General Meeting of Wentworth Student Government – March 24, 2011

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Board of Trustees Room, Beatty Hall (BEATT 103)

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
   a. In the absence of President Joe Kobrianos, Vice President Anette Balestrand chairs the meeting and opens at 6:02 PM.

II. Attendance
   a. E-Board: Carissa Durfee (Advisor); Anette Balestrand; Nicholas Cole; Katie McCarthy; Nick Torres; Brendan Cioto; TJ Liveston
   b. Members: Leslie De Leon; Alejandra Garcia; C.T. Hannon; Tanner Jones; Ruslan Khachatrian; Nick Martin; Susan Needleman; Corrinne O'Neil; Viana Reyes; Jesus Rivera
   c. Excused Absent: Joe Kobrianos; Luke Seiferth; Spencer Seiferth

III. Approval of March 17's Minutes
   a. Nick Torres motions to approve the minutes and Nick Martin seconds. The motion passes.

IV. Co-Sponsorship Requests
   a. No requests were received.

V. Time with Carissa
   a. When you're discussing the Constitution and possible changes, make sure you focus on the future, be objective, and that any changes address the disease, not the symptom. Don't be afraid to make changes to the Constitution – it should be a solid document, but still updating whenever needed to serve the organization and student body.
   b. The Women's Leadership Dinner is Thursday, March 31st from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in 610 Lobby. RSVP to leadership@wit.edu to reserve a spot.
   c. The 15th Anniversary of the Colleges of the Fenway is Tuesday, March 29th. Come through Beatty Lobby beginning at 2:00 PM to celebrate with a free slice of cake.

VI. E-Board Updates
   a. President (Joe Kobrianos)
      i. Strategic Planning / Dance Marathon – Thank you to everyone who participated!
      ii. Elections applications are due next Thursday, March 31st at 5:00 PM. Campaigns last April 1st through April 17th, and voting happens April 18th through April 20th. Check out the website for the application form and information packet, and contact Joe, Katie, or Carissa with any questions.
      iii. Paragon Awards nominations are due March 25 and the event is April 13. Annual Awards nominations are due April 1 and the event is April 21.
   b. Vice President (Anette Balestrand)
      i. Getting DTS a list about project due dates. TJ will bring it up with the Provost?
   c. Secretary (Nicholas Cole)
      i. If you are going to be absent or even late, please email Nicholas or the WSG email before the meeting, preferably more than an hour before the meeting.
   d. Treasurer (Katie McCarthy)
      i. Katie sent out another email to those who requested sweatshirts but have not paid yet. Please do so by March 28th or they will be made available to any E-Board and general members who are interested.

Your Voice, Our Mission...

Next General Meeting – March 31, 2011, 6:00 PM in the Board of Trustees Room
ii. The budget meeting is next Thursday, March 31st from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Katie will email the selected people tonight with more details.

iii. $330 remains in the co-sponsorship budget and ~$2,700 remains in our personal budget.

e. Public Relations (Nick Torres)

i. Other documents are temporarily removed from the website while designing a cover sheet for the files.

f. Student Affairs (Brendan Cioto)

i. Brendan met with Annamaria Wenner today. Highlights:

1. Regarding duplicate and other personal messages issues: they will soon be moving to a system of daily updates with all messages in one digest, so it’s not worth the time or money to educate and train people when that change is about to be made anyway. She will send an email to the people with that responsibility as a reminder and explanation of how to send announcements correctly.

2. Regarding LConnect: she will talk to DTS about that.

3. She would like to host open discussions on how each section of the student body (residents, commuters, etc.) will be impacted by the construction and hopes WSG will offer its support. They’re figuring out timeline and logistics right now and want to make sure share that information with the community. (Where is information already communicated? There’s a tab on LConnect, but how often is it used?)

g. Academic Affairs (TJ Liveston)

i. TJ hasn’t gotten in contact with the Provost yet, assuming it would be better to wait until after Saturday’s strategic planning meeting. He will ask about the new registration system that was supposed to come online (this spring or next spring?), registration issues, and registration-specific personal messages.

VII. Representatives Updates

a. Information Systems Advisory Committee (Corrinne O’Neil)

i. The committee meeting is next Wednesday, March 30th.

b. Academic Technology Advisory Committee (Nicholas Cole)

i. The committee meeting is next Monday, March 28th.

c. Laptop Committee (Nicholas Cole)

i. The laptop committee held its meeting this Tuesday, March 22nd. Specifications for laptops to be tested were discussed. Both Apple and Lenovo offer two different configurations:

1. Both MacBook Pros are the 15” model with a Core i7 processor, 4GB RAM, and 500GB hard drive. Differences between the two models are processor speed (2.0 GHz vs. 2.2 GHz) and available video memory (256 MB vs. 1 GB).

