Senate Meeting Minutes

Fifteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Fourth Senate - Tuesday, February 18th, 2025

1. **Call to Order**
	1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 18th, 2025, at 5:02 PM by Speaker Sarah Vincent.
2. **Roll Call**
	1. Roll was called by Speaker Vincent
	2. Absences
		1. Senator Farmer
		2. Senator Wagoner
		3. Senator Zing
	3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
	1. Tod Stewart – Athletic Director
		1. He wanted us to know that this night was about us and the questions we wanted to ask. WKU wins lots of championships in conference USA. Explained the “wheel” that is the athletics department and each “spoke” of the wheel. Explained how our athletics program has always been NCAA compliant and also makes sure their athletes graduate.
		2. He spoke about his goals and answered questions about what he needs from SGA to achieve these. He also spoke on NIL deals and what the future of that will look like.
* Motion to move out 0f bylaws by Senator Barton
	+ Seconded by Senator Robinson
* Motion Senator Barton to move all of unfinished business to before officer reports
	+ Seconded by Senator Robinson
* Voice vote
	+ Unanimous yes
* Motion by Senator Robinson to move Bill 5-25-S and Resolution 3-25-S from new business to unfinished business due to time sensitivity.
	+ Seconded by Senator Bryant.
* Voice vote
	+ Unanimous yes
* Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Whipple
	+ Seconded by Senator Lucas

**8. Unfinished Business**

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

1. Presentation by Senator Barton
	1. Senator Barton discussed the impact that Coach Chumbley had and how this scholarship could impact athletes in his honor.

Ammendment suggested to raise bill to $1000 total by Senator King

Taken as friendly by Senator Barton

1. Questions
	1. Senator Rush Robinson: POI to CFO Taylor - how much is left in the legislative discretionary?
		1. Around $4,000
	2. Senator Kurtz: What would this rubric look like?
		1. Response: this would be graded similar to the Gregory McKinney Rubric.

Ammendment made to bill by Senator Barton to change GPA requirement to 2.75.

* 1. Senator Ismail: Who will be grading this?
		1. Response: There will be a grading committee formed if bill gets passed.
	2. Senator Lucas: Have you thought about implementing community service requirement?
		1. Response: no bc they could lie, he would not oppose but wants to discuss options

Senator Ismail suggests that there should be more strict guidelines and recommends amendment.

Amendment of gpa to 3.0 taken as friendly.

Senator Barker asked if he was open to amending it to 4 $250 scholarships

Taken as friendly

1. Speeches
	1. Affirmation
		1. Senator Marshall – Chumley was extremely respectful and I always enjoyed the time I was around him.
		2. Senator King – He was a great representative of campus
	2. Negation
		1. Senator Lucas says bill is too much and is more financially responsible to keep it at $500 especially since we do not have much left in legislative discretionary.
			1. Taken as friendly to amend bill back to $500

Senator Barker suggests to amend bill to $500 for one recipient.

Taken as friendly

1. Roll Call Vote
	1. Passed
* Motion to move out of bylaws by Senator Lucas
	+ Seconded by Senator Whipple
* Motion to move CFO Taylor’s report to now by Senator Lucas
	+ Seconded by Senator Whipple
* Voice Vote
	+ Unanimous yes
* Motion to move back into by laws by Senator Lucas
	+ Seconded by Senator Whipple

CFO TAYLORS REPORT

* Org aid due in 10 days
* If you are a senior please fill form out for stolls
* $6255.10 spent after bill was passed
* There tends to be more debate and anger towards end of year so be proactive about your bills

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

* Presented by Senator Ismail
	+ Have a great event for the queer student union so they can have a fun event. This event is very important for them.
* Questions
	+ Senator Bryant: Did the president share how much money it costs?
		- No but working on it
	+ Senator Robinson: Will SGA’s name be on it or have sponsorship representation?
		- We will be having a poster and will be wiling to sponsor it.
	+ Senator Lucas: When is the prom?
		- Sometime in April
	+ Senator Jerdon POI to CFO Taylor: Did they apply to org aid?
		- CFO Taylor’s Response: Got $200 in fall and eligible to receive $300,money should be avalible my end of march
	+ Senator Barton asked if we could table the bill
		- Senator Ismail said no because they need the org aid for other things, have free gender affirming clothing and things of that nature, need the money for the prom to have fun
	+ Senator Norman asked who funded the prom in previous years
		- Not sure but they asked SGA for help.
* Speeches
	+ Affirmation
		- Senator Robinson thinks we should be supporting these underrepresented groups and they can’t use org aid for all the things that a prom requires like food
* Voice vote
	+ unanimous yes

