Executive Report

President: Nicole Updegrove '14
Vice President: Andrew Trexler '14

Executive Committee
This week, Executive Committee discussed the last two weeks of our work, including various white papers for residential experience proposals that Executive Committee members are working on, the recent vandalism/activism by Pissed Off Trans* People, the Senior Class Officers, Winter Session, and Orientation. Much of our discussion focused on how to replace a resigning member of the Executive Committee, whose depth of service, dedication, and passionate contributions cannot adequately be expressed.

Privilege, Ability, Wellness, and Policy
On Monday, October 14th, two members of Active Minds and two members of Wesleyan Students for Disability Rights (WSDR) co-facilitated a discussion about ability and wellness at Wesleyan in light of current policy. We had an attendance of 20, including 4 WSA members, and a honest and open conversation about student experiences. We have a long list of policy changes to work on (many of which are being tackled by the above-listed student groups in conjunction with Dean Laura Patey), all of which will be presented after the end of the series.

Low Income Student Group
As a follow-up to the Privilege, Class, and Policy talks, Leo Liu '14, Cesar Chavez '15, and several WesDEFs are working to establish a supportive (and potentially activist) group for low-income students and their allies. It will launch with a potluck in two weeks - details to follow.

Winter Session
As referenced in previous reports, Nicole is working with Academic Affairs to ensure that co-curricular activities and services are available during winter (and summer) sessions. Contact Nicole with ideas.

White Papers
Andrew is submitting three white papers for the Wesleyan 2020 residential improvements project: one for an expansion of Espwesso Cafe, one for an expansion of WesBikes, and one for the renovation of the currently unusable third floor of 190 High. Kate Cullen ‘16 is also submitting a white paper on an expanded and institutionalized outing trips as part of orientation.
Budget Priorities Committee
BPC (finally) discussed some actual metrics for measuring Wesleyan’s financial readiness to return to need-blind admissions for first year domestic applicants. The numbers are not pretty. We explored three different models, and the estimates ranged from additional endowment of $178M to $1.4B. The first model examined Wesleyan’s discount rate high point and the COFHE school’s discount rate median, the second looked at reaching competitor schools’ average grant level as a percentage of endowment per student, and the third looked at full or half coverage of the financial aid budget by the endowment and the Wesleyan Fund. The group will be looking at other possible models and trying to factor in timelines and long range budgeting plans for further refinement of the metrics.

Out of Context Administrator Quote of the Week
Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)
Chair: Grant Tanenbaum ’15

Art Library Move
Nicole Brenner ’15 met with the committee on moving the Art Library’s assets to Olin. <Nicole’s report>

Career Center
Rebecca Hutman ’17 is researching our peer institutions career center’s policies and web presence to better inform and advise the Wesleyan Career Center.

First Year Policies
Ben Marvin-Vanderyn ’17 is researching our peer institutions academic regulations that specifically govern first year students. Rebecca Hutman ’17 is researching our peer institutions regulations on allowing first year students to withdraw without penalties. AAC will take this research to the administration and GA to discuss the benefits of supporting regulations designed to aid the transition into Wesleyan.

Library Noise
The Chair met with the Student Life Committee to discuss noise levels in campus libraries. See Kate Cullen’s report for more information on future steps.

Internship Credit
The Chair met with the Assistant Provost, Karen Anderson, to discuss the charges for summer internship credit and learned two things. First, any student on any level of financial aid will receive the credit free of charge. Second, any student may request to “audit” the summer internship course free of charge and still have the experience listed on their transcript and satisfy and labor standards. AAC is working to better publicize this important information.

Out of context quote of the week: “Would we want to stuff knowledge into our students like rich food into Strassburg geese? They would end up so top-heavy…”

~

A special thank you to Alton Wang, a member unparalleled in work ethic who has made the Wesleyan Student Assembly a kinder, more responsible, and more responsive body.
Community Committee (CoCo)
Chair: Alton Wang ‘16

Committee Report
Middletown Relations
MidWes is starting strong and heading for a promising year. Here are some highlights just from their first meeting:

- MidWes may be working with WES-U in having campus events open to Middletown residents,
- A member of MidWes may serve on the CCP Advisory Board,
- MidWes will be collaborating with the Middletown Rotary Club and attend a board meeting on November 6th,
- Glenn is working to make sure the mentorship program between Wesleyan athletes and Middletown athletes will be moving forward,
- MidWes is also looking towards collaboration with other students and student groups.

