General Assembly Meeting: April 13, 2014

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

1. Fight song and role call
2. Open Forum
   a. Jason Shatz: This will be a long meeting with a lot to talk about. There will be a lot of emotional material. We need to calm down and maintain a professional tone.
   b. Kate Cullen: There was a labor forum earlier this week. I want to bring up an idea that SAC discussed: having program houses doing spring clean. It would be a program and members of each house would contribute. I’m talking with Fran and maybe this will be an annual program in the future.
   c. Fred Ayres: I need an extra person for minutes!
   d. Jacob Musinsky: We will now randomize names for who gets to help Fred.
   e. Lily Herman: The winner is Justin Gitlin!
   f. Justin Gitlin: I may be the winner but we’re all losers.
   g. Nicole Updegrove: I’m sorry we had Gretchen mediating GA last week without consent of the Assembly - a last minute decision had to be made. I also want to make clear that although Andrew and I are active in this issue on multiple levels; we are trying to keep our WSA role separate from our roles as activists.
   h. Rebecca Hutman: Thanks for hosting last night, Kate! It was fun!
3. Committee Reports
   a. Bruno Machiavelo: For the sophomore forum for next week, can I be involved?
   b. Kate Cullen: Sure, I’ll let you know when it is!
   c. Jason Shatz: POPP, can you make the text larger?
   d. Bruno machiavelo: What is a food sustainability tour?
   e. Justin Gitlin: Looking mainly at what Bon Appetite practices are and what efforts they are making to improve sustainability.
   f. Nicki Softness: You guys should look into Bread Salvage and food rescue as program that could add to the discussion on sustainability.
4. Faculty Diversity Education
   a. Nicole Updegrove: Since you have last seen this I have added a couple points, including specification as to areas the faculty should be trained in as well as making references to the survey results. About 80% of students think Wesleyan’s classes and culture would
benefit significantly from faculty education, which is awesome support. The resolution does not call for the training to be mandatory. We had 93 write ins with specific things students wanted faculty to be educated about, which I will turn into a supplementary document to the resolution.

b. Andrew Trexler: Couple of language things: do you want to add religion to your list, or do you want to say ‘training’ or ‘education’?

c. Kate Cullen: I would like to add my name as well to the resolution.

d. Jacob Musinsky: Just point of parliamentary procedure, raise your hand if you would like to be added as a co-sponsor to the resolution.

e. Grant Tannenbaum: Motion to vote on the resolution.

f. Jacob: All in favor of adopting this resolution?

   g. YES: 30 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

5. Constitution Review Update
a. Jacob Musinsky: Now we’ll go through some of the changes that the constitutional review committee has discussed.

b. Grant Tannenbaum: So con review #1, we meet and discuss changes to the constitution and the standing committees. These are the changes we are looking at. The first thing is consistency changes. It is very long and has been revised a lot. And because we are making a lot of changes the first thing we ask is the ability to redo some of the language. The second thing we’re doing is changing the coordinator position of the chief of staff. OAEC will be dissolved and the coordinator will no longer be running meeting. Next, academic affairs, a new members form OAEC will be added. The other two members of OAEC will be removed from the WSA, changing our number from 38 to 36. Next, the president of the WSA will now chair the WSA meetings. We have also institutionalized the role of the students on the SJB. We are also changing the distribution of seats on the assembly.

c. Key Session: So, the president chairs the meetings? Do they not have input?

d. Grant Tannenbaum: It will be a slightly different model. The president will chair the meeting from a table, not standing up.

e. Colin O’Keefe: Will the president be the tie-breaking vote?

f. Grant Tannenbaum: Yes.

g. Jason Shatz: Should we address the issue of members addressing other members, and not addressing the chair?

h. Grant Tannenbaum: It’s a matter that could change from year to year.

i. Chris Caines: what’s the motivation behind going from 38 to 36 members?

j. Grant Tannenbaum: It just felt that if was appropriate given the dissolving of OAEC.

k. Andrew Trexler: In my time on the assembly the number has fluctuated between 38 and 36 members. The major issue I have right now is with the elections structures. I’m concerned that the upperclassmen elections have had far less intense campaigns and that
the assembly has been far too dominated by underclassman membership. Also, our
issues with institutional memory have been problematic, so I am just concerned with
retaining older members.
l. Nicole Updegrove: I just want to voice my concern over changing the role of
coordinator to chief of staff. Typically, they serve under the president, which the
position doesn’t entail. Really, this position doesn’t change much that the OAEC
coordinator doesn’t do already. I think that role is a bit confusing in this
m. Fred Ayres: In my research on NESCAC schools I have found that some EC members
hold office hours. Any thoughts?
n. Andrew Trexler: Some previous presidents including Zach Malter have done that, and
students have not taken advantage of that.
o. Rebecca Hutman: Just a question on Trexler’s concern. In the upperclassmen elections
that were uncompetitive, I found that the low voter turnout was due to the likelihood of
members winning, which decreased the competition within the election.
p. Trex: If I can take the rest of your time, I agree that this will force upperclassmen to
spend more time on their elections, I am just concerned that this would negatively
influence upperclassmen membership, and therefore Assembly leadership and
institutional memory.
q. Lily Herman: Other NESCAC schools have called their Chief of Staff, the publicity
chair or the communication chair. In some cases, there are both a chief of staff and a
chief communications officer.
r. Grant Tanenbaum: I guess it’s just semantics, but the reason we agreed on the name is
that the position is not just dealing with communications. It involves a lot of coordinating
with the assembly.
s. Lily Herman: Colby also has an administrative assistant, so that’s something to think
about.
t. Martin Malaban: Can we just keep the name of coordinator?
u. Grant Tannenbaum: I thought that changing the name would draw more people to run
for the position.
v. Andrew Trexler: I move to consider Aiden’s resolution on student life support.
w. Seconded.
6. Student Life Support Resolution
   a. Jacob Musinsky: we don’t have anything written yet, so Aidan is going to talk about it
   b. Aidan Martinez: After looking at other schools and talking to low income students at
      various colleges, I know what I want to move forward with. My resolution consists of
      proposing pools of funds for sports, books and supplies, and travel assistance. Of
course, I think that if the university sees that this is what we’re supporting, they will have
to give us support. This is what happened with the business attire.
c. Alton Wang: Some money is coming from alumni?
d. Aidan Martinez: There would be pools of supply for students who can demonstrate that they are in need of this aid. We’ve tried to set up a system for the formal attire.

