

Minutes: March 29, 2009

Agenda

Fight Song

Approval of the Minutes

Open Forum

Discussion of the Library Committee

Constitutional Review

Committee Reports

New Business & Announcements

Meeting opens – 7.00 pm

Attendance

1) Fight Song

2) Approval of Minutes
Minutes approved

3) Open Forum

4) Discussion of the Library Committee

Cordelia (chair) gives a little summary. Main points include budget cuts; security; We do not have the option of restricting the library to Wesleyan students, faculty, staff, etc.

Dave: you said there will be fewer books on the shelf. That means less new book right?

Cordelia: well less new books will be bought, but also, less old, worn books will be replaced. And we may have fewer copies of certain books bought.

Micah (Argus): is there any collaboration with Trinity and Conn College about things like replacing books that are worn out so that we are not all buying the same books that are worn out? In terms of security, which libraries are most susceptible?

Cordelia: the thefts have generally been personal items, not books.

Chris Goy: If we are cutting down on budget, why did we order a \$4000 atlas that takes two people to lift?

Bradley: budget cuts haven't kicked in for this year. A lot of historical books that may seem like a luxury, and things like large maps, are used by some departments.

Chris: to follow up, I think that things like textbooks should actually be bought in greater numbers to help alleviate the burden on students in these times.

Mike: which areas do you think are going to be hit hardest?

Cordelia: I'm most nervous about the library staff.

Karl: I don't know how relevant this is to cost, but the microfilm room, and magazine racks are two large spaces that are very underutilized. Maybe we can save on heating them?

David: maybe we can have public safety do a round of the library?

Bradley: my feeling is that the science library is geared towards graduate level works. My opinion is to get more books (textbooks) at the undergrad level.

Jared: what about offering credit, and some sort of library certification for students who work at the library instead of paying them.

Benedict: I think the important point to take from Jared, is that students who are trained in library work can alleviate the strain on an already small staff.

5) Constitutional Review (Re: sustainability chair)

Ali: so what's the difference between an officer and a vice-chair?

Bradley: vice-chairs have typically been internally elected.

Sami: so the sustainability officer would be elected to FiFac just like any other member? Would this person have other jobs on FiFac?

Bradley: elected the same way. The next year's chair can decide on the jobs of the sustainability chair.

Becky: I think it's important that this person does have an official title; because this makes someone responsible for making sure things get done.

6) Committee Reports

COCO:

Saul: I think it's not the risk of the party not being fun, but the potential that students could be at risk if they are caught with alcohol, and we could set up what could lead to another Fountain.

Charlie: do you know why the police don't want containers on the street?

Elise: they initially thought it was private property; but then they found out it wasn't.

Dave: isn't the party ending pretty early?

Karl: I think when looking at a block party as a concept, we could look at it in two ways. One, that Wesleyan is hosting an event where a concert etc. is taking place. The second, is to look at it as an event where there might be open containers of alcohol and the repercussions that follow.

Jaynice: I don't think we should take the risk with the block party so soon after Fountain.

Adam I: I think that it would be a great idea to have a safe place where students and pre-frosh can meet.

Micah: I think a lot of people learnt their lesson at Fountain. I think it's a shame that we are now scared to have a large student gathering.

Jared: firstly, a quarter of the students weren't here to learn a lesson (i.e. freshman). Second, a drunk person does not think rationally and make smart decisions even if they have learnt a lesson.

Becky: I just want to say props to Elise for all the work she's done on this, whether it happens or not.

Michelle: I think that 10 is too risky of a time. My suggestion is to move it to the afternoon.

Strawpole on whether we should still have the block party, considering the new information about alcohol.

Yes 13

No 12

Abstain 8

Strawpole if we moved it to an afternoon event, how many people would change their vote from no to yes. Just 1

FIFAC:

Bradley: the JFK shuttle is going to be targeted at international students, not exclusive to them right?

Meherazade: I think the staff at Summerfields needs to know exactly how the sustainability containers work, because they don't know how to explain it to students.

Dave: I know Harvard tried to institute getting rid of paper towels a few years ago, and decided not go, can we look into that.

Sylvie: where are we with traylessness in Usdan?

Jaynice: is it true that you can buy a ticket for a guest for the New Haven Shuttle?

Dave: Did we do something about guest meals?

SAC:

Meherazade: two things. I really like the dorm hopping idea; I wish we knew about it earlier.

Can we be told in advance next time, maybe advertise it better? Second, is there some sort of program that students, particularly freshman, will have before we go into housing lottery chaos?

Michelle: Can we have a clarification of psafe handheld camera policy? Can we have a quantification of those hidden administrative costs?

Chris Goy: I just counted the number of fire safety seminars, and there have been 6 or 7 which is a good number, but why have they all been in the second semester?

Benedict: I wanted to comment on reading week. The Wednesday after classes end, is not part of reading week, it is specifically Spring Fling.

AAC:

OEAC:

David: the website looks really great. Who is currently running the Twitter?

Ali: I really like the chat with the President and Vice-President

SBC:

Benedict: I think a WSA discussion of why and whether we fund the yearbook is in order.

