

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

30th Student Government Association

18th Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Zoom Meeting Room: 952 4476 3062

6:00 p.m. – October 6th, 2020

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

Club of the Week: **VOX**

The Vice President and Treasurer of VOX came to Senate to talk about their organization. The mission of VOX is to provide an open, inclusive space for students of all backgrounds to come together and practice theatre! VOX has a very involved general body and pride themselves on the fact that they put on completely student run products. They have shows in A term, C term, and D term.

The process of putting together a show begins at least one term before the show is open to the public. VOX's A term is usually their biggest show; They start planning for it in C term. Between this time and A term, they select a show, hire a director, hold auditions, design and coordinate the show, and purchase all necessary equipment. Their C term show is a musical that is smaller scale than the A term show. In D term they have a completely student run cabaret. For this show they choose a theme, choose songs that fit this theme that will help tell a loose story. All of their shows reach a wide audience.

VOX incorporates a lot of people into their shows. They usually need 40+ people per production! The organization welcomes anyone who enjoys art, music, or those who want to learn a new skill. They closed with explaining that anyone is welcomed to get involved with their group!

Questions:

You mentioned that you vote on different show; Have you ever had a student written show?

Answer: No, we have not. This is because of the nature of musicals: The show would need to be entirely composed. Though, our D term Cabernet requires student written scripts. Also, Masque presents this opportunity to students.

What does VOX stand for?

Answer: VOX means voice, and we do a lot of singing.

IV. Special Orders

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

President Candy appointed Daniel Perno as an Honorary Senator at 6:02 p.m.

V. President's Report

President Candy shared how great it was to meet senators in person during retreat! He wants more chances to get to know you Senate better, so he asks anyone who wants to talk to please send him an Outlook invite or a Slack message.

President Candy then announced that he will be sending out an Exec feedback form in Slack. He emphasized how SGA Exec wants to be the best it can be for Senate, so please let Exec know how they can improve.

Finally, he announced the two Chairs of the Term: Chair Gammal and Chair Tocci! Congratulations!

VI. Vice President's Report

Vice President Serven thanked everyone who was able to come to retreat. She understood that there were some technical difficulties, but she appreciates everyone who helped to make it great! She asks anyone who has any feedback to please reach out to her; She is very open to critique.

She then announced the Senators of the Term: Senator Pimental and Senator Parenteau! Congratulations!

Finally, Vice President Serven shared that every week she will now be choosing 3 senators to make a 1-2 slide presentation about something they are passionate about and to briefly present it to Senate. She is hoping that this will allow Senate to learn something new and to get to know each other a little better. Vice President Serven then presented on frogs, something that she is passionate about.

VII. Secretary's Report

Secretary Gruner-Mitchell decided to extend the deadline to fill out the Mentor/Mentee form. She is hoping that this will encourage more senators to apply.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

a. No Report

IX. Parliamentarian's Report

Parliamentarian Silvia shared a Kahoot with Senate that polled senators about their overall experience in Senate so far. These were the discussion points:

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

- a. **Speaking Up in Senate:** This is what Senate discussed:
 - i. Splitting up into small groups so you can get to know people better could help to build confidence to speak up in Senate.
 - ii. Make the new senator meeting with the Vice President more standardized. Hopefully this will help senators have more confidence.
 - iii. I feel comfortable sharing my thoughts in my cluster but sharing in Senate is more difficult because I am not confident with Roberts rules.
 - iv. It can be intimidating to share an opinion in front of so many new people.

- b. **The Work SGA does is Recognized by Campus:** This is what Senate discussed:
 - i. Having senators assigned to certain clubs outside of financials could improve this.
 - ii. It may not be a lack of recognition, but a lack of awareness.
 - iii. We may not have a system in place to measure if we are or aren't being recognized.
 - iv. I think we need a better connection with clubs. There is an opportunity to reach out to clubs and ask if we can go and tell them what SGA does.
 - v. We should hold Townhalls.

- c. **SGA has Helped Me to Improve my Professional/Leadership Skills:** This is what Senate Discussed:
 - i. It would be helpful to provide more opportunities to present to Senate and to work on Zoom presentation skills.

- d. **I Enjoy coming to Senate Meetings:** This is what Senate discussed:
 - i. The main problem with Zoom is that people feel so disconnected with each other. I think the best thing we have done so far is utilize breakout rooms.
 - ii. We should have more Senator Events, such as yoga for example!

President Candy then reemphasized the Exec Feedback Form. Parliamentarian Silvia followed by reminding Senate that there is a section of our agenda dedicated to Questions, Comments and Ideas for Senate, and she recommended Senators to use it.

