Senate Meeting Minutes

Twenty-First Meeting of the Twenty-Second Senate - Tuesday, March 7th 2023

**1. Call to Order**

* Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

**2. Roll Call**

* Roll call was taken by Speaker Mishchuk
* 5 senators were absent, 30 were present

**3. Approval of Minutes**

* The minutes from 2/28 were approved unanimously by the senate

**4. Guest and Student Speakers**

* Dr. Patricia Minter spoke about civic engagement

**5. Officer Reports**

President – **Cole Bornefeld**

* The Rally for Higher Education meeting took place before the regularly scheduled senate meeting to discuss legislative priorities according to WKU and the board of student body presidents.
* Checks were presented to the winners of SGA scholarships. There were 40 applicants and 5 finalists for these scholarships.
* The Narcan bill was highlighted; the university was pleased to see this initiative take place.

Executive Vice President – **Garrison Reed**

* No report

Administrative Vice President – **Sam Kurtz**

* Orgaid submissions have been reviewed and submitted to LOC.
* Shoutout to Lincoln Phillips for dressing business professional and Preston Romanov for being energetic and always fun to talk to.

Chief of Staff – **Lauren Willett**

* No report

Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**

* Instagram post highlighted legislation and promoted legislation passed in the Spring so far.
* Spring scholarships close March 31st, please encourage people to apply.

Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**

* Budget and legislative archive have been updated.

Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**

* No report

Speaker of the Senate – **Julie Mishchuk**

* Senator Clementi resigned, I will be the secretary until we find a new one (or maybe just forever).
* Committee secretaries please send me your minutes.

Senator Huffaker motioned a point of information to President Bornfeld asking about plans for the executive projects fund. President Bornfeld said they are working on an outreach event with the university, and it is still in the works.

Secretary of the Senate –

Parliamentarian – **Meghan Pierce**

* No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

Legislative Operations – **Liz Delozier**

* No legislation today, but there is a constitutional change that must be read before it is voted on in two weeks.
* If you have questions about the role of secretary, please direct them to me.

Enrollment and Student Experience – **Adan Canizalez**

* No report

Outreach and Student Engagement – **Matt Gadd**

* No report.

Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Will Hemenover**

* Tabling for earth day will be happening in April, please donate used glass bottles by contacting committee members.

Diversity Equity, and Inclusion – **Juan Tomas**

* A bill for Afro Latinidad is in the works; expected attendance is 100 people; more updates to come soon.

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Olivia Feck**

* Mental Health Awareness week is being coordinated, please contact us if you have a bulletin board that we can borrow. Jeans and candy are still needed for the event, please donate.
* Office hours will be offered for this event.

Community Relations – **Sydney Denney**

* No report.

**7. Faculty Senate Reports**

SGA representatives – **Liz DeLozier, Sydney Denney, Will Hemenover**

* No report.

**8. Special Orders**

Judicial Council Report --  **Justin Goins**

* No report.

University Committee Reports –

- Senate Executive Committee – **Cole Bornefeld**

**-** No report

- Student Life Foundation – **Garrison Reed**

**-** No report

- Preston Center Advisory Council – **Garrison Reed**

**-** No report

- Budget and Finance Committee – **Sam Kurtz**

**-** No report

- University Curriculum Committee – **Brett Phelps**

**-** No report

- Colonnade General Education Committee –

- Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee – **Ethan Huffaker**

**-** No report

- Committee on Academic Quality – **Mallory Hardesty**

**-** No report

- Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee **– Matt Gadd, Rhett Helland, Rush Robinson**

**-** No report

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup – **Megan Farmer**

**-** No report

- Academic Calendar – **Adan Canizalez**

**-** No report

- University Athletic Committee- **Matt Gadd, ShyAnte'e Williams**

**-** Sports schedules are being finalized.

- Monthly meeting is set for the 20th.

- Budget and Finance Committee -

Swearing in -- **Justin Goins**

Senator of the Month Election – **Julie Mishchuk**

* Senator Hardesty was voted as the February senator of the month
* Senator Hardesty thanked WKU and her committee members for this award.

**9. Unfinished Business**

**10. New Business**

* Bill 39-23-S. Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.

**11. Announcements**

* Senator Huffaker motioned to adjourn, the motion failed as it was not seconded.
* Senator Pierce urged senators to utilize the HIV testing center.
* Senator Denney asked everyone to nominate fellow SGA members for end of the year awards.
* Senator Padgett asked if anyone knew how to use a button maker.
* Senator Hardesty reminded the senate about applications to go to Morocco.

**12. Adjournment**

* The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm

First Reading: 3/7/23

Second Reading: 3/14/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 39-23-S. 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 to change and clarify the appointment process for vacant senator positions.

WHEREAS: Section 3.8 currently reads

“3.8.1. All but the three (3) freshman senators, one (1) graduate senator, one (1)

International senator, and one (1) Gatton Academy senator shall be elected in the spring

election.

3.8.2. If the freshman, graduate, International or Gatton Academy senator position(s)

will not be filled in the fall election, they shall change to at-large positions in the same fall

election.”, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.9 currently reads

“3.9.1. Vacancies in the Senate after the fall elections shall be filled by an appointment

from the President and approval by the majority of the Senate.”, and

WHEREAS: The transfer/nontraditional senator and First-Generation senator should be elected

in the fall election to match with the start of a new academic year, during which most students

transfer, and

WHEREAS: The Constitution currently does not give clear authority to the enforcement of by

election codes during elections, and

WHEREAS: The process for replacing senators outlined in section 3.9 of the Constitution is not

clear, and

WHEREAS: New constitutional amendments are establishing more distinctions between senate

positions, and the distinction between these senate positions ought to be respected by the

process for appointing successors in the event of a vacancy, and

WHEREAS: The International Student Engagement Center senator is inaccurately named, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.6.11 shall now read

“One (1) Intercultural student senator.”, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.8 shall now read

“3.8.1. The senior, junior, sophomore, college specific, senator at-large, and Intercultural

Student Engagement Center (ISEC) student senators shall be elected in the spring election.

3.8.2. The freshman, graduate, International, Gatton Academy, First Generation, and

Transfer/nontraditional student senators shall be elected in the fall election.

3.8.3. The spring and fall elections shall adhere to the election codes as set by the

Judicial Council and approved by the majority of the Senate.”, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.9 shall now read

“3.9.1. Any senate position (excluding Speaker of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate,

and committee chairs) not filled after the spring or fall elections shall be filled by appointment

by the President and approved by a majority of the Senate.

3.9.2. Upon the nomination of a candidate to the Senate to fill one of these positions, the

President shall announce which position they intend to fill.

3.9.3 In order to be nominated, nominees must meet the requirements set under the

election codes used for the most recent election.

3.9.4. The President may turn vacant senate seats to senator at-large seats with approval

by ⅔ of the Senate.”

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

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Ethan Huffaker, Senator At-Large

Neel Patel, Gatton Academy Senator

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

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