Executive Report

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

Executive Committee
1. General Assembly Feedback
2. Post-Thanksgiving Executive Committee meeting
3. Agenda 11/23/13
4. Committee Reports

Divestment
Angus McLean ’16, Rachel Warren ’14, Matan Koplin-Green ’15, and Nicole met this weekend with Josh Boger (Chair of the Board of Trustees), Ellen Jewett (Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees), Anne Martin, and President Roth to discuss the divestment resolution. It was a contentious but productive meeting. They all agreed about the importance of climate change and the need for Wesleyan to make a big statement, but wanted convincing that divestment would, indeed, create that kind of statement. Presumably, WesDivest will be directing their energies towards that now. Mr. Boger, Ms. Jewett, and President Roth all expressed that it was a productive meeting, and more so than they have had in the past on the topic. This saga continues in the spring.

University Outreach Committee
President Roth agreed to reinstate what used to be known as the University Outreach Committee, composed of President Roth, the WSA President, WSA Vice President, and other relevant University administrators, to discuss issues of internal and external communication. Have thoughts on This Is Why? Communication about need-blind? Internal messaging? Roth’s blog? Let us know.

White Papers
The white papers committee is almost finished reviewing (in the preliminary round) all of the white papers submitted to President Roth for residential campus innovations. Many of the proposals discussed on Thursday concerned innovative new technology for different kinds of learning.

Class and Greeks
Nicole will be working on issues of class and the Greek system (two disparate topics, I know) with
Dean Antonio throughout the year. More updates to follow.

Out-of-Context Quote
Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)

Chair: Grant Tanenbaum ‘15

AAC Planning
This week, AAC evaluated this semester’s accomplishments and began planning for how we can most effectively leverage our Winter Break time. Here is some insight into our current agenda:

❖ Revitalizing the role of the Honor Code on campus
❖ Extending the no-penalty withdrawal period
❖ Creating a set of reforms for the Career Center
❖ Reinstating student representation in the tenure process
❖ Parse the Advising Task Force report
❖ Increasing Professor-Student interaction
❖ Standardization and consolidation of academic regulations

New Grading Mode Extension
An AAC proposal to extend the period in which a student can change their student option course’s grading mode by two weeks passed the EPC in October and was approved by the faculty this Tuesday. You can see the proposal and our rationale here on AAC’s committee page (wsa.wesleyan.edu/committees/aac).

New Minor in Art History
EPC, with support from the AAC Chair and Vice-Chair, approved a new minor in Art History. The minor requires six courses: one 100-level, five 200-level and above in different areas, and a B average in art history courses as well as a B average overall to be admitted to the minor.

New College of East Asian Studies
The faculty approved the new College of East Asian Studies, a proposal which first passed EPC with support from the AAC Chair and Vice-Chair. A summary of the new program:

CEAS merges three existing units—the East Asian Studies Program (EAST), the Asian Languages and Literatures Department (AL&L), and the Freeman Center for East Asian Studies (FEAS)—into a single unit, the College of East Asian Studies (CEAS). The CEAS primarily will be housed in the Freeman Center (which will retain its name), with additional offices in Fisk Hall. Korean language instruction will also be moved from Less Commonly Taught Languages into the CEAS. The CEAS will feature an enhanced major as well as a new minor, together with enhanced curricular and co-curricular offerings for students across the university. The CEAS will further enhance outreach activities serving the campus, community, and alumni.

Withdrawal Proposal
Ben Marvin-Vanderryn ‘17 and Rebecca Hutman ‘17 are hard at work preparing an EPC proposal to extend the no-penalty withdrawal period by two weeks. We plan on submitting this proposal as soon as possible.
Art Library Update
<N. Brenner>
Community Committee (CoCo)

Chair (interim): Andrew Trexer ‘14

OrgSync / Student Groups

We now have 252 student groups.

Student Group Category Meetings

Lizzie Shackney ’17 conducted an extremely successful student group summit for the Activism student groups. The attendees have expressed an interest in meeting every semester or even possibly every month to further possibilities for collaboration.

