

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

30th Student Government Association

15th Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Zoom Meeting ID: 952 4476 3062

6:00 p.m. – September 15th, 2020

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Club of the Week

African Percussion and Dance Ensemble (APDE)

Aidan Horn, Vice President, came in to talk about APDE. They have been active at WPI for 20 years, playing Ewe music. Horn then informed Senate the Ewe music comes from the Ewe people of Ghana. APDE's mission at WPI is to expose the Worcester Community to this music.

The group positively affects its members by building their confidences in group performance and it also serves as a starting point for those with little musical experience. The reason that APDE is so beginner friendly is because the music is meant to be learned through imitation of the instructor (i.e. there is no sheet music); Everyone all learns to play together. They have performed at a multitude of events, including BSU Fashion Show, Relay for Life, and Mechanics Hall. Horn updated Senate on their plans for this academic year: They have moved their practice location to Higgins Lawn; They are producing multitrack recordings with video tutorials; and they are hoping to host drum workshops. African Percussion and Dance Ensemble's main goal is to expand awareness of their club this year.

- V. Special Orders

President Candy appointed Jonathan Aronoff as a Honorary Senator at 6:02 P.M.

- VI. President's Report

President Candy thanked Senator Fan and Senator Hubbard for volunteering to be student representatives. He stated that we need another representative for WSGA (Worcester Student Government Association); The group meets every Sunday. Additionally, we need another student on UOAC; This is a faculty committee that meets every other Wednesday. If you are interested, please let President Candy know.

The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

VII. Vice President's Report

Vice President Serven informed Senate that she is currently planning a hybrid Fall Retreat.

On another note, she spoke on how many people have reached out to her in regards to having trouble contacting their project team. As a result, time was taken in Senate to ensure that everyone is in contact with their group. Please note that if you are not in a project yet, please contact Vice President Serven.

Vice President Seven then announced that she will be continuing the debate series this term. The reason we do these are to encourage Senators to discuss more and be more comfortable with sharing their thoughts, insights, and opinions. Each Senator represents 80 – 100 undergraduates, so it is important that we have a general sense of what people's opinions are so we can communicate them properly in Senate.

Finally, before closing, she reminded senators that slating and Exec applications close soon. If anyone is interested in Vice President, she asks that they reach out to her.

VIII. Secretary's Report

a. No Report

IX. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nunez reminded (and informed the new senators) Senate that last term we decided, by a Senate vote, that every Senator needs to come to a Financial Board meeting every academic year. Please sign up for a time! If you have a time conflict, please send Treasurer Nunez a message on Slack.

X. Parliamentarian's Report

Parliamentarian Silvia ran Kahoot, and she had Senators debate the topics.

XI. Cluster Reports

a. Student Services Cluster

i. No Reports

b. Internal Services Cluster

The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Chair Tocci reminded everyone that slating and and Exec applications are due by the end of next week. He shared with Senate that being a part of slating committee is a really rewarding experience, and he encourages anyone who is interested to apply.

c. Financials Cluster

Chair Hubbard spoke on creating a template for financial requests, reallocations, and appeals, a project she and her team worked on throughout the Spring Semester. The basic outline is as follows:

- Information on the organization
- Information about the request
- The cost breakdown
- Any additional information

Questions

How will you share this template with clubs?

Answer: We will send an email to clubs before they come in. In the future it will also be on our website, the financial canvas (another project Chair Hubbard is working on), and on TechSync.

- XII. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
 - a. No Reports
- XIII. Old Business
- XIV. New Business

S.9 Bylaw Revisions

Parliamentarian Silvia revisited the topic of Internal vs External elections for Secretary.

Motion: To edit Article 2 of Title 10.

Discussion:

- Chair Tocci is for this motion. From the discussions he has had with students on campus, it does not think that it makes sense for students to not have a choice on who is Secretary, especially considering that Secretary is a voting member of Exec.
- Chair Puhalski is also in favor of this revision. He stated that some people's concerns around this are that the student body is not aware of the

The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

responsibilities of Secretary. Students voting on the position would help to change this.

- **Question:** Secretary Gruner-Mitchell asked for clarification on this motion: If these bylaws passed, would the Secretary position be elected on the same ballot or a different ballot?

Answer: Secretary would be voted on the same ballot as Vice President, President and Treasurer.

- Chair Hubbard is for this motion because she believes that having Secretary voted on by the student body will increase SGA's transparency.

Motion to table: **Motion Passes.**

XV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- Senate was reminded the importance of asking questions, sharing your opinions, and voting. It was pointed out that the discussion we just had was all for the motion at hand, yet there were votes against the motion. It is okay to share your opinion, even if it is not shared by the majority. It was also mentioned that Honorary Senators should not be voting.
- Senator Shah mentioned that people at WPI do not know what is happening in Worcester. There have been significant protests against Police. Regarding the economic crisis caused by the virus, the city of Worcester is giving out loans and grants to struggling businesses. Many of these loans are going to minority businesses. Additionally, the city is holding a contest for a new Voting Stickers.

XVI. Announcements

- Trivia Tuesday is every Tuesday! Sign up on TechSync if you're interested!
- Career Fair is coming up!
- Bowling Club will be holding their first GBM soon.
- November 3rd is voting day. Remember to vote and be sure to register if you are not registered yet.
- The last slating info session is after next Senate.

XVII. Advisor's Remarks

The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Advisor Sharry said that there is a Kiosk and QR code in the CC if you need to register to vote. SAO is continuing weekend programming. If you have any ideas for SAO, please reach out to her.

XVIII. President's Remarks

President Candy thanked everyone for their discussions today on Parliamentary Silvia's debate styled Kahoot. Again, if you have any interest on being a student representative, please reach out to him. Finally, President Candy echoed past remarks saying that the slating/Exec info sessions take place immediately after Senate.

XIX. Adjournment

The Mission of SGA is to improve the quality of undergraduate student life at the University both academically and socially by addressing student needs and concerns, providing financial structure of WPI's student clubs and organizations, and representing the student body in a professional manner.