

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

33rd Student Government Association

21st Meeting of the Thirty Third Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Innovation Studio 203/205

6:00 p.m. – November 7th, 2023

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. **Special Orders**

Motion: Appoint Alan Carias as Tech Coordinator for the remainder of the 33rd Undergraduate Student Government Association

Outcome: Passed

V. **President's Report**

A. Herd Huddle

1. President Rios shared Herd Huddle - an event happening on November 27th where Dean Perlow would like to create a student forum where students can round table discussions. She is requesting 19 senators from Sga to be the discussion leaders. She plans on ideally having 19 tables with one senator per table, who will be leading discussion on topics that she will provide. Interested senators should slack gabi. She will create an interest form and send it in slack.

Questions

- 1) Senator Duran asked if the meetings are happening until the end of B term or C term.
 - a) *Answer:* Not sure of frequency yet but will gauge based on attendance.
- 2) President-Elect Cluett asked what the timing would be for these meetings.
 - a) *Answer:* 6:00 PM
- 3) President-Elect Cluett asked if there will be a quick meeting beforehand so senators know what to expect.
 - a) *Answer:* It is assumed that Dean Perlow will coordinate beforehand so that everyone is prepared, but President Rios will obtain more information regarding this.

B. *Center of Wellbeing*

1. The Center for Wellbeing, represented by Dean of Student Wellness, Charlie Morse, and a Student Coalition representative, Brynne MacWilliams, presented their goals and initiatives. They are involved in a 5 year strategic public health-oriented and holistic plan spanning until 2026. Their goal is to lead with purpose.
2. They shared the public health model which included the following three Tiers:
 - a) Tier 3: Intensive Interventions: High Risk Students.

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- b) Tier 2: Target Interventions: At Risk Students.
 - c) Tier 1: Universal Promotion and Prevention: All students.
- 3. They are focused on Tier 1, whereas Tier 3 is more oriented towards specialized departments on campus. Some initiatives they have made over the past few years include:
 - a) Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force and the Riverside Report: September 2021- March 2022
 - b) Mental Health Implementation Team 1.0: March 2022 - August 2022
 - c) Mental health Implementation Team 2.0: September 2022 - February 2023
 - d) Campus Wellness Coalition: April 2023 - (Staff and students get together 8 times throughout the year, twice a term)
- 4. The Mental Health Committee (MHC) intends to act as a platform to amplify student voices and concerns regarding the mental health climate of WPI to administration. They focus on representation within WPI's community, student outreach and support and create long term goals for the MHC and currently have diverse representation from the WPI community.
- 5. The Coalition aims to be a source of information and should serve as a pipeline up to student leaders, faculty, administration, and higher leadership positions. The purpose and function of the Coalition is to enhance the flow of information and understanding of the larger context of mental and wellness landscape at WPI. Their goals are to:
 - a) Identify and address barriers to community thriving
 - b) Foster change by shifting cultural attitudes and expectations
 - c) Support continuous academic wellness innovation and ongoing development of campus wellbeing
 - d) Identify systemic changes to improve overall community wellbeing
 - e) Adapt and grow in order to continue to evolve the coalition to reflect the changing needs and priorities of the institution.

Questions

- 1) Senator Tang asked if the CWB is planning events for those who do not identify towards any religion
 - a) *Answer:* That feedback has been received. They are trying to bring in a vast array of experiences, including non-religious oriented options.
- 2) Vice President Cormier pointed out that some professors are not fully on board with Wellness Day and asked what can be done about this.
 - a) *Answer:* They are targeted towards gathering such circumstances asking about specific professors/instances that have occurred related to this. When this happens, they contact the provost, who contacts the department head, who then conducts an investigation regarding the complaint if it gets much student support.
- 3) Chair Abraham pointed out that culturally, WPI has a high workload, and that students generally spend Wellness Day compensating for this by

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doing work. She asked if they see this changing in the future.

- a) *Answer:* They hope to see this change, but do acknowledge that getting ahead or catching up on schoolwork is something that may ease students. Surveying showed that a high percentage of students showed that they participated in a Wellness Day activity either on campus or something external to campus, and those who indicated that they did schoolwork on Wellness Day felt that it eased them.
- 4) Chair Gopal shared that a few senators have provided a post Wellness Day survey as part of Student Affairs and asked if there was anything that the CWB has done so based on those results.
 - a) *Answer:* They are trying to market wellbeing and the MHC as much as possible through flyers, and social media.

Points of Information

- 1) Secretary-Elect Zhidro recommended more marketing for the Mental Health Committee, either on their own or in collaboration with SGA.
- 2) Senator Houschoer feels like the events that were conducted on campus for Wellness Day were very convenient for students who were working on campus but wanted to take a break at some point.
- 5) Senator Duran pointed out that having Wellness Days on Monday and having assignment days on Tuesday is not very convenient. Additionally it would be appropriate for professors to not be encouraged to assign work due the day of/after Wellness Day, but rather mandated.

