

WKU Student Government Association

Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00 pm on November 10th via Zoom by Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson.

Present

32 Senators were present when the Senate was called to order.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Officer Reports

President Garrett Edmonds:

- Introduced guest speakers, Bruce Schulte and Jeff Hook.
 - Covered the WKU Strategic Plan, specifically the Innovation Campus Plan.
 - Also discussed the opportunities available for students to start and expand their own businesses through the CRD.
- Nominated Derek Collins for Associate Chief Justice position.
 - Collins affirmed that he would be able to fulfill the duties necessary for this position.
 - **Nomination passes through the Senate.**
- Nominated Addison McCoun for Senator-at-Large.
 - Worked in the Kentucky House of Representatives for two years. McCoun wants there to be more available food options for students with allergies and intolerances.
 - Senator D. McCoun praised her ability to work with students of all backgrounds.
 - **Senator A. McCoun is confirmed by the Senate.**
- Nominated Alexis Mayne for Associate Justice position.
 - Is serving as a TOP Guide and a Hall Coordinator. Fully understands the duties and responsibilities of the position.
 - **Nomination passes through the Senate.**

Executive Vice President Abbey Norvell:

Urged students to bring forth concerns that can be heard by University Budget Committee.

Administrative Vice President Issac Keller:

- Informed students about a section of the WKU website that allows students to make recommendations about renaming certain colleges on campus.
- Appointed Nathan Richards for Organizational Aid Board.
 - **Unanimously approved.**
- Asked Senators to spread the word about applying for org aid.
- Proposed idea to have org aid members send interview questions so they don't have to be present at org aid interviews given scheduling problems.

Chief of Staff Matt Barr:

All three hammock locations chosen last semester have been finished.

Public Relations Ashlynn Evans:

- Wants to create buttons with the updated SGA logo, different committees, and DEI efforts on campus.
- First tabling event was held today, invited senators to help table in the future.
- Working with Sharon Hunter to create a supply list for students in the quarantine dorm.

DAC Kody Okert:

- Asked for senators who are available next week to help grade scholarships.

Director of IT Paul Brosky:

- Executive Branch and Judicial Branch pages have been updated.

Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson:

- Talked about the P/D/F resolution being discussed tonight.
- Will be meeting with committee heads about what is being discussed in each committee.

Secretary of the Senate Jamison Moorehead:

- Reminder that if an excuse is not turned in for a meeting absence, you will be sent to JC.

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Head Tess Welch:

- Has a bill up for debate this evening.
- Pushing for academic advising changes.
- Scholarship grading event on Monday 5:30-8:30 pm.

Campus Improvements Committee Head Eric Berry:

- Meeting with Dr. Logan tomorrow to discuss safety panel.

LRC Committee Head Dawson McCoun:

- LRC is sponsoring the PDF resolution, asking for other committees to cosponsor the resolution as well, important it has as much support as possible.
- Resolution is being moved up because of extenuating circumstances, and this is not standard procedure.

Public Relations Committee Head Destinee Daughtery:

- Bill up tonight about funding for masks and hand sanitizer.
- Plans on tabling tomorrow starting at 10:30 am.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Head Fatin Yaro:

- Able to schedule committee meetings on Fridays at 4:30 pm.
- Working on planning diversity events on campus.

Sustainability Committee Head Matthew Winiger:

- Talked in committee meeting about potential for flood gardens.
- Hoping to collaborate with Green Toppers.

SAVES Committee Head Kat Howard:

- Reached out to counseling center for what can be offered for students through SGA.

Special Reports

University Committee Reports:

Judicial Council Reports:

- Set meetings on Wednesdays every other week.

Guest/Student Speakers:

Unfinished Business

- Resolution 1-20-F. Resolution to Support Increased Accessibility on Campus
 - ADA compliant is the bare minimum, and doesn't mean that campus infrastructure is fully inclusive and accessible.
 - Wants to prevent inaccessibility on campus before it happens.
 - University does regular ADA audits, but there are still areas where it is non-comprehensive.
 - Change is more likely to happen when SGA works with the organizations concerned with this issue.
 - Will be doing a walkthrough of campus documenting areas on campus that need to be improved, pushing the university to do a full review of campus infrastructure.
 - **Resolution passes.**
- Bill 2-20-F. To allocate funding for SGA branded reusable masks and hand sanitizer.
 - Wants to purchase reusable masks and hand sanitizer to provide at tabling events.
 - Requesting a split amount between the senate discretionary and PR fund.
 - Costs will cover 250 hand sanitizers and 150 masks.
 - Senator Welch asked about how they will be distributed.
 - Will be freely available at tabling events and available at the office.
 - Senator McCoun asked why half is coming from PR and half is coming from senate discretionary. Also asked if the bill could be friendly amended to come fully from PR.
 - Half is coming from senate discretionary because they will be given to senators. Friendly amendment was not accepted.
 - Senator Welch proposed a friendly amendment to make it 25% senate discretionary and 75% PR budget. Senator McCoun further made this a formal amendment.
 - Senators Maul and McClard spoke against this amendment saying the cost is not that drastic.
 - Senator Welch spoke for this amendment saying that since the main function of these materials is PR, the majority of the costs should be covered by PR.
 - Senator Maul stressed that this is to combat COVID so it should be a collective effort from discretionary and PR.
 - **Amendment doesn't pass.**
 - Senator Craighead reminded senators that this is needed in order to help combat COVID.
 - Senator Taylor asked if SGA is planning on buying masks separately.
 - PR is the last effort for this, and more masks may need to be ordered later.
 - Senator McCoun supports the bill, but doesn't agree with how the funding is distributed.

- Senator Mathews called previous question.
 - **Bill passes.**
- Bill 3-20-F. To Allocate funding for the purchase of Recycled Computers for student and Senator use in the SGA Office.
 - Bill was tabled till next week.
- Resolution 4-20-F. Resolution to Support the PDF grading system for the 2020 Fall semester.
 - Senator Mathews motioned to move out of by-laws so the resolution can be moved up, seconded by Senator McCoun.
 - The Provost and Academic Affairs don't currently think this is the path we should take for this semester.
 - Students feel this is still something that is necessary given the current conditions of this semester (election, pandemic, etc.).
 - In-class learning is preferred, and hybrid learning isn't being received as well and isn't as easy to adapt to.
 - Herald poll shows a majority of students would like the PDF option to be reinstated for this semester.
 - First time freshmen are struggling with the transition to hybrid, and no one ever chose this option.
 - Opened the floor up to student testimonials and will be providing these responses to faculty; send testimonials to SGA email.
 - Moved out of by-laws to vote on the resolution.
 - **Resolution passes unanimously.**

New Business

Announcements

- Scholarship grading event from 5:30-8:30 in SGA office.
- Everyone is able to join the outreach committee, contact Senator Craighead if interested.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm by Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson.