A great week of WSA! Here are some highlights:

- Was called into administrators to discuss how to deal with the class we missed due to Nemo. After several ideas were batted around, we decided that professors will have two options: be given some times during the late afternoon and weekend afternoon on the book between April 1st to 7th, or to contact the registrar’s office to see if they can locate a better time that works for all the students in the class. We suspect this will only affect a few classes, where the teachers are especially intent on rescheduling. Provost Rob Rosenthal has already stated that no student will be/should be penalized for missing a class, and that the WSA can send a message to the student body before that week, informing students of that fact and educating students about the formal process for complaints in the case of a dispute. This resolution was still a big victory since, contrary to potential original plans, it means spring fling, reading period, and finals period are unaltered.

- Dean Mike is eager to meet with a group of seniors regarding Fountain Avenue and problems that spring up their during weekend evenings. There will be a meeting with seniors held about this soon, and if you have any feedback (even you non-seniors), please contact me.

- Along with CID members, I had several Making Excellence Inclusive meetings, and we are working on final recommendations for President Roth to submit at the end of the semester. We will also be discussing related issues tonight.

- Associate Provost Karen Anderson approached me about an idea to have a video camera rental program on campus. We will presumably be meeting in the coming days and more updates coming soon...

- Mari and I met with President Roth on Friday. We pledged our interest in collaborating with the President on the idea for a frosh to capstone portfolio, and we agreed to meet in the coming weeks about it. We also discussed the Board of Trustees issues and dynamics, which is part of the agenda, and the senior events.

- Met with the WSA Office coordinator and managers and Syed, Mari, and Nicole Brenner about ways to improve processes.
Community Outreach Committee
Syed Ali ’13, Chair

COCo had a long but productive meeting this week--over an hour and half! Thank you to everyone on the committee for enduring that this week. A special thanks also to guest star Nicole Brenner ‘15 for coming in so we could work on sensitive student group-related issues.

Edgar Beckham Helping Hands Related Follow-Up. COCo decided to take the issues presented by and through last Sunday’s visit from the Edgar Beckham Helping Hands group head on by working with SBC Chair Nicole Brenner ‘15. Here are preliminary recommendations for consideration:

- COCO
  1. Emphasize that the SBC strives for fair allocation at the Group Recognition Meeting.
  2. Reach out to different group categories through liaisons, especially to the Identity groups.
  3. Consider mandatory social justice training in order to become an approved student groups.
  4. Remind student group leaders that the liaisons that we’re here, these are the processes, etc.
  5. Pose a question to the student group leader Facebook group every week.

- SBC
  6. Send an all-campus survey on how funds should be allocated.
  7. Create video(s) explaining SBC process.
  8. Update the SBC contract to explain which factors the SBC does and does not consider.
  9. Publicize an example of a marked-up, itemized request that’s returned.
 10. Reach out and state that the SBC is aware of those concerns, especially within certain communities.
 11. Make the breakdown of funding more public (email to identity groups, blog post, all-group-listserv email).

- OEAC/ITC
  12. Make clearer the avenues with which people can give feedback, such as by creating an explicit feedback form.

CollegiateLink/OrgSync. Nicki Softness ‘14 has been continuing her research with peer institutions. Syed, Lisa Hendrix, ITS Administrative Systems, and the Center for Community Partnerships (CCP) had a conference call with Colgate University’s Center for Leadership and Student Involvement (CLSI) on CollegiateLink implementation. We are setting up a conference call between the technical side of CollegiateLink, SBC, WSA Office, and ITS Administrative Systems to resolve some continuing questions about ColleigateLink’s finance capabilities.
**Online Resources.** ITS people got back to us and confirmed where requests for blogs, student group emails, and listservs go to. Alton Wang ’16 will be adding to the form on the online page on the WSA website to direct those requests to the right place.

**Student Group Handbook.** Making some progress.

**Student Group Recognition.** There are currently 285 registered active student groups. We will be considering ending student group recognition for the year soon.

**Inclusion and Diversity**
This week on the Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (CID), we hosted the Ally-ship in a “Post-Racial” Society Panel, which was a great success. In addition, members participated in both the MEI Student Subcommittee as well as the Full Task Force Meeting. Finally, we as a committee (along with Alton and Ellen) went through an awesome (and intense) session of social justice training with Gretchen Streiff from SALD.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Social Justice Leadership Conference (SJLC)! There were at least nine WSA members from AAC, COCo, and SAC with significant participation. Congratulations to Christian Hosam ’15, Alton Wang ’16, Ellen Paik ’16, and Kate Cullen ’16 for your successful sessions!

