Keywords: Divestment, resolutions, campus master plan (Long Lane, Middletown), by-laws

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

1. Fight song and role call
   a. Fred Ayres continues to lead the WSA in spirit.

2. Open Forum

3. Minutes: APPROVED

4. Committee Reports
   a. Ellen Paik: Regarding Winter Session, are there any green initiatives that could be launched during this winter or next?
   b. Nicole Updegrove: There are three initiatives for winter - a Fullbridge program, a Career Center program, and academic courses. If there is a proposal for other things to occur during that time, talk to Dean Mike about submitting something.
   c. Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: What is going on regarding the degendering bathrooms?
   d. Kate Cullen: There is a group called ‘Pissed Off Trans People’ who tore down signs last week to raise awareness of the social construction of gender. Informally, a member came to SAC, said that they would like us to pass a resolution. We currently aren’t comfortable because of sexual assault survivors, visitors to Wes, and Connecticut state law regarding number of gendered bathrooms. We’re now working with Dean Mike to reach a compromise where everyone feels comfortable on campus.
   e. Lily Herman: Wesleying has articles regarding this issue, more specifically the trans* community’s reaction to Spring Fling issues.
   f. Bruno Machiavelo: I’m meeting with Dean Mike and Elisa Cardona to discuss Cardinal Connect stuff this coming week.
   g. Andrew Trexler: Where is the light tour?
   h. Justin Gitlin: We’re still scheduling, but it’ll be later this coming week, and all members are invited.
   i. Keyonne Session: I know the freshmen class is trying to organize a bus to see Wes play at Trinity, should we not?
   j. Justin Gitlin: Actually, just direct those questions towards me, please.

5. Divestment
Nicole Updegrove: Were my amendments friendly?

Angus McLean: I am concerned with some of the amendments, but I made most of them.

Matan Koplin-Green: This is something we have to discuss more with the investment office. This is a great idea, though it would be difficult to implement. The investment office is very touchy about where the information goes.

Nicole Updegrove: I added the CIR as the recipient of transparency in the operative clause because full transparency to the whole community will never happen, but maybe we can get more information at least to the CIR. What about the other operative clause amendment?

Angus McLean: I thought they were fine. For the CIR thing, let’s add ‘to the committee for investor responsibility and campus responsibility’

Jason Shatz: There’s a contradiction in language. We say that the CIR can’t affect divestment, yet we’re asking them to explore it. Should we change that language?

Nicole Updegrove: A big goal is transparency, even if nothing else gets achieved, but it’s not the primary goal. Can you say where the contradiction is?

Jason Shatz: I can’t see the language without my glasses.

Mansoor Alam: Doesn’t it make sense to have a more extensive discussion with the CIR since it’s apparent there is a disagreement in what we’d put out and the CIR would?

Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: I see the resolution as being a way to work with the CIR to plan to see if divestment would be possible.

Justin Gitlin: Addressing Mansoor’s point, collaboration is good, but the CIR and Wes Divest don’t have the same goals. Uping the communications between the two is important, but it’s never going to be a joint effort between the two.

Matan Koplin-Green: Passion for divestment shouldn’t stop. This is just a reflection of how we’re working towards the same thing. This resolution shouldn’t discourage any sort of work we’re doing towards divestment.

Nicole Updegrove: Are you okay with the preambulatory clauses regarding the CIR?

Angus MacLean: It’s fine to put them in.

Vote on the Divestment Resolution: 20 in favor, 6 opposed, 5 abstain. RESOLUTION PASSES.