e. Izzy Linzer: When alumni donate will they have somewhere specifically to go?

f. Rebecca Hutman: How would students know that these funds are available?

g. Aidan: We’re trying to test run this right now. It’d be like going ot the dean when a family member dies and getting assisting to get home.

h. Alton Wang: so these funds would be open to students who are only on full financial aid, or on any form of financial aid?

i. Aidan Martinez: We hope that students who are on full financial aid and still have excess need, will be receptive to this. But this is when it might get messy-- deciding who gets what.

j. Alton Wang: I just want to make sure, because the Wesleyan process of giving financial aid is so messed up.

k. Aiden Martinez: We would make sure the ones who need it most would have the first access to it.

l. Alton Wang: That’s what concerns me. Back in high school, I had no idea what questbridge was and I’m still paying too much.

m. Ben Marvyn: Will the program be able to make case-by-case exemptions without the involvement of staff.

n. Aidan Martinez: There might be a deadline in place and those who need the most would be able to

o. Jason Shatz: If this program continues on, how will we make sure this program can keep up with inflation?

p. Aidan Martinez: I don’t know, that would be financial aid’s problem.

q. Nicole Updegrove: So I have a slight concern about low-income students who are not in any of the special groups (Questbridge, etc.), and making sure they have access to this and are advertised to. I just want to make sure that we don’t spend most of our resources on already identified groups that might already have resources.

r. Aidan Martinez: To speak to the quest scholars, once they’re here on campus, that’s it, our support from them is cut off. I’m also working with Antonio Farias, it’s something like 80 students work 20+ hours a week. I don’t know the maximum yet, but we would like to target those 80 students first. We would also target people on need first.

s. Ben Marvyn: Along those lines, would it be possible to just let everybody on financial aid know?

t. Aidan Martinez: It’s certainly possible, but I feel the direction this should take is the application route.

u. Alton Wang: I guess I’m just a little bit concerned with the application route--I think this is a great idea--I just think this is a little scary when you have to go through something subjective like this.
v. Aidan Martinez: It wouldn’t be an easy thing-- it would just need what the need is and why there is need. I was talking with John G-- he said ideally we would get $250,000 a year to spread out to students.

x. Key: I was just curious, have you talked to the administration?

y. Aidan Martinez: I haven’t heard anything negative about the This is Why campaign. I recently spoke with the president of Williams and a dean from Oregon; in general the administration seems open to the idea.

z. Bruno Machiavelo: It would ideal if alumni call in to specifically donate to this project.

aa. Aidan Martinez: Dean Wood wants to increase the dean’s discretionary fund for this reason.

bb. Victor Zhao: There needs to be sort of progression, so some people can donate different amounts.

c. Aidan Martinez: I feel that if we were able to grow the pool enough, ideally it would be just like the SBC. Like I said, I was very unprepared and thank you for the input!

7. Wesleyan Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

a. Kate Cullen: I would like to propose a new agenda item to fill the rest of our time. This committee that Dean Antonio asked me to convene, the idea is to organize all the different student groups that have to do with identity. They would make different recommendations based on things going on on campus. I am bringing this to GA because the CID chair will be co-chairing it, and the CID members will be on it. Because this is so tied to WSA proceedings, I thought I would show you guys the proposal. I know we can’t vote on it this week, but I wanted to bring it to your attention.

b. Grant Tannenbaum: What does the institutional structure look from day to day?

c. Kate Cullen: In the day to day the co-coordinators will be in charge of everything. I forgot to mention there will be an extensive subcommittee structure, so if you are interested in something in particular, you can join that. The idea is that when something happens on campus, it won’t just bubble, it will be directed towards an administrator.

d. Alton Wang: First of all, I’m concerned about student engagement and how many students would show up. I worry that because it’s more formal, fewer students will show up. Also, this is directed towards Farias and no one else; it’s great, but he should be accessible anyway without this elaborate structure. I’m unsure of the purpose-- is this for the students or for people who support this?

e. Kate Cullen: I think it is somewhere in between the two, because he did ask me to do this, but it is something that I think is a great idea.

f. Jason Shatz: I’m worried about the optics of this committee. For some, they might complain that this is only a PR stunt-- it doesn’t actually address any concerns.

g. Andrew Trexler: So I guess my primary concerns with this are what its relationship with
the CID will be and what its relationship with the assembly will be. It is somewhat addressed, but I am just concerned the assembly will just outsource these issues, and what the CID will do.

h. Kate Cullen: I am definitely concerned, which is why I’ve been in contact with current CID members. CID will try to be more of a bridge between the WSA and other groups. This is far a wide range of groups. Perhaps I haven’t dug into what the committee will talk about on a regular basis.

i. Andrew Trexler: My comment is just really that when an issue has arisen in the past, it has just sort of bubbled, and I just want to make sure that the WSA is actively involved in these issues, rather than just saying: someone else is dealing with it.

j. Andrew Trexler: I guess it would help, but not as much as I would like.

k. Nicki Softness: I am just wondering what the structure would be if a student representation of a group came and say that my group feels this way-- what would happens if that occurs?

l. Kate Cullen: It goes to Dean Farias, and to other administrators such as Dean Mike.

m. Simon Chen: Is there any way that we can expand the pool of administrations instead of limiting it just to Antonio Farias?

n. Kate Cullen: Yes, I am actually going to yield to Dean Mike if you have any ideas on this. So basically Dean Farias asked me to convene this committee to try to give students a path to talk with him.

o. Mike Whaley: I would, yes. There are probably other areas in student affairs that would as well. If it goes to Antonio, it’s also shared with Dean Johnson. Dean Melendez is very interested in these issues, as is Elisa Cardona. They would all love to be in on the fun.

p. Nicki Softness: I think that a lot of the issues tend to center around communication. I think it would be interesting if we had someone from Wesleying or The Argus into some of these meetings, so we could have an institutional way of reaching out to the student body. I just feel like so many of these issues are trying to get people to know what is happening.

q. Izzy Linzer: Maybe we could have student group leaders from the new committee come into the WSA on a regular basis so we all could have a conversation with them.

r. Rebecca Hutman: I think the awesome part about this is that there will be a point person for each individual group. I am just concerned who that point person is, who can speak for the entirety of these identity groups. Wonder if there is some way they can constantly check in to make sure they are accurately representing.

s. Key Session: I like the idea of bringing the student groups together. Only seven people showed up to a summit that was supposed to be all student groups on campus. Even when CID meets, we don’t meet as a whole. I feel that trying to get all these groups together would be very difficult. Discussing all of these different topics on a regular basis
would also be difficult within a big group.

t. Sadasia McCutchen: That is not true. CID has had meetings as an entire group.
u. Kate Cullen: Great concerns, so on the first piece, attendance, we hope that by institutionalizing it, people will feel like they have to go. Also, I want this to be advertised as this is an awesome opportunity for students to have a direct line to the administration. On the other point, I can’t decide what the co-coordinators do, but I see it as the intersection of a few issues. Or if there is a big issue on campus, they will talk about that. But yes, it would be impossible to tackle all issues of race, gender, etc. all in one meeting.

v. Nicki Softness: The easiest way to institutionalize something is to talk about money. For the SBC, we drafted legislation to limit the amount of money that we give to specific groups during designated months. We require student groups to talk to each other to limit the amount of funding they need. We often have the problem of having similar groups coming to the SBC and asking for funds for similar projects.

w. Aidan Martinez: I think I would want to recommend that we don’t necessarily focus on student groups leaders. Just because they are vocal, doesn’t mean they are in touch. Also, a lot of these leaders tend to be flaky. When I talk to people as part of the Quest Scholars, I see that they have more problems than I could ever relay to this room.

x. Kate Cullen: I forgot to mention that there will be five spots available on the committee. I’m happy to increase that number. Also, the leaders of each group wouldn’t need to be a formal leader- just one who has displayed leadership in the past.

y. Alton Wang: I would want to make sure that the enforcement of student groups is not an onus from the assembly. A lot of these student groups that would be good voices on these committees don’t really like us. I think this is a great idea, but for it to succeed, it should have WSA support, but should not be mandatory.

z. Glenn Contave: Addressing Aidan’s point, diversity is very important. Serving on CID last year, many groups that address diversity already have tie relations with people in North College, so I think this resolution would firm up that relationship.

aa. Andrew Trexler: Can somebody on CoCo talk about group registration and how we categorize identity groups. This isn’t a super major concern, but I wanted to address the distinction between an identity group and a not identity group. So I just hope there is a process to collect those extra voices. Also need to know people know about this.

bb. Kate Cullen: That would be supported by the committee members.

c. Andrew Trexler: I also want to ask about the appointments process for those members.

dd. Kate Cullen: It would be similar to the WSA process: the coordinators would take members based on an application process.

ee. Lily Herman: I guess my concern is that the formation of new committees becomes this one-upping, always a new student group that is more important, or higher up. At one point you have to stop and say, we have a lot of existing channels, we need to make
sure they are actually functional.

ff. Kate Cullen: I totally agree. Dean Antonio has felt overwhelmed with the amount of student groups that have come in with concerns similar to the ones that would be addressed. This resolution seeks to make it easier to contact Dean Farias about those issues.

gg. Nicole Brenner: I just want to reiterate what Alton said. I worry about having groups have more requirements. Getting these groups together is important, but I am wary about it being a requirement. Maybe we could just work on making the CID a better channel.

8. Sexual Assault Discussion

a. Kate Cullen: For our guests, I’ll give an overview of how the WSA works and discuss our community guidelines. First of all, it’s a WSA policy that meetings cannot be recording unless all people in the room agree to be recorded. If there are any nays, we cannot record. With a majority of nays, no one in the room can use any recording devices. With the community guidelines, do your best to now use language that would be triggering to survivors of other people. Anything to add? We will remind you of these guidelines throughout the meeting. We work by a stack system and we’ll put a list of questions on the board and you’ll be asked to speak specifically about a question.

b. Alysha Warren: I would like to thank you all for allowing us into this space tonight.

c. Dean Mike: I’m Dean Mike Whaley, Vice President of student affairs, thanks for being here.

d. Reverend Tracy: I’m Reverend Tracy.

e. Antonio Farias: Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

f. Kate Cullen: Administrators are here to get a pulse on what is going on, not to voice opinion. So let’s get started. How about I read out some questions? What can be done to eradicate sexual assault?

g. Jacob Musinsky: We are going to take stack now. Please remember to respect your fellow students and keep it civil. If you want to get on stack for this first set of questions, raise your hand.

h. Ben Marvyn: Thank you for everyone coming to the meeting tonight. I wanted to speak to the first question under prevention. I think we need to do a much better job of education at the start. During orientation, what education there is is inadequate. Students don’t need to be lectured at.

i. Victor Zhao: Yea, just to Ben’s point. We already have many options, so what we should do is promote available options and resources for students. We should promote available resources and make them more available.

j. Jason Shatz: Welcome everyone. First of all, this calm atmosphere is what we want to maintain throughout the night. We need to realize that we share the same goal, so let that be the forefront rather than attacking other people. The education front is woefully
inadequate. We teach people from day one, but we can never emphasize those issues throughout their four years at Wesleyan.

k. Ellen Paik: Just really quickly, it’s been said already. But I hope tonight’s discussion comes up with solutions to make the campus a better place. Let’s be productive and not attack people. That being said, if any of you have statements, I urge you to put your name on stack.

l. Kate Cullen: I forgot to mention that a way to agree with others is to snap.

m. Jacob Musinsky: Ellen, good transition, does anybody want to get their name on stack?

n. Lily Herman: In terms of education and preventing sexual assault, there needs to be more of a broad spectrum and not focused solely on assault-- creating a safe space and discussing sexual harassment are also important.

o. Jacob Musinsky: Just a point of information, drinking is not permitted in here. And neither is laughing at people.

p. Aidan Martinez: I just want to reiterate how important it is to get on stack. Along the education front, I think it’s important that we emphasize that sexual assault can happen anywhere, and it is the duty of anyone on campus to stop this from happening. Continual bystander education throughout the year would be more helpful.

q. Sadasia McCutchen: I want to piggy back off of what Aiden said. I think that having training only at the beginning of frosh year is not sufficient. I think we need to understand more of the difference between sexual assault and harassment. Sexual Assault education should be more prevalent throughout the year. Alcohol edu was not enough, neither were discussions with RAs. Please speak, it is better for the discussion. I yield my time to Christian.

