Senate Meeting Minutes

Twentieth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, March 12th, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on March 12th, 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 Blood
      3. Senator Ralston
      4. Senator Potter
      5. Senator Edmunds
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. Dr. Catherine LaRoche, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement, Executive Director for Housing & Residence Life
      1. Dr. LaRoche encouraged SGA to think about the experiences we are having and embrace the time we have at WKU.
      2. Dr. LaRoche said she would love to get SGA involved in registering WKU students to vote in the fall.
      3. Dr. LaRoche wants to collaborate with SGA regarding housing, dining, and safety experiences on campus.
   2. Senator Payne motioned to move out of bylaws.
      1. Second by Senator Solarzano
      2. Senator Payne motioned to move Unfinished Business to before Officer Reports
         1. Second by Senator Ray
         2. Vote by voice, unanimous yes
   3. Senator Bryant motioned to move bill 38-23-S from new business to unfinished business.
      1. Second by Senator Distler
         1. Vote by voice, unanimous yes
5. **Unfinished Business**
   1. **Bill 34-23-S: Funding for Student Government Association DEI Week**
      1. Asking for $150 to raise awareness and showcase DEI engagement within our campus.
      2. Scholarship entry for anyone who visits the table (one entry per day)
      3. Week-long tabling events (Mental Health Matters on Monday, Multicultural Day on Tuesday, Safe Sexual Health on Wednesday, Deaf Awareness and Hearing Education on Thursday).
         1. Senator Bryant gave a speech in affirmation citing how great this week would be.
            1. Vote by voice, unanimous yes
   2. **Bill 35-23-S. Funding for the SGA Spring Fling Event**
      1. The authors stated the multiple facets of the bill- both as a fundraiser for Kids Cancer Alliance and as an SGA event to advertise for Spring Elections.
      2. Shelby Russell with the Kids Cancer Alliance spoke on the work of the non-profit for the betterment of lives for kids with cancer and their families.
      3. Questions
         1. Senator Bryant made a motion to amend the bill to change the food allotment from $250 to $150.
         2. The authors took the amendment as unfriendly.
            1. Debate on the amendment:

Several Senators in support of the amendment cited the state of the Legislative Discretionary Budget and how we should be saving money where we can. They also discussed how this event has not been done previously, therefore we should allocate $150 for food rather than $250. They also stated that it could be a waste of food and money.

Several Senators in opposition to the amendment stated that President Kurtz advised the authors for $250 for food as that has been the cost in the past and that it would be better to have too much food rather than not enough.

Vote by roll call on the amendment: amendment failed.

Kaison Barton no

Connor Flatt n0

Ethan Taylor yes

Anne-Marie Wright yes

Rush Robinson no

Hannah Evans no

Tanner Blood no

Connor Ferguson no

Julia Duggins yes

Kayla Distler Abstain

Madison Payne no

David Darnell no

Maiah Cisco no

Karley Solorzano no

Carly Wheat no

Meghan Pierce yes

Joel Hornback no

Dylan Carmona no

Layne Pea no

Ryan Dilts no

Sophia Bryant yes

Thomas Pabin yes

Megan Farmer no

Sim Guan Zhou no

Savannah Kurtz no

Malick Ibrahim no

Livi Ray no

Jaden Marshall no

Gabe Jerdon no

Elizabeth Gannon no

* + - 1. Senator Pierce made a motion to amend the scholarship from 2 $100 scholarships to 1 $100 scholarship.
      2. The authors took the amendment as unfriendly.
         1. Debate on the amendment:

Senators in support of the amendment discussed the financial constraints of our budget and how there will probably be a very small pool of applicants.

Senators in opposition to the amendment cited the research the authors had done including the Pediatric cancer survey, and discussed how the scholarships would benefit students.

Vote by roll call on the amendment: amendment failed.

