

WKU Student Government Association

Meeting Minutes
February 25th

Opening

The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00pm on February 25th in Downing Student Union by Speaker of the Senate Nathan Terrell.

Present

28 senators were present when the Senate was called to order.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Officer Reports

President Will Harris:

- Nominations:
 - Elias Thompson spoke in favor of his nomination. He is a political science major and plans to get his Ph.D. in political science and become a professor. He is passionate about academia. He is aware of the pivotal role SGA plays in the lives of students, he plans to work with the office of sustainability to increase composting and decrease plastic use. He is also looking to plan an LGBTQ+ mixer to allow these voices to be heard. He is already working with Senators MJ Mayo and Jamison Moorehead working alongside.
 - Senator MJ Mayo spoke in favor of the nominee
 - Nominee approved with unanimous consent
 - Me'Lon Craighead spoke in favor of her nomination. She found out about SGA last semester and came to meetings and is excited to help WKU with her ideas. She feels it is important to make a difference and help facilitate change.
 - Senators Jesse Ricketts asked if the nominee had any specific ideas for legislation. The nominee stated she is focused on helping find students involvement on campus and serving to help students learn about different roles they can play on campus.

- Nominee passes with unanimous consent
- Destinee Daughtery spoke in favor of her nomination. She has been an involved student with SGA and now with her schedule she is able to commit to the role of senator. She is involved with the residence hall association and has focused on improving student life. With SGA she is looking forward to continue this work as a full student body.
 - Senator Conner Hounshell asked the nominee how she feels about the special projects fund. The nominee said that RHA has seen this special projects fund as beneficial in building a community.
 - Senator Survance asked if she was part of legislation process for the special projects fund. The nominee stated that RHA was asked of their opinion of the special projects fund and they are supportive of the initiative.
- Krystin Hardin spoke in favor of her nomination. She has worked with Housing and Residence Life while on campus. Krystin has found that WKU has become home and is passionate about sharing with other students the home this campus has become.
 - Hounshell asked about the special projects fund. The nominee is not part of RHA and was not presented the special projects.
 - Mayo asked the nominee how the role of RA would prepare the nominee for the advocacy role as Senator. The nominee stated she is passionate about serving the LGBTQ+ community and is hopeful to well represent the entire community.
 - Mayo spoke in favor of the nominee.
 - Stakelum spoke in favor of the nominee.
 - Nominee approved unanimously
- Parker Raybourne spoke in favor of his nomination. He has served on SGA prior to a study abroad stint at Harlaxton. He is passionate about helping raise awareness of opportunities and resources at WKU for students to help them improve their education and life on campus.
 - Senator Survance asked if the nominee was part of the WKU College Republicans. The nominee stated he is politically involved and part of the group.
 - Senator Hounshell asked about why the nominee has not written legislation prior. The nominee was only an SGA senator for a semester.
 - Ricketts asked if the nominee has any ideas for legislation. The nominee is looking to write legislation to help raise awareness and scholarship opportunities for students to study abroad.

- Housnshell asked how the nominee felt about the special projects fund and rather using the money for scholarship opportunities.
 - Survance spoke against the nominee as he had not written legislation during his prior term
 - Baum spoke in favor of the nominee as this is a nonpartisan organization and the nominee has ideas for future legislation
 - Burks spoke in favor of the nominee
 - Nominee approved in a vote 24-3-1
- Kat Howard was nominated as SAVES chair. Kat spoke in favor of her nomination. She is looking forward to raising awareness of the vouchers for the counseling center and implementing a SAVES Week to spread awareness of all the resources WKU and Bowling Green has for students struggling.
 - Senator Survance asked about the controversy surrounding Shenanigans last semester. Howard responded to ask the president.
 - Whalin asked how she would have navigated as SAVES Chair to allow students to have resources
 - Mayo asked if the nominee was serving on the SAVES Committee prior. The nominee was not in SAVES due to committee placement.
 - Survance asked for a point of information on the number of applicants for the SAVES Chair. President Harris responded that there was only one applicant.
 - Senator Hardin stated that tabling is not the most effective method to raise awareness. The nominee stated new ideas for tabling to increase outreach to students.
 - Senator Ricketts asked if the nominee had worked on legislation or is currently working on legislation. The nominee has not authored any legislation and has no plans at the time for specific legislation.
 - Senator Barr stated that committee chairs are to cocreate legislation along with the committee members.
 - Senator Stakelum stated that with planning other events, writing legislation is not the only way to be a great committee chairperson.
 - Senator Hounshell stated that SGA has written minimum legislation and committee chairs should have ideas for legislation
 - Chief of Staff Aubrey Kelley asked for a point of information if the nominee was willing to work on legislation with
 - Senator Burks called previous question. Senator Merdian seconded. Passed.
 - Voted 25-3 the nominee was confirmed.

