WKU Student Government Association

# Meeting Minutes

# October 29, 2019

## Opening

The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00pm on October 29, 2019 in Downing Student Union by Speaker of the Senate Nathan Terrel.

## Present

31 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 Will Harris:

* The board of regents had the quarterly meeting and a special call meeting. The business of these meetings were to name the golf facility and the first read of an amendment to bylaws to include “duties of the president”
* WKU has changed its requirements for scholarships to be based solely upon the GPA rather than the ACT Score

Executive Vice President Garrett Edmonds:

* Meeting with the senate budget finance committee to reevaluate student fees in order to provide more transparency about the dollars
* The committee of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is looking for student representative

Administrative Vice President Kenan Mujkanovic

* Organizations are set to meet with the Org Aid committee, and we are excited to start spending money through various bills in the legislative body

Chief of Staff Aubrey Kelley

* Shirt sizes
	+ Looking into a t shirt with a design of the WKU skyline
* Swipe whenever you come to senate!

Public Relations Ashlynn Evans

* No report

DASA Abby Norvell

* We have received about 59 completed applications for the SGA scholarship, keep spreading the word!
* We have only received 1 application for the new ISEC book scholarship, so be sure to reach out to students about applying

IT Director Paul Brosky

* Working on updating the website

Speaker of the Senate Nathan Terrell

* Office hours will begin next Monday, and you will be held accountable by the office worker in the SGA Office

Secretary of the Senate Brenna Mathews

* Be sure to do office hours as assigned

Campus Improvements Committee Head Matt Barr

* The campus improvements committee is dealing with the physical developments of WKU’s campus so if you are interested in helping improve campus, be sure to try to join this committee

LRC Committee Head Josh Zaczek

* Be sure to send legislation through LRC and ask any questions as you have
* Join LRC to learn the ins and outs of the WKU SGA Senate and Constitution

Public Relations Committee Head Brigid Stakelum

* The committee focuses on outreach with students and working to further our involvement as a body and hearing student voice, be sure to join if this is what you’re passionate about!

SAVES Committee Head Hope Wells

* The committee for SAVES is about helping students find resources to improve overall mental health on campus

Sustainability Committee Head Jillian Kenney

* If anyone is interested in joining the sustainability committee, please reach out to jillian.kenney124@topper.wku.edu and after committee placements have been done she will create a doodlepoll for the best time to meet!

**Student Speakers**

Francis Wilson: Bowling Green needs more data about young people to better make policy within the city. There are a lot of issues about employment, youth retention, minimum wage, education. The median age is 27, but the leadership does not reflect this in age or policy. If you have any nominations or people in mind, please send names to @FrancisWilson

## Unfinished Business

Resolution 4-19-F Veto from the Executive Committee

1. President Harris spoke in favor of the veto as outlined in the report emailed to the SGA body on October 24th. Working on creating an open forum for students to speak with the SGA body about the issue at hand.
	1. Moved into questioning with President Harris serving as author of the veto per the constitution.
		1. Senator Josh asked for the reasoning behind President Harris’s abstention from the veto vote
			1. President Harris stated he wants to work with the authors of the resolution without bias
		2. Senator Conner Hounshell asked if the exec council took the resolution to the Judicial Council
			1. The resolution was not put before the Judicial Council to determine its constitutionality
		3. Senator Hounshell asked if the Judicial Council would have to interpret the constitutionality of the resolution
			1. Chief Justice Keller stated that the interpretation of the constitution would be best exemplified through a ruling of the Judicial Council
		4. Dawson asked about filing a complaint from the student handbook
			1. Will Harris looked at the constitution, rather than the student handbook
		5. Senator Rung asked why the executive council had not reached out prior to the vote
			1. President Harris apologized for not reaching out to the authors prior to the vote
		6. Senator Survance asked if the resolution is not passed, how can the organization set a precedence if SGA does not realize the statement condemning this behavior?
			1. President Harris has worked to try and take care of the problem internally within the organization by working to host educational workshops with WKU’s administration
		7. Senator Whalin asked about how the exec council did not reach out to the authors after the vote, prior to the meeting on the veto, about their concerns with the wording on the funding of the organization.
			1. President Harris said he did reach after the meeting and she had replied that the organization would be unable to receive funding for “forever.”
			2. Senator Whalin replied that she was not there when the bylaw was created, but her interpretation of the bylaw was that the group would not be funded. However, this was a resolution and is only recommending that the organization not befunded due to the discrimination clause in the constitution of the WKU SGA
		8. Senator Kyle Phillips asked LRC for a point of information if the authors were to revise the resolution would they be able to pass it as a new piece of legislation?
			1. LRC Chair Zaczek said yes
2. No further questions. Moved into debate on the Executive Veto of Resolution 4-19-F. President Harris’s speech was taken as a speech in favor of the veto.
	1. Senator Zaczek gives a speech against the veto. Constitutionality within a resolution is more lenient, as it is a resolution and not a bill. It is an opinion of the student body put through the SGA chambers and it was stating the due to the behavior of multiple members that the organization had violated discrimination clauses of the SGA Constitution and should not receive funding; not that they absolutely will not. Working internally with the organization is not visible to the majority of campus and it is likely that the students will continue to believe the administration is allowing the behavior of this organization to be considered as acceptable because their repercussions were not made public.
	2. Senator Brigid Stakelum gave a speech in favor of the veto. This resolution is not binding, but this will set a precedence. If the SGA Senate sets a record that funding can be taken away from organizations than issues could occur in the future long after the members in the organization leave. This resolution was not well debated within this chamber. We should have further debated the entire resolution rather than simply the amendments.
	3. Senator Survance gave a speech against the veto. We have discussed that SGA does not have the power to discipline the organization, so this resolution is just a formal statement. It’s important to pass this now because the executive council is dragging this issue out in order to lose momentum.
	4. Senator Whalin gave a speech against the veto. Senator Whalin did say forever, but she did not write the bylaw that was debated. She had conversations with LRC and JC about the resolution. She agrees that the resolution was not debated thoroughly, but that was a choice of the senate and not at fault of the resolution. The whereas clause was placed into the resolution after talking to JC and LRC.
	5. Senator Phillips gave a speech in favor of the veto. The veto was done for one specific clause and the authors would have the ability to write more legislation. Also, the SGA Senate body is not in charge of student conduct.
	6. Senator Kenney gave a speech against the veto. This resolution is not to say who has the ability to decide who receives funding. This whereas clause in the resolution came from the constitution based on the discrimination clause within the constitution. The veto states that we do not have the ability to decide who can receive SGA funding, however the constitution does directly state that we can withhold funding from organizations that are discriminatory of part of the student body.
	7. Senator Burks called previous question.
		1. Approved 25-10-1.
	8. Moved into voting on the Executive Veto of Resolution 4-19-F
		1. The Executive Veto of Resolution 4-19-F stands as approved by the Senate body in a 25-9-2 vote

## New Business

No new business was introduced

## Announcements

Senators MJ Mayo and Dawson McCoun earned a $10,000 grant from the WKU Sisterhood Foundation for their “Feed the Need” project. The Senators are thankful to all who sent them personal testimonies and are hoping to send out an all-student survey on food insecurity later in the semester.

## Adjournment

Motion was made by Senator Meridian to adjourn – second by Senator Zaczek.

Approved 31-0-4 and the eighth meeting of the eighteenth senate was adjourned at 5:52pm on October 29th.

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