r. Christian: We talk a lot about freshmen and I don’t want to stay there. These things are happening throughout class years. We need to bring faculty into this issue as well. At the end of the day, we need faculty involved in that way.

s. Benny Docter: I just have a quick thought. I just want to agree with people keeping comments away from being personally divisive. I think that we should not just aim to keep the space neutral. There are more important issues to address than just keeping this discussion cordial.

t. Danny Blinderman: I just wanted to make a general point about education. A lot of the time, we get wrapped up in how great of a school this is. It’s troubling because when we hear about situations like these; we need to hammer home the message that we’re not special. We need to grapple this issue not from an elevated platform.

u. Nina Gurak: I am one of the presidents for students for consent and communication. I wanted to address prevention education. We always have trouble getting people to turn out. If you have specific suggestions for how to get people involved, please let me know. We are creating a website that will have all of this information in one place. If you are interested, please come talk to me after the meeting. We are small, but we are here
to help everybody work through their issues. These conversations are tough, but we are always there if you need somebody to talk to about these topics. Thank you for coming out.

v. Bruno Machiavelo: I think a big thing that needs to be addressed is the culture that surrounds the education that happens. If you don’t have the right culture, bystander intervention won’t be effective. Many times, people coordinating bystander intervention are not respected or supported. Any initiative we plan will be based around culture. How would we change the campus culture? It has to be a constant effort to change campus culture. Many people that have been accused are speaking out of self-preservation, and it’s important that you show that you actually care about these issues and aren’t just speaking out of self-preservation.

w. Ben Marvyn: I’ll yield.

x. Jillz: As a campus, we can educate as much as we want. The problem is that individuals carry their culture into our school. I’m not so sure that education here will automatically change that culture. If there are certain aspects of our college that impede education, we need to be serious about eliminating them.

y. Nicki Softness: I think it is really realistic to talk about the limitations of education. The people who are invested in these issues are going to these meetings, the question is how to reach out to everybody else. We need to find a way to contact them. We have teams, houses, organizations, and other places where people come together. Not all of the information can come from the administration. A lot of people are confused, we need to find places to reach other people and learn to work with them.

z. Zacko Brint: I’m a member of AE Pi. I don’t know much about the proceedings of the WSA, but Resolution A should be passed right now. I don’t believe that Greek organizations need houses to be successful, as my group shows. This is nothing against the brothers, but as Danny mentioned, these spaces do contribute to sexual assault. I question these organizations’ ability to police these events. Eliminating Greek housing would be a nice step towards eliminating sexual assault.

aa. Kate Cullen: Thank you for sharing, but we will be talking about that later on. I think we should talk about reporting and education. We are now talking about point two. Please participate if you have something to say about that point.

bb. Alicia: I’ll wait for the next topic.

c. Tim: I think the best way to educate people is to constantly be reinforcing the material about sexual assault. If we really want people to learn, we need to make bystander intervention mandatory. I’ve been to the last two WSA meeting and I have been touched. Just listening is another way to educate others about sexual assault.

d. Christian: I don’t want to get away from the fact that there are factors unique to Wesleyan. To all the men in this room, it seems like we only want to have these discussions after someone has been raped, and I feel like a lot of this labor is put on
women. The only work I see in terms of gender equity is that you’re saying you won’t commit sexual assault. You need to have deeper investment in this, not just to save your houses.

ee. Mari Jarris: I think that a really important first step is talking about what the problem is, and what the extent of the problem is. We need to recognize that there are places and cultures that lead to these instances. Recognize that while you may not feel uncomfortable, people on the other side may be bothered by your actions. A lot of it is understanding the magnitude of your actions, and holding yourselves accountable, especially in these spaces. The main message I want to get across is to please take people seriously when they feel uncomfortable.

ff. Jackie Freed: I’m the president of Rho Ep. Just piggy-backing off of what Nina and Nicki said, it’s important that all members of our community become educated about this issue. To touch on what Nicki, Dean Backer hosted a leadership workshop— it should be mandatory for leaders of the community to attend.

gg. Izzy Linzer: I am sure I am not the only person in this room who has been moved by personal stories. I think education should be more personal. In orientation they were given to big audiences, I think they should be given in small groups, where survivors can actually talk about it. I am not the only survivor of sexual assault who thinks this could do a lot.

hh. Seiwan: I’d like to be moved to housing.

ii. Daniel: To be honest, I feel like there is a very structural, material aspect to this issue, and that is that there exist these single gender structures, fraternities. When you have single gender organization controlling the only concert spaces on campus, and have alcohol, it seems ridiculous that we are only talking about education. It seems pretty simple to me that the organizational structure of single gender controlled spaces should be the topic of conversation.

jj. Kate Cullen: We wanted to cover sexual assault before moving to spaces. So that’s why we’ve structure the conversation in this way.

kk. Sara: I did not know I was a victim of sexual assault until I got on this campus, so sexual educators on this campus must be doing something right. There’s a lack of awareness of how reporting sexual assault works. The process of reporting the assault was more stressful than the actual incident. I want the process to be more simplified and more readily available.

ll. Ted: I would just like to talk about the education part of this. Not only are students undereducated, but I am confused by the path that is being taken. Why are we simply talking about high street? There have been sexual assaults all over the campus. It can happen anywhere at any time and anybody on campus should be able to handle the situation.

mm. Yiyang: Frats set up an institutional structure where even when an assault is
reported, a brother has other to support him. A woman, meanwhile, experiences a ‘second rape’ and has to re-experience her rape. There needs to be more resources for sexual assault survivors to help them through the process.

nn. Nicole Updegrove: So two things about reporting and educating, I cannot find a sexual harassment policy that is not related to the work force. Also, we will be sending out an all campus survey about reporting systems. Please pay attention to your e-mail, it will be sent out this week.

oo. Jason Shatz: On education, we need to make sure education happens frequently and in environments that ensure safety. We need to establish community standards to ensure they’re comfortable and mechanisms to hold people accountable. Sometimes people don’t necessarily know their own legal rights, and we need to let everyone know of their legal rights, especially their right to be comfortable. I yield the rest of my time to Alysha.

pp. Alysha Warren: I tell students that they’re able to report to the Middletown Police Department or go through the judicial process. I personally have gone to students with the police department. There is also a local hotline that tells students the resources that are available. One of the concerns that most students have is that they don’t want to be in the same space as the perpetrator. We have several mechanisms in place that allow students to not be in the same space, such as allowing students to call in to a judicial hearing. One of the things we still need to work on is ensuring that students know there are staff available that will escort students to the hospital if needed.

