



Guided by integrity and respect, we, the Associated Students of Whitworth University, strive to inspire and support the diverse student body to live holistically, embrace resilience, and cultivate an inclusive community. Through open hearts and minds, we aim to lead authentically and advocate on behalf of student voices. Underpinned by empathy, our goal is to foster a dynamic culture wherein honesty thrives, equity is nurtured, and civil discourse prospers, creating a sense of belonging and well-being.

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### 2023-24 ASWU Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

#### Executive Members:

Georgia Goff   President	PRESENT
Grace Johnson   Vice President	PRESENT
Michael Stavridis   Financial Director	PRESENT
Jamie Gassman   Communications Director	ABSENT

#### Coordinators:

Kenzie Quinn   Campus Activities Coordinator	PRESENT
Gwen Brantner   Club Coordinator	PRESENT
Reeshika Sharma   Cultural Events Coordinator	PRESENT
Samie Schaffer   Senior Class Coordinator	PRESENT
Angel Ainembabazi   Spiritual Life Coordinator	PRESENT
Talea Blasko   Sustainability Coordinator	PRESENT
Grace Uppendahl   Traditional Events Coordinator	ABSENT

#### Senators:

Jennedy Cruz Hernandez   Arend Senator	PRESENT
Eleanor Bonikowsky   Ballard Senator	PRESENT
Emery Sparwasser   Baldwin Jenkins Senator	PRESENT
Joie Kane   Boppell Senator	PRESENT
Austin Wolfe   Duvall Senator	PRESENT
Niraj Pandey   International Student Senator	PRESENT
Matthew White   McMillan Senator	PRESENT
Bobbi Jo Crittenden   Off-Campus Senator	PRESENT
Stephanie Fery   Oliver Senator	PRESENT
Eli Harris   StewVille Senator	PRESENT

#### Representative:

Aubrey Lathrom   Incoming Student Representative	PRESENT
Isabella Martinez   Incoming Student Representative	PRESENT
Zeke Taton   Neighborhoods Senator Representative	PRESENT
Abi Prather   Off Campus Representative	PRESENT
Davis Campbell   Off Campus Representative	PRESENT
Hui Yi Soh   Off Campus Representative	PRESENT
Rylee Baratone   Off Campus Representative	PRESENT

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Meeting brought to order at 5:01pm

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**Mission statement read by Eli**

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**Minutes Approval**

Motioned to approve by Bobbi Jo

Seconded by Eli

Favor: 16 | Opposed: 0 | Abstained: 0

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**What's Up Whitworth**

Kenzie: If you're wondering why I am dressed so fancy to the ASWU meeting, today is Featured Firsts. If you're not doing anything after the ASWU meeting you should come. I directed it and put so much work into it. It'll be a lot of fun. There will be 6 short scenes. It will be an hour and 20 minutes total. Opens at 7:00pm and starts at 7:30pm. It's free. It's on Stage 2. If you're not there, I will be sad.

Todd: Hey everyone. Please make sure you're checking your Teams on the daily basis. There's important information on there. You all are good at Whatsapp, but make sure you're checking teams consistently.

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**Student Highlight**

Grace J: Hi everyone! Today's student highlight is Chin Michiosy. We want to recognize him for his help during Reeshika's Diwali event. We appreciate the extra hands, especially from those not in ASWU. Also, special shoutout to Seth Miller, he helped a lot as well, but we have already had him as our student highlight.

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**Club Updates****Human Performance Club**

Michaela: We had our first club meeting, we had 25 in attendance which was awesome because we had 25 on our interest list initially. We have an event coming up and we are doing a Gonzaga tour of their facility. We also have a meeting where we will be voting for t-shirt designs, voting for membership, and playing human performance trivia. We Started with 25 on our email list and now we are at 80.

Matthew: When was that Gonzaga event?

Michaela: The 15<sup>th</sup>.

Georgia: Would you be the main contact for the club?

Michaela: Yes.