**Spirit and Events**
The Spirit and Events Committee (SEC) will be holding a Wesleyan Amazing Race most likely on February 2nd. Teams of 4 will race around campus and do various activities along the way. It will test their knowledge of Wesleyan and also just be really fun. Also, there are a few tentative dates for the Multicultural Show. It will either be held on April 12th or 26th in Crowell or April 27th in the Chapel. Any thoughts on picking a date would be great. Finally, the SEC has decided to collaborate with UCAB for a Spring Fair. I am meeting today with two UCAB members to discuss the project. More updates to come in the near future.

**Middletown Relations**
COCo member Ellen Paik ’16 visited the Middletown Relations Committee (MidWes) this week. Ellen and Glenn Cantave ’15 are working on compiling a list of groups that work in Middletown for MidWes. MidWes is organizing a meeting of all such groups and will be reaching out to the CCP as well. Adam Wechsler ’13 is setting up a Google Group for such groups to stay in touch.

Glenn and Patrick Masi-Phelps ’15 are working on developing a mentorship program between Wesleyan athletes and Middletown High School athletes as a way to bridge the high school - Wesleyan student divide. They’re currently contacting the Athletics Department and the CCP.

Gabriela De Golia ’13 is attempting to work the Career Center to set up the City Hall internship program.
COCo extensively discussed the resolution on Planning and Zoning changes for Washington Street this week. The Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on the topic is on Wednesday, February 27 at 7PM in the City Hall Council Chamber. All those who feel strongly in any way about the proposed changes should attend.

**COQUOTES OF THE WEEK**

- Regarding the amendments to Resolution 8.34 (Washington St. Zoning):
  "Two points that couldn’t be together, they were star-crossed lovers" - Glenn
- "Do you remember the last time I was at your house? ‘Cuz I don’t." - Christian
Academic Affairs Committee
Sam Ebb '13, Chair

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
Approved a minor in Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (REES). The committee also received a report from the admissions department on the class of 2016.

Minors
First meetings are scheduled for the beginning of next week. Prepare to storm some office hours. Alex will be leading the charge for Music and Classics next Monday and Wednesday. Other times and dates to come soon.

Advising Panels
AAC is officially now working with the New Media Lab on video panels about what makes good advising. We are setting up a meeting with them for sometime before break to work out logistics.

Study Spaces
We are still waiting to hear back from OneCard about 24-hour study space use and will look to collect data both now and around finals time to see patterns in usage. The committee discussed a stakeout of the study space on a night (or few) to see how person usage looks relative to the number of people who actually swipe into the space. Austin also met with University Librarian Pat Tully to discuss the possibility of opening up other spaces for longer hours during finals. He is going to continue to reach out to others who have more information on the schedules of those buildings over the next few weeks. Olin also agreed to look into extending the hours of the reserve desk until the library closes on the last day of exams (a three hour extension that should be very helpful for those using reserve books to do some last minute final exam work). The initiative to replace the printers in Olin has been delayed due to some issues with IMS, but the change will be happening soon.

IT-AAC
Jesse is following up with the registrar on progress with proposed changes to Wesmaps as well as ideas regarding the availability of syllabi (and the potential to link to old versions in the syllabus library from Wesmaps) and the possibility of opening up Moodle pages to all students during drop-add so people can look at syllabi especially for classes that may meet at the same time (this would allow students to get a better sense of which of the two or more to go to on the first day).

Peer Advising
Dean Brown liked all of our ideas is going to set up a time to meet with Lily, Scott Backer and the Peer Advisors to discuss anything that can be done this year and then what should be done going forward (starting next year). The committee also discussed the lack of knowledge of the existence of certain academic resources and what AAC’s role is in disseminating that information to the student body as well as ways in which we can help increase the use of the Peer Advisor system as part of that information dissemination network.

