Senate Meeting Minutes

Fourteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Fourth Senate - Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 11th, 2025, at 5:02 PM by Substitute Speaker of the Senate Hadley Whipple.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Whipple
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Ismail
      2. Senator Jerdon
      3. Senator King
      4. Senator G. Price
      5. Senator J. Price
      6. Senator Ralston
      7. Senator Riley
      8. Senator Wagoner
      9. Senator Yelton
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. **Dr. Sales:** 
      1. Happy Spring 2025 Semester!
      2. Enjoy the time we have!
      3. Students are the reason our University operates...remember that!
      4. Education is a blessing and remember to be kind to people!
      5. You cannot isolate and educate at the same time.
      6. Work hard!
      7. Question from Senator Farmer: How did you figure out your path for yourself?
         1. Dr Sales: Find your greatest advocates, and don’t be afraid to ask for help.
      8. Question from Senator Lun: What made you stay at WKU for 28 years?
         1. Dr Sales: WKU has been a family to me, and you can’t get away from family!
      9. Question from Senator Zing: What has been your proudest accomplishment?
         1. Dr Sales: When I see students succeed!
      10. Question from CFO Taylor: When you think back to your undergraduate WKU career, is there anything you would have changed?
          1. Dr Sales: Some personal choices, but the important thing is I learned from them!
      11. Question from Senator Yates: What advice would you give to students who are about to graduate in May?
          1. Dr Sales: Do it all afraid! Take advantage of the turndowns.
      12. Question from Senator Robinson: What made you smile today?
          1. Dr. Sales: I was able to help a student find her way back home.

Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator

- Second by Senator Robinson

Motion to move 4-25-S from New Business to Unfinished BUsines

* Second by Senator Bryant

Speech in affirmation: Bill is time sensitive

* Voice Vote, Unanimous Yes

Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Dilts

* Seconded by Senator Robinson

1. **Officer Reports**
2. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. The Rally for Higher Education is happening at the State Capital in Frankfort on March 27th at 9AM.
      1. We need a good crowd to show out and to advocate for WKU to our local and state legislators. This is a very important endeavor for SGA.
      2. Fill out the Google Form Speaker Vincent sent out!
   2. The KY Council for Post-Secondary Education meeting went well.
   3. Appointments for Senator-At-Large Seats:
      1. Jaden Marshall
         1. Jaden is thankful for God, his parents, this organization, and Sam Kurtz.
         2. Jaden would love to continue being a part of SGA as he has in the past, and he is proud of the work SGA has done this year.
         3. Questions:
            1. None.
         4. Debate:
            1. None
         5. Voice Vote
            1. Unanimous yes. Confirmed.
      2. Emily Reinneck
         1. Emily has past experience in high school student government and the time feels right for her to be in SGA.
         2. Emily would love to brainstorm ideas around getting a higher student attendance rate at athletic events and making the class registration process more enjoyable for students.
         3. Questions:
            1. None.
         4. Debate:
            1. None.
         5. Voice Vote:
            1. Unanimous yes. Confirmed.
   4. End of Report.
3. Vice President – **Dontè Reed**
   1. Shoutout to Senator Robinson, Yelton, Zing, and Lucas for being our Faculty Award committee members.
   2. Scholarships are due in 10 days!
   3. Collaboration with Susan G. Komen Foundation for a fundraiser for Breast Cancer awareness and research. Hopeful expansion of efforts on campus.
   4. End of Report.
4. Chief Financial Officer – **Ethan Taylor**
   1. Actual Dollar Amount Discrepancy: $281.46
      1. Remaining Legislative Discretionary Budget: $5,018
   2. End of Report.
5. Chief of Staff – **Anne-Marie Wright** 
   1. Banquet is booked! It is from April 8th from 5-8PM!
   2. The awards nomination form for banquet will be live soon!
   3. End of Report.
6. Chief Communications Officer – **Preston Jenkins**
   1. CCO Jenkins will be sending out the T-shirt information form soon for new SGA T-shirts!
   2. Remember the SGA graphic form if you need it for something! The earlier the better!
   3. End of Report.
7. Speaker of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Absent.
      1. Reminder about monthly hours!
8. Secretary of the Senate – **Hadley Whipple**
   1. Send in committee minutes and go to meetings!
9. **Committee Reports**
10. Legislative Operations – **Caden Lucas**
    1. Send me your bills for review prior to the beginning of SGA meetings!
11. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Savanna Kurtz**
    1. Sign up for tabling for scholarships!
12. Outreach and Public Relations – **Ryan Dilts**
    1. No report.
       1. Bill is on New Business!
    2. Shoutout to Committee members!
13. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
    1. Campus Safety Walk is March 3rd at 5:30PM! Show up!
14. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Megan Farmer**
    1. It’s Black History Month! It was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and he was an excellent advocate! He graduated from Berea College which is here in Kentucy!
15. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
    1. Suicide and Awareness prevention Walk Interest
       1. We’ll have an SGA team meeting for this!
    2. Random Act of Kindness Day tabling bill coming up!
16. Community Relations – **Jenna Wells**
    1. Everyone was sick!
    2. Information about a glass drive with United Way is coming soon!
17. **Special Orders**
18. Judicial Council Report – **Morgan Gammons**
    1. Chief Justice Gammons is absent so the Judicial Council Report will be given by Associate Chief Justice Gavin Grawe.
       1. Elections are coming up April 14-15! Be sure to mark these in your calendars!
19. Swearing in – **Morgan Gammons**
    1. Senators Reinneck and Marshall were sworn in as Senators-At-Large.
20. University Committee Reports
    1. Student Life Foundation: **Dontè Reed**
       1. Dr LaRoche (Exec. Dir. of the Student Life Foundation) helped set up the SGA-RA meeting.
    2. Committee on Academic Quality: **Dontè Reed**
       1. No report.
    3. Master Plan Committee: **Garrett Price**
       1. No report.
    4. University Athletic Committee: **Kaison Barton**
       1. No report.
    5. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee: **Megan Farmer, Rush Robinson**
       1. The meeting is at 7:30AM on Friday!
    6. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee: **Ryan Dilts**
       1. No report.
    7. Graduate Advisory Council:
       1. No report.
    8. Colonnade General Education Committee: **Chloe Ralston**
       1. No report.
    9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: **Jax Price**
       1. No report.
    10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee: **Bradley Wagoner**
        1. No report.
    11. Faculty Welfare Committee: **Savanna Kurtz**
        1. No report.
21. **Unfinished Business**

**Bill 4-25-S.** Funding for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mental Health Survey Table SGA Table.

We’ve seen a high increase in mental health issues and crisis on campus among students. After talking with numerous individuals who aid our students every day in this regard, it has come to our conclusion that we need a greater understanding of what student's need from the administration regarding mental health. This bill will fund doughnuts for the table while students take the anonymous survey.

* Hopefully putting the survey in areas of high traffic around campus as well

Question: None  
Debate: None

Vote: Voice Vote, Unanimous.

1. **New Business**

**Bill 1-25-S.** Funding for the “Steven ‘Brent’ Chumbley Student-Athlete Impact” Scholarship

**Bill 2-25-S**: Funding for the Queer Student Union Prom

**Bill 3-25-F**: A Bill to Fund The SGA March Madness Event and Donation of Proceeds to the Heather Strode Scholarship Fund

**10. Announcements**

Senator Bryant: Market on the Avenue is happening tomorrow and rhere will be cool stuff there!

Advisor Rash: Aramark is looking for students to be on the food committee. He will send out an interest form, so let him know if he is interested!

**11. Adjournment**

Senator Robinson motion to adjourn, second by Senator Dilts.

Adjourned at 6:12PM.

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:  
Other:

**Bill 1-25-F. Funding for the “Steven ‘Brent’ Chumbley Student-Athlete Impact” Scholarship**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $500.00 to the “Steven ‘Brent’ Chumbley Student-Athlete Impact” Scholarship.

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

WHEREAS: Two recipients will be selected to receive a $250.00 scholarship, and

WHEREAS: The scholarship aims to promote participation in athletics, coaching, and community service, and

WHEREAS: The students who are eligible to receive the scholarship must be current, either part-time or full-time students at Western Kentucky University who are also Student-Athletes at Western Kentucky University and/or pursuing a major or minor in the School of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport who demonstrate a passion for sport, coaching, and who continuously strive to make a positive impact in their community, and

WHEREAS: All eligible students must apply by the scholarship deadline of April 4th, 2025 to be considered for the scholarship.

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

University will allocate $500.00 to the “Steven ‘Brent” Chumbley Student Athlete Impact” Scholarship.

AUTHORS: Kaison Barton, Senator at Large

Alexandria Chumbley, Freshman

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS: Kaison Barton Kaison.barton232@topper.wku.edu

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:  
Other:

**Bill 2-25-F: Funding for the Queer Student Union Prom**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $200.00 to support the Queer Student Union (QSU) Prom.

WHEREAS: The Queer Student Union Prom is an essential event that provides an inclusive and affirming space for LGBTQ+ students to celebrate in a welcoming environment, and

WHEREAS: The requested funds will be used to cover costs for catering food, decorations (including tablecloths, lights, and other decorative elements), utensils and cutlery, and discretionary needs to ensure the success of the event, and

WHEREAS: The event promotes equal opportunity and quality of life for queer students on campus, aligning with the mission of the Student Government Association to support and advocate for all students.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $200.00 from the Legislative Discretionary  Budget to support the Queer Student Union Prom.

AUTHORS: Jade Ismail, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CONTACTS: Daryl Action (QSU President), daryl.action632@topper.wku.edu

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:  
Other:

**Bill 3-25-F: A Bill to Fund The SGA March Madness Event and Donation of Proceeds to the Heather Strode Scholarship Fund**

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

allocate $350.00 to the SGA March Madness Event.

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

WHEREAS: The SGA March Madness Event will feature tables from the different registered student organizations to spread the word about upcoming elections and applications happening within the respective organization, and

WHEREAS: The event will be held on Thursday, March 13th at 4:00 pm on South Lawn and University registered student organizations will be invited to table alongside SGA via an email, and

WHEREAS:  $300.00 will be spent on food (burgers, buns, condiments, plates) and $50.00 will be spent on tabling and promotional items, and

WHEREAS: The SGA March Madness event will feature a cornhole tournament that costs $25.00 to enter (for a team of 2), free food for any attendees, a raffle basket consisting of donated items that cost $3.00 for one entry and $5.00 for two entries, and

WHEREAS: The money raised from team entries from the cornhole tournament and the raffle entries at the SGA March Madness Event will be donated in full to the Heather Strode Scholarship fund, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $350.00 to the SGA March Madness Event, and support the donation of all proceeds to the Heather Strode Scholarship Fund.

AUTHORS: Ryan Dilts, Junior Senator

Hadley Whipple, Ogden College Senator

Jax Price, Senator at Large

Hermes Olmos, International Senator

Emaun Riley, ISEC Senator

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

**Bill 4-25-S. Funding for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mental Health Survey Table   SGA Table.**

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

allocate $70.00 to provide four dozen donuts from Dunkin Donuts for a Student Government Association table for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mental health survey.

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

WHEREAS: The event will take place on Thursday, February 13th from 2:30pm – 4:00pm, and

WHEREAS: The funds will be used to purchase four dozen donuts from Dunkin Donuts, and

WHEREAS: The data gathered from this tabling event will be used to evaluate how the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University  can better support students within the subject of mental health.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $70.00 to support the Student Government Association  to table  for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mental Health Survey.

AUTHORS: Van Zing – GFCB Senator

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CONTACTS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee