Senate Meeting Minutes

Eighteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 27th, 2024, 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 Bodemann
      2. Senator Robinson
      3. Senator Duggins
      4. Senator Pea
      5. Senator Sim
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. Jace Lux, Director of Media Relations, University Spokesperson.
      1. Mr. Lux discussed how important student participation is for WKU.
      2. Mr. Lux serves as the liaison between the media and WKU. He is also involved in campus event planning.
      3. Mr. Lux highlighted how SGA can share our firsthand experience as WKU students with prospective students to encourage them to come to WKU.
   2. Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator Barton.
      1. Senator Barton motioned to move Unfinished Business to before Officer Report
      2. 2nd by Senator Distler
         1. One-sided debate, vote by voice.
            1. Unanimous yes
            2. Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Barton, 2nd by Senator Blood.
5. **Unfinished Business**
   1. Resolution 24-23-S: Resolution to Support Expanding Benches or Awnings at Topper Transit Stops on Campus.
      1. The main goal is to make the University aware of the inadequate seating/awnings at bus stops on campus.
      2. This form of accessibility would benefit all students.
      3. One-sided debate, vote by voice.
         1. Unanimous yes
   2. Bill 29-23-S. Funding for the Rent-a-Calculator Program.
      1. Amendments to change Bill 29-23-S to the “Borrow-a-Calculator” Program. The remaining amendments can be found in your email.
      2. Vote by voice on the friendly amendments:
         1. Unanimous yes.
      3. Students can borrow a calculator and sign a contract indicating that they will return the calculator. The students would provide student identification. The student would go through the SGA desk worker to borrow a calculator.
      4. The calculators would be stored in the SGA safe, the SGA President, Chief of Staff, and the 4 desk workers have the passcode.
      5. TI-84 calculators and batteries will be purchased. Each calculator will be numbered with a sticker for property identification purposes.
      6. Dr. Dumancic spoke on this bill's aspect of accessibility and how beneficial it would be for students. The Center for Teaching and Learning has vowed to pitch in funds for an additional 10 calculators.
      7. Bill 29-23-S is asking for $550 to purchase 5 TI-84 calculators and batteries.
      8. Questions
         1. Senator Ferguson asked if it is 15 calculators total, 5 from SGA and 10 from the provost's office
            1. The authors confirmed this.
         2. Senator Bryant asked how this would be marketed.
            1. Chief of Staff Reed described that student-all emails would be sent out and promoted on SGA social media.
         3. Senator Taylor asked how the interaction with the WKU Police would work?
            1. The authors stated that the WKU Police would be involved in a last-case effort if the student fails to return the calculator and does not communicate with SGA.
         4. Senator Ferguson asked how the contract would work?
            1. Chief of Staff Reed described that the SGA desk worker would receive their ID card and write their 800 number, and the student would also fill out the contract providing their name, email, and additional identifying information.
      9. Speeches
         1. Senator Farmer gave a speech in affirmation citing that it is well-researched and necessary.
         2. Senator Blood gave a speech in affirmation citing that SGA is for the Students and this will benefit the student body.
      10. One-sided debate, vote by voice.
          1. Unanimous yes
   3. Bill 31-23-S: Funding for “Dress for Success” Drive
      1. Friendly amendment to the 3rd Whereas clause to change Feb 26 to Feb 29 and March 15 to April 5th i. One-sided debate, vote by voice. a. Unanimous yes
      2. SGA will provide tangible items to support students as they go through daily life and professional settings.
      3. Collecting shoes
      4. Donate 40% of what is received from purchasing and the drive to Warren County students.
      5. Asking for $800 to purchase items.
      6. Questions
         1. Senator Farmer asked how this would interact with the Gordon Ford Clothes closet?
            1. The authors stated that if this bill were to pass, they would work to make it more accessible for the other colleges, but it is primarily through the GFCB.
         2. Senator Barton asked if they would accept donations?
            1. The authors stated that it would function as a clothing drive in that they are asking for gently used or new items.
         3. Senator Bryant asked if other professional items will be accepted?
            1. Senator Cisco stated that it would mainly be shoes, socks, underwear, and toiletries, and would mainly advertise those.
         4. Senator Pierce asked if the items listed in the bill were items that the Gordon Ford College of Business had a need for?
            1. Senator Cisco stated that they are still determining if the items would be placed in the SGA office or the Gordon Ford College of Business Professional Clothes Closet.
         5. Senator Farmer made a motion to amend the 5th whereas clause to read “the items will be donated but not limited to the Gordon Ford College of Business closet and the Warren county schools
      7. Senator Distler gave a speech in negation saying that this bill is limiting in that only donating the items to the GFCB creates barriers
      8. Senator Evans gave a speech in affirmation saying that the amendment provides openness for people in other colleges.
      9. Senator Ibrahim gave a speech in affirmation saying that a lot of WKU students take classes through the GFCB and that eventually, this will be accessible to all WKU students.
         1. Vote by roll call
            1. Kaison Barton yes
            2. Connor Flatt yes
            3. Ethan Taylor yes
            4. Anne-Marie Wright yes
            5. Hannah Evans yes
            6. Tanner Blood yes
            7. Connor Ferguson yes
            8. Kayla Distler abstain
            9. Madison Payne yes
            10. David Darnell yes
            11. Maiah Cisco yes
            12. Karley Solorzano yes
            13. Carly Wheat yes
            14. Meghan Pierce yes
            15. Joel Hornback yes
            16. Dylan Carmona yes
            17. Ryan Dilts yes
            18. Sophia Bryant yes
            19. Thomas Pabin yes
            20. Megan Farmer yes
            21. Savannah Kurtz yes
            22. Malick Ibrahim yes
            23. Chloe Ralston yes
            24. Livi Ray yes
            25. Ashli Potter yes
            26. Jaden Marshall yes
            27. Gabe Jerdon yes
            28. Sawyer Edmunds yes
            29. Elizabeth Gannon yes
      10. 28 yesses, 1 abstention, this amendment passes.
          1. Senator Pierce asked what agreement has been reached with the Gordon Ford College of Business
             1. Senator Cisco stated that they would reach out to the Gordon Ford College of Business to confirm upon the passage of this bill.
          2. Senator Wright asked if service hours would be offered for those who donate?
             1. Senator Cisco stated that one hour per item, with a limit of five hours could be awarded.
          3. Senator Pierce motioned to postpone the bill
             1. Senator Pierce stated there are issues in the bill that needs to be worked out.
             2. Vote by roll call
             3. Kaison Barton no
             4. Connor Flatt no
             5. Ethan Taylor no
             6. Anne-Marie Wright no
             7. Hannah Evans no
             8. Tanner Blood no
             9. Connor Ferguson no
             10. Kayla Distler yes
             11. Madison Payne no
             12. David Darnell no
             13. Maiah Cisco no
             14. Karley Solorzano no
             15. Carly Wheat no
             16. Meghan Pierce yes
             17. Joel Hornback no
             18. Dylan Carmona no
             19. Ryan Dilts no
             20. Sophia Bryant yes
             21. Thomas Pabin no
             22. Megan Farmer yes
             23. Savannah Kurtz no
             24. Malick Ibrahim no
             25. Chloe Ralston no
             26. Livi Ray no
             27. Ashli Potter no
             28. Jaden Marshall no
             29. Gabe Jerdon no
             30. Sawyer Edmunds no
             31. Elizabeth Gannon no
             32. 25 no’s, 3 yeses, the bill will continue.
      11. Debate
          1. Senator Barton gave a speech in affirmation citing this bills importance for WKU Student’s future careers.
          2. Vote by voice
             1. Unanimous yes