2. Similarly, both Lenovo ThinkPads are the W520 model with a 15.6” display, Core i7 processor, and 2GB available video memory. Differences between the two models are processor speed (2.0 GHz vs. 2.2 GHz) and hard drive (320 GB vs. 500 GB). Another difference between the W520 and previous models is the increased power adapter size (170W).

3. Though processor speeds are lower across all four configurations compared to previous generations, they are actually quad-core processors.

4. Apple has switched to AMD graphics cards and Lenovo to NVIDIA.

ii. There is a concern about Lenovo’s internal distribution network because of the situation in Japan, but it is uncertain whether that will turn out to be a problem.

d. Commuters (Susan Needleman)

i. The commuter lunch was successful, with about 90 people showing.

ii. From speaking with commuters, common feedback was the desire for more commuter events, but no one was sure what kinds of events. An idea raised was to come up with different types of events – not necessarily specific ideas – and see what they like. That
way, it would then be easier to come up with ideas. Emmanuel has a commuter club so that might be something to consider doing next year (as its own organization, not a sub-committee).

iii. Another concern was having a printer available in lower Beatty.

e. Center for Teaching and Learning (Susan Needleman)
   i. Thanks to Nick T. and Leslie for working the booth! The CTL thought there was a great turnout between both events.

f. Colleges of the Fenway (C.T. Hannon)
   i. The committee is still trying to schedule a meeting; the current tentative date is the second week of April.
   ii. Please contact C.T. with any feedback you may have on the 15th Anniversary event ideas. He’s heard from two people, only one of which is in WSG.
   iii. Concern raised: if a student is cross-registered and has a documented disability at their home school, can they get accommodations at the guest school also? C.T. will bring this up at the meeting.

g. Club Athletics (Spencer Seiferth) – No update.

h. Electronics/Mechanical (Jon Lindblad)
   i. Notes from the March 17th open forum will be posted in a separate document to the website.

VIII. Old Business

a. Charity / Community Service Event (Katie McCarthy, Anette Balestrand)
   i. Will people be able to attend? By show of hands it looks like several people could attend an event on a Sunday afternoon.
   ii. We’re still waiting to hear back from Kayla MacGregor and Marie Powers, but the tentative date is April 10th.

b. Laptops (Nicholas Cole)
   i. Anthony Tanzi would like to get in contact with laptop testers who are selected to give them an update on our progress. Laptops should arrive the first week of April with testing to hopefully start the following week.

c. WSG Constitution
   i. Some ideas and thoughts raised at this meeting for possible constitutional changes:
      1. Remarks from Susan Needleman:
         a. Article III, Section C lists "Attend all WSG Board meetings" as one of the responsibilities of membership. This should be clarified to mean general meetings.
         b. Article III, Section D, Clause 2 states that "Members of the General Board have full voting rights." This should be clarified to explain how votes are passed (majority, two-thirds, etc.).
         c. Candidates should be required to make a video speech available through the website and Facebook Page, at least one week prior to elections, so that students may familiarize themselves with candidates.
         d. Co-sponsorship requests are not mentioned in the constitution except under the responsibilities of the Treasurer.

      2. Remarks from Nicholas Cole:
         a. Elections procedures should be incorporated into the Constitution as opposed to being a separate document.
         b. Membership should be defined for a specific length of time with explanations of when membership may carry over between semesters and academic years. (The attendance policy as a whole needs updated and expanded.)

      3. Remarks from T.J. Liveston:
a. Regarding co-sponsorship requests, E-Board members may not present co-sponsorship requests on behalf of other organizations. Groups that an E-Board member if a member of may still present.

ii. If you made or believe in any of these changes, please put them in writing so that a motion may be put forward at next week’s meeting, and possibly voted on by the following meeting. It is important for motions to be put in writing so that it is understood exactly what change you think should be made and they can be communicated to the membership for (formal) discussion.

d. WSG Formal End-of-the-Year Banquet (Anette Balestrand, Katie McCarthy)
   i. The banquet will be Thursday, April 14th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. More details to come as we finalize everything in the next week or two. If you are interested in bringing a guest, please let us know.

IX. New Business
   a. A comment is made that the television in Beatty Cafeteria is usually showing something like Dr. Phil or Jerry Springer. The remote is in the SLP Office so either workers or students are probably changing the channel manually.

X. Special Guest
   a. There was not a guest at this week’s meeting.

XI. Adjournment
   a. Nick Torres motions to close the meeting and Susan Needleman seconds. The motion passes and the meeting adjourns at 7:00 PM.

Minutes approved by Anette Balestrand on Tuesday, March 29, 2011.