

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

32nd Student Government Association

13th Meeting of the Thirty Undergraduate Student Government Association To
be held in Innovation Studio 203
6:00 p.m. – August 30th, 2022

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Special Orders
 - A. Senator Link was appointed as the Fiscal Responsibility and Assistant chair
 - B. A new honorary senator was appointed
- V. **President's Report**
 - A. Happy A Term!
 - 1. President Wilde welcomed everyone back after their summer and the executive board was introduced to new people
 - B. Presidential Search Update
 - 1. President Wilde was present for interviews for candidates for the new president of WPI. There is a diverse pool of candidates with very qualified individuals. She has been able to provide a student perspective on the committee
 - C. Faculty Committees
 - 1. The following committees need to be filled:
 - a) Committee on Academic Operations
 - b) Committee on Academic Policy
 - c) Committee on Advising and Student Life
 - d) Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee
 - e) Educational Development Council
 - f) Committee on IT Policy
 - g) Sexual Assault Prevention Committee
 - 2. Faculty committees are a shared governance system where faculty and students get a say to be able to keep the senate and the student body updated. You get to meet faculty and admin.
 - 3. Vice President MacGregor shared that this is a unique opportunity to connect directly with the administration and to ignore any stigma about being unqualified. You can always have an important voice on the committees and it is very great to get involved. For example, you have a voice in things like the pass/NR system.
- VI. **Vice President's Report**
 - A. Vice President MacGregor wanted to acknowledge the amazing support we received at the activities fair, and how we are looking forward to meeting new senators. Once you get approved as an honorary senator, you will be involved in the senate and get assigned a project. Please do not be afraid to ask questions! For returning senators and chairs, the idea is to continue with the same chair, unless you are not interested in that committee, where you can reach out to him directly

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VII. Secretary's Report

A. SGA office access

1. Secretary Damon asked everyone to please fill out the form in the slack to receive card access to the SGA office

VIII. Treasurer's Report

A. Upcoming Audits on Clubs

1. Treasurer Mullenburg shared they will be discussing audits in financial board. This is a rubric where club spending of previous years is reviewed to make sure that budgets are being spent correctly

B. Establishing Rules of Thumb Tomorrow

1. Treasurer Mullenburg shared Financial Board is at 6pm in the Taylor Room!

C. Financial Board: What is it?

1. Treasurer Mullenburg shared clubs come to financial board and pitch events that they want to happen on campus

IX. Parliamentarian's Report

A. Restructure for SGA Operation

1. Background: Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that there are restructures that occur every 2-3 years to make sure we are accomplishing our mission to improve the quality of student life and the WPI experience. This is also so the time is optimized at senate. This year's plan for restructure is as follows:

a) Projects were taken away from faculty committees and financials.

- (1) Projects will not be a requirement, just some sort of external involvement besides the time in senate.
- (2) Your role of a senator does not require you both to be on projects and on financials or a faculty committee

b) The idea of a senate chair to be the SGA president for internal organization and running the senate meetings

- (1) The Student Body President is elected to provide perspective on changes for the student body and would also offer more capacity for big picture brainstorming
- (2) This will maximize the allocation of time

2. We need feedback on these decisions for constitutions changes for the next senate

3. Once again, this has been a discussion for several years, so this isn't new

B. Questions:

1. What is going to happen to chairs?

a) *Answer:* Their senators on their committees would be evaluated for efficiency. There are some chairs that are required, and a lot of the changes are senator focused and will be aimed toward maximizing senator voices

2. If the president has a say in the senate if it would sway the senate's votes?

(1) *Answer:* If the senate is correctly educated on their decisions, then fruitful discussions will transpire without the sway of exec