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**Speaker Proposals****Turning Point USA – Brandon Tatum**

Gwen: Because these speakers go to the club committee, we have the power to deny it coming to you altogether. We decided the concerns would be better brought to constituents and to the ASWU assembly. We did see some concerns however. He said that homosexuality comes from sexual lust not love, and results from being molested or exposed to pornography as children. He has a series of videos in which he publicly mocks transgender individuals, and he consistently disrespects transgender individuals in his articles by referring to them by their deadnames, incorrect pronouns and giving in depth discussions as to why he thinks they're in the wrong and

should not exist. When we make decisions on whether or not to approve, we use a list of considerations about the speaker and whether or not they would be in any violation of them or in violation to Whitworth's mission. We found him in violation of one of the considerations. This is what it says. "Whether the speaker has a history of abuse or threats against an identifiable person or community of people in a derogatory fashion based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual relationship status, physical or mental disability, military status, genetic information, or other protected status." While he is not scheduled to talk about any of these things, we thought it was important to note this to be aware of how this may effect students.

Mazie: We want to bring Brandon to have him tell his story on being a conservative and how to find truth in the media when the media is hyped up to be something that it may not be. Here is some background on Brandon. He is a former Tuscon police officer, he has become one of the most exciting personalities on social media, after making a Facebook video that has gotten over 70 million views. He has been featured on Fox Business, Fox with Friends, Headline news, the Alex Jones Show, and more. He is currently the spokesperson for the conservative tribune which is one of the most popular online media outlets. He has an active media following due to his dynamic personality, authentic message, and his natural ability to relate to the everyday American. He got a start as an all American highschool football player at Fort Worth, Texas. He was feautred in U.S. Army All American Game which features top highschool football players in the nation. Tatum accepted a full ride scholarship from the University of Arizona in 2005. He was in that for 5 years, and then he entered the NFL draft. God had other plans for Tatum and so he became a police officer. In 2016, he became popular for viral videos for social issues, politics and law enforcement. In 2017, Tatum made another ultra viral video that broke the internet. He gave his critique about Colin Kapernik taking a knee during the national anthem. It got as many views as the 2017 NFL Superbowl. He followed his passion to speak the truth full time and left law enforcement. I want ASWU to look at this speaker with an open heart and open mind. Having conversations with others that don't align with their views is important. He wants to talk and interact with people of all views. Thank you for you consideration in bringing conservative voices to campus.

Gwen: Now open to any questions from the assembly.

Bella: What is TPUSA? I'm a first year.

Mazie: Turning Point USA. Started by Charlie Kirk.

Bella: So from this speaker you said it's in violation of Whitworth?

Gwen: In violation of considerations that we use for club speakers. We chose not to deny him at our level because we felt this was worthy to bring to the assembly.

Bella: Oh okay.

Zeke: With balancing these different ideas, what steps would be taken to ensure the safety of LGBTQ+ students should he be approved to speak?

Mazie: We will be in charge of discussion, and will be facilitiating that. When we have the Q&A discussion, we will stop anything like that. But also if we are getting attacked too we will pull it.

Michael: What form is he using to come? Speaking at people? Active Q &A? Talk?

Mazie: He's going to share his story and then have a Q&A?

Michael: So you guys will moderate the Q&A?

Mazie: Yes.

Abi: Is he just sharing his life story? Or do you know what exactly he will be talking about?

Mazie: He will be sharing his life story.

Abi: So do you know what exactly?

Mazie: No. I know he's going to be talking about media and picking truth out of media. That's what I know. And also his experience being a black conservative.

Michael: Will there be an opportunity for the members of TPUSA to get some idea of what he is going to talk about? Any specifics so there's no curveballs thrown in after he's been approved?

Mazie: They haven't really been in contact with me because we weren't going to bring him because of time constraint if he wasn't going to be approved in time.

Georgia: You mentioned other folks from the organization are coming. Who?

Mazie: His manager, sound people, and people that monitor him.

Georgia: Will there be recording?

Mazie: We haven't discussed but we want to record. We would have a disclaimer.

Chris: I'm a staff member and I don't want to speak out of turn or anything like that, but I'm asking for permission to speak.

Georgia: Yeah, go ahead.

Chris: Are you the chair of the Club Committee?

Gwen: Yes, I am the chair.

Chris: You started off your statement with the words abuse and threats. Can you explain how his words and his social media presence have caused abuse and threats and what your definitions of those things are? It's words, it's speech, it's expression, it's not physical harm.

