

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## 29<sup>th</sup> Student Government Association

17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Twenty-Ninth Undergraduate Student Government Association  
To be held in the Rubin Campus Center, Odeum C  
6:00 p.m. – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Special Orders
- V. President's Report
  - a. Elections
  - b. Chair of the Term
    - i. President Wilson awarded Chair Tavares as Chair of the Term for his work with the multiple town halls, superfan distribution, and coordination of Pep Rally.
    - ii. President Wilson also awarded Chair Racca as Chair of the Term for her work with the SGA Internal Audit and club auditing.
- VI. Vice President's Report
  - a. Upcoming Events
    - i. SGA will be having study hours for senators in Washburn Shops. Pep rally is Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The SGA End of Year Banquet will be November 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Senator Shoutout
    - i. Vice President Toomey congratulated Senator Cordova for her work in the communications Sector
    - ii. Vice President Toomey congratulated members on the Social Media Team, Technical Coordinator Tocci and Senator Starr for their work on the website and Weekly Events Email, the elections team, and financial board members who have attended every meeting.
- VII. Secretary's Report
  - a. Guess the SGA Member
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
  - a. No Report
- IX. Parliamentarian's Report
  - a. Homecoming Alumni Event
    - i. The Homecoming Alumni Event will take place on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the Higgins House East Courtyard. Setup will begin at 12:45 PM, and shirts will be thrown out at the homecoming football game at 2:00 PM. There are currently 14 alumni registered, with more interested. Parliamentarian Liberacki encouraged senators to register for the event.
    - ii. The purpose of this event is to reconnect with people who were previously in our positions.
  - b. Trivia

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- X. Cluster Reports
  - a. Student Services Cluster
    - i. Town Hall – Chair Tavares
      - 1. There were two town halls in the past week. At the first town hall, Student leaders from across campus attended to give feedback on SGA. Parking spaces on campus are even more limited than previously because the East Parking Garage is closed to students. There are very few outlets on campus, and got feedback on what to do. Feedback was also given on how to evaluate campus study spaces.
      - 2. At the second town hall, SGA received over 300 projects and suggestions for Senate.
    - ii. Pep Rally – Chair Tavares
      - 1. Pep Rally will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00PM. Senators should start to set up for the event at 3:15 PM. This is a mandatory event, so all senators should go. Chair Tavares asked that senators should help with wrapping superfan shirts to throw out to students.
    - iii. Superfans – Chair Tavares
      - 1. Signups will be sent out shortly for events that shirts will be thrown at. The storage of superfans will also be changed to make the area easier to access.
      - 2. Senators should encourage students and clubs to submit forms for Superfans and Ultrafans, or Ultrafan nominations.
  - b. Internal Services Cluster
    - i. Elections Update – Chair Coelho
      - 1. Chair Coelho thanked all senators who helped with elections. There will be tables set up with voting booths, and QR codes for people who cannot attend the voting booths. An Ultrafan will be rewarded to a random student who voted.
  - c. Financials Cluster
    - i. New Project – Chair LaJeunesse
      - 1. Appropriations will be working on evaluating the student life fee. Anyone interested should reach out to Treasurer Candy or Chair LaJeunesse.
    - ii. Project Updates – Chair Racca
      - 1. Chair Racca updated that club auditing grades have closed. She thanked all students who worked with different clubs. Senators who have not heard back from clubs should tell Chair Racca.
      - 2. Chair Racca is still looking for questions for the student census. She encourages senators to think about questions that could help gather data for each projects cluster.
    - iii. Fiscal Organization – Accountant Bimonte
      - 1. Accountant Bimonte announced that SGA will be having server access to SGA’s financial data. This data will be available via a link

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on the SGA Website. This database contains data from FY15 and later.

- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
  - a. Accountant Bimonte announced that there is a WSGA breakout session at Assumption College's campus center from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- XII. Old Business
  - a. S.11 SGA Constitution Updates
    - i. Reentering the motion from the previous Senate meeting to add the clause of impeaching an exec-elect.
      - 1. **Pros:**
        - There should be a safeguard in place in case an exec is not able to perform unbiased in the vote.
      - 2. **Cons:**
        - With the loopholes found, the decision could become biased.
      - 3. **Outcome:**
        - **Motion Passed**
    - ii. **Motion to re-add in the clause regarding having senators who are not running for Senate having to sit 2 hours at voting booths during elections.**
      - 1. **Point of Information**
        - The voting booth is only a piece of cardboard.
      - 2. **Cons:**
        - The constitution is in place to stand the test of time. We shouldn't force people to use voting booths if SGA does not want to use them
        - People should not be forced to sit at a voting booth for 2 hours.
      - 3. **Outcome:**
        - **Motion does not pass.**
    - iii. **Questions/Points of Information:**
      - 1. What was voted previously?
        - Changing committees to project clusters, changing the vote of impeachment of exec-elect to a unanimous vote of the current Executive Board, and giving the Secretary the ability to vote in Cabinet.
    - iv. **Pros:**
      - 1. The proposed changes now abide by what Senate would like as a whole.
      - 2. We should trust Secretary Burack and Senator Rossetti for the changes made. Senators who still do not understand the changes showed that they did not read the entirety of the revisions as previously given out to Senate.
    - v. **Cons:**

