Senate Meeting Minutes

Twenty-First Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Thursday, March 28th, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on March 28th, 2024, at 6:08 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Flatt
      2. Senator Solorzano
      3. Senator Wheat
      4. Senator Ibrahim
      5. Senator Potter
      6. Senator Edmunds
   3. Quorum was met.
      1. Motion by Senator Robinson to move out of bylaws.

Second by Senator Cisco.

Motion by Senator Robinson to move Bill 52 and 53 up on Unfinished Business, Second from Senator Cisco.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

* + 1. M0tion by Senator Distler to move Election Codes from New Business to unfinished business as it is time Sensitive.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes.

Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Ray.

Second by Senator Robinson.

1. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
2. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. WKU For The People: WKU Student Advocacy Group
      1. Ms. Tani Washington, WKU Student and Founding member of WKU For the People
         1. Ms. Washington stated that the conversation between SGA and For The People on March 27th contained negative language that did not reflect the values of For The People.
         2. Ms. Washington described For The People’s disappointment that SGA did not condemn the event of Kyle Rittenhouse coming to speak at WKU.
            1. Ms. Washington stated that Mr. Rittenhouse lied during his presentation yesterday and perpetrated anti-black rhetoric.
            2. Ms. Washington stated that SGA should have condemned Mr. Rittenhouse speaking at WKU.
            3. Ms. Washington discussed the importance of WKU Students voting and engaging in the Democratic Process.
            4. Ms. Washington encourages students to become involved in the Student Government Association to work toward creating a more diverse and inclusive SGA to better reflect the student body.
            5. Ms. Washington encourages students to express their ideas and recognize that freedom of speech must not be conflated with hate speech, be informed of our rights, respect the rights of others, and uphold the principles of Democracy with integrity.
            6. Mrs. Washington encourages SGA to condemn the organizers of the Kyle Rittenhouse event, Turning Point USA, as they put the student body in danger and asks that SGA hold the organization accountable.
            7. Ms. Washington stated that she demands that SGA represent the students, the recent refusal by SGA to not make any statement before, during, and after the event is not representing the students. Ms. Washington said that SGA should prioritize ensuring that student voices are heard, and she said that SGA is sending a message of indifference.
      2. Mr. Avery Wells, WKU Student and Member of WKU For The People
         1. Mr. Wells discussed his dissatisfaction with the University’s lack of a response to Mr. Rittenhouse speaking at WKU. Mr. Wells stated that he is even more disappointed with SGA’s lack of response.
            1. Mr. Wells stated that For The People spoke with members of the SGA Executive Board and Senators and were met with dissent. Mr. Wells and For The People found SGA’s lack of response unacceptable. Mr. Wells found it disappointing that SGA failed to make a statement condemning the hate speech and asks for the Student Government Association to make a stance choosing not to tolerate hatred.
            2. Mr. Wells stated the lack of diversity in SGA. He said that 40% of SGA is made up of people in IFC and Panhellenic Organizations/Greek Life. Mr. Wells said that the lack of representation in SGA is very disappointing,
            3. Mr. Wells understands that there are people in SGA who did speak out individually. For The People’s purpose is to speak in opposition to the Student Government Association staying silent. He finds that the student government association has the responsibility to advocate for the concerns of the Student Body.
            4. Mr. Wells said that he is upset that the SGA DEI committee hosted DEI week during the time of this event. Mr. Wells stated that SGA did not reach out to other diverse organizations and he believes that the SGA has a disconnect with cultural student organizations on campus.
            5. Mr. Wells stated that the President of SGA serves as the Student Regent and is a voting member of the Board. Mr. Wells asks why SGA did not release a statement condemning the actions of Turning Point USA.
            6. Mr. Wells stated that at the SGA Spring Fling event he was met with dissent and finds it disrespectful and to be a poor representation of students as members of the Student Government Association.
            7. Moving forward, Mr. Wells and For The People require that SGA represent all students. He asks that SGA condemn hate and white supremacy, and advocate for more diversity in the organization.

