Committee Reports
4/7/2013

President’s Report
Zach Malter ‘13, WSA President

Dance Spaces
- We continue to make progress on this front. Jacob, Andrew Trexler, Cynthia Tong ‘14 (dance leader), and I are meeting with Andy Curran this week, and I will be working to create a formal document of concerns and suggestions to share with him during the meeting.

RA Reform
- Mari and I had a meeting with Fran Koerting about replacing the judicial role of RAs with other non-disciplinary forms of high presence and intervention. We wrote a proposal prior to the meeting laying out our idea. She was somewhat receptive to the idea, and we will be meeting this week with Wesleyan’s legal counsel about the legal ramifications of this idea. Fran was also interested in knowing whether RAs increased one-on-one conversations have been happening and have been effective this semester (feedback is welcome). Mari and I will also continue to contact peer schools. Thanks to Nicole Updegrove and Kate for their immense help and valuable insights. Stay tuned for more updates.

Making Excellence Inclusive
- Christian and I had a meeting for the full MEI committee (which includes faculty, staff, admins and students). This week we will be going through and vetting all the recommendations in order to prepare them for President Roth.

Jacques Steinberg Event
- Happening this Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Chapel. Please come to the event or the subsequent book signing. We have been promoting it widely with the help of ResLife, University Communications, and the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

Board Meeting and WSA Survey
- Please forward questions to Chloe now that you’d like to see in the survey. In addition, as I reported to some people, I am hoping to get an agenda item at the board meeting that is driven by the students. Please get in touch with me if you have any ideas. This will be the President’s Challenge for the week, and I will also be putting a general call on Wesleying.
First off, greetings from DC and apologies for not being at tonight’s meeting. Alton will read tonight’s report. COCo members, please chime in during the ‘stack’ if I missed anything. - Syed

COCo had a great meeting this week in which we ate a lot of candy. Just ask Andrew.

Not to worry, the candy was an investment. The sugar rush was converted into productive energy by the means illustrated here:

**Student Group Registration.** There are currently 295 active student groups. All COCo members are working on any student group requests that there has been no action on. If requests are not acted on and student group leaders do not respond to emails, their requests will be terminated on Monday.

**Student Group Handbook.** Ellen Paik ’16 did not work on student group handbook outreach last week, so she worked on that this week. She and Alton Wang ’16 are working on taking the handbook online and making it as interactive and digestible as possible.

**CollegiateLink.** Hooray for Alton for coordinating a financial systems meeting with the relevant stakeholders for tomorrow at 2PM.

**190 High.** Syed, Nicole Brenner ’15, Andrew Trexler ’14, and Zachary Malter ’13 toured 190 High with Student Activities and Leadership Development (SALD) Director Elisa Cardona to identify maintenance expenditures for the space. Elisa will be getting back to us with an itemized budget and then we will be discussing funds.

**Student Group Leader Category Summits.** Liaisons are planning more informal networking sessions for student group leaders, as recommended to us at the Student Group Leader Summit. Three have been planned so far, with more to come.

- Identity Groups -- Sunday, April 14th, 1:30-3:30PM -- Christian Hosam ’15
- Performance Groups -- Sunday, April 14th, 2:00-3:30PM -- Jacob Musinsky ‘15
- Middletown Groups -- Saturday, April 27th, 1:00-3:00PM -- Elita Irving ‘13 (see below)

Speaking of student groups, submit nominations for **SALD’s Leadership Awards**! Syed will be sitting on the selection committee this week, but you can submit nominations here.

**Spirit and Events**
The Spirit and Events Committee (SEC) canceled the Culture Show due to a lack of student groups participating, but we are continuing to think of ways to approach the intersections of culture and the arts. The **WSA/UCAB Carnival** was on Saturday! [JACOB, chime in--how did it
Save the date! **Cardinal Night on Main** is taking place on Friday, **September 20, 2013** from 4:30PM to 9PM. Glenn Cantave ‘15 is taking the lead on booking space for performance as well as contacting the relevant businesses, organizations, and departments.

**Inclusion and Diversity**

The Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (CID) is working on its WesFest event.

Christian Hosam ‘15, Syed, and other students are consulting with Chief Diversity Officer Sonia Mañjon on the upcoming **Diversity Forum 2**. The focus of the forum is tentatively Diversity in the Curriculum. Ideas for the forum can be sent to smanjon@wesleyan.edu.

If you have not already, take the **Campus Climate Survey**. It’s not too long and is a worthwhile investment in making sure everyone feels comfortable and included at Wesleyan in the future. Also, Syed passed on the results from our Diversity Forum Update survey to a few rele

**Middletown Relations**

Elita Irving ‘13 is planning a student group **summit** for groups working with/in Middletown, planned for April 27th from 1-3PM. Chair Gabriela De Golia ‘13 is talking to Pamela Tatge of the CFA about helping out with **Middletown Remix** and continuing to work on getting the **City Hall internship** in order. The Middletown Remix Festival will take place on May 11th, from 2-5PM. Patrick Masi-Phelps ‘15 and Glenn are meeting with people (such as coaches) this week about beginning more sustained relationships between **athletes** at Wesleyan and in Middletown high schools.
Academic Affairs Committee
Sam Ebb ’13, Chair

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
Heard a presentation on a new teaching evaluation form. The committee voted to allow distribution of the form to the faculty on Thursday in advance of the faculty meeting. The committee also heard from Dave Baird and Karen Anderson on the topic of Student Portfolios—places for students to compile work throughout their Wesleyan careers so they graduate with a tangible collection of their work and not just a diploma. The committee received a document from Academic Affairs on interdisciplinarity and suggested that the document get circulated among the entirety of the faculty.

Advising Panels
Happened and went really well. We now have over 40 minutes of high-level discussion that I will work to cut down into easily consumable bits for advisors and incoming frosh. Many thanks to Christian Hosam ’15, Nicki Softness ’14, Nicole Updegrove ’14 and Zach Malter ’13 for participating. Cookies will be coming your way sometime after April 12th.

Minors
Office hour storming updates from Lily and Alex. The bulk are likely to get done next week.

Stress
The committee had a follow-up discussion on academic stress in the curriculum and are planning on looking into changes to the academic regulations to insert language about mid-terms (both the scheduling of them and how much work professors can assign during the week in which the mid-term is due. The committee will be conducting some informal canvassing over the next week or two to gather input from students on this.

Student-Athlete Policies
The committee had a discussion based on a concern brought to us regarding the scheduling of “mandatory” course events outside of typical course hours and during varsity athletic practices. The concern also included concern about mid-terms scheduled at night, outside of typical course meetings, as they occur immediately following practice and could leave students overtired and without time to eat before the exam. The committee will reach out to other student athletes to see how widespread the concern is. The committee will look into standardizing language about these types of conflicts as there appears to be little consistency across departments.

Study Spaces
Austin is continuing to look into space availability. It has also recently come to the committee’s attention that we (at least in theory) control the hours for the UOC building and we will be looking into making that space a 24-hour space at least for the upcoming finals period and will evaluate the rest of the schedule with other parties going forward.

Educational Technology
I was contacted this week by a Harvard grad who is working with a number of New England schools (Harvard, MIT, Tufts) on technology specifically created for their concerns. They have worked creating both a visualisation system for the course catalogue/thesis topics (they say “the academic resources available within the university”), but also a function where someone can type up a paragraph abstract of what they want to write their thesis about and it will give them a list of potential advisors, courses and previous theses on the topic with an indicated percent match based on the advisor’s research history, the course description and the text of old theses respectively. This could be expanded to not just include theses, but areas of academic interest generally. If we decide this is something that we are interested in, they will reach out to the administration. You can find out more about them at projectlever.com

**Senior Thesis Committee**
Will have its final meeting this upcoming Friday, April 12th at 4pm on the Olin steps, after submitting its work/findings to the committee on honors for consideration.
Student Affairs Committee
Nicole Updegrove '14, Chair

Undergraduate Residential Life Committee
GRS begins next week; it will occur in just three nights, one for each grade level (based on input from last year). SAC members will be bombarding rising seniors as they walk out to ask them about splitting and merging - we need someone to work from 7 to 8 p.m. on Monday evening. Sign up now.

Rising juniors will be encouraged to take Hewitt 9, where programming will be directed toward their age group. ResLife will also be making a post on Wesleying about where students should expect that they might live, based on their grade level. Fun fact - less than half of juniors live in "Junior Village."

Additionally - let's talk about a **residential college model**.

Kate Cullen '16 and I met with two more RA's on Friday night and gained valuable insights. Kate also compiled all the research she and others have done this semester about the RA system.

Student Judicial Process Committee
Next week will be interviews for new SJB members. Zach and I will also be meeting with President Roth to discuss the disruptions policy and the appeals process.

People who Tour this year will not be suspended and Spring Fling will not be cancelled (you're welcome, from your friendly Student Affairs Committee and the NCHIP student members). However, it will result in a *minimum* of 6 points, which translates to a year of probation. Be aware. Updates to come.