VI. Vice President's Report

A. Attendance

1. Vice President Cormier shared expectations regarding attendance. Those who do not fill out the attendance QR code at the beginning of Senate should see her right after adjournment. She reviewed what constitutes an excused absence derived from the standing rules and stressed the importance of communication when Senators cannot attend a Senate meeting or committee meetings.

B. Banquet RSVP

1. Vice President Cormier shared a QR code to RSVP for Banquet with a deadline of 5:00 PM tomorrow. Those who have not been meeting Senator expectations will not be guaranteed to attend Banquet and it will be up to the discretion of the Executive Board to decide whether someone will be able to attend or not.

VII. Secretary's Report

A. 34th Senate Elections Tablesitting

1. Secretary Jerusal shared a spreadsheet for senators, including Executive-Elects, to sign up to promote tablesitting for Senator Elections for the 34th Senate. Time slots will be in increments of 30 minutes and will happen on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. All voters will be entered in a raffle to win an Ultrafan. Please contact her with any questions regarding what to do at tablesitting!

VIII. Treasurer's Report

- A. Treasurer Bowles shared the weekly Financials Recap which included 21 requests approved, 1 tabled and 1 canceled. The Appropriations Board has approved

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\$2,297.20 and the Financial Board has approved \$41,796.67.

- B. Upcoming events that have been funded include Merch/Apparel Season, Pride Prom, Diwali, Lighting Rentals, Rangeela Performance Registration, and a WiRE event.

Questions

- 1) Senator Tang asked if Senate could view how much money we have left to spend in the academic year.
- a) *Answer:* That information cannot be accessed at the moment but Treasurer Bowles is happy to discuss it at a later time.

IX. Senate Chair's Report

A. DEI Interest

1. Senator Chair Levitan would like to gauge interest in the DEI subcommittee. It involves working with ODIME, important upper administration and is a very rewarding opportunity. Interested senators should slack Senator Chair Levitan and President Rios will send the interest form on Slack again.

X. Cluster Reports

A. Student Services Cluster

1. 1st Basketball Game

- a) President-Elect Cluett shared that tomorrow is the men's Varsity Basketball game at Worcester State. Originally, it was known as the Midnight Game but has since changed to held at 6:00 PM. SGA is helping host a fan bus and is throwing out merch. Interested attendees should register on MyWPI as there is limited registration due to bus capacity. Anyone in throwing merch should slack her. Senate should repost promotional material on the Instagram!

B. Internal Services Cluster

1. No report

C. Financials Cluster

1. No report

XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

A. S.24.6 LNL - (\$28,000)

1. LNL is requesting \$28,000 for wireless headphones. They are a student organization providing lighting for student events with 39 active members and support 240+ WPI events per year. They are looking to purchase 36 wireless microphones, rechargeable batteries and a storage case. They currently support 6 large, & 4-8 smaller a capella shows without having to rent microphones. In the past each acapella group requested SGA funding for rental mics with an average of \$4,353 per show. Last year, 5 acapella groups spent a total of around \$22K. To mitigate repetitive purchases, LNL is requesting funding for a one-time purchase of this equipment.
- a) *Why:* These mics are common in the collegiate a cappella community and enhance the performance quality. It provides opportunities for creativity and encourages learning and

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- skill-building for performers. Performances constantly draw large audiences, demonstrating the need for these items.
2. The funding request breakdown includes wireless microphones, rechargeable batteries, a battery charger, a battery charger extension, a rack shelf and rolling case.

Questions

- 1) Senator Tang asked if there would be enough time to purchase the equipment for their next event given the funding request be approved in full.
 - a) *Answer:* Yes - it will be in by the next 2 weeks.
- 2) Senator Tang pointed out that the price is high and asked if there were any other alternative, cheaper choices.
 - a) *Answer:* These are the standard microphones and accessories offered for general a capella shows/performance groups
- 3) Senator Tang asked why LNL cannot pay for the microphones themselves, seeing as they charge a lot to student groups, in zir's opinion.
 - a) *Answer:* LNL is using money that groups have been paid to accommodate for part of this request - approximately \$7K.
- 4) Senator Greene asked if LNL will charge operational/maintenance fees if SGA passes the request in whole.
 - a) *Answer:* Yes, as they need to account for potential damage.
- 5) Senator Barnes-Cole asked if the microphones can be used for other events on campus
 - a) *Answer:* Essentially, any group that really wants to use it is open to.
- 6) Chair Abraham asked how they finalized 32 as the number of mics being requested.
 - a) *Answer:* The goal is 40; they have 4, and are requesting 36. The average acapella group size is 20 people so they can have 20 people going on and coming off without shuffling microphones and interrupting the quality of the show.
- 7) Vice President-Elect Brown asked if they have sought external funding
 - a) *Answer:* They are using their own funds to accommodate, and are working with Vox Musical Theatres to collaborate with the materials they have.
- 8) President Rios asked if there was a reason they did not seek funding from other departments.
 - a) *Answer:* The microphones are only being used by undergraduates so their logical first channel of funding was SGA. If it is stipulated that they look for external funding, they are happy to do so.
- 9) Chair Abraham asked if anything on the breakdown had already been purchased.
 - a) *Answer:* No, it has not.
- 10) Vice-President Elect Brown asked what the rough life expectancy of the receivers are.
 - a) *Answer:* They are expected to last greater than 25 years but it depends on time of purchase.
- 11) Senator Tang asked why they are looking into microphones instead of lighting.
 - a) *Answer:* At the moment, they see this as an annualized cost and it has been seen in the financial board many times.
- 12) Senator Jarad asked why the rolling case is \$560.

