

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Student Government Association

13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thirty First Undergraduate Student Government

Association To be held in Innovation Studio 203

6:00 p.m. – April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. **Public Comments**
  - A. The Ukraine Working Group from the WPI business school is requesting money from SGA to donate humanitarian products to the army in Ukraine. They partnered with the most notable Ukrainian charity organization in order to directly support their volunteering army. This would directly support one of the students of the WPI community whose family is serving in the army. There have so far been packages assembled from students and alumni, and the first one was just delivered. As SGA, we should be representative to students, therefore we should donate, which is a similar request as made by the Green Team for nonprofit funding. They have launched a linktree with info on how to support the Ukraine. Many universities are joining to donate, and yesterday when speaking to the president of the Ukrainian club, they found that the MIT SGA has been donating.
  - B. There are two options for donations:
    1. Giving money to Russian speaking club which donates to a charity organization that manages the logistical processes.
    2. Directly donate to the Ukraine, which saves time but requires more planning.
  - C. President Wilde said she will set up a meeting to determine how WPI can best support them.
- IV. Special Orders
- V. **President's Report**
  - A. Board of Trustees Presentation
    1. President Wilde thanked everyone for their participation in the survey. The presentation will be sent out over slack considering we have a lot to cover in the senate today.
  - B. Chair of Term
    1. Chair Cormier has taken a lot of initiatives in her projects. She has a positive attitude and inspired a lot of senators with the Campus Hearing Board and Superfan elections, therefore she was selected as Chair of the Term.
- VI. **Vice President's Report**
  - A. Project Presentations
    1. The Senate shared their project presentations for the term.

### Questions:

Where can senators get involved in the treasury revamp process?

*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.*

*Answer:* There will be a meeting at the end of the term dedicated to rebooting the treasury with Kevin, and if you are looking to participate, please reach out to Treasurer Muhlenburg.

B. Those who were awarded ultra fans from the retreat will be contacted shortly.

C. Senator of Term

1. Senator Darrow is super reliable and was incredibly active during elections season with table sitting and responsibilities, therefore she was voted senator of the term.

VII. Secretary's Report

A. No Report

**VIII. Treasurer's Report**

A. Treasurer Muhlenburg shared what will be discussed This Week in Financials at the financial board. This is the last financial board of the year this Wednesday in the Morgan Room.

IX. Parliamentarian's Report

A. No Report

**X. Cluster Reports**

A. **Student Services Cluster**

1. Chair Gopal - Gompei's Go To's

- a) Along with Pep Rally, there is a big event A term hosted during parents' weekend for students and families to learn more about WPI resources with food, activities, and performances. The last time this was held was in 2019, but they are open to suggestions. This will be planned over the summer, and she encourages anyone to help out who can. It is very low commitment.

B. Internal Services Cluster

1. No Report

C. Financials Cluster

1. No Report

D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. No Report

XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

A. Senator Schroeder shared that the MHIT is looking for feedback on if anyone uses the WPI app or has any opinions as well as generally how we can make resources more accessible to students since they are hard to find on the website (Instagram, email, through the app, etc). There will be a message sent later in slack to share opinions.

B. Senator Levitan is looking for what people wish they knew coming into WPI and what they could change about their experience academically for that side of the MHIT.

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

**A. S.7 Esports Club Gaming Lab- \$65,824.22**

### **Purpose of Funds**

*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) Liam, the president of the eSports club, and other members as well as Vice President MacGregor came to present a joint proposal. eSports club empowers over 160 students to compete in competitive events. eSports itself is competitive multiplayer videogames. They host events for local tournaments and watchparties for large events. They are looking to build a lounge in South Village similar to the campus center where people can go and relax and play some games with their friends. There will also be a competitive gaming lab opened in this location to all WPI students. Here, they can host tournaments and charity events. This will also decrease the cost for the eSports club participation and allow for live streaming to increase WPI's reputation globally. The devices should not need to be maintained for 6-8 years. 79% of students expressed interest in more social spaces on campus and some specifically mentioned gaming-related spaces. At accepted students' day, they are often asked if WPI has a gaming lab, especially since other colleges in the region have been doing the same. One of the larger club goals is to have an equitable environment where people can join without experience and at large costs. Because people have been playing from their dorms, it has been quite isolating. This space will allow people to come and cheer on the competition.
- b) Vice President MacGregor brainstormed with eSports alongside some members of SGA. The administration has been looped in under Dean Perlow.

Questions:

Senator Salerno asked where it would be?

*Answer:* South village.

Senator Darrow asked if all students will have access to both lounges?

*Answer:* Yes, and there will likely be a booking system similar to 25 Live from event?

Senator Zeolla wondered how to ensure people will not steal things?

*Answer:* Security system tying down computers, and similar rentals to the cc.

Senator Bell asked where they got the idea for this?

*Answer:* It was proposed to President Wilde back in January because many students don't having gaming laptops to be able to participate in

*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.*

these style events. Now that they are their own club away from the video game club, they have been able to put the time and effort into supporting it.

Chair Langille asked what the hours of operation would look like?

*Answer:* It will depend on the South Village dining and building operation hours which have not yet been determined. It is anticipated to be similar to the campus center.

Senator Schroeder asked what games will be loaded into the game budget?

*Answer:* Games for consoles like the Nintendo or Xbox.

Treasurer Muhlenburg asked what these spaces at other universities have looked like?

*Answer:* At Boston University, they had rented out a huge area where people were separated into rooms, and dedicated spaces in Microsoft Stores. This ignited great energy playing with friends side by side instead of over the internet. It is common in big cities like Boston.

Senator Giacola asked what needs to be updated every 6-8 years?

*Answer:* Specific consoles, and also because it is a lease of the space.

### Discussion:

#### **Pros**

The competitions would be less isolating than playing alone.

It would help develop a sense of community.

It is open to all students.

South Village will bring students together in a new space that is off-campus.

It encourages social opportunities to play video games.

It will be more effective than pool tables in Faraday.

Many prospective students ask about eSports, and this will increase our attraction to admitted students.

*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.*

We need more social spaces on campus.

This will be solely social as opposed to the campus center which became more of a homework spot.

### **Cons**

South Village is a bit far for some students.

### **Points of Information**

The Student Activities Office has been working with the Graduate Student Government and other organizations to help facilitate the creation of this lounge. Policies and such will be further developed over the summer.

### **Vote**

**Outcome:** Passes

## **B. S.8 Mandatory Transfers**

The Student Life Fee is not just used for financial requests and budgeting; it is also used for essential services like the SGA operating budget and SNAP fees. They worked on allocating the specific amount of money for each of these sectors for the upcoming year and presented it to the Senate for a vote. Most are consistent from last year but there have been a few changes:

- a) Club Sports needs an additional \$30,000 for new fitness programs on campus and for coaches.
- b) Goat's Head Programming doesn't need \$4,000.
- c) The SGA Operating needs about \$7,000 more for funding.
- d) SNAP needs an additional \$5,000 for a new van.

The difference overall was an extra \$38,020.

### Questions:

Senator Salerno asked what happens if this weren't to pass?

*Answer:* Appropriations would discuss why it did not pass and make accommodations.

Secretary Damon asked what the Goat's Head Programming is.

*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.*

*Answer:* They oversee trivia and bingo nights.

Senator Schroeder asked what SGA gives money to Greek life for.

*Answer:* We fund leadership development programming and half the cost of the campus police detail.

Senator Peeriz asked why does the junior class get less than the sophomore and freshman classes.

*Answer:* This goes to rope pull shirts, and there is more rollover for the junior class.

Senator Watson asked if we are voting to amend the amount.

*Answer:* This vote is to approve these mandatory transfers, and they must be approved every year.

Senator Watson asked how we pay for this in the treasury.

*Answer:* We have a working budget of \$1.6 million every year going to 3 main places: Mandatory Transfers, Club Budgets, and the Sponsorship Account for Financial Requests.

Discussion:

**Pros**

All increases in payments are important to campus life, and inclusive to all students on campus.

All increases in payment are reasonable in number for what they are aiming to improve.

**Cons**

**Points of Information**

\$306,270 is the total for mandatory transfers for this upcoming year.

**Vote**

**Outcome:** Passes

**C. S.9 Transfer Money from Reserves to Sponsorship (\$150,000)**

*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.*

The SGA reserves has \$1.22 million in it. The SGA sponsorship budget currently has a balance of \$45,000, and we have \$134,738.72 in pending report forms, which is money we currently owe clubs. Therefore, we need to transfer some money to pay people back who have laid out money from clubs.

Discussion:

**Pros**

The senate trusts the treasurer's opinion.

We need to pay people back who have laid money out.

It would be bad if we did not do this.

**Cons**

**Points of Information**

There are currently 46 pending report forms.

**Vote**

**Outcome:** Passes

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

XV. Announcements

XVI. Advisor's Remarks

- A. Advisor Sharry shared that this is the last food truck and it is by the parking garage of the Rec Center circle, and they have icecream.
- B. If you are around, they are in need of volunteers for commencement. If you live on campus, you can stay late free of charge. It is a great opportunity to celebrate with seniors and learn what your commencement will look like. Reach out if you are interested or have any questions.
- C. Good luck with finals.
- D. She will be around for the summer if anyone needs anything.

Questions:

Senator Salerno asked when commencement is.

*Answer:* Undergraduate is Saturday May 14th, and Graduate is Thursday, May 12th.

Senator Schroeder and Advisor Sharry shared if you need extended housing you

*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.*

must fill out the form on the housing portal, and the information will be sent in the link if you decide to stay to volunteer and live on campus.

XVII. President's Remarks

A. President Wilde thanked everyone for the great discussion

B. Events:

1. The Legendary Pub in Unity Hall will run from 4 pm - 6 pm tomorrow with free food.
2. There will be Music Bingo at the Goat's Head tomorrow from 5 pm -7 pm.
3. Friday is the Latino Fiesta from 6:30 pm -11:30 pm in the Odeum, and you have to buy tickets.

C. There will be an overnight off campus retreat over the fall that we should all be excited about!

XVIII. Adjournment

*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.*