Senate Meeting Minutes

Third Meeting of the Twenty-Fifth Senate - Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

1. **Call to Order**
	1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on August 26th, 2025, at 5:00 PM by Speaker of the Senate Hadley Whipple.
2. **Roll Call**
	1. Roll was called by Speaker Whipple.
	2. Absences
		1. Senator Carter
		2. Senator Phelps
		3. Senator Price
	3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
	1. Dr. Martha Sales- Dean of Students, Vice President of Student Experience/Affairs
		1. Spoke on how her job is to serve the students and these main points:
			1. As Hilltoppers, it is our job to be kind. Be kind to yourself, your fellow hilltoppers, faculty/staff, and even strangers.
			2. Don’t take everything personally. Be challenged to show everyone compassion.
			3. You don’t have to be the best; you just have to do your best.
			4. If we want students to be involved, then we have to meet them where they are. If you want someone to support your cause, then you need to support them in theirs.
			5. Students may know of resources available, but they do not know how to use them. We, especially upper classmen, need to show/teach students.
			6. Think about how we can improve the sophomore year experience.
			7. Regarding volunteering, think about what you already have and offer it.
			8. She concluded her presentation by saying she is here to serve you, so she is always a phone call or meeting away.
	2. Lauren Berg- Graduate Assistant for Student Activities
		1. Spoke on how she is a graduate student for SGA and mostly works on our budgeting.
5. **Officer Reports**
	1. President: **Rush Robinson**
		1. Thanked Dr. Sales and touched on her point of not taking everything personally.
		2. The Executive Board and Senator Lucas met with downtown Bowling Green officials to talk about future collaborations.
		3. September 19th at 9:45am there is a student panel in DSU, email if you are interested in helping out.
		4. SGA Topper Fellas are live!
		5. Election Codes are starting today. If you have any questions about running, talk to anyone in SGA.
		6. Office hours are live on the website and there are Calendly links to set up meetings with Exec.
		7. Football game Saturday and there is another this coming Saturday.
		8. 15277- the number of Hilltoppers there are this year. Ask yourself how many have you served today?
	2. Vice President: **Savanna Kurtz**
		1. Met with Dr. Laroche- over the last week the students of PFT were given Powerade, cold water, Chainey’s, and snow cones. HRL has visited every room to check in on students. The chiller (AC Unit) has arrived, and students have already reported to have cooled off rooms.
		2. Appointment of University Committees
			1. **Academic Quality** Jaden Marshall
			2. **MasterPlan** Maggie Phelps
			3. **University Athletic** Garrett Price
			4. **Parking and transportation services** Evan Tuck, Jaden Marshall, Cayden Bailey
			5. **Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee** Jakob Barker
			6. **Graduate Advisory Council** Ciin Luun
			7. **Colonnade General Education** Caden Lucas
			8. **Undergraduate Curriculum** Will Derrberry
			9. Voice Vote
				1. Unanimous Yes
	3. Chief Financial Officer: **Gabriel Jerdon**
		1. Presentation of Budget for the 2025-2026 academic school year.
			1. Voice Vote
				1. Unanimous Yes
		2. Goals for the Upcoming Year:
			1. Collaborate on Bills
			2. Find Need and Fill it
			3. Purposeful, lasting ideas
			4. Find specific costs
		3. Spending Policies for the Pro Card. There is wiggle room around some of the policies. The biggest policy is that there is no purchasing of iPads. If there is an event where there is food involved, make sure you have a list of attendees.
		4. Organizational Aid application is due on the 19th of September.
		5. Appointment of the Organizational Aid Board
			1. Amelia Tucker
			2. Caden Lucas
			3. Ethan Veitze
			4. Will Derryberry
			5. Garrett Price
			6. Jakob Barker
			7. Jaden Marshall
			8. Voice Vote
				1. Unanimous Yes
		6. Email Megan when in need of pro card and CC me.
	4. Chief of Staff: **Maggie Yelton**
		1. If your committee is writing a event, check in with office workers to see if we already have supplies.
		2. Dental and ID wagers will be available starting tomorrow.
		3. Election Packets will be available in the office after this meeting.
	5. Chief Communications Officer: **Preston Jenkins**
		1. Tell your friends about the column mural in the SGA office. Stay after the meeting if you want to be featured in a Tik Tok.
		2. Post is live about Org Aid.
		3. Election Codes post will be live tomorrow afternoon, so repost it and share it.
		4. We already have a lot of engagement for this election season, but let’s keep sharing about it.
		5. SGA Polos are on the way and will be here in the next couple of weeks. Fill out the form if you have not.
	6. Speaker of the Senate: **Hadley Whipple**
		1. We waved the office hours for August. The sheets for September will be in the office, and you can turn them in on my door. Reminder, you need four office hours.
	7. Secretary of the Senate: **Karlee Powell**
		1. Reminder to send your committee meeting minutes to my top email.
* Senator Ismail motioned to move out of bylaws.
	+ Seconded by Senator Lucas
	+ Voice Vote
		- Unanimous Yes
* Senator Ismail motion to move **Bill 1-25-S** out of New Business into Unfinished Business due to time sensitivity and weather constraints.
	+ Seconded by Senator Powell
	+ Voice Vote
		- Unanimous Yes
* Senator Lucas motioned to move back into bylaws by Senator
	+ Seconded by Senator Barker
	+ Voice Vote
		- Unanimous Yes
1. **Committee Reports**
	1. Legislative Operations Committee: **Caden Lucas**
		1. Thank you for your diligence on submitting bills.
		2. The LOC meets every Tuesday at 4:15pm in the office.
		3. Reminder that one author of the bill needs to present at LOC meeting.
		4. Send bills to LOC by Monday at 4pm.
		5. Appointment of the Senate Parliamentarian
			1. Senator Tucker appoints Senator Lucas
				1. Voice Vote

Unanimous Yes

* 1. Enrollment and Student Experience: **Jakob Barker**
		1. Shout out to the students in the room who are not in the senate. You are setting a precedent for the future students to be active in their WKU experience.
		2. The first legislation is in New Business for the SGA Meet in Greet.
		3. Reached out to partners on campus about facilities staying open 24 hours on campus.
		4. Fun Fact of the Day: We were not known as the Hilltoppers until 1925.
	2. Outreach and Public Relations: **Cayden Bailey**
		1. Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift got engaged today.
		2. Filming a Tik Tok after the meeting for the column in the office.
		3. QR Codes placed on campus for student concerns.
		4. Giveaway to build following on the social media accounts.
		5. Meet on Tuesdays at 4pm in the office.
	3. Campus Improvements and Sustainability: **Emily Reinneck**
		1. Idea of a senior sunrise.
		2. Working on other ideas and bills.
	4. Action and Opportunity Committee: **Jade Ismail**
		1. Our bill was moved into unfinished business today.
		2. Meet on Tuesdays at 4:15pm in the office.
	5. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: **Veronica Butler**
		1. Working on Mental Health and Wellness Week in the beginning of October.
		2. If you have any ideas, send an email.
	6. Community Relations: **Bradley Wagoner**
		1. Secretary is Senator Phelps
		2. Vice Chair is Senator Price
		3. Next meeting we will discuss the Veteran's Day 5k.
		4. Meet on Tuesdays after Senate meetings.
1. **Special Orders**
	1. Judicial Council Report: **Blake Graham**
		1. JC met for the first time this past week. We went through the constitution and bylaws and did on-boarding.
		2. Reminder to submit excuses for Senate meeting absences.
		3. Presentation of Election Code packets.
			1. Code meetings will be held on September 8th and 10th
			2. To run for the senate, you must attend one of these meetings.
			3. Packets are due no later than 9pm on September 10th
			4. Election reveal will be held on September at 4:01pm
			5. The different seats we have for this election are:
				1. 3 Freshman Senators
				2. 1 Graduate Student
				3. 1 Gatton Academy Senator
				4. 1 International Student Senator
		4. **Motion to approve the Election Codes**
			1. Voice Vote
				1. Unanimous Yes
	2. Swearing In: **Blake Graham**
		1. Swearing in the newly appointed University Committees, Organizational Aid Board, and Senate Parliamentarian.
	3. University Committee Reports
		1. Student Life Foundation:
		2. Committee on Academic Quality:
		3. Master Plan Committee:
		4. University Athletic Committee: Garrett Price
		5. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee:
		6. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee: Jakob Barker
		7. Graduate Advisory Council:
		8. Colonnade General Education Committee:
		9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Will Derryberry
		10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee:
		11. Faculty Welfare Committee:
2. **Unfinished Business**
	1. **Bill 1-25-S:** Funding for the 'Sippin' in September' Even**t**
		1. Motion to amend bill by Senator Ismail: change requested funding to $32.80.
		2. Presentation by Senator Ishmail
			1. Requesting $32.80 for this event. Gave a breakdown of what the event is and where the money will be going. Rita’s and Pelican’s will be on campus to sell to students and donate proceeds to Hope Harbor.
		3. Questions
			1. Senator Veitze asked if Senator Ismail meant $32.08 or $32.80.
				1. Senator Ismail clarified that she meant $32.80.
			2. Senator Lucas asked if this will be a continued partnership with Hope Harbor and if SGA will be giving monetary support.
				1. Senator Ismail said the partnership will continue and that she is making strides towards a pumpkin carving event. She projects that SGA will not be spending more than $500 on this initiative.
			3. Senator Humble stated that his committee is working on a fall event and asked if Senator Ismail would like to collaborate.
				1. Senator Ismail said she would attend the next committee meeting.
			4. Senator Barker asked if there would be a way for students to get discounts/coupons for students at the vendors.
				1. Senator Ismail stated that they are already priced at a student rate and that they would be benefiting by purchasing from the vendors since Hope Harbor is an integral part of student life.
			5. Senator Bailey asked what the percentage of the sales would go to the
				1. A minimum of $100 and 20% for the vendors.
			6. Senator Pace asked for a price breakdown and itemization of the bill.
				1. Senator Ismail gave the breakdown and stated that this bill
		4. Debate
			1. Senator Retting gave voice of affirmation by stating that students effected by sexual assault are not likely to speak out about it and this bill would allow visibility. She stated it is a great bill.
			2. Senator Wagner stated that this bill was well-thought-out and commends Senator Ismail on her work.
		5. Voice Vote
			1. Unanimous Yes
3. **New Business**
	1. **Bill X-25-F:** Funding for the Student Government Association “Meet n Greet.”
4. **Announcements**
	1. Senator Marshall invited senators to go with him to the Warren County Detention Center on Tuesdays and Fridays.
	2. Senator Marshall stated that his animal fun fact is that an Elephants gestation period is 22 months.
	3. Senator Humble invited senators to volunteer alongside him at Curbside Ministries on Thursdays.
	4. Chief of Staff Yelton invited senators to the Snowtoppers meeting tomorrow night at 5:30pm.
	5. Senator Lucas told senators to let him know if anyone has ideas to bring attention
	6. Rush gave acknowledgement to guest, Kierstin.
	7. Senator Tucker invited students to the Welcome Event at the Ag Farm.
5. **Adjournment**
	1. Senator Barker made a motion to adjourn.
	2. The motion was seconded by Senator Lucas.
	3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other: Bill 1-25-S. Funding for the 'Sippin' in September' Event

