

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

30th Student Government Association

16th Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Zoom Meeting Room: 952 4476 3062

6:00 p.m. – September 22nd, 2020

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

Club of the Week: **Audiophiles**

The Audiophiles' Instagram: @wpiaudiophiles

Sophia Cheng, Bob Gobler, and Brianna Anksitius spoke on behalf of Audiophiles when presenting to SGA. They are the only co-ed acapella group at WPI, of the 5 existing groups, the only group that has an album, and the only group on campus who competes at the ICCAs. Throughout the year, they have one main show at WPI that they prepare for that usually takes place in B Term. For this academic year, though, the Audiophiles are focusing on professional recordings and holding COVID-19 appropriate rehearsals; They will not have live performances through the end of 2020. The speakers noted that when they record, they plan on having 1 member singing at a time then bringing the recordings together. To properly rehearse, they have split into small rehearsal sections and remain 10 feet apart. Due to COVID-19, new challenges have arisen for the group: booking rehearsal space, reimagining socially distance options, and funding projects and shows.

Questions:

Where can students find your album?

Answer: Some clips are uploaded to YouTube and there are two songs on Spotify. Also, there is a Linktree on Instagram which will take you to their songs.

- IV. Special Orders

President Candy appointed Raman Kaushik and Samuel Levitan as Honorary Senators at 6:02 P.M.

- V. President's Report
 - a. No Report
- VI. Vice President's Report

Vice President Serven, recognizing the stress midterms can cause, gave advice to Senate through listing the academic resources that WPI provides. She then reviewed how Senate is organized, specifically the three senator categories: Full, Interim, and

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Honorary. A full Senator is either elected by the student body or appointed by the SGA President, and they have full voting rights; An Interim Senator temporarily fills the role for a full Senator who is temporarily inactive; An Honorary Senator is an additional participant in a full Senate who does not receive a vote.

Finally, Vice President Serven explained the plan for retreat which will be taking place on October 3rd. There will be a virtual and an in-person section, and during retreat itself there will be an informational part and a scavenger hunt. She asked Senators to fill out the retreat attendance form that she will be sending out tonight via Slack; It is very important that everyone fills it out (whether you will be attending retreat or not) so that she may properly plan the event.

- VII. Secretary's Report
 - a. No Report
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
 - a. No Report
- IX. Parliamentarian's Report

Parliamentarian Silvia reviewed the differences between Aye, Nay, and Abstain. When one votes "Aye" then with the knowledge they have on the topic, they support the motion. When one votes "Nay" then with the knowledge on the topic, they do not support the motion. When one votes "Abstain" they do not have sufficient knowledge on the topic, or they feel that they are in a position of conflict of interest. Above all, do not be afraid to speak out and ask questions! After the presentation, Parliamentarian Silvia hosted a game of Discussion Kahoot!

- X. Cluster Reports
 - a. Student Services Cluster
 - i. No Report
 - b. Internal Services Cluster

- i. Chair Sanchez gave a presentation on the importance of Communications. She explained how from communications we receive news, entertainment, information, etc. She explained how her cluster provides information to campus on SGA, campus events, WPI updates, and so on. Her team also maintains the public image for SGA via social media, as well as ensuring that the info that they share is correct, up to date, and professional. She closed with asking anyone who is interested in the Communication projects to please reach out to her!
 - ii. Senator Petros has been designing apparel for the 30th Senate. She sent out a form to see how many people would be interested in buying one. This form is due by Friday at 3 p.m.

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- iii. Chair Tocci reminded Senate that Exec and Slating applications close Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Additionally to apply to either of the positions, it is mandatory to attend an info session, and the last session is after Senate today.
- c. Financials Cluster
 - i. No Report
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
 - a. No reports
- XII. Old Business

S.9 Bylaw Revisions: Motion to change Secretary from an internally elected position to an externally elected one.

Discussion

- a. Senator Wilde believes that Secretary should be elected externally. The cluster under Secretary does external work. Additionally, Secretary has a vote on Exec.
- b. Senator Parenteau agrees with Senator Wilde. He also added that based on Secretary Gruner-Mitchell's description of her role, Secretary does a lot of work communicating externally with campus. *Refer to the Minutes of the 14th meeting for further detail.*
- c. Chair Puhalski added that we shouldn't be concerned about the student body voting for someone who would not be good in the role because we would only slate people who we believe can fulfill the position requirements.

Outcome: Motion Passes

- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas
 - a. Senator Shah wanted to follow up on what he said about Police Violence in Worcester last week. He stated that a Worcester City department reached out to the city with concerns on the local Police Department. The Chief of the Worcester Police responded by saying that systemic racism does not exist within his department. Senator Shah shared that this makes him wonder if there exists any systemic racism in SGA, and wondered out loud how we would go about checking this?

Senator Buccowich suggested that we create a position whose purpose is exactly this. She noted that other clubs on campus have added this position to their club.

- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Advisor's Remarks

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Advisor Sharry shared that SAO is trying to increase virtual events on campus, so we are having a game night later this week! She asked for Senators involved in other clubs to check TechSync for new members.

XVII. President's Remarks

President Candy thanked everyone for the great discussion on Kahoot and for those who spoke up during our bylaw discussion.

XVIII. Adjournment

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