

Summer Reports

President, Michael Pernick:

This year is a pivotal period for Wesleyan University and the WSA. We are in a very difficult financial situation as an institution, and it is our responsibility to ensure that changes and cutbacks are done in such a way that minimizes the adverse impact to students. That being said, as the representative body for Wesleyan students, we should do more this year than just play defense – this year we will find innovative new ways to improve student life and ensure that the Wesleyan experience is all it can be.

The Executive Committee had a 2-day retreat over the summer where we discussed many of the issues we'll be dealing with this year.

University Outreach

Last year the WSA leadership started a new committee with President Roth called the University Outreach Committee (UOC). The purpose of this group is to provide a student voice to broad issues such as the University's messaging, media outreach, communications and admissions. This committee met last year and was largely responsible for many of the new Web 2.0 initiatives employed by the University today. This group, consisting of 5 students – Mike Pernick, Becky Weiss, Sylvie Stein, Ben Firke, and Nat Leich – is currently working on the second UOC issue; specifically, prioritizing promotion of student accomplishments and student stories in the greater media.

Board of Trustees

In the spring of 2009, Wesleyan's Board of Trustees elected a new Chair, Joshua Boger. The eight members of the Executive Committee go to the Board of Trustees meetings, and the President has a vote at the Board of Trustees meetings. We have been in communication with Joshua and are excited to begin working with him and the rest of the members of the Board.

Vice President & Organization and External Affairs Committee Chair, Rebecca Weiss:

The Organization and External Affairs Committee consists of six members of the General Assembly. OEAC manages all of the internal operations of the WSA, WSA publicity efforts, and a number of other projects. One of OEAC's primary responsibilities is to ensure that the WSA is operating in as efficient and productive a manner as possible; many of OEAC's activities involve routine week to week responsibilities: running meetings, sending out all-campus emails, communicating information to members of the WSA, taking minutes, organizing new member information packets, updating the website, sending out committee reports, etc. OEAC is also responsible for holding elections and appointing new members to the WSA. The WSA coordinator is directly responsible for maintaining the day-to-day operations of the WSA.

WSA Website & Blog

The new WSA website, launched in March 2009, is now fully functioning and full of fantastic new content. Check it out at <http://wsa.wesleyan.edu>. This is the place to go to find out everything you could ever want to know about the WSA, whether it is how to register a student group, request funding, or learn about the WSA as an institution. The WSA's tools and applications for student groups are fully integrated into the site. Most notable about the revamped site is its blog, which has up-to-date content intended to keep the Wesleyan community in the know about what the WSA is working on, campus happenings, and relevant external information, such as a recent post about collecting tax rebates on textbook purchases. OEAC hopes to have every member of the WSA post on the blog and encourages original ideas for posts.

Publicity, Outreach, and Communications

This year OEAC plans to conduct considerable outreach to the campus community to promote the WSA. Thus far this fall we have flied door-to-door, made considerable use of the WSA blog and Twitter, posted regularly on Wesleying, sent out all-campus emails, and host a WSA feed in every student's e-portfolio. We also had a prominently placed table at the WSA-sponsored Student Groups Fair, which was a smashing success. (Thanks to Lisa Hendrix and the WSA office staff for their tremendous work putting together the fair). We produced a new promotional pamphlet to share some of the WSA's greatest accomplishments with the freshman class. The WSA encourages students to contact us with questions, concerns, or issues you would like us to address at wsa@wesleyan.edu. Emails are immediately replied to and directed to the appropriate WSA member or administrator.

Elections

This year was an astounding one for freshman elections – thirty frosh competed for just nine seats. Although the at-large election was less competitive, we still had an impressive pool of applicants. Meherazade and Becky worked particularly hard to recruit candidates through all of our means of outreach. The Executive Committee flied door-to-door to recruit candidates. We also had two well-attended information sessions during freshman orientation week.

New York Times Readership Program

As of this year, free copies of the New York Times are funded solely by the WSA. The Academic Affairs and Students Affairs departments cut their financial contributions as a result of the increasing pressures on their budgets during this economic crisis. Consequently, Becky emailed all faculty and staff to let them know that the free copies of the paper are intended for student use and encouraging them to take advantage of Wesleyan employee discounts to purchase personal subscriptions. 400 papers will be available a day, distributed between Usdan, the Science Center, PAC, Fisk, and Summerfields.