Student Health Advisory Committee
It will cost only about $1000 to open CAPS and DHC during winter break (except during the super-break). Verification of its being open next year will hopefully come soon.

Conversations are happening on the SHAC list-serv about our suggestions. Updates soon.

Misc.
We met with Student Life Committee to talk about stress and health recommendations from last weeks' discussion. **Fuller description** at the meeting.

Bruno '16 is working on a proposal for an alternative spring break program, using some of our 'Cac peers as a model. Way cool. If you have any input about what you would like to do over spring break with a bunch of Wesleyan kids, contact Bruno.

Public Safety Advisory Committee
PSAC and PSRC did not meet this week, but found out that Margolis Healey & Associates (MHA) will be on campus conducting interviews and meetings with individuals throughout the University community on April 30th and May 1st. After meeting with the Public Safety Review Committee in the morning MHA will be having what they call a Visioning Workshop, which is intended as a facilitated brainstorming session where participants will examine the current state of campus safety and security at Wesleyan University and explore the participant’s desired future state. Additionally, Scott Elias published an article in the Argus this Friday, *Providing Context to Not Including Race in Public Safety Alerts*, which will also be published as a WSA Blog post.

**Sexual Violence Advisory Committee**

Bruno ’16 is working with ResLife to get the Sexual Assault Response Flowchart put up in dormitories so that processes and institutional responses are better known. He is also working on sexual assault awareness campaigns.
Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFaC)
Andrew Trexler ’14, Chair

Finance and Facilities
Andrew Trexler, Chair

Committee for Investor Responsibility
The Committee for Investor Responsibility (CIR) is working on a public statement addressing the issue of fossil fuel divestment (see below). We expect that the CIR will release this document within two weeks.

The CIR is also looking for next year’s Chair of the Committee. If you are interested, please submit a one or two paragraph statement to Corey Guilmettee ’13 explaining your interest and leadership skills. Applications are due Monday April 8th by midnight.

The Consent Pledge
I have launched a campaign to promote a culture of consent on campus. Take the Consent Pledge: “I pledge to actively seek and obtain legitimate consent with any and all partners, to look after the safety and well-being of my friends and peers, and to actively combat a culture of rape acceptance in my community.” Our goal is have every member of the campus community take the pledge, including students, faculty, and staff, and we have over 300 pledges already!

Much thanks to Alton Wang ’16, Syed Ali ’13, Olivia Horton ’14, and Oladoyin Oladapo ’14 for their help thus far in this effort.

Debt Policy
The Debt Policy working group of the Board of Trustees has a nearly-complete draft for our new debt policy. The policy is designed to limit the University’s tendency to take on new debt during the course of infrastructural projects and creates an aspirational goal of greatly improving our balance sheet ratios in the spirit of fiscal responsibility.

Divestment
Angus McLean ’16 is working hard on his divestment campaign and has been in contact with some alumni and other students to gather momentum around the goal of divesting from dirty energy. Get in touch with him if you want to help out.

Electric Vehicles
To replace some aging trades vehicles, physical plant is planning to shuffle around some vehicles and purchase new Nissan Leafs (fully electric vehicles). Thanks to Sam Usdan ’15 for his work on this.

Energy Reduction
Ellen Paik ’16 and I met with Chief Financial Officer John Meerts and Sustainability Coordinator Jen Kleindienst to talk energy reduction. Ellen’s hope with Wes-To-Wes is that annual savings from overall energy use reduction through student sustainability activism might be transferred to the Financial Aid budget for the following year, as a way to provide students with an active means of contributing to Financial Aid. Meerts was receptive to the idea, and we
are meeting with Peter Staye of Physical Plant this coming week to discuss how a baseline consumption level and student impact on reduction might be measured. Physical Plant’s estimate is that our overall energy use could be reduced by 30%, to the effect of $1.5 million.

Espwesso

In an effort to promote Espwesso as a hub for conversation and engagement on campus, I have been working with the Allbritton Director Professor Jennifer Tucker and Jacob Eichengreen ’13 to make some changes to hours and possibly location at Espwesso. More (hopefully exciting) updates soon!

Freeman Athletic Center

Nicki Softness ’14 has finally managed to wrangle a meeting out of Mike Whalen and the upper Athletics department. Mary Diaz ’14 is working with Nicki and Athletics to install power generators on some of the bikes and ellipticals in the work-out room and we hope to hear back soon. The Athletics department has started sending a coach to the Campus Climate Log Committee meetings and I will be working with the department to further engage coaches in campus life and community dialogue.

