

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

34th Student Government Association

21st Meeting of the Thirty Fourth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in IS 205

6:00 p.m. – October 29th, 2024

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Senate Chair Chartier called to order the 21st meeting of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Senate Chair Chartier motioned to approve the minutes of the 20th meeting of the 34th Senate taken on October 22nd, 2024. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- III. Land Acknowledgement
 - A. Senate Chair Chartier shared a statement of land acknowledgment: “At this time I would like to recognize the land on which we gather and use. WPI acknowledges the painful history of genocide in the U.S. for native and indigenous peoples. As a public statement that honors the indigenous people as native inhabitants on this land, WPI honors and respects the many and diverse tribal nations who were forcefully removed from their sacred lands.”
- IV. Public Comments
 - A. Charlie Morse, Okanagan Charter Presentation
 1. Charlie Morse shared a presentation on behalf of WPI’s Directors of Wellness discussing WPI’s adoption of the Okanagan Charter. Established in 2015, the Okanagan Charter provides a framework to guide and inspire action pertaining to campus health policies and practices. It embodies principles of social justice, equity, dignity, respect for diversity, and more. He provided a brief overview of WPI’s current public health approach to well-being and how the adoption of the Okanagan Charter is anticipated to further these initiatives as well as active affiliates including College of the Holy Cross, UMass Amherst, and many more.
 - a) Vice President Brown asked for more elaboration pertaining to what the adoption of the Okanagan Charter achieves in comparison to abstaining from its adoption to which Charlie Morse responded the Okanagan Charter will promote more awareness and resources across campus.
 - b) Senator Antupit thanked Charlie Morse for the work they have done to better the WPI community.
 - B. Tech Eats Presentation
 1. President Cluett presented on TechEats’ behalf in which she shared a student feedback survey TechEats has composed to collect information, comments, etc. from WPI students. She requested Senate share a screenshot of its completion to her via Slack for a free treat!
 2. President Cluett also reminded Senate to contact Chair Taylor if they are interested in joining the Dining Advisory Committee!
- V. Special Orders

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A. Elections Chairperson

1. President Cluett appointed Senator Peeriz as the Elections Chairperson for the elections of the 35th Senate.
2. If you are interested in joining the 35th Senate, contact Elections Chairperson Peeriz for instruction on how to obtain signatures to run for Senate.

VI. President's Report

A. Herd Huddle

- a. President Cluett informed Senate that the B-Term Herd Huddle will be taking place November 14th from 4-5PM in which innovation and entrepreneurship will be discussed. She requested Senate sign up if they are able to volunteer for this event via the form provided.

VII. Vice President's Report

A. Club Constituents

1. Vice President Brown shared that a document has been prepared entailing what club constituents are, what clubs senators will serve as constituents for, and what the role entails (providing resources to clubs, and serving as a direct relation to SGA). Senate is required to have sent their clubs introductory emails whose template has been prepared by Vice President Brown by Sunday.
 - a) Senator Estime asked how Senate should go about meeting with a club if their GBM's clash with academic obligations to which Vice President Brown emphasized academics are their priority.
 - b) Chair Tang asked if senators should deliver follow-up emails if they fail to receive an initial response to which President Brown shared this is not necessary.

B. Committee Placements

1. Vice President Brown provided a resource to Senate entailing committee placements for the 34th Senate of B Term.

VIII. Secretary's Report

A. No Report

IX. Treasurer's Report

A. Money 101

1. Treasurer Link provided a brief overview of the SGA Financials Clusters and what is achieved within the Financial Board such as reviewing funding requests, deciding the student life fee, preparing club budgets, and so much more! She elaborated on what funds SGA has and how it is spent as well including funding requests, mandatory transfers, etc.
 - a) Chair Tang expressed concern pertaining to SGA's spending, considering anticipated funding requests to be received in the spring semester. Treasurer Link shared there is a higher amount of spending or an influx of spending throughout the fall semester as many spring semester events are fund requested for within the fall semester. She also shared there are internal monitors regarding how SGA spends money.

X. Senate Chair's Report

A. Faculty and Institute Committee Placements Announcements

1. Senate Chair Chartier announced that Chair Greene, Senator Gupta,

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Senator Esguerra, and Senator Schmidt were selected to serve in deciding the recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award.

