Wentworth Student Government- General Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 3, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: 610 Huntington Avenue, 4th Floor Conference Room (610HA 440)

Our Mission: The purpose of WSG is to act as a conduit between the students, faculty, and staff of Wentworth Institute of Technology; to encourage responsibility through democratic self-governance; to work with the administration to influence educational programs, student life, and administrative management of the Institute; and to further the interests of the student body.

I. Opening

II. Attendance

a. Carissa Durfee, Anette Balestrand, Nicholas Cole, Corrinne O’Neil, Nick Torres, Brendan Cioto, TJ Liveston, Joe Kobrianos, Jesus Rivera, Kevin Ung, Leslie De Leon, Tanner Jones, Russell Fidelman, Jonathan Lindblad, Nick Martin, Susan Needleman, Katie McCarthy, Austin Chaffee, Samuel Kim, Brian Conway, Sean Paradis, Patrick Schultz

III. Approval of Last Week's Minutes

a. Approved

IV. Special Guests

a. President Zorica Pantić
   i. Dr. Pantić likes to meet with WSG at least once a year to present and discuss the different events and happenings going on around Wentworth’s campus. This is her way of catching up with the Student Government and reaching out to the student body.
   ii. General Campus Updates:
      1. Working on building student involvement
      2. New campus manufacturing center
      3. Goal: More involvement and spirit going around campus
      4. WIT is growing; we were recently recognized for our quality of education.
      5. WIT is #17 in the northern region colleges
   iii. Dr. Pantić Mission for WIT Students
      1. Professional Knowledge
      2. Technology Skills
      3. Entrepreneurial Leadership
   iv. Academic and Student Excellence
      1. New engineering programs offered
      2. Outreach programs
         a. Community Colleges
         b. High Schools
      3. Support for student success
         a. Low teacher to student ratio in classes
         b. Experimental learning
         c. Co-op and international programs
      4. The number of clubs is increasing daily on campus; which is showing an increase of student involvement.
      5. WIT had over 100,000 hours of service last year. Great for a small school, we are even out-servicing some of the larger schools as well.
      6. There has been an increase of international students attending WIT
      7. WIT has a 94% job placement rate
         a. Among top 10 in the North East
         b. Among top 3 engineering schools in Mass; only behind MIT and WPI
8. WIT cooperates with various companies to help develop student’s curriculum.

v. Institutional Master Plan
1. All campus projects (new centers and buildings) are expected to be finished by next Fall.

vi. Alumni relations
1. Great program and growing involvement.
2. Dr. Pantić has traveled to many different places fundraising for the new developments on campus.
3. This year’s donation amount and the number of donators have doubled.

vii. Wentworth Student Government
1. Reestablished in 2003, and has made a great amount of progress since.
2. WSG is in place to help organize open forums, make changes to benefit students, and plays a key role on campus.

b. Dean of Students Annamaria Wenner
   i. What are some Wentworth traditions?
   1. Traditions build community on college campus’
   2. WIT is lacking school spirit
   3. Most WIT event/traditions that are well known on campus are tied in with COF events
   4. WIT Spirit Day has been around for the last 3 years
      a. Grow on this event
   5. Bring back Founder’s day? April 4th/14th?
   6. Ice sculpture contest
   7. Beaux Arts Ball
   8. One thing that may contribute to the lack of WIT spirit is that students are focused on their rigorous academic schedule and work. This leaves little room for extracurricular activities. Maybe have specific events for the different colleges.
   9. Some believe that WIT advertises itself as a professional development school, focusing on learning concentrated majors. This may be a contributing factor to the lack of WIT spirit, having the type of student attend WIT that only wants to focus on a particular aspect of higher education. Maybe WIT can advertise more of a community based and well-rounded school to get more involved students attending WIT.
   10. Opportunity based events may be very successful at WIT because of the type of students that attend here.

   ii. Academics and the WIT Structure
   1. Some majors having too many credits squeezed into 4 or 5 years. They are working on a restructure of the curriculum to give students less of a crazy schedule. This may encourage more students to be involved outside of their academics.
   2. Interdisciplinary projects
   3. The two graduation dates cause a separation in senior Spirit.
   4. Engineering and computer projects displayed around campus like the design projects.
   5. The separation of co-op times may also cause separations between the different majors. This is structured this way to give more opportunities to students during the off seasons of other schools.