6. Campus Master Plan

Andrew Trexler: In 2007, a Master Plan was assembled as Wesleyan 2020. It talked about the new land we bought at that time. We’re going another one, since it’s been over five years. This is how we want to move the campus-- do we want to move closer to Middletown or out towards Long Lane? If there are any areas of campus you don’t like or any buildings you do, this is the place to talk about it.
b. Mansoor Alam: In regards to the senior housing, could we talk more about options?
c. Kate Cullen: On Long Lane, would there be more academic buildings there?
d. Andrew Trexler: Senior houses cost a lot of money to maintain relative to dorms. We would lose $500,000 between senior housing and other facilities we own. We don’t charge rent at the right point. And from an energy perspective, a newer dorm would be much more sustainable than senior housing. On Long Lane, there aren’t any plans out there right now. Wes is looking to make money off the land, with a farm, a business, school a law school, or retirement home possibly.
e. Richard Fessler: We talk a lot about financial sustainability and endowment, so to whoever can answer the question, what are you planning to do about financial sustainability?
f. Andrew Trexler: Part of the task force, was a recommendation not to build any new buildings, which led to debt. Any new building we’d want to build, we would need 50% cash in hand before building would start to prevent any other problems in the future. The endowment is definitely a limiter.
g. Richard Fessler: So if we were to build a new building, we would have to fundraise?
h. Andrew Trexler: Yes, with the small exception of the Butterfield dorms.
i. Nicole Updegrove: A lot of campus shift happens because of residential housing. I’ve heard of three different directions: Washington Street (Wesleyan wants to move away from Washington, but there was a lot of student opposition to this), Long Lane and Main Street. Roth thinks that students are supportive of moving towards Main Street, but it’s something that we haven’t looked into. Thoughts or opinions?
j. Chris Caines: I feel that if we move from Washington, we should move towards Long Lane. It’s a really nice area, but building more structures would send the wrong message. Let’s work to expand the farm into the large grassy patch, which would be more productive than building more buildings.
k. Jason Shatz: Have there been suggestions regarding locations of buildings? I would also caution shifting away from campus. Some people may want access to the gym and similar buildings. I suggest Main Street as a possibility, which would improve Middletown-Wes relations.
l. Andrew Trexler: We’ve only theorized where new senior housing would go. The only location I’ve heard mentioned is the old dining hall, but it has not been brought up recently.
m. Kate Cullen: I would also urge everyone to think about the relations between different class years and how campus climate may be affected by locations of residential life. There’s an idea to replace poorly conditioned senior houses with more environmentally friendly town houses. Another idea is to look into single
housing for seniors.
o. Nicole Brenner: I think that moving towards Pearl instead of Washington would be good, because a move towards Long Lane would be too expansive.
p. Bruno Machiavelo: I agree with Nicole that Long Lane is too far away. Let’s keep in mind that this is something the student body should oversee. Let’s do some outreach.
q. Andrew Trexler: I just wanted to show you guys the master plan. Look at these pictures. Most of the residences are towards the south of campus. I don’t know if I can send this to everyone yet, as I got this from the board.
r. Justin Gitlin: I agree with Bruno. Let’s not expand to Long Lane as one of Wes’ great aspects is the close-knit community. However, it’s a lot more expensive to move into Main Street and taking into consideration our financial situation, it’s going to be difficult to buy new land, destroy buildings and build new buildings. Broad Street Books shouldn’t be a hub of campus; I anticipate that more resolutions will come up to replace it. That building is not built for the long haul.
s. Glenn Cantave: My point has already been made, but I think that a more than 5-6 minute walk is far for Wesleyan standards and takes away a key part of Wesleyan’s close knit community. I think that building schools (medical school? law school?) could be something worth looking into.
t. Jacob Musinsky: I really love Junior village. Also, I think that trying to get more Wesleyan students to live on Pearl Street could be detrimental with Middletown relations because Wesleyan students aren’t the most respectful of properties.
u. Amarachi Asonye: Continuing on the conversation about the Middletown residents and Wesleyan students, I feel like the move to Long Lane might ease the tension.
v. Lily Herman: There were issues with housing on Long Lane when the University had senior houses there back in the 1990s.
w. Ben Marvin Vanderryn: I know that we’re trying to move towards housing in town, it would be very hard to renovate houses to make them more sustainable. It would be great to have more trees on campus instead of more concrete.
x. Richard Fessler: I think we should have a book store on campus, such as in the basement of a building. We shouldn’t be housing students near families because Wesleyan students like to make noise on weekends.
y. Alton Wang: I think we don’t really understand how large the land is near Long Lane. Usdan is here, but could easily be moved towards Long Lane.
z. Andrew Trexler: On that note, a replacement for Usdan was part of Master Plan discussions that we don’t have a center of campus. I am opposed to using Long Land for anything residential. An expanded farm would be great--not a business
school; this is Wesleyan. Living near Middletown residents would be a way for adults to get used to actually living next to neighbors. I am in favor of moving in the direction of Middletown.

