

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

34th Student Government Association

1st Meeting of the Thirty Fourth Undergraduate Student Government Association

To be held in Innovation Studio 205

6:00 p.m. – January 16th, 2024

I. Ceremonial Presidential Swearing In

1. The former 33rd Student Government Association President Gabriella Rios introduced herself and called to order the presidential swearing in ceremony.
2. The motion passed.
3. President Rios swore in Vice President-Elect Brown as the Interim President of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association. With her right hand raised and her left hand on the Tech Bible, Vice President Elect Brown swore to “uphold the mission of the Undergraduate Student Government Association, to faithfully execute the office of president, and that she will, to the best of her ability, dedicate herself to leading the effort to improve the quality of the undergraduate experiences for the students of WPI.”

II. Call to Order

1. President Brown called to order the first meeting of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association.
2. President Brown acknowledged as elected vice-president, she will be assuming the role of president until President-Elect Cluett returns from IQP.
3. President Brown stated for the record that the standing rules of the 33rd Undergraduate Student Government Association will remain in effect until the standing rules are amended and approved by the 34th senate.
4. President Brown informed the senate the meeting was audio and video-recorded.

III. Roll Call

- A. To ensure an elected quorum to satisfy initial business.
 1. Secretary Zhidro called the roll in which Senators responded “Present” when hearing their name called.
- B. President Brown motioned to appoint Senator Schroeder as Senate Chair in Senate Chair-Elect Chartier’s absence.
 1. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- C. President Brown motioned to have Senate Chair Schroeder act as the presiding officer for the remainder of the meeting and all future meetings of the senate.
 1. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Special Orders

- A. Appointment of Executive Board Interims, Cabinet Officers, Senators
 1. Senate Chair Schroeder recognized President Brown to appoint the interim Executive Board Members and Cabinet Members as follows.
 - a. Senator Jacob as the Vice-President (executives)
 - b. Senator Kottmeier as the Chairperson of Community Outreach
 - c. Senator Tang as the Chairperson of Student Affairs
 - d. Senator Greene as the Chairperson of Internal Affairs
 - e. Senator Crispin as the Chairperson of External Marketing
 - f. Senator Hulburt as the Chairperson of Internal Marketing

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- g. Senator Aguiar as the Tech Coordinator
 - h. Senator Eldridge as the Chairperson of Fiscal Education
 - i. Senator Concepcion as the Chairperson of Fiscal Responsibility and Assistance Chair
 - j. Senator Parisella as the Chairperson of Appropriations
 - k. Senator Peabody as the Accountant
2. President Brown appointed the honorary senators as follows.
 - a. Alex Tannenbaum
 - b. Ann Aquino
 - c. Benjamin Antupit
 - d. Conor Slattery
 - e. Henry Atkinson
 - f. Jackson Bonnen
 - g. Jalaleddin Gylychmuhammedov
 - h. Nicholas Orciani
 - i. Paola Frunzio
 - j. Peter Capi
 - k. Rami Rachid
 - l. Simon Taylor
 3. The motion to appoint the interim executive board members, cabinet members, and honorary senators was approved by unanimous consent. All rose and were recognized by the senate.

V. Secondary Roll Call

- A. To include appointed members in the quorum to satisfy remaining business.
 1. Secretary Zhidro called the roll to include newly appointed senators, in which Senators responded “Present” when hearing their name called.

VI. President Wang’s Report

1. Senate Chair Schroeder introduced President Wang.
2. President Wang congratulated the senate body of the 34th student government association and thanked the previous executive branch of the 33rd senate for their work.
3. President Wang informed the senate that both she and Dr. Christine Sharry share large hopes for the future of STEM. An “understatement to say the STEM landscape is rapidly changing,” President Wang asked the senate body to reflect on the most recent advancements regarding Artificial Intelligence and its rapid progression. She stated that due to the continuous change in pace, new technologies are being adopted and reaching the marketplace. To offer an example, she stated in only five days, Chat GPT reached 5 million users and there was still debate if it was the fastest advancement in the technology market. She informed the senate of the potential in future jobs yet to be invented, and proposed the question of how we can prepare the future generation of students for this landscape. President Wang recognized the school will not prepare its students for everything, but wishes to ensure WPI’s students are learning the fundamentals to be prepared for their first job and career. Stating WPI’s project-based learning is more relevant than ever, with teamwork intent and preparing students to come to discussions with an open mind, it is a system other schools cannot duplicate.
 - a. President Wang highlighted demographics are changing in the U.S. as we are observing a greater diversity in population, and thus require a very

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inclusive stem education. President Wang begged the question of what teachings WPI wishes to enable: examples of cutting edge research to impact the economy and society were shared such as earthquake proof buildings and safe highways. With the intent of serving the people, learnings of WPI must go beyond one student, as they develop policy-wide solutions to serve ethics, social, global, and policy perspectives.