Kaison Barton no

Connor Flatt no

Ethan Taylor no

Anne-Marie Wright no

Rush Robinson no

Hannah Evans no

Tanner Blood no

Connor Ferguson no

Julia Duggins no

Kayla Distler yes

Madison Payne no

David Darnell no

Maiah Cisco no

Karley Solorzano no

Carly Wheat no

Meghan Pierce yes

Joel Hornback no

Dylan Carmona no

Layne Pea no

Ryan Dilts no

Sophia Bryant yes

Thomas Pabin no

Megan Farmer no

Sim Guan Zhou no

Savannah Kurtz no

Malick Ibrahim no

Livi Ray no

Jaden Marshall no

Gabe Jerdon no

Elizabeth Gannon no

* + - 1. Debate
         1. Speech in affirmation from Senator Distler saying that this will be a good event.
         2. Speech in negation from Senator Cisco stating that this event would be great however the short turnaround may limit its success, so possibly postpone until the Fall or next Spring.
         3. Speech in affirmation from Senator Ferguson stating the positive impact this event will have for WKU students and the Kids Cancer Alliance.
      2. Vote by roll call: Bill passes
         1. Kaison Barton yes
         2. Connor Flatt yes
         3. Ethan Taylor yes
         4. Anne-Marie Wright yes
         5. Rush Robinson yes
         6. Hannah Evans yes
         7. Tanner Blood yes
         8. Connor Ferguson yes
         9. Julia Duggins yes
         10. Kayla Distler yes
         11. Madison Payne yes
         12. David Darnell yes
         13. Maiah Cisco no
         14. Karley Solorzano yes
         15. Carly Wheat yes
         16. Meghan Pierce no
         17. Joel Hornback yes
         18. Dylan Carmona yes
         19. Layne Pea yes
         20. Ryan Dilts yes
         21. Sophia Bryant no
         22. Thomas Pabin yes
         23. Megan Farmer yes
         24. Sim Guan Zhou yes
         25. Savannah Kurtz yes
         26. Malick Ibrahim yes
         27. Livi Ray yes
         28. Jaden Marshall yes
         29. Gabe Jerdon yes
         30. Elizabeth Gannon yes
  1. **Bill 36-23-S. Funding for the Hope Harbor X Denim Day Event**
     1. The non-profit Hope Harbor offers resources and support to sexual assault survivors and their families. This event is to raise awareness for Hope Harbor’s mission.
     2. Hope Harbor X Denim Day Event to spread Hope Harbor volunteer opportunities, Denim Day is Wednesday, April 24th.
     3. Asking for $280 to do giveaways, activities, ribbon making, and decorations:
        1. Senator Robinson asked for a financial breakdown.
        2. 4 pairs of jeans totaling $100
        3. Art installation jeans from Goodwill totaling around $28.
        4. Paint $20
        5. Brushes $7
        6. Giveaway box supplies
     4. Senator Farmer asked if they considered donating jeans for the craft project?
        1. Author Alex Cissell stated that they could consider that.
     5. Senator Carmona stated that Walmart carries good jeans.
     6. Senator Farmer motioned to amend the title to Hope Harbor X SGA Denim Day Event
        1. Amendment taken as friendly.
           1. Vote by voice, unanimous yes
     7. Debate
        1. Senator Distler gave a speech in affirmation saying that she worked with Hope Harbor and can vouch for the great work of the non-profit and that this is a great event.
        2. Senator Ray gave a speech in affirmation saying that Hope Harbor is a deserving organization and SGA being for the students means spending the budget.
  2. **Bill 38-23-S Mental Health Awareness** 
     + 1. A week-long tabling event, funding will go to supplies to give out such as bracelets, ribbons, donuts, dog treats, dog toys, Stanley Tumbler raffle, and the dodgeball tournament food totaling $670.
       2. Questions:
          1. Senator Distler asked if this would conflict with the Denim Day event that just passed?

The authors stated that the Denim Day bill is during the day around 11-1, whereas this event is that evening.

* + - * 1. Senator Hornback asked how many donuts would get for $200?

Senator Darnell stated that it was around 12 dozen for the Valentine's tabling, so it should be comparable to that, and that they were eaten in about an hour and a half.

* + - * 1. Senator Farmer motioned to strike the $50 for the dog food and toys, to change the bill to $670 as the Humane Society provides food, leashes, and toys.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes

* + - 1. Debate
         1. Senator Ferguson gave a speech in affirmation citing how impactful this event will be for student mental health and this is an opportunity to serve the students.
         2. Senator Ibrahim gave a speech in affirmation saying this bill is perfectly timed near finals week and has a great mission.

Vote by voice, unanimous yes.

**6. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “Be safe on Spring Break, don’t do anything stupid” -Sam Kurtz
   2. Look at Chief of Staff Reed’s email about end-of-the-year awards- please vote.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. No report.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. Budget Update: AVP Leon gave a budget update.
   2. Please make purchases as soon as possible after the passing of your bill.
   3. Thanks to those on the OrgAid board.
4. Chief of Staff – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. New desk worker starting after
   2. Banquet April 2nd from 5:00-7:30
      1. Business Professional
      2. Food, and Bar for 21+
   3. Borrow a calculator program starting March 25th
   4. Vote for End of the Year awards.
   5. Share Uber Voucher posts.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. No report.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. No report.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. No report.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Moving the meeting on March 26th to Thursday, March 28th at 6 pm. We have to have ¾ of the Senate there. Please come.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Livi Ray**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Read constitutional amendments.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. No report.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Madison Payne**
   1. No report.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. No report.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. No report.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
   1. No report.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. No report.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Promote elections starting soon. April 5th is when election codes will be due.
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. 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. **Announcements**

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Hornback a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM

First Reading: 3/5/24

Second Reading: 3/12/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 34-23-S:** **Funding for Student Government Association DEI Week**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $150.00 to the Student Government Association DEI Week.

