Senate Meeting Minutes

Eleventh Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
	1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on November 14th, 2023, at 5:10 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
	1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
	2. Absences
		1. Senator Wright
		2. Senator Duggins
		3. Senator Distler
		4. Senator Pierce
		5. Senator Farmer
	3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
	1. Motion by Senator Cisco to move out of Bylaws
		1. Seconded by Senator Taylor
	2. Motion by Senator Cisco to move bill 12-23-F to unfinished business
		1. Seconded by Senator Taylor
	3. Motion by Senator Cisco to move back into Bylaws
		1. Seconded by Senator Plumb

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
	1. Quote of the Week: “Success is not the absence of failure; it is the persistence through failure.” – Sal
		1. “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” – Geo and Rush
	2. Thanksgiving meal is tonight in the office!
	3. Nomination for Intercultural Student Engagement Center Senate Seat
		1. Ashlee Potter
			1. Junior at Western, member of ISEC for around 2.5 years, very thankful for the opportunity to be nominated!
		2. Voice Vote
			1. Unanimous Yes
	4. Have a great week!
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
	1. The Veterans Day 5K is Wednesday 11/15 from 4-6!
		1. Senators can receive up to 4 office hours at the 5K
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
	1. Thank you for writing legislation!
		1. Next meeting there will be a budget update
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley**
	1. The SGA Christmas Party is November 28th in the office after the regular meeting.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
	1. SGA gave out 440 burgers at the homecoming tailgate
	2. Make sure to attend the Safety Walk!
	3. If you do not have your SGA polo, please contact Director Romanov
	4. If you are graduating in December or studying abroad in the spring, please let President Kurtz know so your respective seat can be filled
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
	1. Thank you for voting in Senator Potter!
	2. Legislation will be on the website soon, it is having technical difficulties now.
	3. If you have any outreach events or related things coming up, please send to Director Johnson to put on the website as well.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
	1. President Caboni is very pleased with the scholarships that SGA has provided thus far, and Dr. Logan approved the student-all email request for Monday morning regarding scholarships.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
	1. President Caboni is very impressed with the Senate!
	2. Senator of the month
		1. Congrats to Senator Hornback for getting into med school!
	3. Our meeting on the 28th is our next meeting and is the last Senate Meeting of the semester.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
	1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
	1. Senator Bodemann
		1. LOC meeting tomorrow is at 6:30 11/15
	2. Motion to table Bills 9-23-F and 10-23-F to next meeting
		1. Seconded by Senator Robinson
	3. Speech in Affirmation by Senator Bodemann
		1. The committee would like to wait until Senator Pierce is present to debate the bills.
	4. Voice Vote
		1. Unanimous Yes
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
	1. Senator Blood
		1. No report
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
	1. No report
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
	1. Met with Chief Deputy Hughes and Bryan Russell this week
	2. Safety Walk Thursday 11/16 at 5:30!
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
	1. No report.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
	1. Resolution tonight!
	2. Legislation in the works
	3. Tabling soon
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
	1. Meet every Tuesday at 4:00
	2. Toy Drive for Boys and Girls Club has started!
		1. Service hours for each toy, cap at 5 service hours but no cap on how many items you can bring
		2. Bring donations to SGA front desk
	3. Point of information by Speaker Denney
		1. You can receive up to two office hours through donations to the toy drive

