Senate Meeting Minutes

Seventh Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, October 10th, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on October 10th, 2023, at 5:09 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Padgett
      2. Senator Solorzano
      3. Senator Dilts
      4. Senator Plumb
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
      1. Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator Distler
         1. Seconded by Senator Pierce
         2. Motion to move Bill 3-23-F to unfinished business
            1. The bill is time sensitive.
      2. Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Distler
         1. Seconded by Senator Pierce

**4. Guest and Student Speakers**

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “A smooth sail never made for a skilled sailor.”
   2. Next Tuesday October 17th is our first Tuesday Tailgate! SGA is partnering with IFC for this. The DJ concert from the spring has been rescheduled to this tailgate. President Kurtz and Jacob Kitchen are going to be grilling out, and Cade Holcombe will be performing during halftime.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. EVP Finch stated that there is always room within university committees if anyone is interested
   2. All the money raised in the Topper Tuesday raffle will go towards 2 meet and greet passes and a WKU football jersey. The raffle is benefitting a local organization.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. The budget is updated! It will be updated every 2 weeks moving forward. Andrew Rash is getting a biweekly report of the budget as well.
   2. Senators Robinson, Wooton, Distler, Taylor, Hornback, and Evans nominated to the OrgAid Committee
      1. Passed with unanimous voice vote
   3. OrgAid applications close Monday the 16th at 5:00PM. Anyone wanting to apply should contact AVP Leon via email or pick up the physical application in the SGA office.
   4. “Shoutout to the man, the MVP, Donte Reed.”
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley** 
   1. No report.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Preston thanked everyone for coming to the Pink Walk and reiterated its importance.
   2. Director Romanov invited everyone to the Presidential Keynote Address tonight at Van Meter Hall at 7:00 PM. Dr. Robert Ballard, who discovered the Titanic wreck, will be speaking tonight.
   3. There will be a tabling opportunity in front of Ogden on this Friday, the 13th.
   4. The PCAL Outreach Festival will also have a tabling event next Thursday the 19th.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. No report.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Director Reed thanked everyone for coming out to the Pink Walk. Scholarships are now open on the website and are due November 23rd at 5:00PM.
   2. There are more outreach events for scholarships in the works. Senators are eligible to apply for these scholarships.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Speaker Denney thanked everyone for coming out to the Pink Walk.
   2. Next week’s meeting will be Wednesday at 5:00 PM to accommodate for TopperTuesday. The meeting will be in room 3023 instead of the SGA chambers due to a scheduling conflict.
   3. Caboni is speaking on October 31st! The Senate is encouraged to dress up for Halloween.
   4. Speaker Denney explained how to correctly provide an Amendment to a Bill.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Senator Pierce stated that Parliamentarian is still available.
   2. Senator Pierce stated that amendments need to be directed toward a specific clause.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Senator Wright thanked the Senate for coming out to the Pink Walk, which raised $619 dollars through the raffle.
   2. Her committee will be tabling and many other forms of outreach to promote scholarships starting in November. They are aiming to have many applicants.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
   1. No report.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Their committee met with Dr. North, the Director of Sustainability on campus. They would like to introduce a very small sustainability fee into tuition, which would be $5-$10 per year.
   2. Senators Wooton and Duggins are working on an outreach event.
   3. Their committee meeting will still be Tuesday at 4:00.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. Senator Distler spoke on Senator Solorzano’s behalf
      1. They are working towards increasing accessibility to menstrual products on campus.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
   1. Senator Bryant spoke on Senator Padgett’s behalf
      1. Senator Bryant invited the Senate to attend their committee meeting.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Senator Cisco stated that they are still working on their 2 $500 scholarships for 2 incoming freshmen from the Bowling Green community. The students will attend a regular SGA meeting to accept their scholarships.
      1. Community Builder Excellence Scholarship
   2. They are also working towards getting Election Day recognized as a formal holiday.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Chief Justice King stated that a committee meeting absence is equal to a Senate absence.
2. University Committee Reports
   1. Student Life Foundation – **Annie Finch**
      1. No report.
   2. Committee on Academic Quality – **Annie Finch**
      1. No report.
   3. University Athletic Committee – **Kaison Barton & Julia Duggins**
      1. Their next meeting is Wednesday, October 25th.
   4. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee – **Rush Robinson, Dylan Carmona, & Megan Farmer**
      1. No report.
   5. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee – **Tanner Blood**
      1. Their first meeting was last week and 2 guest speakers from the audit office spoke. They are looking for a student intern and those interested should contact their office.
   6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
      1. No report.
   7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Ella Wooton**
      1. No report.
   8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Kayla Distler**
      1. No report.
   9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
      1. No report.
   10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
       1. Last year had a 91% retention rate from fall to spring semesters for freshman.
       2. She encouraged the Senate to come to the Ogden Tabling Event
3. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
   1. No one to swear in.

**8. Unfinished Business**

1. Bill 2-23-F: Funding for Student Activities’ Shark Tank Event
   1. Senator Pierce stated that Student Activities is looking for fun and engaging ways for RSOs to make money. OrgAid has been very helpful, but Student Activities came to LOC with these ideas.
   2. Senator Evans shared that RSOs can present a 5–7-minute pitch to the “sharks” stating why they need funds for their organization. This is also an opportunity to showcase their programs to the WKU community.
      1. Senator Bodemann shared that the date is November 30th, and it will be held in the DSU auditorium.
      2. Point of Order by Senator Bryant to AVP Leon asking if $750 is a lot of money for SGA to give an RSO.
         1. AVP Leon stated that SGA’s general goal is to provide the same amount of funding for each RSO.
   3. Senator Payne made a motion to decrease the amount by ½, decreasing the total amount to $750.
      1. $500 to 1st place
      2. $125 to 2nd and 3rd place
         1. Vote by voice
            1. 2-sided vote
         2. Vote by roll call
            1. 17 yes
            2. 16 no
            3. 2 abstentions
            4. The motion passes
   4. Senator Robinson stated that RSOs must provide several things to be considered for OrgAid and then it must be approved by the Senate. He asked how the judges will be unbiased and asked how Student Activities knows what the students will spend this money on.
      1. Senator Bodemann asked how SGA knows what OrgAid money is spent on.
         1. Senator Robinson stated that an itemized budget must be provided to be considered for OrgAid.
      2. Senator Pierce stated that in each RSO’s pitch they must state why they need the money and what they plan to spend it on.
      3. Senator Pierce also stated that implicit bias cannot be controlled and that judges need to recognize their own biases before the event.
         1. Senator Bodemann stated that Amelia Kolb is very unbiased and trustworthy.
   5. Senator Distler asked to clarify that Student Activities has no money to contribute to this event and asked if Gordon Ford could donate any money.
      1. Senator Bodemann stated that Student Activities does not have any money to contribute, and that Gordon Ford has not been asked to donate.
   6. Senator Distler also stated that many Greek organizations will probably apply and asked how the smaller organizations that may need the funding more will not be overshadowed by bigger RSOs.
      1. Senator Pierce asked Senator Distler to rephrase her question
         1. Senator Distler asked if one person will be choosing all the judges
            1. Senator Bodemann stated that there will be more than one person choosing judges if necessary.
            2. Senator Pierce stated that financial need is a very big aspect considered for judging criteria.
   7. Senator Hornback asked how RSOs will prove financial need without official documentation.
      1. Senator Bodemann stated that she will talk to Amelia regarding this.
      2. Senator Pierce stated that they have just been presented with the event itself, not details of application or registration. She stated that SGA will be able to put in certain requirements to validate financial need if SGA chooses. She stated that these details can be worked out later with Student Activities
   8. Senator Farmer made an amendment to change the prize money as follows:
      1. 1st place $400
      2. 2nd place $250
      3. 3rd place $200
   9. Taken as friendly.
      1. Vote via voice
      2. Unanimous yes
2. Point of information that this total equal $800, totals redistributed to equal $700:
   1. 1st place $400
   2. 2nd place $250
   3. 3rd $100
      1. Vote via voice
      2. Unanimous yes
3. Senator Bryant asked if this event is open for students to watch.
   1. Senator Pierce stated that an audience is encouraged.
4. Debate
   1. Speech in affirmation by Senator Bryant:
      1. Senator Bryant stated that this is worth SGA’s money, and it is a worthy risk
   2. Speech in negation by Senator Robinson:
      1. Senator Robinson stated that this is a great idea, but if all the money is coming from SGA it should be an SGA event. He stated that SGA money comes from Student Activities, so it doesn’t make a lot of sense for SGA money to be funding a Student Activities event. He stated that there needs to be some other validation of financial need as there is within OrgAid. He stated that this is almost 1/5 of the Senate’s budget.
   3. Speech in affirmation by Senator Pierce:
      1. Senator Pierce stated that Student Activities is providing a lot of time and effort into this event. She also stated that SGA can work with Student Activities to request some form of 2-factor authentication for RSOs. Senator Pierce stated that SGA can work with Student Activities to make this a great event.
   4. Speech in negation by Senator Hornback:
      1. Senator Hornback stated that some RSOs may have an unfair advantage due to being marketing based, business based, or having more funding. He stated that 20% of SGA’s budget already goes to RSOs, and that this bill is essentially OrgAid without the SGA title. He stated this is very subjective and new RSOs that this bill is seeking to help may not have the resources to make a quality pitch/presentation.
   5. Speech in affirmation by Senator Bodemann:
      1. Senator Bodemann shared that Amelia knows that SGA is busy, and that is why Student Activities is coordinating the event. She shared that Student Activities will probably be willing to make it an SGA event.
   6. Vote by roll call
      1. 3 yes
      2. 21 no
      3. The bill does not pass.
5. Bill 3-23-F: Funding for Bowling Green Pride SGA Table.
   1. Senator Farmer stated that the authors are seeking $30 from Legislative Discretionary to fund SGA’s table at the Bowling Green Pride Festival. The funds will be used to purchase the $10 vendor fee for Bowling Green Pride, $10 worth of post-it notes, $10 for any additional costs or supplies.
   2. They are aiming to make SGA a more supportive space for LGBTQ+ individuals.
6. Speech in affirmation by Senator Bryant:
   1. Past, present, and future students will be able to see SGA’s support of all individuals through this event.
      1. Vote via voice
         1. 1 abstention
      2. Roll call vote
         1. 21 yes
         2. 0 no
         3. 3 abstentions

