

11/6/24

WKU JUDICIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
Written by Chief Justice Ellen Henderson

Call to Order

7:02 PM

Attendance

- ❖ Chief Justice Henderson
- ❖ Associate Chief Justice Gammons
- ❖ Associate Justices Dorris, Kane, Payne, Stapleton, Umarov

Approval of Minutes

Unanimous vote in favor of approval.

Guest and Student Speakers

No guest or student speakers.

Chief Justice Report

- ❖ Office Hours for JC are cancelled for the month of November.
 - Fulfilled by the hearings tonight and work associated with them.
- ❖ SGA Christmas Party – Tuesday, Nov. 19 after Senate Meeting @ Cliff Todd Center
 - \$5ish gift if you want to participate in gift exchange
- ❖ Chief Justice for Spring 2025
 - JC unanimously nominates Associate Chief Justice Morgan Gammons.
 - Come to Nov. 19 Senate Meeting @ 5pm for confirmation/swearing in.
- ❖ Last JC Meeting – Wednesday, Nov. 20 @ 7pm

Committee Report

No committee reports.

Special Orders

Statement from Speaker Vincent on the following hearings:

- ❖ “This year, our SGA elections have been historically contested. We’ve seen more candidates than ever running for positions and I could not be more grateful for that.
With a highly contested election comes higher stakes. It’s vital that our Senators are committed to fulfilling every requirement of their roles. The SGA Constitution states that one of the main requirements for Senators is regular meeting attendance, and that Senators not meeting that requirement must meet with the Judicial Council and may face removal from the organization. If you are here today, that means you have at least 6 unexcused absences.
This has not been an activity I’ve wanted to do or looked forward to. It’s also written in the Constitution that I, as the Speaker, am obligated to send members to the Judicial Council for these reasons otherwise I can also face removal from the organization.

Our Judicial Council will proceed with grace and will give you the chance to explain your case. I hope that, together, you all can come to a verdict.

- ❖ Section 2.2 of WKU SGA Bylaws reads as follows: Members of the Senate shall be allowed no more than three (3) unexcused Senate absences per semester, unless excused by the Judicial Council. If 3 unexcused absences are reached, the Speaker of the Senate shall send the Member to the Judicial Council for possible removal from the organization.

Censure Hearing – Malick Ibrahim

- ❖ Speaker Vincent
 - Senator Ibrahim has unexcused absences for the following: 9/17 Senate Meeting, 9/24 Senate Meeting, 10/1 Senate Meeting.
 - “According to Malick’s Senate Committee (Outreach and Public Relations) Secretary (Hadley Whipple), he has not attended any committee meetings in addition to the aforementioned absences.”
- ❖ Senator Ibrahim
 - Not excusing his absences but says he has been in other meetings.
 - Says one meeting he came in late.
 - Planned to email JC about his absences.
 - Asks for one more shot.
- ❖ JC Deliberation
 - Justice Dorris asked what he would do differently. He says he has resolutions drafted and would like to attend meetings.
 - CJ Henderson asked about attendance at the PTS committee. He said the meeting times did not work for him because of other meetings and class.
 - Justice Dorris asked about his office hours that were never turned in. Senator Ibrahim stated that he never got them signed.
 - Justice Payne asked why he has not turned in excuse forms. He said that he has been very busy the past few months but asked to be given a shot to show his drive.
 - Justice Stapleton asked if he was to get a second chance, would he use it. He says he would make SGA a priority and it has impacted him in a positive way.
 - CJ Henderson stated that Senator Ibrahim is a returning senator and knows the rules/expectations.
- ❖ JC Decision
 - 7-0 to censure
 - Punishment: 4 additional office hours for the month of November and removal from university committee (PTS)

Censure Hearing – Malick Ibrahim

- ❖ Speaker Vincent
 - Senator Ibrahim has unexcused absences for the following: 10/15 Senate Meeting, 10/22 Senate Meeting, 10/29 Senate Meeting, 10/11 Senate Retreat, September Office Hours.
- ❖ Senator Ibrahim
 - Stated he wanted to use the same statements he made in the hearing above.
- ❖ JC Deliberation

- CJ Henderson stated that Senator Ibrahim is a returning senator and knows the rules/expectations.
- JC noted that Senator Ibrahim is very involved around campus but must show a commitment to and priority for SGA. This is not an attack on his character.
- ❖ JC Decision
 - 7-0 to censure
 - Punishment: As this is Senator Ibrahim's 2nd censure of the academic year, his membership in SGA is terminated immediately. See Section 4.6.12 of the Constitution.

