WKU SGA Student Senate Minutes

September 7, 2010

The 2nd meeting of the 9th Senate of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University was called to order at 5:04pm on Tuesday September 7, 2010 with the Speaker of the Senate in the chair.

There were 20 Senators present.

Absent Senators were Davis, Karmiller, Powell, Riggs, Wright.

The minutes from August 31, 2010 were approved.

*Officer Reports*

**President – Colton Jessie**

* Leaving early because of freshman assembly.
* Blue books and scantrons are available in the SGA office.
* Working with Cory Dodds and Kendrick Bryan on new website design.
* University Committees are still available. If anyone is interested in serving on one of these, please see Colton.

**Executive Vice President – Kendrick Bryan**

* Working with Cory Dodds on new website.
* Working with Charlie Harris on Western Wednesdays. The first Western Wednesday is September 8, 2010. Wear WKU apparel to locations listed on website to receive discount.
* Worked with Kaylee Egerer and Emmy Woosley on bills that are up for first read.

**Administrative Vice President – Wade Pierce**

* $140 was spent on scantrons that are now available in SGA office. These have been very popular.
* Some Org Aid Board appointments were listed.
* If anyone is still interested in serving on the Organizational Aid Board, contact Wade.

**Speaker of the Senate – Austin Wingate**

* Thank you to all who sent in legislation by the appropriate deadline.
* Attendance will be checked in both Senate meetings as well as Senate committee meetings. This will be monitored much more closely this year. If a Senator must miss either a Senate meeting or committee meeting, an excuse must be sent to either Austin Wingate or Katie Stillwell. An excess amount of unexcused absences will result in recommendation to meet with Judicial Council.

*Staff Reports*

**Chief of Staff – Charlie Harris**

* Charlie Harris was unable to attend this Senate meeting because he was serving on a University Committee concurrently.
* Report given by Colton Jessie and Kendrick Bryan.
* Western Wednesdays is under way.
* Last weekend, attended Board of Student Body Presidents with Colton Jessie. This was a very successful meeting.
* Working on upgrading the Facebook fan page.
* Updating office to dual screens for staff.

**Public Relations Director – Jessica Wurth**

* NO REPORT

**Director of Academic and Student Affairs – Billy Stephens**

* Reminder to Senators: Please attend committee meetings. Will be stopping by to brainstorm about legislation with each committee.

**Director of Information Technology – Cory Dodds**

* Anticipating a late September/early October launch date for the new website.
* If anyone has any suggestions for the new site, send Cory Dodds an email.

*Committee Reports*

**Academic Affairs Committee– Brandon Logan**

* Committee meeting immediately after Senate – will meet in DUC 305 for tonight.
* Plan is to review/improve past applications for Study Abroad and Scholar Development.

**Campus Improvements Committee– Kaylee Egerer**

* Excited for Picnic with President Ransdell. (Wednesday September 8, 2010. Meet in SGA office at 430pm to walk together as a group. Picnic with President is scheduled to begin at 5pm)
* Some legislation up for first read

*Administrative Vice President Wade Pierce requested that this committee plan and implement a Campus Safety Walk*.

**Legislative Research Committee– Eileen Forsythe**

* Meetings will be held at 5pm in SGA Office (DUC 130) on Thursdays.

**Public Relations Committee – Ann-Blair Thornton**

* Will work out a time for weekly meetings – tentatively meeting at 5:30pm Thursday in the SGA office.
* Idea for music video to further advertise for SGA.
* Wants to increase committee attendance.
* A bill is up for first read tonight.

**Student Affairs Committee – Emmy Woosley**

* Meetings will be immediately following Senate in the SGA Office (DUC 130).
* Tonight meeting concurrently with Campus Improvements committee. Much legislation can be developed with both committees working together.

