President’s Report
Zach Malter ’13, WSA President

Some reminders:

1. All Student Meetings on Student Priorities with the Task Force
   - Tuesday and Wednesday at 9pm, Exley 150
2. Student-Professor Conversation on Financial Aid, Admissions & Transparency
   - Thursday, Shanklin 107 4:30 pm

Three members of the EC: Andrew, Syed, and me met with President Roth this week. Our suggestions convinced President Roth to write his e-mail to the student body on community building.

We also convinced President Roth to hold a panel between Trustees and Students on Financial Aid. This panel will be on Friday at 5:15 in PAC 001.

Mari and I met with Lisa Hendrix. We discussed the office budget and expectations. From now on, all the days Lisa will be out of the office for national holidays will be posted on the calendar and the website. We started a conversation on work-study vs. non-work study student workers.

The Budget Priorities Committee (which includes me, Andrew, Nicole B., and Evan) met this week. Based on faculty and student concerns, we are going to be opening up discussions on what it will take to restore need blind, whether it’s better to be need aware and meet full need or be need blind in admissions and not meet full need (e.g., change needs analysis to raise loan levels). Nancy Meislahn (Director of Admissions) and John Gudvangen (Director of Financial Aid) will be at a future meeting.

This weekend, Nicole Updegrove and I are meeting with Paul Lowther, the student who has alleged that P-SAFE abused him. See the Argus and Wesleying for more information about this case. In addition, I met today with Lily H. and Ellen to discuss administrative-student interactions.
Thank you to Bruno Machiavelo ‘16, Kara Linn ‘15, and Chloe Murtagh ‘15 for joining us at our weekly COCo Committee Meeting this week. In addition to our core committee work, we are compiling recommendations on the University President’s proactive outreach to students, so please let us know if you have suggestions. Also, Jacob wrote the COCo blog post for the week.

**Orientation**
Lydia Rex ‘14 is taking the lead on investigating the administrator’s Orientation Committee this week. She’ll be meeting with Director of New Student Orientation Elisa Cardona. We will be asking for student representation on the Orientation Committee, if possible. Concrete feedback from the Assembly will be solicited next weeks.

**Wes-to-Wes** is doing some soul-searching, and may function as a student group with some sort of WSA institutional backing for the first year. If you want to look at Ellen’s proposal, please contact her. Alton will be designing a logo for Wes-to-Wes.

**Student Groups**
There are now 253 recognized student groups. COCo will be meeting with the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development (SALD) soon to talk about how we can improve student group resources.

**WSA Tools & Applications Replacements** On Tuesday afternoon, we finally got our demonstration from OrgSync, one of our main candidates. This week, we are comparing and contrasting the two services to decide if we can narrow it down to one service before we engage other offices in this conversation and more deeply investigate integration into the current Wesleyan systems.

**Category Meetings**, in which student groups of a given category and their liaisons will meet, are happening this upcoming weekend. These meetings are to combat intra-category fragmentation and help COCo assess the needs of student groups (so we can assist them).

**Student group of the week** is QueerWes, formed by Isabelle Rode ‘14. Their mission is to “To create an all-inclusive, cohesive group of queer persons and allies on Wesleyan’s campus in order to better organize and communicate with the university.”

**Inclusion and Diversity**
The Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (CID) is currently discussing building community standards and effective allyship. They are working on a report on the Making Excellence Inclusive (MEI) Recommendations from last year and formulating their own recommendations. Members of the CID attended the MEI Student Subcommittee meeting this week. CID is also engaging in some peer research, looking at schools like the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
On Monday at 7:30PM, there will be a panel entitled “Diversity University: In Theory and Practice” held at Beckham Hall. President Roth, Chief Diversity Officer Sonia Manjon, and several students will be involved, and members of the assembly are encouraged to attend.

**Middletown Relations**
The Middletown Relations Committee (MidWes) had an awesome meeting last week, that included both Christian Hosam ’15 and Alton Wang ’16! Alexander Persky-Stern ’13 came to talk to us about two student groups he leads and that have great potential for town-gown collaboration: Impact, an Internet platform that pairs students up with social entrepreneurial internships / jobs, would be a great resource for getting students into internships with Middletown non-profits, businesses and even city government committees / departments / etc. Wesleyan Consulting Group, which does pro-bono business and management consulting, mainly for non-profits but can also consult businesses and even city officials who don't have the time or resources to do the work themselves. By giving students experience and being free, it's a win-win situation for both parties. Sofia Warren ‘13 spoke with Cathy Lechowitz about our survey, and it has come to our attention that Frank Kuan is great at getting any internship position that needs filling in Middletown filled by a Wesleyan student.

