Senate Meeting Minutes

Thirteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate – January 23rd, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on January 23rd, 2024, at 5:00 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Bodemann
      2. Senator Ferguson
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.

**4. Guest and Student Speakers**

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Chief of Staff Kelley has stepped down from her office.
   2. Director of ESE Reed has stepped down from his office.
   3. Senator Padgett has resigned.
   4. Senator Aberle has graduated.
   5. Senator Vincent has resigned.
   6. Senator Williams has graduated.
   7. Chief of Staff Nomination: Director Reed
      1. Director Reed feels as if he knows the role well of Chief of Staff and plans to fulfill the constitutional duties of this office. He’d love to bring back the earn-a-computer program and plans to do everything to the best of his ability within this office.
      2. Voice Vote
         1. Unanimous Yes
   8. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience Nomination: Sarah Vincent
      1. Secretary Vincent is passionate about the incoming student body and is excited to serve them further in the next few months within this position.
      2. Voice Vote
         1. Unanimous Yes
   9. Non-Traditional Student: Sawyer Edmunds
      1. Sawyer looks forward to getting more involved in this position if elected. He spent a year in the air force before enrolling in school and still holds that position now. He’d love to get involved with Public Relations and Outreach.
      2. Voice Vote
         1. Unanimous Yes
   10. Sophomore Senator: Gabe Jerdon
       1. He’s a sophomore and wants to be a Senator. He’s hardworking and wants to help with grading scholarships which he has experience within his fraternity.
       2. Voice Vote
          1. Unanimous Yes
   11. Graduate Senator: Elizabeth Gannon
       1. Gannon is currently an honors college admissions counselor at WKU. Gannon was heavily involved in WKU during her time here. She was never involved in SGA and would love to start that now.
       2. Voice Vote
          1. Unanimous Yes
   12. Exec is working very hard to spend their money in wise but impactful ways for the student body. We should aim to spend 100% of our funds given to us by the university.
   13. Director Reed has been appointed for SGA’s homecoming representative.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. There will be new campus committee seats open this semester due to resignations. If you are assigned to one, please let EVP Finch know if you cannot attend or find a substitute for yourself.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. SGA has 8,421.08 left for the year. We must spend $701.76 per meeting to allow for this money to be spent to its full extent.
   2. SGA is going to have a Neurodiversity Awareness event this semester and is partnering with many departments across campus to implement this plan.
      1. Progressive Dinner, Special Olympics, proceeds will be donated to SARC
      2. RSO/Greek service hours and SGA office hours
4. Chief of Staff – Vacant
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Don’t forget to apply and tell your friends to apply for scholarships! Please take photos and rep your SGA merch during events! PR is always there to help promote events.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. The website is updated with legislation, scholarships, and minutes from last semester.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – Vacant
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Yay spring semester!
   2. The 23rd Senate will adjourn in early April. Please do not forget this as legislation has to be debated *before* the new Senate is elected.
   3. Please do not be afraid to vote “yes” on a bill because you are apprehensive that we will need the funds later. We have a lot of $$$ to spend this semester.
   4. Secretary of the Senate Nomination: Livi Ray
      1. Livi is super excited to take the minutes and she’s gonna kill it fr
      2. Voice Vote
         1. Unanimous Yes
   5. It is required to submit office hours for all Senators. At the end of each month, those who have not submitted all their office hours will be turned into JC and it will be dealt with in whatever way JC sees fit, most likely the same as an unexcused absence.
   6. Please fill out the Exec Google form!
      1. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCKpDNu1f3AQ8BWU05hJw1bejN3jVGbzRslls1B6aCjVEyGQ/viewform>
9. Secretary of the Senate – Vacant

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. LOC reviews legislation that will be debated on the Senate floor. LOC meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Student Activities workroom. All pieces of legislation need to go through LOC before going through Senator Denney. Please send your legislation 6 hours before LOC meeting time. An author of the bill must be present at its LOC review.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Scholarship due dates
      1. Black History Month February 23rd
      2. Community Relations February 26
      3. Summer Term, First Generation, and SGA Promise March 29th
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
   1. No report.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Earth day!
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. First meeting was Tuesday in the SGA office
      1. Tuesdays at 4:00 PM
   2. W on how to make scholarships to for underrepresented groups within WKU’s student body, Black History Month event, DEI week in March
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – Vacant
   1. No report.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Community Builder Excellence Scholarship is now open to applications!
      1. Visiting schools within Warren County to spread the word about the scholarship
   2. Meet on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM in the SGA office
   3. Working on a free haircut/coupon bill for students in the community

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. JC meetings 6:45 PM on Wednesdays
   2. Constitutional Referendum Committee this semester!
      1. Reach out to Senator Pierce and CJ King
2. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
   1. Chief of Staff
   2. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience
   3. Secretary
   4. Sophomore Senator
   5. Non-traditional Senator
3. University Committee Reports
   1. Student Life Foundation – **Annie Finch**
      1. Residence hall decisions up in the air.
   2. Committee on Academic Quality – **Annie Finch**
      1. No report.
   3. University Athletic Committee – **Kaison Barton & Julia Duggins**
      1. Second meeting tomorrow.
   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. No report.
   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. No report.
   11. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
4. **Unfinished Business**
   1. Bill 17-23-S: A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University
      1. Motion by Senator Pierce to change to a “F” bill
         1. Senator Denney will check on this, but it doesn’t need to be changed right now.
      2. Voice Vote
         1. Unanimous Yes

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

1. N/A

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Hornback made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at6:05 PM.

First Reading: 11/28/23

Second Reading: 1/23/23

Pass:  Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 17-23-S:** **A 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.

(1)WHEREAS: Section 3.7.6 of the Student Government Association Constitution describes the responsibilities of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and reads:

“3.7.6.4. Have the Committee Chair or a delegate meet with the Chief Diversity Officers at least once a month”, and

(2)WHEREAS: It is unrealistic to expect both Chief Diversity Officers to commit to monthly meetings with the Committee Chair or a delegate, and

(3)WHEREAS: Section 3.7.6 shall now read:

“3.7.6.4. Have the Committee Chair or a delegate meet with at least one of the Chief Diversity Officers at least twice a semester”.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will amend its constitution.

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

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

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