

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

30th Student Government Association

14th Meeting of the Thirtieth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Zoom Meeting ID: 952 4476 3062

6:00 p.m. – September 8th, 2020

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comments

Astronomy Club

Nasim Mansuri, President of Astronomy Club, came to Senate to present her club. She stated that the goal of Astronomy Club is to expose the student body to astronomical phenomena and astrophotography. They foster a fun, learning-orientated, inclusive environment. Anyone who is interested in astronomy can attend. Their events range from laying down and looking at the stars to building telescopes. Additionally, members of Astronomy Club stargaze, do astrophotography workshops, planetarium visits, and launch/landing parties. The clubs most recent challenges include trip scheduling due to unpredictable weather, funding their trips and equipment, and engaging the student body on a remote platform. Some events Astronomy Club has planned are virtual lectures, socially distant stargazing, and cookie decorating over Zoom. They are also very interested in educating people on the history of women astronomers. On their Instagram (@wpiastromyclub) they have a calendar of events. If anyone has any questions their email is gr-astronomy-exec@wpi.edu

Questions:

- a. Are people able to view telescope remotely?
Answer: Yes, so people both on and off campus can view the stars.
- b. There is a professor with an observatory built out of his home?
Answer: Yes, it is in a smaller building in his backyard.
- c. Back in D term, did you do these virtual lectures then?
Answer: No, we started it this term. Back then a webinar felt complicated and like something not a lot of people would be interested in, but now it is so easy and normal to do. The lectures are open to everyone, both within and outside of the WPI community.
- d. Where can I find your calendar of events and how can I find the links to the webinars?

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Answer: All of this information is on our Instagram and shared via our mailing list.

- e. You should share your webinar events with WPI, especially if someone who is speaking is a WPI alumni. WPI would help to advertise the event to a larger audience.
- f. Remember to put your events on TechSync, so we can advertise it in the weekly email!

IV. Special Orders

President Candy appointed Aidan Burns, Atharva Tiwari, Collins Broderick, Emily Pimentel, Jake Backer, Katie Bowles, and Tera Keang as Senators at 6:03 P.M. He then appointed Robert Eskridge and Sasha Daraskevich as interim Senators at 6:03 P.M.

V. President's Report

President Candy welcomed all the new Senators! He then reminded everyone to fill out the anti-hazing form.

VI. Vice President's Report

- a. No Report

VII. Secretary's Report

- a. No Report

VIII. Treasurer's Report

- a. No Report

IX. Parliamentarian's Report

Parliamentarian Silvia reminded Senate that Exec and Slating applications are due by Thursday September 24th at midnight. If you plan on applying, then you need to attend the info sessions.

She then went on to talk to Senate about the the pros and cons of Secretary being an internal and external election. Currently Secretary is an internally elected position, but we are now considering it to be moved to an externally elected position. This is something that Senate will discuss then vote on during the next Senate meeting.

Discussion:

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- a. Senator Gushi, who formerly served as Secretary for his previous institution's SGA, talked about how the position of Secretary has a lot of responsibility. He believes that Secretary should be externally elected.
- b. Senator Parenteau asked for examples of the Secretary's responsibilities.
Answer: Secretary Gruner-Mitchell then explained the internal work she does (attendance, agenda, minutes, taking care of the office, etc.). Then she explained the external work that she does (minutes and agenda are sent to many people; Internal Services, the cluster that she leads, serves the student body; and as a voting member of Exec, her vote affects the student body).

Finally, congratulations to Treasurer Nunez for winning Kahoot!

X. Cluster Reports

- a. Student Services Cluster
 - a. No Reports
 - b. Internal Services Cluster
 - a. No Reports
 - c. Financials Cluster
 - a. No Reports

XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

- a. Vice President Serven assigned everyone to their project groups. She then organized the breakout rooms on Zoom so that project groups could make a Slack Channel, a Google Drive, create an email alias, and choose a time to meet every week.
- b. Senators were again split into breakout rooms for an ice breaker. Within their small groups they introduced themselves and shared why they choose to be a part of SGA.

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- a. How many info sessions will there be for Slating Committee and Exec?
Answer: There will be 3 and each will be immediately after Senate.

XV. Announcements

- a. The Office of Disabilities Service is now the Office of Accessibility Services.
- b. Emily Wilson, former SGA President, reached out and wanted to remind everyone that the career fair is coming up.
- c. The Global Career Fair is this week, so make sure to attend.

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XVI. Advisor's Remarks

Advisor Sharry thanked everyone who participated in the Student Activities Fair. She also mentioned the SAO is planning on doing a virtual weekend programming series. There will be a Paint Night this Sunday: Check it out on TechSync if you are interested!

XVII. President's Remarks

President Candy thanks everyone for another great Senate meeting; He said that it was great to meet more people informally! He reminded everyone that Exec elections are coming up soon, and if you are interested stick around for the info session.

XVIII. Adjournment

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