Senate Meeting Minutes

Nineteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 20th, 2024, at 5:01 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 Evans
      3. Senator Farmer
      4. Senator Potter
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**

Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator Solorzano

Second by Senator Cisco

Move 37-23-S to Unfinished Business

Second by Senator Ray

Senator Solorzano gave a speech in affirmation citing that the organizer for the event asked for it to be moved up.

Vote by voice: Unanimous yes

Senator Cisco motioned to cancel the meeting on March 19th as it is Spring Break.

Second by Senator Wright

Vote by voice: Unanimous yes

Senator Wright motioned to move bill 33-23-S from unfinished business to new business as it is time-sensitive.

Second by Senator Payne

Vote by voice: Unanimous yes

Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Ray  
Second by Senator Solorzano

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “The best way to predict your future is to create it” -Abraham Lincoln
   2. Rally for Higher Ed is Thursday: Leave around 5:15 am, park in the visitor lot, and please carpool.
      1. Meeting with Representative Jackson and Senator Givens from 10-11.
   3. With elections coming up, President Kurtz encourages everyone to consider running again.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. No report.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. Organizational Aid Board application grading meeting tonight.
   2. Document on the use of state funds will be on the website soon.
4. Chief of Staff – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Scantrons are now in the office.
   2. Uber vouchers- keep inviting your friends to the meeting.
      1. The Uber scholarship is now up on the website.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Instagram updates:
      1. Dress for Success drive post coming soon.
      2. Uber voucher scholarship post coming soon.
      3. Election promo coming after Spring Break
   2. Excuse form sent out for those coming to the Rally, let DPR Romanov know if you need a more official excuse.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Website is updated with Legislative and Exec minutes.
   2. Uber voucher scholarship up on the website.
   3. Legislation update soon.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Community Builder Excellence Scholarship due this weekend for incoming freshmen in the Bowling Green Area.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Fill out the Google Form in your email to reschedule the 2/26 meeting.
   2. 14 people who did not turn in February office hours, names are being sent to JC.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Livi Ray**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Moving the Constitutional Referendum committee tomorrow at 6, LOC at 5:30.
   2. Send legislation in by noon.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Scholarships are due March 29th, new fliers with repaired QR code, come grab a flier.
   2. Back to scholarship tabling next week.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Madison Payne**
   1. Read through the Spring Fling bill
   2. Meetings Thursday at 5:30.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Earth Day celebration is now April 19th
   2. Resolutions and Bills on the way.
   3. BG Cleanup March 28th reach out to Connor Flatt if you want to be involved.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. Bill in unfinished business for DEI week.
   2. Sign up in the link in your email.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
   1. April 13th at 11:30 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention walk.
   2. “What were you wearing exhibit” Sexual assault awareness exhibit through the Counseling center, let Senator Bryant know if you are interested in participating.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Gordon Ford College of Business Clothes Closet is very excited about the bill the Senate just passed, Family resource centers are also excited. Spread the word, every item is 1 service hour, up to 5.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Send in your absences and please be honest.
   2. Chief Justice Awards: Ethan Taylor & Savanna Kurtz
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. Meeting this Thursday at 4:45.
   6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
      1. No report.
   7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Jaden** **Marshall**
      1. Next meeting April 2nd
      2. The chair of the Committee is stepping down.
   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. **Unfinished Business**
   1. **Bill 32-23-S. Funding for the Counseling Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention Month T-Shirts**
      1. $500 for t-shirts for Sexual Assault Prevention Month: “In my consent era”, SGA logo would be on the back if the bill passes.
         1. Speech in Affirmation from Senator Robinson as SGA gives money to the Sustainability office and this is pretty comparable.
         2. Speech in Affirmation from Senator Pierce saying that SGA has provided funding for Sexual Assault Prevention month in the past.
            1. Vote by voice, unanimous yes.
   2. **Bill 33-23-S: Funding for Vouchers for the WKU Dental Hygiene Center**
      1. $750 for 30 more dental hygiene, last time we passed we went through 30 dental hygiene vouchers in 7 days.
      2. This is helpful for not only the health of the students but also for the success of the program as Dental Hygiene students need 9 volunteers each in order to pass the program.
      3. Senator Bryant point of information to AVP Leon asking how much money is currently in the budget?
         1. AVP Leon stated that it is a little over $3,000.
      4. Senator Blood gave a speech in affirmation citing that there is a noticeable need for this bill.
      5. Vote by voice, unanimous yes.
   3. **Bill 37-23-S. Funding for the “Afrolatinidad” Event**
      1. Afrolatinidad is the connection between African and Latino cultures.
      2. Event on April 9th, by the WKU modern languages department.
      3. Last year SGA gave $200.
      4. Funds would be used to purchase bingo cards and paper decorations.
      5. Senator Bryant gave a speech in affirmation saying that the event last year was fun.
      6. One-sided debate, vote by voice.
         1. Unanimous yes
4. **New Business**
   1. **Bill 34-23-S: Funding for Student Government Association DEI Week**
   2. **Bill 35-23-S. Funding for the SGA Spring Fling Event**
   3. **Bill 36-23-S. Funding for the Hope Harbor X Denim Day Event**
5. **Announcements**

