Agenda:
Opening of the Meeting: Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Fight song and role call

2. Open Forum
   a. LaNell: The issue of the WSA retaining students of color and the importance of having diversity and inclusion on the WSA itself.
   b. Trexler: On this issue Jacob, Nicole, and myself have had conversations with every student of color that has left the WSA in the last three years. Could you speak to more of your specifics?
   c. LaNell: WSA members have a lot of work every week, 10 hours or so. That can be a burden for students on work-study. From an outsider’s perspective it looks like we can do things to reduce the burden of work/work-study so that they can join activities like WSA. My second point is that a stigmatized part of our community can be damaging to the work that the WSA does.
   d. Nicole Updegrove: Reducing the time burden of the WSA on our members is something we worry about a lot. We now have a meeting time limit and we have always tried to be flexible with individuals’ available time to commit to the Assembly. These meetings need bodies and there is work to get done, so we need people here - what do you think we can do to improve the efficiency of our commitment?
   e. LaNell: I’d like to get a better understanding of what is actually being done - like if you’re putting in a lot of time and hours and not much is getting done, that doesn’t look good. Can someone say what you get done?
   f. Kate: There’s time commitment issue and the student of color issue. At Wesleyan, it’s a matter of how we balance and prioritize our work. As far as the racial issue, this is part of a much bigger conversation on race at Wesleyan from self-segregation to difficulty reaching out, it’s definitely a wider issue but we’re really working on it.
   g. Alton: We’ve historically had a much better representation of the campus back in the 70s and 80s, not just with color, but that stigma [Lynll] was talking about just weren’t a concern. We should keep in mind that the way the WSA is today isn’t the way it has always been.
   h. Nicki: It’s not that you have no choice over your time commitments, a lot of it is on a
voluntary basis. We should probably do a better job publicizing that a lot of the commitment is interest based, and that

i. Jacob: I may dedicate ten hours a week to this - but that’s because I choose to. On getting stuff done, discussions are absolutely important and lead to getting things done.

j. Nicole U: This weekend EC spent a lot of time with the Board of Trustees discussing inclusion and diversity. We’re also working on getting a winter session passed so students can take a lighter course load and have more time during the school year. We’re planning a series of fora which we hope will lead to even more discussion and action on inclusion and diversity. Over 200 student groups were registered this past week, the SBC funded over $15,000 dollars - so we’re definitely getting a lot of things done.

k. LaNell: I’m really glad to hear what you’ve said. I’ve asked these questions before and just haven’t heard these answers. I suggest that maybe you get different groups involved to help spread the word and your work and to take away the stigma. As an outsider I didn’t know all of this was happening.

l. Lily: We discussed this week in OEAC actually going out to student groups and talking to them, rather than waiting from them to come to us. Otherwise it’s hard for us to actually connect with them.

m. LaNell: You should involve student group leaders on the initiatives you’re taking on.

n. Trexler: A few points: Wesleyan is a place that is full of big problems. We as a community suffer from a number of plagues that could go away if we work hard at them. Those issues take a lot of time and effort to solve. They need the community to get together. They need students that are attentive to the issue. We do a lot of stuff on a day to day basis; we touch almost every aspect of the university on a daily basis, but it needs more collaboration. What is the stigma that you see?

o. LaNell: That the WSA takes up 10 hours of time a week (too much), and that it is not a student of colour-friendly place. For example, if a student of colour is put into CID when they don’t necessarily want to be, that WSA action could send an unintentional message.

p. Alton: The SBC is working on transparency behind decision-making, down to every $5. It’s also important to note that the WSA still prioritizes the individual WSA member’s mental health over WSA work- perhaps we don’t make this clear enough. We definitely need to work on the dissemination of information. [Unanimous consent to extend]

q. Jalen: What I’ve seen from working with the WSA but not being on the WSA is that individuals take WSA criticisms very personally, and reactions to such criticisms may lead to an inaccurate representation of the WSA and thus can create an inaccurate stigma.

r. Nicki: The SBC always puts in hours of work in making every decision, and we are aware of the fact that we need to be more transparent. Do you have any examples of
any unprofessional emails from WSA individuals?

s. LaNell: After the forum last year, the WSA seemed to be less open to criticisms than the ideal.

t. Ben: As a freshman, I have less perspective on the issue. Can someone clarify, what have we done to do outreach? In my high school, we designated a day for student government leaders to have conversations with non-student government leaders on campus and this was very effective.