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $70.00 for promotional materials for the 'Sippin' in September' fundraiser benefiting Hope Harbor, Inc.

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

WHEREAS: 'Sippin' in September' is a fundraising initiative led by the Action & Opportunity Committee to support Hope Harbor, Inc., and

WHEREAS: The event will take place on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, and

WHEREAS: Community partners including Pelican’s Snow Cones will be stationed at the Commons and Downing Student Union, and Tay Tay’s Lemonade will be set up on Centennial Mall, and

WHEREAS: A percentage of all proceeds collected from both vendors will go directly toward the Hope Harbor fundraising campaign, and

WHEREAS: The requested appropriation of $70.00 will be used to purchase posters and markers for signage directing students to the vendor locations and increasing event visibility, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $70.00 to promote the 'Sippin' in September' fundraiser in support of Hope Harbor, Inc.

AUTHORS: Jade Ismail

Action & Opportunity Committee, Chair

SPONSORS: Action & Opportunity Committee

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 2-25-F. Funding for the Student Government Association “Meet n Greet.”

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

allocate $78.81 towards funding food and drink for the Student Government Association “Meet n Greet.”

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

WHEREAS: A competitive and informed Student Government Association election process is an essential aspect of serving the student body of WKU, and

WHEREAS: Over one hundred (100) students expressed interest in the Student Government Association during M. A. S. T. E. R. Plan and additional students attended the second meeting of the twenty-fifth senate and committee meetings, and

WHEREAS: The funds from this bill will be used to incentivize the event and provide food and drink for all students interested, including $68.25 for Jersey Mike’s Subs and $10.56 for sodas , and

WHEREAS: The Student Government Association “Meet n Greet” will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 4:30pm in the Student Government Association Offices. At this event, students will have the opportunity to meet their college’s senator, committee leaders as well as attend a Senate meeting at 5:00pm immediately following the “Meet n Greet.” This Senate meeting will also serve as a formal election codes for students interested in running for a position, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $78.81 towards funding food and drink for the Student Government Association “Meet n Greet.”

AUTHORS: Jakob Barker, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee CONTACTS: Jakob Barker, jakob.barker429@topper.wku.edu