Dave: is the \$9000 of funds that could be reclaimed already done?

EC:

Mike: Our WSA endowment is doing really well!!! We'll talk about it in more detail next week.

Chris: the most successful third of our investment was the PIMCO investment, and the least was the Wesleyan endowment.

Mike: we are also going to look into some of the all campus emails that were sent out.

7) New Business and Announcements

Phil: I think that not signing from the assembly as some mails were this week, is a step in the right direction.

David: I really think that we should have some sort of seal or something for documents and things that come out of the WSA.

Amy: I think there should be some sort of coordination with a group from the WSA and the SJB.

Bradley: one of the co-chairs of the SJB is really adamant about reopening the ties with the WSA. And we are too, so hopefully this will happen.

Mike: Last year, we did have a couple of meetings with them. We will begin a review of the code of non-academic conduct soon.

Ali: as mentioned in Jen's committee report, 'waste not' is happening. If you live in a dorm, there will be a roped off area where you can keep things out of the rubbish bin, and then sell it back to the Wes community. Housing will be provided during senior week.

Ben: is anyone still curious about what is going on with the summer programs?

Saul: I forgot to say, the banner is temporary. I can't put of a clear picture of us because you would all need to sign waivers. If anyone has pictures of campus they want to use, let me know.

Karl: as a technicality, can we cal the WSA a show, then we won't need to sign anything?

Lianna: the individual pictures of committee members, are you still looking for them?

Chris: symbolism is dead to benedict. ALL CAMPUS CAPTURE THE FLAG.

Mike: Welcome back from spring break. Member of the Week: Charlie for all his work with music.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meherazade Sumariwalla '12

COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM THE WEEK 03.01.09 – 03.07.09

Community Outreach Committee

PSAC

Block Party

We've just learned that there will be no open containers of alcohol allowed about the party, and would like to discuss with the general assembly whether we want to continue with this.

We're working with the senior class gift chairs on the event. They've been especially helpful with the sound part of the event, and would like to raise some funds with the event.

We will be getting permission from residents on the street to have the block party, and then our permit will be processed

The PSAFE department is going to have an external review on campus this spring.

Awards

The Cardinal Community Awards nomination form will be online soon, and announced shortly afterwards. We've combined one award with one of the SALD awards.

Meet and Greet with Public Safety

Brian Langenmyer is heading this up. We're going to do a lot more outreach to specific groups of students in order to have a better turnout.

Name	Meeting 5	Meeting 6
Elise Rosenthal	P	P
Phillip Ross	P	P
Justin LaSelva	P	P
Michelle Garcia	P	P
Liana Woskie	P	P
Sylvie Stein	P	P

Finance and Facilities

Recycling and Waste

- Waste Not has begun!
- will be storing stuff in Mocon, will include program houses
- Continued discussions about paper towel removal
- We use 727 miles of paper towels per year in dorms alone (that's from here to Dayton, Ohio).
- Looking into ways to make paper towels available if needed
- RAs will have them, will still be in public dorm bathrooms

Dining

- Reusable containers at Summerfields starting Monday
- Please sign up and tell all of your friends

Transportation

- New Haven Shuttle
- Sunday time now changed to 5:00 departure from New Haven
- Storage Shuttle proposal
- Continuing to discuss logistics, will survey students to gauge interest
- Shuttle to JFK for summer break
- will survey students to gauge interest
- Parking fee for next year will definitely be \$45/semester, \$75/year

Usdan Advisory

- More photo art added to meeting rooms

Student Affairs Committee

Undergraduate Residential Life Committee (URLC)

On March 3 the URLC discussed and provided feedback on ResLife's "Learning Outcomes," a list of behaviors/qualities that ResLife hopes students get out of their ResLife experience – they were inspired by Wesleyan's "Key Capabilities" and discussed how to quantify this.

We also discussed common area damage fines in the specific instance that the cost of repair is lower than the designated fine. We proposed that in such a case the hall/building be charged the lower number. This week we got a response from Physical Plant – they intend to keep the fines as is because of "hidden costs," such as administrative costs in preparing a fine.

Residence hall open houses, as proposed in the URLC last semester, are happening! On Friday there was an open house at Hewitt, Hi and Lo Rise and this Friday there will be one at the Nics, Butts, and 156 High.

The ResLife website is in the process of getting some updates – nearly all program house floorplans are now up, updated photos are in progress, adjoining doors in the Nics and Hewitt are now noted as either a single or two room double, what is considered class appropriate is noted, and they are even working on indicating direction (N/S/E/W) in case the way the sunlight comes in is important to you!

The WasteNot program will be collecting items from residence halls at the end of the year (old furniture, clothes, etc.). It will all be stored on Mocon. As a result we will no longer have PODs.

This week we discussed the process for reporting concerns with an RA. In the past there was no official language anywhere, but the practice was to meet with your AC. Now we hope to create a form that a student can fill out with their complaint that will go directly to their AC. They will then be contacted by them to set up a meeting to discuss the problem.