The Times program was almost lost as a result of the administrative cuts and increases in the cost of each issue. We are thankful for an anonymous donor who gave \$20,000 to support the Times program for the next two years.

ITS Advisory Committee

The ITS Advisory Committee is a joint student-administrative committee that advises ITS, Information Technology Services. This fairly new committee was created after students expressed a number of concerns with the department and its products and services. This committee has been very successful in opening up the lines of communication with ITS, an increasingly important department at Wesleyan, and should accomplish great things this year.

Wesleyan Web Advisory Group

The Wesleyan Web Advisory Group is a committee put together to allow top administrators the opportunity to give input in the process for designing Wesleyan's new homepage. OEAC members also attend these meetings and provide feedback. The Group met this week to share the latest version of Wesleyan's homepage.

Career Resource Center Advisory Committee

The Career Resource Center (CRC) Advisory Committee will be back with a vengeance this year. After a lackluster '08-'09, the committee is going to have some serious conversation about the CRC and the resources it provides to students.

Coordinator & Organization and External Affairs Committee Vice-Chair, Meherazade Sumariwalla:

As mentioned above by Becky, the duties of OEAC are mostly related to the day-to-day working of the assembly and of the WSA. In my role as Coordinator, I chair all General Assembly meetings and work with the daily functioning of the WSA - including attendance, minutes, committee reports, etc. I also head the Elections committee and the Constitution Review Committee.

Over the summer and to-date some of the issues I've addressed include:

- 1) *Reformatting the WSA Constitution and By-Laws* to make them more reader friendly and have a standard format so that we may reference sections of the same with greater ease.
- 2) Drafting a *new attendance policy* which will be put in to effect immediately. This policy serves to act more leniently towards those arriving late to a meeting (recognizing that a 'late' and an 'absence' should be treated differently), while outlining the repercussions of poor attendance.
- 3) Organizing a *table for the WSA at the Student Resource Pavilion* during Orientation, to serve as another means of outreach to the incoming frosh class and making them aware of what the WSA does for the student body, as well as opportunities to get involved. During this session we had numerous enthusiastic Frosh sign-up as interesting in running, and had a large percentage of them come to our Information sessions, ultimately leading to 30 frosh running in the Fall Election.
- 4) The *WSA Information sessions* in Usdan 110 during Orientation were a big success. We had a total of 60 frosh as well as a few transfer students come to our sessions to learn more about the WSA and running.

- 5) *Administering the Fall Elections* – In this fall’s election, we had 9 seats for Frosh, 5 for at-large, approval of Donovan Arthen as Concert Committee Chair and as always, our poll. We had a very good number respond to the lengthy poll this year, and the information will serve us well in our meetings with administrators, and in making important decisions going forth this year. Lastly, the Frosh race was the most competitive to date – well done 2013!
Along with administering the elections website and managing petitions and election statements, I oversaw the enforcement of election rules (but luckily no enforcement was necessary.)
- 6) *New Member Brunch and Orientation* – Earlier this morning, I organized the new member brunch which entailed the Executive committee orienting new members to the structure and functioning of the WSA.
- 7) *Updating the WSA website* – This summer, both Becky and I spent time updating various pages of our website. While considerable progress has been made, there are still pages that need work, and as soon as OEAC has a full committee, this will be one of its top priorities.
- 8) *Answering and sending WSA emails* – one of my jobs through the year is to answer all email that comes through the WSA email account or forward it to the relevant Committee Chair. There was a quite a lot of flow though the summer, and since the beginning of the year this has only increased. Lastly, I have been responsible for the all-campus emails that have been sent out.
- 9) *Summer Session Meeting* – acting as a representative for the Academic Affairs Committee, this summer I attended the meeting regarding strategies for Wesleyan’s upcoming summer sessions beginning in the summer of 2010. I gave input from the student and WSA perspective at the predominantly faculty meeting which was facilitated by Charles Salas.

Treasurer and Student Budgetary Committee Chair, Charles Kurose:

The Concert Committee

The main focus this summer and into this semester so far has been on arranging for the creation of the Concert Committee. At the end of last year, the WSA voted to amend its by-laws to create an auxiliary committee to the SBC that would be charged with the responsibility of funding concerts at Wesleyan. Since then, there has been much to do in the way of integrating this new committee into the budget allocation system.

In the first place, there have been members to appoint. Donovan Arthen was appointed at the end of last year to serve at the chair of the Concert Committee and he joins us now in the general assembly. The remaining four members of the committee will be appointed during the week of September 14th and will not serve as WSA members.

