

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Student Government Association

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Thirty Third Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Innovation Studio 105

6:00 p.m. – January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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

**Motion:** Appoint Theo Barnes-Coles as an Interim Senator.

**Outcome:** Passed

### V. **President's Report**

#### A. *Standing Rules Review*

1. President Cormier reminded everyone of her email from the past week with the proposed changes in Standing Rules. When we arrive at New Business, we will be reviewing these proposed changes and voting via PollEverywhere. These changes will need to pass by a vote of 50%. To be brought to the next Senate for adoption. Everyone should remember Robert's Rules during discussion. She also reiterated that laptops are not allowed during Senate.

#### B. *Committee Expectations*

1. Everyone should be placed in a committee by now. If anyone has not yet been placed, they should yet reach out to Vice President Link.
2. Additionally, everyone's respective Chair should have reached out to them. Senators should be checking Slack, which is our primary form of communication, as well as email. If anyone feels unsatisfied in their committee placement, they should reach out to Vice President Link, who will resolve the issue as best she can.
3. President Cormier shared that she is still looking for someone to oversee the Weekly Events email. Interested Senators should Slack Chair Gopal or herself.
4. She gauged interest regarding an SGA Relay for Life team. This event will be held on April 15th, 2023, at the Recreation Center from 9:00 PM to 9:00 AM. Tickets will be sold for \$25, excluding the upcoming week, where they will be \$10.

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## **VI. Vice President's Report**

### *A. Retreat Feedback*

1. Vice President Link thanked everyone who participated in Retreat and shared that she had a very memorable experience and appreciated the opportunity to bond with Senators! She shared photos and videos taken at Retreat. If anyone had feedback regarding retreat, they were encouraged to reach out to her.

### *B. Committee Placements*

1. Vice President Link shared the Committee Placements for the 33rd Senate and emphasized the importance of regularly checking Slack. Anyone who was not placed in a Committee or wanted to become more or less involved was encouraged to reach out to her.

### *C. Senate Activity*

1. Senate participated in a bonding activity involving writing haikus about WPI/SGA in small groups.

### *D. SGA Assassins*

1. Vice President Link explained that she is instituting SGAssassins - a creative way to get to know fellow senators. The rules of the game were explained, as well as the procedure regarding elimination. The winner will receive an Ultrafan. Specific questions regarding the game can be addressed to Vice President Link, and more details will be sent soon.
2. A Google Form will be sent in Slack for interested Senators to fill out.

## VII. Secretary's Report

### A. No Report

## VIII. Treasurer's Report

### A. No Report

## **IX. Senate Chair's Report**

### *A. Faculty & Special Committee Placements*

1. Senate Chair Chartier shared a graphic displaying those currently involved in Faculty & Special Committees. He emphasized that there are three major vacancies in these committees. The weekly meeting time is from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the SGA office. If anyone has the bandwidth to join, they are highly encouraged to do so!

## X. Cluster Reports

### A. Student Services Cluster

1. No Report

### B. Internal Services Cluster

1. No Report

### C. Financials Cluster

1. No Report

## XI. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

## XII. Old Business

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### **XIII. New Business**

#### *A. S.1 Standing Rules Review*

1. President Cormier stated that Senate will be reviewing the Standing Rules together and shared the major changes that were made, which include the following:
  - a) The Senate year was updated from 33nd to 33rd and page layout and display were edited.
  - b) Verbiage was changed from project work to committee work to reflect the restructure.
  - c) The difference in definitions of Senator & Financial Senator were explained in General Provisions.
  - d) The Financial Senator responsibilities and financial board attendance requirement for non Financial Senators were updated
2. She explained that we will be entering discussion regarding the proposed changes. Anyone can make a motion to amend points of the revisions, and if so, we will move into discussion regarding said amendment. If no amendments are made, we will continue discussion surrounding the proposed revisions. When Senate Chair Chartier feels that discussion has concluded in an appropriate manner, he will move us into voting. Everyone is encouraged to keep Robert's Rules in mind during discussion.