aa. Nicki Softness: I agree that the Usdan is very student-life oriented. I think we should build student-related facilities that could bring in revenue. For example Freeman lends out athletic facilities to outside athletes for revenue, and it could be interesting to look into building music facilities or other types of facilities that could serve a dual-purpose.

bb. Bruno Machiavelo: I agree that isolation isn’t the way to build relationships. Expanding closer to Middletown wouldn’t terrible. If we choose to go with Pearl, it should be a quiet street at first.

c. Nicole Updegrove: I want to point out that most of the university buildings used to have different purposes - buildings can be repurposed. Keep that in mind - what buildings can and should be used in different ways?

dd. Mansoor Alam: Butts tunnels have a lot of potential for other uses.

e. Madison Moore: Three big things: I don’t think that Long Lane’s the best place. Walking that far in the cold (I’m from the West Coast!) is not nice. It’s also not very safe. Also, people would be driving more cars, the ride would have to travel further and we would have to use more gas.

ff. Lily Herman: To build on my earlier point, Dave Myer told me that back in the 90s, there was an initiative to mix in senior houses with Middletown residents. There was a movement to burn furniture on front lawns. My concern is that it would damage the relationship with residents that we’ve built up so much.

gg. Kate Cullen: We should think about how we Wes will be portrayed towards visitors. I remember that buildings defined Wesleyan for me. In terms of class divisions, it’s clear that the centers for athletics and the arts are polarized on campus. I would also like to see more student spaces where people can hang without the pressure to drink or party.

hh. Ellen Paik: This idea was inspired by Nicole. Long Lane has issues based on funding-- Bon Appetite takes some of their funding. We could have a supermarket based on Long Lane food, possibly bought by Middletown residents.

ii. Andrew Trexler: We discussed development on Washington Street last year. We planned on moving bookstore there, but we decided against it. We could buy a large building near Broad Street Books that we could turn into a student center. If we want to move towards Middletown, we don’t have to buy property on Main Street.

jj. Alton Wang: Wesleyan can’t build anything new for a while. We should focus on working with what we have now. We don’t have to move towards any direction. The area behind Hewitt is much better area to move towards compared to Long Lane.
kk. Pierre Gerard: Hi everyone. This is an awesome conversation. The sustainability people on campus don’t agree with houses- dorms are more sustainable. I’m talking with Elisa Cardona, and there are definitely underutilized student spaces on campus that aren’t accessible after a certain hour. Andrew, what is this I hear about espwesso being moved to the top of Allbritton?

ll. Andrew Trexler: There are talks of planning an extension to Allbritton rather than moving it up.

mm. Richard Fessler: I think it’d be great to live with people in Middletown, but it’s not great for Middletown residents to live with us. I don’t think isolation is necessarily the best option, but it’s a lot better than destroying relations with Middletown.

nn. Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: To support Richard, walking up to Fountain, it’s pure trash. We want to improve relations, but we shouldn’t do it in this fashion. I came here because I like that it’s a residential campus. Moving towards housing among non-Wesleyan buildings would be the wrong move. Let’s not get lost in what’s going on in Middletown.

oo. Mika Reyes: A big concern for me is that the Health Center is quite far. It might be nice to have a Health Center closer to residential life.

pp. Nicole Updegrove: Quick question: going along with spaces, I think that WeShop is way too small. If WeShop increased the number of goods they sold (e.g.: school supplies), it could also reduce external costs.

qq. Straw poll on finding a space for a new WesShop? Agreed.

rr. Patrick Keogh: The one concern I have towards the moving-to-Middletown situation, I think it’s bad to move away from Middletown further. There’s already a Wesleyan bubble. Also, I transferred from Big State U, which had a law and business school. Let’s never bring that here. That’s why I wanted to come here over other schools.

ss. Andrew Trexler: Regarding Espwesso, it’s more important to me that they are open during the afternoons and not just at night. What Pat said, I also remind people that building professional schools would require hiring many new faculty.

tt. we lyke to partay iz that such a bag thang? Sup Trex?

uu. Got some probssssssssss we can’t stop, Trexxx (the importance of a comma)

vv. Lizzie Shackney: Yesterday at the social leadership conference, we talked about the accessibility of campus. Let’s always keep that in mind no matter where we head with this.