Another significant task has been to add new features to the “SBC Allocations” application in the “WSA Tools and Applications” section of the e-portfolio. Meetings have been held with the relevant people in ITS and necessary changes to the system are being made to accommodate the Concert Committee. The most notable of these changes are:

- Addition of a new column to the spreadsheet in the “SBC Approvals” application that will indicate the source SmartKey for a WFS account code allocation.
- Creation of a new type of security status for Concert Committee members that will allow them to edit proposals but not to approve a transfer of funds.

WSA Endowment

This summer, approximately one-third of the WSA Endowment was transferred to a set of laddered share certificates with the local credit union, MiddConn. \$20,000 went to a 24-month certificate earning 2.178%; \$20,000 went to a 12-month certificate earning 1.933%, and \$10,000 went to a 6-month certificate earning 1.490%.

After combing the SBC-Funded Accounts of student groups at the end of last year, the surplus from the student activities budget was determined to be about \$43,000. The WSA Endowment Committee (WEC) is currently looking into possible ways of investing these funds and will bring ideas to the general assembly in the near future.

The WSA will be excited to hear that the WSA Endowment has outperformed the market by 25.5% since October 2008.

BMAPS Revision

This summer, work began on a revision of the Student Group Financial Home Page, the Student Group Management Page, and the Funding Adjudication Page. Full credit for these revisions goes to Andrew Huynh, who joins us in the general assembly this year as a Representative of the Class of 2011.

The changes to these pages are designed to make them more user-friendly and to display on a single page the most relevant information concerning a student group’s finances. The sketch for the Student Group Financial Home Page, for example, features a bar graph displaying the levels of funds in a group’s SBC, Income, and Department Accounts. Unfortunately, since ITS is currently caught in the time-consuming process of overhauling the entire Wesleyan Financial System (WFS), this project will not see completion until later in the year.

Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Jeffrey Stein:

Summer Session

Meherazade took the AAC place at the pilot summer session meeting with Charles Salas. The AAC has been trying to find ways in which the WSA can help the administration to make the Pilot Summer Session successful. To this end we have tried to make further contact with Charles Salas, and have inserted questions into the survey with the fall elections.

Furthering Student Voice in Academic Affairs

1) The Registrar Advisory Committee (RAC):

- This summer the Registrar Advisory Committee was created! This committee will serve as a conduit for student input on Registrar policy and as a place through which the WSA can bring and reinforce proposals and arguments on academic policy to the EPC.
- The committee will be composed of the four AAC members, the Registrar, rotating members from ITS, the Provost's Office, the Dean's Office, and others as are seen fit.
- The first meeting will take place in the first week of October.

2) General Assembly Agenda Items:

- This year the AAC will be conducting regular discussions during the General Assembly meetings on specific academic issues. It will be the job of the two non-chair members of the AAC to research these issues before the meetings and present the arguments for and against each. After each discussion the AAC will consider whether further action should be taken with respect to the issue at hand, and then consider bringing the discussion to the EPC or RAC.
- Agenda Items Will Include:
 1. FYI's: What are they? What is their current objective and how is it fulfilled? How can they be improved?
 2. Course Selection: What are the current issues with course selection and course access? What improvements can be made?
 3. Minors: Should Wesleyan have minors?
 4. Major offerings: What are Wesleyan's offering weaknesses? In what areas should Wesleyan focus its academic resources?
 5. *(We are open to suggestions on further items)*

Met with EPC and discussed yearly agenda.

Student Affairs Committee Chair, David Goldman:

Fire Safety and Facilities Appeals

A Fire Safety and Facilities Appeals Board meeting will take place in the upcoming week to review unresolved fines from last year that did not get reviewed due to their occurring after the last board meeting of the 2008-2009 Academic School year. Fire Safety and Facilities Appeals Board meetings will continue to take place all throughout this year. In addition, we hope to review excessively punitive fines in an effort to reduce any inappropriately punitive fines.

Undergraduate Residential Life Committee

Undergraduate Residential Life Committee (URLC) will continue to meet throughout this year. A major topic of discussion will be General Room Selection (GRS) and what can be changed and improved for the upcoming year. We will also actively be looking at the Summer Semester and Residential Life concerns associated with it as soon as the faculty approves certain preliminary features of it.