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- a) *Answer:* The steep cost compensates for safety during transportation, and seeing as the microphones themselves are very expensive, they do not want to compromise on the carrier.

Discussion

Pros

- 1) ROI is fantastic
- 2) Good opportunity to invest in a club that invests in other organizations
- 3) This request has repeatedly come to financial board and this is a good way to ensure that we fund something in a one-time sitting to avoid multiple different contributions

Motion: Vote on the request

Outcome: Passed

B. 34th Proposed Constitution

Points of Information

- 1) Senate Chair Levitan shared that the time for proposing amendments was during the last Senate and the following week should have been used to reflect on these changes. We will not be reviewing the changes step-by-step

Questions

- 1) Senator Greene asked what the motion was made at the end of the last Senate.
 - a) *Answer:* The motion was to table the amendments.

Points of Information

- 1) Senator Greene pointed out that the motion made last week was to table the amendments, not to table the approved amendments, and the minutes reflect this.
- 2) Vice President pointed out the confusion lies in the verbiage in minutes, as opposed to the legitimacy of the motion.
- 3) Senator Antupit pointed out that a motion to table allows us to vote to adopt today.
- 4) Chair Jacob pointed out that the procedure of protocol for constitutional documents is that we vote to table, and then it gets moved to the approval stage. Whatever we are discussing now is coming from a place of approval from the last Senate.

Motion: Vote by hand to demonstrate that Senate is in understanding that we are voting to vote on adopting the proposed constitutional amendments today.

Outcome: Passed

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Questions

- 1) Senator Greene asked if we will be motioning to change the minutes.
 - a) *Answer:* Historically, the verbiage used within Senate when it comes to constitutional documents is to table amendments (with the assumption they are approved), and proceed to adoption. That being said, it seems unnecessary to change the verbiage seeing as this follows precedence.

Discussion

Pros

- 1) We had valuable discussion surrounding the approving changes last week
- 2) The changes had Senate wide support through a majority vote
- 3) Multiple people felt that this provided a lot of transparency for the student body

Cons

- 1) The Senate Chair position should not be an executive position as it serves as senator with higher powers.
- 2) It does not make sense for the preceding Senate to choose the Senate Chair for the upcoming senate.

Points of Information

- 1) Vice President Cormier pointed out that last week's Senate meeting was to approve changes and today is meant for adoption.
- 2) Senator Antupit emphasized that motions can be made at this point.
- 3) Senate Chair Levitan pointed out it would not be fair to the remainder of the Senate to continue to discuss an idea that is not receiving support from Senate.
- 4) Vice President-Elected Brown pointed out that time should not be a factor to consider when looking at a motion
- 5) Senator Greene pointed out technology will always be changing and it does not make sense to include MyWPI in the Constitution.

Motion: Take a five minute recess.

Outcome: Failed

Motion: Table this discussion and vote of adoption for next week.

Outcome: Passed

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- A. President-Elect Cluett encouraged having office hours this week to discuss the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. Vice President-Elect Brown pointed out that we should urge everyone to respect everyone's diverse ideas and thoughts and be inclusive.
- C. President-Elect Cluett asked if there is a finalized date for revisions for bylaw changes.
 1. *Answer:* The date is this Friday. Seeing that we tabled today's vote to

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adopt, we may have to update this date

D. Senator Antupit encouraged everyone to come to Financial Board on thursday.

XV. Announcements

A. Senator Crispin-Garcia pointed out that SHPE is selling empanadas at the CC this week and everyone should go visit.

B. Secretary-Elect Zhidro pointed out that WPI theater is putting on a show on November 30th, December 1st, and December 2nd. It is about artificial intelligence and is very relevant to current technological discussions.

C. Chair Patten pointed out that if Senators are interested in being featured on the Senator Spotlight, they should fill out the form in the Slack.

D. Chair Gopal thanked everyone who applied to take over the Weekly Emails and shared that Senator Pfeiffer will be taking over the Weekly Emails from here on out.

E. President-Elect Cluett shared that there will be a mock debate hosted by SAO after Senate in Olin Hall. The current Executive Board and Exec-Elect will be there. If anyone is interested in learning about respectful debate, they should attend.

XVI. Advisor's Remarks

XVII. President's Remarks

A. President Rios thanked everyone for sitting through a long Senate. She would like to apologize if any remarks were made that seemed like ideas were shut down. She reiterated that the reasons why this occurred was because of the fact that certain ideas did not have large senate-wide support previously.

B. She will be sharing a feedback form to bring back to the Campus Coalition to Dean Morris that she will be sending soon. Additionally, the Mental Health Committee will be providing a linktree with relevant resources.

C. Anyone interested in Herd Huddle should reach out to President Rios, as they need at least 19 senators.

XVIII. Adjournment

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