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Hornback a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM

First Reading: 2/27/24

Second Reading: 3/5/24

Pass: Yes

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

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CONTACTS: Elizabeth Madariaga

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

First Reading:  3/5/24

Second Reading:  3/5/24

Pass:  Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 37-23-S. Funding for the “Afrolatinidad” Event.**

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

allocate $260.00 for the “Afrolatinidad” event.

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

(2)WHEREAS: This event will be a celebration of the connection between African and Latino cultures at WKU. There will be a walking gallery, students presenting and displaying their projects/talents on booths, food and entertainment and,

(3)WHEREAS: The money will be used to cover the cost of printing bingo cards and paper decorations for the event and,

(4)WHEREAS: The event will take place on April 9th, 2024 and,

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

University will allocate $260.00 to the “Afrolatinidad” Event.

AUTHORS: Karley Solorzano, Senator At-Large

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

CONTACTS: Yertty Vandermolen

[yertty.vandermolen@wku.edu](mailto:yertty.vandermolen@wku.edu)

First Reading: 3/5/24

Second Reading: 3/5/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 33-23-S: Funding for Vouchers for the WKU Dental Hygiene Center.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $750.00 from the Legislative Discretionary Budget for the spring 2024 WKU Dental Hygiene Vouchers.

(1)WHEREAS: During the spring semester, students used a total of $650.00 with the Dental Hygiene Vouchers, and

(2)WHEREAS: Currently there is $0.00 remaining from the Legislative Voucher Program Budget, and

(3)WHEREAS: $750.00 will give 30 vouchers to the Dental Hygiene students, and

(4)WHEREAS: Through the voucher program, students are able to get a $25.00 voucher for completely free services at the Dental Hygiene Clinic, and

(5)WHEREAS: Students are immediately and positively impacted by the availability of the vouchers that SGA provides. The use of these vouchers enables students to have access to a service that many have trouble affording.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will distribute $750.00 for the Dental Hygiene Clinic to obtain 30 more dental vouchers.

AUTHORS: Donte Reed, Chief of Staff

Anne-Marie Wright, Junior Senator

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACT: Millie Glessner, WKU Dental Hygiene Clinic Office Manager

[Mildred.hagood@wku.edu](mailto:Mildred.hagood@wku.edu)

First Reading: 3/5/24

Second Reading: 3/12/24

Pass:

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:

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 $900.00 to the SGA Spring Fling Event

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

(2)WHEREAS:​ $350.00 will be used to purchase supplies for complimentary tailgate food from the Gordon Food Service, and

(3)WHEREAS:​ $350.00 will be used to purchase an iPad for a raffle prize, and

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

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

(6)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 $900.00 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:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 36-23-S. ​Funding for the Hope Harbor X 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

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CONTACTS: ​Ken Payne, Public Relations Professor

​​ Katie Pointdexter, Hope Harbor Volunteer Coordinator