I am going to use my time to share the recent activities of the Student Budget Sustainability Task Force, which has been meeting for about a month, with the goal of providing recommendations at the end of the semester to ensure that Wesleyan’s is maximally accessible while at the same time financially sustainable. We hope to determine whether eliminating need blind is the best decision given the alternatives and also to ascertain whether other budget cuts are advisable to increase the budget for financial aid. So far we’ve:

- Examined university budget documents, including a document that spells out different ways to make major spending cuts that could either allow the university to divert more money to financial aid or return to need blind
- Met with Vice President of Finance Nate Peters to get more information about the university’s budget
- Conducted extensive research on relevant peer institutions such as Davidson, Brown, Reed, Tufts, and Hamilton
- Met with relevant faculty members
- Created an extensive list of unanswered questions for President Roth or other administrators.

In the coming weeks we’ll:

- Meeting with President Roth (this Monday) to discuss our questions
- Conduct a survey and host of forum related to reaching out to the student body regarding what are students’ budget priorities and whether students would be comfortable with certain budget cuts that could offset the cost of returning to need blind
- Meet with every University Vice President and other top administrator across the university
- Compose a report with a set of recommendations

If you have any questions or feedback for the committee, please e-mail me at zmalter@wesleyan.edu or e-mail another member of the committee. We welcome guests at our meetings so also please let us know if you’d like to stop by.

WSA members on the task force are Jesse Ross-Silverman ’13 and Andrew Trexler ’14. Other task force members are Kevin Arritt ’13, Rachel Warren ’14, Nate Campagne ’15, Michael Linden ’15, Chi Le ’13, Lina Mamut ’13, Alex Japko ’14, and Michelle Li ’16 (research consultant).

In future weeks, I will give further updates on the work of the task force and also provide information on other Executive Committee & Presidential initiatives.
President’s Challenge - I will share what this is in our meeting.
In our guest of the week series, Gabriela De Golia ‘13, Chair of the Middletown Relations Committee, came to COCo in our meeting before break to discuss the plan for that subcommittee. This past week, for our COCo WesWings dinner-meeting during break, Chloe Murtagh ‘15 came to talk about advertising strategies and OEAC-collaboration, such as for events like Bandfire.

**WSA Tools & Applications Replacements**
At this stage, remember that we have narrowed our search to the top two candidates. In the past two weeks, we have done research on what services our peer institutions use, contacted some peers for feedback on our top two, and begun discussions with the companies themselves. We have gotten some preliminary price quotes, which will be developed upon as we continue talks. This week, we will be getting demonstrations from CollegiateLink and OrgSync, which will include COCo, SBC Chair Nicole Brenner ‘15, and WSA Office Administrator Lisa Hendrix. We have also been talking to Dana Pellegrino ‘12, Civic Engagement Fellow at the Center for Community Partnerships (CCP). The CCP is interested in purchasing a platform to track community service hours, so there is potential to collaborate and share costs.

**Spirit and Events**
The Spirit and Events Committee (SEC) had its first independent meeting this week! Mark your calendars—the SEC is planning **Bandfire** for around 7PM on **Friday, October 26**, 2012. There will be music, fire pits, and s’mores! We are also considering tons of other events—bringing back events like WesWars and Cardinal’s Night on Main, and new ones like a tailgates, an eating contest, and an annual homecoming event.

All of COCo is completing Social Event Host Training. Let me know if you want to be able to do it too!

**Diversity and Inclusion**
Applications for appointments to the Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (CID) have been extended until midnight of Tuesday, October 23. Christian is emailing all of the Identity groups (Ethnicity, Religion, Sexuality, etc.), for which he is a group category liaison, to let them know of the extended deadline and encourage their members to apply.

Syed Ali ‘13, Zachary Malter ‘13, and Andrew Trexler ‘14 met with Chief Diversity Officer Sonia Mañjon on Friday to follow-up on our last General Assembly meeting. We reflected on how the meeting went, expressed concerns and suggestions from assembly members, asked for suggested constructive actions, and gave our own suggestions for her office.

We have been invited by Sonia Mañjon’s office to a diversity training event with Dr. Shakti Butler of the World Trust Organization next week. The training will be next week Friday, October 26, from 11:30AM until 3PM, and is limited to 40 students since lunch is provided. Please email Dean Renée Johnson-Thornton at rjohnson01@wesleyan.edu to RSVP if you would like to attend.

