Agenda:
Opening of the Meeting: Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

1. Fight song and role call
2. Open Forum
3. Career Center Meeting
   a. Persephone, Gemma, and Jim are here from the Career Center
   b. Gemma: 43 applicants for Career Center Director, 30 are strong. Search is still in progress. We start interviewing on January to keep students involved.
   c. Kara: Students want a larger variety of job listings, not just finance, consulting, etc. This is what is mostly seen. They’re looking for more teaching, environment, NGOs, etc.
   d. Gemma: If you check more closely, there is a broad spectrum of job listings offered. NGOs go through the employment search differently.
   e. Jim: There have been more voice to focus on finance, etc. In the newsletter, we offer internships for arts, literature, etc., not just business, finance, etc. Finance companies actively search for college graduates to fill in gap in staffs, so they visit Wesleyan more often than NGOs. We have a recent posting for Amnesty International. We are open to help students find jobs that they want.
   f. Sam: The newsletter is very broad and full of information. The more personalized emails are much better and more focused to my interests. The user-friendly side of the business sector versus that of the jobs that are harder to find is not the same.
   g. Jim: The recruiters coming on campus are recruiting from the business sector but those from NGOs are not. We have alumni in many different fields and we are working on non-business alumni to recruit or at least inform students about that field. We are also trying to avoid email fatigue so we don’t want to send too many emails.
   h. Persephone: Bigger companies have the budget to recruit from schools. NGOs don’t have that kind of money to recruit from schools. We can inform students about the recruitment style and cycle of NGOs.
   i. Ben (Peer Advisor): We want feedback about how we work. Students are more business-interested. Those kinds of events are more attended.
j. Mansoor: Pres. Roth talked about vocational training. These things are open in the Middlesex Community College. These are very helpful for Wesleyan students to have.

k. Gemma: This is a much broader topic with regard to workforce skills. In the board meeting, Pres. Roth asked about Wes providing workforce skills, non-credit courses. No one opposed it but there were problems with what to offer and when to offer it. We are still researching it and looking for funding to do it. We have just begun this conversation.

l. Jesse: People say that the Career Center is not helpful when they want to apply to Graduate School. What kind of relationship do you have with Graduate schools? And how do you help students get into them?

m. Persephone: 80% of alumni enter a graduate program within 5 years. I would ask students first why they want to go to Graduate School. The difference between a graduate degree and an undergraduate degree is huge, and most jobs do not need a graduate school degree, especially since it is so expensive to obtain. Each school is different with regard to admissions process. I’m not sure that it is our responsibility to answer specific questions but we have the resources to find that out.

n. Jim: What should the role of the Career Center be for students with a liberal arts student degree who wants to go to Graduate School? No career center will know the specifics whether a program is good for you. We are not in the level to recommend programs and paths which are best for you. We use professors and alumni help students find that out.

o. Adam: I’ve heard that we have a new building with new gadgets, but there are rumors that the Career Center is under-staffed.

p. Gemma: Every year, we always ask for a new counselor, and we want one.

q. Persephone: We are truly under-staffed. Make sure we know that you need to talk to us. We work hard for you and want to help you.

r. Jim: We only have one full-time counselor for the whole school.

s. Gemma: But we are not in a bad state in terms of employment. It could be better, though.

t. Zach: We can source people that would be good to choose the new director.

u. Gemma: Maybe the last two candidates could come to school and meet with groups of students to test them out.

v. Zach: Maybe we can make a consolidate a list of all alumni that can be a resource to look for jobs and internships.

w. Gemma: That is WesConnect. It’s not ideal but it’s very hard to keep data up to date especially if the alumni are not talking to us.

x. Persephone: We can use other sites like LinkedIn to help find more jobs and alumni.
y. Zach: Do you have a database that keeps track of interviews and appointments?
z. Jim: Counselors are constantly building their base of alumni to benefit current students get more information like from Columbia Law School.

aa. Grant: With counselors at such high demand, how can students reach that information that is hard to get to from WesConnect and MyCC, etc?