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. President Kurtz stated that SGA as an organization recognizes that members of the Student Body are dissatisfied.
      1. SGA believes that free speech is valuable. SGA is an apolitical organization. SGA’s role is to represent all members of the WKU student body, and we believe that no opinion is more important than any others. This stance is a commitment to the exchange of ideas.
      2. SGA acknowledges and understands the desire for a student government organization that more accurately represents the Student Body, and with that President Kurtz encourages any member of the Student Body to run for our elections coming up in the Spring. SGA has no control over who gets elected or who decides to campaign. That is the responsibility of the Student Body.
      3. President Kurtz appreciates everyone coming out today and encourages everyone in this room to run for SGA. President Kurtz encourages students with concerns to come to meetings, reach out, and run for SGA. We want the student body to be represented and heard.
      4. SGA’s motto is For The Students. Every event that SGA offers is open to the public. The event yesterday was not meant to distract or be affiliated with the Turning Point USA event. It was planned over a month in advance to raise money for kids with cancer.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. Thanks to everyone for coming out tonight. EVP Finch encourages students to run for SGA.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. Thanks to every who came out tonight. Update on the budget: $764 left more information in an email coming soon.
4. Chief of Staff – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Awards are in, get ready for the Banquet next Tuesday!
   2. Great work to the Outreach Committee for the event and specifically Senator Payne. Thank you to all the Senators who showed up for the Spring Fling.
   3. In the Summer of 2022, Chief of Staff Reed knew that he wanted to expand access to scholarships for all students and be a voice for the African American community. Chief of Staff Reed stated that at the event on March 27th, he was called racial slurs by a small group of people. Chief of Staff Reid stated that he does not stand with people who use racial slurs. We witnessed a protest on Kyle Rittenhouse and on SGA. Chief of Staff Reid stated that SGA does not have control over RSOs giving out invitations to guests. He applauds the students who protested Turning Point’s decision to invite Mr. Rittenhouse to speak.
   4. To the students, we have new scantrons and green books available in the Office.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. As the Director of Public Relations, Director Romanov wants to address the accusations and the perpetration of unfounded claims especially amidst the efforts of SGA to provide scholarships and represent and uplift all organizations on campus.
   2. Director Romanov stated that SGA remains steadfast in fostering a campus environment that is for everyone. Together we can continue to make WKU a better place.
   3. Election applications open soon. Please run and get involved in SGA to make your voices heard.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Aniya applauds students exercising their right to protest and she does not agree with Turning Point’s decision to invite Mr. Rittenhouse. We as SGA must serve the student body.
   2. The website is updated with the SGA minutes and legislative archive.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Thanks to everyone who came and spoke.
   2. Scholarships due tomorrow. Information about grading scholarships coming soon.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. As Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Denney’s role is to ensure that the Senate has everything they need to be successful. The WKU SGA Senate has done and will continue to be for all students. SGA functions differently. Speaker Denney encourages students to bring issues forward to SGA.
   2. The Senate has passed over 55 bills this Senate season and has had several events this Senate cycle. This year alone SGA has created over $27,000 worth of scholarships- and prohibits members of SGA exec from receiving scholarships.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Livi Ray**
   1. Minutes are updated on the website, please look at past meeting minutes if you are interested.
   2. Please send in your Committee minutes.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. April 3rd and April 10th are the last LOC meetings. Any student can write and submit legislation!
   2. Any student can also sit on SGA committees.
   3. Legislation needs to be emailed to the Speaker of the Senate upon review by LOC.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Apply for scholarships by 5pm tomorrow.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Madison Payne**
   1. Thanks to everyone who showed up to the event yesterday!
   2. The “Give Back Life” scholarship due Monday at 5, can be found on the websites.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Earth Day got moved to the 19th of April.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. The DEI committee wanted to clarify that they had tried reaching out to ISEC and they only offered flyers. The DEI Committee was in contact with Michael Crow and Molley Curby. After the announcement of Kyle Rittenhouse, the Committee wanted to carry out DEI week since they felt it was their responsibility to carry out the event as the bill had been passed and the money had been spent.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
   1. Thanks for wearing red today in support of World Autism Day!
   2. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is April 13th.
   3. Mental Health Week coming up.
   4. Meet every Wednesday at 6.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Dress for Success drive is coming to an end please donate clothes and new shoes for service hour!
   2. The four recipients of the Community Builder Excellence scholarship will be notified soon!

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Our Judicial Council does not stand toward hate toward any community.
   2. Chief Justice King stated that he is a history and criminology major and he understands that he cannot represent all groups.
   3. If you run for exec, you have to have served for one year prior.
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. No report.
   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 – **Jaden** **Marshall**
      1. Senator Marshall wanted to take this time to speak on the events of this week. The SGA constitution is being changed, Elections are coming up soon. WKU Students exercised their right to free speech and protest. Senator Marshall emphasized that SGA is For The Students. Senator Marshall stated that he was called a racial slur by protestors on March 27th at the Spring Fling event. Senator Marshall did not appreciate this. Senator Marshall encourages SGA to continue to be For The Students.
      2. The next meeting is April 2nd.
   8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Chloe Ralston** 
      1. No report.
   9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
      1. No report.
   10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
       1. No report.
3. **Announcements**
4. **Unfinished Business**

**- Bill 52-23-S: Organizational Aid Funding Spring 2024.**

AVP Leon made a motion to amend the first whereas clause to replace “Hilltopper Pool Club” to “Water Professionals” as it was not a registered student organization.

Second by Senator Robinson.

Vote by Voice, Unanimous yes

The bill is to provide Organizational Aid funding that the Org Aid Board selected.

Vote:

Vote by voice: unanimous yes

Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator Distler to move election codes to the top of unfinished business.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Distler and a second by Senator Bryant.

**- Spring 2024 Election Codes.**

WKU SGA does not currently have a presidential debate or town hall. A debate/town hall will be implemented on Wednesday, April 10 from 6:00-8:00 pm if there is more than one ticket campaigning.

Debate will be moderated by the Judicial Council.

Also added potential constitutional changes that could take effect in the next election as the Constitutional Referendum is on the ballot.

We upped the expenditures for campaign spending budgets- Senator to $75, President to $500, AVP and EVP to $200.

Speech in affirmation by Senator Ray as these are reasonable and effective changes that will improve the election process.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 53-23-S. Funding for the WKU Unplugged Scholarship Initiative.**

Mr. Luke Wininger, former SGA senator and current WKU Senior presented this bill.

College of Education and Biological Sciences received a grant for $485 and 4 scholarships.

A student uses a flip phone for 2 weeks, to raise awareness about digital wellbeing.

The bill is asking for SGA to fund one scholarship and one flip phone costing $145.39. This would be in association with the CEBS. This would work well with SGA’s mental health awareness week.

Short application, 5 students selected to use the flip phones will have a before and after meeting with Luke and Dr.

Derryberry.

Senator Cisco asked if a student were to break one of the phones, how would you go about this?

Mr. Wininger said that $50 would not be rewarded.

Senator Cisco asked if students could donate flip phones?

Mr. Wininger said yes.

Senator Cisco asked how SIM cards could be switched.

Mr. Wininger said that SIM cards can be switched so the student would use their normal phone number.

Senator Cisco asked if it would happen this semester.

Mr. Wininger said it would be contingent on the IRB approving the application, but yes, that is the plan.

Senator Bryant asked if any outreach has been done to gauge student interest?

Mr. Wininger said that from word of mouth polls, students seem interested.

Senator Distler asked if the student's normal phones would be taken away?

Mr. Wininger said it would function as an honor system.

Debate

Senator Barton gave a speech in affirmation citing its effort as a good initiative for digital wellness on campus.

Senator Bryant gave a speech in affirmation citing its role as a mental health boost on campus.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**-Bill 39-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Senator Pierce motioned to strike the ninth whereas clause, Second by Senator Robinson

Vote by voice, unanimous yes.

EVP and Director of Enrollment and Student Experience would be combined.

They would serve as a member of all committees except Outreach and Public Relations.

Debate:

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 40-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Changing the Director of Public Relations to Chief Communications Officer.

Debate:

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 41-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Removing the year-long requirement for the Chief Financial Officer, we want to ensure that the CFO is equipped for the role.

Debate:

Senator Barton asked if there would be any requirement for a major?

The authors stated that no specific major is required.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 42-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

The constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote by just the present members of the Senate.

Senator Distler asked what Quorum is.