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
	1. Constitutional Amendment Committee
		1. Justices Ranger and Reed will be on this committee
		2. Look closely at the SGA constitution and revise/amend it
		3. Reach out to Chief Justice King or Senator Pierce if you are interested!
	2. Chief Justice Verdict Award
		1. Congrats to Senator Ray!
	3. Two amendments on the agenda right now
2. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
	1. Intercultural Student Engagement Senator
		1. Ashley Potter
3. University Committee Reports
	1. Student Life Foundation – **Annie Finch**
		1. No report.
	2. Committee on Academic Quality – **Annie Finch**
		1. No report.
	3. University Athletic Committee – **Kaison Barton & Julia Duggins**
		1. No report.
	4. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee – **Rush Robinson, Dylan Carmona, & Megan Farmer**
		1. No report.
	5. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee – **Tanner Blood**
		1. No report.
	6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
		1. No report.
	7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Ella Wooton**
		1. No report.
	8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Kayla Distler**
		1. No report.
	9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
		1. No report.
	10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
		1. No report.
4. **Unfinished Business**
	1. **Bill 6-23-F Resolution to Support the Alteration of Fire Drill Times**
		1. Senator Aberle
		2. The current 2:00 AM – 5:00 AM fire drill times can increase anxiety, sleep pattern issues, and emotional problems for students experiencing these fire drill times.
		3. Speech in affirmation – Senator Williams
			1. HRL has confirmed that there is no rhyme or reason to the current fire drill times and that the Fire Department comes at their leisure to do the drills.
		4. Voice Vote
			1. Unanimous Yes
	2. **Bill 12-23-F Funding for the Boys and Girls Club Toy Drive**
		1. Senator Cisco and Senator Kurtz
		2. Asking for $200 for wrapping paper, scissors, tape, gift tags, and other supplies to get gifts together for the Toy Drive.
			1. Question by Senator Bryant
				1. Do you think that this is an environmentally sound option?
				2. The Boys and Girls Club was planning to wrap the gifts regardless
			2. Question by Senator Payne
				1. Can we get an office hour for helping wrap gifts?
				2. Yes
		3. Speech in Affirmation by Senator Payne
			1. This is a good and right cause; the Boys and Girls Club is a great organization that we can help.
		4. Voice Vote
			1. Unanimous Yes
5. **New Business**
	1. **Bill 9-23-F**
	2. **Bill 11-23-F**
	3. **Bill 13-23-F**
	4. **Bill 14-23-F**
	5. **Bill 15-23-F**
	6. **Bill 16-23-F**

**10. Announcements**

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Aberle made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

First Reading: 11/7/23

Second Reading: 11/7/23

Pass:  Yes

**Resolution 6-23-F. Resolution to Support the Alteration of Fire Drill Times**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the altering of the Fire Drill time from 5 AM to 2 AM.

(1) WHEREAS: The current 5 AM fire drill time is unreasonable and causes sleep problems and anxiety for students with early work or class schedules, and

(2)WHEREAS: Students with accommodations from the Student Accessibility Resource Center and the Kelly Autism Program are especially prone to experience anxiety from the 5 AM fire drill time due to previous mental health issues and their Emotional Support Animals which may reside with them, and

(3)WHEREAS: Changing the time of the drills to 2 AM is a better option for students due to the ability of being able to return to bed and calm both their personal anxiety and their emotional support animals’ anxiety after the drill’s end, and

(4)WHEREAS: The aforementioned sleep and anxiety issues would be mitigated should this change take place.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports the altering of the Fire Drill time from 5 AM to 2 AM.

 AUTHORS: Geoffrey Aberle, Transfer/Non-traditional Senator

Sophia Bryant, Senator At Large

Callison Padgett, Sophomore Senator

 SPONSORS: Mental Health and Wellness Committee

Kelly Autism Program @ WKU Clinical Education Complex

 CONTACTS: Michelle Elkins-Burckhard, Ed.D, CCC-SLP, Director, Kelly Autism Program

270-745-8833 / michelle.elkins@wku.edu

First Reading: 11/7/23

Second Reading: 11/14/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 9-23-F. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

PURPOSE:​  For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to amend its constitution.

 (1)WHEREAS: ​ Section 2.4.10 of the Student Government Association Constitution describes the duties of the Executive Vice President and reads:

“2.4.10. Make University Senate appointments with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate”, and

 (2)WHEREAS:​ The “University Senate” has since split into “Faculty Senate” and “Staff Senate”, and​

(3)WHEREAS: Members of the Student Government Association are only chartered to serve on the Faculty Senate, and ​

(4)WHEREAS:​ The aforementioned section of the Constitution are outdated of the current affairs of campus, and

 (5)WHEREAS:​ The amended section of the Constitution would say:

“2.4.10. Make Faculty Senate appointments with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.”

 THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its constitution.

