

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

30th Student Government Association

19th Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Zoom Meeting Room: 952 4476 3062

6:00 p.m. – October 27th, 2020

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Special Orders
- V. President's Report
 - a. No Report

VI. Vice President's Report

Vice President Serven welcomed everyone back! She reminded everyone of the importance of voting in SGA elections. Next, she offered senators the chance to present on any topic that they are interested on to practice their public speaking skills; However, since no one accepted her offer for this Senate, she presented on a topic she is interested in, frogs.

Vice President Serven then presented on the importance of filling out the intention form and staying true to it! She asks those to keep in mind that if they are irresponsible over break and come back to campus, they are potentially ruining the rest of B term for everyone. Finally, Vice President Serven updated Senate on the weather forecast for the week, because we are entering colder weather.

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

Parliamentarian Silvia hosted an election themed Kahoot!

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

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Chair Tocci reminded Senate that we are in the middle of our Exec elections. He encouraged senators to discuss elections with their friends and classmates to help promote elections. He informed everyone that during last year's election over 1200 students voted, and it would be great to hit that mark again.

The next topic Chair Tocci spoke on was Senator elections. He shared that we usually ask those interested in joining SGA to receive 60-80 signatures from fellow students; However, this year it is a concern due to the pandemic. He opened the floor for discussion on this topic.

- Senator Hager suggested that we have people reach out to others and sign on behalf of them.
- Senator Wilde suggested that we could send out an excel sheet so people could signature electronically.
- i. Parliamentarian Silvia said that we could do something like what is done petition websites: Senators could include their bios and headshots and students could sign in support.

c. Financials Cluster

Chair Hubbard updated Senate of the new clubs that had been approved during this year (the financial board sits on a committee that approves new clubs to campus). In C term two new clubs were approved: Campus Recreation Advisory Council and First Generation Student Association. In D term one new club was approved: Women's Basketball.

XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

- a. **Undergraduate Academic Calander:** Secretary Gruner-Mitchell presented on next year's undergraduate academic calendar. She asked senators to consider and discuss relevant points such as the length of term breaks, school year start dates, and the length of winter break. Before going into breakout rooms, senators asked the following questions:

- Senator Burns asked what would a 6-day break look like in terms of start and end dates? *Answer: Break would begin during one weekday and end during the next.*

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- Senator Puhalski asked if the 4 days breaks are solely a result of pandemic or if administration has other reasons for it? *Answer: To Secretary Gruner-Mitchell's knowledge, the only reason the 4-day break possibility exists is due to COVID-19.*
- Senator Chen asked if the number of break days will be the same no matter what? *Answer: I assume so, but I am not sure.*

Senators were then split into breakout rooms to further discuss this. Here are the common themes of their discussions:

- Having a longer break is preferred (not necessarily the full 10 days, but somewhere within the 6-10 range)
 - Students will still go home even if the breaks are short
 - Students need time to relieve stress, relax, and prepare for upcoming term
- Longer winter break is not worth having shorter fall and spring breaks
 - Longer winter breaks make it more difficult to return to the school mindset
 - Shorter winter break to start C term earlier
- Start school earlier (normal mid-late-August date)

- b. Senate Ice Breaker:** Senators were split into breakout rooms to play an ice-breaker game.

XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas

XV. Announcements

- a. Go vote in national elections!! It is important!**

XVI. Advisor's Remarks

Advisor Sharry announced to Senate that WPI has hired another staff member in the SAO. Additionally, if anyone is looking for a pick-me-up this week, there will be a candy bar in the campus center lobby on Friday from 1-4 p.m.

XVII. President's Remarks

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President Candy urged those who are eligible to please vote! He recently had a chat with President Leshin about the importance of civic engagement, so please do vote! Also he reminded senators to vote in SGA Exec Elections this week. Finally, he closed with asking Senate to feel free to reach out to Exec with any questions, comments, or ideas for this upcoming term.

XVIII. Adjournment

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