Senator Pierce stated that a simple majority of the Senate would have to be present.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 43-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

This makes Constitutional referendum voting to be hosted only in the Spring in collaboration with the Spring elections.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 44-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

This makes the Chief Justice serve a full year and not be allowed to resign mid-term.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 45-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University**

This requires the Chief Justice to attend every SGA meeting.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 46-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

The Judicial Council is allowed to censure any member of SGA, this bill requires that if you are censured twice, you can be removed.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 47-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

This makes the executive cabinet more accessible and creates a new subsection where the Exec member spends half their office hours with their door open and accessible to students.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes.

**- Bill 48-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Ensuring accountability with finances to read “all executive budget expenses be written on paper with the AVP, EVP, and President”

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

**- Bill 49-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Changes SGA Exec GPA requirement from 2.0 to 2.75 and the Senate requirement from 2.0 to 2.5.

Senator Robinson motioned to amend both GPAs to 3.o as 2.75 and 3.0 is “weird wiggle room”

Senator Distler gave a speech in negation stating that GPA is not an example of the ability to perform and represent the student body.

Point of Information to President Kurtz, President Kurtz stated that he would veto this bill if it passed.

Motion to withdraw from Senator Robinson, Second by Senator Ray

Vote by voice on the bill, unanimous yes

**- Bill 50-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Moved to unfinished business for the next meeting.

**- Bill 51-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

Change to Outreach and Student Experience Committee to the Outreach and Public Relations Committee to work with the Chief Communications Officer.

Senator Blood gave a speech in affirmation saying it is an awesome idea.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes!

**-Bill 52-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

This bill would make the Speaker of the Senate appoint Committee heads rather than the President.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

1. **New Business**

**- Bill 54-23-S. Funding for Beta Alpha Psi fundraiser for Refuge Bowling Green.**

**- Bill 55-23-S. Funding for the SGA Book Drive.**

1. **Announcements**
   1. Track meet at home this weekend!

**12. Adjournment**

1. Senator Barton a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07

First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 39-23-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: The Student Government Association is anticipating future budget cuts at Western Kentucky University, and

(2)WHEREAS: It was decided by a Constitutional Referendum Committee that in order to maximize executive cabinet efficiency there should be a combination of the responsibilities of the Director of IT into those of the Administrative Vice President and Director of Enrollment and Student Experience into those of the Executive Vice President, and

(3)WHEREAS: Section 2.8 “Duties of the Director of Information Technology” and Section 2.9 “Duties of the Director of the Enrollment and Student Experience” shall be struck from the Constitution and all subsequent sections shall be renumbered accordingly, and

(4)WHEREAS: “Director of Information Technology” and “Director of Enrollment and Student Experience” shall also be struck from section 2.1 of the Constitution and all necessary grammatical changes shall be made, and

(5)WHEREAS: The duties of the Director of Information Technology and the Director of the Enrollment and Student Experience will be transferred to the current Executive Vice President and the Administrative Vice President, respectively, and

(6)WHEREAS: Section 2.4.6 of the Constitution shall be amended to reflect the Executive Vice President’s new role as an ex-officio member of the Enrollment and Student Experience Committee, reading:

“2.4.6. Serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all Senate committees except for the Outreach and Student Experience committee.”, and

(7)WHEREAS: New subsections to 2.4 “Duties of the Executive Vice President” shall be added, starting with section 2.4.12, reading:

“2.4.12 Be concerned and focused upon issues regarding enrollment and student experience.  
2.4.13 Coordinate Student Government Association special events.  
2.4.14 Be concerned with various aspects of university policy and facilitate communication with the Student Government Association when appropriate.”, and

(8)WHEREAS: New subsections to 2.5 “Duties of the Administrative Vice President” shall be added, starting with section 2.4.12, reading:

“2.5.13 Be responsible for the creation and/or maintenance of the Student Government Association website.  
2.5.14. Post the voting records of senators on the SGA website.  
2.5.15. Must update voted-on legislation before the next Senate meeting.  
2.5.16 Update the Bylaws when amendments or corrections are made and approved by the Senate.

2.8.17. Be responsible for all information technology tasks.”

(9)WHEREAS: THE CFO is no longer a Vice President, and requires financial experience, It may create a situation where the CFO needs to be pulled from outside SGA. SO, AVP/CFO will be stricken from clause 2.2.5. and the clause will now read

“2.2.5. The President and Vice President shall have completed one year of membership as an elected or appointed officer in the Student Government Association or may be granted an exemption by the Judicial Council upon a unanimous decision.”

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

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 40-23-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: The delineation of vice presidential duties between the Executive Vice President and Administrative Vice President are often unclear to the student body as well as the individuals holding these offices, and

(2)WHEREAS: Many other student governments refer to offices with similar duties as the Administrative Vice President instead as “Treasurer”, “Director of Finance”, or “Chief Financial Officer”, and

(3)WHEREAS: To clarify the roles of different executive cabinet members, the titles of the Executive Vice President and Administrative Vice President shall be changed to “Vice President” and “Chief Financial Officer”, and

(4)WHEREAS: The use of “Executive Vice President” shall be amended to “Vice President” in sections 2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.5, 2.4, 2.4.1, 2.5.5, 2.7.1, 2.8.1, 2.9.1, 2.10.1, 2.10.1.4, 2.11.1, and 2.11.5, and

(5)WHEREAS: The use of “Administrative Vice President” shall be amended to “Chief Financial Officer” in sections 2.1, 2.2.2, 2.5, 2.7.1, 2.8, 2.8.1.4, 2.9.1, 2.9.5, 6.1.1, 6.1.3, 8.2.

(6)WHEREAS: In order to maintain consistency with officer titles, the title of the Director of Public Relations shall be changed to “Chief Communications Officer”, and

(7)WHEREAS: The use of “Director of Public Relations” shall be amended to “Chief Communications Officer” in sections 2.1, 2.7, 3.8.4.4, and 3.8.8.7.

(8)WHEREAS: The Student Government Association will be maximizing the effectiveness and compartmentalization of the executive cabinet, as well as taking pre-emptive measures in light of anticipated budget cuts.

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

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 41-23-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 2.2.5 of the Constitution reads:

“2.2.5. The President, Executive Vice President, and Administrative Vice President shall have completed one year of membership as an elected or appointed officer in the Student Government Association or may be granted an exemption by the Judicial Council upon a unanimous decision.”, and

(2)WHEREAS: It is often difficult to find a qualified Administrative Vice President candidate who has both served in the Student Government Association for at least one year and has experience with financial management, and

(3)WHEREAS: Section 2.2.5 of the Constitution shall be amended to read:

“2.2.5. The President and Executive Vice President shall have completed one year of membership as an elected or appointed officer in the Student Government Association or may be granted an exemption by the Judicial Council upon a unanimous decision.”

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

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 42-23-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 10.1 of the Constitution states,

10.1 “This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full membership of the Senate and subsequent referendum by a majority of the student body voting”, and

(2)WHEREAS: This limits votes on Constitutional amendments to meetings in which at least ⅔ of the full Senate membership are in attendance, and

(3)WHEREAS: The Constitution will now state,

10.1 “This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present senators of the Senate and subsequent referendum by a majority of the student body voting”, and

(4)WHEREAS: This change will limit voting on proposed legislation to only the senators present at the meeting at which the legislation is being proposed instead of the senate as a whole, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 43-23-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 10.2.1. stipulates when Constitutional Amendment elections will take place, reading:

“10.2.1. Constitutional Amendment elections shall be held at the end of fall and spring semesters, where the majority of the student body must vote to approve the change to the constitution.”, and

(2)WHEREAS: These elections may not be concurrent with the elections of student body representatives, and

(3)WHEREAS: Voter turnout is significantly higher during elections for student body representatives than in other elections, and

(4)WHEREAS: Section 10.2.1 will be amended to read:

“10.2.1. Constitutional Amendment elections shall be held during the Fall and Spring senator elections, where the majority of the student body must vote to approve the change to the constitution.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

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Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 44-23-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: The Constitution does not currently state how long a Chief Justice must serve, and

(2)WHEREAS: In the circumstance that the Chief Justice can only serve one semester in the academic year, it creates issues for the incoming Chief Justice not having ample training for the position and creates issues for the rest of the Judicial Cabinet, and

(3)WHEREAS: The Chief Justice of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University should be eligible and required to serve a full academic year, and

(4)WHEREAS: The Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University would state as follows:

“4.4.3 Be eligible to serve a full academic year, or resign at the end of his/her last full academic year.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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[Isaac.king527@topper.wku.edu](mailto:Isaac.king527@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 45-23-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 4.4.7. of the Constitution currently reads:

“4.4.7. Report to the Senate at least twice a month.”, and

(2)WHEREAS: The Chief Justice is the official voice of interpretation of the Constitution and if there are Constitutional questions asked in the Senate meeting, which happens weekly, there is a chance that the Chief Justice will not be there to answer said questions, and

(3)WHEREAS: The Chief Justice of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University should be required to attend Senate meetings weekly, and

(4)WHEREAS: The Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University would state as follows:

“4.4.7. Report to Senate weekly.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 46-23-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: The Constitution does not currently state how many times a member of the Executive Cabinet, the Senate, or Judicial Cabinet can be censured before they are removed, and

(2)WHEREAS: The Judicial Cabinet is able to censure members of the Student Government Association who do not abide by the Constitution, or perform actions that are unbecoming to their position, and

(3)WHEREAS: Any member who is censured twice in one academic year should be removed, and

(4)WHEREAS: The Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University would state as follows:

“4.6.12. Remove members who are censured twice in the same academic year.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 47-23-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: It is imperative for members of the Student Government Association to be accessible to students, and

(2)WHEREAS: For the executive branch, much of this accessibility comes from time spent in the SGA office, and

(3)WHEREAS: A new section in the Constitution under 2.3 “Duties of the President” numbered 2.3.11.2 shall be added, reading:

“2.3.11.2 Half of the required office hours are required to be completed with an open door policy, ready to meet with students, and with a Calendy link on the website and with the front desk workers”, and

(4)WHEREAS: A new section in the Constitution under 2.4 “Duties of the Executive Vice President” numbered 2.4.7.2 shall be added, reading:

“2.4.7.2 Half of the required office hours are required to be completed with an open door policy, ready to meet with students, and with a Calendy link on the website and with the front desk workers”, and

(5)WHEREAS: A new section in the Constitution under 2.5 “Duties of the Administrative Vice President” numbered 2.5.9.2 shall be added, reading:

“2.5.9.2 Half of the required office hours are required to be completed with an open door policy, ready to meet with students, and with a Calendy link on the website and with the front desk workers”, and

(6)WHEREAS: A new section in the Constitution under 2.6 “Duties of the Chief of Staff” numbered 2.6.8.2 shall be added, reading:

“2.6.8.2 Half of the required office hours are required to be completed with an open door policy, ready to meet with students, and with a Calendy link on the website and with the front desk workers”, and

(7)WHEREAS: A new section in the Constitution under 2.6 “Duties of the Director of Public Relations” numbered 2.7.9.2 shall be added, reading:

“2.7.9.2 Half of the required office hours are required to be completed with an open door policy, ready to meet with students, and with a Calendy link on the website and with the front desk workers”.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 48-23-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: It is imperative for the Student Government Association to practice transparency with its finances, and

(2)WHEREAS: All legislative spending is documented through SGA’s Legislative Archives, and

(3)WHEREAS: No documentation of executive spending is currently required by the Constitution, and

(4)WHEREAS: A new subsection of the Constitution under Section 8 “Finances” will be added and numbered 8.2, reading:

“8.2. All Executive Budget Expenditures will be documented on paper with the signature of the President, Executive Vice President, and Administrative Vice President detailing the amount spent and the place the funding is going.”, and

(6)WHEREAS: A subsequent section numbered 8.2.1 will be added, reading:

“8.2.1. A copy of the paper explaining expenditures shall be given to the advisor of SGA and the AVP must have a folder with Executive expenditures kept up to date.”, and

(7)WHEREAS: A new section to 2.5 “Duties of the Administrative Vice President” shall be numbered 2.5.13, reading:

“2.5.13. Keep a folder with paper copies of Executive expenditures kept up to date per 8.2.1.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 49-23-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: The Constitution as it currently reads stipulates that all members of SGA must have no less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA, and

(2)WHEREAS: A 2.0 is the minimum GPA to avoid the being placed on the University’s Academic Probation, and

(3)WHEREAS: Students who are at risk of being placed on Academic Probation cannot reasonably devote enough of their time to serve as effective members of our Student Government, and

