Senate Meeting Minutes

Sixteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Fourth Senate - Tuesday, February 25th, 2025

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 25th, 2025, at 5:02 PM by Substitute Speaker of the Senate Sarah Vincent.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Vincent
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Bailey
      2. Senator Bell
      3. Senator King
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
5. **Officer Reports**
6. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Tough loss for the SGA rec team yesterday.
   2. President Kurtz has an exciting idea!
      1. He wants us to get 3,000 students to vote in the election.
      2. We want to better advertise our elections.
      3. SGA Poll-ooza!!!!!!! (gonna be off the chain)
         1. Want to have fun events throughout the week to spread the idea and give information.
         2. Election Codes meeting will have a zoom option.
         3. Gets people excited for elections.
         4. Event on Sunday, April 13th on South Lawn from 3pm-9pm with things like battle of the DJs.
         5. Tailgating rules will apply to this event.

* Senator Yealton motioned to move out of bylaws.
  + Seconded by Senator Diltz.
* Motion to move **Bill 7-25S** from New Business to Unfinished business due to time sensitivity.
  + Seconded by Sentor Jerdon.
* Voice Vote
  + Unanimous Yes
* Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Lucas.
  + Seconded by Senator Whipple.

1. Vice President – **Dontè Reed**
   1. Showed the Bluegrass Leadership Scholarship for incoming freshman. Exec wants to add a question for their GPA as well.
   2. VP Reed wanted to shout out a senator for their dedication. Yay Senator Barker!!!
   3. Happy Birthday to COS Anne Marie and Senator Zing.
      1. Speaker Vincent played Happy Birthday.
2. Chief Financial Officer – **Ethan Taylor**
   1. Organizational Aid is due on Friday!
   2. No change in budget except spelling is fixed.
   3. $3,327.32 left in Legislative Discretionary.
3. Chief of Staff – **Anne-Marie Wright** 
   1. New purchasing policy for in person purchases.
      1. Getting supplies 5 business days in advance of what you need. Exec will be going by themselves and you must send screenshots to them.
   2. Banquet is Tuesday April 8th at Gerrad’s Tavern.
4. Chief Communications Officer – **Preston Jenkins**
   1. T-shirt and merch order is on its way!
   2. Weekly Instagram report will be posted.
      1. Interact with the Instagram please!
5. Speaker of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Reminder that after today we have 5 meetings.
      1. It is time to start thinking about the last pieces of registration.
      2. We need to plan more ahead and be timely about the legislation that you are posting.
   2. Office hours are due soon! 4 hours per month!
6. Secretary of the Senate – **Hadley Whipple**
   1. No report.
7. **Committee Reports**
8. Legislative Operations – **Caden Lucas**
   1. LOC meets after senate meetings.
   2. If you sent me a bill and I did not respond please let me know!
9. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Savanna Kurtz**
   1. Gregory McKinney was due Friday!
      1. Twice as many applicants this year!
   2. Scholarships due April 4th!
   3. Bluegrass Leadership Scholarship is due April 3rd!
      1. If you want to talk to your highschool about this let me know!
10. Outreach and Public Relations – **Ryan Dilts**
    1. Working on our marketing plan for our big event!
    2. If you have any RSOs that you want to see there, reach out to them!
11. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
    1. Campus Safety Walk is at March 3rd at 5:30PM.
    2. A few bills coming up relating to the SGA Poll-ooza
    3. Working on Earth Day event.
    4. Psychology Department recently lost Professor Derryberry and they are working on a commerative tree in his honor.
    5. Fun Fact: More trees on earth than stars in milky way.
12. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Megan Farmer**
    1. Over 60 responses on the mental health survey.
    2. Happy Birthday Sentor Zing!
13. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
    1. Tomorrow we are tabling in Centennial Mall from 10:30-12:30pm for the thank you notes for World Kindness Day.
14. Community Relations – **Jenna Wells**
    1. Two links have been sent out about MOTH volunteer opportunities.
    2. Tabling at BG parks and rec event, if you are interested please sign up!
15. **Special Orders**
16. Judicial Council Report – **Morgan Gammons**
    1. Get excited for elections!
17. Swearing in – **Morgan Gammons**
    1. None.
18. University Committee Reports
    1. Student Life Foundation: **Dontè Reed**
       1. Met at 7:30 and confirmed a treasurer. Has a whole section devoted to SGA.
       2. Talked about increase to the rates on housing at WKU. We only increased ours by 5%.
       3. Working to get the food robots.
    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. Going to change the premium parking pass locations.
    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.
19. **Unfinished Business**

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

* Presentation by Senator Barker and Senator
  + Hoping to extend the hours of the Commons to being 24 hours during Finals Week. We are the 3rd largest university in Kentucky and does not offer and 24-hour libraries. Honors College does not kick students out however we cannot enter after hours. Possible benefits include better studying habits and can make more friends this way. Their plan is to not set this as a permanent change but to keep the commons open later at night.
* Questions
  + Senator Ismail: What are their hours?
    - Response: From 7:30-12am on weekdays, hours differ on the weekends
  + Senator Ismail: Do you see a benefit in students studying at 3AM?
    - Response: I think it depends on they schedule of the student and if they have a later final.
  + Senator Bryant: Have you asked any of the rstaruants in the commons if they want to stay open late?
    - Response: I am definetly open to that after this bill progresses.
  + Senator Yealton: How will we know if this will actually happen?
    - POI to President Kurtz: This will be passed up through the faculty and staff senate. Will get an answer by April.
* Speeches
  + Affirmation
    - Senator Lucas: I want to commend this resolution and you all have done the hard behind the scenes work and this sends a great message from SGA.
    - Senator Zing: Great idea because not everyone has the same study schedule and it can be beneficial to students.
    - Senator Ismail: This is so important and I love this resolution!
  + Negation
    - None
* Voice Vote
  + Unanimous yes.