Censure Hearing – Karisha Petty

- ❖ Speaker Vincent
 - Senator Petty has unexcused absences for the following: 9/24 Senate Meeting, 10/15 Senate Meeting, 10/22 Senate Meeting.
- ❖ Senator Petty
 - Did not attend.
- ❖ JC Deliberation
 - CJ Henderson stated that Senator Petty did not respond to multiple emails regarding her attendance.
- ❖ JC Decision
 - 7-0 to censure
 - Punishment: 4 additional office hours for the month of November

Censure Hearing – Karisha Petty

- ❖ Speaker Vincent
 - Senator Petty has unexcused absences for the following: 10/11 Senate Retreat, 9/10 Senate Meeting, 10/29 Senate Meeting.
- ❖ Senator Petty
 - Did not attend.
- ❖ JC Deliberation
 - CJ Henderson stated that Senator Petty did not respond to multiple emails regarding her attendance.
- ❖ JC Decision
 - 7-0 to censure
 - Punishment: As this is Senator Petty's 2nd censure of the academic year, her membership in SGA is terminated immediately. See Section 4.6.12 of the Constitution.

Censure Hearing – Myrice Gholston

- ❖ Speaker Vincent
 - Senator Gholston has unexcused absences for the following: 9/17 Senate Meeting, 9/24 Senate Meeting, 10/1 Senate Meeting.
- ❖ Senator Gholston
 - Did not attend.
- ❖ JC Deliberation

- CJ Henderson stated that Senator Gholston did not respond to multiple emails regarding her attendance.
- ❖ JC Decision
 - 7-0 to censure
 - Punishment: 4 additional office hours for the month of November

Censure Hearing – Myricle Gholston

- ❖ Speaker Vincent
 - Senator Gholston has unexcused absences for the following: 10/15 Senate Meeting, 10/22 Senate Meeting, 10/29 Senate Meeting.
- ❖ Senator Gholston
 - Did not attend.
- ❖ JC Deliberation
 - CJ Henderson stated that Senator Gholston did not respond to multiple emails regarding her attendance.
- ❖ JC Decision
 - 7-0 to censure
 - Punishment: As this is Senator Gholston’s 2nd censure of the academic year, her membership in SGA is terminated immediately. See Section 4.6.12 of the Constitution.

Statement from JC:

- ❖ Per the requests received from Speaker Vincent, we held two censure hearings each for the following Senators: Malick Ibrahim, Myricle Gholston, and Karisha Petty. On all requests, we unanimously voted for censure due to excessive absences. Section 4.6.12 of the WKU SGA Constitution states that the Judicial Council is to “remove members who are censured twice in the same academic year”. Therefore, the three people previously mentioned are no longer senators in SGA. Going forward, we would like to emphasize that senators are required to attend regular senate meetings, committee meetings, and be actively involved with SGA. SGA is ***For The Students*** and it should be a priority. You cannot effectively represent the interests and concerns of the students if you are not present and involved. This is not an attack on anyone’s character, but rather a matter of accountability. Please reach out to Chief Justice Henderson with any questions or concerns.

Absences and Office Hour Excuse Rulings

- ❖ 10/29 Senate Meeting – Sydney Rettig
 - Excused
- ❖ 10/29 Senate Meeting – Annie Finch
 - Excused
- ❖ 10/29 Senate Meeting – Jenna Wells
 - Excused
- ❖ 11/19 Senate Meeting – Jenna Wells
 - Excused
- ❖ 10/29 Senate Meeting – Sophia Bryant
 - Excused

- ❖ 10/29 Senate Meeting – Guan Zhou Sim
 - Excused
- ❖ 10/29 Committee Meeting – Guan Zhou Sim
 - Excused

Announcements

No Announcements.

Adjournment

7:45 PM