Center for the Study of Public Life (CSPL)
Andrew Trexler, Nicole Updegrove, Syed Ali and myself met with Professor Jennifer Tucker--the head of CSPL--to discuss ideas for the center and ways to improve it going forward. AAC will work with Professor Tucker on a senior thesis talk series for people whose theses included work regarding public life and particularly within the social sciences.
Public Safety Advisory Committee
PSAC convened this week for lunch with PSAFE Supervisor Jay and two new officers, DePaul and Shawn at the Daniel Family Commons. Depaul is initially from Miami, and Shawn is from Middletown. It was a great opportunity to familiarize the new officers with campus culture, and we touched upon areas of concern in regards to PSAFE-Student relations last semester. From this informal gathering new ideas emerged to beef up PSAFE presence/interactions during Orientation week, as well as general opportunities to increase interactions with the student body. It is PSAC's hope to set this as a precedent for new officers to interact with students as part of the training process. Thanks to Scott Elias '14 and Lily Donahue '15 for their work on PSAC, and Scott for this report.

Student Health Advisory Committee
SHAC: reviewed new website and decided to advertise new features on Wesleying this week, final review of third-party billing, CAPs updates, discussed upcoming Medical Director candidates, and created a new WesWell pamphlet. Thanks to Kate Cullen '16 for her work and this report.

Student Life Committee
This week in SLC, we discussed the four services we'll promote investigating for winter breaks (health services, WeShop, increased communication via list-serv, and faculty/administrators taking students home for holiday meals). We also discussed the problems of this year's Senior Events and preliminary plans for the Tour de Franzia.

Fire Safety and Facilities Committee
This week Lily Donahue '15 met with Deb Holman of Physical Plant to discuss potential changes to facilities fines. Many of these are already in the works, and will include more specific hourly fees for cleaning/repairs, itemized prices for furniture damage, and potentially advertising the University's wall paint color so students may repair their own damages.

Coming up...

Student Judicial Process Committee
Next Monday SAC will meet with Ivan Stoitsev '13 of the SJB to discuss a new definition of disruptions. Let us know if you would like to join us!

University Residential Life Committee
Next week URLC meets to decide the final rulings on splitting and merging. Let Jake Blumenthal '13 or the chair know your thoughts.

Search Committees
Next week both the Associate Dean of Student Academic Resources and DHC Medical Director candidates come to campus. Hopefully by spring break we will have filled both positions!
Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFaC)
Andrew Trexler ‘14, Chair

Finance and Facilities Committee
Andrew Trexler, Chair

Budget Priorities Committee
Met to slog through new money requests and got almost nowhere. We will be meeting again and will be shifting much of the conversation online.

Dining Committee
Dining has once again had a busy week. The Committee is currently pricing square tables to replace some of the large round tables in the Daniel Family Commons, to further facilitate the student-faculty voucher lunch program. Dining is also determining the financial details of a possible winter break dining option, including possible plans and available venues. (The data from an experimental summer dining program (25 and 50 block meal plans available for the summer sessions) will be used in the Fall to make final viability calculations.)
Dining is examining the feasibility of a Summerfields cooked breakfast option to start next year, with hours 9-11am Saturdays and Sundays. The hope is that this may be able to provide an early weekend option that disappeared when Usdan Café (and the whole Usdan building) stopped its 8-10am weekend hours. Another alternative would be keep the Usdan Café closed until 1pm, but to open Pi Café at 8 or 9am, as this will not require an entire extra building to be open and staffed.
Shredded lettuce will now be regularly available at the Marketplace salad bar, at least when logistically possible.
Finally, Michael Strumpf will be working with the Bon Appetit nutritionist Danielle for the possibility of a simple color-coded (or similarly marked) distinction between healthful and less healthful salad dressings.

Faculty Research
I have assembled a summary of the whopping eight responses I received from nearly 3,000 students. This digest can be found at the end of this Committee Reports document.

Transportation
Mary Diaz ’14 is looking into the possibility of weekly shuttles to Price Chopper and the rest of the Washington Street corridor. Sam Usdan ’15 is assisting Bill Nelligan and Jen Kleindienst in searching for sustainable vehicles (currently limited to either electric or hybrid) for an expansion of the Physical Plant trades fleet.

FiFaC Frivolous Fact of the Week
The definition of the word “erinaceous” is “resembling a hedgehog.”
Organization and External Affairs (OEAC)
Mari Jarris ‘14, Chair

Member of the Week: Wayne Ng ‘16!

In just a few days, Wayne compiled a proposal with a thorough set of recommendations for the Career Center. It includes peer career advisor reform, online drop-in hours and online appointment scheduling. Thanks for your hard work, Wayne!