**6. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.”-Robert F. Kennedy
   2. 5 meetings left in the semester so write legislation- don’t be afraid to spend money.
   3. Rally for Higher Education is next Thursday.
      1. Driving separately- please carpool.
   4. Uber voucher giveaway has been going great, keep sharing to make an impact!
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. Last week we discussed a committee for grading Greek life scholarships, check your email if you expressed interest, you should have received an email from Toni.
   2. College of Education and Behavioral Sciences are currently working on a bill!
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. No report.
4. Chief of Staff – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. AVP Leon said the budget is updated, also apply for Organizational Aid
   2. Ran out of Scantrons, but should be getting more soon.
   3. End of the Year Banquet from April 2nd from 5:00-7:30 PM.
   4. Check your email to nominate for awards.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. 2 weeks from Spring Break!
   2. 5 SGA meetings left for this Senate, keep that in mind.
   3. Please share the Abby Nash Creativity Scholarship post on Instagram.
   4. Weekly reports coming every Thursday, follow the SGA Instagram, like and tag a friend to enter the Uber Voucher giveaway.
   5. Committees, please utilize the Uber voucher giveaway.
   6. Fill out the Rally for Higher Education form in your email.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. The budget has been updated on the website
   2. The Legislative archive has been updated.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Gregory McKinney Leadership and Involvement Scholarship winners
      1. Tamyia King
      2. Avery Wells
         1. Congrats to these fantastic leaders for embodying the legacy of Gregory McKinney!
   2. Still waiting to hear back about going on a high school tour at South Warren.
   3. Scholarships are due the 29th at 5pm.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Office Hours are due Thursday by the end of the day.
   2. 5 SGA meetings left, bill cycle takes about 3 meetings so keep that in mind.
   3. If you are interested in running for Speaker of the Senate please come chat with Speaker Denney
   4. Build-a-Bill Workshop:
      1. Room 3020 on Wednesday at 6pm.
      2. LOC will be tabling there instead of having a normal meeting.
      3. 2 Uber voucher giveaway.
      4. The event is casual, come and go as you need.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Livi Ray**
   1. Sign up for NEDA tabling- link in your email.
   2. Keep sending in your committee minutes.