XI. Cluster Reports

A. Student Services Cluster

1. No Report

B. Internal Services Cluster

1. No Report

C. Financials Cluster

1. No Report

XII. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

A. No Report

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

A. S.25.4 Lens and Lights (\$89,000)

1. Members of LNL introduced themselves and the role LNL serves on campus, supporting campus events with lens/lighting equipment and services! They presented a fund request in which they requested \$89,000 for the purchase of moving headlights to support more events. They also provided insight regarding why the purchase of these lights is fiscally responsible: they shared that these moving headlights are typically rented three separate occasions per academic year, reaching a cost of up to \$45,000 compared to this singular investment of \$89,000 in which LNL can reuse these lights for up to 10 years.

- a) Chair Tang asked (if the request is approved), when the lights will be received to which the presenter shared the lights would be anticipated to be received prior to the end of B Term.
- b) Chair Tang also asked if LNL has similar equipment to which the presenter confirmed LNL does not currently own comparable equipment capable of fulfilling the requested purpose.
- c) Senator Slattery asked what the life-expectancy is for the lights to which the presenter answered approximately 10 years.
- d) Senator Crispin asked if these lights would be able to support events not held in Alden Hall to which the presenter confirmed the lights are very transportable and can indeed be used to support events held in other locations on campus.
- e) Chair Tang asked how LNL must go about replacing any broken parts to which the presenter shared LNL regularly charges clubs for their services and the revenue is invested in equipment repair. He also shared that there are many active members of LNL with the skillset to repair equipment.
- f) Senator Kamataris asked how long LNL has to make the intended purchase with the provided bargain price they have negotiated with the vendor to which the presenter shared 30 days.
- g) LNL was thanked for their presentation before being dismissed.
- h) Treasurer Link motioned to approve the funding request.

(1) For: This is a great return on investment as opposed to consecutively spending upwards of \$45,000 every year.

(2) For: The equipment can be used to support multiple

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different clubs.

- (3) For: This is a fiscally responsible investment.
- (4) Against: The fund request proposes a large 5% contingency, which could be instead funded through internal revenue by LNL. Treasurer Link responded by sharing this is an anticipated contingency amount and is comparable to funding requests received in the past. Senator Barnes Cole also offered a secondary point of information in that clubs are reimbursed solely for the money they spent calculated via receipts/ documentation of expenses.
- (5) Treasurer Link shared another point of information in that the cost LNL charges clubs for their services is funded by SGA through club budgets/ funding requests.
- (6) Chair Tang shared a point of information in that Senate should consider that the \$10,000 LNL themselves are investing toward this purchase essentially comes from the revenue they have made through clubs/ SGA itself.
- (7) Against: LNL does not need 18 lights to support events held in Alden Hall and elsewhere. A lesser amount would be more adequate.
- (8) For: This is a fiscally responsible investment and reduces the cost to SGA of supporting these events. Without its purchase, LNL/ clubs would still be required to purchase or rent this equipment through other external sources at a higher fee.
- (9) Chair Tang asked if SGA has observed a decrease in fund requests for microphones considering LNL made a similar large fund request in the past regarding the investment of microphones for purchasing to which Treasurer Link shared there has been a decrease observed in fund request for microphones and an overall return on investment.
- (10) For: We as senators should not deem it our responsibility to decide the quantity of lights LNL requires. Overall this is a good return on investment.
 - (a) Chair Tang called this motion to question.
 - (b) The motion passed with 90% Aye, 5% Nay, and 5% Abstain.
- (11) Chair Taylor provided a point of information in which a common practice in the Financial Board is to vote on a fund request as a whole, as opposed to reducing the quantity an item is requested for.