u. Jacob: I really like Ben’s idea. And we’ll definitely be working on outreach in the future.

v. Ben: I think it’s really good to go to student groups but we really need to set aside a time where student leaders know they can come to us.

w. Jalen: I really appreciate you all explaining what you guys are doing, and your explanations. I just hope that we have these conversations more often. I think that labels make it more difficult for WSA individuals to be more personable.

x. LaNell: In the end, this really does boil down to an outreach issue.

y. Justin: We met some alumni who noted that the WSA has always been seen as a figuratively semi-incestuous body, isolated from the rest of the student body. We need to encourage more students, particularly students that are under-represented on the WSA.

z. Jalen: The problem that I have with that is that I feel like I’m encouraging people to enter an environment that might be uncomfortable and hostile.

aa. LaNell: I like what Jalen said - there should be some type of connection on both sides. It’s not easy coming into this environment as a student of color, I know - I tried it.

bb. Justin: You (Jalen and LaNell) are upperclassmen and I want to note that you are in the position of power to influence younger students to run for the WSA and disprove the stigmas attached to WSA.

c. Aidan: If you give anyone this negative idea about it, nothing is going to happen with it. I raised my hand earlier because I’m confused where ya’ll are coming from.

dd. LaNell: Since you’re a freshman, I just want to let you know that in the past that the WSA hasn’t always been the way it is now. I came here to find out for myself what’s been going on and how the WSA has evolved- and I’m happy with what I see.

ee. Jalen: I would air {hair?} caution against using a single-story to prove a point - we’re not coming from a singular personal point of view. I’ve seen many different situations and that’s where i’m coming from.

ff. Lily: We as an assembly, screw up. It’s hard to recover from making mistakes sometimes, so on behalf of the WSA, sorry for creating an impression of hostility. I’d love to hear more of your thoughts regarding transparency and how to spread the word.

gg. Kate: An alumni said that the WSA used to be more of a collection of representatives from student groups- which was nice, but apparently there was less cohesion amongst the body. Also, we currently have 4 spots open- this is a great opportunity for people
who feel under-represented to get involved with WSA. I also encourage everyone here to be a bit more optimistic and positive when talking about WSA affairs to the student body.

hh. Alton: I just wanted to emphasize that SALD is a fantastic resource for student leaders. The Student Group Leader Summit was extremely successful, and we’re planning on having many more similar events in the future.

ii. Ellen Paik: I was on COCO last year and the Summit was great. Sometimes it seems like there is less feedback because the WSA often fails. That’s just part of our work, we try and try again - so we try not to broadcast too much about things that don’t work out. I’m curious, what do you think the most effective method of outreach is?

jj. LaNell: Students are the most effective method of outreach. My experience, I’m going to tell other students about my nice experience here and say you should run for the WSA. Reach the students. Invite students to meetings with WSA representatives. They’ll relay that message to other students. I don’t know what resources you have, but I want you to work on reaching out to students and help solve this issue.

kk. Jalen: On a final note, I ask that the WSA doesn’t assume what the student body knows or doesn’t know.

ll. LaNell: Sitting in on this meeting has helped me a lot, and I can’t imagine how much this would impact student group leaders if they sat in on meetings too.

mm. Scott: Motion to close stack, passes

nn. Jason: To play devil’s advocate, I think that any deliberative body often has to look beyond social lines to the issues that affect all of us.

oo. Sadasia: As a freshman, I was aware of the stigmas that came along with inclusion and diversity aspect of the WSA. I wanted to run to make a statement that students of color can run for the WSA. But I also feel that you have to be passionate and do what you want to do for you. We really need to think what diversity means to us individually.

pp. Nicole Updegrove: Thanks to everyone for coming in!

qq. LaNell: I’m excited for this year!

3. Nicole Updegrove: Motion to close the meeting, passes

4. Grant: Motion to open the meeting, passes

5. Committee Reports

   Nicole Updegrove: Read the report on meetings from the Board of Trustees.
   Grant: EPC passed the Winter Term, the first would be this January.
   Jacob: We’re working on personal outreach specifically to student groups, also thinking about new social media avenues like Tumblr. Lily is also leading a project on internally evaluating the WSA.
   Nicole Brenner: What’s the deadline for appointments?
   Trexler: It was today, at noon.
Justin: It’s clear that we need more applications- especially for SBC and SBC needs them fast.

Trexler: We need more applications, I agree, but all positions could use more applicants.

[Motion to extend application deadline for specific positions only, fails.]

[Motion to extend appointment application deadline, passes.]

6. Resolution on spending limits

a. Grant: Basically the university has failed to notify us of this policy change that students will only be able to charge $200 a day to their student accounts, so we wrote this motion which is time sensitive.

b. Collin: Is it okay to vote on this regardless of whether or not Broad Street Books will be involved?

c. Grant: Yes, because the Tech Store will be affected too.

d. Glenn: What was the rationale behind this policy change?

e. Justin: Students haven’t paying their debts.

f. Martin: What could happen to encourage students to pay their debts?

g. Ben: Couldn’t the students theoretically spend $200 every day?

h. Justin: Yes.

i. Trexler: Correct me if I’m wrong, but I think that you can only spend $200 until you can pay off the debt.

j. Justin: I wasn’t aware of that.

[Motion to close stack passes]

k. Justin: The current system really hurts the IT department.

l. Grant: A resolution must be introduced a week before voting on it. But we’re hoping to vote on this today because we want to present the resolution to the administration on October 1st.

m. Trexler: I move to clarify that that bylaw stipulation applies specifically to this meeting only as it is currently a bit ambiguous in the actual ByLaws.

n. Grant: Yes.

[Motion to vote with ⅔ majority because of bylaws’ ambiguity]

[Motion to suspend bylaws by ⅗ majority unanimously approved]

[Voting on Resolution]

o. All in favor: 30

p. All opposed: 0

q. All abstaining: 0

7. Discussion on Orientation

a. Lily: Smaller group models! Smaller groups are a lot more productive and provide more opportunities to connect with each other. Also, allow for RAs to connect with their hall more (last year 5 hours, this year 1.5 hours)

b. Martin: Smaller group models is definitely a great suggestion. Also, the We Speak We
Stand this year was very dry and in a bad location (hockey rink)

c. Ben: The small group model didn’t really allow for me to meet other people. I was getting talked to, instead of given the change to meet people. Also, outing trips would be great- my friends from other schools had them and benefited a lot from them.

d. Nicole Brenner: I heard that the We Speak We Stand was very negative and probably extremely intimidating.

e. Chris: As an RA, I’m interested in being able to meet my hall. I only had two hours during the entire week to meet my hall. Also, there was no way to track attendance.

f. Lizzie: My closest friends this year are my hallmates- which is great, but I would have liked the chance to meet people outside of where I live.

g. Collin: Going off what Chris said, I felt that I barely knew my RA after Orientation. I felt that there was too much focus on sexual assault over the course of three days. Also, people on sports teams were barely able to make about half of the events hosted.

h. Aidan: I felt that the Common Moment and the We Speak We Stand fell flat on their faces. They were too long, and during the Common Moment, people would branch off into their new friend groups. The Common Moment should be more intimate, and the We Speak We Stand should be less repetitive and more emotional and personal.

i. Victor: Perhaps we could target incoming freshman during the summer, maybe by developing a mentorship program. I think we could do a survey over the summer to see what sorts of activities they’d be interested in getting involved with during Orientation.

**[Motion to extend meeting by 30 mins, passes]**

j. Fred: Lots of events happen at the same time, and perhaps could make it easier for people to make/be aware that they have to make choices.

k. Jason: Though people say that the Common Moment should be more intimate, I don’t think that this is possible for a group of 700-800 people. Also, I was told that the choreographer essentially segregated the groups. More information about Drop/Add or how to get involved in clubs should be further emphasized.

l. Lily: We talked about this last year, but we should continue to work on providing information to students during the summer. Also, the choreographer that we hired was very insensitive- I was proud that so many people reacted to his insensitivity in the right way.

m. Key: I feel like I was talking a lot to people but had no idea what their names were. I think that we should provide more opportunities for people to meet each other.

n. Rebecca: I think that a lot of freshmen felt that Orientation events were irrelevant because they knew that they weren’t going to keep in touch with people that they didn’t know much about. There should be more ways to connect with people that are closer to you- live with you or share the same extracurricular interests as you.

o. Mika: I think that the only information we learned about upperclassmen were their names and majors- not much about them or their interests. During ISO, I enjoyed that
the OLs and the students spent a lot of time together at a personal level.

p. Julio: As a Peer Advisor, I felt that it was difficult to help the freshmen. People were more interested in figuring out the logistics of Orientation (location, times of events) than learning information that Peer Advisors that would be able to provide.