- b. President Wang stated today's learning environment extends beyond the classroom and the future of learning remains highly immersive via club activities and peer-learning. She stated that coming out of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the value of face-to-face interactions is increasing. To reflect this, the WPI 10-year campus plan intent is to create a highly interactive space incorporating environmental sustainability. Requiring an inclusive and interdisciplinary STEM education, strategic priorities include a transformative STEM education, immersive student experience, inclusion and belonging, financially robust structure, and impactful scalable research.
 - c. Regarding WPI's future, President Wang highlighted we are currently in the midst of the fourth industrial revolution as Artificial Intelligence advancements proceed.
4. Dr. Christine Sharry welcomed all new senators and returning senators. She emphasized the opportunities SGA presents its students in facilitating faculty/committee connections, and listed some examples of recent impacts in working for the SGA, such as food plans, transportation, and overall opportunity to amplify the concerns of the student body. She emphasized it is our duty as members of the SGA to communicate to faculty the type of support our peers have communicated they need.
- a. President Brown Asked how the seven-week course structure can impact project-based learning and President Wang responded the seven-week term was decided to ensure a full time IQP experience. Defining it a "strike of genius," President Wang stated many universities remain inspired by the WPI course structure as it has been recognized on a national level for its STEM education. The intent of the seven-week-term was to enable students to study abroad for a term without delaying their graduation. Many universities find it difficult to mimic due to course duration, workload, faculty members, etc. providing a WPI education with incomparable distinction.

VII. Ceremonial Senate Swearing In

A. Executive Board

- 1. President Brown swore in Rayna Jacob as the Interim Vice President of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association.
- 2. President Brown swore in Felicia Link as the Treasurer of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association.
- 3. President Brown swore in Dhespina Zhidro as the Secretary of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association.

B. Cabinet

- 1. President Brown swore in the Cabinet of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association.

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C. Senate

1. President Brown swore in the Senators of the 34th Undergraduate Student Government Association as all members of the senate swore they would uphold the mission of the Undergraduate Student Government Association.

VIII. Approval of the Minutes

1. Senate Chair Schroeder motioned to approve the minutes of the 24th and final meeting of the 33rd Undergraduate Student Government Association from December 5th, 2023.
 - a. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

IX. Land Acknowledgement

1. Senate Chair Schroeder shared a statement of land acknowledgement: "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."

X. Public Comments

1. No comments

XI. President's Report

A. Welcome!

1. President Brown welcomed everyone to senate and informed everyone of the very unique opportunity in being a part of senate at this time. With the potential to align ourselves with the goals developed for this institution, we can optimize our change in improving student life. President Brown also emphasized her gratitude to be a part of senate and introduced President-Elect Cluett, Senate Chair-Elect Chartier, Chair Daniels and Chair Mikitarian via powerpoint as they are away on IQP.

XII. Vice President's Report

A. New Senator Orientation

1. Vice President Jacob welcomed everyone to the 34th senate and reminded the senate of the mission statement of the WPI SGA.
2. She gave a brief rundown of how SGA operates, entailing who is a part of the executive board, cabinet, and overall senate!
3. She defined the duties of a senator (including, but not limited to, attending senate meetings 6-8pm Tuesdays of this term in IS 205, committee meetings 1 hr/week and financial senators meeting 6-8pm Wednesdays of this term in the CC Taylor room). She also identified the requirement of each senator to uphold a compassionate and professional manner, to lead with integrity and respect, and to act with the reminder that each member of senate represents SGA and the undergraduate student body.
4. Vice President Jacob Introduced the Student Services Cluster, Internal Services Cluster, and Financial Services Cluster.
 - a. Student Affairs Chair Tang introduced self and informed the senate of changes to be anticipated to improve life of the student body and encouraged all senators to look forward to it.
 - b. Vice President Jacob spoke on Interim Community Outreach Chair Kottmeier's behalf and informed senate of community outreach's

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aim to connect SGA with the student body, in finding new ways to engage with the community, and increase school spirit.