Gwen: I think the threat part is difficult to define because everyone has different beliefs. What we had a problem with is not respecting individuals by not using their chosen pronouns. We thought that's something you should do regardless of if you agree with it or not.

Chris: You can't tell someone what they have to say. That's speech.

Gwen: The other thing is he said LGBTQ people should not exist. Ultimately the reasons that you're bringing up is why we brought it to ASWU. We thought it was just important to consider in terms of his history on social media. We thought students may feel unsafe if he was brought to campus so we wanted to bring that up. That is why we passed it to ASWU folks.

Chris: Just to explain myself a little bit. I am a retired veteran. I signed up to die on the line at one point. Whitworth's track record on allowing speakers here has been poor. I would say in recent years. Shutting people down is not a good tactic. Allowing them to speak and challenging them. Go ask hard questions. That's the whole part of civil discourse. It's the point of this university. You guys are here to learn. You may not like it, you may disagree and you may walk away and nothing has changed but at least you have this free exchange of ideas. But when you don't allow somebody to come and speak, that's not right. It may be hard. But no matter the result there may be growth.

Abi: I respect that opinion. However, we have youtube, we have the internet. We are allowed to and we know so many different opinions. Another thing is that abuse doesn't have to be physical. Verbal abuse is valid and very prevalent.

Chris: Is that according to someone here on campus? Do you have freedom of choice to attend or not attend?

Abi: Are you saying that if he says abusive words to someone present, that that's not abuse? Because you said people should go.

Chris: That's a challenge. If people's feelings are hurt, that's part of growth and that happens.

Abi: Do you think abuse is part of growth?

Chris: You are using that word. I...

Abi: But do you think verbal abuse is valid?

Chris: No. It's a different definition of abuse.

Abi: But that's the same th...

Chris: Well when we talk about harm. What is harm? There's a lot of dependents and variables as to what harm is. Is it hurt feelings? It's speech. The recipient decides how they take it. If Brandon jumps out of line, we have ground rules and civil discourse.

Abi: So you would stop it if there was abuse?

Chris: Yes.

Abi: I just thought that was a very interesting point to say that verbal abuse isn't abuse.

Georgia: One point that I just want to make super quickly is the whole point of the meeting tonight is just to learn a little bit about the speakers. What we should be doing from here on out after this meeting is talking to constituents. Learn about what they have to say. Have these conversations with them. Ultimately you'll be voting on behalf of them. Please make sure you're doing that. Not just for this club but for any club. This is our first speaker request of the year so just as a reminder as well that this is your job to be having these conversations with constituents and voting on their behalf. Does that make sense to everybody?

Gwen: That is why we brought it to ASWU in the first place.

Niraj: We can talk here all night long but we need to think about our constituency. Our criteria for abuse is specific to our constituencies and on behalf of our mission statement which is there to protect our students holistically. That comes with a broad definition of what abuse and harm is. Just putting it out there.

Gwen: Any other questions for TPUSA?

Angel: I was just wondering how this would be helpful for students who are progressive or who are figuring it out?

Mazie: When he talks about the media aspect, that would be helpful for every party. He'll probably encourage everyone to watch multiple news outlets, regardless of party.

Niraj: What qualifications does he have to comment on media? Just his personal opinion? Empirical background? Anecdotal background?

Mazie: It's what he learned as an adult. He has also had heavy presence in media. He's had discernment to not just follow one avenue of media.

Niraj: So you would say anecdotal?

Reeshika: When would he speak?

Maizie: November 30th.

Georgia: Where?

Mazie: We are trying to book RTT but we have the MPR currently.

Georgia: Is it open to Whitworth students or community members as well?

Mazie: We want it open to community members also.

Michael: For those that do not want to be videotaped, can you not go?

Mazie: We may do like a green room or spare room to watch, you would just not be able to participate.

Davis: More of a comment. This is an amazing opportunity to bring in a different opinion. It's not a forced event. Discourse is encouraged. Opportunity to learn more or to stay away.

Georgia: Okay, talk to constituents. Mazie will be here next week.

### **Network of Enlightened Women – Mary Karp**

Gwen: We didn't have stand out issues. We had some questions. She is talking about the conflict in Israel and Palestine. Is she acknowledging both sides of the conflict or what that is going to look like?