- Jamison Moorehead was nominated for the Sustainability Chair. He spoke in favor of his nomination. His main idea is to raise awareness of the “why” students should be more sustainable and place water bottle filling stations in other academic buildings such as Mass Media.
 - Senator Hounshell asked if the nominee’s idea for
 - Hounshell asked if the nominee would be in support of a resolution from SGA to ask WKU to cease use of fossil fuels.
 - Survance asked if the nominee had other ideas about sustainability. The nominee said yes.
 - Senator Mayo spoke in favor of the nominee.
 - Senator Zaczek spoke in favor of the nominee.
 - Nominee confirmed unanimously.
- Rally for Higher Education. Let Will know if you’re interested as the transportation is provided and food may be provided as well.
- If you have any questions about legislation, reach out to Will!

Executive Vice President Garrett Edmonds:

- Bryan Russell is chief facilities officer of campus and will be speaking in favor of the special projects fund. Bryan Russell has been at WKU for a long time and has enjoyed watching the Senate debate today. The hammock initiative has been through many committees as a sustainable project for students’ enjoyment. The MASTER Plan committee was unanimous in the idea of the hammock initiative. The money would be spent solely for the project and if there were to be any leftover money after the project it would be returned to the SGA.
 - Senator Survance asked for clarification of the financing of the bill.
 - Russell replied that the budget was \$5,000 for the project has is an idea at this time and is not sure if the initiative would cost the full \$5,000
 - Senator Hounshell asked if the initiative was funded by other organizations.
 - Russell replied that this initiative is planned through SGA and would solely be funded through SGA. The MASTER Plan for the next 10 years is student orientated and has ideas for future green spaces.
- 2 representatives from the Residence Hall Association came to speak in favor of the special projects fund. They are looking to use the initiative to inspire community here at WKU. They’ve noted the use of hammocks as the weather has improved the last week.

- Senator Hardin asked about the planning process for the placement of the hammock areas. EVP Edmonds replied that this is the planning process and would be placed in areas that would most benefit the student body.
- Senator Hounshell asked if RHA is looking for other aspects of improvements.
- Senator Hardin asked if RHA would fund the initiative if SGA was out of the picture. They replied that RHA does not have the budget.

Administrative Vice President Kenan Mujkanovic

- Thank you to everyone who has spoken here tonight
- Organizational Aid met today, the bill up for first reading tonight would deplete the Organizational Aid budget. However, there is an organization, the Religious Studies club, is seeking \$500 to fund an interfaith night.
- Over 62% of the budget has been spent. Discretionary funds are all that is left, and the scholarship fund reserved for the spring semester scholarships.

Chief of Staff Aubrey Kelley

- Working on legislation to provide free parking for the counseling testing center

Public Relations Ashlynn Evans

- The senator spotlight for this week is Senator Matt Barr! Congratulations, Matt!

DASA Abby Norvell

- Scholarships are due next Friday, March 6th

IT Director Brosky

- The constitution and bylaws on the website will be updated as soon as he gets the documents from Judicial

Speaker of the Senate Nathan Terrell

- Committee chairs meeting after SGA dismisses
- Working on updating the voting system
- Initial the paper being passed around acknowledging your committee

Secretary of the Senate Brenna Mathews

- Keep up the great work with office hours!

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Head Matthew Johnson

- Scholarships are due March 6th!
- The constitution says the ASA Committee is supposed to serve on academic and nonacademic students affairs. If anyone had any ideas for nonacademic affairs please reach out.

Campus Improvements Committee Head Matt Barr

- The dispensers for the Go With the Flow program would help keep this project as sustainable as possible in as many restrooms as possible

LRC Committee Head Josh Zaczek

- Lots of legislation and legislation ideas coming through, keep up the great work!

Public Relations Committee Head Brigid Stakelum

- First tabling event was successful! The poll is going to be live for the following week. Tabling Wednesday and Friday 12-3!
- Committee chairs, look out for a questionnaire about a brochure of every committee!
- Committee, meeting after SGA dismisses.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Head Symone Whalin

- Meeting next week!

Sustainability Committee Head Jamison Moorehead

SAVES Committee Head Kat Howard

Special Reports

University Committee Reports

- The student research council has closed the application for abstracts. If anyone is looking to be a student volunteer, contact Brigid!

Judicial Council Reports

Guest/Student Speakers

- Senator MJ Mayo spoke about her project to battle food insecurity on campus. They received a \$10,000 grant and released a survey. \$6,000 used to purchase and disperse Fresh Food passes. Other funds have been used to purchase residence hall friendly food to announce that the kitchen that connects the SGA and ISEC offices will house the Hilltopper Market – a free grocery store for students and faculty. The opening of this market will be after spring break. If anyone is looking to help at 9am Wednesday, meet in the SGA office to help unload food.
- Senator Hounshell encourages senators to review the campus improvements bill and think of how \$5,000 could improve the life of students.

Unfinished Business

New Business

List the items to be discussed at the next meeting.

Announcements

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm by Speaker of the Senate Nathan Terrell.