

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Student Government Association

9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thirty First Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Innovation Studio 203

6:00 p.m. – March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

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

- A. Lens and Lights

- 1. LNL is a production club where members set up events, work with sound and lighting, and provide those services for organizations on campus. They do several different types of setups with voice amplification and microphones, from really large setup productions like a quad music event. They also do lighting for productions on stages and parties. The last service they provide is projection, like the weekly movies, or any film productions. They provide services all across WPI. They do not receive money from SGA because WPI departments should not be using the student life fee. Therefore, they charge for events, but still, they are 90% cheaper than if a club were to use external services. They allocate all of their funds to not make any profit over the process. All members are volunteers that do not get paid. If anyone is interested in booking an event, contact LNL at least 2 weeks before, and the earlier the better. They can be contacted at [lnl@wpi.edu](mailto:lnl@wpi.edu) or via their website. They cannot help people who do not have spaces booked prior. After contact, you will receive a quote with the cost breakdown. If you are unaware of the type of service you may need, they are also willing to help advise you on what is best.

Questions:

Senator Salerno asked if quotes come before a club's funding request for an event.

*Answer:* Yes, and they can expedite the quote process if asked.

Senator Graikos asked what the difference between the Academic Technology Center (ATC) and LNL is.

*Answer:* ATC supports existing setups for projectors and speakers like the Quad, which is run by student organizations.

Treasurer Muhlenburg asked how can SGA better support LNL.

*Answer:* They are recovering from COVID since there have not been many events on campus, so they are looking for ways to outreach.

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President Wilde asked if the film projectors are requested the same way as other production services.

*Answer:* Yes.

#### B. Office of Financial Aid and Literacy

1. Jessica Sabourin came in as the director of Student Aid and Financial Literacy to share a new policy and get SGA's feedback. This policy is approved, however, they wanted to inform us so we can help relay the information to the rest of the student body. In the past, merit scholarships would be cut if you were to not able to pass classes and obtain 30 academic credits in the school year. The financial aid cut was a large stressor on students, especially given that 24 passed credits is considered good academic standing at WPI. They worked with a variety of different offices at the campus to now implement that there will be no merit based financial aid cuts if you are able to achieve 24 academic credits in an academic year. If you were to fall below that due to a hard year or extraneous conditions, you can also submit an appeal to the financial aid office.

#### Comments:

Senator Schroeder shared that they love the idea of this policy.

Jessica Sabourin continued to share that this will not impact any changes with the registrar. Additionally, moving forward, any cuts will be compiled at the end of the D-term, rather than the middle of the year. This is when the appeals process will begin, including circumstances such as fifth-year funding if you are having a tough time and need to take a semester off. For regulatory compliance, WPI changed what is considered good academic standing to a 2.0 GPA as long as 24 credits were received.

#### Questions/Comments:

Chair Cormier shared that she believes the continuity of the satisfactory academic process is very helpful.

President Wilde asked for some clarification in regards to merit versus need-based aid.

*Answer:* They will not cut need-based aid, and this is only for merit scholarships. And she reinforced the sentiment that you can still submit an appeal.

Senator Schroeder shared that social media would be a great way to communicate this change. Parents read Facebook. We as students tend to

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use Instagram.

Parliamentarian Gyurcsan shared that this should be communicated to CAs and RAs to inform incoming students about this change of policy.

**IV. Special Orders**

- A. Graham Driscoll-Carignan and Sebastian Pineda were appointed as honorary senators.

**V. President's Report**

- A. SGA Game Night will occur after the senate tonight in this room. They have a few copies of Worcester monopoly form the SAO office.
- B. IFC is trying to gather data on fraternity safety, therefore the senate filled out a feedback form. President Wilde also recommended this form be sent out to any other groups senators may be in as well.

**VI. Vice President's Report**

- A. All honorary senators should report to Vice President MacGregor after the senate.
- B. There was a feedback form administered with regards to dates, activities, and information regarding last year's retreat to make this retreat more representative of the needs and wants of the senators.

Questions:

Chair Cormier asked how long the retreat would be.

*Answer:* Vice President MacGregor shared a few hours, but if anyone has any feedback you can put that in the form.

**VII. Secretary's Report**

- A. Secretary Damon shared communications is looking for new senators, and anyone who is interested should let her or someone on the executive board know.

**VIII. Treasurer's Report**

- A. The Appropriations application form is the slack.
- B. This Week in Financials! Financial board is Wednesday from 6-7 in the CC Morgan room, and there is an outlook invite sent to all.