Josie: I'm looking to bring Mary Karp. She works in outreach working to support Israel and to educate about what's going on. She's going to be talking about who Hamas is and the goals of Hamas. She will be talking about what we can do as Christians to stand with

Jews and Isreal. If approved, it will be Decemeber 4<sup>th</sup> in Weyerhaeser 111. There's been a very large rise in Anti-Semitism. She's coming to educate others on it.

Abi: Is she just talking about the Israel side of loss or both sides?

Josie: It's not a pro-Palestine or pro-Isreal event. She will most likely acknowledge both.

Niraj: What are her qualitifcations to speak on this?

Josie: She has a Bachelor's Degree and has done some representative work. She's been working with Stand with Us.

Angel: Has she been to Israel?

Josie: I'm not sure.

Steph: What do the people do from Stand with Us in Israel?

Josie: I assume they're supporting the people there.

Gwen: Clubs, I encourage you to contact your speakers to answer any hypotheticals for next week when we vote.

Angel: I think it's important to consider that there is a lot of tension and what it means to be pro-Isreal or pro-Palestine or be neutral. As Christians we are obliged to want to support Israel. As Christians though, we should have the urgency to care about all of the poeple. How is it that you hope this event will impact spiritual life or to build an urgency to care about these issues? What are some responses you hope students will have to this event?

Josie: We hope having a speaker will bring awareness and an opporunity to have civil discourse. Anti-semitism is on a rise and we want to bring awareness to that.

Angel: This is my first time seeing your club, what is it?

Josie: This club was started last year. We are NEW which is Network of Enlightened Women. We are equipping women to do whatever it is that they want to pursue such as the stem field, being a stay at home mom, etc. We have had one event so far which was a decorating pumpkins event.

Angel: Why is your club specifically bringing this speaker?

Josie: I think a big part is educating women in leadership. They're gonna have the opportunity to bring students to Israel. She's not coming here for that purpose, but she does have those connections and she is providing opportunities for women specifically. That's why we wanted to bring her.

Gerogia: Ok y'all, go talk to constituents, and we will be voting on these two speakers next week at our meeting.

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### **Financial Director Updates**

Michael: We had a finance committee meeting, and we approved two requisitions. We are figuring out when the next finance committee meeting will be as Thanksgiving break is coming up so I will keep you posted on that. Otherwise, I wrote the account totals out.

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### **Vice President Updates**

Grace J: Hi everyone. First I wanted to talk about Student Highlight recommendations. I want to hear from you all each week regarding who you are seeing at your events, constituencies, and other activities that are worth highlighting. If you ever know someone, please email me or message me their name and we can get that all set up. Next, office hours. I wanted to mention that office hours are still mandatory for Senators and we expect that you are there. If you haven't already, please email me your updated office hours. These can change as much as needed, but I need these for my own record. Next, this isn't on the agenda but I need to mention it. I have been dealing with a lot of no-shows for my one on ones which is frankly disrespectful. I designate my time to meet with you all to check in with you, so please put this on your calendars. I don't want this to sound harsh, but from this point forward if you have two no-shows, we

will consider putting you on probation. Again, I know that may seem harsh but that is where we are right now. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

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### **President Updates**

Georgia: Before I start with my agenda items, I want to bounce off of what Grace was saying. I know she mentioned that she didn't want to be harsh, but it's going to be harsh because we are at a point in the semester where we are needing a lot more support from you all. I know there are issues with no shows. There are issues with teams, there are issues with having a lack of communication. Lack of volunteer with events, not filling timecards in on time, not checking mailboxes, and more and more and more. Constituency reports too. Frankly it's getting to the point where the executive team is burnt out and worn down. We cannot continue to function at this level. I know it sounds hard and I'm sorry that it's harsh. The fact of the matter is not only did you guys agree to these jobs and positions, but I also know there is more in you guys. I know that we can be expecting excitement because I saw that excitement during the summer. I saw it during fall retreat. It's very disheartening to see how our team is starting to fizzle out. I completely understand that folks are burnt out and are tired and are homesick. There have been things I've fallen short on. I haven't been able to complete the minutes from a few weeks ago. Look, I get it and completely understand. But on the same token, the consistency and frankly the disrespect is getting to be a bit much for us. I've now been in ASWU all 4 years and I've never seen this happen. So, it is very disheartening. This is my first time in all four years that I haven't been excited to come to work. I'm not blaming you all, I have a lot of other stuff on top of it. But I want you all to know that me and the exec team, we are really running on nothing right now. I know you all can do better. I've seen it before, and I ask that you all take that into consideration moving forward and that we can finish up the semester strongly and in Jan Term and Spring Term and be proud of the work that we did whether that be stepping up into advertising, making sure constituency reports are turned in every meeting. Does that sound fair to everyone? If you have comments, concerns or questions about that, I'm happy to chat with you. But as an executive team, we cannot continue to function the way that we have been. Does that make sense? Okay. Onto the more fun things.

### **Summer Fellowship Program**

Georgia: We've been asked by Gracey Jo Gonzalez to promote the Summer Fellowship program. It's a really cool thing where students get sent to ministries or nonprofits. You get to see what it looks like to be in ministry setting. You can contact Gracey Jo at [ggonzalez@whitworth.edu](mailto:ggonzalez@whitworth.edu). If at all interested, the application is not very long. You can always back out but I encourage you all to at least apply. Samie, do want to talk about your experience? It's super fun and a great experience. Applications are due November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Samie: I have had done it two summers in the same placement. I consider them my home. It helped me as an Education major with helping me gain experience that sets me apart from other ed majors. It's really connected me with people around the state, students around me and with my faith. It's a great opportunity.

Georgia: I did one in Spokane in Side By Side ministry. They work to create a christian fellowship for adults with cognitive and mental disabilities. It was really wonderful. Brought me closer to Christ. It's also fun when you get to go outside of Spokane or somewhere that you're not from, I would definitely recommend it.

### **Light Therapy Resource**

Georgia: With daylight savings time, it is dark very early in the day and very late in the morning as you can tell. The counseling center actually has light therapy lamps that are free to check out. You do have to return them at the end of the year. I don't think many people know about it. Push to constituencies or check it out yourself if that's something you're interested in.

### **Safety Committee**

Georgia: I wanted to announce that Bobbi Jo and Angel will be co heading the Safety Committee and I will be overseeing as an executive member. I'm very excited about that. I will be sending them the folks interested in that committee. If you still want to sign up just let me know.

### **Wellbeing Survey**

Georgia: Last but not least, one last push to complete the wellbeing survey. When you fill it out you're put into raffles for really cool prizes. It helps them to know how they can help us out, for example, the light therapy resource as they recognize a mental health decline in the winter. It doesn't take long and it's worth a good cause.

Stephanie: Does it close?

Georgia: It does, so fill it out as soon as you can.

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## Past Events

### Oliver Twist

Stephanie: Oliver Twist was good. People really enjoyed the Costco pizza. That was a big part of attendance. The activity that I had for people was really well enjoyed. There was not a lot of dancing but good attendance. Very good decorations as well.

### Diwali

Reeshika: I had around 180 people show up. There was a huge crowd, and food was gone very fast. It was fun and it was good.

Angel: The food was really good. I enjoyed spending time on the dance floor with you and Georgia.

Niraj: It was really fun. I think feedback for next time, maybe we should have an info session about what Diwali is. There is a whole story on why it is celebrated. A presentation on Diwali would be great.

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## Upcoming Events

### Winter Carnival

Todd: Winter Carnival starts at 7:00pm on Friday night. Many of you signed up to help I believe. This year it is new, in the sense that is a joint venture between UREC and ASWU. We hope for a wonderful event. HEAT will be there with their smoothies. There will be games, and lots of prizes. Please continue to promote to your constituents.

Davis: We will have a 100 dollar Amazon gift card.

Georgia: Are ASWU members able to win?

Todd: Yes if you are there as a student engaging in activities and not a worker, then yes.

Georgia: We still need signups. Who still needs to volunteer. We need 2 people from 8:30-10:30, 1 person from 6:30-8:30, 2 other people from 8:30-10:30, and 1 more person from 8:30-10:30. I just mentioned we need more people to be signing up and this is an all hands on deck event.

### Off Campus Movie Night

Bobbi Jo: Hi everybody. We have Off Campus Movie Night. It will be at Village Centre Cinemas. Tickets are \$5 at the Hub Info Desk and they will be out either tomorrow or Friday. I don't think I need help because it will mostly be theater workers helping.

