

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

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

11<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

III. Public Comments

a. Residential Services

i. Matt Foster from Residential Services came in to speak to Senate. He made it clear that they are following CDC and State Guidelines and working to establish plans accordingly. They have every intention of returning everyone's belongings and/or having students come in to get their things. They have decided on a plan to address this situation, and details will be shared with students via email in the coming days. There are roughly 160-170 students living on camps. They are working with these students by having 1 Res Service employee come into the office everyday (rotating schedule). There is continued communication with dining services for feeding these students to meet their dining needs. They are also having virtual meetings to plan for finishing the year and getting ready for next year. There is continued operations in the residential halls, such as facilities. They are also planning for summer on how to connect with incoming students, in collaboration with other offices. To help students stay connected this term they have 18 Virtual Peer Mentors who are providing support to students and Community Directors are hosting virtual programs through SAO programming.

ii. Questions:

1. When will this email be sent? *Answer: We are finalizing the language in the email which will come out in the coming days.*
2. Is there any sort of thought or planning on what to do if something like this happens again? *Answer: Absolutely. We are having conversations all the time on what this looks like. Right now, we are rolling with what has been presented to all of us. The university hopes to get back to being in person when it is safe. Even then we will be in a very different world. We are having conversations about what would this look like if this happened again, what plans do we want to put in place, and how would we do things differently if something like this happens again.*

b. Engineering Ambassadors

i. Rebecca Dawley from Engineering Ambassadors came into Senate. She explained how Engineering Ambassadors is a large group of student leaders who do STEM outreach for local youth, and they are still completing their mission from home. At the moment, they just finished

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their hiring process of 26 new ambassadors, which is the largest they have ever been, and they are preparing for their Senior Send Offs. To continue their work, Engineering Ambassadors are utilizing video and social media outreach, and they are having regular meetings to stay on track. To talk more about virtual outreach, they have a YouTube channel (**link attached**) on which they share activities that are easy to do at home to help families who want to keep their kids motivated and brains moving,

ii. Questions:

1. What is the age range of students you target? *Answer: Typically middle school, but we work with kids of all ages.*
2. How often do you go to schools? *Answer: We have 6 events a week, which are split up amongst all our ambassadors.*
3. Is this a job application process or club? *Answer: Yes, this is a job. We are paid to be a part of this organization and it is a application process. It is great for networking as well.*

IV. Special Orders

V. President's Report

a. No Report

VI. Vice President's Report

- a. Interim Vice-President Bradley updated Senate on how COVID-19 is affecting the country and related news. There has been a 100,000 increase in overall cases from last week. The graph of the U.S. is starting to look like a cosign graph. There are 80 companies that are developing vaccines. The University of Oxford seems to be the most promising. Finally, as states reopen, experts warn of risk of increased transmission.

VII. Secretary's Report

a. No Report

VIII. Treasurer's Report

a. No Report

IX. Parliamentarian's Report

- a. Parliamentarian Silvia gave a presentation explaining the differences between "Aye," "Nay," and "Abstain." She stated that this information is importance since we should be confident on how we are voting.
- i. Aye: You vote "Aye" when, with the knowledge you have on the topic, you support the motion
  - ii. Nay: You vote "Nay" when, with the knowledge you have on the topic, you do not the support the motion.
  - iii. Abstain: "Abstain" should be a rare case since each vote does matter. You vote this way if you do not have sufficient knowledge on the topic to form an opinion for or against, or if you feel you are in a position that is a conflict of interest.

Regardless of what side you are on, do not be afraid to share your opinion or ask questions. More discussion helps other people get more information on what you are voting on. If you feel uninformed, do not be afraid to ask clarifying questions.

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- b. Congratulations to Chair Moreira 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. The Committee on Academic Policy is voting to change project grading to be pass/fail soon.
- XII. Old Business
  - a. **S.5 FY21 Budget:** Treasurer Nunez presented again the proposed FY21 budget from last Senate.
    - i. **Discussion:**
      1. Chair Moreira is in favor of this budget, especially since the SLF is a conservative estimate. He stated that the math makes sense.
      2. Senator Pandit stated that these are uncertain times, so it is good that we are making a conservative estimate. This seems to be an accurate prediction.
      3. Chair Hubbard is in favor because she trusts financial's work.
    - ii. **Outcome: Motion Passes**
- XIII. New Business
  - a. **S.7 Bylaw Revisions:** Treasurer Nunez presented the proposed changes to the bylaws. The first change is under Title 5: Communications Sector, Article 3: Responsibilities, Section 1: Improving Communications with Campus. This change identifies the platforms the Communications Sector should use to communicate with campus. The second change is under Title 9: Fiscal Structure and Policy, Article 7: Financial Board, Section 1: Purpose and Composition. This change updates the requirements for a senator to be summoned to Financial Board.
    - i. **Discussion**
      1. Interim Chair Ourdyl motioned to change the wording of the proposed revision under Title 5 from "Instagram" to "Social Media." He believes that it is a simple change that encourages us to branch out in the future.
        - **Discussion**
          - i. Chair Sanchez is in favor of this because as Communications Chair they already have branched out beyond Instagram.
          - ii. Senator Pandit is in favor of this because we recently got a TikTok, so we are already expanding our social media presence.
        - **Outcome: Motion Passes**

