WesMiles (Sisi and I) had a great week--we negotiated to be able to sponsor three international students with high need over winter break, three times more than we expected. This represents a huge success for the program!

As a response to our recent Reading Period Resolution, I have been working closely to ensure that Reading Period is not effectively shortened. I have met with several faculty members and created a petition which received over 800 signatures in less than 36 hours. Negotiations are ongoing, and I hope to share updates on this effort soon. If you are free at 4:05 on Tuesday, consider coming to lobby faculty outside of the meeting. How many of you can do that? Also if you are interested in running around to lobby faculty on Monday at 4, please let me know. How many people would be interested in that?

The bookstore forum co-sponsored this week; thank you to those of you who came. As a follow-up, Andrew and I met with Joyce Topshe and Nate Peters to discuss student feedback on the bookstore. Andrew also contacted many students to get their feedback. We will be closely monitoring the situation to make sure no decisions are made. Joyce and Nate are still in the information/feedback gathering phase. More updates on this should be pending, and contact Andrew if you have new feedback.

The 24 hour study space and ATM machine are both in the process of implementation and will definitely both be available before the beginning of next semester.

The Student Budget Sustainability Task Force will be releasing a memorandum before students leave campus that lays out the recommendations that we are currently considering. Be on the lookout for that within the next week.

The Executive Committee met this week, as it does every week for two hours. Some of the issues we discussed include:

1) Upcoming All Campus E-mails - Please let Chloe know if you have any WSA e-mails you’d like us to send.
2) Setting agenda for the upcoming meeting - Please e-mail me if you have any ideas for agenda items.
3) Elections - we decided on the number of full and half-year spots
4) Suggestions to Improve General Assembly - Listened to your suggestions and discussed ways to heed them.
5) Strategy for Spring Fling Resolution - we discussed our plan to respond to push this resolution in response to the EPCs endorsement of effectively shortening reading period
6) Committee Reports - we gave in advance committee reports that should somewhat mimic the ones you are hearing today
7) Upcoming Resolutions - As you know any WSA member is welcome to submit resolutions or memoranda, please send those to me or Chloe
8) Committee Dynamics - how are we doing in terms of fostering productivity and teamwork on our committees? Are there any areas for improvement?
Community Outreach Committee

Syed Ali ’13, Chair

COCo met twice since our last General Assembly meeting. This report includes updates from both our Week 10 and Week 11 committee meetings. Thanks to Bruno Machiavelo ’16 for continuing to join us weekly as COSAC liaison.

COCo-SALD Meeting. COCo met with Elisa Cardona, Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development and New Student Orientation this past Tuesday. We received some updates on new SALD policies, such as that SALD can no longer sign contracts for activities that will hurt people (e.g. club sport coaches). We also discussed Usdan room reservations, Orientation, and CollegiateLink.

Orientation. The university Orientation Committee meets mostly during the summer, when most students are not on campus. The committee does not form until the Orientation Interns are hired in late April. To increase student input in the annual process, we will be adding a WSA representative (likely the COCo Chair) to serve as a virtual, off-site liaison. Have suggestions for Orientation? We’re already compiling—thank you to the freshmen for your great input. Thanks also to Lydia Rex ‘14 for taking the lead on working with Elisa on these issues. Add suggestions HERE.

CollegiateLink. We are currently involving more people from other areas of the university in the process. We will be hosting a demonstration with directors from SALD, Events and Scheduling, the Center for Community Partnerships (CCP), Information Technology Services (ITS), and the WSA Administrative Office.

WEServe Week of Service is a revived project in partnership with the CCP, University Relations, and others to encourage members of the greater Wesleyan community to complete service projects during the week of January 20-26. COCo will be facilitating involvement of student groups and their members, in Middletown and in hometowns around the world.

Day for Community Building. We are building administrative support and planning for the proposed day for community building (see Resolution 5.34). We are engaging SALD, Student Affairs, the Office of Institutional Partnerships and Diversity, and the Center for Community Partnerships in developing the form, content, and finances of such a day. We also plan to engage student groups and are considering other avenues for student involvement.