bb. Gemma: The question is how to best pull out information you need so that you don’t need counselors anymore.

cc. Wayne: Do freshmen and sophomores get access to WesConnect?

dd. Persephone: This spring.

ee. Wayne: Can freshmen have an individual connection to the Career Center?

ff. Persephone: In the past, we’ve had a counselor with your dean. We did not do this this year, but if there is enough interest in bringing this back, we can do that.

gg. Sisi: POI: We had this last year and advertised this, but people didn’t show up.

hh. Grant: Sisi’s point about PCA, though they’re not available is it possible to make them more available digitally?

ii. Ben: Definitely, but it is important to have meetings in person. Usually, people have such vague questions, you need face-to-face conversations.

jj. Sam: I have three follow-ups: student involvement with reaching out to alumni? Regarding hiring cycles, can we have more information so that people have a better sense of how to manage work? Could we work on having a basic skill education program offered online to be taken over winter break.

kk. Gemma: Student connection with alumni is definitely the way to go.

ll. Persephone: If there are areas of focus that we need to work on, please let us know

mm. Kate: What is your relationship with the Red and Black Calling Society?

nn. Gemma: We’re all part of the same department and we all use the same database.

oo. Syed: The timing of announcements has been a prevalent concern. I think that you’ve done a good job addressing this issue. Could we get help regarding learning what skills we already have? There have been pre-professional groups on the rise recently. I think if we find a young alumni to connect with these groups, this would be helpful.

pp. Jim: Employers like to know your resume is legitimate. For a student to get a good self-profile at this stage, you need a conversation with a counselor. Certainly a PCA can get this conversation going, but counselors can work with PCA to help translate these skills in an effective way.

qq. Jake: Regarding the PCA issue, I think it’d be a good idea to help establish their legitimacy (bios?)

rr. Ben: We have a limited training background, and I’m interested in hearing what our strengths and weaknesses are.
Lily: I think it would be interesting to give students more incentive to have students share information about their summer internships and the like.

Jim: This is why we have WesSID. There is lots of student feedback on this database. In the beginning of the year, we had a raffle. All the information is very up-to-date.

Ben: If you haven’t entered your experience yet, you’re part of the problem!

Sam: We’re working on getting major and pre-major interest list-servs. Do you think that you could target interest groups with your outreach?

Jim: We do send targeted email. We have myCC. There’s a section where you can indicate your interests and an email will be sent to you. We have that mechanism, but yes, I think it is underutilized. I’d definitely like to have more conversations about this. We don’t want to send out too many emails so people get sick, but we want to inform everyone.

Grant: I’d like to hear more about what your priorities and goals are, and what direction you hope to head in.

Gemma: We want to hire someone that fully understands our office is very student-oriented. Also, someone who has had advising experience and someone who has demonstrated success in management. And also someone who can represent someone who can represent all aspects of the career center and the school as a whole.

Persephone: To be able to translate a conversation like this and translate interest to people is something that we are looking for.

Gemma: We’re looking for someone who will understand Wesleyan- it’s culture. We’d like someone who will fit in well here.

Grant: Motion to open final stack.

Sam: POI: We have a visitor at 815pm.

More people would like more emails.

Jake: The emails are pretty brief which is good. Find a way to op-in/out of receiving emails.

Jim: Please help us explain to students that our emails are meant to be read.

Sam: I think that it should be made more clear what the content of the email is.

Jim: Could the newsletter be more helpful in that respect?

Sam: Yes, by making clear what the main point of the email is or the job that is being offered, whether in the subject or the first few lines of the email.

Jason: Thank you for answering our questions. Freshmen don’t know what they want. How do you help them?

