



🏠 **Location: DSU 3004/5 & ZOOM**

📅 **Date: March 2, 2021**

🕒 **Time: 5:01pm**

# WKU SGA Senate Meeting

March 2, 2021

## **I. Called to Order at 5:01pm**

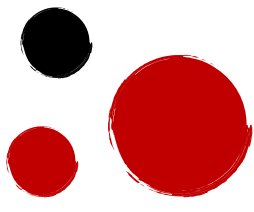
## **II. Roll call**

Secretary conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: 28 Senators

## **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Secretary read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

## **IV. Executive Cabinet Reports**

- President Garrett Edmonds
    - The Rally for Higher Education was a great success!
    - Tomorrow, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the final candidate for the Provost search will be visiting campus. This candidate is Dr. Bud Fisher from MTSU and seems to be a great fit for WKU.
    - Please continue to attend your university committee meetings.
  - Executive Vice President Abbey Norvell
    - Please attend your university committee meetings! If you currently serve on any university committees, please let Abbey know!
  - Administrative Vice President Isaac Keller
    - Google form for banquet was sent during the meeting. This is for a head count and entrée preference. April 13<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm at Mariah's in downtown Bowling Green.
    - The Org Aid funding bill, Bill 10-21-S, has been amended to show that Organizational Aid will be funding \$600 for the Black Women of Western event.
  - Chief of Staff Matt Barr
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- Shirts are in!
- Nominations for the banquet awards – google form will be sent out this week, be sure to nominate your fellow SGA members!
- Public Relations Ashlynn Evans
  - SGA Brochures are in!
  - Nametags will be here next week.
  - Planning more for the LGBTQIA+ UNITE Event.
- Director of Academic and Student Affairs Kody Okert
  - 88 scholarship applications – which have been pushed to be due March 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon! Please encourage people to apply!
  - Grading 2 scholarships = 1 service hour.
  - 2 computers will be dispersed through our Earn-A-Computer program!
- Director of IT Service Jamison Moorehead
  - Committee Chairs: please send Jamison your meeting times and ZOOM links!
- Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson
  - Do not speak out of turn and be respectful during debate.
  - Legislative agenda needs to be finished by April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Secretary of the Senate Brenna Mathews
  - We are going to be following Robert's Rules much more closely! We have to finish our legislative agenda and spend our budget by April 5<sup>th</sup>, so we need to ensure legislation can move through the agenda.

## **V. Committee Reports**

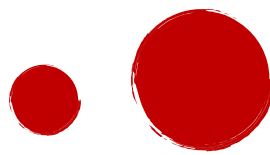
- Academic and Student Affairs Tess Welch
  - Scholarship grading is tomorrow night at 6pm in the chambers!
  - Ad-Hoc Constitutionality Committee: There is a bill up for first read tonight!

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- **Campus Improvements Eric Barry**
  - Tentatively looking to reschedule the Campus Information and Safety Panel for March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Legislative Research Committee Dawson McCoun**
  - No report.
- **Public Relations Destinee Daugherty**
  - Will be sending out two links!
- **Diversity and Inclusion Fatim Yaro**
  - The Black History Month was a huge success! Thank you so much to all who had a hand in the coordination and PR for this event!
- **Sustainability Matthew Wininger**
  - Update on the micro-pantries: have 3 tentative locations, will be getting estimates regarding installation fees.
- **SAVES Committee Kat Howard**
  - Absent. No report.
- **Outreach Me'Lon Craighead:**
  - Keep spreading the laminated forms around campus! Me'Lon is keeping track of places, so let her know if you place one!



## **VI. University Committee Reports**

## **VII. Judicial Council Report**

- Chief Justice Erika Puhhaka
  - Constitutional review committee will meet in person in the chambers.
  - Constitutional Amendment election will be March 18/19.
  - General Election is April 12/13 – this is a week later than previously stated.

## **VIII. Guest and Student Speakers**

- Debra Wilkins: WKU Title IX Coordinator
  - Bills previously called into question regarding Title IX were not violated Title IX but they did violate Title VI regarding race. In the future, when offering scholarships for specific groups, such as minority populations, it needs to be advertised as a need-based scholarship and not discriminate from other students. Scholarships are also very complicated to fund as well. She also stated that SGA could offer a COVID-19 Relief need-based scholarship.
- Caleb Ridgeway: Campus Activities Board Activities Coordinator
  - Looking to plan a spring formal on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Estimated cost is \$8,000.
  - Is looking for SGA sponsorship and funding upon COVID-19 Board approval from the university.
- Laura King: Mahurin Honors College Admissions Counselor
  - New motto “ascending towards excellence,” this looks different for every student, and the Honors College wants to help every student succeed.
  - Bill 9-21-S is a great way to support Honors Scholars!

## **IX. Old Business**

- Motion by Senator Tess Welch to limit debate to 60 seconds per senator. No debate. Motion passes.