Roth Recommendations. COCo has compiled suggestions from two COCo meetings for President Roth in two interrelated areas: 1) communication with the student body, and 2) inclusion and safety in response to the Diversity University forum.

Wes-to-Wes. Ellen Paik ’16 and Chloe Murtagh ’15 have been working away at Wes-to-Wes, the project for student group fundraising towards financial aid. They have created a timeline, are planning a coordinated launch with the THISISWHY campaign, and published a WESpeak on Friday.

Student Group Recognitions. There are now 262 recognized student groups. The new student group of the week is the Wesleyan ACLU chapter, which “will bolster the ACLU’s existing statewide student and grassroots network, engage students with important civil
liberties issues, and enhance the organization's ability to tackle the most pressing civil liberties challenges in Connecticut and nationwide."

Spirit and Events
The Spirit and Events Committee (SEC) is planning the Student Group Summit/Meeting for February 02, 2013 at 3PM--save the date! We also talked about getting people to the event and the content of the event itself. We decided to potentially offer a some food and/or talk to the SBC about giving a priority or bonus or some sort of incentive to leaders who attend.

SEC also discussed Support WesMusic. Jacob is going to contact the leaders of AuralWes and Ellen is contacting the leaders of Waves, the music magazine that is based around our campus music culture.

The committee is also planning a carnival in the spring, with a Keep Wes Weird theme that highlights the artistic and creative spirit at Wesleyan. The event may include art, music, booths, rides, and games.

Middletown Relations
The Middletown Relations Committee (MidWes) is working on diversity/security issues. the committee met with Grady Faulkner, an African American Middletown resident on increasing ties to working with Middletown youth through the Youth Services Bureau. MidWes also worked on mobilizing Middletown residents to come to the forum on the proposed development on Washington Street that happened this past Tuesday.

MidWes met Director of the Office of Community Service (OCS) Cathy Lechowicz and Director of the Office of Community Relations (OCR) Frank Kuan earlier today.

Inclusion and Diversity
The Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (CID) met with Sonia Mañjon this week. Christian Hosam ’15, Alton Wang ‘16, and Mike Greenwald ‘16 attended the Making Excellence Inclusive (MEI) Student Subcommittee meeting on Monday. They are discussing MEI goals, expansion of the Office of Diversity, and a pipeline in the sciences for students of color.

The CID co-sponsored Misunderstanding Minorities on Thursday, a panel which included Christian and CID ex-officio member Kelsey Henry ‘15. The event was a success.

Next semester, the CID will be focusing on allyship, working with CID-SAC liaison Kate Cullen ’16. They will also be planning an event for the Social Justice Leadership Conference (SJLC) and aiding slightly in the coordination of that event. CID will be publishing their MEI recommendations soon.
Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
The Educational Policy Committee reviewed the final admissions report for the Class of 2016. The committee also approved the request of the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance (a low-residency graduate program) to begin marketing a fourth year. The committee further approved a proposal to allow the faculty director for the Center for Service Learning to approve for-credit internships within the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life. Finally, the committee approved changes to the History major, changing the departmental concentrations to a more diverse series of modules. The committee also approved a change to the necessary grade to remain in the major, which will go into effect for the class of 2017. The student representatives to the Educational Policy Committee have continued to follow up with the committee regarding the relevant resolutions that have been passed over the course of the semester by the WSA.

Student Forums
Alex Rachlin continued to follow up with student forum leaders and their faculty advisors regarding the pedagogical value of student forums and mechanisms for improving their place in the university. The committee will use these responses to inform recommendations to Academic Affairs and the Registrar, as well as to work on the creation of a student forum capstone option for seniors on a pilot basis in a department. People with connections to potentially amenable department chairs (or fellow students interested in teaching such a forum—likely current juniors) for such a pilot program should contact Alex and/or myself to set up a meeting.

Peer Advising
Lily continued to follow up with Peer Advisors and has gotten some great responses that will lead to recommendations to the incoming head of the Peer Advisor program for next year (as well as some potentially actionable changes for next semester) regarding publicity of the program and its structure.

Minors
Lily, Kara and Alex are working to put together a survey and a formal petition to get student support for specific minors. The whole committee has been working to gather information on students interested in specific minors to strengthen the student case to the departments. People interested in the creation of new minors, email any committee member with what department and what your relationship would be with the department if the minor did not exist (either a major or non-major).

Day For Community Building
Jesse has continued gathering responses from friends at other universities with days of this nature and will work with Syed to make sure recommendations and responses are incorporated into administrative discussion of how to create this day in the best, most productive manner possible.

Pre-Major/General Interest List Servs
Are in the works! Hopefully we’ll see them sometime shortly after winter break.

24-Hour Study Space
Opening next week! Stay tuned for more. Thanks to everyone for their hard work on getting this done, especially Austin Dong ‘15 of last year’s AAC.
Student Affairs Committee  
Nicole Updegrove ’14, Chair

Undergraduate Residential Life Committee

In URLC we talked about the Copenhagens, six-person clusters, and general Butts layouts and attracting sophomores to the Butts. There have been problems building communities among halls when they're split up into 6 groups, including odd problems with sharing bathrooms, and high numbers of write ups for a few of the Copes. The consensus seemed that we'll keep the Copps but maybe get rid of the clusters – this would necessitate some other way of attracting people to the Butts. [Thanks to Kate Cullen ’16 for this write-up.]

In other news, there were four program house proposals submitted, which will be discussed next week. One of these is a RhoEP/AEPi proposal, which may be looked at depending on Roth’s response to last week’s Resolution and 1000+ signature petition. Stay tuned.

Student Health Advisory Committee

Davison Health Center is receiving very positive satisfaction ratings, though it has been suggested that the physicians and nurses give costs of procedures upfront (which is easily accomplished). WesWell and the Sexual Violence Task Force have put on many positive programs.

Public Safety Advisory Committee

Scott Elias ’14 met with Dave to talk about expanding PSAC to include faculty and a sort of Civilian Review Board. They also reviewed policies and FAQs to add to the website, and discussed responding to emails on time. An expanded PSAC would set agendas, be listed online as resources, etc.
Bookstore Relocation

The open forum for the community occurred this past Tuesday. I spoke with a large number of students, faculty, and staff before meeting with Nate Peters, Joyce Topshe, and Zach Malter ’13 regarding our decision. So far, the majority of opinion is opposed, but the responses have still been mixed. Nate and Joyce will request to extend our 30 day agreement with Centerplan by one week to accommodate our surveying of students during our Winter election cycle.

Co-Generation Facility

The Sustainability Advisor Group (SAGES) met twice this week, discussing the proposed new co-generation facility at Freeman on both occasions. The project appears to going forward but slowly enough to allow continued conversation. The University will be conducting a substantial test of our current co-generation facility to determine exactly how much we can power in the event of an emergency without an additional facility. This test will occur shortly after Christmas, and SAGES will meet again to discuss the results in early January.

Committee for Investor Responsibility

The Committee for Investor Responsibility (CIR) is filing a shareholder resolution with Rockwood Chemicals asking for a concrete set of sustainability and environmental goals. There was some difficulty in proving continuous holding of shares for a twelve-month period, but this hurdle has been overcome. We eagerly await the results of the resolution.

The CIR is also looking into more local and responsible investment of University working capital funds. For purposes of our credit ratings, however, our options are limited to treasuries with banks with extremely high ratings, and we would have to allocate the funds to several banks for fiscal stability. Nate Peters will be sending the exact criteria to the CIR, which will then conduct research and create a proposal.

Finally, the CIR is looking incorporate responsible investing skills into the Board of Trustee’s efforts in expanding workforce skillsets for Wes students, and to incorporate responsible investing values into the Social Justice Leadership Conference. Nicole Updegrove ’14 and Syed Ali ’13 will be respectively assisting in these efforts.

Dining

Dining met this week. Benny Docter ’14 will give the report.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid met several times in recent weeks. Sisi Miteva ’15 will give the full report.

