



WESLEYAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Meeting of the 37th General Assembly
April, 3 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:05PM

Item I. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes approved.

Item II. Committee Reports

- a. Committed Reports read.

Item III. Open Forum

- a. Jacob: We're hoping to have Scott Rhode come in during the next couple weeks to talk with us about potential changes.
- b. Martin: Students can go to Unidays and login with their wesleyan password. You would see our Wesleyan log in page. Students can decide if they want to provide personal information. Does anyone have a problem with that? No one at Wesleyan is getting paid for it.

Item IV. Media Publications

- a. Jack: Made a few changes to the resolution. [reads changes.]
- b. Kate: I like the additions. This committee needs to be formed before the end of the year, so everyone is aware of who is on the committee.
- c. Henry: We can address WSA representatives during internal elections in the spring.
- d. Jess: I have a question about #3 and #9. The working group resolution says that \$17,000 of Argus funding could be used. What is the relationship between this resolution and the working group resolution?
- e. Justin: Talked to Alex Garcia this morning. Working group that was created would only give its recommendations to the new committee, not have power to make changes.
- f. Jackie: Will the leftover funds be absorbed into the fund for next year or the SBC's fund?
- g. Jack: We assume that this committee will write its own bylaws and be efficient, so all funds are used.
- h. Jackie: Let's say that this fund gets used up quickly. If that happened, will these publications be able to apply to the SBC?
- i. Jack: This is their budget. They have to manage this budget and take responsibility.
- j. Noah: How many individual members to the committee would we be expecting?
- k. Jack: We don't think it's too many. Probably under 10.
- l. Josh: Will you include that this is covered by financial aid?
- m. Jack: They're looking at things like the green fund to see how it will work. It's going to be the same mode as the green fund. We feel good that it is an opt out feed, so students aren't forced to pay it.
- n. Key: A group like Wesleying, which is online, how do you quantify what counts as a "published issue", in terms of the footnote that specifies which publications will be represented on this committee?
- o. Jack: We never specified because we don't believe this body is qualified to determine this. We believe the committee can always shift to meet the needs of the groups.
- p. Mattison: Right now Wesleying does not receive money from SBC.
- q. Nila: I have two questions. If Board of Trustees does not pass this separate fee, would it come from SAF?
- r. Jack: Yes. If this doesn't pass via referendum or the Board of Trustees, the money will continue to come from the SAF, like during the 2016-17 school year.
- s. Nila: Can we lower the SAF fee if needed?

- t. Jack: That's why we included point number 10. We encouraged this entire body to consider that next year.
- u. Courtney: When will the referendum be voted on this spring?
- v. Jack: This referendum will be included on the presidential ballot (or just a spring 2016 ballot)
- w. Courtney: This referendum can be brought back again?
- x. Jack: It won't need to because it has a failsafe with the resolution.
- y. Kate: Motion to vote.
 - i. Motion passes.
- z. Resolution 8.39 passes with a vote of 23-1-4.

Item V. Increase Min. Wage

- a. Resolution presented by Noah, Maia, Irene moore?, And someone else
- b. Noah: So these are generally these are not things that are covered by financial aid. Many things, like transportation costs, aren't covered.
- c. Maia: Being unable to pay for social events cuts off students from them. Some people of color and queer people might need to support their romantic partner financially.
- d. *[Reads resolution.]*
- e. Claudia: I think you should add food for breaks and consider taxes. I get taxed by both the US government and the Kenyan government.
- f. Jack: I have heard that if this were to go into effect, they would have to reduce the amount of jobs offered
- g. USLAC Rep: We're talking about having more shifts that are shorter. There are not enough work study jobs for the number of work study students and also some can't take the shifts because they're too long.
- h. Maia: There are a lot of work study students that don't take full advantage of their award, so that's untapped money from Wesleyan and the federal government.
- i. Jack: Campaigns like this is why is where the money will come from?
- j. Maia: Also untaped federal grants and other money
- k. Key: When I came back from abroad, Admissions said they could not hire me because it wasn't in the budget. When students can't hit their allotment because the budget isn't there, how would this work with that?
- l. Maia: The school would have to increase their budget for student workers, but we don't think that increase is as much as it originally seems because there are currently a lot of people who don't take full advantage of their work study allotment.
- m. Henry: Two things. I think this is absolutely possible with the money we have as a school. Second i think that the wording of the resolution should be changed to say recommends because the WSA doesn't have the power to actually do it.
- n. Martin: Can you delve into the this is why campaign? The Usdan center staff has higher wages. They had to cut shifts by half and remove half of the staff. You should think about those things.
- o. Uslac Rep: I think that knowing the different narratives of individuals on campus is important.
- p. Kate: There is a method and a way to do all this and I can sit down and help you through this for next week.
- q. Maia: It will be tied to inflation
- r. Azher: Thank you so much for bringing this idea. You guys should come up with some numbers just to show that this is feasible.
- s. Serene: I think this resolution should be looked at side by side with other resolutions, such as the other stipends resolution. I think this a super resolution. I think there are so individualized circumstanced to consider. I work at KidCity and my job is federally subsidized.
- t. Jacob: I'm concerned about potential case where the departments or administrations don't get a budgetary increase - what would happen then?
- u. Maia: We think it's really unlikely that the university would cut department hours if they raise the minimum wage. It's not two separate parts.

- v. Jacob: Would you be willing to add another point asking for the board or administration would help with increasing funding?
- w. USLAC Rep: We will definitely add more information to the resolution.
- x. Emma: You mentioned drawing funds from the This Is Why campaign, but what do you think about long term sustainability here?
- y. Kate: I would suggest that point be rephrased. Roth doesn't like when people say we have a lot of money. What is your estimate for how much would need to be added to the budget for wages to be raised?
- z. Azher: Would this increase come solely from the department budget?
- aa. USLAC Rep: We're trying to make this apply to Federal Work Study also the Wesleyan-based work study that applies to international students, etc.
- bb. Noah: We want to make this a community effort and get as many people involved as possible
- cc. USLAC Rep: We're open to suggestions about which part of work study to focus this on. We want to target work study students over other student workers.
- dd. Key: There's a point in here about equity, so I think that should be addressed. It's important to clarify that.
- ee. Maia: In total per week.
- ff. Claudia: As a work study student, this won't give work study students extra time; it will just be a redistribution of time.
- gg. Angel: Specifically this is targeting work study students because they have to work for 8 hours a week to meet the work study allotment.
- hh. Azher: You mentioned that another university has created a similar policy. If you could find out more info about that?
- ii. Henry: This is a long term vision for having students function as students. This is bold and we can be on the forefront of this minimum wage movement.
- jj. Key: Would the WSA stipend program fit with this policy?
- kk. Henry: I think it would change the WSA stipend and also would affect the stipend resolution we've talked about for group leaders.
- ll. Rebecca: My only concern is that some departments will not prioritize work study students

Item VI. Voter Accessibility Act

- a. Presentation by Noah, Josh, Maia, and Aviv
- b. Kate: Past years WSA has worked with turbo vote. Was told by the prior WSA presidents that they didn't think it was worth doing again.
- c. Martin: Just a reminder to give me press releases (Josh, Noah)
- d. Henry: The first thing - maybe the WSA could send out an all campus email with information about the upcoming election. I like the idea of doing voter registration right when the students get to campus, but I think there are things in the resolution that are important, like canvassing, but don't need to be in the resolution. The more we can keep our legislation simple and straightforward, the better.
- e. Jacob: Wanted to stress the importance of press releases.
- f. Kate: We should absolutely send an all-campus reminder to vote in primaries

Item VII. CAP Facilities Budget

- a. *[Reads resolution.]*
- b. Nila: Did the Group that hogged funding know that they were doing this?
- c. Martin: Yes they knew.
- d. Justin: It's important to record this in our institutional memory. I'm throwing SBC support on this one
- e. Martin: SALD has more experience with this and it will be more simple.

Item VIII. NB&A

- a. Key: Please host people for WesFest! We have a record number of prefrosh coming and need hosts.
- b. Jackie: Are prefrosh recommended to bring a sleeping bag? I want them to be comfortable.

- c. Key: We tell them to bring it... but if they don't, it's not your fault.
- d. Azher: There will be a vigil tomorrow night at 9:30 in Exely for victims of bombing in Pakistan.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:08 PM

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in these minutes, they are not intended to be a verbatim or complete accounting of the meeting.