 AUTHORS:​ Meghan Pierce, LOC Chair

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator at Large

 SPONSORS:​ Legislative Operations Committee

​​​CONTACTS: meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 11/7/23

Second Reading: 11/14/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

 **Bill 10-23-F. A Bill to Amend the Bylaws of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

PURPOSE: ​ For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

amend its bylaws.

(1)WHEREAS:  Section 6 of the Bylaws is currently titled “Procedure for Committee Chair Removals, Expulsion from the Senate, and Votes of No Confidence/Impeachment Trials”, and

(2)WHEREAS:​ Section 3.10 of the Student Government Association Constitution describes basic impeachment proceedings for a Senator, with no mention of expulsion procedures, and

(3)WHEREAS:​ The Bylaws should be subordinate to the Constitution and accurately reflect the proceedings listed within it, and

(4)WHEREAS:​ Section 6 of the Bylaws shall be retitled to “Procedure for Committee Chairs and Votes of No Confidence/Impeachment Trials”, and

(5)WHEREAS:​ Section 6.1.2 currently reads,

“6.1.2. Expulsion of Senators shall follow the Expulsion from the Senate Process as spelled out in SGA Bylaws Section 6.3”, and

(7)WHEREAS: Section 6.1.2 shall now be removed from the Bylaws with all subsequent subsections renumbered, and

(8)WHEREAS: Section 6.1.5 of the Bylaws currently reads,

“6.1.5. Procedure for an Executive or Judicial impeachment brought before the Senate shall follow the same protocol as spelled out in SGA Bylaws Section 6.4”, and

(9)WHEREAS: Section 6.1.5 will be amended to now read,

“6.1.5. Procedure for a Legislative, Executive or Judicial impeachment brought before the Senate shall follow the same protocol as spelled out in SGA Bylaws Section 6.3”, and

(10)WHEREAS: Section 6.3 of the Bylaws currently describes the process of expulsion from the Senate, and

(11)WHEREAS: Section 6.3 shall now be removed from the Bylaws with all subsequent subsections renumbered, and

(12)WHEREAS: Section 6.4.1 of the Bylaws currently reads,

“6.4.1. The Speaker of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, or Parliamentarian may face a vote of no confidence and may be removed from their position for failure to uphold any provision of the Constitution, the Bylaws, or any just cause. Any member of the Executive Cabinet or Judicial Council may be impeached from office pursuant to SGA Constitution may be removed from their position for failure to uphold any provision of the Constitution, the Bylaws, or any just cause”, and

(13)WHEREAS: The above section with appropriate renumbering shall now read,

“6.3.1. The Speaker of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, or Parliamentarian may face a vote of no confidence and may be removed from their position for failure to uphold any provision of the Constitution, the Bylaws, or any just cause. Any member of the Senate, Executive Cabinet, or Judicial Council may be impeached from office pursuant to SGA Constitution may be removed from their position for failure to uphold any provision of the Constitution, the Bylaws, or any just cause”, and

(14)WHEREAS: Section 6.4.5.3 of the Bylaws currently reads,

“6.4.5.3. The Chief Justice shall report the official petition with twenty percent (20%) Senate membership endorsement and call upon the Petitioners (those who signed and filed the endorsement) to make their case for the Speaker of the Senate’s, Secretary of the Senate’s, Parliamentarian’s, Executive Cabinet member’s, or Judicial Council member’s removal”, and

(15)WHEREAS: The above section with appropriate renumbering shall now read,

“6.3.5.3. The Chief Justice shall report the official petition with twenty percent (20%) Senate membership endorsement and call upon the Petitioners (those who signed and filed the endorsement) to make their case for the Speaker of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Parliamentarian, Senate member, Executive Cabinet member, or Judicial Council member’s removal”, and

(16)WHEREAS: Section 6.4.5.4 of the Bylaws currently reads,

“6.4.5.4. Upon the Petitioner’s conclusion, the Chief Justice shall call upon the Defendant (the Speaker of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Parliamentarian, Executive Cabinet member, or Judicial Council member) to make their case”, and