qq. Sadaii: I think it is important that all the information just relayed to us is disseminated more easily to the student body. It is very hard for students to say something has happened to them. It is even tougher when some individuals are putting their personal spaces in front of others in the community. Students don’t come here wanting to be in greek life. But if you are a part of that community, you need to listen to others and understand them when they say that your spaces make them feel uncomfortable.

rr. Nicole Updegrove: Resolution B calls for bystander intervention, and also says that only co-educated organizations can have houses. It doesn’t mean that fraternity members are the only people who perpetrate sexual assault; it doesn’t mean that co-education will solve sexual assault. Resolution B just calls for a policy change concerning who can have houses.

ss. Kate Cullen: A WSA resolution has action items that contribute to a recommendation to the administration, which states what we believe as student representatives. This is not a be-all end-all.

tt. Alicia: I want to introduce the term “gas lighting,” which is when someone is trying to stand up for themselves, other people will feed that person information to make them doubt themselves. Last week, people kept derailing the conversation and interrupting. Sexual assault victims are constantly being undermined in the reporting process, which is horrible. A constructive step is to reform the reporting process, because what it sounds
like right now is that what we’re doing right now to sexual assault survivors may not even be legal.

uu. Lexie: Reporting at this school is incredibly scary and other times survivors don’t know where to go. I often offer up myself as a resource too my friends. I think this is a cultural issue more than anything. Reporting needs to be a clearer process for survivors-- they need to know that as a community, we are all here for them. They should know that they have a campus that is here to support them. Making a more supportive campus environment will make reporting a better experience for survivors.

vv. Bruno Machiavelo: I was going to talk about reporting, but Lexie said what I wanted to, so I want to talk about housing. I am a cosponsor, and I want to share why I think it is the best argument. A lot of people say that sexual assault happens everywhere, why focus on fraternities. But these are male dominated areas, where it is ok for these attitudes to persist. The culture that is created is what mattered. By eliminating these spaces, it also affects sexual assault all over campus by decreasing the existence of these cultures.

ww. Sally: The biggest issue about this is alcohol. Many perpetrators of sexual assault would soberly say that they don’t condone the action, but might wake up and not know that they’re done something wrong. Education can only go so far. There are many spaces on this campus that give money to alcohol, which fuels this type of behavior. Unfortunately, Alcohol Edu cannot prevent a person from making a decision that they wouldn’t have made while sober.

xx. Ben Marvyn: I’ve been a big critic of this proposal (Resolution B), but I’m starting to lean toward supporting it. As a male, I don’t really know how it feels to not feel comfortable in my surroundings. I think the reasons given why this proposal wouldn’t work don’t stack up. I don’t think these reasons are worth why people don’t feel comfortable in our community. I think it needs to be edited, but the feedback is overwhelming. I’m worried about passing this resolution, because I don’t want this to stop here. If we pass these resolutions, we can’t just stop there. There are a lot of other reforms that need to happen, but I think this resolution will move us in the right direction.

yy. Emma: I am a freshman, but I think that if the idea that if sexual assault happens in fraternities exists, someone needs to stand up and give a personal experience in the other direction. I can recall multiple examples of fraternity brothers driving me home and making sure I was safe. I think it is unfair to just pin this on the fraternities.

zz. John: I’m an RA and a fraternity brother. When these resolutions came to light, I did some research. The two biggest factors that go into sexual assault are education and culture. The effectiveness of education is directly related to the length of education. We can’t only talk about ideals-- we need to talk about solutions. I would like to propose that we form an education plan that is wide in its scope and that will begin to fix the problem.
aaa. Anna: I wanted to thank the survivors who spoke up today. Thank you Ben and Christian for acknowledging that it can be exhausting to be a woman on this campus. This is not directed at fraternity members, but to the men, I urge you to acknowledge your position of privilege and to listen to people. You fraternity members have so much power, and you can use it to help shut this problem down.

bbb. Jillz: I think all males are misogynists. When we’re talking about education, it sounds like we’re talking about how to educate victims and not how to educate people on how to treat others. Once again, I think in relation to spaces, they allow this kind of thinking to occur. I think misogyny is a by-product of these spaces. We have to be aware of those who are most oppressed, so women must lead this discussion.

ccc. Natalie Ancona: Regarding the reporting process, it’s not fun. It sucks. I would not recommend it to anyone. There are many people doing great things at this school. The people on the panel should be students that people interact with and that administrators have vested interest in. There needs to be survivors on the panel. Let’s find the people who have been let down by the university and prop them up. The reality is that life sucks for a lot of people on this campus already. People can either fight it or join.

ddd. Yael: I want to talk a bit about supporting survivors at this school. I have been a survivor of three different sexual assaults. When I got here, I tried to reach out for support, and I feel that I fell through the cracks. This has to be a community that forms around people and supports them. We can just focus on maintaining the Wesleyan name. We need to acknowledge the burden that people carry from the outside.

ee. Alicia White: I am a survivor of sexual assault, and I think it’s wrong to put all the blame on fraternity brothers. I have an amazing support system because of the fraternities. We need to educate that it’s not just women who get sexually assaulted. There are other schools that have these issues, and they have sororities. We need to re-evaluate how we’re attacking this situation. We can’t make vast generalizations about these fraternities, just like we can’t make vast generalizations about victims.

fff. Niall: I’m a sophomore and I’ll be Beta’s president. Sexual assault has been a very relevant topic on campus for years. I speak for my fellow brothers on this campus. Those responsible need to be dealt with in a swift manner. I’m willing to work with all parties involved to make this campus a safer place. At Beta, we have put into place several measures, including having members at the door at each event. We need to get rid of this Greek versus non-Greek thing. We need to get together as a community and find middle ground between the two resolutions.

ggg. Ted: I am speaking for Scott Elias. I stand by his words. I am unable to attend tonight, but I am speaking as a person who is concerned by sexual assault, and is a member of Beta. Fellow fraternity members: things need to change. If greek houses are to survive, we need to facilitate more forums and have an important dialogue as a community. This conversation must recognize that these parties occur at all spaces.
regardless of gender. Eradicated frat houses is not the solution. To the non greeks, saying we will improve is not justice, but creating a divide between greeks and non greeks is not productive and is not a solution.

