

WKU Student Government Association

Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00 pm on November 17th 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:

- Asked senators to fill out SGA leadership form.
- Provost is not in support of PDF option despite numerous student testimonials and support for the option.
- Asked senators to email their concerns about PDF to the Provost, as well as reaching out to members of faculty senate. Chief of Staff Okert, AVP Keller, and Senator Welch will be attending the faculty senate meeting on Thursday sharing these concerns.
- Also asked senators to continue sharing the PDF petition: <http://chng.it/Y9hkvJp6>.
- Various points were brought up from senators concerning how this is a student choice, the university has forced students to come back to school, and graduate schools are being lenient with PDF grades. Furthermore, Gatton students and incoming freshmen are also struggling with this transition, and withdrawals can still negatively affect financial aid.

Executive Vice President Abbey Norvell:

- Also urged students to continue sharing PDF petition.
- Appointed AVP Keller as a faculty senate representative.
 - Appointment was unanimously approved.
- Working with student COVID task force to send out weekly emails.

Administrative Vice President Issac Keller:

- Asked senators to send arguments concerning PDF to him as well.
- Budget has been updated from last meeting.
 - Org Aid was supposed to be approved before COVID started last semester, but none of those organizations received their aid, so they will be recompensated from this year's funds.

Chief of Staff Matt Barr:

- New SGA signage has been signed off by Susan Howarth, and it should be installed in January.
- Has a computer bill up for debate tonight.

Public Relations Ashlynn Evans:

- Updating the logos on SGA buttons.
- \$329.08 was spent to buy more PR materials.

DAC Kody Okert:

- Scholarships were due last Friday.
- Senator Welch was able to grade a large majority of the scholarships at last night's grading event.
 - Applicants should receive notice on Friday about their scholarship.

Director of IT Paul Brosky:

- Judicial branch page has been updated.
- Asked for applicants for Director of IT next semester.

Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson:

- Send meeting excuses to Chief Justice Puhakka: erika.puhakka919@topper.wku.edu.
- There will be no meeting next week because of Thanksgiving Break, but senators can still send bills for a first read next week.
- Asked senators to continue to be active in their committees.

Secretary of the Senate Jamison Moorehead:

- Sent updated minutes from last week.
- Included PDF petition link in minutes.

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Head Tess Welch:

- Thanked various SGA members for their help at the grading event last night.
- Will continue grading scholarships for the rest of this week.
- Will be presenting legislation concerning changes to advising.

Campus Improvements Committee Head Eric Berry:

- Met with Dr. Logan about having the safety walk.
- Will be doing a campus walkthrough tomorrow from 1-2 pm.

LRC Committee Head Dawson McCoun:

- Thanked senators for PDF support.
- Shared list of faculty senators:
 - <https://www.wku.edu/senate/documents/at-large-senators-2020-thur-2022.pdf>
 - <https://www.wku.edu/senate/documents/departmental-senators-2019-thur-2021-revised-2.pdf>
- Asked senators interested in being on the by laws committee to reach out.

Public Relations Committee Head Destinee Daughtery:

- Working to update logos on PR materials.
- Masks and hand sanitizer has been ordered and should be in by December so those can be distributed.
- PR is tabling from 10:30 -11:30 am tomorrow in Centennial Mall.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Head Fatin Yaro:

- First committee meeting was held last Friday and came up with 6 goals for the committee.
- Tabled today with PR committee.
- Concerned that committee is not that diverse, and wants various senators to be involved to further diversity.

Sustainability Committee Head Matthew Winiger:

- Committee met last Thursday.
- Working to bring back Greeks go Green initiative.
- Wants to evaluate the green area surrounding the Freshmen Village and make sure it is available for incoming students.

SAVES Committee Head Kat Howard:

- Met with Speaker Robertson to discuss what the counseling center is asking from SGA.

- Working on finding places for students to go during their counseling meetings.

Special Reports

University Committee Reports:

Judicial Council Reports:

- Setting up committee to redraft constitution.
 - 4 members from Judicial, 3 from Executive, and 3 from Senate.
 - Sending an email with instructions to the committee.

Guest/Student Speakers:

Unfinished Business

- Bill 3-20-F. To Allocate funding for the purchase of Recycled Computers for student and Senator use in the SGA Office.
 - Number of computers in the bill went down in order to comply with CDC guidelines.
 - Printer will be accessible to senators in the office.
 - There is a growing need for computer access for students on campus.
 - Wants to provide an area for students to not only access computers, but also meet with SGA members.
 - Working with IT to show computer accessibility in the SGA office.
 - Connects with every aspect of the preamble of our constitution.
 - Wants to implement a sign in sheet to track student use.
 - Senator Breunig asked about what kinds of computers are being purchased.
 - Refurbished Dell desktops will be purchased through IT, and IT will be able to handle any issues that arise with these computers.
 - Senator Welch brought up that having computers in the office will assist with digital scholarship grading in the future.
 - Bill passes 25:3.

New Business

Announcements

- Chief Justice Puhakka asked senators to include what they're missing and why they're missing in your excuse.
- Senator Welch brought up that senators are the bridge to each faculty members, so it is senators' jobs to continue to reach out.

- Senator Phillips is giving the SGA diversity report on Thursday and asked for senators to reach out if they have concerns.
- President Edmonds asked senators to fill out the SGA leadership evaluation.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm by Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson.