

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

32nd Student Government Association
21st Meeting of the Thirty Undergraduate Student Government Association To
be held in Innovation Studio 205
6:00 p.m. – November 8th, 2022

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. **Special Orders**
 - A. Interim Senator Appointment
 - 1. _____ and _____ were appointed interim senators.
- V. President's Report
 - A. No Report
- VI. **Vice President's Report**
 - A. Banquet Updates
 - 1. Vice President MacGregor shared that the SGA banquet will be later this term to celebrate the end of the senate year. It is Saturday, December 3rd from 12-2 at Peppercorn's Grille and Tavern. Transportation will be provided. People who have not fulfilled senator requirements will be reached out to about being eligible to attend the banquet. He directed everyone to a QR code regarding dietary restrictions. It will also be sent in slack. There will be paper plate awards giving everyone superlatives. The nomination form was presented and also will be attached in slack. Keep an eye out for more information.
- VII. Secretary's Report
 - A. No Report
- VIII. **Treasurer's Report**
 - A. Discussing Bylaws for Large Financial Requests
 - 1. Treasurer Mullenberg shared that in the incoming weeks there will be large financial requests incoming. He reminds the senate of some financial bylaws, including us not being able to fund airfare and food. SGA may pay for advisors if necessary to travel. If the requests are fair and equitable for all students who pay the student life fee, we should not just fund an event because we can afford it.
- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
 - A. No Report
- X. Cluster Reports
 - A. Student Services Cluster
 - 1. No Report
 - B. Internal Services Cluster**
 - 1. Bylaw Trivia
 - a) Chair Cormier led the senate in the weekly bylaw trivia.
 - 2. SGA Promo Video Presentation
 - a) Chair Rios presented information regarding the SGA promo video.

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.

It will highlight the impact that you can make as an SGA senator.
Get involved in the production!

Discussion:

Secretary Damon shared that this is really important to make a more exciting and impactful senate for next year.

Chair Peeriz asked what will the new merch item be?

Answer: The new merch item will be the white crewneck with the slogan.

C. Financials Cluster

1. No Report

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

A. S.13 Senate Chair Elections

President Wilde reminded everyone to keep the discussion professional and that it will run similarly to off-the-floor elections.

Senator Levitan nominated himself to run for senate chair. He introduced himself and why he is looking to run. His goal is to advocate for senators and his goal is to facilitate everyone's ability to enact change. He wants to bring a strong start to this new position. He addressed his experience with CK, EMS, exec on the college democrats, CAP, and the MHIT. He has had extensive experience working with faculty committees and feels comfortable overseeing them. His goals are to prioritize diverse and fair representation of experiences and ideas in the senate, increase community engagements in the senate and accessibility, focus the senate and increase efficiency while still being fun, and improve faculty-student relationships. He wants to ensure our time is effectively used while still being fun, efficiency is key.

Questions:

Secretary Damon asked how he will balance his involvements?

Answer: He has a solid understanding of the time that he is dedicating to certain responsibilities, and feels that this takes priority.

Senator Giancola asked what his role will be on the executive board?

Answer: He is really excited to work with the next executive board, and wants to ensure that the president is able to withstand their

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responsibilities.

Chair Rios asked what his experience is working on a team or with a partner?

Answer: He referenced his experiences on EMS and with college democrats and shared that many of his involvements are collaborative. He feels like he has a strong balance between listening and leadership.

Discussion:

Pros:

He is a great public speaker.

He is great at conflict management as he has shown as a tour guide and through MHIT.

He has the sense of professionalism needed to chair the senate meeting.

He will make the senate efficient.

He has strong time management.

Cons:

Vote: Passes

B. S.14 Choral Association, Symphonic Association (\$24,380)

The choral association and the philharmonic are looking to attend a tour in Portugal. They will be going during spring break. Due to COVID-19, they have not been able to travel in multiple years, however, it was a tradition in the past. Different venues with different acoustics will provide a new experience for the club. They will be learning Portuguese music where it was written and understand a new audience. A cost breakdown was shared regarding the bus to and from Logan airport, guided tours, instrument rentals, venue rentals, a guest masterclass, and accompanist payment. The goal is to ease the financial burden for the students going which includes food, air, land, and housing. The HUA and financial aid office are trying to support it, however, this will make it more accessible dropping the cost of \$207 per student.

Question:

Chair Geary asked why was the initial cost brought down, and how much money are you receiving from other areas?

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Answer: That amount is not feasible for SGA as a whole. Land transportation in Portugal and housing were removed in order to make it more affordable. The only outside support they are receiving is for students who demonstrate significant financial need, however, they will not be getting any support additional support from WPI. There will be fundraisers (individually) to help each student pay for the cost of the event. Additionally, there is an endowment, however, because it is newly established, they cannot take much from it.

Treasurer Mullenberg asked why Portugal was chosen?

Answer: Student poll, connections with a tour agency, and through an advisor.

Chair Jacob asked if SGA funded this in the past?

Answer: The last trip on this scale was in 2019 and they do not know how much SGA covered in that cost.

Parliamentarian Rosenthal asked what the guided tour will do?

Answer: It is a historical immersion opportunity. Students do not get to choose what they do on the trip because it is a package deal.

Senator Graikos asked for information regarding SAO approval and how many advisors will be attending.