Green Fund

The Green Fund has funded an expansion of Long Lane Farm pending soil sanitation by the State of Connecticut and has also funded a second greenhouse for the farm. (No chickens though, too complicated a commitment.) The Fund is also planning to fund the installation of several new electric vehicle charges, and I am working the Alan Rubachah to submit the detailed proposal and request. More details soon. Thanks to Adam Brudnick ’13 and the rest of the Committee for all of their hard work.

Green Revolving Fund

A small update on the Green Revolving Fund: I had a productive conversation with John Meerts regarding the proposal and he did not say no, which is encouraging. I am waiting to hear back from and Barbara Jan Wilson (of University Relations) on the concrete details of the proposal. Thanks to Adam Brudnick ’13 and the Wesleyan Consulting Group for the initial research, and for their current help in reaching out to potential donors.

Why Wesleyan?

President Roth and I have agreed upon another open discussion, this time regarding the question of ‘Why Wesleyan?’ An all-campus was sent out earlier this week and we have already received several responses, but are hoping for more. The subsequent forum on the topic will be held in PAC002 on April 16th at 7pm. We hope that you will take this opportunity to give your input on the future direction of Wesleyan and we hope to see you there.

FiFaC Frivolous Fact of the Week

Last year, more than 10,000 individuals traveled to Minnesota for the Internet Cat Video Film Festival. The event produced an estimated 5 million pounds of carbon dioxide as a result of this frivolous travel. Nevertheless, due to the event’s enormous success, a second Festival is being planned for this year and is expected to attract even larger crowds.
Member of the Week: Adam Brudnick ‘13

Adam Brudnick ’13 is our infamous guru of sustainabilitiness, heading up the Green Fund Committee and doling out greenbacks to back green projects. Together with the Committee, Adam has funded some awesome stuff this year, including an expansion to Long Lane Farm, a new Hoop House, a local community garden, and (soon!) some more electric vehicle charging stations around campus. Beyond this green-dishing, Adam has also spearheaded the research on a Green Revolving Fund with the Wesleyan Consulting Group, putting together an awesome proposal and reaching out to potential start-up donors. If this works (and we’re optimistic), we’ll be swimming in green-related and green-colored bits of, uh, paper. So, yeah, Adam’s awesome. Adam also gets bonus points for being the only Fifac member (besides Trex) to attend Constitutional Review.

NYTimes Speaker Jaques Steinberg
Jacques Steinberg is speaking this Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Memorial Chapel. Tell all your friends and we look forward to seeing you there!

WSA-Admissions Committee
The WSA-Admissions Committee has scheduled our next meeting for Monday, April 15th. Let us know if there are any issues you’d like us to address.

Constitutional Review
Last week OEAC held constitutional review with FiFac. Thank you to Trexler and Adam for coming and proposing their amendments. We discussed renaming FiFac to include
sustainability in the title, the role of the Green Fund Chair as a WSA member, and the relationship between the Sustainability Task Force and the Green Fund. All amendments will be brought to the Assembly for approval.

This Wednesday OEAC will be meeting with COCo and SAC at 5:30 in 41 Wyllys room 114. Please review the constitution and bylaws before your meeting time and come with any proposals.

**Technology (ITC)**

*Grant Tanenbaum ’15, Chair*

**Printers**
The new printers have been installed around campus. If you have any suggestions about where you want these new printers (Espwesso, PAC, Fisk, Usdan) let me know.

**Collegiate Link**
Alton Wang ’16 is working with administrators in ITS, our office staff, and collegiate link to organize our summer implementation. Hats off.

**Wes Boxes**
Erik Islo has the new WesBox system green lit by ITS. Starting in the 2013-2014 academic year you will be able to opt out of all lit drops in your WesBox.
This week the SBC allocated $10,321 to student groups on campus

Request of the Week: This week's request of the week was from Wesleyan Science Outreach. They volunteer tutoring science to elementary school students and then once a year bring the kids to Wesleyan to work in a real lab and hear presentations from professors. The goal is to get kids excited about science!

190 High Street - On Thursday morning Syed, Trexler, Zach and I met with Elisa Cardona to tour the UOC facilities. There are a lot of repairs that could be done, and we’re waiting on a room by room estimate/proposal to prioritize what should be repaired or updated first.

Collegiatelink- Financial systems presentation Monday at 2:00pm. Hopefully the relevant administrators will be present and we can move forward with this exciting shift.