hhh. Lily Donahue: I was a victim in one of the fraternities. Despite that, I don’t think blaming or dissolving or co-educating is the right thing to do. Frats represent a structure that would be a good way to spread a positive message. Creating a dichotomy of Greeks vs. non-Greeks is not helpful to this discussion. I would like to see the frats prove that they are not just reactionary. That way, it would have a longer lasting effect than saying that we should just get rid of frats. If we just dissolved frats, I’m worried that the conversation would just end there. I would like to see Greeks and non-Greeks work together to hold people accountable and create goals that we want to see. This is obviously going to be a process.

iii. Seiwan: I believe that hook-up culture normalizes violence against women. Sexual assault against women on this campus results from the culture that this is the time that young people should have sex. Three organizations on this campus open up to women only late at night when they’re ready to party and be viewed as sexual objects. We’re not trying to make this out to be that all frat brothers are monsters. We want to work towards a solution.

jjj. Will: I am a sophomore in DKE. We say we want to create a safe space here, but one of the lowest parts of my Wesleyan career was when Peter George was slandered a moment ago. I would like to dispel the notion that fraternities and sexual assault are linked at the hip. As far as the numbers are concerned, they are actually more in my favor than you would imagine. I feel like I get feedback that everybody feels welcome at DKE because nobody gets turned away.

kkk. Tom Dupont: I’m in Beta. I attended a couple of bystander meetings to further understand sexual assault and its factors. It exhibits how freshmen and other frats are getting involved to solve this issue. I am more than willing to help make our events more friendly and welcoming. I can understand how women would like to utilize our spaces. So instead of co-education, each frat should allow other student organizations such as Rho Ep and SART to host events in that frat house. This way, every student at Wesleyan can enjoy our space as much as we do.

lll. Cam: A few things need to be recognized. Going back to what Jason said: we are all here for the same reason. The discussion here is what we can do with these spaces to help prevent sexual assault. The inherent problem is that these houses are so much more than just social spaces. While the property might say that it belongs to the alumni, I think it would be stupid to not recognize that each house is a part of campus. If those doors were open at all times, the houses would seem more like a safe space. Just because we’re in fraternities doesn't mean we’re pro-stagnant. Just because we’re reactionary doesn’t mean we’re not genuine.
Ali: I am a junior. Let’s please be fair to the victims and be serious about this resolution and what it will achieve. We talk about fraternities and how male dominated institutions are such a bad thing. If you go around campus there are a lot of buildings named after men who were in fraternities and care about the school. Let’s figure out if co-educating would fix the problem. The real problem is alcohol. When I came to the US, I was struck by the pervasiveness of violence and alcohol. I think the idea that somehow if we ban fraternities everything will be fine is unfair to everybody, especially the victims.

Nicole Brenner: One thing I’ve heard is that the issue of Greek life and the issue of sexual assault have become conflated. What we need to do is make suggestions, whether it is talking about the resolutions we already have or making another resolution. We’ve seen that these Greek organizations are willing to change, and we need to give some time to see if these changes will be implemented. We need to look at other factors, such as alcoholism, as well. We need to address the concerns of both sides.

Kate Cullen: Nicole mentioned two resolutions. There is one that advocates changing houses. And there is another that provides recommendations to make fraternity houses safer. There are no longer any WSA co-sponsors on that bill, so it cannot be voted on, but you people in houses can still adopt the principles.

Nat Warner: Were there co-sponsors before this meeting? Could we have a discussion about why those members have removed their names from the resolutions?

Kate Cullen: There are currently people on stack that will discuss the issue.

Jaime: Hello everybody, I am the current president of Psi Upsilon. What I am about to say reflects our organization’s credo. We stand together with DKE and Beta. Neither Resolution A nor B are appropriate. B is too reactionary and radical, A is too vague. We need to come together as a campus to come up with a list of solutions. The dichotomy of fraternities and sexual assault prevention is unhealthy. We need to tackle the fundamental causes of sexual assault, namely alcohol. Bystander intervention training is useful, but not holistically effective enough to reduce sexual assault.

Anthony Arias: I’m a senior at DKE. I’m usually by the front door. I have friends who have been sexual assaulted in a dorm. My experience is that my brothers have gotten me through the toughest experiences of my life. It’s not just that it’s tradition-- it’s our support system. You can sit there and judge all fraternities as bad, but it’s unfair because few of the members of the WSA know frat brothers.

Billy: I’m in Beta and I’ll be vice president next year. I want to reiterate that we’re all on the same side. It’s a culture issue, not a space issue. We need to have talks about these issues.

Becca Hutman: Following last week, I had a lot of great discussions with people who were and weren’t in this room. The general idea is that the WSA is single-handedly banning frats. I would urge everyone to talk with their friends about this issue. We want
Rachel: This discussion has been frustrating as a survivor of sexual assault. Nobody is judging the members of the fraternities. We are discussing the issue of spaces. One very effective way to get rid of this issue is to co-educate these spaces.

Jacob Munsinky: The resolution puts forth that for all fraternities to maintain housing status, they would need to integrate women into their organization.

Natalie Ancona: If these frats become co-educational, what would be the process for finding new members?

Jacob Musinsky: It would similar to the way alpha delt or eclectic does rushing.

Guest: The second we co-educate, we cease to exist.

Christian: Frats can sometimes be fun, but when we can’t deny that sexual assaults occur there and people don’t feel safe there. I know that often a brother doesn’t commit the assault. We need to understand that the issue is so much larger. We need to understand why this keeps happening. Men not showing up to these discussions is part of the problem. Where are the men congregating on this campus? If gender exclusively is something we want to address, we need to take Resolution B into account.

Yiyang: Obviously I do not know enough frat brothers, but I am sure you are just as good as other people on this campus. Individuals are fine. But the space and the power that the space gives you is not ok. When somebody came to gave a sexual assault lesson, they did not feel comfortable. I am wary of a system that gives power to an already empowered group. It is going too far to allow these frats to continue to exist. Because when their existence jeopardizes the safety of women, I cannot be for male dominated spaces on this campus.