Kudos goes to Glenn Cantave ‘15 for being a strong MidWes chair.

Student Groups
We currently have 240 registered student groups on OrgSync.

Student Group of the Week
Our student group of the week is CarnivorWes, a group dedicated to barbecuing on campus and is looking towards working with other groups to host events.

Student Group Category Liaison Meetings
CoCo members are now looking to and planning meetings for their own student group categories. The purpose of these meetings is for CoCo to check in with various student groups, talk about best practices, and connect student groups with similar missions or directions to hopefully collaborate and work together in the future.

Spirit and Events
Key and Lizzie are brainstorming and looking towards community events hosted by CoCo.

Vision
The following are a few bits of thought I wish to leave for my committee and the Assembly as a whole in the direction I had envisioned for CoCo to take not only for this year, but in the future.

Student Groups
In the past, CoCo has not done a fantastic job in working with student groups. We need to regear ourselves and ensure that we are quickly and effectively answering students’ questions, being
hopefully a source of correct and plentiful information for student group leaders, and be able to point them all in the right directions. In this vein, CoCo needs to be working closely with SALD and other campus partners to ensure that student groups have a straightforward and uncluttered experience in running their student groups.

**Student Group Leader Series**

CoCo needs to work closely with SALD to ensure that this Series will be up and running this year—this is a fantastic effort and idea to give leaders on campus new tools and places to come together that CoCo needs to be apart of.

**OrgSync**

Not many members or students on campus in general understand the scope of OrgSync. My predecessor and I hoped to bring OrgSync on campus to create an online community for student groups, student events and activism, and an information source. Thanks to the hard work of the great people in ITS, CCP, and other WSA folks, we’ve managed to bring OrgSync to campus and hit the ground running. I’m proud to have seen OrgSync grow from just an idea and research to the actual commitment, contract signing, implementation, and launch. But there is so much more room for growth on the system, and here are some of what I had hoped to do:

- **Bring ResLife onto OrgSync.** This platform is great for residential halls or program houses to communicate, disseminate information, share content, and plan events. It will also give RAs, HMs, and others a better way to connect with their residents and to help make it easier to foster community.

- **Content creation.** The Assembly should take the lead amongst student groups in using OrgSync to push out information, create an one-stop-shop for faqs and other informations (particularly that pertaining to student groups), and ensure that the home feed of the site is constantly (weekly) filled with new content and information—even if it’s simple.

- **Events.** Encourage student groups to actively post events and to use OrgSync to publicize their events.

There are many, *many*, other things that OrgSync can do. I’m sure the above is just the tip of the iceberg that this system can do for our campus.

**Outreach**

Outreach to students and student groups are essential. The Outreach Task Force is one fantastic example of how we can proactively be doing effective outreach this year. We need to ensure that we are actively reaching out to student groups and student leaders, to go out of our way to ensure that students feel that we are representing their views and voices and to give assistance to any group that needs it.

**Diversity**

The Assembly has made strides of progress on this front both internally and on this campus. CID is a promising mechanism from which the WSA can be able to produce effective change
on campus, and be apart of this movement. We need to ensure that we provide the crucial link between administrators and students on this front, as well as to serve as links of communication and information between them. I would encourage CID and CoCo to look towards policy, something we have never done before. There are many tangible changes we can push for that we should.

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Spirit and Events
Evidently, the Spirit and Events Committee no longer exists this year, however, it does not mean that CoCo should not be looking towards these two points. CoCo should be reevaluating the effectiveness of the events we put on last year, and look to how we can create campus events that are wholly inclusive, proactive, stimulating, and bonding.

Community
There is, in my opinion, far too little attention on this campus placed on the overarching theme of community—and its importance. CoCo should be reaching out to various facets of campus and be actively thinking about how we can build bridges between groups that would not previously be linked, and promote both collaboration and cooperation between different groups on campus.

Fin
A deep thanks to my committee for fostering such a great community within the committee itself, and for having the determination to move forward and produce great work. CoCo is well equipped and ready to move forward.

Fin x2
**Organization and External Affairs Committee (OEAC)**

*Chair: Jacob Musinsky ‘15, Coordinator*

**Outreach Task Force**
Lily Herman ‘16 and Ben Marin-Vanderryn have established the “membership” of the Outreach Task Force as the entirety of OEAC, CoCo, and one representative from each other standing committee. Thanks to Colin O’Keeffe ‘17, Mika Reyes ‘16, and Bruno Machiavelo ‘16 for volunteering.