**Middletown Relations**
The Middletown Relations Committee had its second meeting right before GA today. So far, they have finalized their mission and subcommittee description for the year. They have meetings coming up with the Deputy Mayor and Treasurer of Middletown, and Paul Gagnon of the Patricelli Center. Gabriela De Golia ‘13, chair of the Middletown Relations Committee, prepared an email about voting in the November elections that was sent out as an all-campus.

**Student Group Recognition**

COCo is no longer doing a regularly scheduled Appointment Slots method for Student Group Recognition Meetings. Now, student group leaders will request to schedule a meeting and we will find two COCo members to meet with them (one of them being their group category liaison).

Our new student group of the week is NotCapella, “an acapella group comprised solely of individuals who cannot sing.” They don’t want to be discriminated against because they have bad voices. They are also looking for more male vocalists. Kudos to WSA member Mansoor Alam ‘15 for filling this much-needed gap on campus.
Academic Affairs Committee
Sam Ebb ’13 , Chair

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
Approved a French minor and a Film Studies minor! We also approved a CSPL course for next year with a really cool visitor. The reading period resolution’s request for 4 reading days was taken as a friendly amendment by EPC in the creation of the latest draft of the calendar.

Advising
Advising Task Force met last week and discussed a number of different ways to improve advising, the course registration system and communication between departments and students (especially students who are not yet in a major or are in another major but have interests that lie in departments other than the one they are majoring in). We have agree to work on the creation of pre-major/general interest email list servs that students will be able to sign up for through their e-portfolios to receive information on everything from talks to major open houses. We also agreed to work on the creation of a standardized web page for every department on which you will be able to find information on how to get into the major, all of the requirements for the major and other pertinent information. Other issues we discussed included the viability of having two columns for pre-registration, the highest number that your advisor can raise your credit limit to during drop-add without outside approval, changing the “finalize” button that an advisor clicks during the planning period to an approval of a plan that still allows the students to make changes, discussion of an expansion of the number of academic fora throughout the course of the year, the inclusion of WesMaps heat maps to show how difficult courses are to get into, and the inclusion of an amazon.com-style courses you may be interested in/other students who took this course also took display on WesMaps among some other issues. The task force is working on many of the areas of concern that were expressed in our resolution and will meet one more time next week before submitting its final report to the faculty.

Minors
Lily, Kara and Alex have sent out their emails to different departments regarding student interest in minors in each department and have begun to receive responses. Two departments (chemistry and theater) indicated that they would discuss the idea and a third (Russian) has indicated that it is in the process of developing a minor!

Student Forums
Alex is going to begin to reach out to different student forum leaders over the next couple weeks to continue looking for departments that could be interested in a pilot program of offering a (graded) student forum as an alternative senior capstone option. Suggestions of departments from the Assembly or community at-large are much appreciated in this area.
Student Affairs Committee
Nicole Updegrove '14, Chair

Student Judicial Process Committee
SJPC (with the help of everyone on SAC, and SJB members Ivy Johnson, Michael Onah, and Ge Na Yoo) has finalized plans for Process Advisor training, which will educate both new advisors and seasoned veterans. Training will occur Thursday, November 1 from 7-8 p.m., and Friday, November 2 from 4-5:30 p.m. Be there if you want to learn more about the process and help your friends!

University Residential Life Committee
URLC continues to question the fate of the current empty program house. In the mean time, we have approved changes in program housing assessment to more heavily weigh the importance of student interest in house residence. Additionally, Kate Cullen '16 continues to research the role of RAs at other schools - we look forward to presenting the Assembly with a complete list of information from our peer schools.

National College Health Improvement Project
This week SAC helped fund Cardinal Connect, with help from SHOFCO, in hosting glow-in-the-dark capture-the-flag, which was an over-hyphenated and well-attended event. It is approximated that 96% of the 50 people present were sober - which, on this campus, is awesome.

Student Health Advisory Committee
Kate Cullen '16 is working with SHAC on website changes for Davison Health Center. It should be a better student resource in the future. Additionally, a group of students are meeting with Dean Mike Whaley, Scott Backer, Dean Brown, and Dr. D'Andrea this week to discuss medical leave policy. SAC will update you next week.

Public Safety Advisory Committee
Together with the Appointments Committee, Scott Elias '14 conducted 1 PSAC interview on Thursday, with 2 more to come on Monday. An upcoming meeting with Dave Meyer hopes to address, among other things, the role of video cameras, putting P-Safe names and bios online, and creating a more direct form of feedback on the P-Safe website. Additionally, Grant Tanenbaum '15 brought to our attention the lack of blue lights on Church Street - which, given the recent incidents, should certainly be addressed.

