Senate Meeting Minutes

Twenty-First Meeting of the Twenty-Second Senate - Tuesday, March 7th 2023

**1. Call to Order**

* Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

**2. Roll Call**

* Roll call was taken by Speaker Mishchuk
* 2 senators were absent, 33 were present

**3. Approval of Minutes**

* The minutes from 3/7 were approved unanimously by the senate

**4. Guest and Student Speakers**

* Speaker Mishchuk announced that her birthday was on the 23rd
* Senator Tomas motioned to suspend bylaws
* Senator Tomas motioned to move New Business and Unfinished Business to before officer reports, and for Bill 40-23-S to be moved up in the agenda.
* Motion was amended to include Bill 41-23-S
* 2 speeches in affirmation were given
* Motion passed unanimously
* Senator Denney motioned to move president Bornefeld’s report and swearing in to before new business
* Motion was approved unanimously
* Senator Huffaker motioned to move into bylaws
* This motion was approved unanimously

**9. Unfinished Business**

*Bill 39-23-S. Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.*

* Senator Patel and Senator Huffaker presented their bill and explained the purposes of this amendment
* Time was allotted for questioning
* 2 senators were called out of order for argumentative questioning
* Time was allotted for debate
* 3 speeches were given in affirmation, 2 speeches were given in negation
* With 19 votes yes and 15 votes no, the bill did not meet the 2/3 requirement and failed

*Bill 40-23-S: Funding for the “Afro Latinidad” event.*

* Senator Tomas and Senator Leon presented the bill with Professor Yerty
* Time was allotted for questioning
* Time was allotted for debate
* No speeches were given
* With 33 votes in favor, the bill passed unanimously

*Bill 41-23-S Funding for Dance Big Red 2023.*

* Senator Finch presented the bill and spoke on the need for more funding
* Time was allotted for questioning
* Senator Finch and Senator Simpson spoke on behalf of DBR
* Time was allotted for debate
* 1 speech was given in affirmation, 4 speeches were given in negation
* With 4 abstensions, 10 votes yes, and 17 votes no, the bill failed.

**10. New Business**

* Bill 42-23-S: Organizational Aid Funding March 2023.

**5. Officer Reports**

President – **Cole Bornefeld**

* Nominated Anne Simpson for the open Senator at Large seat
* Anne gave a speech on her involvement on campus and her goals for the organization
* No speeches in affirmation or negation were given
* Anne was unanimously approved to the senate

Swearing in -- **Justin Goins**

* Senator Simpson was sworn into the senate by Chief Justice Goins

Executive Vice President – **Garrison Reed**

* We should not be moving up legislation if it is not necessary, senators need 2 weeks to read bills and resolutions before voting.

Administrative Vice President – **Sam Kurtz**

* Read the OrgAid bill and be ready to vote next week

Chief of Staff – **Lauren Willett**

* More scantrons coming to the office soon
* 4 ID vouchers and 4 Preston vouchers remaining
* Banquet set for April 4th

Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**

* SGA group picture date to be set soon
* Polo order is coming in

Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**

* No report

Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**

* Scholarships are due March 31st
* Senators are allowed to apply

Speaker of the Senate – **Julie Mishchuk**

* Clarified the difference and fundamental purposes of the constitution and bylaws
* Nominated Senator Huffaker for secretary of the senate
* Senator Huffaker spoke about his excitement for the role
* 3 speeches in affirmation were given
* Senator Huffaker was approved by the senate for the secretary position

Secretary of the Senate –

Parliamentarian – **Meghan Pierce**

* Please read the bills before you vote on them!

**6. Committee Reports**

Legislative Operations – **Liz Delozier**

* No report

Enrollment and Student Experience – **Adan Canizalez**

* No report

Outreach and Student Engagement – **Matt Gadd**

* 50 boxes of Narcan from the Bowling Green health department will be distributed across houses
* Please contact if you are interested in acquiring Narcan for yourself

Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Will Hemenover**

* Pollinator Garden sign is ready
* The menstrual cups have been delivered and will be handed out on Earth Day
* Earth day tabling needs supplies such as glass bottles, please donate

Diversity Equity, and Inclusion – **Juan Tomas**

* No report

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Olivia Feck**

* Mental Health Awareness week will be the week before finals
* Office hours are offered for senator volunteers

Community Relations – **Sydney Denney**

* Community Relations survey is still up, please tell your friends to fill it out
* 320 responses so far!

**7. Faculty Senate Reports**

SGA representatives – **Liz DeLozier, Sydney Denney, Will Hemenover**

* No report.

**8. Special Orders**

Judicial Council Report --  **Justin Goins**

* No report.

