


WCGA PRESENTS OUR

# FALL NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT



This semester, WCGA focused on the principle of service, considering how we can best serve our Richmond community with care and empathy. As representatives of the student voice, our committees have steadily worked to improve campus life and advance the Westhampton mission of confidently pursuing our passions. I'm proud of what our committees have accomplished this semester, and I am excited to see where the next semester takes WCGA.

This newsletter will overlook the projects that each committee has taken up this semester and what they plan to work on in the spring. Thank you to all our campus community members for a great fall semester. Hopefully, our spring semester will be equally filled with service.

With love,  
Amal

## ABOUT STUDENT GOVERNMENT

We are a group of students, elected by students, who advocate for student needs on campus. Our aim is to amplify student voices on campus and to promote our University's values.



# WCGA LEADERSHIP

**Amal Ali**

President

**Andi Punishill**

Chair of Senate

**Meklet Berihun**

Chair of Academic Affairs

**Olga Rokhlenko**

Chair of External Affairs

**Katherine Nguyen**

Chair of Financial Affairs

**Sawyer Bernard**

Chair of Student Affairs

**Rose Collins**

Secretary

# CHAIR OF SENATE

ANDI PUNISHILL



This semester, WCGA put our theme of service into practice. We completed a joint service project with RCSGA making personal hygiene kits for the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority. We set up a Fall Fair for the campus community to relieve stress after the election. On the administrative side, we have worked on improving our service and attendance requirements so we can lead as effectively as possible. We look forward to completing more service projects next semester, such as the annual Random Acts of Kindness Week and more!

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MEKLET BERIHUN



This past semester, Academic Affairs focused on accessibility in many ways. We met with Financial Aid to discuss international tax for students and how the university can make it clearer for international students how their aid is being taxed. Shelby met with Dr. Schneider to express the need for the Disability Accommodation Notice process to be improved for students. Alli met with Kirsten Ball to discuss why standard IB credits aren't counted the same as APs despite similar difficulty. We are working with RCSGA to have premium resources like Canva Pro and Grammarly Premium accessible to students on campus!

Looking forward, we will focus on collaborating with RCSGA on mental health initiatives. We will also examine issues surrounding registration for seniors and resume the project of IB credits as we gain further clarification on the decisions regarding general education requirements.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## OLGA ROKHLENKO

The External Affairs committee has been at work to increase the transparency between WCGA and students. One example of that is the newsletter you are reading right now! We have also continually updated our website, Instagram, Linktree, and marketing materials to ensure that information is openly available and accessible to students.



We have also started posting monthly updates on the WCGA Instagram to ensure students have an up-to-date understanding of what their student government is doing. Using our Instagram, we have uplifted the messages of various student organizations by reposting their information to our audience.

In the Spring semester, we will continue to update our student body regularly as well as let you all know about several exciting events coming up in the next few months! We will also put out one pagers to help make the SOBAC process less stressful!



# FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

KATHERINE NGUYEN

The Financial Affairs Committee has been actively working to support student organizations through funding initiatives. On Saturday, August 31, and Sunday, September 1, the co-chairs from WCGA and RSCGA led training sessions for SOBAC-eligible treasurers during the RSO Leadership Institute. \$9,280.58 was approved for 12 student organizations requesting funding. Of this total, \$4,209.54 was provided by WCGA. Since mid-November, the committee has been working closely with the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) office to finalize the timeline and guidelines for the upcoming SOBAC funding 2024-2025 cycle.

\*Student Organization Budget and Appropriations Committee (SOBAC) is a joint initiative between WCGA and RSCGA that annually allocates funding to eligible registered student organizations.



# STUDENT AFFAIRS

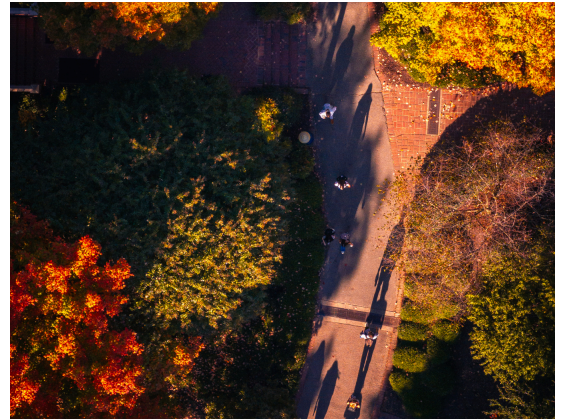
## SAWYER BERNARD

The Student Affairs Committee has spent this semester assessing the walkability of campus and working to address student concerns. In my capacity as Chair of Student Affairs, I scheduled and attended a safety walk with URPD to check the lighting on campus at night. URPD used the information from that safety walk to replace broken lights on campus and add new light posts where needed. Additionally, WCGA volunteers participated in an accessibility walk around campus this fall to determine which buildings need updated automatic door buttons and/or better signage for accessible entrances.

Senators have tackled multiple projects around campus. Senator Swetha Poluri is working with the Student Health Center to create an on-campus pharmacy for students. In partnership with RCSGA, we hosted student concerns tabling in THC before fall break to compile a list of student concerns. We've begun tackling those projects – including fixing water filters, communicating feedback to Dining Services, and increasing student parking options — and plan to continue doing so next semester.



# PHOTO GALLERY



# CONTACT US



@WEAREWCGA



VERBUM VITAE ET LUMEN SCIENTAE

WORD OF LIFE AND LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE

[wearewcga.com](http://wearewcga.com)