X. Cluster Reports

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

Chair Tocci thanked the Slating Committee for coming together last week; It was fun! He also thanked Exec for putting together a great Senate term. Chair Tocci then talked about B term elections: His team is still determining the schedule. Usually, candidates can start campaigning the first week we are back, during 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

second week are when voting portals are open. More information is going to come from Parliamentarian Silvia and himself in the future.

- c. Financials Cluster
 - i. No Report
- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. **New Business**

a. S.10 31st Executive Slate

Parliamentarian Silvia and Chair Tocci presented the Slate to the 30th Senate. They told senators that a 2/3rd vote is required to make any changes. Then we will have a vote to approve the Slate which will also require a 2/3rd vote. If a senator would like to add themselves or nominate someone to the Slate, please make a motion to do so. The nominee will present to Senate, then will be question by Senate, then the nominee will leave the room and Senate will discuss then vote.

For President the committee slated **Renee Gruner-Mitchell**; For Vice President the committee slated **John Parenteau** and **Lauryn Hubbard**; For Treasurer the committee slated **Marc Rosenthal**; For Secretary, the committee slated **Jorgo Gushi** and **Micah Wilde**. Chair Tocci then reviewed the key points as to why these people were slated into these positions. He then reiterated that anyone can nominate anyone for the Slate, then a vote is needed to make anything concrete. He also noted that more than 2 candidates are allowed for each position. Once Senate goes through any additions and/or removals (because people can be removed as well as added to the slate) Senate will vote.

Discussion

- a. Chair Tocci pointed out that the committee is only presenting one candidate for President and Treasurer. This was a decision in Slating Committee that did not come lightly. The discussion was long, about 6-7 hours.
- b. Senator Shah asked how it would work if an Exec was gone for IQP? *Answer:* President Candy said that the President at the time is allowed to choose an interim President, which is then approved by the Senate.
- c. Senator Shah then stated his concern about there being two positions where people do not have a choice. He asked if there is a write-in option? *Answer:* No, there is not a write in option.

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

- d. Senator Ourdyl disagreed with Senator Shah's point. A candidate needs to be very prepared for this position. He believed that both Renee and Marc are very well suited for the positions that they have been slated for.
- e. Chair Puhalski pointed out that in years prior there have been several elections where a president ran unopposed. The purpose of the Slate is to ensure that people running can fulfill the needs of the position. Everyone on the Slate needs to have confidence in this person. He also re-emphasized that a Slate can only allow 2 people, so he encourages anyone who is considering running to go for it!

Outcome: Motion Passes

b. Project Updates

Each project group will present what they have worked on this term. **See attached PowerPoint for further detail.**

- Community Outreach
 - Homecoming Week Festivities
 - Superfans/Ultrafans
 - GGC/SGA Collab
- Student Life Improvements
 - Pandemic Student Life
 - Newsletter
- Academic Improvements
 - Printing Stipend for Full Time Students
 - Improving tutoring services on campus
- Internal Affairs
 - Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules Improvement
 - Elections
- Continuous Improvements (Separate PowerPoint attached)
 - Internal Audit
 - CI Chit Chats
- Communications
 - Social Media
 - Website
- Appropriations
 - Treasury Update
 - SGA Financial Canvas
- Fiscal Responsibility & Assistance
 - Club Budget Audit
 - Internal Budget Audit

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

XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas

XV. Announcements

- a. Senator Shah informed Senate on Questions 1 and 2 that will appear on Voting Ballots in Massachusetts. Question 1 is the “Right to Repair Law” which is about vehicle data access requirements. Question 2 is on ranked choice voting. He shared that voting “yes” on Question 2 would allow state elections to proceed through ranked-choice voting, which he believes is more fair and would allow more diverse candidates to run for office. Voters would also be able to confidently vote for their first choice because they can rank candidates in order of preference.
- b. Make sure that you are registered to vote!!!

XVI. Advisor’s Remarks

Advisor Sharry congratulated everyone who was voted to the Slate. She also congratulated Senate on the progress that was made. She announced that there will be a leadership luncheon on Wednesday and to please RSVP if interested. There is also a program next Thursday for clubs on how to create virtual events.

XVII. President’s Remarks

President Candy thanked Senate for all their good work this term, and he is looking forward to what can be accomplished in B term! He then reminded senators to reach out to him for one-on-ones and to fill out the Exec Feedback form in Slack. He closed by congratulating those who had been slated for the 31st Exec and wished everyone the best on finals!

XVIII. 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.