University Committee Reports –

- Senate Executive Committee – **Cole Bornefeld**

**-** No report

- Student Life Foundation – **Garrison Reed**

**-** No report

- Preston Center Advisory Council – **Garrison Reed**

**-** No report

- Budget and Finance Committee – **Sam Kurtz**

**-** No report

- University Curriculum Committee – **Brett Phelps**

**-** No report

- Colonnade General Education Committee –

- Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee – **Ethan Huffaker**

**-** No report

- Committee on Academic Quality – **Mallory Hardesty**

**-** No report

- Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee **– Matt Gadd, Rhett Helland, Rush Robinson**

**-** No report

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup – **Megan Farmer**

**-** No report

- Academic Calendar – **Adan Canizalez**

**-** No report

- University Athletic Committee- **Matt Gadd, ShyAnte'e Williams**

**-** Sports schedules are being finalized.

- Monthly meeting is set for the 20th.

- Budget and Finance Committee -

Senator of the Month Election – **Julie Mishchuk**

**11. Announcements**

**12. Adjournment**

* The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm

First Reading: 3/7/23

Second Reading: 3/21/23

Pass: 19

Fail: 15

Other:

**Bill 39-23-S. Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of**

**Western Kentucky University.**

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

its Constitution to change and clarify the appointment process for vacant senator positions.

WHEREAS: Section 3.8 currently reads

“3.8.1. All but the three (3) freshman senators, one (1) graduate senator, one (1)

International senator, and one (1) Gatton Academy senator shall be elected in the spring

election.

3.8.2. If the freshman, graduate, International or Gatton Academy senator position(s)

will not be filled in the fall election, they shall change to at-large positions in the same fall

election.”, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.9 currently reads

“3.9.1. Vacancies in the Senate after the fall elections shall be filled by an appointment

from the President and approval by the majority of the Senate.”, and

WHEREAS: The transfer/nontraditional senator and First-Generation senator should be elected

in the fall election to match with the start of a new academic year, during which most students

transfer, and

WHEREAS: The Constitution currently does not give clear authority to the enforcement of by

election codes during elections, and

WHEREAS: The process for replacing senators outlined in section 3.9 of the Constitution is not

clear, and

WHEREAS: New constitutional amendments are establishing more distinctions between senate

positions, and the distinction between these senate positions ought to be respected by the

process for appointing successors in the event of a vacancy, and

WHEREAS: The International Student Engagement Center senator is inaccurately named, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.6.11 shall now read

“One (1) Intercultural student senator.”, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.8 shall now read

“3.8.1. The senior, junior, sophomore, college specific, senator at-large, and Intercultural

Student Engagement Center (ISEC) student senators shall be elected in the spring election.

3.8.2. The freshman, graduate, International, Gatton Academy, First Generation, and

Transfer/nontraditional student senators shall be elected in the fall election.

3.8.3. The spring and fall elections shall adhere to the election codes as set by the

Judicial Council and approved by the majority of the Senate.”, and

WHEREAS: Section 3.9 shall now read

“3.9.1. Any senate position seat not filled after the spring or fall elections shall be filled by appointment

by the President and approved by a majority of the Senate.

3.9.2. Upon the nomination of a candidate for a senate position, the

President shall announce which position they intend to fill.

3.9.3 In order to be nominated, nominees must meet the requirements set under the

election codes used for the most recent election.

3.9.4. The President may turn vacant senate seats to senator at-large seats with approval

by ⅔ of the Senate.”

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

University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS: Ethan Huffaker, Senator At-Large

Neel Patel, Gatton Academy Senator

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS: Justin Goins, justin.goins000@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 3/21/23

Second Reading: 3/28/23

Pass: 33

Fail: 0

Other:

**Bill 40-23-S: Funding for the “Afro Latinidad” event.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $200 to the “Afro Latinidad” event.

WHEREAS: The funds will come from the Legislative Discretionary budget, and

WHEREAS: This event will include art, cultural presentations, a culinary display with approximately 100 students participating in its development, and

WHEREAS: “The Afro Latinidad” event will take place on April 3rd.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $200 to the “Afro Latinidad” event.

AUTHORS: Sarah Vincent, Senator-At-Large

Salvador Leon Golib, International Student Senator.

Juan Tomas, Senator-At-Large

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

CONTACTS: Yerty Vandermolen, yerty.vandermolen@wku.edu

First Reading: 3/21/23

Second Reading: 3/28/23

Pass: 10

Fail: 17

Other: 4

**Bill 41-23-S Funding for Dance Big Red 2023.**

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

allocate $300 for Dance Big Red 2023.

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

WHEREAS: The organization is not receiving as much funding as they have in years past,

which is causing executive members to spend money out of pocket, and

WHEREAS: In order to receive financial assistance due to the aforementioned issue, Dance Big

Red has also applied for Organizational Aid, and

WHEREAS: The fundraising event will take place on March 24th 2023, and

WHEREAS: Dance Big Red is a registered student organization that has benefited Nortons

Children Hospital by raising over $85,000 last year, and

WHEREAS: The event provides a great opportunity for the campus as approximately 400

students and many community members participate annually.

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

University will allocate $300 for Dance Big Red.

AUTHORS: Annalise Finch, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

Cade Holcombe, Senator at Large

Callison Padgett, Senator at Large

Jakob Briggs, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee

CONTACTS: Madison Feria DBR Execuative Co-chair (270) 535-3660