Health Services

Unfortunately, due to the recent H1N1 virus and the countermeasures that the CDC has proposed to reduce risks of contracting this virus, the University has decided to put paper towels back into bathrooms. However, we will review the removal of paper towels once the threat of H1N1 has receded.

MacGray Laundry Service

A greater quantity of laminated, more noticeable signs have been placed above laundry machines across campus that state to contact the Wescard office if there are any problems with the laundry machines. A reevaluation of MacGray will occur about halfway through the school year to ensure that previous problems with MacGray are not still occurring.

Vine Street Parking Lot Security Cameras

Vine Street Parking Lot cameras that had been approved Spring Semester of 2008 have finally been installed. These cameras will be used as security against thefts and break-ins of student vehicles.

Student Judicial Process Committee

The Student Judicial Process Committee (SJPC) will begin meetings that focus on a review of the Code for Non-Academic Conduct and an examination of the Student Judicial Board from both an insider's and an outsider's perspective. The review of the Code for Non-Academic Conduct will be kicked off with an initial larger, open meeting in an effort to incorporate the suggestions of the entire student body and faculty when looking on what to review.

Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, Benjamin Firke:

Overview

FiFaC's themes for the year will be *conservation* and *innovation*. The committee's mission will be to prevent budget cuts detrimental to students and creating inexpensive or cost-neutral ways to improve student life.

Dining

The Dining Committee will have met 3 times before this meeting. First we discussed traylessness, which has been reasonably successful so far. To compensate for the lack of trays, the silverware stations have been moved into the dining rooms, ending the "bottleneck" of people that forms in front of the entrances to the dining halls. Michael Strumpf also informed us that students each have four guest meals per semester. We also met the new executive chef, Ronald Mehmet, who explained how he's going to improve the freshness of food and work to use more locally-grown produce. Also: there will be twice as many cereals available, Eco-To-Go will hopefully be available at lunch at Usdan, there is a new Mexican station, and Bon Appetit is looking into recyclable solo cups, better labeling of yoghurts, more gluten-free foods, and a bunch of other little things. Our bigger goals are expanding Eco-To-Go to Usdan, expanding all

to-go options to dinner, reducing consumption of bottled water at WeShop, and, of course, fixing the meal plan.

Sustainability

I met with members of EON to discuss the X-Prize, which will be revitalized this semester, and the possibility of adding a small “green fee” to the Student Activities Fee or to room-and-board. This money will hopefully be matched by donors (if UR is onboard) and an expanded Sustainability Committee (with faculty/staff reps) would distribute the money to a major sustainability project that the current budget could not support.

Major Maintenance

...Is on for the Spring. Meanwhile, I met with Physical Plant to discuss the summer operations, which went off without much of a hitch. We have a new diving board/platform at the pool, which is great. There is also a new Green Buildings Subcommittee, which I and/or the Sustainability Officer will serve on.

Budget Priorities Committee

The BPC was briefed by John Meerts, who explained the University’s current budget deficit (approximately \$5 million.) While there are some “green shoots,” the University’s finances are still grim. Mike and I are looking to form a working group to analyze the budget reports and determine which programs or expenditures would be the “least worst” to cut. I also prepared a document outlining the WSA’s talking points on financial aid, and familiarized myself with some of the basics of the history of financial aid.

Committee for Investor Responsibility

The CIR is now complete—we added 2 faculty reps, 2 staff reps, and 2 alumnae to the full committee. The faculty are Gary Yohe and Laura Grabel, the staff are Nate Peters and Rabbi David Teva, and the alumnae are Meg Voorhes '77 P'08 and Gabriella Nawi '90. Meg is the Deputy Director at the Social Investment Forum. Gabrielle Nawi '90 served as a Managing Director at Lazard before becoming Senior VP for Investor Relations at Traveler's last year. The Committee will have its first meeting in the next few weeks. The CIR members are also going to a Responsible Endowments Coalition conference in Philadelphia during the first week of October.

Usdan

I met with Michelle Myers-Brown to discuss the Usdan Advisory Committee. The committee will be fragmenting into three sub-committees, dealing with events, facilities, and decoration/artwork. Funding will be a continual problem throughout the year.

Transportation

The major project of the summer was negotiating with the Zipcar corporation to bring Zipcar to campus. Through phone negotiations, I finalized a tentative agreement with the company to bring two cars to campus while classes are in session. The administration refused to provide the funding, but I was able to secure about \$40,000 in funds from the office budget surplus. John Meerts, Nate Peters and other people in finance/legal were able to negotiate the final contract, which was signed and shipped off before Orientation. Dave Meyer and P-Safe will handle all maintenance and logistics, such as user registration, maintaining the parking spaces (which will be behind Allbritton) and taking the cars to the car wash or the body shop for detailing. The cars will be one hybrid vehicle and one Scion or Matrix.