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

* Presentation by Senator Farmer and Kierstan Washington.
  + There is no elevator in this space and it is not feesible nor accessible to the student body. Kierstan wanted to take a class in Gordon Wilson and figures out there is no elevator. It is against the law to not have an elevator. This creates a hardship for both parties involved. This limits the education of those who need an elevator.
* Questions
  + Senator Robinson: Aren’t elavators required?
    - Response: I am unsure but I am working on finding a solution.
  + Senator Barton: Have you considered writing a more encompassing resolution?
    - Response: Yes because our university is not ADA compliant.
  + Senator Bailey: Would putting an elevator disrupt the classes? How long would it take?
    - Response: We do not know but are working on figuring it out.
  + Senator Barton: Where is Gordan Wilson?
    - Response: By Cherry Hall
* Speeches
  + Affirmation
    - Senator Bryant: I love resolutions like this because it shows the inclusivity of the student government.
    - Senator Zing: This resolution is so important because it shows what we stand for.
    - Senator Bailey: I love this because it calls out the university for not being ADA compliant.
    - Veronica: I think this resolution is amazing! It helps so many types of students!
    - Senator Kurtz: I love this resolution and I would like to sponsor this bill.
    - Senator Lucas: This was super exciting and I have really enjoyed working on this with you all.
  + Negation
    - None
* Voice Vote
  + Unanimous yes.

**Bill 7-25-S.** A Bill to Fund the Subs and Scholarships Workshop

* Presentation by Senator Yealton and Senator Jerdon
  + This event would help to advertise the scholarships and help be a big workshop
* Questions
  + Senator Robinson: What kind of subs?
    - Response: Jimmy Johns
  + Senator Dilts: What time is the event?
    - Response: Around dinner time.
  + Senator Farmer: Do you think there can be a bias with the senators helping write the scholarships?
    - Response: We will not be telling them what they can and cannot put on the application.
  + Senator Bryant: Is there a specific reason for this day?
    - Response: This is so we can get the word out so they can prepare accordingly.
  + Senator Bryant: When would do the other one?
    - Response: Right before the acholarships are due.

Amendment suggestion by Senator Bryant: Would you take it as friendly to move the event till March 27th?

Author’s response: Taken as unfriendly due to wanting to keep their event on this day. Event is come and go.

\*Due to it being unfriendly we have to vote and have speeches.\*

SPEECHES FOR AMMENDMENT

Affirmation:

* Senator Barker: This amendment allows for more flexibility with students and it is close enough to the deadline to be fresh on people’s minds.
* Senator Zing: I think we should because it will give them the opportunity to get faculty approval.

Negation:

* Senator Robinson: I think the idea of having two events so I am not a fan of this amendment. This gives students more opportunity to apply for scholarships.
* Senator Barton: Having it earlier set them up for success. This is helpful for students to get second opinions for those who
* Speaker Jerdon: Rally for higher ed is on the 27th.
* Senator Bailey: Having two events is double the publicity.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ammendment not passed

CONTINUATION OF QUESTIONS:

* Senator Ralston: Have you thought getting OSD involved?
  + Response: They do not advise on WKU scholarships.
* Senator Barker: Can we pass a bill for both events at once?
  + Response: That is not financially responsible at the moment with having no data on how the event will go.
* Speeches
  + Affirmation
    - Senator Yates: This is a great idea and I love the event.
    - Senator Kurtz: Thank you all for creating this idea to support more scholarship.
* Voice Vote
  + Unanimous yes

**9. New Business**

**Bill 6-25-S.** Funding for the “AfroLatinidad” event.

**10. Announcements**

**11. Adjournment**

* Motion to adjourn by Senator Barton
  + Seconded by Senator Robinson
* Voice Vote
  + Unanimous yes

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: 2/25/2025

Second Reading: 3/4/2025

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 6-25-S.** **Funding for the “AfroLatinidad” event.**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $500.00 for the “AfroLatinidad” event.

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

WHEREAS: This event will be a celebration of the connection between African and Latino cultures at WKU.

WHEREAS: The event will feature a walking gallery, students presenting and displaying their projects/talents in booths, and food and entertainment, and

WHEREAS: The money will be used to help cover the costs of a live band at the event which will be playing traditional Afro-Latina music and,

WHEREAS: The event will take place on April 14th, 2025, and,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $500.00 to the “AfroLatinidad” event.

AUTHORS: Sophia Bryant PCAL Senator; Preston Jenkins, Chief Communications Officer

SPONSORS: Mental Health and Wellbeing committee, SGA Outreach and Public Relations C ommittee

CONTACTS: Yertty Vandermolen, Yertty.vandermolen@wku.edu

First Read: 2/25/2025  
Second Read: 3/4/2025  
Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 6-25-S. A Bill to Fund the Subs and Scholarships Workshop**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $115.00 for the Subs and Scholarships Workshop.

WHEREAS: The Subs and Scholarships Workshop will be held in an effort to provide assistance to people applying for SGA scholarships before they are due, and

WHEREAS: This effort will promote and raise awareness about the numerous SGA Scholarships that are available to the student body, and

WHEREAS: The workshop will take place on Thursday, March 13th, and

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

WHEREAS: The funds from the passage of this bill will purchase a “30-piece” box from Jimmy Johns,

  two chip party packs, a variety pack of cookies, and two 40 packs of water bottles from Walmart.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $115.00 for the Subs and Scholarships Workshop.

AUTHORS: Maggie Yelton, Junior Senator

Gabriel Jerdon, Senator at Large

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS: Maggie Yelton maggie.yelton768@topper.wku.edu