- c. Internal Affairs Chair Greene introduced himself and stated the mission of internal affairs in ensuring implementation of appropriate governing docs (bylaws and constitution remain up to date and reflective of how SGA operates), that elections are conducted in an appropriate manner, and goals for the 34th senate entail reducing errors in the constitution/bylaws and improve membership standards.
- d. Internal Marketing Chair Hulburt introduced herself, and stated the aim of internal marketing is to promote SGA via Instagram and Tiktok. Her goals for the 34th senate include more content defining the work SGA does on Instagram and Tiktok and encourages involvement from everyone in the senate in promotional material regardless of their committee! She also informed senate internal marketing is responsible for producing SGA merch.
- e. External Marketing Chair Crispin defined her role in highlighting clubs on campus and promoting club events/posting club of the week/month. Her role enables her to stay informed of all that is occurring on campus!
- f. Accountant Peabody stated during the financial meetings, his duty is to take notes for future financial records and to take care of interdepartmental transfers ex. From SGA to WPI and SAO. He plans to improve the current software in making it more user-friendly.
- g. Aprop Chair Parisella introduced herself and stated her role is to help budget SGA-funded clubs/ organize mandatory transfers, and that budgeting workshops are to be expected this term!
- h. Fiscal Responsibility and Assistance Chair Concepcion detailed his role as making sure clubs are spending their money responsibly, and that the 34th senate will be the first time this role will have a committee!
- i. Fiscal Education Chair Eldridge introduced himself and his newly-added position! With lots of excitement as this will be the first time SGA has a FED Chair, he is eager to see how we can improve the student body's understanding of how funding requests/ all things SGA and money-related work! He encourages senate to anticipate some awesome workshops.
- j. Tech Coordinator Aguiar introduced himself and stated his duty is to oversee the operations of all SGA technical equipment and to work with internal affairs to improve senate's understanding of bylaws!

B. Icebreaker

- 1. Vice President Jacob led the senate in conducting an introductory icebreaker to help senators meet new people!
- 2. Vice President Jacob asked everyone to complete the membership form previously sent out via email/slack and the QR code was projected on the screen for senators to complete. The goal of this form is to start assigning

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senators to committees of their interest

3. Senate Chair Schroeder took his BeReal featuring all present members of the 34th senate!

C. Retreat

1. Vice President Jacob asked everyone to complete the retreat form previously sent out via email/slack and the QR code was projected on the screen for senators to complete. She described winter retreat as an annual event off-campus facilitating connections among senate. The form entails questions specific to the event, such as what activities senators are interested in, preference in it being a single day event/overnight, etc.
2. Senator Estime asked Vice President Jacob if it will be free, to which she responded price is to be determined, submission of the form does not confirm nor beg for payment and that information is to be determined.

XIII. Secretary's Report

A. Attendance

1. Senator Zhidro shared a slideshow defining why attendance is pivotal in tracking the effort of senators to serve SGA/ the student body, and detailed rules of the bylaws that define excused vs unexcused absences, as well as what other events senators are required to attend/assist in, for example. Pep Rally and community outreach events hosted every term.

B. Office Space + Access!

1. President Brown asked where the office is located. Secretary Zhidro stated the office is on the top floor of the Campus Center across the hall from the Student Activities Office on the right of the staircase.
2. Senator Barnes Cole asked how attendance will be tracked for those who attend senate. Secretary Zhidro answered attendance will be tracked by roll call and if a senator arrives late, they should see secretary Zhidro at the end of senate to ensure they are accounted for.

XIV. Treasurer's Report

A. Financials 101

1. Treasurer Link expressed her gratitude in having been sworn in as the 34th Student Government Association Treasurer, and wanted to provide senators with a brief introduction to financials! She introduced members of the financial cabinet: herself, Treasurer, Appropriations Chair, Fiscal Responsibility and Assistance Chair, Fiscal Education Chair and Accountant. To put it briefly, members of the financial board manage transferring of funds and ensure appropriate use of funds!
2. She informed senate that the financial board meets 6-8PM Wednesdays in the Campus Center Taylor Room. At this time, clubs present their funding request, financial senators are permitted to ask questions and deliberate, then financial senators will vote on whether or not the funding request passes. Financial board meetings are "super casual and super fun!"
3. Funding requests include things that are not in a club's budget and must follow the bylaws! An example of a bylaw obstruction would be fund requesting for an expense already made, as this is "pressuring the board." Budget request forms can be found on MyWPI.
4. What can be in a club's budget: things that have been Fr'd for in the past year, went over some bylaws, fund water and ground transportation,