(4)WHEREAS: Section 2.2.1 of the Constitution states the GPA requirements for the executive branch, and reads:

“2.2.1. Have a grade point average of no less than 2.0 cumulative”, and

(5)WHEREAS: Given the rigor of serving on the executive branch, Section 2.2.1 will now be amended to read:

“2.2.1. Have a grade point average of no less than 2.75 cumulative”, and

(6)WHEREAS: Section 3.5.1 of the Constitution states the GPA requirements for the legislative branch, and reads:

“3.5.1. Have a grade point average of no less than 2.0 cumulative”, and

(7)WHEREAS: Given the rigor of serving on the legislative branch, Section 2.2.1 will now be amended to read:

“3.5.1. Have a grade point average of no less than 2.5 cumulative”, and

(8)WHEREAS: Section 3.5.2. of the Constitution also states the GPA requirements of the legislative branch, and reads:

“3.5.2. Be in good standing with the University…To maintain good standing, a student must satisfy the term GPA, WKU GPA, and Overall Higher Education GPA of 2.0.”, and

(9)WHEREAS: Section 3.5.2. will be amended to now read:

““3.5.2. Be in good standing with the University…To maintain good standing, a student must satisfy the term GPA, WKU GPA, and Overall Higher Education GPA of 2.5.”,

(10)WHEREAS: Section 4.2.3 of the Constitution states the GPA requirements for the judicial branch, and reads:

“4.2.3. Have a grade point average of no less than 2.0 cumulative”, and

(11)WHEREAS: Given the rigor of serving on the judicial branch, Section 4.2.3 will now be amended to read:

“4.2.3. Have a grade point average of no less than 2.5 cumulative”.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 4/9/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 50-23-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: The Student Government Association serves as a representative body for the students of Western Kentucky University and not as a partisan advocacy group, and

(2)WHEREAS: It is therefore the duty of student body legislators to only put forward nonpartisan legislation, and

(3)WHEREAS: It is the duty of the Legislative Operations Committee (LOC) to review all pieces of legislation and

(4)WHEREAS: A new section of the Constitution under 3.8.2 “Legislative Operations Committee (LOC)” shall be added and numbered 3.8.2.5, reading:

“3.8.2.5. Ensure that all bills are nonpartisan in nature”, and

(5)WHEREAS: All subsequent sections under 3.8.2. shall be accordingly renumbered.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 51-23-F. 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.

WHEREAS: The Outreach and Student Experience Committee within the organization may be subject to confusion with the Enrollment and Student Experience Committee, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.8.4.3 of the Constitution reads:

“Assists all Student Government Association committees concerning Public Relations” and,

WHEREAS: 3.8.4.4 of the Constitution reads:

“Assists the Director of Public Relations”, and

WHEREAS: The committee should be renamed the Outreach and Public Relations to reflect the duties outlined in the Constitution, and

WHEREAS: The use of “Outreach and Student Experience Committee” shall be amended to “Outreach and Public Relations Committee” in sections 2.4.6, 2.7.6, and 3.8.4.

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

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

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First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 52-23-S. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**

PURPOSE: To change section 3.8.1.2 of the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.

WHEREAS: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to amend its Constitution.

WHEREAS: Section 3.8.1.2 of the Constitution states,

3.8.1.2 “Committee heads shall be appointed by the President and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate”, and

WHEREAS: This gives the President more duties than needed, and

WHEREAS: The Constitution will now state,

“3.8.1.2 Committee heads shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate”, and

WHEREAS: This change will reallocate the duties of the President and give the Speaker of the Senate authority over assigning committee heads due to the fact they both preside over committee heads and meet with them weekly, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Meghan Pierce, Senator At Large

Samantha Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator At Large

Isaac King, Chief Justice

Ellen Henderson, Associate Chief Justice

Garrison Reed, Associate Justice

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

Judicial Council

CONTACTS: [meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu](mailto:meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

Bill 52-23-S: Organizational Aid Funding Spring 2024.

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate funding to the selected Registered Student Organizations (RSOs).