*Special Orders*

**Judicial Council Report – Nick Asher**

* Fall Senatorial Elections will take place on September 21st and 22nd on TopNet.
* Applications will be made available and uploaded to SGA website by Friday September 10.
* Applications will be due to the SGA Office by Tuesday September 14, 2010.
* An informational session will be held for all students interested in running for Senate. Date/Time TBA.
* Permanent meeting for Judicial Council is Fridays at 4:00pm.

*Old Business*

*Senator Woosley motioned to suspend the bylaws and move Resolution 01-10-F Old Business . The motion did pass.*

*Senator Egerer motioned to have Resolution 01-10-F constructively read. The motion passed with one Senator opposing.*

***Discussion on Resolution 01-10-F***

*Senator Woosley discussed the Resolution’s importance to showing that SGA supports WKU and the new efforts to show school spirit.*

*Senator Egerer asked what happens with a Resolution once it is passed.*

*Senator Woosley answered that a Resolution is more like a good-faith effort. It does not require any money from the budget.*

*Resolution 01-10-F passed unanimously.*

*Senator Egerer motioned to move Bill 01-10-F to Old Business. That motion did pass.*

*Speaker Wingate read Bill 01-10-F in its entirety.*

*Senator Shaw stated that Study Away Scholarships seem to be similar to Study Abroad/Scholar Development. Would the process for granting those be similar?*

*Senator Egerer and Executive Vice President Kendrick Bryan answered that Study Away is an entirely new (pilot) program. Only $400 was allotted in order to determine what may be needed for the future. This particular bill is aimed to help those students specifically attending the first Study Away classes in the January term of the 2010-2011 school year. This process will be quite similar. If possible, the application from the Study Away office will be used for SGA’s purposes as well – simply to make it easier for students to apply for the assistance.*

*Senator Forsythe asked if anyone had yet experience Study Away.*

*It was answered that the first class will be taken by Brian Strow in the January term of the 2010-2011 school year.*

*Senator Woosley stated that students participating in Study Away will be traveling with WKU professors to locations within the United States to study. It is important to be clear that students cannot apply for this scholarship unless specifically for the Study Away Program (no research trips, internships, etc)*

*Senator Johns stated that Walter Rutledge is taking at group to NY. The class will take place over 2 weeks. It is an actual class, not an internship or conference.*

*Senator Logan questioned whether or not this bill should have originated within the Academic Affairs committee.*

*Debate on Bill 01-10-F*

*Senator Shaw is concerned the $400 is not enough to assist many students – if any at all.*

*Senator Egerer answered that the amount is small because it is the first attempt at something like this. It is important to keep it contained until all of the details are worked out. No other offices are offering Study Away assistance.*

*Senator Thornton stated that this was another way to advertise that SGA supports the development of WKU’s students.*

*Executive Vice President Kendrick Bryan reminded everyone that this bill is specifically for this year’s January term.*

*Senator Johns stated that any money would be of assistance for Study Away.*

*Senator Johns motioned to end debate on Bill 01-10-F. The motion did pass.*

*Bill 01-10-F passed unanimously.*

*There was a motion on the floor to move back into the bylaws. The motion did pass.*

*Questions and Announcements*

* Kendrick Bryan
  + Encouraged everyone to stop by and Executive branch meeting to better understand how it works.
* Emmy Woosley
  + Friday September 10 is the first orchestra concert. Tickets for students at $10.
  + Campus Improvements and Student Affairs committees will meet concurrently immediately following adjournment.
* Ann-Blair Thornton
  + PR committee will meet directly after adjournment in the hall to discuss a time to meet.
* Austin Wingate
  + If anyone is interested in Sergeant in Arms or Parliamentarian, please see Austin.
  + Wednesday September 8, 2010 at 4:30pm – meet at SGA office to walk to President Ransdell’s home for Picnic with the President.

*A motion to adjourn was made. The motion was seconded and passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:34pm on Tuesday August 31, 2010.

Katie Stillwell, Secretary of the Senate

Student Government Association

Western Kentucky University