Senate Meeting Minutes

**Eighth Meeting of the Twenty-First Senate – Tuesday, 12 October 2021**

Before the meeting was called to order, Ms. Lindsey Houchin spoke to the members of SGA about her role as the Nationally Competitive Opportunities Coordinator for the Office of Scholar Development. Ms. Houchin stressed the role of OSD in helping students identify and pursue their passions through nationally competitive scholarships. She also detailed the Lifetime Experience Grant, which allocates funds for undergraduate research and creative projects. She encourages all students to attend OSD workshop nights the Nationally Competitive Opportunities Coordinator of the Office of Scholar Development and reach out if you have any interest in pursuing nationally competitive opportunities.

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1. **Call to Order**
	1. Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM
2. **Roll Call**
	1. 21 Senators were present.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. Last week’s minutes were approved with unanimous consent.
4. **Officer Reports**
	1. Administrative Vice President Reed Breunig
		1. 2-3 more senators needed for Org Aid Committee
	2. Speaker of the Senate Tess Welch
		1. Special session
			1. Senator Avery Wells resigned on 10/11 at 2:39 PM. The special session that was called for next week has now been cancelled because there is no need to hold a trial. Sorry for the confusion!
		2. Judicial By-Laws
			1. Chief Justice Shroeder will soon have an ad-hoc committee formed for the creation of bylaws for the Judicial Council to help guide situations like the special session, when they can remove someone, what to do in the instance of a tie, etc.
			2. We will **need**legislative representatives on this committee, please let me know if this is something that interests you! The time is very flexible, so if you want to be on this committee, the sooner you express interest, the easier it will be to fit into your schedule.
		3. Office Hours
			1. I am still missing a significant portion of the office hours for September. These were due two weeks ago, please get them in.
			2. Additionally, you should already have picked up the office hour form for October and should be working on getting your four hours. If you need ideas or have any questions about this form, let me or any member of Exec know.
		4. Resolution vs Bill
			1. There has been some confusion regarding the distinction between resolutions and bills. Bills are things that SGA can directly do. Both of the bills on the agenda demonstrate examples of bills -- funding and a requirement that we can create for senators. Resolutions are things that require outside action of SGA, like Faculty Senate, a change in University policy, etc. The burden of proof for bills are much higher because it does not require outside action. Resolutions have some vagueness to them, especially because we cannot mandate a specific course of action. A resolution can be incredibly specific, but the more specific it is, the more difficult it is to get implemented by the University.
		5. Roberts Rules of Order
			1. According to our governing documents, every vote has to be documented. Whenever we motion to adjourn, there have been some people who will say "nay" in what I assume will be a joking manner. However, if the vote to adjourn is not unanimous, I need to know who voted nay. In our current situation, this means I will have to do roll call voting to document every Senator's vote before we could adjourn.
		6. Resignations
			1. There have been a few Senators who have had to resign for different reasons and it is clear that the resignation process has not been explained. To resign, you need to draft and email or a letter and send it to President Wininger and I. Before you decide to resign, talk to a member of Exec. We have a lot of experience with balancing school, extra-curriculars, jobs, etc.
		7. November 23rd
			1. I sent out polls in the committee GroupMe's regarding the meeting we have on the week of Thanksgiving break, I heard back from 21 people, and 15 people said they could attend either in person or on Zoom and 7 people said they could not attend at all. Our quorum is 16 at the moment, so it looks like we can have a meeting so long as one person from the 11 that did not respond can make it. However, Senate is able to cancel meetings so long as they have 2/3rds approval. If we would like to cancel this meeting, I recommend the motion being made at our next meeting so I can resolve guest speakers with plenty of time.
5. **Committee Reports**
	1. Legislative Operations – Addison McCoun
		1. Review Process: once you complete your piece of legislation, please send it to my email address at addison.mccoun939@topper.wku.edu. Please allow a couple of days as the LOC Committee meets every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. All bills/resolutions are due on Wednesday at 5:00 pm weekly in order to get them on the next agenda. If you do not get them by Wednesday at 5:00, the LOC Committee will not get to your legislation until the following week.
		2. Corrections made: When the committee reads over your legislation, we look for grammar, if the legislation has any formatting errors, and if the piece is adequately researched. The way in which you get your corrections back is I send you an email explaining the process of our meeting and then I send you your corrections. This can be a multiple-step process. So if you have a lot of corrections, the committee will ask for a second draft. If you do not need to do a second draft, please send your corrections to Speaker Welch and cc me in the initial email. The return email to Tess will have a deadline so she has time to read it herself.
		3. If you are having a hard time coming up with ideas for legislation, feel free to reach out! I am here to help you all in any way I can. If you have any questions for me, shoot me an email, and then we can go from there! Have a great fall break!
	2. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – Zachary Skillman
		1. Met with Dr. Leslie North, Director of the Office of Sustainability, on Monday, October 11th. This was an incredibly informative meeting and it has changed the direction of the Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee moving forward. Here is a list of future and current initiatives:
		2. Recycling dumpster in Park St. Lot: Still waiting on word from Courtney Martin (Waste Management Coordinator) on feasibility as recycling comes at a $.06/pound cost to the university, could run into issues with community members utilizing recycling bins which would greatly increase costs
		3. Work on partnership with HRL for recycling initiatives in residence halls
		4. Long-term assistance with new Sensory Garden (Coming Spring 2022) behind Cliff Todd Center on Chestnut St
		5. Find the best location for a native pollinator garden, it is feasible to put this in at the new Garrett greenspace
		6. BIG GOAL: Enact legislation for Sustainability Student Fee to be billed along with tuition
	3. Diversity Equity and Inclusion – Olivia Blackmon
		1. Senator Banales met with the SARC department to discuss their services, and how SGA can help market them to students. He will be working in conjunction with Alexis Courtenay to possibly design pamphlets for the SGA office.
		2. Senators Banales and Pierce are working with Sen. Alexis Courtenay to plan the DEI Committee’s first contribution to the Instagram page.
		3. Our committee is seeking to invest in tabling materials for SGA, including possibly a tabling tent and banner.
		4. Senator Srivastava is meeting with the Provost, Caboni and Director of IT about the creation of an all-gender bathrooms map of campus.
		5. The whole committee is planning a meeting with the head of the African American Studies Department to discuss an upcoming resolution on Critical Race Theory (CRT).
6. **Special Orders**
	1. Senator of the Month Election – Speaker Welch
		1. The nomination process for Senator of the Month will be the same. I will send out the Google Form for nominations on Tuesday October 18th and will accept them until Monday 25th at 4 pm. We will vote on our October Senator of the Month on the 26th.
7. **New Business**
	1. Bill 5-21-F. Requiring the Title IX Training for all collegiate members of Student Government Association
	2. Bill 6-21-F. Funding for SGA Tabling at the BG Pride Festival
8. **Announcements**
	1. Potter College of Arts and Letters Annual Fall Festival Next Week
	2. Art Gallery on 4th Floor of FAC
9. **Adjournment**
	1. Sen. Baum motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded.
	2. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM.