

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

32nd Student Government Association

15th Meeting of the Thirty Undergraduate Student Government Association To
be held in Innovation Studio 105
6:00 p.m. – September 13th, 2022

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Special Orders
- V. **President's Report**
 - A. Faculty Committees
 1. President Wilde encouraged senators to join the following faculty committees:
 - a) Senator Pain is joining the Committee on Advising and Student Life which meets 3-4 times per term on Mondays from 11:30-12:30.
 - b) The Committee on IT Policy Meets tomorrow at 11, Tuesday, October 4th at 11, and overall meets 2-3 meetings per term, which can be planned according to its members.
 - c) More updates are to come with other faculty committees as more information regarding scheduling is presented.
 - B. Career Fair Signup
 1. President Wilde is looking for volunteers for the career fair on Thursday, September 22nd. This would include assisting companies, unloading materials, setup breakdown, etc. You will get a free T-shirt for volunteering.
 - C. South Village
 1. President Wilde Shared the grand opening is this Thursday. There are volunteers needed at 2 and 4 PM to give out superfans. Chair Rios volunteered for 4 PM
- VI. Vice President's Report
 - A. Gompei's Go Tos
 1. Vice President MacGregor shared that Gompei's Go Tos will occur during parents' weekend and highlight different resources on campus. We will have an SGA table. We need help with food distribution from 2-4 and also to represent different organizations at the event. It is a great opportunity to represent WPI and connect with families. There will be a sign-up sheet from Chair Gopal in the slack. If you are working the event for SGA and representing a different organization, it is just handing out flyers.
- VII. Secretary's Report
 - A. No Report
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
 - A. No Report
- IX. **Parliamentarian's Report**

The mission of SGA is to improve the quality of the 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.

A. Constitution/Bylaw Update

1. Parliamentarian Rosenthal discussed some ideas for the bylaws which will be the general structure of the senate. Exec will have the addition of the senate chair. Vice President will now oversee the Student Affairs Chair and the Community Outreach chair. The secretary will oversee the marketing chair and the internal affairs chair. This will allow senators to be able to fulfill their requirements outside of projects on the financial board or on a faculty committee. There will be elected financial board senators, elected senators, and both. Those who reflect both will be referred to as the committee on finance.

Questions:

What is the primary direction from having senators elected versus regularly elected senators?

Answer: Financial Board is a large time commitment in addition to the senate meetings.

What will happen to the large financial requests in Senate?

Answer: It would either be the senators' responsibility to vote on that or both of them at the financial board representatives.

How would this work in terms of senators who are doing both?

Answer: This would be up to the discretion of the chair. They don't have to do projects elsewhere, but they can if they would like.

If you want to become a financial senator from a regular senator position, do you automatically get in?

Answer: They would undergo the same application as we have in place currently.

Would financial senators have the ability to come to the senate meetings?

Answer: If they apply as a financials senator and they decide they want to join the senate, they can apply as an honorary senator.

What determines if a request comes into the senate?

Answer: It is up to the discretion of the treasurer. Typically, it is requests over \$10,000.

Will it be hard to communicate information if there is disconnect between

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financial and regular senators?

Answer: Any information can be communicated via the community on finance. Also, financial senators are well informed on the clubs being present at financial board due to the presentations.

Comments:

Vice President MacGregor shared that if the two types of senators are elected separately, then the financial senators are not representing the student body.

Senator Watson likes that the large requests are brought into the entire senate, therefore it is important that all the students who are elected have a voice in the process.

Senator Barry shared that we could require one senate attendance for financial senators as we do currently for senators attending financial board.

Senator Schroeder shared that we need to get away from the idea of “precedences” because we are not representing the students in a way that they will be the most impacted.

Vice President MacGregor shared that it is important for community building for all senators to attend the senate meetings.

Chair Cormier shared that there are other ways to connect as a senate without being present in the physical meetings.

Senator Levitan shared that the actual senators should get the opportunity to vote on the requests.

Chair Cormier shared that financial senators should have a say in senate because they have a greater financial knowledge.

Chair Cormier agrees with only four chairs on cabinet because this allows senators to feel like they are making a bigger impact, and it will support smaller projects.

Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that financial senators are able to come into senate and share their opinions as per the request of the treasurer.

Senator Krizan shared that financial senators should be able to come in and vote on their bylaws.

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Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that this could be an opportunity for a rule of thumb instead of an official bylaw.

A point was made that if it is the same application process then they should have the same say on voting.

Senator Schroeder shared that the 60 signatures portion of the application may discourage potential senators from joining SGA.

Senator Watson shared that you have a greater ability to connect with clubs and organizations in financial board.

Senator Watson shared that it is important to understand the bylaws prior to being able to vote in financial board.

Chair Cormier shared that the same process applies to understanding bylaws in senate.

Treasurer Mullenburg shared that prior knowledge of the rules of thumbs is important as well.

Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that this info will be in restructuring feedback and he will also have office hours

X. Cluster Reports

A. Student Services Cluster

1. No Report

B. Internal Services Cluster

1. Audit Form

- a) Chair Cocchiario shared that since we are starting the semester everyone should fill out this anonymous feedback for SGA. It will be available in the slack.

2. Elections Chair Person Presentation

- a) Chair Cormier shared the timeline for exec elections, slating, and information sessions. You must attend an info session to be on the executive or slating boards. The slating board consists of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the voting senators, and there are a minimum of 2 representatives from each class. Slating board meets the night of Friday, October 7th. The elections chairperson position is really fun and destigmatized. Chair Cormier organized a step-by-step guide on every responsibility in the position. Slating is done for the position of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. There will be a maximum of two candidates slated for each executive board position.
- b) Vice President MacGregor shared that the slating board rarely goes into the following Saturday morning.

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- c) President Wilde shared you cannot be on slating committee and also run for exec.
- d) Secretary Damon shared that you do not need to have been in a position before applying to be on the executive board.

C. Financials Cluster

1. No Report

- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. **New Business**

A. S.8 - Sigma Phi Epsilon - \$16,000

1. **Purpose of Funds** This program started last year and there was low attendance due to the last-minute development. This year, it will be collaborative with many organizations. The intent of the walk is to raise awareness of the campus-wide struggle with suicide. There was support from the AFPS and this year it will expand throughout Greek Life and campus organizations including for example the SDCC. The goal is to raise \$30,000 (\$10K more than last year) and all of the money will go to AFSP. The main attractions will include Kevin Hines who is a suicide survivor talking about his attempt and how people can help themselves and others. His story is very moving and it will take up to 1 hour at the beginning of the event. Maxxtone is a band from Springfield, MA that plays at weddings and hosts karaoke. They have a list of songs that allow you to contribute to what they are playing. All Greek Life organizations will have a table and fraternity members will be bringing food and refreshments. They will certainly be in attendance as opposed to last year. Club sports will also encourage attendance. The cost breakdown was brought to the Senate. Alumni will come alongside the WPI community so your ID will need to be shown in order to get food. The WPI EMS squad will volunteer to support the event.

2. **Questions:**

Chair Cormier asked how advertising the event will occur?

Answer: Flyers, social media, and the WPI website. They will also outreach alumni returning for homecoming.

Will there be a police detail?

Answer: This is being handled by Amy Lerou in the Student Activities Office.

What is the date of the event?

Answer: Sunday, October 2nd.

How will ID scanning work at different tables?

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Answer: There will be a digital log.

Senator Peeriz asked if school musical groups have been asked to participate?

Answer: Not yet, only the marching band.

How will you ensure other Greek Life organizations will participate?

Answer: Verbal agreements.

Vice President MacGregor asked how many were in attendance last year?

Answer: 400.

Do you have a plan for the rest of the event besides the keynote speaker?

Answer: The event will last 4 hours and the first hour will be the speaker. The rest will be the walk, band, and food.

Have you communicated with the center for wellbeing?

Answer: Yes.

Senator MacWilliams asked how fundraising will work at the event?

Answer: The fundraising page will be attached to the flyers at the event.

Is it a competition?

Answer: Not this year.

Have you gotten in contact with residential services?

Answer: Yes.

Where did donations come from last year?

