Yes. There is a project that they will be doing in May where they will be upgrading some of those apartments. This will be the first phase of two in improving these apartments.

Is there anything you want students to know about facilities?

Answer: Facilities hears from students frequently that they are happy with the work facility does. Beattie is very proud of his staff. They love WPI and would do anything for the place. He is very happy when students recognize the work facilities does.

Sometimes facilities hires students for the summer, is this still a thing?

Answer: They are unsure if they will be able to due to the current situation. They normally hire students for grounds work and summer cleaning in the residence halls. Beattie does not believe that there will be summer programs, so the amount of staff that is usually needed is not needed, and it is for this reason that they are unsure if they will be hiring students. Additionally, it is slightly complicated since student belongings are still in rooms. Faculty cannot go in when student belongings are there. They are currently creating a plan around this.

- b. Dominick Gravante and Meredith Gauthier came into Senate to talk about **Student Alumni Society (SAS)**. They shared that everything SAS is still happening meaning that they still have their Wednesday weekly meetings, there tribes (subcommittees) are still running, and they are having virtual events. For example, they recently had Ted Talks with SAS. This was an internal event to help members work on their presenting skills. Another thing is that they are having a social media event for Goddard Day: They are posting facts about Goddard and and creating videos on how to make rockets. Also, this past week they had Family Feud via Zoom. Another event they continued this week was the

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Candle Walk, where they give a historical tour of campus. Later on, they will still be having their senior BBQ, but they will be sending them their gifts and making PowerPoints for them. Finally, they closed with talking about the Herd@Home newsletter. It is a weekly newsletter that is sent to all undergrads, and the general idea of it is to provide some uplifting news to students. It is getting great interaction! One of the most popular segments of it is “Humans of WPI.” In fact, they will continue this as a social media page due to its popularity. All and all, the newsletter reminds students about our wonderful community!

i. Comments:

What you are doing this term is fantastic!

- c. Secretary Gruner-Mitchell spoke on behalf of Kevin Bimonte, who was unable to come due to a time conflict. He shared that r/WPI is looking for a new moderator (or moderators) and he think SGA should try to become a moderator. The application closes sometime early next week so it's important that maybe AI or SLI hop back onto the Reddit Project and submit an application. Reddit connects a lot of people at WPI and it might be beneficial for SGA in the long run.

i. Questions/Comments:

Treasurer Nunez stated that she can help if anyone is interested since she was involved with the Reddit Project last year.

What happened with the Reddit Project anyways?

Answer: There was a lack of interest during this past C term.

I think it would be pretty useful to connect with people that we might not connect with otherwise.

We can connect Reddit with the SGA website.

IV. Special Orders

V. President's Report

- a. No Report

VI. Vice President's Report

- a. There has been a 500,000 increase in cases since last Senate, which is 200,000 less than the week before. This is inconclusive whether this trend will continue. Some states are planning to reopen, while other states, which are traditionally conservative, are also looking towards reopening soon. These states are receiving criticism. In terms of small businesses, Congress is developing another package. Interim Vice President Bradley noted that even if we have reached the head of the curve, there is still a long recovery process.

VII. Secretary's Report

- a. No Report

VIII. Treasurer's Report

- a. No Report

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- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
 - a. Congratulations to Senator Buccowich for winning Kahoot!
- X. Cluster Reports
 - a. Student Services Cluster
 - i. No Report
 - b. Internal Services Cluster
 - i. No Report
 - c. Financials Cluster
 - i. No Report
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
 - a. Two members of Senate have been elected into positions in Worcester Student Government Association (WSGA). Interim Chair Hager has been elected Vice President and Senator Rhodes has been elected Treasurer!
 - b. Senator Shah announced that catalog supplements will be coming out soon. There will be more classes and minors.
- XII. Old Business
 - a. **S.4 Standing Rules**
 - i. Discussion:
 - i. Secretary Gruner-Mitchell made a motion that since Financials are a central part of SGA, that under Rule 5 of the Standing Rules it should be added that Senators must "Attend at least two (2) Financial Board Meetings."
 - Questions:
 - i. Does this mean two meetings per term? *Answer:* No, two meetings spread out over the year.
 - Discussion:
 - i. Senator Wilde is in favor of this since she has been asked a lot of questions about financials that she was unsure about.
 - ii. **Outcome: Motion Passes**
 - ii. Continued Discussion:
 - i. Chair Puhalski is in favor of this motion. He thinks the Standing Rules served us well last year.
 - ii. **Outcome: Motion Passes**
- XIII. New Business
 - a. **S.5 FY21 Budget** (see attached): Treasurer Nunez reported on the FY21 Budgeting Process. There were originally about 1 million dollars requested, and approximately \$700,000 was approved. Most mandatory transfers were not changed, except for club sports because they added something to their budget that they had made funding requests for in previous years. Our sponsorship limit (the amount of funds we can give out for funding requests) is the estimated total for student life fees minus the budgeting total minus the mandatory transfer total. Our

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current estimated sponsorship total is \$299,966.79, which puts us in a good spot for FY21.

i. Discussion:

- i. Interim Vice President Bradley is in favor of voting to table this until next week.
- ii. Treasurer Nunez made a motion to table the discussion until next week.

ii. **Outcome: Motion Passes**

b. S.6 Superfan Slogan 2020-2021: Community Outreach has narrowed down submissions for Superfan Slogans down to 9 choices. The top 4 choices, which will be voted on by Senate, will be sent out to the campus for voting.

i. Discussion:

- i. Senator Grady really likes “Whatever Floats Your Goat” and how it rhymes.
- ii. Chair Puhalski is not a fan of “Whatever Floats Your Goat” because of a previous slogan “We’re Going to Need a Bigger Boat,” it seems similar.
- iii. From voting the 4 slogans that will be sent to campus are as follows: **“Whatever Floats Your Goat,” “Let the Goat Times Roll,” “In Gompei We Trust,”** and **“Relax, We’ve Goat This.”**

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

XV. Announcements

- a. Remember to apply to Campus Hearing Board.

XVI. Advisor’s Remarks

- a. Advisor Sharry shared some events that are going on this week: Free Digital Characters (Friday), a program on designing one’s wellness and life balance (Monday), Free Money Game Show (Wednesday). Additionally, she congratulated Kenny and Rob on being elected to WSGA.

XVII. President’s Remarks

- a. President Candy thanked everyone for a successful week four of Virtual Senate. He also thanked everyone for their work with voting. Finally he reminded senators to apply for campus hearing board if interested.

XVIII. Adjournment

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