Persephone: I’d love to help a freshmen figure out what they want. What I often recommend to freshmen are smaller hiring groups. Perhaps partnering with the class dean will help with this problem.
III. Jason: Is this the plan?

mmmm. Persephone: Everything is subject to change at this point.

nnnn. Jim: Limited resources makes it difficult for us to reach out to freshmen in the way we’d like.

oooo. Andrew: I wouldn’t mind more emails if they were targeted differently. Within the emails themselves, it’d be nice to have a blurb to describe the positions in greater detail, in addition to the alumni presentations.

pppp. Jim: It’s hard because we don’t want to be too targeted because we want to communicate opportunities to all potential interest groups, even if they don’t check the box. We might change someone’s life forever!

qqqq. Grant: Thank you for coming!

4. 5-Year Calendar (EPC)

a. Prof. Singer: I want to know what you want, your expectations.

b. Zach: I guess we want to know about the process that led to this calendar and details about the calendar.

c. Benny: I want to know the terms about how you came to this calendar.

d. Adam: How did the vote breakdown for or against the calendar?

e. Sam: (Explains the 5-year calendar)

f. Zach: (Pulls out current calendar) This is for people to raise their points of view regarding the calendar. I hope that is okay.

g. Prof. Singer: Yeah, for sure. EPC is made up of faculty and students. We took into consideration the whole campus by using the Calendar Survey. The results of the survey came in and the faculty saw it. An initial calendar was made over the summer by the outgoing EPC Chair. We got that calendar and it had some serious problems. We tried to rework it and came up with a calendar that was workable. It was presented to the faculty to get their opinion and feedback. We felt we were on the right track but there were still issues to discuss. We want the faculty to vote on this by the December faculty meeting but only got the resolutions from the WSA a few weeks ago. The problem you raised was Spring Fling not being its own day with regards to Reading Period. The calendar is already very tight and Dean Whaley raised legitimate points against Spring Fling wherein people become belligerent. The expert advice we got from registrar said that compared to peer institution, our Reading Period is long. Sam looked at the Reading Periods of peer schools but there are conflicting viewpoints. At this point, the EPC can withdraw the motion for the proposed calendar. We can amend the motion. We can also continue with the motion. The faculty could also vote for, against, or edit this calendar.

h. Arya: I was part of the EPC before. We discussed how there is so much work toward the end of semesters. With the wind-down period (Reading Period) being shorter, it will be more strenuous for students now.
i. Prof. Singer: If we want to change the Spring Semester, there’s a lot we can do. Commence earlier or end Winter Break earlier. We’re trying to find a balance in the calendar. The EPC was thinking about this trade-off when they decided to shorten the Reading Period. Spring Fling not being an academic event does not concern the academic enterprise so we did not take that into consideration.

j. Arya: Spring Fling completely aside, the length of the Reading Period is still essential to “wind-down.”

k. Prof. Singer: That was before, now we have to make a trade-off if you want to keep Reading Period at a 5-day length. We are dealing with constraints that we cannot ignore.

l. Andrew: I recognize that Spring Fling is not an academic event, but it is a way for the Wes community to come together. I think the community aspect is important to faculty. Aside from this, if finals end on a Friday, it is more difficult to pack and leave campus. I do not see the shortening in the new calendar.

m. Prof. Singer: That I have to look on more. That’s a good point. I don’t think it’s a great thing to put Spring Fling against academic grading. It’s hard to say that we give that day to Spring Fling over academic grading. Spring Fling is good and all but we have talk about the safety of students during Spring Fling as well. It’s unlikely to help students if they don’t have more time grading their students. I don’t see how students benefit from a shorter academic grading period.

n. Sam: Having the calendar end on a Friday is difficult.

o. Jason: The calendar ending on Friday is a problem. There is a disparity between the reading period in the Fall and Spring. How does Spring Fling being on Reading Period agree with the laws of the school.

p. Sam: It won’t since it does not require attendance.

q. Andrew: It might, though with a new amplified sound policy.

r. Zach: This new calendar makes it better for faculty and worse for students, which is not good.

s. Prof. Singer: It’s the EPC’s job to consider all these things. We need to address issues of faculty and students as well. It’s only been a few weeks that the EPC has been working on this. The best way the EPC can hear these points is if students tell the student representatives know the students’ concerns.