ww. Glenn Cantave: We don’t all suck. Brainerd is there for a reason. There are quiet blocks for a reason.

xx. Ben Marvin-Vanderyyn: While we can say there are no parties allowed, raising a family requires a situation that doesn’t conform to Wes’ quiet hours. I want to push against Trex’s idea to increase relations with Middletown residents through
new housing. Has there been any conversation about having a better bus system on campus?

yy. Justin Giltin: Our campus isn’t the size of Yale. Everything on campus is walkable. The Ride is working on improvements, but we don’t have much funding. Until there is a need, there isn’t pressing.

zz. Jason Shatz: Let’s address the generalizations that can be made about Wesleyan students. There is no one way to answer. We truly need to learn how to be responsible as students. The people in the Wes community always changes, but the people will always make up the community. We should change our posture and begin to make an effort to improve relations.

aaa. Richard Fessler: We should recognize the realities of this situation. A large part of the Middletown community would not be open to our integration.

bbb. Bruno Machiavelo: I think in practice, this is going to be a very slow movement so if we advertise different streets as suitable for different types of people (e.g.: Home Street is more quiet) then there isn’t a big problem regarding being courteous to Middletown residents. We should also talk to Middletown residents and ask them for their opinions.

ccc. Andrew Trexler: For a while, quiet houses go faster than partying houses. We’re not just gonna sell Fountain and tell them to move to Pearl. We should have more quiet streets on campus.

ddd. Aidan Martinez: We can’t stop bad neighbors. Wes students aren’t necessarily going to be bad neighbors-- there is a high demand for quiet housing. Not everyone wants to party.

eee. Madison Moore: Fountain is trashed because it’s the place on campus to go party; I don’t see that happening to houses on Pearl. No one goes there to party, really.

fff. Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: We started the conversation by talking about moving campus. I think that it should be important to think about noise on campus, as campus shifts towards Pear (if it happens). We need to be careful about shifting residential housing into predominantly Middletown resident areas.

ggg. Aidan Martinez: On a completely different note, it would be great for there to be agricultural classes on Long Lane.

hhh. Bruno Machiavelo: How does Roth’s opinions fit into the master plan? There also College Street that we should consider.

iii. Andrew Trexler: We have a budget surplus-- $2.3 million was put towards improving ResLife’s situation.

jjj. Alton Wang: Let’s also talk about where the campus core is right now. Repurposing the buildings we have right now is something we should consider more. For instance, the first floor of Exley is a place we could repurpose.

III. Straw poll on the direction of movement: 0 Long Lane, 7 Middletown, 21
Stay Here

mmm. Straw poll on shrinking or expanding campus: 11 Shrinking, 3
Expanding, 10 Status Quo

7. By-Laws
   a. Andrew Trexler: The changes we addressed last spring were sent in an email.
   b. Angus MacLean: Regarding a recent off-campus conference that students went
to, why is it that the WSA can’t help fund something like that? The students who
attended had to pay out of pocket.
   c. Nicki Softness: We run under the rationale that we are not responsible for
students when we’re not on campus (aka when we’re on break). I’m definitely up
to further discussion though.
   d. Nicole Updegrove: Most campuses use ‘as understood by this organization’
regarding Robert’s Rules, so that they don’t have to conform to every little detail.
   e. Alton Wang: The Assembly should have a general understand of Parliamentary
Procedure so I don’t think that there’s any problem there.
   f. Andrew Trexler: Regarding the Elections Committee chair, it’s usually the OEAC
chair. This past year, we had GA approve of the people in the committee.
   g. Nicole Updegrove: To clarify on that point, if a WSA member is running in an
election, ze needs the option to express their opinion on the Elections Committee
selection, in case ze has information that no one else has. With appointments,
there is very bizarre aspect of the bylaws which give the WSA president the
ability to break ties between appointees who they haven’t interviewed - the
Appointments Committee should figure that out themselves.
   h. Justin Gitlin: I am against the SuFFaC name change. Oxford commas are
awkward, but that’s the only problem I have with that. The name change’s
purpose was to emphasize the sustainability aspect of our committee.

8. New Business and Announcements

Meeting Adjourned: 09:14pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Fred Ayres ’17 and Ellen Paik ’16