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5. Treasurer Link also went over the concept of Club classifications, which defines which clubs receive budgets vs do not.
6. Treasurer Link encouraged everyone to attend Financial Board on Wednesday January 17th! She announced there is no dress code, snacks are allowed, and the first two meetings are a great opportunity to dip your toe into SGA financials especially as new senators decide if they want to be a financial senator.
7. Senator Winston asked Treasurer Link if there will be any further budgeting workshops extending beyond the one scheduled for Friday the 19th of January. Treasurer Link confirmed there are two scheduled for next week and the respective times and dates will be posted every week via Slack, the treasurer email, and @wpi_sga Instagram.
8. Accountant Peabody asked Treasurer Link what the difference is between Appropriations and Financial Board. Treasurer Link answered 6-8PM is Financial Board and 5:30-6 is Appropriations, where smaller requests are heard that don't require a representative answering questions. Financial Board requires representatives and consists of multiple presentations.
9. Chair Tang asked Treasurer Link if financial senators must attend both Senate and Financial Board, and Treasurer Link confirmed in operating off of the Standing Rules of the 33rd Senate, they are not required to attend both Senate and Financial Board.

XV. Senate Chair's Report

A. Introduction to Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees.

1. Senate Chair Schroeder gave an overview of Faculty Committees, in which student representatives take part in administrative decisions of the school. An example he provided was the fail vs NR, or having a letter grade be supported by + or - within the WPI grading system. He highlighted that if chosen to be student representative, students will have a vote equal to that of a faculty committee, and the committee is looking for both new and returning senators!
2. Senate Chair Schroeder announced a Committee will be opening up for discussion of student healthcare and he is seeking four senators, preferably more experienced senators for this committee. He suggests all interested senators fill out the form Vice President Jacob shared or send him a private message on slack.
3. Chair Tang added a comment educating senators Student Affairs works closely with Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees as they directly impact student life.

XVI. Cluster Reports

1. Student Services delivered no report.
2. Internal Services delivered no report.
3. Financial Services delivered no report.

XVII. Faculty, Institute, and Special Committees

1. No report.

XVIII. Old Business

XIX. New Business

XX. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

1. President Brown explained this time of senate is when senators can exercise new

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ideas for senate.

2. Chair Barnes Cole encouraged everyone to attend Financial Board, regardless of whether or not they are in a financial committee.
3. Secretary Zhidro informed senate to see her at the end of the meeting if they are not in the gr-sgaminutes, gr-sgaagenda, gr-senators aliases.
4. Chair Hulburt asked everyone to stay for a quick photo after adjournment.
5. Senator Antupit asked why senate knocks on tables to which Treasurer Link responded it is a display of “agreement,” and asks senators to keep them at a minimal volume to minimize distraction. The knocking on tables enables the moving of discussion, or lack of.

XXI. Announcements

1. Financial Board will be taking place at 6:00 PM on Wednesday January 17th in the CC Taylor Room and Appropriations will take place at 5:30 PM.
2. Senator Antupit announced that the 33rd Senate Chair Levitan will have a comedy night Friday January 26th at 7 PM in Fuller Upper!
3. Chair Crispin informed senate SHPE will be selling empanadas again on Thursday January 18th at the CC from morning until supplies lasts.

XXII. Advisor’s Remarks

1. Advisor Sharry introduced herself as the SGA advisor and informed senate her office is located below the SGA Office. She encourages senators to email her if they need any type of support and reminds senate that SFIC is a great opportunity to make an impact and build relationships across campus.

XXIII. President’s Remarks

1. President Brown informed senate of an internship opportunity calling for Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Aerospace Engineering majors brought to her attention by a member of the 31st senate! For further information send her an email!
2. An IQP group has also reached out to SGA seeking to create a focus group intended to increase STEM majors that are voting, and further details will be shared via slack!
3. President Brown also informed previous senators internal merch has arrived, and the executive board will contact members of the 33rd senate to pick it up once prepared.
4. President Brown asked senators to see her personally if she mispronounced their name to correct her.
5. She thanked everyone for their attendance and directed any further questions from senate to exec.

XXIV. Adjournment

1. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

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