Answer: There was a representative from global projects that assessed the safety, and there will be 4 faculty members going on the trip.

Senator Hellgren asked what the number of students attending is based on?

Answer: Those who put their initial deposit in.

Senator Krizan asked what organizations are involved? And if they are all performing together?

Answer: Glee club, Alden voices, philharmonic. It is funded under the choral association which included the two choirs and the Acappella groups. Yes, they are all performing together.

President Wilde asked if any of this has been paid for already?

Answer: Yes.

Treasurer Mullenberg asked what these payments go to?

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Answer: The tour agency, two 500-dollar deposits per student that are not for a specific line item.

Chair Geary asked for clarification in regard to whether or not it is a lump sum?

Answer: Land transportation costs are not associated with the tour companies and neither are the accompanist payments. The Educational cost lump sum is going towards the tour agency.

A senator asked what the guest masterclass is?

Answer: Someone from a university over there will lead a rehearsal. The tour company organizes this.

Senator Tang asked what the instrument rentals are used for and if WPI instruments can be brought to cut the cost down?

Answer: Really large instruments like cellos cannot be traveled. The smaller instruments will be carried by the WPI students.

Senator Bell asked if any of these line items are expected to be paid. If you did not pay these expenses will you not be able to attend the event overall?

Answer: The students will only see an increase if the transportation and the accompanist.

Parliamentarian Rosenthal asked if these are refundable?

Answer: There may be a fee. Each student is contributing some amount of money. Each of these line items is not paid in full until the student pays the full amount.

Senator Tang asked if these items were negotiated with the tour company.

Answer: They have been in talks with the tour company since the end of May. The cost has gone down from 3,500 to what it is now.

Senator Tang asked if any other clubs have FRed for oversea trips?

Answer: Clubs have received the same amount for trips in the past, not necessarily overseas.

Has there ever been a club trip where we funded a trip without a requirement?

Answer: We approved funds for them to go to New Orleans for the cost of the performance.

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Discussion:

Pros:

We can choose to share that the money deposited is like an installment that includes everything.

The request is only 10% of the total per person.

We have other clubs that we spend more money on per person.

This would be beneficial to the purpose of the club.

There are educational aspects and they are working with the SAO.

We fund club sports going to compete.

They are a performing group and they are having a lot of people attend

Cons:

Portions of their payments have gone towards education. According to our bylaws, since they have contributed to that before we fund that, cannot be funded.

The guided tours are not essential to the event in club.

If this is a club severely pushing the student life fee then it may be a question for concern.

There is a precedent for them going on the trip but not SGA funding it.

There is pressure to pay.

They aren't competing against anyone.

Cello rentals are much higher than they should be.

Points of Information:

In the past, if the trip could be refunded then the bylaw is not an obligation in regards to the bylaw.

The tour company has accommodated WPI therefore there are some other things that this money can go towards.

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The most comparable FR was when they had gone to Berlin, it was a different fiscal policy. We only funded transportation to and from Logan.

In 2020 we passed an amended amount funding the trip to New Orleans.

Motion: Cut Out Guided Tours

Pros:

It would be educational to have the tours

Cons:

The tours would not be integral to the educative experience

Outcome: Passes

New Amount: \$21, 500

Vote

Outcome: Passes

C. S.15 Bylaw Revision

Parliamentarian Rosenthal reminded the senate that the bylaws will be voted to table for the next meeting, and then officially voted on at the next senate meeting. Each title was presented, and more details can be reviewed in the bylaws. The committee on student affairs would consist of the responsibilities shared by the student life chair as well as academic improvements. They will have the ability to meet with faculty, staff, and administration for SGA. The committee on community outreach will be similar to previous years in regard to responsibilities. The internal affairs committee will remain similar with the addition of auditing. They review past legislation and are involved with recruitment and elections. The committee on marketing will gather information about campus and publicize campus events. Fiscal Responsibility and assistance are similar to last year regarding club connections and report forms. Appropriations will be in charge of budgeting, club classification, proposing fiscal responsibilities, and hearing appropriations requests. Regarding financials, information was clarified regarding language in terms of conferences and club sports. Uniforms, practice space, equipment, and ground transportation will be covered for club sports. Because the treasurer selects financial board members, senators have the opportunity to review that.

Questions:

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Senator Hellgren brought the question back up regarding financial board senator attendance during regular senate meetings.

Answers: Senator responsibilities are defined in the standing rules which is defined for the next senate c term.

Discussion:

Pros

This expedites the financial process

Cons

Vote to Table

Outcome: Passes

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

Come to the financial board tomorrow in the Taylor Room. Tomorrow will be short!

XV. Announcements

It is national cappuccino day.

30k idea is being voted on next senate.

If anyone has any questions about Big Show, please reach out. Prepare questions.

Be prepared for weather changes.

Questions:

Senator Krizan asked if we will be able to see the Big Show slides beforehand?

Answer: As soon as they are sent to us from SocComm.

XVI. Advisor's Remarks

Advisor Sharry hopes everyone is recharged from wellness day, had a great day off, and invited everyone to reach out if they need any help.

XVII. President's Remarks

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President Wilde congratulated the newly elected executive board. Please do not repeat points during discussion.

XVIII. Adjournment

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