WKU SGA Student Senate Minutes

November 16, 2010

The 11th meeting of the 9th Senate of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University was called to order at 6:17pm on Tuesday November 16, 2010 with the Speaker of the Senate in the chair.

There were 27 Senators present.

Absent Senators were: Asbery, Benton, Hummer, Ismail, Preston, Shaw, Sheridan, Thornton, Woosley.

The minutes from November 9, 2010 were approved with one correction.

*Secretary Stillwell: Last week’s minutes read “October 26, 2010” where they should have read “November 9, 2010.” I have contacted IT Director Cory Dodds to make the correction on the document on SGA’s website. Apologies.*

*Officer Reports*

**President – Colton Jessie**

* Hope everyone had a great weekend.
* Hope everyone was able to get a voucher.
* Met with Food Services Committee last Friday with a few senators and students.
  + Students concerned about Styrofoam cups to get water. Tim Colley is working to get a water tap
* Parking and Transport met on Friday. KHSAA football championship. Closing parking structure and Creason lot for parking. They will be relocating cars.
* Another win for the TOPS this weekend. Hope to see everyone at the game on Saturday.

**Executive Vice President – Kendrick Bryan**

* Beatles are now on iTunes
* Free holiday concert December 1, 2010 at 7pm in VanMeter Hall.

**Administrative Vice President – Wade Pierce**

* $7500 with legislation tonight
* Working to resolve some issues with Study Away.

**Speaker of the Senate – Austin Wingate**

* Keep attending committee meetings
* We are receiving attendance on those. You will go up for Judicial Council review if you do not.

*Staff Reports*

**Chief of Staff – Charlie Harris**

* NONE

**Public Relations Director – Jessica Wurth**

* Dine with Decision Makers invites will be printed Friday,

**Director of Academic and Student Affairs – Billy Stephens**

* HODS apps available – Thursday deadline

**Director of Information Technology – Cory Dodds**

* Website was down some today.
* Dine with Decision Makers RSVP now available online. Please invite your fellow students.

*Committee Reports*

**Academic Affairs Committee– Brandon Logan**

* Deadlines have passed. Hope to finish tonight and notify recipients of those.

**Campus Improvements Committee– Kaylee Egerer**

* One of the biggest bills we have ever written will take place tonight. We will meet and discuss this tonight. Please come and give your opinion.
* TOPS basketball won last night

**Legislative Research Committee– Eileen Forsythe**

* Make sure to send someone from committee to my meetings on Thursday.

**Public Relations – Ann-Blair Thornton**

* First Focus Friday email went out on Friday.

**Student Affairs – Emmy Woosley**

* Paul will be conducting the meeting tonight. Will continue to work closely with Campus Improvemets.