(17)WHEREAS: The above section with appropriate renumbering shall now read,

“6.3.5.4. Upon the Petitioner’s conclusion, the Chief Justice shall call upon the Defendant (the Speaker of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Parliamentarian, Senate member, Executive Cabinet member, or Judicial Council member) to make their case”, and

(18)WHEREAS: Section 6.4.5.9.2 of the Bylaws currently reads,

“6.4.5.9.2. If a member of the Executive Cabinet or Judicial Council is facing an impeachment trial, the vote will be “Impeach and Remove” or “Acquit and Remain.” It shall be a roll call vote”, and

(19)WHEREAS: The above section with appropriate renumbering shall now read,

“6.3.5.9.2. If a member of the Senate, Executive Cabinet, or Judicial Council is facing an impeachment trial, the vote will be “Impeach and Remove” or “Acquit and Remain.” It shall be a roll call vote.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will amend its bylaws.

AUTHORS:​ Meghan Pierce, LOC Chair

​​ Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

​​ Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

​​ Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: ​Legislative Operations Committee

​​​

CONTACTS:​ meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 11/7/23

Second Reading: 11/14/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 11-23-F. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to amend its constitution.

(1)WHEREAS: ​ Section 2.4.6 of the Student Government Association Constitution describes the duties of the Executive Vice President and reads:

“2.4.6. Serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all Senate committees except for the Committee of Enrollment and Student Experience (CESE) and the Outreach and Student Experience (OSE) Committee”, and

(2)WHEREAS:​ Section 2.9.6. of the Constitution describes the duties of the Director of Enrollment and Student Experience and reads:

“2.9.6. Serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee of Enrollment and Student Experience”, and

(3)WHEREAS:​ Bill 4-22-F has since renamed the “Committee of Enrollment and Student Experience (CESE)” to the “Enrollment and Student Experience Committee”, and

(4)WHEREAS:​ Bill 4-22-F has since removed unnecessary acronyms for committee nomenclature except for the Legislative Operations Committee and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and

 (5)WHEREAS: Section 2.4.6 of the Constitution shall now read:

 “2.4.6. Serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all Senate committees except for the Enrollment and Student Experience Committee and the Outreach and Student Experience Committee”, and

 (6)WHEREAS:​ Section 2.9.6 shall now read:

“2.9.6. Serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Enrollment and Student Experience Committee.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will amend its constitution.

 AUTHORS:​ Meghan Pierce, LOC Chair

SPONSORS:​ Legislative Operations Committee

​​​CONTACTS:​ Yulia Mischuk, Co-author of Bill 4-22-F

First Reading: 11/14/23

Second Reading: 11/14/23

Pass: Yes

**Bill 12-23-F. Funding for Boys and Girls Club Toy Drive**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $200.00 to Community Relations Committee for a Toy Drive.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from Legislative Discretionary fund, and

(2)WHEREAS: $200 will go toward wrapping paper, name tags, scissors, and tape, and

(3)WHEREAS: Students can donate new toys for children ages 6-18 from November 13th through November 30th. Gifts can be dropped off at the SGA front desk, and

(4)WHEREAS: One service hour will be awarded per toy donated, with a maximum cap of 5 service hours, and

(5)WHEREAS: There will be a wrapping event on November 30th.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $200.00 for a Toy Drive benefitting the Boys and Girls Club of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

AUTHORS:  Savanna Kurtz, Freshman Senator

 Sarah Vincent, Junior Senator

 Ethan Taylor, Junior Senator

 Maiah Cisco, Senator At-Large

 Connor Ferguson, Gordon Ford College of Business Senator

SPONSORS:  Community Relations Committee

CONTACTS:  Donte Reed, Director of Enrollment & Student Experience, steven.reed824@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 11/14/23

Second Reading: 11/28/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 13-23-F. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to amend its Constitution.