Red&Black/WesWings Dining Committee
The committee met this week. Red&Black will do more to promote its 9am Saturday opening and breakfast options to help alleviate our difficulties with early weekend dining options now that Michelle Meyers-Brown has changed the opening of Usdan to 10am on the weekends.

The committee was unable to reach an agreement that would unify the charge for plastic cups policy at the two locations. WesWings charges 25 cents for a plastic cup for water, but Red&Black does not. There was considerable waste at WesWings before this policy was instituted but this is not a problem at Red&Black, and the owners are fearful of losing customers at the Cafe if they begin charging there.

**Sustainability**

SAGES is working to use a thermal imaging camera to photograph heat escape from open windows of woodframes and other buildings during winter. Significant energy and financial resources are squandered in this way every year. We will be working to create a social norming campaign to reduce this unfortunate waste.

Bill Nelligan and I will be meeting on Tuesday to discuss a possible (probable) merging of the SAGES subcommittee Transportation and the FiFaC subcommittee Transportation, under WSA leadership. This org change could be greatly beneficial in coordinating and reconciling both efforts related to Wesleyan’s fleet.

**FiFaC Frivolous Fact of the Week**

The average American ingests eight spiders per year while sleeping.
Member of the Week: Christian Hosam ‘15
Christian has done great work not just this week, but throughout the semester. Chairing a committee dedicated to diversity and inclusion is no easy task, and Christian has excelled at it. CID might only be in its first year, but has come in with a splash—to the credit of many, but Christian too. The Misunderstanding Minorities panel on Thursday was one of the best discussions on race many of us have ever attended. Beyond that, Christian’s been working hard on the intersections of these issues with safety and greater community, collaborating with the PSAC and MidWes. Christian’s strongest attribute, however, is sometimes his ability to think critically and differently about an issue—disagreeing with the majority of the WSA as recently as the move of WesFest. But let’s not all forget about his most valuable characteristic: his obsession with Beyoncé. Don’t worry if you missed his hip-hop performance at the Dance Concert earlier today—Christian’s one-man Beyoncé cover band will be debuting at spring’s Bandfire. Watch out all you single ladies other committees, Christian’s the best thing you never had.

Elections
WSA Elections are coming up next Monday through Friday! Encourage all of your friends to vote at wsa.wesleyan.edu/voting.

WSA-Career Center Committee
This week we met with Persephone Hall and Jim Kubat, and Jennifer Healey from Employee Relations. We discussed the new director search, peer career advisor training, job and internship postings on MyCC and “Cardinal Internships” (wesleyan alumni connected internships). We are meeting again next week.

WSA-Admissions Committee
...is meeting this Tuesday! Let us know if there are any issues you want us to bring up.

Blog
Check out Martin’s blog, “Thank you, Wesleyan”!

Twitter
Retweet of the week: “@WSAnews Thirty plus years after graduation and I’m still thanking Wesleyan almost daily.”
Technology (ITC)

Grant Tanenbaum ‘15, Chair

Equipment Loans: Alex Cantrell is working out a plan with the LRC to create a EMS based checkout system for digital equipment.

Software Tutors: In addition to Lynda, the software training platform that ITS is considering purchasing, ITC is exploring establishing a program where students can seek out other students to assist them with software heavy projects.

List Servs: We’re working with ITS to allow the WSA to quickly create listservs for any student group.

Printers: Upgrades will be rolling out over winter break to much of the printer system. This includes a simpler way to pay and a quicker way to queue and cancel jobs. Students will soon be able to see online which printers are out of order.

Prof-It: We’re exploring whether we should have the website automatically fill in course data, let students fill it in, or just have professors and no courses.

Library Library charger loan system is being established. You’ll soon be able to check out chargers from Olin reference desk using your WesID.
We were $5770.00 under budget this week! The committee will be holding an additional meeting on Wednesday night to discuss current policy and whether or not certain points should be brought to a larger debate before being changed. (current policy of funding food, The Argus, etc.)

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Also, the sailing team has very graciously offered that we name one of their new boats (which was approved by the SBC of course).