Senate Meeting Minutes

Third Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, September 5th, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00 PM on September 5th, 2023, by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Hornback was absent.
      2. Senator Carmona was absent.
   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. President Kurtz’s quote of the week: “You either run the day, or the day runs you.”
   2. President Kurtz stressed the importance of approving the budget for the year and announced the SGA Open House on Wednesday, September 6th. He emphasized the upcoming freshmen election.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. EVP Finch let the Senate know about campus committees and the positions within them that need to be filled.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. AVP Leon went over the budget with the Senate and this year’s objectives for the budget.
      1. Transparency
      2. Efficiency
      3. Cooperation
      4. Stability
         1. AVP Leon emphasized the importance of using the entirety of the budget and for the best interest of the students.
   2. Senator Barton asked what the athletic marketing portion of the budget was utilized for.
      1. AVP Leon stated that this goes to funding SGA involvement within athletic events.
   3. Senator Robinson asked how this year’s budget compares to last year’s.
      1. AVP Leon stated that a portion of the budget was raised with the interest of the SGA office in mind. AVP Leon stated that there is more money allotted in different areas where the Senate essentially ran out of funds last year, such as setting money aside for the SGA banquet.
   4. Senator Pierce asked how the Executive Cabinet planned to promote transparency within the Executive budget not only within SGA, but with the student body.
      1. AVP Leon stated that the budget is updated weekly on the SGA website for any student to see, including the Executive budget.
   5. Senator Pierce asked if it would be possible for Executive expenditures to be recorded in Executive Cabinet meetings.
      1. President Kurtz stated that this is a possibility, but that they have not seen the need for this in the past. President Kurtz stated that in some cases, the University requests privacy when handling certain events.
   6. There were no speeches in affirmation or negation.
   7. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley** 
   1. Chief of Staff Kelley stated that there is $2,000 in the budget to go towards SGA’s voucher program. She encouraged the Senate to attend the Open House tomorrow and support those that are planning on running in the upcoming election.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Director Romanov let the Senate know that election codes will be due on Friday, September 8th, at 10:00 AM. The election codes meetings will be held Wednesday the 6th at 7:00 PM in the SGA office and Thursday the 7th at 7:00 PM in the SGA Chambers.
   2. Director Romanov stated that the campaign period is August 18th – 19th.
      1. Point of Information by Senator Aberle stating that it is actually September, not August.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Director Johnson stated that the website is updated with new Senate information and new election codes and dates.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Director Reed stated that he is working on a scholarship breakdown for the Senate to approve.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Speaker Denney stated that committees have been assigned, and that some committees will have new members after the election.
   2. Speaker Denney stated that all committees will have a brief meeting regarding Vice Chairs, Secretaries, meeting times, GroupMe’s.
   3. Speaker Denney stated that the SGA Retreat/New Senator Orientation will be September 23rd from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Speaker Denney stated that excuse forms for the retreat need to be sent to her email as opposed to Chief Justice King’s.
   4. Senator Farmer motioned to cancel September office hours.
      1. Senator Robinson seconded.
      2. Senator Farmer gave a speech in affirmation stating that it just makes sense.
      3. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   5. Speaker Denney stated that President Caboni will be speaking on October 27th.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Senator Pierce stated that those that are interested in being Parliamentarian should reach out to her. She said that if anyone wants to join LOC, they are more than welcome to attend committee meetings. Her TopperMail is [meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu](mailto:meghan.pierce471@topper.wku.edu)
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Senator Wright stated that there is a scholarship in memory of Anaya Morgan in the works. She also shared upcoming plans for a breast cancer awareness walk.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
   1. Senator Plumb shared his excitement to meet his committee.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Senator Robinson encouraged any members of the Senate to attend his committee meetings. He challenged all the committees to have one question for Caboni when he speaks.
   2. He stated that the Campus Safety Walk is upcoming.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. Senator Salorzano stated that she’s excited for the DEI committee this year.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
   1. Senator Padgett shared how honored she is to be the committee head for Mental Health and Wellbeing. She shared that she would like to do something like Mental Health Week in the fall.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Senator Cisco welcomed new ideas for her committee and invited the Senate to attend.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Chief Justice King nominated Ellen Henderson for Associate Chief Justice.
      1. Ellen briefly shared her involvements and stated that she is honored to be nominated and excited to be more involved within SGA.
      2. There were no speeches in affirmation or negation.
      3. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   2. Chief Justice King shared the updated election codes.
      1. Election Codes meetings will now be in person.
         1. Senator Distler stated that the election codes say “Spring” and not “Fall.
         2. Chief Justice King apologized for the mistake.
      2. There were no speeches in affirmation or negation.
      3. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   3. Chief Justice stated that his goal is to make JC more involved with the Senate. JC will be giving out a Chief Justice Verdict award to a Senator every month. He also stated that the SGA office will be open at 6:00 tomorrow for the open house.
2. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
   1. Associate Chief Justice Henderson was sworn in.

**8. Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

1. Senator Barton stated that he will be working with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and that they will most likely sit in on SGA meetings and speak if necessary.
2. Director Romanov stated that the Public Relations Student Society of America will have their first meeting on Wednesday. He encouraged the Senate to attend with the incentive of a conference in Nashville.
3. AVP Leon shared that OrgAid is now open! He encouraged all RSOs to turn in their forms.
4. Senator Bryant stated that the first meeting for the Feminist Student Union is Thursday in DSU.
5. **Adjournment**
   1. Senator Pierce made a motion to adjourn.
   2. The motion was seconded by Senator Plumb.
   3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.