Senate Meeting Minutes

Fifth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, September 19th, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00 PM on September 19th, 2023, at 5:09 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Williams was absent.
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.

**4. Guest and Student Speakers**

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. President Kurtz encouraged everyone to come to the elections result party tonight at 11:30PM. He stated that this has been a very highly contested election with 24 candidates.
   2. Quote of the week: “We are for the students.” SGA exists to serve the student body at its core, no matter what that looks like.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. Senator Wheat, Senator Distler, Senator Wooton, Senator Blood, Senator Payne, Senator Robinson, Senator Carmona, Senator Pierce, Senator Barton, and Senator Duggins were all nominated for their respective university committees.
      1. Senator Ferguson motioned to condense all committee nominations to one vote.
      2. Seconded by ­­­­­Senator Taylor.
         1. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   2. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   3. Senator Pierce motioned to move out of bylaws.
      1. Seconded by Senator Robinson
   4. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   5. Motion by Senator Pierce to move Bill 123-F from new business to unfinished business
      1. Speech in affirmation by Senator Pierce, stating that the authors would not move the bill.
      2. Seconded by Senator Robinson
      3. Passed with unanimous voice vote
   6. Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Pierce
      1. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. It’s Hispanic Heritage Month! ISEC is sponsoring several events throughout the month and AVP Leon encouraged all who can to go.
   2. The budget has been updated on the website.
   3. Shoutouts to Senator Robinson, Senator Wright, and Director Reed for writing legislation this week. AVP Leon highlighted the importance of the legislation that will be presented tonight.
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley** 
   1. Chief Kelley shared that dental vouchers are now being given out! She encouraged the Senate to attend the watch party tonight.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Director Romanov encouraged the Senate to vote and to come to the watch party. He stated that no matter the results, SGA supports all the candidates.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Director Johnson stated that the budget and minutes are both updated on the website.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Director Reed shared that scholarships for next semester will be open next week! The Dean is wanting to speak with SGA about a Build-A-Doll program.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Speaker Denney sent the Senate the Senator of the Month Google Form as well as a Google Form for a preferred day to meet if we must cancel a regular Tuesday meeting. October 17th and 24th may have to be moved to different dates.
   2. This Saturday is the SGA Senate Retreat! The time will be given out once all absences are turned in. Absences are due September 20th.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Senator Pierce shared that the Parliamentarian spot is still open. Legislation is due to LOC on Wednesdays at noon. LOC is working on behalf of student activities for a bill for RSO event.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Senator Wright mentioned that the Pink Walk Bill will be presented tonight.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
   1. Senator Plumb stated that their meeting times will now be Tuesdays after SGA meetings. Their committee is hoping to have an outreach event before the year is over.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Senator Robinson stated that their committee is looking to have a joint tabling event “tarty” with the Mental Health Committee.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. No report.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
   1. Senator Padgett stated that their new meeting time is 6:00PM on Thursdays. They are working on new legislation.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Senator Cisco shared that their committee is working towards a scholarship on behalf of SGA that will be open to only students attending WKU from Bowling Green.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Excuse forms and JC meeting requests can now be submitted through the Google Form on the SGA website.
   2. JC now meets at 5:45 on Wednesdays in the conference room.
2. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
   1. University Committee Members were sworn in.

**8. Unfinished Business**

1. Bill 1-23-F
   1. Presentation
      1. Senator Robinson, Senator Wright, and Director Reed shared information about the Pink Walk. They stated that the event is mainly to raise awareness and to raise funding for breast cancer research. SGA, Panhellenic, and IFC are sponsoring the event.
      2. Point of Information to Speaker Denney regarding the Susan G. Komen Foundation.
         1. Speaker Denney shared about the Susan G. Komen foundation, stating that this organization not only provides funding for research but also helps to provide support to those experiencing breast cancer.
   2. Questioning
      1. Senator Farmer asked for a cost breakdown.
         1. Director Reed pointed out where in the Bill the cost is broken down.
      2. Senator Plumb made a motion to amend the Bill to include the Outreach and Student Experience Committee as a sponsor.
         1. The motion was taken as friendly
      3. Senator Pierce asked how the money would be collected and given to the Foundation
         1. Director Reed stated that the idea is that money will be sent to a Venmo and then sent directly to the Susan G. Komen foundation. SGA cannot fund an outside organization.
   3. Speeches in Affirmation and Negation
      1. Senator Aberle gave a speech in affirmation stating that SGA should choose humanity and support this cause by voting yes.
      2. Senator Bryant gave a speech in negation stating that the Susan G. Komen foundation is a very controversial organization. Senator Bryant stated that SGA should consider choosing a different organization.
         1. Senator Robinson stated that whichever organization they choose is independent of the bill itself.
   4. Roll Call Vote
   5. Unanimous Yes

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

1. Chi Omega Wish Week is this week.

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Aberle made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM.

First Reading: 9/19/23

Second Reading: 9/19/23

Pass: Yes

Fail: No

Other:

Bill 1-23-F: **Funding for The SGA Pink Walk**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $500.00 to the SGA Pink Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness.

(1)WHEREAS: $500 will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS: The $500 from the Legislative Discretionary Budget will be used for the purchase of 150 bracelets, 200 pink ribbons, 5 cases of water, and the raffle prize, and

(3)WHEREAS: Materials will be given out during the SGA Pink Walk on October 5th, and

(4)WHEREAS: The remaining items will be left in the SGA office to be given out throughout the month of October.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $500.oo to the SGA Pink Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness

AUTHORS:  Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

Anne-Marie Wright, Junior Senator

Steven “Donte” Reed, Director Enrollment and Student Experience

SPONSORS:  Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

Enrollment And Student Experience Committee

Executive Cabinet

CONTACTS:  Rush Robinson - (270) -205-5073

Steven “Donte” Reed - (513) -814-0242

Anne-Marie Wright - (270) -903-5826