**7. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. No report.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Scholarship tabling this Thursday, please sign up!
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Madison Parker Payne**
   1. If you have an event you would like SGA to table at, reach out to our committee.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. No report.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. DEI week bill in New Business. Senator Distler sent out a sign up for tabling.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
   1. Bill in New Business that will be presented next week.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. South Warren and Warren Central have not reached out, Senator Cisco will be hand delivering the scholarship information on Wednesday.

**8. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Election Updates
      1. Applications due April 5th
      2. Election Codes Meeting April 4th and 5th
      3. Debates if two or more tickets run.
         1. DSU auditorium
      4. December/January Chief Justice Verdict Award
         1. Congrats to Megan Farmer!
      5. February Award coming next week.
2. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
3. 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. No report.
   6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
      1. No report.
   7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Jaden** **Marshall**
      1. Meeting this upcoming Tuesday
   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.
4. **New Business**

Bill 30-23-S

1. **Announcements**

Chief of Staff Reid raffled the Uber Voucher, congrats to the two winners.

Service hours if you donate to the Dress for Success Drive!

Senator Ferguson says thanks for those who supported Sigma Chi’s Philanthropy week, raised around $45,000!

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Pierce made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Distler.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.

First Reading:  2/13/24

Second Reading:  2/27/24

Pass:   Yes

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: 2/20/24

Second Reading: 2/27/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

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

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

allocate $550.00 for the Borrow-a-Calculator program.

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

(2)WHEREAS: $500.00 will go towards the purchasing of 5 TI-84 Calculators and $50.00 will go towards purchasing replacement batteries, and

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

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

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

University will allocate $550.00 for the Borrow-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

Dr. David Brown, Dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering, david.brown@wku.edu Dr. Marko Dumancic, Assistant Provost, marko.dumancic@wku.edu Kaison Barton, Senior Senator, Kaison.barton232@topper.wku.edu Donte Reed, Chief of Staff, Steven.reed824@topper.wku.e

First Reading: 2/20/24

Second Reading: 2/27/24

Pass: Yes

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 29th through April 5th. 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, but not limited 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

First Reading: 2/27/24

Second Reading: 3/5/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 32-23-S. Funding for the Counseling Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention Month T-Shirts**

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

allocate $500 toward the Counseling Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention Month (SAPM) Kickoff Event for t-shirts, and

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

(2)WHEREAS: These funds will help cover the costs of the t-shirts that the Counseling Center will give out to event participants, and

(3)WHEREAS: The SGA logo will be on the back of the shirt as a sponsor of the event, and​

(4)WHEREAS: This donation towards the Counseling Center’s SAPM efforts will help promote and show our support for the awareness and prevention of sexual assault.

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

University will allocate $500.00 towards t-shirts for the Counseling Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention Month Kickoff Event.

AUTHORS: Sophia Bryant, Senator At Large

                    David Darnell, PCAL Senator

SPONSORS: Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee

​​​

CONTACTS: Elizabeth Madariaga

[elizabeth.madariaga@wku.edu](mailto:elizabeth.madariaga@wku.edu)