1. WHEREAS: $10,000.00 Organizational Aid will be allocated for the Big Red Rocketry Association, Muslim Student Association, Pre-OT Club, Rec Majors Club, Bridge Club, Gender Identity Alliance, American String Teachers, Pre-PT Club, Association of Computer Machinery, NPHC, WKU Water Professionals, Feminist Student Union, Black Student Alliance, Women in Physics, HonorsToppers, Student Veteran Alliance, Why Knot Us, Chinese Music Club, Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, and Agricultural Education Society, and
2. WHEREAS: Upon careful examination of the submitted applications, the Organizational Aid Board has ascertained that the respective Registered Student Organizations have displayed a substantiated and well-founded need, and
3. WHEREAS: Each Registered Student Organization shall be granted an allocation of $500.00 from the Organizational Aid Budget.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $10,000.00 from the Organizational Aid budget for the aforementioned Registered Student Organizations.

AUTHORS: Salvador León Golib, Administrative Vice President

Kayla Distler, CEBS Senator

Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Ethan Taylor, Junior Senator

Karley Solorzano, Senator-At-Large

Joel Hornback, Senator-At-Large

SPONSOR: Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS: Organizational Aid Board, [salvador.leongolib793@topper.wku.edu](mailto:salvador.leongolib793@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 3/12/24

Second Reading: 3/28/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 53-23-S. Funding for the WKU Unplugged Initiative.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

allocate $145.39 to go towards the Department of Psychology

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

(2)WHEREAS: These funds will help cover the costs of one flip phone ($95.39) and a scholarship of $50.00 for the WKU Unplugged Initiative, and

(3)WHEREAS: The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS) is contributing $486.17 ($286.17 for three flip phones and $200.00 in scholarships), and

(4)WHEREAS: CEBS will be collecting pre and post data after five selected students use a flip phone for two weeks, and

(5)WHEREAS: Each student who completes the two-week period without a smartphone will be granted a $50 scholarship, and

(6)WHEREAS: The initiative aims to promote digital wellbeing, increase mindfulness in daily activities, and expose the addictive nature of smartphones.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will allocate $145.39 to go towards the WKU Unplugged Initiative.

AUTHORS: Luke Wininger, Student

Gabriel Jerdon, Sophomore Senator

Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS: Luke Wininger ([lukewininger@hotmail.com](mailto:lukewininger@hotmail.com))

Dr. Pitt Derryberry ([pitt.derryberry@wku.edu](mailto:pitt.derryberry@wku.edu))

First Reading: 3/28/24

Second Reading: 4/9/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 54-23-S. Funding for Beta Alpha Psi fundraiser for Refuge Bowling Green.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $100.00 for the Beta Alpha Psi fundraiser for Refuge Bowling Green.

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

(2)WHEREAS: $100.00 will go toward Beta Alpha Psi to purchase items such as baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby wash, baby blankets, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and other toiletries, and

(3)WHEREAS: The Refuge Bowling Green is a non-profit organization that helps refugees in many ways, such as finding jobs, getting their driver’s license, and learning English, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $100.00 for the Beta Alpha Psi fundraiser for Refuge Bowling Green benefiting refugees in the Bowling Green community.

AUTHORS:  Maiah Cisco, Senator at Large

SPONSORS:  Community Relations Committee

CONTACTS:  Heather Glass [Heather.glass@wku.edu](mailto:Heather.glass@wku.edu)

First Reading: 3/28/24

Second Reading: 4/9/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 55-23-S. Funding for the SGA Book Drive.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

allocate $100.00 for the SGA Book Drive.

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

(2)WHEREAS: SGA will collect book donations in the office and at tabling events from April 1 to

April 17, and

(3)WHEREAS: Books will be distributed throughout the Bowling Green community to Little Free Libraries and/or schools, and

(4)WHEREAS: One service hour and one raffle entry will be given for each book donated, and

(5)WHEREAS: $50.00 will be used to create a “book lovers” basket including books, pens, and snacks that will be raffled off to incentivize donations, and

(6)WHEREAS: $50.00 will be used to buy new books to add to the drive, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will allocate $100.00 for the SGA Book Drive.

AUTHORS: Sophia Bryant, Senator At Large

Maiah Cisco, Senator At Large

SPONSORS: Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Committee

Community Relations Committee

CONTACTS: Jennifer Shoemake [Jennifer.shoemake@bgreen.kyschools.us](mailto:Jennifer.shoemake@bgreen.kyschools.us)