CoCo collectively also attended the meeting of diversity and identity groups held by Kate Cullen ’16 as the Dwight Greene Intern. This meeting was a similar success in producing inter-group collaboration.

The WesWorks Project

Speaking of inter-group collaboration, the WesWorks team (Glenn Cantave ’15, Aidan Martinez ’17, and Lizzie Shackney ’17) has set a date for the first trial run with Middletown Potluck and Wes, Divest!, which will hopefully produce some real work between the two (disparate) groups in the future.

Community Attractions

CoCo divided up responsibilities for gathering information on Middletown and Connecticut attractions to put up on website. This should hopefully be put in place by Spring Break.

Student Leader Summit

The incoming CoCo Chair should ensure that a Student Leader Summit is successfully organized for the early Spring semester, likely in mid-February.

MidWes

Glenn Cantave ’15 and co are hard at work at engaging with Middletown community leaders, including some running around to numerous events and town meetings in the Middletown area. Thanks to them for all of their hard work there.

Student Group of the Week

Wes Thinks Big is this week’s student group of the week, on account of the wonderful event they put on this week with a variety of everyone’s favorite professors.
Organization and External Affairs Committee (OEAC)
Chair: Jacob Musinsky ‘15, Coordinator

As this is our final General Assembly meeting of the semester, OEAC spent our committee meeting this week reflecting on our actions of the past semester and pointing out where we would like to put our efforts in the upcoming semester.

Outreach
OEAC has had a social media EXPLOSION this semester! We have established the Tumblr and YouTube pages, we have continued to keep an active Facebook page, and we have started live-tweeting our GA meetings which has increased our number of followers and allowed us to grasp student opinion during our meetings! Great success!

Furthermore, the WSA Newsletter has been implemented both through email and through the Argus and has been a great success! Fred Ayres ‘17 will continue to make video versions of the newsletter, as we got many views on our last. We also plan to put copies of the newsletter in bathroom stalls, which might involve a little effort from the General Assembly (more information to come).

Wikipedia
Fred will also continue to work with President Updegrove on updating the Wikipedia page as well as looking at it for more information of our past. This might also lead us to identify parts of our past as the WSA and look into the future at directions we may head.

External Review/WSA History
Lily Herman ‘16 is working on two projects that are interconnected. The WSA will be inviting outside people to do a review of the WSA and its everyday workings. Furthermore, we will be keeping note of issues, both internal and all campus, that arise throughout the year and keep a history of how we respond to them. Along with this, we will keep a history of the topics we discuss at General Assembly and how we believe the WSA should be run. This will hopefully be transformed into a “WSA History” that will set the pace for keeping consistency in future assemblies.

ITC
Mansoor

Social Stuff
OEAC will be doing something social when we return from Thanksgiving Break! Yeah!
Student Affairs Committee (SAC)

Chair: Kate Cullen ‘16

Student Life Committee
Last Friday we met to discuss a proposal Dean Mike to address the degendering bathroom controversy. In short, it calls for single-use gender neutral bathrooms to be placed in the nine academic buildings on campus that do not have them and put up signs next to existing gendered bathrooms with directions to the closest gender neutral bathroom. SLC informally approved the proposal.

Student Health Advisory Committee
Victor Zhao ’17 attended the last SHAC meeting. He reported that the DHC website now has bios for all their workers. Victor is working to make first aid materials more available to students. Although they don’t provide full kits to students, the health center does provide refill materials. Victor is looking into ways that the DHC can advertise this service more widely.

Our List of Winter Break Projects
- RAs in WestCo proposal/consolidation of thoughts document (Angus)
- Consolidate free STI testing research and start on resolution (Victor)
- Collect suggestions on points system and start on proposal (Richard)
- Brainstorm suggestions to improve resources for international students (Bruno)
- Follow up on changes to fire safety website and look into possible enrollment hold until fill out room condition report (Julio)
- Look into LaundryView usage and assist WSDR in bringing a resolution to GA (Chris)
Student Budget Committee (SBC)
Chair: Nicki Softness ’14

Things we funded:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Name of Request</th>
<th>Requested</th>
<th>Approved</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stethoscope Press</td>
<td>Student-run press</td>
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<td>Clinic Escorts</td>
<td>Gas to facility</td>
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<td>Absent Toast</td>
<td>Costumes, props, wigs</td>
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<td>Kung Fu</td>
<td>Meditation Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Co-Op</td>
<td>New Equipment</td>
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<td>$4,172.00</td>
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<td>Show fees, coach fees</td>
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<td>Womanist House</td>
<td>Selena film</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raw</td>
<td>EmCee Freestyle Battle</td>
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<td>Concert Committee</td>
<td>Rest of Annual Budget</td>
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BOARD - Finance Committee
Nicki Softness ’14, Justin Gitlin ’15

Our first meeting was a Finance 101 meeting that gave an overview of the work that’s been happening since the last meeting. We went over the long-range projections for Wesleyan’s financial policies, and talked about the health and status of our tuition, financial aid, Wesleyan Fund, and Endowment policies. We also established the financial calendar for the Trustees. The budget will be presented to the Board on May 22 for final approval. We were also shown the annual financial report, which includes a balance sheet, an income statement, and a statement of cash flows (gifts).

During the actual Finance meeting, the Finance committee passed two resolutions. The first cemented a financial management strategy that allows us to deal with certain unrestricted funds, called the “Quasi-Endowment” resolution. The second dealt with seven proposed energy conservation projects. These resolutions were both passed later by the entire Board of Trustees.

We also talked about the consequences of allowing political and moral values to be demonstrated through investments, which coincided with the talks with WesDivest.

With regards to the long-range plan (LRP), we discussed the movement of both HEPI and CPI in relation to our numbers, and talked about the movement unrestricted and restricted funds in and out of the endowment.
The purpose of this group is to create a framework for a yet-to-be established matrix of potential risks to the University. These can range from financial risks, and both reputational and strategic risks. The goal is to have a method of qualitatively comparing risks, looking at both the potential impact and the probability that it would happen. Essentially, we’re creating a valuation system that can help us determine what responsibilities we have to both prevent and retrospectively dedicate resources to. Of course, we want this framework to manage risk, not completely eliminate the environment of creative risk-taking that exists here at Wesleyan.

In our discussion, we brought up a few examples in an attempt to better contextualize the sorts of risks we were talking about; these included the potential physical harm that can become non-student visitors, such as Middletown residents and professor’s children. This could also include catastrophic natural disasters, or a suddenly plunging endowment. Some of the elements we considered for this matrix were the type of risk, residual risk ranking (what would be left if you had constructed all possible preventative measures), mitigation effectiveness, risk direction, administrative risk ownership (that of the Wesleyan administration) and strategic Board ownership of these risks. The financial department at Wesleyan University is getting to work filling in this matrix, and next time, we’ll discuss actual implementations for the most probable and disastrous risks.

**Good Samaritan and Miss Congeniality Member of the Week: MIKA**

Mika has been helping to raise money for typhoon relief, which is incredible. This picture was in the Argus, so Mika has become a campus celebrity overnight. It’s shocking that we didn’t realize how photogenic she is earlier, but I’m thinking of having her be the primary SBC member for all things PR and SBC member recruitment. Good people like her just don’t come along that much.
FYSA (For your situational awareness)
Next Monday (tomorrow) is the last day of the semester groups can request money from the SBC. Spread the word purely through iambic pentameter phrasing; anything less will be deemed insufficient and in line with my SBC methods, I will mess with your bio on the WSA website.

Fun times in the WSA office

Hang out with us, and you too can have this much fun!
Sustainability, Finance, and Facilities Committee (SuFFaC)