(1)WHEREAS: Section 4.4.8 of the Constitution describes the duties and office hour requirements of the Chief Justice, reading:

“Establish and post set office hours of a minimum of one (1) per week during regular business hours.”, and

(2)WHEREAS: The Chief Justice is the go-to person for interpretation of the Constitution, and

(3)WHEREAS: Only one required hour could make the Chief Justice hard to reach, and

(4)WHEREAS: Section 4.4.8 will be amended to now read:

“Establish and post set office hours of a minimum of five (5) per week during regular business hours.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Isaac King, Chief Justice

SPONSORS: Judicial Council

 Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS: Isaac King, Chief Justice, isaac.king527@topper.wku.edu

Meghan Pierce, Senator at Large, meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 11/14/23

Second Reading: 11/28/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 14-23-F. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to Amend its Constitution.

(1)WHEREAS: The Honors Program began in 1963 and the Honors College was established in 2007, and

(2)WHEREAS: The students of the Mahurin Honors College lack official representation in the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University, and

(3)WHEREAS: The purpose of adding a Mahurin Honors College student senator would be to ensure representation for Mahurin Honors College students in the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University, and

(4)WHEREAS: The addition of a Mahurin Honors College senator would serve the same purpose as the current academic college senators and shall therefore be elected in the same manner, and

(5)WHEREAS: Section 3.6.8 currently reads:

“3.6.8. One (1) senator from each academic college elected by students within the respective college for a total of five (5) senators.”, and

(6)WHEREAS: Section 3.6.8 shall now read:

“3.6.8. One (1) senator from each academic college, including the Mahurin Honors College, elected by students within the respective college for a total of six (6) senators.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

 University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

 Audrey Clark, Mahurin Honors College Student

SPONSORS: Judicial Council

CONTACTS: Ellen Henderson, ellen.henderson345@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 11/14/23

Second Reading: 11/28/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 15-23-F:** **Funding for the “Community Builder Excellence” Scholarship**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $1,000.00 to the Community Relations Committee’s “Community Builder Excellence” Scholarship.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Scholarships Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS: The scholarship will aim to spread awareness of the Student Government Association and encourage incoming freshmen from the Bowling Green community to be involved on campus within the Student Government Association, and

(3)WHEREAS: The scholarship application will discuss current student involvement and how students plan to be a voice for the Bowling Green Community through Student Government Association activity or other clubs on campus, and

(4)WHEREAS: Two students from the Bowling Green community will be selected and will receive a $500.00 scholarship, and

(5)WHEREAS: The students that are eligible to receive the scholarship must be enrolled at Western Kentucky University by the scholarship deadline on February 29th, 2024, and

(6)WHEREAS: All high school seniors within the Bowling Green Independent and Warren County Public School districts are eligible to apply.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $1,000.00 to the Community Relation Committee’s Community Builder Excellence Scholarship.

AUTHORS:  Sarah Vincent, Junior Senator

 Ethan Taylor, Junior Senator

 Maiah Cisco, Senator At Large

 Connor Ferguson, Gordon Ford College of Business Senator

SPONSORS:  Community Relations Committee

CONTACTS:  Donte Reed, Director of Enrollment & Student Experience, steven.reed824@topper.wku.edu

270-745-8833/michelle.elkins@wku.edu

First Reading: 11/14/23

Second Reading: 11/28/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 16-23-F. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to amend its Constitution.

WHEREAS: The Judicial Council operates as the Judicial Branch, with the Senate as the Legislative Branch and Executive Cabinet as the Executive Branch, and

WHEREAS: Section 4.6 of the Constitution describes the duties of the Judicial Council, and

WHEREAS: The Judicial Branch requires minimal involvement, and this creates an imbalance in participation between the three branches, and

WHEREAS: A new section numbered 4.6.9 will be added, reading:

“4.6.9 Maintain two (2) office hours monthly.”, and

WHEREAS: A new section numbered 4.6.9.1 will be added, reading:

“4.6.9.1. An office hour may consist of tabling for SGA, meetings with faculty and staff on issues pertaining to SGA, or time in the SGA office.”, and

WHEREAS: All subsequent subsections of Section 4.6 will be renumbered accordingly.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Isaac King, Chief Justice

SPONSORS: Judicial Council

Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS: Isaac King, Chief Justice, isaac.king527@topper.wku.edu

Sydney Denney, Speaker of the Senate, sydney.denney780@topper.wku.edu