WSA-Career Center Committee
This week Grant, Martin, Wayne, Zach, and I met with an additional candidate for the Career Center directorship. We provided University Relations with our final input and they should be making a decision any day now.

Wayne compiled a thorough proposal of OEAC’s recommendations for the Career Center. Grant is editing it now and we are bringing it to GA next week for your feedback.

WSA-Admissions Committee
The WSA-Admissions Committee is meeting this Monday to discuss the general admissions process and the need-aware policy, review admissions materials, and discuss expanding the recruit role of student staff. Please let us know if you have any issues you would like us to raise at this meeting.

Constitutional Review
OEAC began reviewing the constitution and bylaws this week. Grant is keeping an extensive list of issues that we will raise during individual committee meeting. Please schedule a time to meet with us if you have points to discuss that are not directly relevant to your committee.

Technology (ITC)
Grant Tanenbaum ‘15, Chair

Writing Workshop
Professor Greene was very receptive to our proposed changes and reforms, we’ll be working with her and the rest of the Writing Workshop to implement.

Group Resources
Alton Wang ‘16 is creating a single new page for student groups to register a listserv, get a website, and create their own wesleyan.edu address.

Mobile App Development
Talks with the Computer Science department, University Relations, and ITS are ongoing. We’re looking into a launch in the fall of 2013 in a paired program with a devoted tutorial in the Computer Science department (housed in the Patricelli Center) and a mentorship program sponsored by University of Relations.

General Room Selection System
The chair is meeting with ITS and ResLife staffers to discuss some of the changes being made to the GRS system this year.

ITC-AAC
See AAC’s report

The First Annual ITC Christmahanakwanzika Wish List
ITC gets a lot of - often random - requests from lots of committees. Before Spring Break, we’re going to try to collect as many of these requests and ideas (i.e Heat Maps for student housing interests, virtual SBC meetings, streaming WSA meetings, Video Conference rooms on campus for job interviews, etc.) from Committees and prioritizing which ones we want to get done before the end of the semester.
This week the SBC allocated $12,519

Meeting With Sonia and Dean Renee- Syed and Nicole met with Sonia Manjon and Dean Renee this week about the Edgar Beckham Award Show and the campus perception of the SBC. We had a positive, productive discussion and and we’re taking steps to address any issues.

Argus - Nicole and Mansoor had a meeting with the Argus to check in with them and see how we could help them transition to our new funding model. If anyone has fundraising suggestions or ideas, let us know!
Summary of Responses

We often talk about the scholar-teacher model as being at the heart of Wesleyan's educational experience. I believe very strongly that much of the work that our faculty do to advance their own fields makes their teaching sharper and more vital. But not all research finds its way into the classroom, and at many universities there is a strong feeling that research serves some larger cultural good — not just the good of the students. This is much less true at most liberal arts colleges. Many professors at institutions that value research express that they want time "to do their own work," and this often means work that serves their disciplines, not (necessarily) the university.

What is Wesleyan's obligation to subsidize this research? It's important to say, as we do, that we subsidize research because it improves the educational experience on campus. But don't we also subsidize research because it is a good, a cultural good, in itself? Specialization in the academy means that the great bulk of work produced by scholars for other scholars will not find its way into undergraduate teaching. Our strategic plan describes Wesleyan as not only a learning community but as "a locus of research and creative practice." What does that mean to us today?

Students recognize financial constraints, but are nevertheless strongly supportive of Wesleyan’s sponsoring research. Students recognize the significant impact the opportunity for research has, not only on the classroom and on the field, but also to the vitality of the faculty. This vitality translates into enhanced teaching in ways that a greater financial prioritization of teaching itself never could.

Only one (of eight) responses from the general student body registered opposition to supporting research, stating that tuition money from students should not be used to support anything that will not directly benefit the education of those same students. The remainder noted that access research is, and should be, a core component of Wesleyan’s identity as a forefront, top-tier higher educational institution.

Of further note was a common feeling that research often finds its way into the classroom in powerful but indirect and often unpredictable ways. Active research requires faculty to be engaged and modern in their field of both research and teaching. The decoupling of teaching-beneficial research and non-teaching-beneficial research seems rather dubious; effective laboratory research (for example) often requires a mutually beneficial academic cooperation between students and faculty.

In aggregate, these responses indicate that students would like Wesleyan to continue placing a high value on research, and to expand these opportunities when and where financially viable.