XV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- A. Chair Greene stated “If less than the required number of senators run to make a full Senate, running an election is inevitably undemocratic. For the following reasons, if the number of candidates running do not make a full senate, the Elections Chairperson should not run an election. First, there has been some common misconception about the President having the power to set an arbitrary

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“threshold” number of votes that candidates must receive in order to be elected. This threshold does not exist in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Standing Rules - so holding the student body to any such rule is not only arbitrary but is a disservice to the student body. Second, requiring candidates who collected signatures to be voted in by requiring them to receive some number of votes presents us with this question: are we going to not elect these individuals who campaigned, received signatures demonstrating that they have adequate representation of the campus community, but subsequently presidentially appoint individuals to fill the emptiness in the Senate - i.e. trump the constituency/representation process. In other words, by using the threshold and running an election, we are giving preference in the legislative body to those who do not represent the student body but to those who have been selected by the President. This leads me to the last point - an election where everyone gets elected (or everyone should get elected) is a selection. The process of electing should determine who gets into the 68/69 seats of senate - but if less than this number of people are running, we can save everyone's time and “select” everyone into the seat. We are not being undemocratic in doing this - in fact, running an election would be the undemocratic choice since we would be lying to the undergraduates about what the election actually is. It is for these reasons, the Elections Chairperson should not hold an election if the number of candidates is less than the total number to make a full senate.”

- B. Chair Greene also shared a note pertaining to the Standing Rules in which he detailed that Senate's acting on the LNL FR was out of order. Rule 9.5c states financial information relevant to the meeting must be delivered with the agenda, and the \$90,000 dollar request was not delivered with the material. The intent of this rule is so everyone in the senate can receive the relevant information prior to its discussion on the senate floor. He emphasized that the Senate should consider the importance of our rules and refrain from breaking or neglecting them.
- C. Vice President Brown shared that discussion has been held pertaining to recommended backgrounds/ prerequisites not appropriately reflecting what is required of students and would appreciate it if senators serving on Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees explore this notion. Senator Antupit responded by stating CAP has chosen to refrain from exploring this concept in the past because it enables students to enroll in particular courses with a larger understanding than others and is happy to discuss this further with those interested.
- D. Chair tang shared that QCI brought to Senate that do not particularly require the exploration of a committee will become a Student Affairs initiative in which they will explore the validity or possibility of an idea.

XVI. Announcements

- A. Treasurer Link shared tomorrow's Financial Board will be Spooky themed!
- B. Chair Tang announced Student Affairs will be meeting tomorrow 3-4PM! If you are a member of this committee and are unable to attend, contact Chair Tang.
- C. Treasurer-Elect Barnes Cole shared that an Art Fair will be held on November 22nd.
- D. Senator Kamataris shared that IEEE will be hosting their Tesla Coil Showcase on Halloween Day on the quad!
- E. Vice President Brown congratulated Exec-Elect.

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- F. Senator Jones announced that Haunted Higgins House will commence Saturday November 2nd.
 - G. Senator Lapin shared that there is a federal work study opportunity within his lab for students with ME, CS, ECE or Aerospace Engineering backgrounds and to reach out to him if they are interested!
- XVII. Advisor's Remarks
- A. Advisor Ziev congratulated Exec-Elect and announced that changes pertaining to the SAO's policies have been communicated to club treasurers. Vice President Brown chimed in and reminded Senate that Cabinet/Exec are a resource in the event they are asked a question they are not prepared for when communicating with clubs (and in general!).
- XVIII. President's Remarks
- A. President Cluett congratulated Exec-Elect and reminded anyone interested in being part of the 35th Senate to complete their intent forms and that election signatures are due this Friday, November 1st. Elections will commence Monday of next week at 8AM.
 - B. President Cluett also reminded Senate there would be no meeting next week (November 5th) as it is a wellness day.
- XIX. Adjournment
- A. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Members of Senate Present During Voting Period: President Cluett, Vice President Brown, Senate Chair Chartier, Treasurer Link, Secretary Zhidro, Chair Taylor, Chair Hulburt, Chair Tang, Chair Greene, Chair Mikitarian, Chair Daniels, Tech Coordinator Aguiar, Accountant Peabody, Secretary Capi, Treasurer-Elect Barnes-Cole, Senator Slattery, Senator Winston, Senator Estime, Secretary-Elect Glychmuhammedov, Senator Jones, Senator Frunzio, Senator Rachid, Senator Crispin Garcia, Senator Sena, Senator Johnson, Senator Lapin, Senator Revis, Senator Pilato, Senator Goudreau, Senator Porter, Senator Bouffard, Senator Panchal, Senator Vasquez, Senator Esguerra, Senator Kamataris, Senator Rahim, Senator Doyon, Senator Leatherman, Senator Vance, Senator Beattie, Senator Lazarus, Senator Amuasi, Senator Higgins

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