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

(2)WHEREAS: The Student Government Association DEI Week will take place March 25 through March 28, with different initiatives being focused on each day, and

(3)WHEREAS: The initiatives highlighted on each day will be as follows: Mental Health Matters, Multicultural Day, Safe Sexual Health, and Deaf Awareness/Hearing Education, respectively, and

(4)WHEREAS: The budget breakdown is as follows: $24.99 for an erasable spinning wheel, $21.02 for candy, $3.99 for raffle tickets, and $100.00 for two $50.00 scholarships, and

(5)WHEREAS: Students will have the opportunity to enter in the scholarship raffle each day by attending the tabling events, and

(6)WHEREAS: Two students will be randomly drawn to win a $50.00 scholarship at

the conclusion of the week, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University allocate $150.00 to the Student Government Association DEI Week.

AUTHORS:  Karley Solorzano – Senator At Large

Megan Farmer – Senator At Large

Layne Pea – Senator At Large

Kayla Distler – College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

Guan Zhou Sim – International Student Senator

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee

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

First Reading: 3/5/24

Second Reading: 3/12/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 35-23-S. Funding for the SGA Spring Fling Event.**

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

allocate $450.00 to the SGA Spring Fling Event

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

(2)WHEREAS:​ $250.00 will be used to purchase supplies for complimentary tailgate food from the Gordon Food Service, and

(3)WHEREAS:         $200.00 will be used to offer two $100.00 scholarships, and

(4)WHEREAS:         This event would be hosted on March 27 or March 28, 2024, at South Lawn, and

(5)WHEREAS:        All money raised would be donated to Kids Cancer Alliance, and

​

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

University will allocate $450.00 to the SGA Spring Fling Event.

AUTHORS:​ Madison Payne, Ogden College of Science & Engineering Senator

​​ Ryan Dilts, Senator At Large

​​ Livi Ray, Gatton Academy Senator

​​ Elizabeth Gannon, Graduate Senator

SPONSORS: ​ Outreach and Student Experience Committee

​​​

CONTACTS: ​Madison Payne

(502)-504-7217

First Reading: 3/5/24

Second Reading: 3/12/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 36-23-S. ​Funding for the Hope Harbor X SGA Denim Day Event.**

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

allocate $280.00 to help fund Hope Harbor X Denim Day: Inspiring the Next Generation of Volunteers.

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

(2)WHEREAS: Hope Harbor is a local non-profit with the mission “to empower and support

anyone impacted by sexual trauma… [and] to affect social change to eliminate all forms of sexual violence, advocate for the rights of survivors of sexual assault and abuse, and provide specialized treatment interventions”, and

(3)WHEREAS:​ Denim Day is an international rape prevention education campaign where we

ask community members, elected officials, businesses and students to wear jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault, and

(4)WHEREAS:​ SGA has a history of participating in Denim Day education events since April

2022, and

(5)WHEREAS: ​ SGA has a history of assisting students in their senior capstone public relations

projects as proven through Bill 36-22-S: “Funding for Hilltopper Hunt: Egging out Hunger for Kentucky Veterans Brigade (KVB)”, and

(6)WHEREAS: ​ The money will be allocated to help provide supplies for the event including the

following: jeans for activities, supplies for ribbon making, education pamphlets, supplies for decorations, and giveaways, and

(7)WHEREAS: ​ The purpose of the event is to educate the students about Denim Day, increase

awareness of Hope Harbor, and increase awareness and access to Hope Harbor volunteer opportunities.

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

University will allocate $280.00 to help fund Hope Harbor X Denim Day: Inspiring the Next Generation of Volunteers.

AUTHORS:​ Alex Cissell, WKU Student

​​ Andrea Diaz, WKU Student

​​ Savanna Stinnett, WKU Student

​​ Sophia Byrant, Senator At Large

​​ Maiah Cisco, Senator At Large

SPONSORS:​ Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee

​​ Community Relations Committee

​​​

CONTACTS: ​Ken Payne, Public Relations Professor

​​ Katie Pointdexter, Hope Harbor Volunteer Coordinator