**Western Kentucky University President, Gary Ransdell**

Congratulations to Nicki Seay for her election as SGA president. The SGA quarters in the DSU look spectacular. There will be a tuition increase for this next year as the state funding has been cut by approximately $1.1 million. We will hopefully be able to maintain a 1% salary increase for all WKU faculty and staff next year. CPE is expected to cap the tuition increase for next year at 5%. If that is the case, we will probably raise tuition by 4.8% or 4.6%. The tuition increase for next year currently looks like it will be an additional $250 per semester next year. We have reduced our budget by over $23 million since the recession started in 2008, $17 million of that facilitated by state funding cuts. We have been able to maintain our student-faculty ration at 19:1, and I don’t believe students have felt a decrease in quality of campus services as a result of budget cuts of the past six years. There are $11 million in new expenses for next year. We are spending $4.2 million more on scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial aid than we did last year. This increase occupies the largest share of all spending increases for next year. We have had a $1.2 million university subsidy to help maintain Health Services, and we are now going to use that subsidy to help soften the blow of budget cuts in other areas for next year’s budget. We are looking at about 36 bidders right now to replace Health Services. We cannot guarantee that the new healthcare provider will be able to provide all of the services that Health Services currently offers. We hope to have a new operator in our health clinic by August 1, 2014. Our enrollment profile currently reflects a drop in 300 students from the number of students accepted last fall. This was an effort to raise WKU admission standards, and many of those who were not accepted were white, non-traditional, part-time, female students. Our scholarship acceptances are up considerably, however. International recruitment was up 40% this year, and we anticipate that it will increase again next year. I recommend that SGA takes on a “finish campaign” that would urge students to stay at WKU. If we can raise our graduation and retention rates, we may be able to balance our future budgets with the added revenue. But there are more advantages to raising these rates than solely financial ones.

In response to a question about the president’s willingness to take a pay cut to accommodate future budget cuts, the president reported that he would “probably not” be willing to take such a pay cut.

The president stated that there will be no new student fees next year. The students currently pay a student activities fee, a DSU renovation fee, and an athletics fee.

On the issue of privatizing Health Services, the administration had to quietly determine if there would be bidders for the new space. This was the one area that surfaced in compensating for budget cuts without detracting from student services.

**President- Keyana Boka**

We need to explore new means of ensuring students are engaged on campus, especially with regard to SGA functions such as elections. There is a Board of Regents meeting this Friday, April 18. There is also a Board of Student Body Presidents meeting on April 29. The CPE will be announcing the tuition cap on April 29. Next Tuesday we will have another guest speaker, the director of Health Services, to talk to us about what the privatization of Health Services means for students. Next week we have two SGA events, the Campus Safety Walk and the Garden Kick-Off. We are also looking at creating an SGA Success Story page online next year to help with our PR.

**Executive Vice President- Mark Reeves**

Everyone should have received a campus climate survey last week that I encourage everyone to take. The prizes are excellent on it, and it is extremely helpful in providing information on campus status to the administration. There will be a University Senate meeting this Thursday with several new motions to be voted on. I will also not be speaking any further on the Health Services issue since an email has been sent out to ask for a student response on it. The services offered next semester will not be the same.

**Administrative Vice President- Nicki Seay**

On April 30 I will be meeting with the Budget Council, and if there are any concerns about the budget that you would like to be expressed please let me know. This is the only place in the budget-making process where a student voice is taken into consideration about the budget. I called Mariah’s about the banquet on May 13, so we are now temporarily penciled in for May 6 at Mariah’s or on May 13 at 440 On Main.

The SGA voted to have the banquet on May 6 a

**Speaker of the Senate- Paige Settles**

**Chief of Staff- Brad Cockrel**

None.

**Director of Public Relations- Laura Harper**

We plan on making the Q & A session public via our website and also to the Herald. We will next be working on generating excitement about the Campus Safety Walk.

**Director of Academic and Student Affairs**

The Society for Distinguished Graduates application is still up, and I sent out an email to all faculty for it. I’m going to send that email to the SGA in hopes that you all will forward it to faculty in your department.

**Director of Information Technology**

**Academic Affairs**

We hope to have a bill up for first read on Study Abroad Scholarships in two weeks.

**Campus Improvements**

The Office of Sustainability Garden Kick-Off event will be held next Thursday from 2-5pm. Also next Thursday at 6:30 is the Campus Safety Walk.

**Legislative Research**

I apologize to Tyler for not getting his bill up for first read this week.

**Public Relations**

We have a bill up for first read, hopefully to be voted on today, and that is to provide funding for the publication of Einstein’s Bagels late night hours posters.

**Student Affairs**

We have a bill up for first read to provide 17 scholarships for the summer term. We worked with Mark Reeves on revising the bill to recommend Gary Ransdell to take a pay cut, so be sure to look at that.

**University Committee Report**

The Student Emergency Services Committee is looking at removing land line phone services in the dorms, also the warning system transmitter is not functioning on top of DSU right now. Apparently there is a pandemic that has broken out in the Barren River Area, and the committee discussed measures that the university should take to combat that.

**Judicial Council Report**

Kara Raley was approved by the senate as the new Chief Justice.

**Student Speakers**

I think there should be a bench at the top of the hill to wait for the Red Line.

Jay Todd Richey was elected to serve as Speaker of the Senate.

Resolution 5-14-S passed.

Bill 10-14-S passed.

Bylaws suspended.

Bill 11-14-S moved into second read.

Bill 11-14-S passed.

Bylaws re-instated.