*Special Reports*

* Academic Quality appointment is Keyana. Spoke about professor evaluations. Want new efficient system.
* President Ransdell
* This building was built more than 40 years ago.
* Some changes have been made throughout the years.
* The most challenging phase is here now.
* We will be changing EVERYTHING – from plumbing to bells and whistles.
* We really need to complete the final phase on a building that ns now very tired.
* There is never a good time to talk about increasing a student fee.
* To go forward with this project is something that we cannot do without the SGA!
* It must be student initiated, lead, and determined. Must be student decisions all the way through the project.
* Top end number of what it will take to make sure this will happen.
* What increase in the student fee is necessary?
* If SGA decides to do this, we will determine the number
* Whatever action we choose to take will determine what will actually happens.
* The architect is responsible for making sure that he is at or below the budget we give to him.
* There will likely be some tough decisions.
* We are programming the building for the next generation of students
* This can be very cool – but there is a student center fee. The current debt on this building is paid off as of now. This building cost about 4 million dollars to build. We’re talking about a 40 million renovation. This is not uncommon for this day.
* Important points:
  + We cannot do this by carving a portion of tuition increase. A portion of ‘tuition’ cannot be allotted. Increasing tuition covers our standing costs. We will not take money out of the academic part of this institution to make this renovation happen. Student approved fee can be approved outside a tuition cap. If you choose to do this, we will choose to take the current student fee and increase it by X number of dollars. It would be a separate fee from tuition. This is not something I am asking you to do. We are not imposing it. We are simply presenting the need. IF you choose to move forward, these are the people that you will be working with. This is a complex project. But it can be a legacy
* Why now?
  + Interest rates are very low. If we wait, interest rates will go up. If we wait a few years, it will cost several million more than it will right now.
  + The council of post secondary education is willing to separate this need form ‘tuition.’
  + Timing is good right now.
  + The longer we wait the more complex and difficult it will be.
* We have already invested some for a new roof and auditorium (for the most part, this is complete).
* The rest of the floors, outside of Fresh Food Company and the other restaurants, everything will be changed.
* We are here to support you. We are not imposing this on you.
* SGA is the representative body and there is no way this can work without the students.
* We can wait, but we must act at some point.
* We are moving forward on some projects that the state and others are welcome to contribute to.
* They think the timing is best. That’s why we are here tonight.
* The fee would increase $70 both in the fall and spring. This increase will be for the duration of the debt – 20 years. These are the projections for a $49 million dollar renovation. The arch has been given this number to not exceed.
* This money from students is about half of what we need. Other departments and avenues on campus are contributing the rest of what is needed.
* $1.2 million spent on auditorium.
* $800,000 was spent on a new roof.
* Other improvements have been made to the outside.
* Fee will probably go into effect next fall.
* Once we make the decision to go, we would like to move it along as quickly as possible.
* Class of 2014, we want this completed by the time you graduate.
* Mr. Jeff Stivers is an architect from Lexington, KY.
  + Completed projects on over 19 campuses across KY.
  + VanMeter, College of Education, Florence Snyder Hall on WKU’s campus.
  + We have put together a team and have included another firm that has a concentration in student centers.
  + 1970 was completion of DUC
  + Will be starting a series of meeting and discussions about needs of students
  + How does this building need to be reimagined
  + This will not be top-down management
  + Use a type of image polling process – from that exercise, we determine words that translate the student’s needs
  + Try to use social media to our advantage as well – status updates during construction
  + This is literally the heart of the campus- it is very much the center of activity. It’s not just about the inside of the building.
  + Currently, student activity space is only 2% - this is low compared to other institutions.
  + Have noticed how inactive the 4th floor – do we want more connectivity?
  + Study Space – 24/7 study is very important! Furnishings are durable, comfortable, and mobile. This is a space rich with electrical outlets.
  + 2 main ideas:

1. This project is all about the students. Everything else will be factored in but this is really about what students need and want
2. Legacy: Dr. Ransdell used this word in his presentation. In a way, students are here today and gone tomorrow. This campus has great history. We have the opportunity to make decisions that will affect students to come. This is so much more than about updating a tired building. There is no way that a building built 40 years ago meets the needs of this universities current students.

* $3 million a year for $49 million renovation. At 3.5% interest paying approximately $60 million.
* Lead Certified facilities – our hopes is to make this building close the Lead Certification. Sustainable design is something that we focus on in each project.
* There are many opportunities to host forums, set up booths, etc. We are not limited in ways that we gather ideas for the project.