Bella: Does the ticket include a snack?

Bobbi Jo: Yes! Popcorn and a soda.

Emery: Can anyone go?

Bobbi Jo: Anyone can go but primarily it's for Off Campus students.



Steph: How many tickets are available?

Bobbi Jo: 80.

Joie: How much?

Bobbi Jo: Five dollars.

Abi: You're basically saving \$25!

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## **Constituency Reports**

### **Arend**

Jennedy: Arend is doing good. Registration has had them a little hectic however they are all very excited for next semester. There is a current countdown going on in some of the resident's rooms as the end of the semester approaches. Questions are being asked about what classes would be best to take as they look forward to completing their first semester in college.

### **Ballard**

Eleanor: The halls of Ballard are silent, besides the quiet, echoing sounds of singing as Ballard prepares for our next event, Ballard tea. Otherwise, we continue to enjoy cookies on the regular, every Wednesday to be precise, and we are all awaiting Thanksgiving.

### **Baldwin Jenkins**

Emery: It's very hot in BJ right now because our heater just got turned on. Our water heater was quickly fixed so that was great! People have been decorating for Christmas. There has been some distress about our RA situation but I believe things are being resolved. Everyone is looking forward to our potential semester events.

### **Boppell**

Joie: Boppell is doing well this week! The hall is pretty quiet as usual, and the heater is working well as the weather gets colder. Everyone is counting down the days until Thanksgiving break but more importantly ready for Christmas.

### **Duvall**

Austin: Duvall is all good this week. We are happy that our printer is up and running again, as it had been broken over the weekend.

### **Incoming Students:**

Aubrey & Isabella: Incoming students are getting back into the groove, ready to register for classes, and looking forward to thanksgiving break.

### **International Students**

Niraj: The international students are well. Tomorrow will be Lulu's last official day in her position, as she was staying on as a temp even after her retirement, so we are all very sad about it. Everything has been generally quiet on the international front besides that. So, overall everything is fine!

### **McMillan**

Matthew: Like most other weeks, Mac has been doing well. We have received our sweatshirts ahead of schedule and they will be passed out in the time following this meeting. We had a scare with our hot water last week and we're keeping our hopes up that it stays hot. Other than these small updates, nothing of note has occurred.

### **Neighborhoods:**

Zeke: Neighborhoods have been quiet as normal. Registration has come and gone without much incident as everyone is well-practiced now. As the cold winter has set in, everyone is scrambling to figure out how their in-house heaters work.

## **Off-Campus Students**

Bobbi Jo: Off-campus is fatigued. With the cold weather approaching, we are feeling quite weary! We are ready for Thanksgiving break, and are pushing through these next couple weeks.

## **Oliver**

Stephanie: Oliver has been pretty well this week, pretty low key as the weather is dropping and people are trying to warm up in their rooms. A couple of different sicknesses have been arising but people are fighting through it to keep up with schoolwork. Some decorations are still up from Oliver Twist, which people have really enjoyed as it adds to the coziness of our hall.

## **Stew-Ville**

Eli: The citizens within Stewart and The Village have been doing well. As always, they have been pretty quiet this week, mostly holing themselves up in their rooms. As the weather turns colder, they seem to have burrow themselves move in their rooms, like bears preparing for hibernation. Most seem hopeful as Thanksgiving break approaches, waiting for the moment where they can return home, see their families, and eat something besides Sodexo.

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## **Shoutouts**

Stephanie: Shoutout to Jamie because I didn't know how to set up the speakers and he really helped me.

Michael: Shoutout to Gwen and club committee for doing great work and for handling all the speaker forms and stuff to start the processes.

Reeshika: I want to thank everyone that came and hung out and helped. Thank you.

Gwen: On the getting speakers set up note, shoutout to Todd for doing all of the advisor training. That's a long process.

Grace J: Shoutout to Steph. I went to Oliver Twist on Friday and it made my whole night seeing you looking all fancy. You did great.

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*Motioned to adjourn meeting by Bobbi Jo*

*Seconded by Austin*

**Favor: 16 | Oppose: 0 | Abstain: 0**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm**

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