Currently, Becky, Meherazade and I are working with the marketing team to develop a strategy to market the program. The marketing should begin sometime after September 17th, with the cars arriving soon after. The campaign will likely involve leaflets, the Zipcar.com/Wesleyan site, the WSA blog, Wesleying, the Argus, and postering around campus.

As for the cost: every month, if the Zipcars are not used enough to earn \$3,100, the WSA is expected to pay the difference. This could potentially add up to about \$20,000 per year, but that would only come about if our utilization rates were unbelievably low. Zipcar's estimates show that we can easily support two cars (Williams, Middlebury and Smith all have either 3 or 4 cars) and the program should be a financial success, as well as dramatically increasing transportation options for students without cars.

I also received several requests for a shuttle to Washington DC, to go with the NYC and Boston shuttles during holiday breaks. I will look into this issue further when the Transportation Committee meets in full.

Additionally, Mike Pernick met with Michael Roth and earned the president's commitment to improving transportation options for students. Transportation is now one of the largest issues the WSA will tackle this year. For the first step of the new initiative, I will meet with Dave Meyer and a group of students to create a working group designed to brainstorm new ideas for transportation. The top ideas will hopefully be implemented.

Community Outreach Committee Chair, Sylvie Stein:

Public Safety Advisory Committee

- Revise website: add brief biographies, make more user-friendly, add complaints and/or suggestions box
- Continue Meet n' Greet Initiatives
- Focus on forging relationships between certain dorms and their corresponding officers (more effective now with the Adopt-A-Dorm program)
- Consult P-Safe officers about writing Wes Speaks regarding controversial or confusing policies
- Appeals System: allows students a secondary appellate board for traffic and parking tickets issued by P-Safe
- Secondary appeals board will be made up of Dave Meyer and two members of PSAC
- Appeal review meetings will be held weekly at the beginning of the school year, and then held as often as is necessary given the weekly demand

Center for Community Partnerships

- Engage performance-based student groups in new Community Outreach Programs

- Elderly care facilities: McDunough, Middletown Senior Center, Luther's Edge, St. Lucas
- After school programs: YMCA Kids' Program, Kids' Corner at Green Street Arts Center
- Collaborate with CCP to create an online guide to community outreach projects on campus that is user-friendly, comprehensive, and from the student perspective
- One COCo member will sit on CCP Advisory Board
- Institutionalize monthly meetings, maintain ongoing communication with CCP faculty members
- "Holiday on Main Street" / "Middletown Night" – integrate student life with Middletown life; hold major events down in Middletown (meeting with Downtown Business District and Chamber on 9/23)
- Create and promote "Weekly Wrap-Ups" and feature most exciting community outreach initiatives on a week-to-week basis

Student Group Registration

- New groups will come in for face-to-face meetings
- Sporadic recognitions will be held throughout the year for groups that are registered after September
- Forge relationships between specific category designees and respective groups; Establish COCo members as ad hoc advisers re: community engagement and requesting funding from the Student Budget Committee
- Allow students to request new blogs during registration; delete old, unused web pages to increase use and productivity and minimize clutter on university domains
- 190 High meeting space request form will be available on the EPortfolio for approved groups, with pictures and dimensions of rooms

Middletown Town Hall

- One member of COCo authorized to attend general meetings, which take place about every three weeks
- Can establish more solid foundation with members of business district, residents, and politicians

WesPep

- Work with Wes Pep leaders to increase game turnout and fanfare
- Book performance groups for halftime performances (primarily basketball)
- Feature a "Game of the Week" and advertise to student body as well as Middletown community

190 High

- Keying system to be changed: two to three interns will be hired, so as to allow for prompt and convenient entry for student groups, and more careful maintenance of the space
- Student lounge space in 190 High: still a very promising idea, but postponed for the time being
- Renovations, cleaning, and necessary Physical Plant work underway
- After space is allocated, a specific schedule will be drafted and disseminated; all groups with space in the building will be brought together and briefed on 190 High meeting space policy

- Student groups leader and a member of COCo will form a 190 High Committee, the job of which will be to manage groups, clean and beautify the space, and oversee general goings on in the building