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SGA Senate approves Lewis Student Union and discusses constitutional changes

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COPY EDITOR

With only 13 of the 21 active senators present, the Student Government Association (SGA)'s latest meeting in Stuart Building room 113 was noticeably more empty than usual. It was the night of the final World Series baseball game (November 2), and even one of the two prospective student organizations slated to present at SGA that night had decided not to come. The absence of nearly half of the current roster of senators, combined with eagerness of some present individuals to leave as quickly as possible, led to an uncharacteristically brief meeting, focused on the essential elements of each discussion held.

To start off, the senator for Lewis College, Trixie Weiner, presented the concept of an organization she had formulated with others during a psychology course and during a meeting with her college's dean. Called Lewis Student Union, the proposed student organization was intended to connect students

within Lewis College's various disciplines and work toward a broad variety of goals impacting their professional and social opportunities on campus. Weiner spoke of early-stage plans for study groups and career workshops, but put an emphasis on seeking open input from the organization's members about other ideas before allocating resources to any particular event. The group's overall goal would be to increase recognition for Lewis College's majors on campus, and in doing so it would seek to unite students within the college itself for collective activities. After private discussion without Weiner present, the Senate passed the organization by a vote of 11 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The "New Business" section of the meeting contained two agenda items: a brief discussion about the final recruitment push for remaining open Senate seats (which concluded on November 3), and a vote on whether there should be a Senate seat created to represent students participating in athletics at Illinois Tech, to be appointed by the Student-Athlete

Advisory Committee (SAAC), a body of varsity athletes that exists under Keating administration. The measure passed by a vote of 12 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions, and that seat will become active upon creation of language providing for its existence in SGA's governing documents.

SGA's Executive Board members, with the exception of the absent Academic Affairs VP Akash Raina, each briefly presented updates on some of their projects or other work. Notably, Finance Board Chair Sung Min Choi Hong spoke about his ongoing efforts to fill vacant positions in the organization, with interested students encouraged to contact him at fb@iit.edu to ask about applications. Most importantly, though, Judicial Board Chair San Dinh introduced a proposed addition to the SGA bylaws which would allow Judicial Board to serve as a mediator for internal conflicts within student organizations on a voluntary basis. A student organization undergoing a major conflict or contested decision could theoretically take their issue to Judicial Board,

sign a document enabling Judicial Board's decision on the issue to be binding, and go through the hearing process to determine the best course of action. The amendment will be voted on during the next senate meeting on November 16.

Before the meeting's end, as a nod to the common complaint that Senate meetings take too much time for students to reasonably retain interest in, SGA Executive VP Sonia Kamdar introduced a proposal to hear new student organization applications only twice per semester rather than allowing applications to be heard at each Senate meeting on a rolling basis. This proposal's discussion was held for the next meeting, so students can reach out to their senators to give input on the idea if they wish.

SGA Senate meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 9:15 p.m. in Stuart Building room 113, with committee meetings held on alternating weeks in the MTCC colored rooms.

Millions gather downtown to celebrate historic Cubs World Series victory



Photos by Kori Bowns