t. Prof. Singer: What I want you to understand is that we try to look at an array of choices with regard to the calendar. We take into consideration the students’ viewpoint as well. We are taking into consideration the WSA perspective (with regard to the resolution) but we also have to listen to the administration's perspective and the faculty’s as well.

u. Syed: There are almost no days to bring the campus together in dialogue as a community. As a student, it feels punishing that the EPC is removing a day that all students enjoy. I don’t understand the balance between the days of studying
and the days of grading.

v. Prof. Singer: The expert we’ve been listening to is Dean Whaley. The EPC is happy that the WSA is involved. It is Dean Whaley’s view that Spring Fling is problematic. According to the registrar, a lot of faculty have difficulty getting their grades in on time. Regarding ‘Community Day”, the EPC felt that for students serious about community building they’d work on this without using an entire day. While I understand a community building day and an unwinding day are similar, they’re very different and can’t be considered the same way.

w. Sam U.: Could we move Spring Fling on a Saturday afternoon 2 weeks before finals?

x. Arya: POI: That would exclude many Spring athletes.

y. Jason: POI: Having Spring Fling during April would attract a larger group of artists.

z. Jacob: Having a day for Spring Fling on a weekday allows for musicians to make time for performances more than once a day. We don’t have a large budget.

aa. Mari: We really did feel very strongly as a body that Spring Fling should be saved. Taking this away would negatively affect the academic performances of students. Important not to underestimate the ability of Wesleyan students to be able to take advantage of another day.

bb. Prof. Singer: We don’t really know how this would negatively affect students’ academic performance. We don’t have any concrete basis to show that if students have more time, they’ll perform better academically. There’s no empirical evidence. I’ve told the faculty chair that I’d let them know by Monday what our decision is.

c. Sam: Motion to extend debate as long as Professer Singer decides is appropriate (seconded, more votes for motion)

d. Jesse: Follow-up on “Community Day”: when I supported Community Day I didn’t realize it was the day before Fall Break.

e. Sam: (Further clarification regarding scheduling of Community Day)

ff. Prof. Singer: We were concerned that students would have a class attendance issue if we scheduled Community Day during the week. By scheduling it the day before break, we can ensure to keep students interested in community building, here.

gg. Jesse: Though I understand that Dean Mike’s opinions are very relevant, he isn’t as representative of the student body as students are. Based on the information we have, we believe that this is better for students.

hh. Adam: POI: eliminating a Spring Fling won’t necessarily result in safer conditions.
ii. Prof. Singer: We don’t consider Dean Whaley as a representative of the students, but a representative of the school with a unique perspective. Some students take advantage of time, some don’t.

jj. Sam: Spring Fling is one of the best policed events on campus. There is also the case of Thanksgiving break in the Fall Semester as providing a wind-down time and a chance for people to catch up or get ahead on work just before the first “finals” period at the end of the semester. This same option is not available in second semester which is why I could see a rationale for advocating in favor of an extra reading day in the Spring semester and not in the Fall.

kk. Prof. Singer: I would like to emphasize Dean Whaley’s point. He is concerned about that this is just an excuse for lots of students to party.

ll. Sam: Cutting down the total time is where the problem comes in.

mm. Nicole: We’re lengthening Senior Week which is very different- this is where the worry should come in. Academic concerns are definitely a concern, but I think that health issues during Senior Week should be more seriously taken into consideration.

nn. Prof. Singer: I wasn’t aware of how Senior Week worked

oo. Arya: To emphasize Sam’s point, work builds up in the Spring. I really urge for EPC to enforce the idea that work shouldn’t build up excessively at the end of the year. We only have three full days of reading period days with the current system and this is a concern. I think students will prioritize class over community building day.

pp. Sam: I have yet to discuss the calendar that I have in mind

qq. Jake: I don’t really know what happens for faculty on Spring Fling day, but couldn’t they use this day for grading?