The group will meet within the next week to discuss first steps and assign student groups to each member of the task force. Members will be expected to meet with these student groups to do outreach. We will also be discussing canvassing and gathering questions from each committee to propose as prompts for our future canvassing efforts.

**Canvassing**
A first canvassing campaign will take place during the first week of November. Members will be expected to attend a “training session” before in order to ensure that members know the proper questions to ask and can cover all grounds needed.

We have also discussed the idea of adding a paper slip component to canvassing. We would slide this small paper under the door of rooms that were unoccupied during canvassing posing the same questions we asked and giving contact information. If anyone has any ideas about this, feel free to contact me.

**Social Media**
Fred Ayres ‘17 is working on a potential YouTube video explaining the WSA to the general student body.

Lily Herman ‘16 has put some new updates on the Tumblr page and will continue to do so. If you have not checked it out yet, you should! wesleyanstudentassembly.tumblr.com

**ITC**
Mansoor Alam ‘15 is serving as ITC chair and has put together his committee. Joining the WSA representatives are Lilli Borland ‘16 and Husam Abdul-Kafi ‘16. Welcome!

**WSA History Fact of the Week**
Wesleyan’s student government originated as the College Body Senate in 1903

**Student Affairs Committee (SAC)**
tl;dr We love Alton Wang

**Quiet Study Spaces**

A few weeks ago Dean Mike came to us with complaints he’s been receiving from students that the libraries and residence halls are sometimes too noisy to study in. After discussing the issue briefly at GA and asking other students around campus, we discussed the issue with the Student Life Committee on Friday. Diane Klare from the Library as well as Grant Tanenbaum ‘15 joined us for the meeting. We decided our next step will be to poll students studying in Olin and SciLi on Monday and Tuesday nights (we’ll need extra help for this!!) as well as set up an online poll with the link posted in the two libraries. This poll will ask students what they want the noise level of each level of the libraries to be, if they want the Olin basement periodicals room to be an absolute quiet space, and if they want the Smith Reading Room to be an “unplugged-technology free” space.

**Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)**

Victor Zhao ‘17 has been helping out with a blood drive hosted by the Davison Health Center. The DHC also hosted flu clinics in Usdan in the last few weeks. SHAC will be working this semester to educate students on the Affordable Care Act. Victor is meeting with student Nina Gurak about an idea she has for an Affordable Care Act educational scavenger hunt.

**Undergraduate Residential Life Committee**

URLC met last Thursday to talk about first year assignments, LaundryView, residential campus proposals to Roth, and major maintenance requests. Sometime this month we will be sending out a poll to students gaging interest and satisfaction with the LaundryView program. This week we will be discussing hosting bans with the HMs of Greek houses on campus. If you have any thoughts or ideas on the issue, please email Kate Cullen ‘16.

**General Residential Life Issues**

Following our committee discussion, Bruno Machiavelo ‘16 wrote up a document outlining our reasoning why RAs in WestCo should go through a different selection process so that the RAs living and working in WestCo agree with the mission and feel comfortable in the atmosphere. We will be talking with Fran about the issue this week.

**Fire Safety and Facilities**

Julio is meeting this week with Chris Cruz to discuss reforms to the fining system. Following concerns that students haven’t been provided enough information about the fining and appeals process this year, SAC is posting information in the WSA newsletter to make sure students are prepared and educated.
Queer Task Force
Chris Caines ‘16 met with Ted Shabecoff last week to create their plan for the year. They plan to create a board including the Queer Intern, Open House HM, athletes, Greek society members, Chris, Ted, and other students to discuss underrepresented groups in the LGBTQ community, registering Wesleyan in the Consortium of Higher Education LGBTQ Resource Professionals (CHIRP), and many more important issues. Just for some background, almost all of our peer schools are members of CHIRP. The organization helps recruit queer HS students to college campuses, offers professional resources and information for queer students specifically, and offers queer students a variety of national conferences. Chris also wrote a great blogpost about all of these issues if you want to read more! If you have any questions or ideas, feel free to reach out to Chris.