**IX. Parliamentarian's Report**

- A. No Report

**X. Cluster Reports**

**A. Student Services Cluster**

1. Chair Bowles shared some upcoming events with SGA on campus. The ACS, American Cancer Society, throws an annual event called Relay for Life overnight in the recreation center from 6 pm to 6 am. Before Relay, SGA throws a barbecue. There will be free food, and everyone is encouraged to sign up, which is posted in Slack.
2. Big Show Reveal is on the 29th from 5-8 on the Quad. There need to be some senators there to help, and if you go you will be that day excused from the senate meeting.
3. The SGA Meet and Greet is an opportunity to share projects with the rest

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of campus. There will be posters made, and the event will be held in Higgins Lawn on April 21st from 11 am to 3 pm. There will be set up times to work on posters in the next few weeks.

## **B. Internal Services Cluster**

1. Chair Jerusal shared the diversity results from this senate to the last senate. They ain to connect with LGBTQ+ groups on campus and continue to reach out to different clubs and organizations.

### Questions:

Senator Barry asked what the WPI campus diversity is compared to SGA.

*Answer:* Chair Jerusal shared that we are not proportional in terms of ethnicity.

Chair Bowles asked how many people answered the survey.

*Answer:* 42.

2. Chair Cormier shared the Campus Hearing Board (CHB) is the judicial body on campus with undergraduates, staffs, and faculty. You hold the position for a year and you would be called in an instance of academic dishonesty. The form was sent out to the student body today as well as a form for superfan slogans. She encourages senators to spread the word via posting and table-sitting, and check the calendar to reach as many people as possible. The winner of gets an ultrafan. It is open until April 1st and IA/CO vote on the top 10, then the student body votes from there. Superfan slogan results will be announced, and the CHB results will not. Proof of voting will get you into the raffle.

### Questions:

Secretary Damon asked if she could post the calendar in slack.

*Answer:* Yes.

How many superfan submissions do you get?

*Answer:* 1.

Senator Boyer asked if there were 25 live dates for table sitting.

*Answer:* Not yet.

## **C. Financials Cluster**

1. No Report

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- XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees
  - A. Senator Levitan shared that he is working on a mental health project about balancing social events and academics.
  - B. Chair Rios cannot attend the CAO (Committee on Academic Relations) meeting this term. If anyone is interested or wants to learn more, reach out to her and President Wilde.
  - C. Chair Gopal shared that the UOA (Undergraduate Outcomes and Assessment) is looking for student representatives. The meetings are biweekly on zoom for the term.
  - D. Senator Levitan shared from the calendar committee that there is a possible change in the academic calendar
    - 1. Scattered dates off throughout the term
    - 2. An extra week off in the middle of each term
    - 3. Few 3/4 day weekends per term

Questions/Comments:

Do not extend the year too much.

Chair Cormier strongly dislikes the break in the middle of the term.

Senator Gainn asked if this eliminated other time off.

*Answer:* No.

Senator Medeiros emphasized what Chair Cormier stated.

Senator Patten said the 3 day weekend would be the best option.

Chair Langille shared that this new policy may interfere with internships.

President Wilde shared that this may interfere with international students going home for winter break.

- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas
- XV. Announcements
  - A. Parliamentarian Gyurcan asked the faculty committee member to fill out the When2Meet for their new group discussion meetings.
  - B. Senator Schroeder said to come to Talent Tuesdays at the CDC for free food.

Questions:

Senator Salerno asked what time

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*Answer: 10-2*

Senator Peeriz shared that there will be superfan raffles at this event.

Chair Rios said thank you for everyone's help with the talent show.

XVI. Advisor's Remarks

- A. Member of the MHIT is looking for people to work on the communications team. If you are interested, email her.
- B. TechSync issues are now resolved.
- C. Zach's Wraps is the food truck on the Quad tonight.

XVII. President's Remarks

- A. President Wilde thanked Chair Rios and Chair Gopal for their work with Goat's Got Talent.
- B. WPI is looking for an assistant director for the center of well-being. They are looking for student representatives to discuss what they are looking for with the position on March 25th from 2-2:50 and April 8th from 2-2:50, and anyone who is interested in attending should let her know.
- C. There will be a workshop with the presidential search committee for 1 hour next week instead of a regular senate meeting. There will be paper minutes sent out.

XVIII. Adjournment

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