Senate Meeting Minutes

Second Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, August 29, 2023

1. **Call to Order** 
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:04 PM on August 29th, 2023, by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call** 
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney.
   2. There were no absences.
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
5. **Officer Reports** 
   1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
      1. President Kurtz shared his optimism for the new year and nominated several individuals for different positions.
         1. Morgan Gammons – Judicial Council
            1. Morgan discussed her passion for legal studies and judicial processes.
            2. Passed with unanimous voice vote
         2. Ashley Ranger – Judicial Council
            1. Ashley discussed her passion for campus and community, highlighting her involvement on campus.

Senator Pierce gave a speech in affirmation, stating that Ashley is very involved on campus and is dedicated to what she does.

* + - * 1. Passed with unanimous voice vote
      1. Anna Kate Hardin – Judicial Council
         1. Anna Kate spoke of her familiarity with judicial processes and her enthusiasm to serve SGA.
         2. Passed with unanimous voice vote
      2. Ellen Henderson – Judicial Council
         1. Ellen highlighted her passion for helping current Western students as most of her involvement focuses on incoming scholars.
         2. Passed with unanimous voice vote

Point of Order by Senator Pierce to Speaker Denney to ask for any abstentions during voting.

* + - 1. Garrison Reed – Judicial Council
         1. Garrison spoke on his time serving as SGA’s EVP and how he hopes to look through SGA’s constitution and reevaluate it periodically.
         2. Passed with unanimous voice vote

Senator Padget made a motion to vote for all Committee Heads at one time.

Senator Pierce stated that this should be a debatable motion.

Senator Padget made a speech in affirmation, stating that it would be beneficial to save time by voting at once.

Senator Pierce made a speech in negation, stating that it is important to evaluate each prospective Committee Head individually.

Passed with roll call vote, 25 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention

* + - 1. Senator Padget
         1. Mental Health & Wellbeing
      2. Senator Pierce
         1. Legislative Operations
      3. Senator Cisco
         1. Community Relations
      4. Senator Plumb
         1. Outreach
      5. Senator Wright
         1. Enrollment & Student Experience
      6. Senator Robinson
         1. Campus Improvements & Sustainability

Senator Robinson spoke on his previous involvement within this committee, specifically highlighting his role as secretary.

* + - 1. Senator Salorzano
         1. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Senator Salorzano shared her passion for making SGA more accessible for all students within WKU. She shared how heavily she values both DEI and empathy.

* + - * 1. All committee heads were passed with a unanimous voice vote.
      1. Kaison Barton – Senior Senator
         1. Kaison spoke on the impact WKU Athletics has had on his time in college and how passionate he is about advocacy for student athletes.

Senator Pierce asked Kaison how prepared he would be to balance SGA with other commitments.

Kaison stated that his endeavors are encouraged by his coaches and that he is not worried about time commitments.

* + - * 1. Passed with unanimous voice vote
      1. Geo Aberle – Nontraditional Senator
         1. Geo stated his involvement in the Kelly Autism Program and how he seeks to advocate for his peers within that organization. He spoke on his dedication to SGA, saying that he is committed to that in the future.
         2. Passed with unanimous voice vote
         3. Senator Padget gave a speech in affirmation, stating that Geo is more dedicated to SGA than last year’s Senate
         4. Senator Robinson gave a speech in negation, stating that Geo will outshine the Senate

Senator Robinson withdrew his speech of negation

* + 1. President Kurtz encouraged the Senate to attend Ayanna Morgan’s vigil after the meeting
    2. Senator Pierce made a motion to cancel August office hours
       1. Senator Pierce gave a speech in affirmation
       2. Passed with unanimous voice vote
  1. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch** 
     1. EVP Finch shared her excitement to get to know new Senators and to be back on campus.
  2. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon** 
     1. AVP Leon shared his excitement and sincerity for the new Senate.
  3. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley**
     1. Chief Kelley stated how she wants to get to know new Senators and a new office hour opportunity from 9-1 in the SGA office.
  4. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
     1. Director Romanov shared his excitement about the new year and some information regarding SGA communication and new polos.
  5. Director of IT - **Aniya Johnson**
     1. Director Johnson shared the details of her role, including updating the website.
  6. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – Donte’ Reed
     1. Director Reed shared his plans for the new year.
  7. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney** 
     1. Speaker Denney announced Senator Hemenover and Senator Kelley’s resignations.
     2. Speaker Denney nominated Senator Vincent for Secretary of the Senate.
        1. Senator Robinson asked Senator Vincent what her words per minute is
        2. Senator Vincent responded with 96 words per minute
        3. Passed with unanimous voice vote
     3. Senator Denney shared plans for the SGA Retreat as well as New Senator Orientation.
     4. Senators filled out a form regarding which committee they prefer to be a member of.

1. **Special Orders**
   1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
      1. Chief Justice King shared his excitement for the upcoming year and spoke briefly about the upcoming Freshmen election.
   2. Swearing in – Isaac King
2. **New Business**
3. **Announcements**
   1. Senator Pierce told the Senate she is actively looking for someone to fill the Parliamentarian position.
   2. Chief Justice King stated that Judicial Council will be meeting on Wednesday’s at 5:30 in the SGA conference room.
   3. AVP Leon invited the Senate to Fresh with him.
4. **Adjournment** 
   1. Senator Robinson called for adjournment.
   2. The motion was seconded.
   3. The Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.