**Judicial Council**

* NONE

**Bowling Green City Commission Report**

* NONE

*Unfinished business*

* + Resolution 3-10-F: Resolution to Support Online Access to Course Information.
    - *Motion to have constructively read. Passes with one in opposition and one abstention.*
    - Author’s speech: Nathan Bishop
      * Basically we want faculty to have the syllabi online prior to registration. Continuance from K. Bryan. Tried to compromise with both students and faculty/staff. We have worked in the past with the handbook.
    - Technical questions: What is meant by the 5th day of the first day of classes?
      * This means the 5th day of the term – any term. Typically the Friday of the first week of classes.
    - This is requiring that there be some standard. We need a time frame. Most classes do pass these out – but we need to encourage them to do this by a specific time. This is more of an accountability issue.
    - Debate: *Senator Johns* - We have passed a bill like this times in the past, we have always had people to back out on us. What is to say this will be different this time?
      * SGA has never had a resolution this clear in some time. We have a stronger presence in university Senate than before. We have a new provost now.
      * Senator Boka: most teachers see syllabi as a binding contract with students. They don’t want to have to be bound this early in the semester. They are nervous to put this online. This means it’s open to the public (other teachers and universities and professors can see). Professors don’t want their ideas stolen across the board. Sometimes emergencies occur and they cannot put the syllabus up on time.
      * Senator Egerer: would they be more comfortable if they understood that it is a very bare version? If it doesn’t have as many details.
      * Senator Boka: they think that course catalog is sufficient explanation of the course.
* *Motion to support resolution – passes with one in abstention*.
  + Bill 12-10-F: Scholar Development Grant Award Allocations
    - *Motion and second to have bill constructively read. Passes unanimously*.
    - Author’s speech : Brandon Logan
    - Technical questions: None
    - Friendly amendment – spelling correction “Maagement” to “Management”
    - Debate: NONE
    - Vote passes unanimously.
  + Bill 13-10-F: Study Abroad Scholarship Award Applications
* *Motion for this bill to be constructively read. Passes unanimously*.
* Friendly amendment: add Stephanie Scott to contacts on this bill.
  + Amendment accepted.
* Technical questions: NONE
* Debate: NONE
* Vote passes unanimously.
  + Bill 14-10-F: Organizational Aid Appropriations for the Student Council for Exceptional Children, Association for Computing Machinery,   
    Phi Beta Sigma, Men’s Lacrosse Club, Academic Competition Club, Gamma Beta Phi – WKU Glasgow Chapter, WKU FFA, WKU Pan-Hellenic Association, WKU Inter-fraternity Council, and WKU Black Student Alliance.
    - *Motion to have this bill constructively read. Motion passes unanimously.*
    - Author’s speech: Wade Pierce - $5,500 to these various student organizations
    - Technical questions: FFA – what does it stand for?
    - Debate: NONE
    - Vote passes unanimously.

*Motion to move out of the bylaws to consider Bill 15-10-F.*

*Motion to have bill constructively read. Motion passes.*

* + Bill 15-10-F
    - Author’s speech: Chris Jankowski – itemized list of the costs of the Thanksgiving meal that will be held in Pearce Ford Tower. This is a bill to have a Thanksgiving dinner for the international students. Each student is asked to bring a dish from their own country to share with everyone. The dinner will take place at 630pm on Thanksgiving Day. 50-60 students are expected to be in attendance including 9 RAs, 3 pro-staffs, members of HRL as well.
    - Technical questions: are students who do not live in PFT allowed – YES
    - Debate: NONE
    - Vote passes unanimously

*Motion to move into appointments while out of bylaws. Motion passes.*

* + Academic Quality Committee – Keyana Boka;
  + University Publications Committee – Jessi Wurth;
  + Senator at large – Cody Murphy

*Motion to approve them all by acclamation.*

*Motion and second to move back into bylaws. Passes unanimously.*

*New Business*

* NONE

*Questions and Announcements*

* There will be no senate meeting next week.
* **Senator Egerer**: please attend Campus Improvements. We will be drafting the resolution regarding the DUC renovations through campus improvements. We are making history!
* **Chief of Staff Harris**: go be a part of the process of drafting this legislation. If you are not going to that meeting, please go to Brandon Logan’s meeting. We are working through these scholarships and grants. Commend Bill 15-10-F. Happy Thanksgiving to all. No meeting next week.
* **Senator Logan**: Please come to the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. There is no limit on time that you can stay. Any time will be sufficient.
* **President Jessie**: Austin’s birthday was this past weekend.
* **Administrative Vice President Pierce**: If you have questions about money – please come talk to me.

*There was a motion and second to adjournment.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm on Tuesday November 16, 2010.

Katie Stillwell, Secretary of the Senate

Student Government Association

Western Kentucky University