Answer: Families, faculty, and students.

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Vice President MacGregor how they plan to connect with other groups on campus besides Greek Life and sports teams?

Answer: All clubs will be contacted via email and tech sync.

Chair Cocchairo asked how we as SGA could help the event besides the funding?

Answer: Community outreach and marketing.

Will there be vegetarian options?

Answer: They will coordinate with Chartwells.

Will the OAS be contacted?

Answer: Yes.

3. Points For:

We should definitely fund a walk that can help support the fight against suicide.

Kevin Hines is a well known exceptional speaker.

Without the speaker the event will not be as effective in fulfilling its purpose of fighting suicide.

This event will better the WPI community as a whole.

The performer's name will attract attendance from the WPI community.

More students will go to this than Big Show.

They doubled the size of the event for only \$5,000 more than last year.

We can help them advertise the event.

4. Points Against:

The speaker price is high.

It is only a profit of \$15,000.

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They did not outreach many clubs in the past.

The food is expensive.

They claimed to have outreached the rocketry club, however they have not been notified. This implies a lack of outreach outside of Greek Life and sports teams.

5. Points of Information:

The financially requisite \$10,000 for the event last year.

Chartwells has a set price on food.

Last year they fundraised \$14,000 before the event even started.

6. Outcome: Passes

B. S.9 - Proposed Constitution Amendments:

Parliamentarian Rosenthal shred the proposed constitution changes. 50% majority rule must be brought to the table the vote till the next senate. The Senate Chair will take over the internal responsibilities of the president. They would only vote in the event of a tie. The parliamentarian voting procedures will carry over as they will be removed and replaced by this newly elected executive board position. Senatorial responsibilities will be defined by the standing rules to allow for more frequent updates. Senator removal procedure can be completed through the executive board and their chair. If they don't respond in 2 weeks they will be removed. Senators will now also have the opportunity to resign.

Motion: Change the target senate size from 1 senator to 80 students to a range that will encourage the senate to be smaller.

Questions:

Senator Levitan asked if there is a way there could be a senator point person for a certain amount of WPI students.

Answer: Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that we can't give out student names and information. Also when it was done in the past there was not much response from students.

Answer: Chair Cormier found that logistically, with the changing leadership, in SGA it may be difficult to do this

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Points For:

Secretary Damon shared that this could help bring back the responsibility of being a senator if smaller. If we continue to outreach new people to grow without holding people accountable they will struggle to fulfill their responsibilities.

Chair Cormier shared that this will make students more responsible for their positions.

Chair Rios shared that this will be positive in SGA because the senators that will be elected will find that if they don't take this seriously they will lose their spots.

Points Against:

Senator Gilbert shared that this could be toxic for student leaders and insight competition.

Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that he does not like the idea of making the senate more competitive.

Outcome: Failed**Discussion on Proposed Constitution Changes:****Questions:****Points For:**

This will help balance presidential responsibilities.

The president was elected to share their opinion and senators should formulate their opinions through their understanding of our bylaws.

The executive board refrains from sharing their opinions on big votes unless a point was not discussed by senate. For example, the treasurer has the discretion to use their voice to influence the outcome in financial requests in senate.

Points Against:

This may be bad for student representation.

The president being able to share their opinion may sway the votes of the senate.

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Outcome: Passes

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- A. Secretary Damon recognized that our tech coordinator did an amazing job today.
- B. Chair Geary asked when the office hours will be communicated.

Answer: Parliamentarian Rosenthal will share them in the slack.

- C. Treasurer Mullenburg told everyone to come to financial board tomorrow.

XV. Announcements

- A. Senator Schroeder shared that Workshop Wednesday is next Wednesday and you can ask questions for the career fair.
- B. Parliamentarian Rosenthal shared that it is national peanut day.

XVI. Advisor's Remarks

- A. Advisor Sharry encouraged everyone to go to the South Village Student Center on Thursday for the grand opening. Also, you should register to vote on Tuesday.

XVII. President's Remarks

- A. President Wilde thanked everyone for their discussion. She encouraged people to keep in mind Roberts Rules and procedures. As always, reach out for any questions.

XVIII. Adjournment

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