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1. There have been so many changes that have been distributed to senate that senators should review this for another week.
  - vi. **Outcome:**
    1. **Motion Passed**
- XIII. New Business
- a. SGA Internal Audit
    - i. The purpose of the internal audit is to determine if SGA is following its own rules. All data presented is from FY19.
    - ii. For funding requests, 84% of requests were passed with an average of \$2,032.4. Media performance and cultural clubs requested a less number of times, but were allocated with more funds.
    - iii. For budgets, the lowest spend percentage is from professional organizations. The most spent percentage of budgets were in club sports and campus-wide organizations. Campus-wide organizations, club sports, and cultural groups request the most funds.
    - iv. Budgeted costs have gone down in FY19 and mandatory transfers' costs has remained roughly the same.
    - v. For SGA expenditures, SGA requested for the \$10,000 idea, superfan shirts, and mailchimp for the weekly events email. SGA was allocated \$6,500 and spent \$3,521.68, spending 54% of the costs and resulting in a grade of an NR. Gavels and nameplates were not given to interims, and plaques were not ordered in FY19.
    - vi. Assets have remained even over the course of the past few years.
    - vii. Per funding requests, SGA follows their own rules. For the budget, SGA does not follow some rules.
    - viii. The internal audit team recommends specific budget cuts for the SGA Treasurer. This will reflect on SGA Bylaws and events that SGA no longer provides. The team also recommends looking into cost of food waste, as SGA has funded over one food event a day which can lead to lots of food waste.
    - ix. **Questions:**
      1. What is the difference between international organizations and cultural organizations.
        - Cultural clubs are revolved around religion or race.
        - International clubs are revolved around nationality.
      2. Seniors would put down a deposit for graduation. Where do executive Stoles fit into this situation.
        - This was taken out of SGA legacy funds and had a deposit. We also only spent 54% due to a cheaper retreat.
  - b. S.12 Presentation of the Slate
    - i. Vice President Toomey and Parliamentarian Liberacki presented the Slate for Executive Elections.

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- ii. Christopher Tocci and Ryan Candy were slated for President. Ryan Candy was chosen due to having a positive working experience with campus and organization. Christopher Tocci has shown a past dedication to SGA.
- iii. Rebecca Serven and Alison Silvia were Slated for Vice President. Becky was slated due to her past experience as a chair and her interaction with senators. Alison Silvia was slated due to her ideas and opinions about improvements of Senate.
- iv. Mara Nunez was slated for Treasurer as her experience in Financial Board has shown her qualifications
- v. **Questions/Points of Information**
  - 1. Why aren't there two people slated for Treasurer?
    - Only one person expressed interested and proved to be comfortable with being Treasurer.
    - Slating Committee voted unanimously to slate Mara Nunez as Treasurer.
- vi. **Motion to slate Lauren Guerrero for Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Senate.**
  - 1. **Outcome:**
    - **Motion Does Not Pass**
- vii. **Outcome:**
  - 1. **Slate Passes**
- c. S.13 Choral Association F.124 Appeal
  - i. **Purpose of Funds:**
    - 1. These funds will go towards purchasing buses for a conference at Northeastern University. Previously, buses were denied due to expensive cost of buses. Now that they have changed companies for busses, the cost of buses is shorter. There will be one bus that will be used to pick up students from their concert back to WPI. The new cost is now \$1,380
  - ii. **Questions/Points of Information**
    - 1. If they needed to cancel buses for any reason, would there be a cancelation fee?
      - There would be a cancelation fee.
    - 2. Were there any deposits placed?
      - There were no deposits placed.
    - 3. Payments are done after the event for school buses. The trip is also approved by the SAO.
    - 4. Why was the request denied?
      - Financial Board denied the buses as it was unclear whether the coral association paid the buses. The club did put a deposit, and the club would need to pay that cancelation fee. The cost was also very expensive
    - 5. The club stated that they directly didn't pay for any costs. They also stated that they needed the extra space for equipment.

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6. Could the coral association submit a reallocation request for the cancelation fee?
    - The reallocation request would need to pass in Financial Board.
  7. The constitution states that we may fund up to 100% of the cost, but not required
- iii. **Pros:**
    1. Senate should not judge based on the decision of financial board.
    2. The rates given in this appeal are similar to other rates from the same company.
    3. They put in the effort to find a new company.
  - iv. **Outcome:**
    1. **Request Passed**
- XIV. Questions, Comments and Ideas
- XV. Announcements
- a. MCPH Worcester is offering discounted dental cleaning for students for \$5. If anyone needs their teeth cleaned, they should look into that.
  - b. There will be an immunization clinic on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Campus Center.
  - c. Cookies will be brought to the SGA Study Session on Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. A list of SGA alumni will be sent out to senators.
  - e. The college Jeopardy Test will open on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - f. There is trivia in the Goats head at 9:00 PM on Tuesdays.
  - g. Phi Kappa Theta will be holding Thank Kap Its Finals, where they will be giving out Panera for free outside the CC on Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - h. Anyone interested in bowling should attend Bowling Club's meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the Hagglund Room.
- XVI. Advisor's Remarks
- a. Advisor Sharry wished all senators luck during finals week, and encourages all to stay healthy.
- XVII. President's Remarks
- a. President Wilson thanked senators for a great discussion. She also was glad to see new senators interacting with each other. Pep Rally is Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and is one of the biggest events of the year. It is a great time for SGA to interact with campus, and is very fun. She encourages senators to attend Pep Rally and the Alumni Event.
- XVIII. Adjournment

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