#### Questions

- 1) Senator Tang clarified that the WPI academic terms consist of terms A,B,C,D & E, and would like to know if Senator responsibilities apply in E-term.
  - a) *Answer:* SGA does not operate in E-term, so the Executive Board felt it was unnecessary to include E-term in that section of the revision.
    - i) Chair Gopal clarified that there are certain events that SGA begins preliminary planning in E-term, which is something to keep in mind when looking at Senator requirements.
- 2) Senator Luca asked if Senators will be penalized for a lack of participation in Committee meetings during E-term.
  - a) *Answer:* No penalizations will occur. Senators have the option to be involved in projects that require planning during E-term, but are not required to do so.
- 3) Senator Gyurcsan asked when the constituent clubs would be assigned.
  - a) *Answer:* President Cormier and Vice President Link are working in conjunction to organize this, keeping in mind the duration of their interim positions. Senators can expect an update regarding club constituents in D-term.
- 4) Senator Brown asked if anyone can view the Senate Agenda email.
  - a) *Answer:* Yes. They must first request permission to be added to the gr-sgaagenda group. Secretary Jerusal will then approve the request and they will receive all communication associated with that group.
- 5) Senator Brown asked if the Senate minutes could be available to the public.
  - a) *Answer:* All senate minutes are published on the SGA website by the Secretary.
- 6) Chair Jacob asked if there is a rule regarding attendance tracking at Financial Board
  - a) *Answer:* There is no rule that explicitly discusses Financial Board attendance. This is up to the discretion of the Treasurer and Financial Chairs.

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- 7) Senator Tang asked if there was an option to abstain?
- a) *Answer:* An option is being created.
    - i) President Cormier clarified that abstentions are generally only used when someone cannot vote in good faith due to personal bias regarding the point of business. The purpose of discussion and questions is to clarify any doubts that may exist prior to voting.

**Motion:** Have the minutes of every Senate meeting be sent 24 hours prior to the next senate

1. President Cormier clarified that the minutes are currently sent in a timely fashion.

Discussion

None

**Outcome:** Failed

**Motion:** Amend the verbiage regarding Senate attendance to Senators & Financial Senators.

Discussion

None

**Outcome:** Failed

**Motion:** Vote on the proposed revisions.

Discussion

1. *Pro:* The proposed revisions are an accurate reflection of the changes implemented in the 33rd Senate, and will help Financial Senator gain a better understanding regarding their updated responsibilities.

**Outcome:** Passed

XIV. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

- A. Vice President Link discussed the relevance of this section in the Agenda. The Executive Board would like to come up with a substantial way to acknowledge these ideas. If anyone has any thoughts regarding the process of ideas from Senate becoming adopted, they are encouraged to reach out to the Executive Board. She emphasized that everyone's opinions are being heard and reflected on.

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- XV. Announcements
- A. Chair Jacob shared that Financial Board will occur on Thursday in the Taylor Room at 6:00 PM. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
  - B. Treasurer Bowles emphasized that Financial Senators are obligated to attend Financial Board. If a Financial Senator is unable to attend, they must contact her immediately.
  - C. Chair Jacob shared that budgets will now be due on February 6th, 2023. Club Treasurers should keep this in mind.
  - D. Chair Patten encouraged everyone should share pictures from retreat in the Senate Photo Circle.
  - E. Senator Tang shared that the temperature will be dropping very low in the upcoming week, and encouraged everyone to stay warm!
- XVI. Advisor's Remarks
- A. Advisor Sharry thanked everyone for a productive Senate and appreciated the discussion points. She shared that the Braza carnival is happening tonight at the Odeum of the CC. Everyone should continue to reach out to her regarding questions about discussion and legislation.
- XVII. President's Remarks
- A. President Cormier thanked everyone for participating in an exciting first discussion in the 33rd Senate. She encouraged future discussion and emphasized that mistakes are bound to occur when making motions and amendments, and that this is a valuable way for Senate to learn procedure.
  - B. Senate was reminded to fill out the attendance form listed in the email with the agenda, communicate with Treasurer Bowles about anything related to Financials, regularly check Slack and review the Standing Rules prior to next week's Senate, where we will vote on adoption.
  - C. President Cormier wished everyone a good Wellness Day! Campus is providing an assortment of activities including free mac and cheese which can be obtained by completing the Wellness Day Passport. Other activities include origami, drop-in arts-and-crafts. International Student Council is hosting NutellaFest. Senate should check the Weekly Events email and TechSync for any additional events.
- XVIII. Adjournment

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