**Spirit and Events**
The Spirit and Events Committee (SEC) conducted Appointments this week. Congratulations to Martin Malabanan ’16 and Liliana Boreland ’16! SEC is going to participate in the Support Wes Music movement. They are planning two potential events before the end of this semester: one concert to support Wes-to-Wes and one with an “End of the World” theme. For next semester, they are planning on a large carnival/fair that will engage various groups of students. They are also continuing to plan a multicultural event for next semester. They are currently working on potentially having a “flavor tripping” party with miracle berries.
Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
Discussed the Honor Code, ways of potentially improving it and the Code’s current place at Wesleyan. We also discussed faculty concerns that were brought following our informational presentation of our first draft of the 5-year calendar and agreed to work on providing choices to the faculty at their December meeting. We also approved a minor change to the Latin American Studies major and shifted control of course approval for writing courses to the divisional dean and the director of the writing program.

Advising
There is strong interest among departments in creating pre-major/general interest list servs. AAC will be working with the Academic Affairs office over the next couple weeks on setting those up. The YouTube panel discussions on what makes good advising have been pushed to next semester.

Peer Advising
Lily and Kara are researching Peer Advisors at other schools. The idea was raised of another school that has more of a community advising mechanism. AAC will look into ways to increase the community aspect of peer advising, potentially piloting a program where members of majors committees lead group “advising” or discussion sections for fellow majors.

Student Forums
Alex has continued reaching out to the student leaders of student forums, but will also begin to reach out to the faculty advisors for all of the students to talk about pedagogy and how the faculty perceive the student fora and their value.

Academic Calendar
AAC welcomed Syed as a guest to our meeting which sparked a discussion on the 5-year calendar and if it would be possible to build in a one-per-year day of dialogue with no classes. Jesse is looking into other places that have a yearly event of this nature and will also contact students at these institution to hear their thoughts on the issue and the value of having such a “day of dialogue.”

WesMaps Changes
We’re slowly making progress. See what Grant has to say for more!
Student Affairs Committee
Nicole Updegrove ’14, Chair

University Residential Life Committee
This week, Kate Cullen ’16 and I met with the four Area Coordinators (Dan LaBonte, Brian Nangle, Krystal-Gayle O’Neill, and Lil Carrasquillo), Associate Director Mo Isleib, and Director Fran Koerting to discuss the role of judicial process in ResLife. They don’t seem inclined to budge, but we have a number of ideas to discuss with them in the coming weeks. SAC’s freshmen (Bruno Machiavelo, Ted Shabecoff, and Kate Cullen) will also be surveying students in dorms about their RAs. If you have thoughts about judicial conferences, RAs, or your Area Coordinator, please talk to the chair.

Additionally, Andrew Trexler ’14, Assistant Director Stacey Phelps, Fran Koerting and I met to finish the list of technological changes we are hoping to acquire from ITS. Most promising seem to be prioritized bookmarking and a “heat map” showing live which senior houses have been chosen – hopefully, more on that later in the semester.

Public Safety Advisory Committee
SAC is well aware of the incidents that occurred with Paulie Lowther ’13 and will be meeting with him to determine our response.

The map of blue light locations is nearly done; keep an eye out for it on the website.

Fire Safety and Facilities Appeals Board
FSFAB will meet under Lily Donahue ‘15’s leadership this Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to discuss their first appeals.

Sexual Violence Advisory Committee
Bruno Machiavelo ’16 is working through SVAC to amend WeSpeak WeStand, a bystander intervention presentation that occurs during Orientation. He may also bring forward a resolution about potential improvements that can be made in this realm in the future.

Miscellaneous
- Kate Cullen ’16 met with Lizzy from the UOC to talk about allyship.
- Lily Donahue ’15 has been talking to other schools about their room selection systems; most seem if anything to be lower-tech than Wesleyan’s.
- Bruno Machiavelo ’16 has been talking to other schools about their Public Safety alerts, which do include race in their descriptions, even if lacking most other information.
Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFaC)
Andrew Trexler ’14, Chair

Finance and Facilities Committee
Andrew Trexler, Chair

Light Tour
Finance and Facilities (FiFaC) conducted the annual Light Tour this past Monday. Be identified dozens of lights to be replaced as well as some areas in need of an entirely new light, including a new blue light outside of Olin. We have also recommended that many of the blue panes of blue lights be replaced with a bluer tint and a stronger light in order to make them more visible. Thanks to everyone who came on the tour, especially Kehan Zhou ’15 and Martin Malabanan ’16! If anyone sees any lights that are out that we missed, please email me with the precise location. If anyone would like to see the full list of lights for replacement and the list of recommendations, email me for that as well.