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

* Presentation by the Outreach and PR committee
	+ March 13th on South Lawn! Goal of this even is to promote SGA elections and other organizations on campus as we round out this year! Food, events, an turnouts!
* Questions
	+ Senator Bryant: Will this bill raise more money for the scholarship fund than it will spend?
		- Senator Whipple: Yes
	+ Senator Jerdon: How does this work with us already allocating money to the Heather Strode Scholarship Fund?
		- VP Reed: We’re no longer able to allocate this money, so there is no conflict anymore.
	+ Senator Ismail: What wlll the material/promotional items for this event look like with the cost?
		- Senator Whipple: We wanted to provide ourselves plenty of funds to appropriately advertise the event and get the word out.
		- Senator Dilts: We also wanted to support the RSOs that will be tabling at this event!
	+ Senator Pabin: Where will you get cornhole board?
		- Senator Dilts: Greek orgs, other places, etc.
	+ Senator Robinson: Have you discussed speaking at chapter meetings or RSO meetings?
		- Senator Dilts: Yes.
	+ Senator Yelton: Are there going to be rules for the RSOs that are present?
		- Senator Dilts: Yes, anything that you table for must be for involvement, recruitment, and upcoming elections. Organizational promotion only, no fundraising.
	+ Senator Robinson: Is this an involvement fair with a little cornhole tournament? Or vice versa?
		- Senator Whipple: It’s a cornhole tournament with a little bit fo involvement fair.
	+ Senator Bryant POI to President Kurtz: Is this enough money for bugers/food?
		- President Kurtz: Yes.
	+ Senator Kurtz: Let’s add the Student Enrollment and Experience Committee, Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee, Compus Imporvements and Sustaiability Committee as sponsors
* Speeches
	+ Affirmation
		- Senator Lucas: This bill is awesome and great job authors!
* Voice Vote
	+ Unanimous Yes!

**Bill 5-25-S.** Funding for the Random Acts of Kindness Day Tabling**.**

* Presentation by Bryant
	+ Amendment to move her week to feb 26th
	+ Want to spread love and kindness on campus – writing notes to people, writing notes to each restaurant
* Questions
	+ None
* Speeches
	+ Affirmation
		- Senator Ismail says yay kindness!!!
		- Senator Lucas says let’s do it love the idea of this so excited!
* Voice Vote
	+ Unanimous yes

**Resolution 3-25-S.** Resolution to support the Annual Campus Safety Walk

* Presentation by Senator Robinson
	+ Resolution is very straight forward!
* No questions or debate.
* Voice Vote
	+ Unanimous yes
1. **Officer Reports**
2. President – **Sam Kurtz**
	1. President Kurtz has to pee and is wearing a pink wig so he is going to keep his report short today.
	2. Going to capitol if you’re interested please come!
	3. Presentation for senate so please come next week!
	4. Quote of day: no amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit
3. Vice President – **Dontè Reed**
	1. Appointment of Senator Reinnick to the athletics committee
		1. Voice vote
			1. Unanimous yes
	2. The pink wigs were wearing today is to raise awareness for breast cancer, please share to those who might want to donate
	3. Bluegrass leadership scholarship will be 10 $1,000 scholarships and we will be promoting this to incoming freshman.
		1. All this info will be shared with those who need it, there will be an increase in applicants, please think about helping us grade those.
	4. In the RA meeting, they talked about the resources SGA has to offer. If you are wanting to help us do that, let us know.
4. Chief Financial Officer – **Ethan Taylor**
	1. See above.
5. Chief of Staff – **Anne-Marie Wright**
	1. Banquet is Tuesday April 8th at gerards tavern from 5-7
	2. Please check out the timeline in the exec conference room for how many meetings we have left
	3. If you need things for raffle baskets, use the uber vouchers
6. Chief Communications Officer – **Preston Jenkins**
	1. Showed us the tshirts and whichever one passes will be free to us
	2. Seniors - please fill out the form if you want a stoll
	3. Ordering new tabling supplies with the tshirt order.
	4. Made an SGA graphic for the residence halls
	5. If you have fun in the snow send a pic
7. Speaker of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
	1. Shout out to Senator Dilts for being COHO king!!!
	2. Thank you for asking questions.
	3. Debate is good! Good job to Senator Lucas for debate.
8. Secretary of the Senate – **Hadley Whipple**
	1. No report
9. **Committee Reports**
10. Legislative Operations – **Caden Lucas**
	1. LOC meets in sga office after senate meetings
	2. Bills are due before sga meetings
11. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Savanna Kurtz**
	1. We are tabling more soon so check email for signup genius.
	2. Sending emails for further tabling.
12. Outreach and Public Relations – **Ryan Dilts**
	1. Thank you all for passing the bill!
13. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
	1. Campus safety walk is march 3rd at 5:30pm.
	2. Senator Barker has upcoming legislation so take a look at that.
	3. 421 terms for snow.
14. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Megan Farmer**
	1. Passed a bill today!
15. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
	1. Registering SGA for the out of the darkness walk and she will send a link for signing up.
	2. If anyone wants to table next week let me know!
16. Community Relations – **Jenna Wells**
	1. New meeting time is after SGA meetings.
17. **Special Orders**
18. Judicial Council Report – **Morgan Gammons**
	1. New senators please send in absence forms on the website!
19. Swearing in – **Morgan Gammons**
	1. None
20. University Committee Reports
	1. Student Life Foundation: **Dontè Reed**
		1. Meeting next Tuesdays at 7:30am.
	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 and Emily Reinnick**
		1. No report.
	5. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee: **Megan Farmer, Rush Robinson**
		1. No report.
	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.