Chair: Justin Gitlin ‘15

Dining
· FAD free tuna—In response to student requests to check with the Dining Committee, Angus McLean ’16 did some research on the topic and contacted the appropriate sources. Michael Strumpf of Bon Appetit confirmed that he does in fact believe Wesleyan is abiding by FAD fishing standards but will nevertheless check to make sure they are compliant. If they are not, he is committed to changing methods in order to become compliant.
· Donating unused meals and points—As was discussed at the beginning of this year, studies have been conducted on how many unused meals and points are left over at the end of each semester—the number is around $20,000-$30,000. A program already exists that gives students the ability to donate these leftover points once/year to Amazing Grace. The points are donated in the form of credit at WesShop, which allows Amazing Grace to then come to WesShop and use the points. This however has to be done before the end of the fiscal year, which is before the end of the school year. As a result, students don’t have a great sense of how many points they will have leftover to donate. With the help of Kate Cullen, we have formulated a plan to circumventing this by implementing the beginning stages of encouraging students to instead of donating points, use those points to buy nonperishable goods as WesShop and donating those goods directly. If anybody is interested in helping out, please let me know.
· Students Running out of Points—Colin O’Keeffe ’17 and Martin Malabanan ’16, in response to hearing of numerous people running out of meals and points before the end of the semester, formulated the wonderful idea of holding an information session at the beginning of next semester in conjunction with Michelle Myers-Brown to educate students on how to budget their meal plan for the semester. In addition, they are working on an informational guide to distribute electronically.

Freeman Athletic Committee
Colin O’Keeffe did a fantastic and persistent job this week of working to get a meeting for the Freeman Athletic Committee (the first meeting in a couple years!!!!). It cannot be overstated how difficult this meeting was to arrange, but I will just suffice it to say that his persistence paid off. Regardless, the meeting is finally occurring on Tuesday, where a major portion of the discussion will focus on the possible implementation of the green energy generators from the proposal that Mary Diaz ’14 authored a few weeks ago. Additionally, the committee will examine the energy consumption at the facility and work with Ellen Paik ’16 to determine ways to mitigate the consumption. And as per usual, the committee will be exploring the possibility of extending Freeman hours.

Sustainability
Ellen Paik ‘16

Green Fund
**Power Shift Conference**

We funded 18 students to attend the Power Shift Conference in Pittsburgh in October. The Power Shift Conference is the idea of a Green Fund on Wesleyan Campus came from! We look forward to projects that these students will bring to Wes environmentalism in the future.

**Long Lane**

Per usual, we funded Long Lane’s endeavors this past year. We’re happy to report that Long Lane was really successful over the summer and this semester (despite compost-related complications), and is researching new compost options for the future in order to further improve the quality of their produce. In fact, several students from the E&ES department will be travelling to Peru to learn how to create Black Earth and make it at Wesleyan. Black Earth is a type of soil that involves pre-Columbian agricultural techniques, imported microorganisms, and ovens- hopefully, it will also greatly improve the quality of our soil and save us a lot of future costs on compost.
Wesleyan Bird Guide
Oliver James ’14 created a Wesleyan Bird Guide that will be illustrated by a Wesleyan student and that will be printed by Wesleyan’s student-run press, Stethoscope Press.

“These Come From Trees” Stickers
Soon you’ll be seeing stickers that say “These Come From Trees” on paper towel dispensers across campus. Apparently these stickers (though they’re also made from trees…) are good at dissuading people from using too many paper towels.
Sweater Days Thermoses (Thermi?)
On December 4th at Usdan from 12-1pm, the Wesleyan Sustainability Office and Wes To Wes will be sponsoring a “Sweater Days” event to promote layering clothing instead of turning up the thermostat. People who show up wearing a sweater (preferably a groovy sweater) and who pledge to make an effort to turn down the heat will get a free thermos and hot cocoa.

Other Sustainability Related Projects
Do It In the Dark Competition
The Wesleyan Sustainability Office is hosting an energy-saving competition between Program and Senior Houses. Winners receive a cash prize!

Wes To Wes
Very, very excited to announce that our campus has saved approximately $6100 on energy savings in the months of September and November. Let’s keep it up!

Feet to the Fire
Feet to the Fire, the people who organize The Common Moment at the beginning of the year, are a task
force on campus that strive to engage the Wesleyan campus in sustainability issues through art. Future projects may involve an art display to promote composting initiatives, and also a project that promotes cleaning up the Connecticut River through music by musicians that live along the CT River.

**Wes, Divest!**
We all know lots about this. Shout out to Wes, Divest! for all their hard work!

**Sustainability Task Force**
The Sustainability Task Force met only once, but we had a very productive meeting. We brainstormed questions in preparation for our discussion later today!