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

1. Senator Distler stated that Omega Phi Alpha’s philanthropy event “Serving Up Hope” is coming up.
2. Pan council applications are due late October.
3. Director Reed stated that there is a new tab on the website to see scholarship winners.
4. Senator Pierce stated that Delta Zeta’s Hoops for Hearing basketball tournament is this Friday October 13th.
   1. This month is LGBTQ+ history month
5. Senator Farmer stated that the DEI committee is looking for people to table.

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Pierce made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM

First Reading: 9/26/23

Second Reading: 10/10/23

Pass: N

Fail: Y

Other:

**Bill 2-23-F:** **Funding for Student Activities’ “Shark Tank” Event.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $1,500.00 to WKU Student Activities’ “Shark Tank” Event.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS: The event will involve RSOs pitching a five to seven minute proposal to a panel of judges to request funding for their organizations, and

(3)WHEREAS: The judges, or “sharks”, will be composed of one (1) SGA representative, one (1) representative from the Gordon Ford College of Business, one (1) Student Activities representative, and one (1) community member, and

(4)WHEREAS: The sharks will award a $400 grant to the first place organization, a $250 grant to the second place organization, and a $100 grant to the third place organization, and

(5)WHEREAS: All registered student organizations, regardless of 2023-2024 Organizational Aid award status, are eligible to participate in the event.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $750.00 to WKU Student Activities’ “Shark Tank” Event.

AUTHORS:  Meghan Pierce, Senator-At-Large

Sam Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS:  Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS:  Amelia Kolb, Assistant Director of Student Activities; [amelia.kolb@wku.edu](mailto:amelia.kolb@wku.edu)

First Reading: 10/10/23

Second Reading: 10/18/23

Pass: Y

Fail: N

Other:

**Bill 3-23-F:** **Funding for the Bowling Green Pride SGA Table.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $30 to sponsor SGA tabling at Bowling Green Pride.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS: The event will take place on October 21 from 12pm to 5pm, and

(3)WHEREAS: The funds will be used to purchase the $10 vendor fee for Bowling Green Pride, $10 worth of post-it notes, $10 for any additional costs or supplies, and

(4)WHEREAS: The vendor fee will include a 10’ by 10’ booth space, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $30 to sponsor SGA tabling at Bowling Green Pride.

AUTHORS:  Kayla Distler - College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

Megan Farmer – Senator-at-Large

Guan Zhou Sim – International Senator

SPONSORS:  Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CONTACTS:  Dr. Audra Jennings, [audra.jennings@wku.edu](mailto:audra.jennings@wku.edu)