Senate Meeting Minutes

Seventeenth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, February 20th, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 20th, 2024, at 5:03 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Bodemann
      2. Senator Flatt
      3. Senator Ferguson
      4. Senator Solorzano
      5. Senator Sim
      6. Senator Ibrahim
      7. Senator Potter
      8. Senator Gannon
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. Dr. Susan Eagle- Faculty Senate Chair
      1. The Faculty Senate functions as the official representative voice of the faculty. Functions through shared governance. Dr. Eagle mentioned that 3 representatives from SGA can be voting members on the Faculty Senate.
      2. The Faculty Senate meetings are open to the public, on the Third Thursday of each month at 3:45 pm in the SGA chambers (and on Zoom). Visit the website at <http://www.wku.edu/senate/>

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “We suffer primarily not from our vices or our weaknesses, but from our illusions. We are haunted, not by reality, but by those images we have put in their place.” -Daniel Boorstin
   2. Rally for Higher Education Interest Form coming soon, we aren’t taking buses- so carpool. Leaving Bowling Green around 6:15 on March 7th.
   3. Uber Voucher initiative started today, Instagram giveaway coming soon.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. Greek Awards committee- 8 SGA students to sit on the committee.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. Congratulations to Senator Solorzano on her appointment to the OrgAid board.
   2. OrgAid applications due soon.
   3. 4,199.76 spent currently of the Legislative Discretionary Budget
4. Chief of Staff – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. The front desk is running low on scantrons.
   2. Please read bill 29-23-S
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Rally for higher ed coming up in 2 weeks- fill out the form to attend.
   2. SGA stoles for those graduating- they will be given out at the banquet.
   3. SGA merch links coming soon.
   4. Scholarship and Uber posts coming soon.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. No report.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Sign-ups to Grade the Gregory McKinney Legacy scholarship coming soon.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Senator of the Month voting, please fill it out.
   2. February Office Hours due end of the month.
   3. Build a Bill in Room 3020 next Wednesday at 6 pm, LOC will table!
   4. Jace Lux is our guest speaker coming next week.
   5. Please read the email from Andrew Rash concerning SGA spending.
      1. Let Speaker Denney or Andrew Rash know if you have any questions.
   6. Senator of the Month: Maiah Cisco- congrats!

Senator Kurtz motioned to move out of bylaws.

Senator Ray seconded.

Senator Kurtz motioned to move Bill 30-23-S from New Business to Unfinished Business, approved.

Motion to move back into bylaws, approved.

1. Secretary of the Senate – **Livi Ray**
   1. Please send your Committee minutes.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Committee meeting Wednesday at 6 pm. Send legislation by noon on Wednesdays.
   2. No meeting next week as LOC will be at the Build a Bill workshop.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Scholarship tabling tomorrow- sign up in the email.
   2. Scholarship fliers, feel free to pass those out!
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Madison Payne**
   1. Meeting on Thursday at 5:30.
   2. An interest email about a pediatric cancer event went out recently.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. New ideas coming soon.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. DEI Week coming soon.
   2. If transporting dogs sounds interesting to you let us know!
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
   1. Zoom with Elizabeth from the counseling center and talked about Mental Health Awareness Week at the End of April.
   2. Lambda Chi Alpha vigil for Jay Howard this Wednesday at 7 pm at the Guthrie tower.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Check out our bill in new business.
   2. Working on a bill.
   3. Went to Greenwood High last Friday- hearing a lot of good feedback from high school students!

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Congrats to Speaker Denney on her acceptance to Law school!
   2. Absences- Send in excuses- you need to be in attendance. If you leave early, you must submit an absence.
   3. Next JC meeting is next Wednesday at 6:45 to discuss Spring elections.
2. University Committee Reports
   1. Student Life Foundation – **Annie Finch**
      1. No report.
   2. Committee on Academic Quality – **Annie Finch**
      1. No report.
   3. University Athletic Committee – **Kaison Barton & Julia Duggins**
      1. Meeting tomorrow but neither of the Senators can attend.
   4. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee – **Rush Robinson, Dylan Carmona, & Megan Farmer**
      1. No report.
   5. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee – **Tanner Blood**
      1. No report.
   6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
      1. No report.
   7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Jaden** **Marshall**
      1. No report.
   8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Chloe Ralston** 
      1. No report.
   9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
      1. No report.
   10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
       1. No report.
3. **Unfinished Business**
   1. Bill 25-23-S Funding for the Office of Sustainability
      1. Giving $500 to the office for sustainability initiatives, the food pantry, scholarships, and to offer sustainability resources and events.
      2. Questions
         1. Senator Bryant asks why both this $500 and the $5 per student resolution?

Senator Robinson says that this acts quicker and more time efficiently than the resolution.

