

WKU SGA Senate Meeting

February 23, 2021

I. Called to Order at 5:00pm

II. Roll call

Secretary conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: 29 Senators.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting


Secretary read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

IV. Executive Cabinet Reports

- President Garrett Edmonds:
 - The provost search has been expanded and is continuing its search for a viable candidate.
 - Michael Crowe is putting together panels about DEI on campus and in organizations. Garrett will serve on the first panel, but is hoping to continue to have SGA involvement in future panels.
 - Elections: Voting will occur April 5-6. Candidates are allowed to 2 weeks to campaign, meaning they can begin at 12:00am March 22nd. With this, the entirety of our legislative agenda must be voted on by April 6th before our new Executive Board is elected.
 - Rally for Higher Education is taking place on Friday! SGA has reserved DSU rooms 3003/4, but there will be breakout rooms, so your own computer is recommended. Also, please check Garrett's last email about adding a student testimony and registration for the event.
- Executive Vice President Abbey Norvell:
 - Super excited for the Rally for Higher Education!
 - Serving on the Budget Executive Committee to ensure student voice is heard regarding tuition and fees increase.



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- Will be touring the new freshman residence halls with the Student Life Foundation soon.
 - Contact EVP Abbey Norvell if you have any interest in running for the EVP position!
 - **Administrative Vice President Isaac Keller:**
 - Naming and Symbols Task Force is still searching for student opinions! You can enter these directly on their WKU website.
 - Banquet will be April 13th at 5:00pm. This will be after the new Executive Board is elected and can be sworn in.
 - Budget is up to date!
 - Organizational Aid needs to be spent! We have \$11,450 to spend so please encourage organizations to apply.
 - **Chief of Staff Matt Barr:**
 - Was absent serving on the panel for Coming Home King interviews.
 - Nominate people for our end of the year banquet awards! These can be found in the By-Laws of the Senate.
 - **Public Relations Ashlynn Evans:**
 - Looking into sponsored ads regarding Organizational Aid – would not be feasible for our scholarship deadlines.
 - Looking to collaborate with the Queer Student Union for a UNITE Event.
 - Continue to share graphics and reach out with any ideas for social media.
 - **Director of Academic and Student Affairs Kody Okert:**
 - Scholarships are due March 1st – PLEASE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO APPLY!
 - Scholarship budget is \$14,050 – let's spend this!
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- Director of IT Service Jamison Moorehead
 - There is an addition to the website under the “Contact Us” tab regarding suggestions for the website! Please fill this out.
- Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson
 - If you’re looking to write legislation across committees, let Shelby know for contact information!
 - Please utilize the CONTACTS portion of bills for any administrators that you’ve spoken with regarding your legislation.
 - Utilize Shelby and Dawson for any questions about your legislation!
 - Let Shelby know if you’re interested in becoming Speaker!
- Secretary of the Senate Brenna Mathews
 - Continue to send any materials for your legislation for the PowerPoint!

V. Committee Reports

- Academic and Student Affairs Tess Welch:
 - Bill 8-21-S is up for a second read and vote tonight!
 - Continue to push scholarships, and please come to the grading event on March 3rd!
 - The results of the walk-through has been sent to administration and university personnel will be conducting their own walk-through and is already making changes based on our walk-through results.
- Campus Improvements Eric Barry:
 - Campus Safety and Informational panel will be rescheduled.
- Legislative Research Committee Dawson McCoun:
 - Great job getting bills to LRC quickly for review!
 - The By-Laws Committee will be meeting via Zoom. Dawson will email the link.

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- Public Relations Destinee Daugherty:
 - Nametags were ordered yesterday, and hopefully will be here by next meeting!
 - Keep sending feedback about social media!
- Diversity and Inclusion Fatin Yaro:
 - Met last week, agreed on conducting a student survey regarding efforts and ideas regarding student perspective on DEI efforts.
 - Senator Avery Wells has done a great job running the @wkusgadei account on Instagram – follow them and promote this page!
 - Black History Month Event will be in the DSU Auditorium February 25th.
- Sustainability Matthew Wininger
 - Spoke to the Office of the Sustainability and surplus about micro-pantries. The office has the supplies for the micro-pantries and SGA would need to fund installation.
 - Looking to conduct a sustainability walk-through on campus this semester.
- SAVES Committee Kat Howard
 - Seantor Me'Lon Craighead, chair of Outreach Committee, has a report on the ZOOM room projects.
- Outreach Me'Lon Craighead
 - The Counseling Center stated that there has been little need for the privacy ZOOM rooms they were working towards. Looking to start a campaign to promote Counseling Center use!
 - Posters have been laminated, please reach out if you would like to help spread across campus.
 - Meets after SGA on Tuesdays!

VI. University Committee Reports

- Senator Kyle Phillips reported that university's DEI will be meeting on Thursday and presenting SGA's plan towards DEI to compile the university's report to send to the Higher Education Commission.

VII. Judicial Council Report

- Chief Justice Erika Puhakka:
 - Constitution meeting in Senate Chambers after the executive meeting concludes.

VIII. Guest and Student Speakers

IX. New Business

- Resolution 3-21-S: Support Western Kentucky University's Naming and Symbols Task Force to Change the Names of Any College, Building, or University Symbol with Ties to Racism or Injustice.
- Bill 9-21-S: Funding for the Diversity & Inclusion Honors Membership Fee Scholarship Program
 - Senator Roderick Maul motioned to move Bill 9-21-S for a second read in unfinished business. The motion had no second, Bill 9-21-S was left for first read.

X. Old Business

- Bill 5-21-S: Funding for the International Book Scholarship
 - Senator Fatin Yaro spoke in favor of Bill 5-21-S as the author.
 - President Garrett Edmonds asked of the timeline for this scholarship. Senator Yaro stated that the scholarship would be available for this semester. President Edmonds asked if the scholarship would be a reoccurring scholarship. Senator Yaro stated no. President Edmonds asked if the scholarship would follow the same criteria and process as our ISEC book scholarship. Senator Yaro stated yes.
 - Senator Destinee Daugherty asked if the author knew of a timeline for these scholarships. Senator Yaro stated that if this funding passes tonight, he will look

to spread news of the scholarship to international students tomorrow, applications could be due mid-March.

- Senator Tess Welch asked about the need for this specific scholarship category as many international students can qualify for our other scholarships currently offered. Senator Yaro stated that this would be a great statement and sentiment to show the international student population that SGA is looking to help them and form a relationship with them for the future.
- AVP Isaac Keller asked the author if there were any events planned for international students utilizing this budget if scholarships are not possible. Senator Yaro stated that there are currently no plans for events utilizing this budget except for these scholarships.
- Senator Dawson McCoun asked if it is common for international students to take summer courses. Senator Yaro stated that it is actually a requirement for our international students.
- Senator Tess Welch asked who would be grading these scholarships and dispersing the funds. Senator Yaro stated that SGA currently has a way to grade and disperse scholarships and that system should be used for these scholarships.
- Senator Roderick Maul spoke against the bill for this semester.
- Senator Dawson McCoun spoke in favor of the bill and proposed a friendly amendment to change the scholarship for summer courses for international students. Second by Senator Daugherty. Accepted as friendly by Senator Yaro.
- Senator Welch had a point of information for DASA Kody Okert: how much are the typical summer scholarships? DASA Okert stated that those scholarships are \$250. With this, the international students could be at a disadvantage as the student is only allowed to accept one scholarship.
- AVP Keller had a point of reference: this scholarship would not be in the SGA Constitution as it comes from Legislative Discretionary, these students could potentially stack these scholarships together totaling \$350 for one international student.

- Senator Kyle Phillips asked for a consensus to table this bill and resolve these issues and questions before next meeting. This motion was supported by the legislative body and executive cabinet.
- President Edmonds spoke to Director of Student Activities Dr. Charley Pride and let the body know that international scholarships can be hard to fund but looking into this process to see if these scholarships are a possibility.
- Senator Welch argued that these scholarships can be supplemented through the scholarships already offered by SGA. Senator Welch also had a point of information to President Edmonds regarding the Title IX policy of scholarships as this can be a racially biased scholarship. President Edmonds stated that he would need to speak with Dr. Pride and SGA Advisor Randall P. Bogard regarding the Title IX process.
- Bill 5-21-S has been pulled by the authors to table until meeting to resolve the issues that came up during debate. Advisor Bogard has offered to speak with the authors and DEI committee regarding this bill.
- **Resolution 2-21-S: To Support the “Bottom of the Hill Greenspace Revitalization” Initiative**
 - Senators Matthew Thomas and Matthew Winiger spoke in favor of Resolution 2-21-S as the authors.
 - The authors are looking to create a student survey to hear ideas regarding the bottom of the Hill greenspace before moving forward to speak with administration. This project would most likely continue into next semester, or next year.
 - President Edmonds offered a point of reference for the authors to contact Dr. Mike Reagle as he works in H&RL regarding student engagement.
 - Senator Me’Lon Craighead asked the authors about the survey. The authors stated that they would be looking to work alongside the ASA and CI committee regarding the survey.

- Senator Troy Davis asked the authors of a timeline for the survey. The authors stated that the survey would need a few weeks to create and disperse to students.
- Senator McCoun asked the authors if they were aware of the process to create the survey. Senator McCoun also offered a point of reference that a student-all email at WKU must be approved by the Institutional Review Board. The authors were aware of this process and Executive Cabinet members offered to help.
- Senator Welch spoke in favor of the resolution as a collaborative effort between multiple committees and hearing student input.
- Moved into voting. Resolution 2-21-S passes.
- Congratulations to Senators Thomas and Winiger!
- Bill 8-21-S: Funding for the March 3rd SGA Scholarship Grading Evening
 - Senator Natalie Kelley spoke in favor of Bill 8-21-S as an author. This bill is to ensure that food could be provided as SGA member begin to grade scholarships on March 3rd. In the past, students have purchased food out of pocket.
 - PR Director Ashlynn Evans asked the author what food would be provided and offered a point of reference that it must be Aramark approved if the event will be in a WKU building. Senator Welch stated that Papa John's will be served in the most COVID-19 friendly way as possible.
 - Senator Craighead asked the authors who would be able to grade scholarships. Senator Welch stated that anyone is able to grade scholarships as they are formatted to be anonymous prior to grading. Senator Welch also reported that SGA will offer service hours for grading. These service hours can be used for a student to complete the Earn-A-Computer Program.
 - No breadsticks will be served at this event.
 - Moved into voting. Bill 8-21-S passes.
 - Congratulations to Senator Kelley!

XI. Announcements



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- Please look at the bills sent through the agenda, even when the legislation is up for first read. This gives the authors ample time to answer questions, make amendments, and check constitutionality prior to debate.
- Friday is the Rally for Higher Education!
- Senator Kyle Phillips stressed the importance of our roles in SGA
 - Shoutout to Shelby and Ashlynn!
 - Huge congratulations to Senator Avery Wells for his work towards the Black History Month event!

XII. Adjournment

Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson adjourned the meeting at 6:17pm

Minutes recorded by Secretary Brenna Mathews.