

# WKU SGA Senate Meeting

February 2, 2021

## **I. Called to Order at 5:00pm**

## **II. Roll call**




Secretary did a roll call. 28 senators were present at the call to order.

## **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes were approved as read.

## **IV. Executive Cabinet Reports**

- President Garrett Edmonds:
  - Nominated Will Dykeman to serve as Senator-At-Large. Will is a sophomore at WKU. Will originally ran for election in the Fall of 2020.
    - Senator Tess Welch asked why the nominee wanted to get involved with SGA. The nominee replied that he has a lot of ideas for legislation and planned on getting involved and staying involved with the organization.
    - Senator Dawson McCoun asked the nominee about future projects or a specific committee he was looking to join. The nominee spoke about getting involved with LRC as well as Campus Improvements to discuss possibly including printers in residence halls with the current shortened hours of computer labs across campus.
    - Senator Roderick Maul asked the nominee about his work with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The nominee explained he had come from a small town and had not had any prior experience with DEI but was looking forward to collaborative efforts.
    - Senator Me'Lon Craighead asked the nominee about the nominee's core values. The nominee spoke about his faith as well as working towards ensuring that SGA's budget goes towards the good of all Hilltoppers rather than the few.

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- Senator Fatim Yaro asked the nominee about any ideas contributing to the international student population on campus. The nominee spoke about outreach to our international student population to hear ideas directly from them. He also spoke about ensuring the students feel welcome on campus and can succeed.

Moved into debate on the nominee.




- Secretary Brenna Mathews spoke in favor of the nominee.
- Senator Roderick Maul spoke in favor of the nominee.
- Senator Dawson McCoun spoke in favor of the nominee.

Debate concluded. Nominee was appointed by unanimous vote by the Senate.  
Welcome, Senator Will Dykeman to WKU SGA!

- Ad-Hoc committees for Constitutional Review and By-Law review were approved during the last meeting. Please contact Garrett, Shelby, or Erika if you would like to get involved with these committees.
- The Rally for Higher Education is set to be on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9AM!
  - This is a virtual event, but will take tentatively take place in a DSU Room where all attendees can participate together.
  - 4 breakout sessions will take place: Diversity & Inclusion in Higher Education, COVID-19 & Moving Forward, Mental Health in College Students, Politicized Issues on Campus.
  - Speakers such as Corey Booker and Andy Beshear are set to attend.
- The Kentucky General Assembly has a bill that will take away Stop-loss Protection in Higher Education.
  - Stop-Loss Protection is the policy that prevents state from taking exponential amount of funding away from a University in the case of decreased student enrollment. Stop-Loss Protection currently allows funding to be decreased by a small percentage in areas of decreased student enrollment rather than stripped away all together.

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- Final Candidate in WKU's Provost search will be happening. Please join the open forum or send comments, questions, and concerns to President Garrett Edmonds to relay to the candidate.
- Look towards the future of SGA! Many executive cabinet members, as well as committee heads, are graduating in May! This is a great opportunity to find out more about committees and take leadership roles!
- Please fill out the evaluation forms for Cabinet Members sent through the Outlook group.
- **Executive Vice President Abbey Norvell**
  - DiscoverFest – RSO's are meeting virtually to discuss ideas and events. Let her know if you would like to represent SGA!
  - COVID-19 Student Task Force is meeting. Let Abbey know if you have concerns, ideas, or questions to bring to the committee.
  - Student Life Foundation is meeting later this month.
- **Administrative Vice President Isaac Keller**
  - Naming and Symbols Task Force: it was recently discovered that the Ogden & Potter families owned slaves. Van Meter actually served in the Confederate Army. Check out their website if you would like to share any opinions!
  - Org Aid Bill is up for first-read tonight. Keep spending that money!
  - \$13,950 were spent on scholarships for Fall 2020.
  - Budget is updated online.
- **Chief of Staff Matt Barr**
  - T-Shirts have been ordered.
  - \$2,100 in special projects fund. Executive Cabinet has decided to allocate \$500 to Senator Matt Thomas's campaign for "Drive Safely Hilltoppers!"
  - Let Matt know if you're graduating in May! Need to order Graduation stoles.




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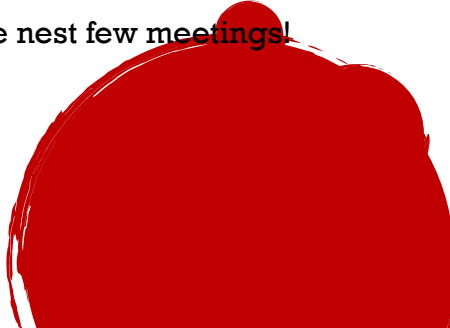
- **Public Relations Ashlynn Evans**
  - Absent. Senator Destinee Daughtery gave the report: Let Ashlynn know if you plan on tabling so she can gather PR supplies.
- **Director of Academic and Student Affairs Kody Okert**
  - We have about 11 applications for our Earn-A-Computer Program, but we have more computers! Extending the deadline to March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Scholarships for Spring & Summer 2020 are going live tonight. We are offering our Summer Courses, ISEC Book, Scholar Development, and First-Generation scholarships. Deadline will also be March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Director of IT Service Jamison Moorehead**
  - Website is completely updated!
  - Fill out the evaluation form to share ideas about website edits.
- **Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson**
  - Agenda for this meeting was so great to see! Keep sending her legislation or resolutions by 11:59pm on Sundays to be added to the agenda! Keep up the great work y'all!
  - Interested in joining the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committees? Let Shelby know!
  - Let Shelby know if you if you have any ideas to improve meetings and make everything cool and funky fresh!
- **Secretary of the Senate Brenna Mathews**
  - If you have any announcements, it would be super amazing for you to send them prior to the meeting just so all of the information can be recorded correctly in the minutes!


## **V. Committee Reports**




- **Academic and Student Affairs Tess Welch**



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- Meeting Thursdays at 4:45pm
  - Walking through 12 buildings to evaluate accessibility and safety concerns.
  - Meeting with Campus ADA Coordinator February 18<sup>th</sup>, working to meet with Matt Davis from Student Accessibility Resource Center.
  - Still working with Academic Affairs to include advisor evaluations alongside course evaluations.
  - **Campus Improvements Eric Barry**
    - The Campus Safety Information Panel will be February 18<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm in DSU auditorium with 6 administrators including President Caboni, Dr. Ethan Logan, and Bryan Russell. Working on questions for the administrators to address, so send those to Senator Eric Barry if you have any!
    - Will be creating a graphic to share about this event.
  - **Legislative Research Committee Dawson McCoun**
    - Excited to start work with the Constitution and By-Laws Review committees!
  - **Public Relations Destinee Daughtery**
    - Tabling Thursday at 3pm
  - **Diversity and Inclusion Fatim Yaro**
    - DEI meets Fridays at 4:30!
    - Working on the Black History Month event on February 24<sup>th</sup>
    - Working with Campus Activities Board on other events to celebrate Black History Month
    - Keep your eye out for legislation from the DEI Committee in the next few meetings!
  - **Sustainability Matthew Winger**
    - Bill tonight up for first read
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- Meeting at 4:45pm Thursday
- SAVES Committee Kat Howard
  - Meeting with Outreach Committee.
  - Meets after the SGA Senate meeting on Tuesdays.
- Outreach Me'Lon Craighead
  - Working on flyers to spread word across campus for guest and student speakers.
  - Working to create private ZOOM rooms for students to attend meetings with the Counseling and Testing Center on campus!
  - Let Senator Me'Lon know if you would like to join her committee for Outreach!

#### **VI. University Committee Reports**

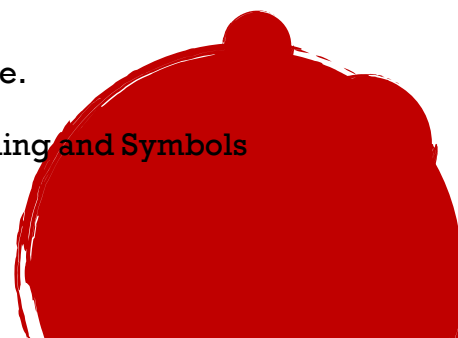
- President Garrett Edmonds informed the Senate that a committee called Student Travel Policy will be formed to assess the possibility of Study Abroad in the future.

#### **VII. Judicial Council Report**

- The Constitutional Review Committee will convene Tuesdays following the Senate and Executive Cabinet meetings.

#### **VIII. Guest and Student Speakers**

#### **IX. New Business**

- Bill 3-21-S: Organizational Aid Funding for WKU Amazing Tones of Joy, Black Women of Western, Queer Student Union, and Business Association for Development.
    - Motioned made by Senator Dawson McCoun to move Bill 1-21-S to Old Business.  
Second by Senator Tess Welch.
  - Bill 4-21-S: To Support the “Drive Safely Hilltoppers” Sign Initiative.
  - Resolution 1-21-S: To Support Western Kentucky University’s Naming and Symbols Task Force.
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## **X. Old Business**

- **Bill 1-21-S: Funding for the Intercultural Student Engagement Center Black Magic Masquerade Ball.**
  - **Senators Troy Davis and Me'Lon Craighead spoke in favor of Bill 1-21-S as authors.**
    - **Senator Tess Welch asked the authors what the cost is for students to attend. The authors believe it is \$5 for each student. This event is also open to all students!**

Moved into debate.


- **Senator Dawson McCoun asked the authors if would accept \$1,500 from Legislative Discretionary, \$250 from our Food Fund, and \$500 from the Organizational Aid fund as a friendly amendment. This would total \$2,250 from the legislative budget. Amendment second by Tess. Accepted as friendly by the authors.**
- **Senator Dawson McCoun asked for a Point of Information from President Garrett Edmonds about funding from the Executive Cabinet for the event. President Edmonds stated that the Executive Cabinet will add \$250 from the Executive Discretionary towards the event as well. This brings the total to \$2,500 from SGA for the ISEC Black Magic Masquerade Ball.**




Debate concluded on Bill 1-21-S. Bill was passed through the Senate unanimously.

- **Bill 3-21-S was moved into Old Business. Organizational Aid funding for WKU Amazing Tones of Joy, Black Women of Western, Queer Student Union, and Business Association for Development.**
  - **AVP Isaac Keller spoke in favor of the bill as Organizational Aid committee chair.**
  - **Senator Tess Welch made a friendly amendment to remove whereas clause for Zeta Phi Beta Inc. recruitment video as it was from a past bill. Second by Senator Dawson McCoun. Taken as friendly by the author.**

Debate concluded on Bill 3-21-S. Bill was passed through the Senate unanimously.

## **XI. Announcements**



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## **XII. Adjournment**

Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson adjourned the meeting at 6:12pm.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Brenna Mathews.