q. Martin: Suggestion: I think that there should be more interaction between the different types of Orientation leaders (OLs, RAs, etc.). We hosted events with outside-residential-life communities because we assumed that you would eventually meet the people close to you anyway. It’s also a lot easier to provide connections for international students because its a group of only 100.

r. Ben: Main issue #1: other than the Common Moment, I didn’t realize that our Orientation had a theme. Main issue #2: I don’t think that the small groups isn’t the problem, but rather the content. What we did over the summer was repeated during Orientation.

s. Trexler: Why bring in a NY choreographer when we have plenty of dancers from the Wesleyan community? Also, I think that we can combine the hall and non-hall model. The reason for so much emphasis on sexual assault is that the data is really scary: about 100 freshman experience some form of sexual assault during their first 2 weeks of school.

t. Nicole Updegrove: We’re going to move forward with these suggestions and talk to the people that organize Orientation. Please talk to me if you have more suggestions. To bring the discussion to the themes of Orientation for a moment, when I was a freshman, the theme was “food justice”. A lot of us were pretty excited to hear about the switch to “inclusion and diversity” and I hope to hear how it went. I’m also interested in looking into if it’s worth having a theme to Orientation and if it makes sense to have a theme at all.

u. Chris: I am very for having Social Justice as a theme in the future. I definitely support having OLs and RAs interact with each other more. Also we really need for people to know their RAs more because RAs are a huge resource for new students.

v. Nicole Brenner: I think that exposing students to information over the summer could be very beneficial. I’m helping run Cardinal Connect with Bruno, and it would help to have this program be more connected to Orientation.

w. Lizzie: I thought that the theme was appropriate, but what I anticipated for Orientation to be was a more preparation-oriented week. I didn’t know what I was getting myself into (academically- e.g.: the rigor of my classes), and it would have helped for my Academic Advisor to play a larger role during my Orientation.

x. Lily: To Trexler: the rationale between having smaller groups was to have people establish a stronger connection with the same group. Last year Ellen showed us a video of Orientation for another University (in Canada), and their Orientation was a lot more fun-event oriented.
y. Trexler: I chatted with freshmen in different dorms and most said, “it was a blur”. Almost all of them said that it was a huge flurry of events. Orientation was once five days (plus ISO) but was cut to three a few years ago. Extending Orientation by a day is approximately $20,000- I think this could be a worthwhile investment.

z. Aidan: Something that I wasn’t aware of, was the fact that I was wasting meals!

aa. Rebecca: The OLs seemed to be super tired, and one of my junior OL friends said that they were simply exhausted from ISO.

bb. Sadasia: I agree, and I think the fatigue of the OLs took away from my experience a bit. After “In the Company of Others”, we had an opportunity to have meaningful conversation. But the OLs were exhausted and were reading off the script.

cc. Lily: We need to either hire more OLs or pay them more- they were being very overworked for only $200 for all their work. Also, a lot of the other OLs weren’t as familiar with social justice language because our Social Justice Training was very brief. As Martin said, maybe we should extend Orientation leader training before Orientation.

dd. Ben: One thing that I could see improvement in was the FYMs- I think it could have been better tied into the theme of Orientation.

ee. Sadasia: We could definitely tell that the OLs were being worked very hard, to speak to your earlier point, Lily.

ff. Chris: It would have helped a lot to have leaders (RAs and OLs) talk to each other more before each event.

gg. Lily: We could also easily further engage students rather than having OLs lead discussions. We could have them be prepared and come with discussion questions.

8. New Business and Announcements
   a. Angus: I wrote a resolution- I’ll be introducing this for next week!
   b. Lily: Student Government Conference planning!
   c. Kate: Talk to your friends and encourage them to run for SAC!
   d. Ellen: Sustainability!
   e. Nicole Updegrove: If writing a resolution sounds intimidating, come talk to me - I am happy to help! Also, talk to me if you would like to join an administrative Student Memorial Work Group to think about how we can properly memorialize Wesleyan community members (especially students) who pass away.
   f. Trexler: I need to talk to EC after this meeting.
   g. Mansoor: We’re going to use a random number generator to choose someone to do minutes.
   h. Aidan: There should be a resolution regarding hosts/pre-frosh/recruits.
   i. Rebecca: Next week before GA could the new people be taught how to write resolutions?
   j. Mansoor: The pre-frosh I lost is now my best friend

Meeting Adjourned:
Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Paik