* + 1. One-sided debate, vote by voice
       1. Unanimous yes
  1. Resolution 26-23-S $5 sustainability fee to students
     1. Add a $5 fee to students within their tuition into the “fees” section.
     2. Other Universities have this, this would go to the Sustainability office
     3. One-sided debate, vote by voice
        1. Unanimous yes
  2. Bill 27-23-S Funding for Gift Bags for WKU Students
     1. $585.00 to purchase fun goody bags for students to spread positivity.
     2. Questions
        1. Senator Bryant asked how the items are more sustainable?
           1. Picked items that are all-natural and made out of recyclable materials.
     3. One sided debate, vote by voice
        1. Unanimous yes
  3. Bill 30-23-S Funding for National Eating Disorder Awareness Week Tabling
  4. Senator Farmer asked for the price breakdown of each item.
     1. The authors stated that the ribbons were around $15, the bracelets around $25, and the keychains about $15. They would order multiple packs.
     2. Senator Farmer gave a speech in affirmation citing the importance of raising awareness on campus.
     3. Vote by voice
        1. Unanimous yes

1. **New Business**

**- Resolution 24-23-S:**  **Resolution to Support Expanding Benches or Awnings at Topper Transit Stops on Campus**

**- Bill 29-23-S. Funding for the Rent-a-Calculator Program.**

**- Bill 31-23-S: Funding for “Dress for Success” Drive**

1. **Announcements**
   1. Students now have access to the NYTs through the library.
   2. The deadline for the Gregory McKinney Legacy Scholarship is this Friday.
   3. Alpha Gam is currently tabling in DSU- you can get Service hours for bringing in food. Also the Mr. Greek god competition coming up!
   4. Sigma Chi paint wall tomorrow.
   5. Rally for Higher Ed, if you are interested in an exec position, we encourage you to attend.
   6. Delta Zeta philanthropy week, basket raffle, and pickleball tournament this Friday!
   7. Gordon Ford College of Business has a business clothes closet if you need anything.
   8. Honors Toppers Trivia Night is on the 27th at 7:00 in the multipurpose room of HCIC.
   9. IFC is having a volleyball tournament to support the family of Jay Howard on Saturday.

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Hornback a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM

First Reading:  2/13/24

Second Reading:  2/27/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Resolution 24-23-S:**  **Resolution to Support Expanding Benches or Awnings at Topper Transit Stops on Campus**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the expansion of seating and awnings at Topper Transit bus stops on campus.

(1)WHEREAS: Many of the Topper Transit bus stops do not have adequate seating for individuals to utilize while waiting for their bus, and

(2)WHEREAS: The following stops do not have benches and/or awnings:

Campus Flats, Jones Jaggers, Meredith Hall, PFT, Regents & Chestnut, DSU, PS1, Grise Hall, The Commons, McCormack Hall, The Valley, Florence Schneider Hall, Gordon Wilson Hall, COHH, Cherry Hall, Chestnut North, Ky St. and 13th Ave, and 12th Ave & Center St., and

(3)WHEREAS: Awnings provide shelter from inclement weather including rain, snow, high winds, hail, etc., and,

(4)WHEREAS: Seating at bus stops allows for individuals to comfortably wait for the bus, and

(5)WHEREAS: Those waiting for the bus are often utilizing the sidewalk to sit on, thus limiting sidewalk availability for pedestrians.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports the expansion of seating and awnings at Topper Transit bus stops on campus.

AUTHORS:  Karley Solorzano – Senator At Large

Layne Pea – Senator At Large

Kayla Distler – College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CONTACT: Karley Solorzano | [karley.solorzano711@topper.wku.edu](mailto:karley.solorzano711@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 25-23-S. Funding for the Office of Sustainability**

PURPOSE:     For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

allocate $500.00 to the Office of Sustainability.

(1)WHEREAS:     The money will come from Legislative Discretionary, and

(2)WHEREAS:     This office is responsible for many initiatives on campus, including a food and resources pantry that is accessible to all students, and

(3)WHEREAS:     The money will be used to offset the low resources within the pantry and potentially fund sustainability projects brought forth by the student body, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will allocate $500.00 to the Office of Sustainability.

AUTHORS: Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS:   Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

​​ Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

                                      ​

CONTACTS:   Leslie North, WKU Director of Sustainability, [leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:leslie.north@wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Resolution 26-23-S. Resolution to encourage sustainability initiatives by charging a $5.00 sustainability fee to students.**

PURPOSE:​ For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support an initiative that would fund sustainability projects by charging students a $5.00 sustainability fee per semester.

(1)WHEREAS:​ Many schools have a “green fee” to fund sustainability projects on campus such as University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University, and University of Louisville, and

(2)WHEREAS:​ WKU has had inadequate funding to support our sustainability programs in the past, and

(3)WHEREAS: ​ This has caused our progress to plateau over the years without funding to pursue new ventures, and

(4)WHEREAS:     The money that is acquired from the fee will go directly to fund the Office of Sustainability, and

(5)WHEREAS:​ The purpose of the Sustainability Office is to promote equity, the environment and the economy of WKU. Any project funded through this fee would ultimately invest in student experience and/or result in long term cost savings to the university, and

(6)WHEREAS:​ For the price of a cup of coffee each semester, the students of WKU are able to reinvest in not only the campus, but specifically in the Office of Sustainability, and

(7)WHEREAS:​ This is one way that WKU and it’s scholars can demonstrate to state leaders that we are an institution that innovates when it comes to sustainability, and

THEREFORE:​  Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support an initiative that would fund sustainability projects by charging students a $5.00 sustainability fee per semester.

AUTHORS: ​ Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

SPONSOR: ​ Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

CONTACTS:​ Leslie North, Director of Sustainability

[Leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:Leslie.north@wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 27-23-S. Funding for Gift Bags for WKU Students**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $585.00 to purchase gift bags for students.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS:  The money will be used to purchase $59.98 worth of pens, $38.20worth of pencils, $19.99 worth of fidgets, $104.97 worth of lip balm, $62.93 worth of notepads, $113.94 worth of Liquid IV, $38.36 worth of Emergen-C, $74.95worth of gum, and $34.95 worth of packaging, and

(3)WHEREAS: Handing out the gift bags will give students some basic products that they may need in order to better their learning experience, create a more comfortable and productive study environment, and support their overall well-being during the remainder of the semester, and

(4)WHEREAS: While opting for an eco-friendlier option of these products will be more expensive it will be a physical representation of how the Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee is trying to support a greener campus.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $585.00 to purchase gift bags for the students of WKU.

AUTHORS:​ Ella Wooton

Rush Robinson

SPONSORS:  Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee​

CONTACTS:  Dr. Leslie North

[leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:leslie.north@wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/20/24

Second Reading: 2/27/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 29-23-S. Funding for the Rent-a-Calculator Program**.

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

allocate $300.00 for the Rent-a-Calculator program.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Fund, and

(2)WHEREAS: $300.00 will go towards the purchasing of 105 2-Line Engineering Scientific Calculators, and

(4)WHEREAS: Students can come to the SGA office to rent a calculator for the needed time, with a one semester maximum, and

(5)WHEREAS: The students will provide the same information that is needed to receive a dental voucher to be able to rent a calculator.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky

University will allocate $300.00 for the Rent-a-Calculator program.

AUTHORS: Kaison Barton, Senior Senator

                          Donte Reed, Chief of Staff

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS:

Dr. Martha Sales, Dean of Students, [deanofstudents@wku.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@wku.edu)

Dr. David Brown, Dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering, [david.brown@wku.edu](mailto:david.brown@wku.edu)

Dr. Marko Dumancic, Assistant Provost, [marko.dumancic@wku.edu](mailto:marko.dumancic@wku.edu)

Kaison Barton, Senior Senator, [Kaison.barton232@topper.wku.edu](mailto:Kaison.barton232@topper.wku.edu)

Donte Reed, Chief of Staff, [Steven.reed824@topper.wku.edu](mailto:Steven.reed824@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/20/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:​

**Bill 30-23-S: Funding for the National Eating Disorder Awareness Week Tabling**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $100 for National Eating Disorder Awareness Week Tabling.

(1) WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2) WHEREAS: The money will be used to purchase supplies such as positive affirmation keychains and National Eating Disorder Association ribbons and bracelets to be given out to students, and

(3) WHEREAS: The event will be held on February 28th at Centennial Mall from 10:00-1:00 PM to promote positivity and Eating Disorder Awareness on campus.

THEREFORE:  Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $100 for National Eating Disorder Awareness Week Tabling.

AUTHORS: Livi Ray, Gatton Academy Senator

Savanna Kurtz, Freshman Senator

Chloe Ralston, Freshman Senator

SPONSORS: Outreach and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS: Livi Ray, Gatton Academy Senator

[olivia.ray299@topper.wku.edu](mailto:olivia.ray299@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 02/20/24

Second Reading: 02/27/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 31-23-S: Funding for “Dress for Success” Drive**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $800.00 to the Community Relations Committee “Dress for Success” Drive.

(1) WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Fund, and

(2) WHEREAS: $800.00 will go toward paying for items such as shoes, socks, underwear, and toiletries, and

(3) WHEREAS: Students can donate additional items from February 26th through March 15th. Items can be dropped off at the SGA front desk, and

(4) WHEREAS: Service hours will be allocated based on the items donated, with a cap of five service hours, and

(5) WHEREAS: The items will be donated to the Gordon Ford College of Business Professional Clothes Closet and the family resource coordinators of the city and county schools.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $800.00 to the Community Relations Committee “Dress for Success” Drive.

AUTHORS: Savanna Kurtz, Freshman Senator

Sarah Vincent, Junior Senator

Ethan Taylor, Junior Senator

Maiah Cisco, Senator At Large

Connor Ferguson, Gordon Ford College of Business Senator

SPONSORS: Community Relations Committee

CONTACTS: Donte Reed, Chief of Staff, steven.reed824@topper.wku.edu