V. Co-Sponsorship Requests

VI. E-Board Updates
   a. President (Anette Balestrand, balestranda)
i. Anette met with Patrick Hafford, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and he is working on getting a representative from his college to join WSG. A representative will hopefully be appointed in the near future.

b. Vice President (Nicholas Cole, colen1)
   i. No updates at this time.

c. Secretary (Corrinne O’Neil, oneilc1)
   i. Corrinne had the Attendance Policy Agreement available for those eligible members to sign at this week’s meeting. If you did not get a copy, she will have them available at next week’s meeting as well.

d. Treasurer (Vacant)
   i. The application deadline has been moved back another week, and are now due by next Wednesday (11/9). The application can be found on OrgSync.
   ii. Budget Update

   1. Co-Sponsorship: $3,150.00
   2. WSG’s Personal Budget: $3,108.17

e. Public Relations (Nick Torres, torresn1)
   i. No updates at this time.

f. Student Affairs (Brendan Cioto, ciotob)
   i. Brendan will be following up on the construction tour dates with Annamaria and will get back to us next week.

g. Academic Affairs (TJ Liveston, livestont)
   i. No updates at this time.

VII. Representatives of the Colleges

a. The College of Arts and Sciences (Vacant)

b. The College of Architecture, Design, and Construction Management (Vacant)

c. The College of Engineering and Technology (Jon Lindblad, lindbladj)
   i. The open house for this college will be held on November 30th 2011 in the new manufacturing center in the basement of Williston Hall. John is working with various professors to have demos and presentation tools for this forum.

d. The College of Professional and Continuing Education (Brandon Fernald)
   i. No updates at this time.

VIII. Representative Updates

a. Information Systems Advisory Committee (Vacant)
   i. Student Representative Needed!

b. Academic Technology Advisory Committee (Vacant)
   i. Student Representative Needed!

c. Laptop Committee (Nicholas Cole, colen1)
   i. There was a meeting this week for the laptop committee; Nick just needs to follow up with Tony Tanzi on a few things before giving WSG the full committee update.

d. Commuters (Susan Needleman, needlemans)
   i. Mallory is looking to find other ways to get more support for commuters on campus. She is currently looking for an assistant in the form of a student leadership position.
   ii. The tent on the quad will be taken down on the day of the topping off ceremony of the Flanagan Campus Center on November 18th. Susan is asking if anyone had any suggestions for what could replace the space of the tent, a place for commuters to hang out.
   iii. The minutes from Susan’s meetings with Mallory is attached in the email along with the WSG minutes.

e. Colleges of the Fenway (C.T. Hannon, hannonc1)
   i. No updates at this time.

f. Division of Technology Services (Brian Conway, conwayb1)
   i. No updates at this time.

Next General Meeting – November 10, 2011, 6:00 PM in 610 Huntington Avenue, 4th Floor Conference Room
g. Center for Community & Learning Partnerships (Corrine O’Neil, oneilc1)
   i. Corrine will have an update with the information on the upcoming Fall Service Days (11/15, 11/19) at next week’s meeting.

IX. Old Business
   a. Chartwells
      i. The meeting regarding Chartwells and their catering policies was originally scheduled for 11/3, but was postponed, and there will be more updates on this subject at next week’s meeting.
      ii. Chartwells Plan of Action
          1. WSG representatives meet with Chartwells, Business Services, Annamaria, and others if needed, to discuss all of the issues that have been brought to WSG
          2. A Chartwells Open Forum that is open to everyone on campus. Chartwells, Business services, and the Administration will hopefully all be attending this forum, so that the meeting is in balance and will be as fair as can be.
   b. Smoking Policy
      i. This issue was discussed fully at last week’s general meeting.
      ii. Brendan and Kevin will bring the information to housing and will see what can be done about this issue. Also, Brendan will bring up the issue at the next meeting he has with Annamaria.
      iii. Is there a way to enforce the authority of the students who ask others to put out their cigarettes when they are in the non-smoking parts of campus?
      iv. What are the smoke free zones, and can they be pointed out better to the students?

X. Time with Carissa
   a. Carissa is proud of WSG’s development this semester. The smoking policy was sent out as a personal message because of an issue brought to WSG was acted on, and discussed.
   b. Carissa would like to emphasize that everyone at Wentworth has the right to speak up and discuss an issue that is bothering or affecting them in some way. No one should feel it is not their place to say something.

XI. New Business
   a. Sunday’s (11/6) Open House
      i. Time: 9:45am – 2:00pm
      ii. Volunteers: Sam K., Kevin U., Brian C., Nick T., Jesus R., Nick C.

XII. Adjournment