3. How would exec balance the time commitments for faculty committees, the financial board?

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- a) *Answer:* As long as senators are making an impact somewhere, we recognize that some senators can give more than others at different times of the year.
4. What about a faculty committee that meets once a semester?
- a) *Answer:* Some committees require outside work, however, we just want a time commitment outside of the senate on a weekly basis. We may also assign more than one faculty committee to a senator.
5. Would the senate chair be internally voted or elected?
- a) *Answer:* Internally voted
6. Will there be a chair for financial board meetings similar to the senate chair
- a) *Answer:* This was not discussed for these revisions
7. Will this make the time in the senate more efficient?
- a) *Answer:* Yes with more regular updates from senators in their committees and projects
8. Is the senate chair allowed to share points of information?
- a) *Answer:* If we are voting, no. A point of information can sway an argument.
9. Could the senate chair be elected by the term?
- a) *Answer:* There could be issues in transferring information because of the logistical responsibilities and it may waste time and efficiency during senate
10. Would there be more time when we could have these discussions outside of the senate?
- a) *Answer:* Yes, there will be discussions and round tables in the SGA office.
11. Could there be a slack channel where this information is discussed?
- a) *Answer:* Yes
12. Was this process too rushed?
- a) *Answer:* We need these changes made before senate, and the bylaw changes will give us more time to discuss the details.
13. Which changes specifically belong in the constitution?
- a) *Answer:* Splitting the president role and senator responsibilities
14. Are we allowed to have an appointed position on the executive board?
- a) *Answer:* Secretary used to be an internally elected position, so yes.
15. Would the senate chair exist alongside the parliamentarian?
- a) *Answer:* No, they would replace the parliamentarian role.
16. What if there were two vice presidents instead of a senate chair?
- a) *Answer:* This would be a bit confusing for elections and members of senate
17. What else would the senate chair oversee in their position alongside the responsibilities of Parliamentarian?
- a) *Answer:* Faculty committees

C. Comments:

1. Senator Morin shared that he is in favor of the changes we are making for the senate, however, he has a lot of questions.
2. Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that this would go into effect for the next senate and your voices are important because the changes will be

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- handed over to the new senate.
3. Senator Zeolla shared that the quality versus quantity aspect is important
 4. Chair Cormier shared that this would make it easier for both senators and chairs.
 5. Senator Barry feels like this change will allow her to make a bigger impact.
 6. Senator Levitan shared how important faculty committees are in making changes for the students at WPI.
 7. Senator Levitan shared the importance of connecting with student constituents and also making sure the constitution is written with purpose so the changes are optimized
 8. Senator Giancola shared how important it is for the senator to have a say.
 9. Chair Cormier shared that there is value to being aware of what you are capable of time commitment-wise.
 10. Senator Eroglu wants to encourage an emphasis on the ability to start your own project as a senator.
 11. Senator Frechette shared that someone who is very busy may not have the time to do more than one faculty committee.
 12. Chair Rios feels that a financials senator should not have to come to the regular senate meeting
 13. Senator Levitan shared that if you are elected as a senator you should serve as a senator in the senate
 14. Senator Gilbert shared the opportunity that if you are choosing to be in financials you can alternate meetings
 15. Senator Gyurscan encourages us to follow the on-call procedure for the financial board more effectively
 16. Senator Watson shared that for the financial board specifically we just need people to show up
 17. Senator Barry shared that quantity of time should not be determined it should be the quality of work
 18. The Constitution is pretty vague compared to the bylaws but these changes need to be made in order to have exec elections at the end of the term.
 19. Exec is open to having these discussions further elsewhere
 20. Vice President MacGregregor shared that he is appreciative of the points made about these changes
 21. President Wilde shared that there is more opportunity to be flexible with the participation of projects and external
 22. Chair Cormier shared that this makes it especially important to be educated on bylaws as a senator
 23. Senator Eroglu shared that this will make a more efficient use of the president's time
 24. Senator Levitan shared that we want to make ourselves more approachable to students

X. Cluster Reports

A. Student Services Cluster

1. Chair Bowles shared Pep Rally is September 30th from 5-8 and she needs everyone's help sat the meeting this Sunday and asked anyone who is

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interested to reach out via slack. It is a great way to get involved if you are looking for an interim

2. Pep Rally happens on homecoming weekend every year.
3. Questions:
 - a) What novelty items are we looking into this year?
 - b) *Answer:* Totes, sunglasses, socks, tank tops
4. Vice President MacGregor shared that it is a really fun event and encouraged everyone to come help.

B. Internal Services Cluster

1. No Report

C. Financials Cluster

1. No Report

XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

- A. Senator Levitan shared that he will be sending notes on slack in the future from his faculty committees

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

XV. Announcements

- A. This Thursday outside unity hall 3rd floor is the “Embrace the Goo” Career Development Center kickoff event
- B. Today is national toasted marshmallow day
- C. Grab a copy of the 10 things you need to know about WPI
- D. Engage with the social media page

XVI. Advisor’s Remarks

- A. Advisor Sharry welcomed everyone back and encouraged people to stop by her office for any questions, comments, or jokes. Activities fairs are this week! Please stop by. Also, check out the new south village student center. There are fun weekend trips coming up through the Student Activities Office as well. Lastly, she encouraged everyone to apply to the faculty institute and special committees.

XVII. President’s Remarks

- A. President Wild encouraged everyone to attend financial board and thanked everyone for the discussion

XVIII. Adjournment

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