**9. New Business**

**Resolution 1-25-S.** Resolution to Support the extension of the hours of operation of the Commons at Helm Library during finals week.

**Resolution 2-25-S.** Resolution to Support the of Installation of Elevators in Gordon Wilson Hall

**10. Announcements**

Have a senator of the month!!!! Congrats Sentor Barker!

Sledding at 1 pm tomorrow ?

**11. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn by Senator Whipple

Seconded by Senator Lucas

Voice vote, unanimous yes

First Reading: 2/11/2025

Second Reading: 2/18/2025

Pass: YES

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: One recipients will be selected to receive a $500.00 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 those applying must have a 3.0 GPA, 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: 2/11/2025

Second Reading: 2/18/2025

Pass: YES

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: 2/11/2025

Second Reading: 2/18/2025

Pass: YES

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

First Reading: 1/18/2025
Second Reading: 1/25/2025
Pass: YES
Fail:
Other:

**Bill 5-25-S. Funding for the Random Acts of Kindness Day Tabling.**

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

allocate $50.00 for candy, stationary (“thank you” notes), and stickers.

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

WHEREAS: Random Acts of Kindness Week is now February 26th, and

WHEREAS: The Mental Health & Wellbeing Committee will hold a tabling event in Centennial Mall from 10:30-12:30 on February 26th and

WHEREAS: The funds will be used to purchase items from Walmart to make “thank you” notes, and

WHEREAS: The tabling event will provide students with an opportunity to write thank you notes to friends, family, restaurant workers, faculty/staff, and professors to demonstrate random acts of kindness, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $50.00 for candy, stationary (“thank you” notes), and stickers.

AUTHORS: Sophia Bryant, PCAL Senator

 Julianna Mitchell, Senator At Large

 Molly Ricke, Senator At Large

SPONSORS: Mental Health & Wellbeing Committee

CONTACTS:

First Reading: 1/18/2025

Second Reading: 1/25/2025

Pass:

Fail:
Other:

**Resolution 1-25-S. Resolution to Support the extension of the hours of operation of the Commons at Helm Library during finals week.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the extension of the hours of operation of the Commons at Helm Library during finals week

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University is the third largest university in Kentucky and does not offer a single 24-hour space for students, and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University had previously set a precedent with Jody Richards Hall which had offered a 24-hour space, but due to construction is no longer available, and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University students would value a space for studying outside of their residence halls during finals week, especially considering the abnormal schedule of the week, and

WHEREAS: Only the common spaces of the building would remain open and there would be no expectations of the WKU Restaurant Group partners to operate for extended hours, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports the Extension of the hours of operation of the Commons at Helm Library during finals week;

AUTHORS: Jakob Barker, Freshman Senator

 Cayden Bailey, Freshman Senator

SPONSORS: Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

 Community Relations Committee

CONTACTS: Sean Kinder, Interim Chair, Dept. of Library of Public Services

First Reading: 2/18/2025

Second Reading: 2/25/2025

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Resolution 2-25-S. Resolution to Support the of Installation of Elevators in Gordon Wilson Hall**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support and advocate for the installation of elevators in Gordon Wilson Hall.

WHEREAS: All students are required to take classes on campus, and

WHEREAS: The lack of elevators in Gordon Wilson Hall creates unreasonable difficulty for injured or disabled students when it comes to attending classes in Gordon Wilson Hall, and

WHEREAS: Installing an elevator in Gordon Wilson Hall would provide significantly more accessibility for students taking classes in Gordon Wilson Hall, and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Theatre and Dance Department of Western Kentucky University, the primary user of educational spaces and facilities in Gordon Wilson Hall, is to provide a place for all students to enhance their creativity, and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University is committed to upholding equal opportunity to education for all students, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will support and advocate for the installation of elevators in  Gordon Wilson Hall.

AUTHORS: Kiersten Washington

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CONTACTS: kiersten.washington148@topper.wku.edu

First Reading: 2/18/2025

Second Reading: 2/25/2025

Pass: YES

Fail:

Other:

**Resolution 3-25-S. Resolution to support the Annual Campus Safety Walk**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committees’ Campus Safety Walk on March 3rd.

WHEREAS: The Campus Safety walk is a annual event held by the Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee of SGA, and

WHEREAS: The Campus Safety Walk will be held on March 3rd at 5:30 PM starting at Cherry Hall and working down the hill, and

WHEREAS: Administrators, faculty, and students are welcome and encouraged to attend, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will support the Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committees’ Campus Safety Walk on March 3rd.

AUTHORS: Rush Robinson, Junior Senator

SPONSORS: Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

CONTACTS: Andrew Rash, Associate Director of Student Activities