Simon: I wanted to address the question of why I changed my sponsorship of Resolution A. Originally, I was concerned of having a frats vs the rest of campus dialogue. I hate that we’ve started a scoreboard of where rapes takes place on campus. In these spaces that women do feel uncomfortable, men control the alcohol. It is unfair in the reporting procedure that a single woman has to go against a group of men. This is an important step we need to take.

Kate Cullen: Given a majority, we’ll now close stack.

Danny Blinderman: I just wanted to say that I support resolution B because we are all culpable in this issue, we are all responsible. I support resolution B not because of the people, but because of the spaces they inhabit. I also wanted to ask the brothers in the room: If we were talking about sexual assault generally, and not just your houses, would you still be here? I am honestly curious if you are here because it threatens you and your houses, not because you really care about sexual assault.

Nicole Okai: This all comes with good intentions. All the laughing and snickering leads to feeling marginalization. It is unnecessary that there was a back and forth about whether or not frats are the problems. We all have the one goal of preventing sexual
assault. I know that the frat brothers here and the people in this school are good people. This discussion about the people who don’t know they are sexual assaulting while they’re doing it. For education, we need to destruct the rape culture.

gggg. Eric: I’m a part of Beta. I think that getting rid of frats through co-education is getting rid of our support system. Co-education is not getting rid of space. Housing is turning into a scapegoat. I think we should be more creative in how we should solve this problem. All the examples given in bystander interventions are males assaulting females, but I think they should be more gender neutral to raise awareness of males being assaulted by females.

hhhh. Chloe Murtagh: I think that we need to not talk about everything that this campus is not about. Right now we are looking at places of power and privilege. The fraternities are places of power and privilege. These things are perpetuated at fraternities. They give the members power. These spaces are not safe. How can you brush it off that people are saying they feel unsafe in these places.

iiii. Nina: I want to echo concerns about compassion. We should all acknowledge that this is not the ideal location for this discussion. If you are interested in continuing this discussion, I encourage a chain of venue.

jjjj. Bruno Machiavelo: A lot of people have said we need to do more, but everyone who supports B supports continual change. People have had opportunities to change, and nothing has changed, and I’m not willing to risk any other opportunities for sexual assault. You don’t need a house for a support system. Stats are not accurate, the reported numbers are in single digits.

kkkk. Nicole Updegrove: Reiterating Resolution B, more work will indeed be done on sexual assault, so that’s not a valid argument against Resolution B. As for co-education - this is the only housing on campus that we restrict based on gender. This is the only housing we grant to groups that are exclusive in membership. It is the only place on campus where females are called “biddies” and “basement bitches.” This is our opportunity to change that.

llll. Lexie: I, like Yael, came to Wesleyan as a sexual assault survivor. When I transferred to Wesleyan, I was sexually assaulted again. This has not been a safe space for me. These co-ed spaces are not safe. A member of Beta as well as of the other fraternities are my safe spaces. They have taken care of me. They are the people who are always there for me. When you talk about creating unsafe spaces, you need to talk about how unsafe many current co-ed living spaces are.

mmmm. Ted: I’ve had to deal with sexual assault cases in my past. As a part of Beta, I want to change the culture. I don’t understand how resolution B will change the culture of the houses. The party scene won’t change much. I will and my other brothers will do whatever it takes to solve this issue. We can use this time to work together and actually find a solution that will work.
Harry: So I do not really know what I am talking about, because it sounds like the WSA has their minds made up. This meeting is being gone about in the wrong way. Poisonous attitude where people are just pointing at the greek system. The problem is lack of knowledge and education. By this logic, let’s ban all parties, and all senior male houses. Five guys in one house is way too much social privilege if that is the case.

Kate Cullen: We took a straw poll at the last GA and we were very torn on the issues.

Simon Chen: Most WSA members are on neither bill.

TJ: I’m the current chair of the inter-greek council. I find it very upsetting that the WSA had accused the Greeks of not taking action on this issue. We are now taking an active role on this issue. We are making bystander intervention training mandatory for all incoming members. By getting rid of fraternities, we are not solving the problem. It’s a cultural background; it’s in our music, it’s in how we drink. We don’t view our alcohol or our parties in the right sense.

Mike: I yield my time.

Tori: I have been sexually assaulted outside of Wes on multiple occasions. And before I came to Wesleyan, I looked up the culture, and because of the moniker “The Rape Factory” I decided I would never go to Beta. People in fraternities should make me feel safe about going into these spaces. There needs to be more awareness about what efforts you are taking to make these places safer.

Becca: Passing this and getting rid of frats puts a veil over the men in these organizations. A house is a really great agent for change when you have that community together. We shouldn’t punish these brothers just for choosing to live with their best friends.

Abby: The last speaker nailed what I wanted to say. I spend a lot of times in fraternities and have not felt threatened. I think there should be changes, but these resolutions are too drastic. You shouldn’t feel uncomfortable going into places like Beta. But the idea of getting rid of them, rids us of a great opportunity to educate and provide social opportunities for people.

Lily Herman: Co-education is not a new idea. Guys in fraternities are constantly changing, and fraternities co-education has been an idea for a while, and yet nothing has changed. All reforms are radical. Radical is in the psyche of Wesleyan, and we need to stop suddenly saying that things are too radical. Please go to the archives in the libraries to read about the history of fraternities.

Jillz: I want to articulate both sides of the case. The brothers’ side is that your case is individualized. The cases of sexual assaults are on an individual's’ case. Our argument is on a institutional argument. It is that your system supports the structure. The people on my side don't believe that individuals are solely to blame, it is also the organization and the institution that is at blame. We have begun to make that change.
xxxx. Jason Shatz: I sadly have to say that the Greek/non-Greek here is false. I don’t understand why certain people have snapped more for certain survivors of sexual assault more than for others. I cry for anyone who doesn’t feel safe here or in any space. For that reason, I am still concerned with Resolution B. There is still much to consider in making frat houses safer, like alcohol and enforcing fire codes.

yyyy. Peter: I’m the president of DKE. I want to make it clear that we want to combat sexual assault. It is imperative that we work together as an entire student body. Neither A nor B will combat this issue. We are willing to work with a task force to draft this resolution. Let’s remember that we are all in this together, and that we are all part of Wesleyan. This should not be Greeks vs. non-Greeks but a chance for us to all work together to combat this issue.