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2. Chair Rosenthal is in favor of the financial revision. They have had times in the past where they needed people pretty badly in order to meet quorum for voting. Also, the changes under Communication seems like a good clarification.
3. Senator Shah made a motion to add a qualifier in terms of time between when a senator attends a financial meeting and when they can be called to Financial Board.

- **Discussion**

- i. Senator Buccowich agrees with this and thinks that this time should be less than 6 months before being able to be called to Financial Board.
- ii. Treasurer Nunez asked for clarification of what the motion is. *Answer: The meeting you attended needs to be X amount of time before being able to vote on Financial Board.*
- iii. Chair Puhalski thinks the wording should be in terms of WPI Terms rather than months.
- iv. Interim Chair Ourdyl agrees with this motion but he does not think it should not be based on time but based on experience.
- v. Interim Vice President Bradley agreed and argued that it should be based off experience since the reason for this Bylaw Change is to ensure that we have enough senators to pull from when required.
- vi. Treasurer Nunez made a clarifying point that we cover a variety of topics in Financial Board, so experience is a good measure.
- vii. Chair Rosenthal feels that it is not necessary to add a time restriction on it. Just do it based off who is available and leave it up to the discretion of the Treasurer.
- viii. Chair Puhalski said that we have already set the requirement of attending 1 Financial Board meeting.
- ix. Treasurer Nunez said that Chair Rosenthal makes a really good point, that who is called in is based off of the discretion of the treasurer.

- **Outcome: Motion Does Not Pass**

4. Interim Chair Ourdyl agrees with the Bylaw Changes; They are very simple. He also supports the fact that the treasurer chooses who comes.
5. Senator Pandit agrees with the Bylaw Changes.
6. Treasurer Nunez made a motion to table the revisions to next week.

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### ii. Outcome: Motion Passes.

- b. **S.8 Reserve Transfer:** Treasurer Nunez explained how we have multiple accounts. The sponsorship account holds the money we have to allocate from, and the reserve has the rollback from previous years. The refund came out of the sponsorship funds, however, some of the funds that will cover that are still allocated in budgets, so we need to use the reserve balance to balance the sponsorship account for what we have allocated through FRs this year.

- i. Treasurer Nunez made a motion to transfer \$249,428.99 from the reserve account to the sponsorship account.

#### 1. Discussion

- Senator Wilde is in favor of this, because she thinks it is important to balance the sponsorship account with the reserve account.
- Senator Shah is in favor of this since it seems impossible to sponsor a refund to students without the funds. We promised to do this, so why wouldn't we take the action to make this possible?

### ii. Outcome: Motion Passes

#### XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- a. Parliamentarian Silvia stated that we had a great discussion today, and she is very proud of everyone!

#### XV. Announcements

- a. Divest WPI is a new group that is petitioning for WPI to divest from fossil fuels. WPI's endowment is suspected to be largely invested in fossil fuel companies, which does not feel ethically right to this group of students. He will be sharing the link to their petition via Slack.
- b. Trivia Tuesday!
- c. Make sure to share elections for Campus Hearing Board and Slogans.
- d. If you are interested in being a First Generation Mentor, you should sign up!

#### XVI. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Advisor Sharry stated that finals are right around the corner and this has not been the easiest of terms. She wants to remind everyone to take care of themselves and if anyone needs support, to feel free to come to her.

#### XVII. President's Remarks

- a. President Candy thanked everyone for the discussion during Senate; it was great to hear. Senators represent the student body, so our voices are incredibly important. He looks forward to continuing this discussion and work. Finally, he echoed Senator Wilde in encouraging senators to share Campus Board and Slogan elections, since they are live until Friday at 5 p.m.

#### XVIII. Adjournment

- a. Senator Shah asked for clarification on when to use "So moved" versus "Seconded." *Answer: Only when President Candy entertains a motion is "So Moved" needed since he is chairing the meeting.*

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