rr. Prof. Singer: I don’t know what faculty do on Spring Fling day. Students don’t have a very good perspective on faculty’s point of view, and we’re really trying to take everyone’s views into account. Classes are not purely all-Senior.

ss. Andrew: Want to mention that Dean Whaley’s office is better off due to this new calendar.

tt. Zach: I’d like to read something I received from a student. To what account did you weigh students with disabilities?

uu. Prof. Singer: That’s not really an issue that was brought up in relation to reading week.

vv. Zach: This definitely doesn’t make it better. There are a lot of issues that weren’t addressed by the EPC. From learning disabilities, to senior week, to moving out, to incomplete data, no survey of students, the student petition. These all point to more time needed before finalizing this for the next five years. If any other constituency were in a similar situation something would give. I know that hypothetically it is possible to visit the calendar next semester. The WSA would
be happy to help on this front. Given that, I’m wondering to what extent that option is attractive to you.

ww. Prof. Singer: It’s fine with me personally. That question is before the committee right now. I will certainly convey this information to the rest of the committee, but the problem is that I’m just getting this now-

xx. Zach: But we weren’t asked. It wasn’t on the survey.

yy. Prof Singer: Well you have representatives on the committee.

zz. Benny: It’s clear the timeline was “scrunched.”

aaa. Prof Singer: I’m in a position where I have to bring this before a committee and the options are on the table. The WSA does have student representatives on the EPC. The committee might decide to withdraw the motion, but if it doesn’t vote that way, the faculty still has to vote. The more information they get and the more everyone can inform them on his or her points of view, the more it influences their decision. I can’t decide for everyone on the EPC what to do.

bbb. Sam Ebb: I have been unsure with the confidentiality of the drafts of the calendar and what I can bring to the WSA and to the student body at large. I’m under the impression that this information to remain in the EPC. I try to give out information as it becomes available for me to get out, hence all of the resolutions passed about the calendar at the same time. It’s the balance between what happens in the EPC and what I can discuss at large.

ccc. Zach Malter: There was an open line of communication with every other part of the community. It is especially hard as a student like Sam on a committee like the EPC to figure out what is privileged and what is public. I don’t think we have fully addressed this issue. This petition was really about reading week and the language and I don’t know if you have anything you can do in your power to convey all the points that we’re making. I understand that you’re trying to base your calendar on what “experts” have told you, but you still need student input.

ddd. Ellen Paik: I just want to emphasize that not having Spring Fling won’t help anyone. I don’t think that taking away study time from students to give more time to grade is a good idea. Also, I don’t like that it takes so much student opinion to make it so clear that we don’t like the calendar decisions.

eee. Syed Ali: I think that a lot of students feel more alienated from the decision-making processes, as shown by these calendar recommendations. Now that we have the opportunity to tell you our points, we have shown that there are more points to be made and more to be discussed. We need to allow these discussions to happen and we need more time.

fff. Prof. Singer: I appreciate all your comments and suggestions. The reason why there was initial push to get to a vote by the end of this semester was that if that happened, we may be able to also change next year’s calendar, and that’s why
we’ve been trying to move at this pace. Knowing what we know now, this might not have been our timeline. That’s why we pushed to vote at the December meeting.

Sam Ebb: There are several issues with next year’s calendar, not just faculty issues but student issues as well. This is something to keep in mind.

5. By-Laws Protocol Resolution
   a. Andrew Trexler: I just want to mention that there are a couple of changes to the resolution. First, there was a section in the proposed by-laws about the unanimous clause that has been taken out entirely.
   b. Jake Blumenthal: I am speaking on behalf of tabling this discussion until January. This is an important resolution and it needs more debated more. I have work to do, and though I could’ve done it before this meeting, I didn’t and have things to do.
   c. Andrew Trexler: We need to be ready to take as long as we need to do things. I think it’s great to discuss as long as we need to at the present day.
   d. Motion to table discussing/voting on the resolution 16 Y, 12 N, 0 A