De-gendering Bathrooms on Campus
If you haven’t heard/seen already, there is a group of students self-named “Pissed Off Trans People” taking down bathroom signs around campus in an effort to de-gender all bathrooms on campus. They recently met with Dean Mike and Elisa Cardona. After being informally asked to propose a WSA resolution to de-gender all bathrooms on campus, SAC discussed the issue and decided that we’re not comfortable doing so. We have been in conversation with Dean Mike about the feasibility and legality of degendering all bathrooms. On Friday we discussed the issue with the Student Life Committee. We resolved to keep the conversation going and gather more information on the issue since we don’t feel comfortable degendering all bathrooms for a host of reasons, but want to remain sympathetic to the cause and make all students feel comfortable on campus. We will hopefully be meeting with members of “Pissed Off Trans People” this week.

PSRC and SJPC
All membership is filled and they will be holding their first meetings this coming week! At their first meeting, the PSRC will be setting goals and priorities for the year. SJPC will be doing the same in addition to planning Process Advisor Training and initiating discussion on the points system. SAC is working on a proposal to alter the points system so that the first time a student gets written up for drinking ze does not receive points.

Other Topics
Bruno Machiavelo ‘16 wrote a blogpost about his Alternative Spring Break program. He is now in the process of booking sites for the trips this spring.

We are still talking with WSDR and Active Minds about medical leave policy and creating a student medical leave advising program.

Kate Cullen ‘16 met with Elisa Cardona to go over WSA’s freshman orientation ideas. It’s now set in stone, just about all of them will be made. The only one in question is making Cardinal Connect an official orientation program since a similar program is already in place for SOC. Elisa and I thought it could be beneficial to combine the programs--more discussion to follow.
We worked on a proposal to expand the WOOT program to focus on pre-orientation trips for President Roth’s ask for residential college ideas. Proposals are due on November 1st, so if you have an idea make sure you submit a two page proposal by then.
Student Budget Committee (SBC)

Chair: Nicki Softness ‘14

This is who we funded:

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<tr>
<th>Student Group</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Approved</th>
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<tr>
<td>Westitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crowell Concert Committee</td>
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</table>

Total: $18,836.68

Thoughts: Crowell Concert Committee is not included in our weekly budget – they are mandated a certain amount every year. Thus, if you subtract $6,000 from our total, we’re well within our weekly budget range.

We are continuing talks with the Senior Class Officers to finalize their annual budget, and working with SALD to oversee their budgets for each senior event. We also met with the Argus and started coming up with some great ideas to help them fund their student workers without using the Student Activities Fund. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

Endowment - we put about $26,000 in the endowment!

Amarachi ‘16 is going to be our representative on the Outreach Committee!
Request of the Week: KNITTING! Who doesn’t like knitting? So many warm things are created as a result. Three cheers for WesStitch.
**Sustainability, Finance, and Facilities Committee (SuFFaC)**

*Chair: Justin Gitlin ’15*

**Dining Committee**
The Dining Committee is to meet this week with the following subjects on the docket for discussion:
- Food options at Summerfields—we have been receiving numerous complaints about the meals at Summerfields, most specifically regarding the pho.
- Dining options over new Winter Session—the school and Bon Appetit are working to figure out dining options during this period. We would like to get ourselves in the loop and get student input in establishing meal options during this new session.
- Brunch at Summerfields—Trexler worked on this last year, but we would like to restart the conversation about providing a brunch option on the weekends at Summerfields. This would provide for more options and would allow for students who want to eat earlier to do so.
- Discuss ways to mitigate the sometimes long lines at Usdan lunches during the week.

***If you have any suggestions for food you would like to see appear at either Usdan or Summerfields, please let me know.***

**Transportation Committee**
The Transportation Committee is to meet this week with the following subjects on the docket for discussion:
- Discuss how the shuttle process went over Fall break and talk about ways to improve its outreach and availability.
- Discuss implementing a strategy for getting the word out about shuttles for Thanksgiving break.
- Organize fan shuttles for students who would like to attend the likely NESCAC Championship game between Wesleyan and Trinity (knock on wood) in Hartford in a few weeks.

**Major Maintenance:**
Major Maintenance is in the process of organizing its annual light tour in order to evaluate where on campus the blue light system could be improved. SuFFaC will be in attendance, and we invite all who wish to join.

**Usdan Tenants:**
The Usdan Tenants Committee is to meet this week. The focus of the meeting will be talking about improving school spirit in Usdan—making it appear more tied to the school. This is something we would like to have accomplished before Homecoming next weekend. If you have any ideas, please let me know. As of now, we are planning the addition of some decals and artistry on the Usdan walls.

**Committee for Investor Responsibility**
The CIR finished interviews and is proud to announce its new member: Michelle Li. Due to some complications, we are revisiting the appointment process in order to find a second new member.