Finally we discussed AT&T service. If anyone has any feedback please share it! This year you will be able to sign up for cable during GRS so it is installed before you even get to campus!

There is also talk of a cheaper cable package (\$20 + installation fee for 30 channels), but we are not sure if AT&T will be able to roll it out in time, so at the very least it will be available in two years. This year at the end of the year there will be days where you can turn in your cable box and get your service cancelled.

SLC

On March 5 we discussed the status of the plan for the proposed increase in student enrollment. The administration is working on ways to make both academics and housing work with an increased student body size. More details to follow as this plan is finalized.

This week we discussed the work that has come out of the Social Event Policy subcommittee. The committee proposed that spontaneous events be permitted in woodframes and backyards with up to 75 people (although only 50 would still be permitted in the house due to fire codes). Alcohol equivalent to one keg or less would be permitted although must be monitored and someone must step forward as a host if Public Safety visits the event.

The proposal was generally well received, although some issues remain. The administration would like these events to be registered. The subcommittee will continue to work out the problems.

SLC Subcommittees

note: these are all ongoing discussions and nothing in here is final yet

Hand Held & Temporary Cameras – we have worked with Dave Meyer to modify the existing policy. We have developed some language and disagree on two points – the use of hand-held cameras as a deterrent and the use of hand-held camera footage in the SJB. Also we have developed a Digital Camera Policy.

Code of Non-Academic Conduct Enforcement – we are considering ways to document student non-compliance that most clearly demonstrate a PSafe officer's intentions. Becky worked with Dave Meyer to review PSafe's private standard operating procedures in order to collect information that would be helpful to students that isn't currently available in a public document, such as PSafe protocol in response to a noise complaint. PSAC will be helping PSafe to update their website with this information. Finally, Dave is writing the philosophy of PSafe and will put pictures and bios of PSafe officers on the PSafe website.

Social Event Policy – see SLC.

Education – is planning a campaign to educate students about their rights and responsibilities. More details in the near future.

Social Spaces – is discussing ways to create more spaces on campus for students to gather. They are looking in to the possibility of reserving outdoor spaces, having “after parties” in Usdan, creating a BYOB location on campus, using the land behind Long Lane for events, and institutionalizing a fall event like Spring Fling. Tim Shiner has reserved spaces in Beckham and the DFC for student groups to hold events during reading and finals week.

AOD Core Committee

The committee met before break. Unfortunately a lot of members were unable to make the meeting and we really just shared updates.

Fire Safety

Becky met with Joyce Topshe, Associate VP for Facilities, and Fran Koerting, Director of ResLife. We discussed ways to improve the student-Fire Safety relationship and general Fire Safety practices.

Some excellent progress was made:

It was agreed that students will be able to work off their fines by working for Physical Plant rather than have to pay them off – in the past this option was only offered to students with extremely high fines.

Second, major improvements were made regarding respect of student privacy. In the past many students were caught in uncomfortable situations when Fire Safety entered their room. From now on room inspectors will knock and announce that they are Fire Safety and will be entering the room, wait a little and knock again, wait 30 seconds and then finally announce themselves once more and enter the room.

There are still some issues that we will continue to work on:

We’d like to see drastic reductions in fines, which are generally higher than those at our peer institutions.

And we’d like students to receive advanced notice of inspections or have officially scheduled inspections in order to protect student privacy.

Name	SAC	SLC
Adam Ilowite	P	P
David Goldman	P	P
Jaynice DelRosario	P	P
Karl Grindal	P	P
Micah Feiring	P	P
Morgan Mc Cray	P	P
Becky Weiss	P	P

Academic Affairs Committee

The Educational Policy Committee Resumed its meetings this week.

We discussed a proposal from a group of faculty, led by Barry Chernoff to create an Environmental Studies (ENVS) Major

The proposed major is an interdisciplinary “linked major,” meaning it requires students to also major in a second department or program.

The ENVS linked major would not replace the Environmental Studies certificate

We also received a report on GLSP.

The Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC) had its first meeting this past Monday. Cordelia Blanchard, who chairs the committee, will present several issues, including how library budget cuts might affect students for discussion in General Assembly

OEAC

WSA website launching this week – you can view it at wsa.wesleyan.edu. Saul will be doing a Blogger Training session on Thursday at 9pm in the WSA office/Usdan 104. Everyone who might be interested in blogging on the WSA homepage should come!

Constitutional Review as usual.

Executive Committee

All campus email policy

There were a few all campus emails which were signed “Wesleyan Student Assembly”, though they were only read over by a few members of EC – in the future, emails which take a position on an issue or have other implications won’t be signed “Wesleyan Student Assembly”, but will either have the name of the person(s) sending it or no name at all

The WSA Endowment Committee met and received an update on the status of our Endowment Compared to the rest of the market, we are doing extremely well.

Name	EC 3/26
Saul Carlin	P
Bradley Spahn	P
Benedict Bernstein	P
Chris Goy	P
Elise Rosenthal	P
Becky Weiss	P
Jen Liebschutz	P