6. WesFest Resolution
   a. Andrew Trexler: I talked to Nancy Meislan (?) and she was unresponsive and did not give anyone information. It has been a concerning endeavor. I know people wanted more information, but I could not get as much as people were hoping to get. WesFest has been rescheduled for a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Nancy told me that the decision was finalized but then she sent an email to an administrator and a faculty saying exactly the opposite of that days later. It’s very unsettling. I am unsettled. Very, very unsettled. Super unsettled.
   b. Jesse Ross-Silverman: If this new policy does go through, may I suggest a project for COCo? Could we host students in the dorms on Friday?
   c. Lily Donahue: I have talked to people and they are ready to refuse to host prospective students if this is not changed.
   d. Syed Ali: Christian expressed that the Student of Color program that runs during WesFest that many students don’t get to see academic content when they are on campus for the event. The diversity of classes is a lot higher on Wednesday and Thursday.
   e. Sam Ebb: Would it be worthwhile to note that this is potentially worse than WesFest being on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday because students miss school?
   f. Andrew Trexler: No. We don’t want give the admissions office any ideas.
   g. All in favor of passing this resolution: 29 Y, 0 N, 2  (Arya Alizadeh ’13 has abstained himself from this vote. The Assembly has accepted, and approved, a motion to note his abstention.)

7. Responsible Investment Resolution
a. Andrew Trexler: I have yet another resolution. Basically, don’t commit to corporations
b. Jason Shatz: Is there any context to this?
c. Andrew Trexler: There was an article published on Wesleying asking for something rather different from this but this is merely a confirmation of the WSA not investing in any arms relations. Though this is not our role, it became aware to me that many students are not aware that we don’t invest in arms companies.
d. Scott Elias: In theory I like the idea of the resolution, but I don’t like the first clause of the resolution. If we could rearrange the first statement, that’d be better.
e. Arya Alizadeh: Can you talk about what we are reaffirming specifically?
f. Andrew Trexler: There is another earlier resolution I think, but I cannot pull it up immediately. It may in fact be in the by-laws in some fashion.
g. Arya Alizadeh: I request that you have a specific “thing” in mind. Also, does this preclude us from being invested in the Wesleyan endowment if Wesleyan goes into investing in profitable arms companies? I mean, this sets a bad precedent.
h. Andrew Trexler: I don’t think economic works exactly the way you are describing. For context, the WSA endowment is comprised of five pieces, and 25% of which is the Wesleyan endowment and we invest in the Wesleyan endowment to show our commitment to the school. We don’t know what exactly is in the endowment because of certain practices. I would like it if the university does not have it directly invested in an arms company.
i. Adam ?: Quick question, how do you define this resolution about “corporations”?
j. Andrew Trexler: I don’t really know.
k. Mansoor Alam: Would it make sense to say something about “committed to socially responsible practices”?
l. Andrew Trexler: I consider that friendly.
m. Nicole Updegrove: Can we take out the word “solely” that’s in the first clause?
n. Andrew Trexler: It is unfriendly. Let’s vote. It is taken out.
o. Jesse Ross-Silverman: I still think this resolution needs to say something about the WSA endowment and the Wesleyan endowment. I get the basic principle, but it’s sort of ambiguous about what our authority is. This resolution is problematic.
p. Andrew Trexler: I don’t see it as a problem. It’s saying that we ourselves are committing not to invest in armed involvement.
q. Scott Elias: I motion to table this discussion.
r. Discussion tabled.

8. By-laws Protocol Resolution Re-Opened
a. Nicole Updegrove: We’re going to have new people in the winter who have no idea what a by-law or a resolution is. We need to vote on this with an experienced assembly who understands what’s going on.
b. Jake Blumenthal: We’ll need their opinions and I have work and I’m complaining because I didn’t do my work ahead of time.

9. Committee Reports
10. Minutes
   a. Minutes approved.
11. New Business and Announcements

Meeting Adjourned: 11:08pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Grant Tanenbaum ’15, Ellen Paik ’16, Martin Malabanan ’16, Lily Herman ’16