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- **Resolution 3-21-S: Resolution to Support Western Kentucky University's Naming and Symbols Task Force to Change the Name of any College, Building, and University Symbol with Ties to Racism and Injustice.**
  - Secretary Brenna Mathews spoke in favor of Resolution 3-21-S as author.
    - Question for the author: what changes or names would be recommended? Secretary Brenna Mathews stated that the resolution and SGA recognizes its place as a student-led body and is only authoring the resolution to make the statement to recommend for the administration on the Naming and Symbols Task Force to make changes.
    - No debate. Speaker of the Senate called previous question. Unanimous consent.
    - Resolution 3-21-S passes with 21-4-1 vote.
  - Congratulations Secretary Brenna Mathews!
- **Bill 7-21-S: Funding for a Community Garden at the WKU Office of Sustainability.**
  - Senators Matthew Winiger and Matthew Thomas spoke in favor of Bill 7-21-S as the authors. The \$1000 for funding would not be for immediate use but work for construction as well as upkeep for posterity.
    - Senator Destinee Daugherty noted that in SGA By-Laws, if SGA fully funds a project there must be a sign of recognition. With this, Senator Daugherty asked if the authors would accept money from the PR budget to additionally fund the signs for this project. The authors stated they would accept the funding from the PR budget for the sign of SGA recognition.
    - Senator Me'Lon Craighead asked the authors who would be doing the planting for the gardening. The authors stated that the garden would be for the students, by the students.
    - Senator Reed Breunig asked for an estimate of the project. The authors stated that the Office of Sustainability already has a lot of the supplies, so this funding would cover the rest of the expenses and future upkeep.
    - President Garrett Edmonds asked if this project would be placed where the current Office of Sustainability is currently located on Regents. The authors stated yes.
    - Speaker of the Senate called previous question. Unanimous consent.

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- Bill 7-21-S passes unanimously.
- Congratulations to Senators Winiger and Thomas!
- Bill 9-21-S: Funding for the Diversity & Inclusion Honors Membership Fee Scholarship Program.
  - Senator Roderick Maul spoke in favor of Bill 9-21-S as author. This funding would go directly to the Mahurin Honors College and their office would delegate the funding for MHC students. This program is an endowment.
    - President Edmonds asked the authors if the Mahurin Honors College would report to SGA any metrics regarding the use of the funding. The authors stated yes, SGA would be able to request that information.
    - President Edmonds asked if SGA would receive any recognition for starting this program by the MHC. The author stated yes, the MHC often posts recognition of the funding for scholarships.
    - Speaker of the Senate called previous question. Unanimous consent.
    - Bill 9-21-S passes unanimously.
  - Congratulations Senator Maul!

## **X. New Business**

- Bill 10-21-S: Organizational Aid Funding for Western Kentucky University's United Way of Southern KY Inc., Midnight on the Hill, Jump Rope Club, and Habitat for Humanity with amendment to fund Black Women of Western's Women Empowerment Conference.
  - Senator Tess Welch made a motion to suspend the bylaws. This motion passed with the required 2/3 vote. Senator Welch made a motion to move Bill 10-21-S to unfinished business for a vote. Second by Senator Dawson McCoun. No debate. Motion passes.
  - Senator McCoun made a motion to return to bylaws. Second from Senator Welch. No debate. Motion passes. Bill 10-21-S was moved into Unfinished Business for vote.
  - AVP Isaac Keller spoke in favor of Bill 10-21-S as author and chair of the Organizational Aid Committee. Bill 10-21-S has been amended to allocate \$600 for the Black Women of Western's Women Empowerment Conference.

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- No debate. Speaker of the Senate called previous question. Unanimous consent.
- Bill 10-21-S passes with unanimous consent.
- Congratulations AVP Keller and the Organizational Aid Committee!
- **Bill 11-21-S: A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.**
  - Senator McCoun made a motion to suspend the bylaws. No debate. This motion passed with 2/3 required vote. Senator McCoun motioned for Bill 11-21-S to unfinished business.
    - Motion was debated by senator asking for reason why Bill 11-21-S cannot wait until next week for voting. Senator Welch explained that this amendment needs to be passed as soon as possible because it is regarding spring elections and requires a vote from the WKU Student Body for confirmation.
    - Motion to move Bill 11-21-S passes.
  - Senator McCoun made a motion to return to bylaws. Second by Senator Welch. No debate. Motion passes. Bill 11-21-S was moved into Unfinished Business for vote.
  - Senators McCoun and Welch, along with President Edmonds, spoke in favor of Bill 11-21-S as authors. Bill 11-21-S makes changes to the SGA senate seats that are filled during the Spring Election.
    - Senator Troy Davis asked why the amendment makes changes for the election of Freshman Senator seats and Gatton Senator seat. The authors explained that those are the few seats that will remain in the Fall Election.
    - Speaker of the Senate called previous question. Unanimous consent.
    - Bill 11-21-S passes unanimously.
  - Congratulations Senators McCoun and Welch and President Edmonds!
- **Bill 12-21-S: Funding for the Black Women of Western's Women Empowerment Conference.**
  - Senator Craighead pulled Bill 12-21-S from the agenda indefinitely as author. Since Bill 10-21-S had been amended to allocate the funding for the Black Women of Western's Women Empowerment Conference, this legislation was no longer needed.

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## **XI. Announcements**

## **XII. Adjournment**

Speaker of the Senate Shelby Robertson adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm

Minutes recorded by Secretary Brenna Mathews.