Budget Priorities Committee
The Budget Priorities Committee (BPC) met this week to actually discuss the University’s budgetary priorities in a more theoretical sense, which is wonderful. Thanks to Professor Gil Skillman for arranging that. Our discussion mostly focused on the need-blind admissions and capping financial aid decision and how that move reflects or does not reflect our priorities as a University. In particular, we decided to try to establish “thermometers,” instruments by which we as a community can determine how we would change our fiscal model in the future based on particular financial criteria. In essence, these “thermometers” should act as indicators of when need-blind admissions and an uncapped financial aid policy for domestic first-year students could return, or at least indicators of necessary criteria for our discount rate to meet a certain level. BPC will be meeting again, several times, in the near future to cobble together all of these criteria and assemble the “thermometers,” as well as to further discuss institutional priorities.

Middletown Scholarship
The Financial Aid Committee will be discussing the possibility of a dedicated scholarship for Middletown residents in some form. Such a scholarship could help promote stronger relations between Middletown and Wesleyan. There are a number of minor hurdles to get through first, but we have high hopes for this opportunity. Please direct all suggestions to Sisi Miteva ’15.

Dining
The Dining Committee met this week to discuss plans for a new sort of Eco-To-Go program for coffee cups. Wesleyan goes through approximately 1000 paper coffee cups per day, so such a program could have big impacts on sustainability. The committee seems receptive to the idea and is moving forward with research assistance from the proposals organizers. Thanks to Professor Mary Alice Haddad and her students for bring this forward!

Dining also discussed the idea of a gate on the stairs to the Usdan patio-balcony, thus permitting unlocking the doors to the dining halls and letting students use the space for dining more easily.
Green Revolving Fund

Our consultants met with University Relations and UR seems receptive to the idea of a green revolving fund. Research is ongoing and we expect to hear more soon! Thanks to Adam Brudnick ’13 for all his work on this.

FiFaC Frivolous Fact of the Week

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan was the first alliterative ticket for the US Presidency to be defeated. The only previous alliterative ticket was James Buchanan and John Breckinridge in 1856.
Member of the Week: Martin Malabanan

“Martin had a killer application for the Spirit and Events Committee and we’re super excited to welcome him into the COCo family!” - Syed. Also, Martin has been killin’ it with his WSA blogs. He also went on the light tour even though he’s not on Feefac.

WSA-Career Center Committee
OEAC has its first meeting with the Career Center on Thursday. We discussed a range of issues, including organizing and publicising the Career Center’s resources, the Board of Trustees workplace skills working group, current staffing transitions, and Career Center events. We will meet again in the week after Thanksgiving break and then every two weeks after that. Please contact any OEAC members with Career Center suggestions. wsaoeac@wesleyan.edu

WSA-Admissions Committee
The members of the WSA-Admissions Committee met to discuss our overall goals for the committee and our agenda for the first meeting. At our first meeting we will discuss current admissions practices and the beginning stages of implementing the changes to the need blind policy.

Fall Survey Results
OEAC reviewed and summarized the WSA fall survey results. The summary is housed in the archives and we suggest that you look it over.

Canvassing
Canvassing is coming up this Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00-9:30! We will pass around a sheet so you can sign up for one or more night(s).
**WesMaps:** We had a long discussion with ITS and CIO David Baird about this. He introduced us to a piece of data visualization software called ThinkMap. We’re looking at this as a possible medium for showing course data in a visual way. Check it out at thinkmap.com and tell me (gltanenbaum@wes) what you think. Sam Ebb, myself, David Baird, and the Registrar will be meeting soon to coordinate.

**Tools & Apps:** See Syed’s report.

**GRS:** ITS now has a staff member, Kevin Cain, working exclusively on reforming GRS. SAC and ITC will be working closely with him to make sure the proposed changes happen before the next round of GRS.

**Prof-It:** Julian Applebaum ‘13 is going to be looking into the code of Prof-It so it will automatically pull course data from WesMaps.

**Equipment Loans:** Alex Cantrell is coordinating with the Language Resource Center, Cardinal Tech, and IMS to create a cohesive method for student groups to check out equipment like video cameras and projectors. This will be a great resource for student groups that we can offer.

**Lynda:** ITS is looking into purchasing a platform for teaching software to students. It can be used for anything from Stata to Photoshop. ITS wants to know if this resource would be used if they do end up purchasing it.
## Student Budget Committee (SBC)

Nicole Brenner ’15, Chair

The SBC Funded $20,047 this week!

REQUEST OF THE SEMESTER: WesQuisqueya has been approved to host the 7th annual National Dominical Student Conference!! It’s a big deal for them as a group and an honor for the university! They were one of the most prepared groups we’ve dealt with, and we look forward to sponsoring the event in March!!

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