Senate Meeting Minutes

Sixth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, September 26th, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on September 26th, 2023, at 5:04 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Williams
      2. Senator Padgett
      3. Senator Cisco
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
      1. Correction to change a speech from affirmation to negation in last week’s minutes.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator Robinson.
      1. Seconded by Senator Vincent.
   2. Motion to cancel next week’s Senate by Senator Robinson.
      1. Seconded by Senator Plumb.
      2. Speech in affirmation
         1. It’s fall break.
      3. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   3. Motion to move October 17th Senate to October 18th by Senator Robinson.
      1. Seconded by Senator Farmer.
      2. Speech in affirmation
         1. That is date of the TopperTuesday football game.
            1. Point of information to Speaker Denney by Senator Pierce asking if this meeting would be at 5:00 PM.
            2. Speaker Denney confirmed that this meeting would be at 5:00 PM.
      3. Passed with unanimous voice vote.
   4. Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Plumb.
      1. Seconded by Senator Robinson.

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “They’re playing for clicks and we’re playing for wins.”
   2. The Pink Walk is coming up! It is next Wednesday at 5:30, meeting at the Diddle side of DSU. There will be three speakers.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. EVP Finch nominated Senator Pabin for the Faculty and Welfare Committee.
      1. Passed with unanimous voice vote
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. AVP Leon shouted out Donte Reed for participating in the Hispanic Heritage Month activities. He shouted out all the newly elected Senate as well and shared how excited SGA is to work with them.
   2. There are 4 spots open for the group that assists AVP Leon with grading OrgAid applications. Those interested should reach out to AVP Leon via email.
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley** 
   1. Chief Kelley shared that Preston vouchers are now available.
   2. She encouraged the Senate to bring in fall decorations for the office.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Director Romanov announced that an SGA Alum and his wife lost their child after 35 days of life. He stated that the Executive Cabinet will be writing a letter to their family and requested that the Senate sign this letter.
   2. He congratulated all the new Senate on their respective positions.
      1. Point of information by Senator Bryant to Director Reed asking if the Pink Walk is Thursday or Friday.
         1. It is Thursday, October 5th.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Director Johnson announced that the Executive Branch pictures are now online, and scholarships will be open on the website this week!
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Director Reed challenged everyone to bring two friends to the Pink Walk.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Speaker Denney shared that new Senators that missed the New Senator Orientation *must* make it up. Anyone who does not attend without warning will be given an unexcused absence.
      1. The new makeup date is September 27th at 4:00 PM.
   2. Senator of the Month voting
      1. Congrats to Senator Robinson!
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Senator Pierce stated that the Parliamentarian position is still open!
   2. LOC’s first bill is in new business right now and will be debated next week.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Pink Walk Flyer is coming soon!
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
   1. No report.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Tabling next month October 16th – 18th for sustainability month.
   2. Safety Walk is November 16th tentatively.
   3. Survey for campus improvements coming soon!
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. Senator Solorzano shared that DEI is working on a few goals:
      1. Expand the amount of free menstrual products of campus,
      2. Scholarships for minorities in certain fields like STEM and business.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
   1. Senator Bryant spoke on Senator Padgett’s behalf
      1. National Kindness Day Bill,
      2. Election Day resolution,
      3. Working closely with the Kelly Autism Center to change fire alarm times,
      4. Brainstorming to meet with the Restaurant Group.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Senator Vincent spoke on Senator Cisco’s behalf
      1. Meeting postponed due to no one being able to attend.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Chief Justice King explained the issues with the election, stating that TopNet got the time for the voting period to end incorrect, and put the time as 12:00 PM instead of 12:00 AM.
   2. No members of Judicial Council could attend the election results announcement, so the task of announcing was delegated to EVP Finch.
   3. Chief Justice King shared some details about his role for those that could not attend the Senate Retreat, stating that the main responsibility is ensuring that SGA behaves according to the constitution.
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. No report.
   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. Their first meeting will be Thursday, October 5th.
   6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
      1. No report.
   7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Ella Wooton**
      1. No report.
   8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Kayla Distler**
      1. This committee’s first meeting will be October 10th.
   9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
      1. Their first meeting went over guidelines.
   10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
       1. No report.
3. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
   1. Newly elected Senators were sworn in

**8. Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

**Bill 2-23-F:** Funding for Shark Tank Event

**10. Announcements**

1. Senator Bodemann shared that Pan Council applications are due October 23rd.
2. Senator Payne shared that Chem Club is tailgating Thursday.
3. Senator Pierce stated that Dance Big Red is doing a stadium cleanup on Friday at 1:00PM. Those interested can contact Senator Pierce.
4. EVP Finch encouraged everyone to come out to the tailgate at 4:30 PM next Wednesday and the Pink Walk.

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Aberle made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM.

First Reading: 9/26/23

Second Reading: 10/10/23

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 2-23-F:** **Funding for Student Activities’ “Shark Tank” Event.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $1,500.00 to WKU Student Activities’ “Shark Tank” Event.

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

(2)WHEREAS: The event will involve RSOs pitching a five to seven minute proposal to a panel of judges to request funding for their organizations, and

(3)WHEREAS: The judges, or “sharks”, will be composed of one (1) SGA representative, one (1) representative from the Gordon Ford College of Business, one (1) Student Activities representative, and one (1) community member, and

(4)WHEREAS: The sharks will award a $700 grant to the first place organization, a $450 grant to the second place organization, and a $350 grant to the third place organization, and

(5)WHEREAS: All registered student organizations, regardless of 2023-2024 Organizational Aid award status, are eligible to participate in the event.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $1,500.00 to WKU Student Activities’ “Shark Tank” Event.

AUTHORS:  Meghan Pierce, Senator-At-Large

Sam Bodemann, Senior Senator

Hannah Evans, Sophomore Senator

Joel Hornback, Senator-At-Large

SPONSORS:  Legislative Operations Committee

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