Fire Safety and Facilities Appeals Board
Lily Donahue '15 and Scott Elias '14 finished last semester's finances appeals in a record six-minute meeting this week. Caution: room inspections are happening.
Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFaC)
Andrew Trexler ’14, Chair

Finance and Facilities
Andrew Trexler, Chair

Dining
Two new dish carts have been installed in Usdan, one each in Mink Dining Hall and near the printer on the 1st floor. These will hopefully alleviate some of the crush in the single dish-room upstairs. The carts have a trash bin and a number of trays where people can dump their dishes—just scrape off the food and put the plate in the tray.

The Committee has begun conversations regarding a new meal plan. We’re aiming for around fifty meals per semester with the accompanying number of points. Stay tuned for a verdict in the near future.

If you have any suggestions regarding food and whatnot email Benny Docter ’14 (bdocter@wes).

Financial Aid Committee
We appointed Austin Dong ’15 and Ting Zhang ’15 to the Financial Aid Committee. Congratulations to both of them! We look forward to their work on the committee.

Sustainability
A new flyer opt-out program for WesBoxes is in the works. A button should appear in your e-portfolio, nearly identical to the Green Fund Opt Out button, sometime in the fairly near future. A big thanks to Rebecca Rubenstein ’15 for all her work on this project over the past year and thanks to Grant Tanenbaum ’15 for hammering it through at IT.

Secondly, we’re beginning to examine the possibility of re-useable coffee cups (and other cups) at Usdan Café and/or Pi Café. The idea is that you could get your coffee at the café, drink it on the way to your class in PAC, and leave it in a collection bin near your classroom. One major obstacle will be the theft problem. We’ll update you as things move along. Thanks to Professor Mary Alice Haddad for the proposal.

Transportation
Fall Break shuttles got off relatively smoothly, thanks to everyone on Finance and Facilities for their help with that. Thanksgiving Break is right around the corner, so if you have any friends who need rides to Bradley, New Haven, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, or Washington DC make sure to hurry them on over to the box office to buy a ticket. Buses will only be added if there is sufficient demand sufficiently far in advance.

FiFaC Frivolous Fact of the Week
This year is 35th year of the Wesleyan Student Assembly, at least under that name. Student government at Wesleyan runs all the way back to 1903, when it was called the College Body Senate.
Member of the Week: Alton Wang ‘15

Alton, while fresh(men) blood to the WSA, has already proved his dedication to COCo and the causes it represents. In addition to serving as category liaison to the tutorial activism, political activism, and publication groups, Alton is serving on the Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (CID), the Information Technology Committee (ITC), and the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)! Alton has really proved his awesomeness in the past two weeks by taking leadership in contacting CollegiateLink, one of our candidates for replacing WSA Tools & Apps. Alton contacted the CollegiateLink representative and setup our first demonstration, for this Tuesday. He’s been an effective link between COCo and ITC, proving the worth of the COCo-IT member in its first year! All this while doing appointments, recognizing student groups, and committing to attend the diversity training. As the great Nicole Brenner ‘15 once said, “he’s killin’ it!”

Meet-and-Greet
This Thursday, October 25, we will be having the WSA member-office staff meet-and-greet. Grab some dinner upstairs and bring it down to Usdan 110 from 5:30-7:30pm to get to know the office staff and other WSA members.

WSA-Admissions Committee
Nicole U., Grant, Zach, and I will be meeting with Nancy Meislahn this Friday to talk about the logistics of the committee. More updates soon.

Newsletter
Check out the newsletter for an overview of what the committees have been doing this week!

WSA Halloween Party
In order to improve our outreach, we have decided to host a WSA halloween party on Friday, November 2 (to be confirmed). Dress up and bring one or two non-WSA members to introduce them to the WSA. Committee-coordinated costumes are encouraged.
GRS
Wayne Ng `16 is teaming up with SAC to start addressing problems with GRS. Things like heat maps of student interest, instructional videos, and a more comprehensive FAQ section. Suggestions can be directed to wng.

WesMaps
Jesse Ross Silverman `13 is writing up a document that will represent our goals for WesMaps reforms. We hope to make it as comprehensive as possible to present to the administration, both the registrars office and ITS.

Tools & Apps
Demo’s are happening. Serious props to Alton Wang `16, the cardigan-ed member of the week.

Ex-Officios
Deadline pushed back to tuesday, tell your friends.

Laundryview
ITS has submitted a work request with the manufacturer to figure out what’s going on with the Butts system.
$150, 916 but many of it went to large budget allocations. Only $15422 from the weekly budget

APPOINTMENTS ARE HAPPENING TELL YO FRANDS

Working with COCo for WSA tools and apps change