zzzz. Alicia: Thank you so much for that. I totally agree this should not be Greek vs non-Greek. We need to talk about what people think the right solution to this issue. Sexual assault survivors are sitting in this room begging to be heard, and it’s fact that male dominated spaces this pervasiveness of male domination is going to continue, and it will continue to cause rape and sexual assault. It shouldn't be about punishment, but we all have to live in this community together. People are begging you please just listen.

aaaaa. Lily: I want to second what Alicia said. This is not about punishment or frat brothers. This is about everybody’s safety. We should put everyone’s safety above one’s ability to live in a house. The way to dissolve the false dichotomy is to integrate our housing system. Someone for whom this is already a safe space, to ask for a space that is an especially safe space is in inappropriate. I have faith in every individual here that they will take actions to combat this issue.

bbbb. Andrew Trexler: Ok i have a lot of things to say so I will be fast. Positive personal experiences do not negate validity of negative experience in any spaces. Like Bruno said, no one believes that this is just a fraternity problem but they are institutions that are manipulable in ways that campus climate is not. Living in a house with your 20 friends is a privilege, and why is living with and including women in your institutions a punishment? Why can’t women support you just like your brothers do?

cccc. Greg: Change starts with education.

dddd. Chris: A practical solution to the issue of gender inequality is to give more females space on campus. Giving Rho Ep a house would be a good first step. Doing more to provide females a safe space is what can make change on this issue.

eeee. Alton Wang: if women don’t feel comfortable in that space you haven’t done enough to change it. There has been a lot of conversation about history, but if a single person feels uncomfortable in a certain space, then that space needs to be addressed. Male privilege needs to be used to support survivors.

ffff. Will: The house will still exist no matter what happens. Male-dominated spaces are not necessarily dangerous, co-educated spaces can be just as dangerous. There is passion
about houses in fraternities. Taking away spaces destroys friendships, not sexual violence.

Mari Jarris: Resolution B is not radical because we decided to go co-educational in 1970. This is long overdue. Having the majority of spaces on campus be controlled by men is out of line with what we should value and do value. To the issue of coeducation, it says a lot to say that women would not want to join these organizations. The burden is on you to make a safe space.

Nicole Brenner: Let’s keep the conversation focused on solutions. This is not the last chance to discuss this issue. I’m now lacking faith that we’ll have a productive conversation at this point. To the people left on stack, please keep your comments positive.

Tanaya: The idea of Rho Ep getting a house is counterproductive to the discussion at hand. The beauty of program houses is that we don’t need to pay dues to indulge in the cultural aspects of program houses. I thought that factors of Resolution A were already implemented. I want to know how far the frats are willing to go to be real about the safety issues at hand.

Jackie: POI - Rho Ep does not discriminate based on financial need.

Guest: POI - Neither does DKE.

Chris: We all support change and reform. We want to help victims of sexual assault. We need to move away from radical solutions. Psi U has been the one place that I’ve at home in campus. Whether or not I’m in fraternity should have no bearing on why I’m here. I care about sexual assault. Fraternities are part of a nationwide structure; they’re societies that we care about because we’ll be a part of that organization for a lifetime.

Izzy: I see two groups of people and feel safe in two different places. I am not a member of greek life I am a survivor. Change is necessary. Structure is important. It’s harder to regulate a social scene on fountain for example.

Alicia White: I think a way to find an actual solution is to deal with the space itself. The issue is the people that don’t frequent these frats. I go to frats during the day. I think the way to feel safer is to incorporate these frats more into campus community. I think that we should have open events in frats so that people can get to know them during daytime. I think the solution is to have more events in fraternities in which people feel safe and can get to know the members of the fraternities when they feel safe.

Tim: I yield.

Bruno: Okay, so I think that I want to respond to a lot of people who want to find a new solution or find middle ground, but I haven’t heard any real tangible solutions. Why not just coeducate? If you’re willing to integrate, why not expand the institutions? People also talk about the social capital of the fraternities, but it’s not worth even one sexual assault. Right to party is not priority over safety on campus. Getting rid of these spaces will change the culture, which is the ultimate goal.
Alicia White: If you want to look at making it co-gender, that’s one thing, but taking away a national chapterhood is another.

Sadaii: I want to know how the national chapterhood would be affected by co-education. I’m frustrated because people are saying that people are feeling unsafe and uncomfortable, but the only response is to just not come to these events, which isn’t in the spirit of Wesleyan.

Kate Cullen: Psi U can have women, DKE and Beta cannot.

Anthony: The main advantage to keeping the national chapter is to have insurance and having a membership base after graduation.

Yael: Your stories of brotherhood are certainly touching. It’s a great support system. If those relationships used to challenge these formations of masculinity that allow rape culture to fester. I appreciate that the Inter-Greek council had made changes, but I still don’t feel safe in any fraternities.

Daniel W.: So I’d like to address what Danny said before, would we be there if our houses weren’t in question? First and foremost, we’re here to deal with sexual assault. We want to be a part of this conversation. It genuinely makes me sad that people feel uncomfortable in my house. The letter states that these male-dominated spaces perpetuate these incidents, so we need to focus on male education to change the culture here.

Jillz: Males do not know how to engage with females

Peter: I yield.

Cade: I joined Alpha Del as a survivor of sexual assault. Co-education works if that’s what the society wants, which is why I support Resolution B. To the members of fraternities: If you care about women, why don’t you want to share this with them?

Chris Caines: I want to focus on one point. People that have co-sponsored resolution B will continue to focus on this issue after it is passed. It is offensive to suggest that those people would stop fighting for this issue.

Gabe: As a survivor of sexual assault and violence, the statements about the male ability to sympathize makes me uncomfortable. It’s something that we’ve all probably known someone who experienced it and we’re all capable of sympathy. Changes can happen now, and we’re telling you we want to change. But if you say punishment is not a part of this, then don’t make them lose their national chapter. It’s a punishment to their identity.

Ryden: I agree with Gabe on some points. I think that male involvement in this issue is very important. However, I think that punishment is absolutely necessary. The regulations are absolutely fair. Is safety from the national chapterhood comparable to the safety of the people who enter these spaces that feel uncomfortable? If you feel angry and take this beyond this resolution, please come talk to me, Mari, Chloë, and Lynn Ma, and everyone else who is sympathetic to the cause of combating sexual
assault.

9. New Business and Announcements

Meeting Adjourned: 11:33pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Fred Ayres ‘17, Nicole Brenner ‘15, Justin Gitlin ‘15, Alice Lee ‘17