Senate Meeting Minutes

Seventh Meeting of the Twenty-Fifth Senate - Tuesday, September 23rd , 2025

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on September 23rd, 2025, at 5:05 PM by Speaker of the Senate Hadley Whipple.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Whipple
   2. Absences
      1. **Senator Bailey**
      2. **Senator Ismail**
      3. **Senator Lara**
      4. **Senator Martin**
      5. **Senator Rettig**
      6. **Senator Tuck**
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   * 1. **Wayne Simpson — Associate Director of Career Readiness**
     2. The number one reason why people go to college is to get a job. The role of ACDC is to develop students to be career ready. We need your help to spread the word about ACDC to the student body.
     3. A hard skill is something you learn, and a soft skill has to do with your character. Employers care about character!
     4. “Your attitude will change your altitude”
     5. Your skills get you to the door, but your character gets you through the door.
     6. **Caden Blakenship — Student**
     7. WKU Housing Environment
        1. Currently WKU students pay on average $3,000-5,000.
        2. The maintenance in the dorms is subpar. A maintenance request was put in a month ago and there has been no response.
        3. This should be a campus that encourages diversity, community, and inclusivity.
5. **Officer Reports**
   1. President: **Rush Robinson**
      1. Thank you, Mr. Simpson and Caden Blakenship!
      2. Welcome new senators!
      3. Last week Caboni spoke to the Faculty Senate.
      4. Appointment of Miles VanRude to Senator at Large.
         1. No questions, speeches, or debate.
         2. Voice vote
            1. Unanimous yes.
      5. The three words on the steps of DSU are loyalty, character, and responsibility. Remember that we need to be loyal to the student body, be who you are because our different perspectives are what make SGA, and respect the people who you disagree with.
   2. Vice President: **Savanna Kurtz**
      1. Shoutout to Jacob, Ethan, and Will for their help!
      2. I met with Dr. Laroche and Family Weekend was successful!
      3. Respond to the survey about housing sent from the Dean of Students.
      4. Bikes and other motorized transportation are not allowed in resident halls or WKU buildings.
   3. Chief Financial Officer: **Gabriel Jerdon**
      1. 71 organizations applied for Org Aid.
      2. The website is up to date.
      3. Be on top of purchases for passed bills.
      4. No definitive answer on raffle baskets, so if you have questions come and talk to me.
   4. Chief of Staff: **Maggie Yelton**
      1. Still working on issues for the link on Pay-It-Forward. I will send out dates.
      2. New magazine holder in the office.
      3. The new calculators were ordered.
      4. We are almost out of dental vouchers.
   5. Chief Communications Officer: **Preston Jenkins**
      1. New senators, I have emailed you a form to fill out for SGA polos.
      2. All the college senators please send me a professional headshot and a couple sentences for a bio to be posted in your academic building.
      3. Over 15 submissions for the column painting. This week Exec will narrow it down to 4 artists to paint one side each.
      4. Update on PR graphic progress.
   6. Speaker of the Senate: **Hadley Whipple**
      1. September office hours are due before the last meeting in September.
      2. A form will be sent out for Senator of the Month.
      3. If you have speeches in affirmation or negation, please hold off on asking them during the questions period.
   7. Secretary of the Senate: **Karlee Powell**
      1. Continue to send committee meeting minutes!
6. **Committee Reports**
   1. Legislative Operations Committee: **Caden Lucas**
      1. Thank you to everyone who participated in Constitution Day! The city has donated the left-over snacks and drinks to SGA, so if you are tabling or have an event use them to your advantage.
      2. Keep sending in your bills with the google doc templetes on the SGA website and give me editing access.
      3. Have bills in by 4pm on Mondays.
   2. Enrollment and Student Experience: **Jakob Barker** 
      1. 94% of students want to have 24-hour study spaces.
      2. 90% of students want a printer in their residence hall.
      3. I have lots more feedback from the form and would love to share it with you!
      4. We handed out all our printed scholarships when we tabled.
      5. There were 70 QR scans for the scholarships outside of the paper copies!
      6. I am meeting with VP Kurtz tomorrow.
   3. Outreach and Public Relations: **Cayden Bailey**
      1. Thank you for your interaction on the column Tik Tok,
      2. We are currently working on getting clocks in Chandler Hall.
   4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability: **Emily Reinneck**
      1. Postponing Big Red Sunrise until October 1st
   5. Action and Opportunity Committee: **Jade Ismail**
      1. No report.
   6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: **Veronica Butler**
      1. Still looking for people to be interviewed for our Topper Talks About It.
      2. We meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm.
      3. Tell someone they matter today!
   7. Community Relations: **Bradley Wagoner**
      1. We are working on the Veteran's 5k currently.
      2. Working on a resolution for campus buses to announce stops.
      3. Working on getting Student Ids on phones.
7. **Special Orders**
   1. Judicial Council Report: **Blake Graham** 
      1. Congratulations to the newly elected senators! We had a huge turnout for voters and for the election party.
      2. We have moved back to bi-weekly meetings.
   2. Swearing In: **Blake Graham**
      1. Senator Miles VanRude to Senator at Large.
      2. Senator Carter Smith to Freshman Senator.
      3. Senator Jackson Smith to Freshman Senator.
      4. Senator Landon Terry to Freshman Senator.
      5. Senator Grace Ekrikpo to International Senator.
      6. Senator Andrew Adegoju to Graduate Senator.
      7. Senator Ben Lee to Gatton Academy Senator.
   3. University Committee Reports
      1. Committee on Academic Quality: **Jaden Marshall**
         1. No report.
      2. Master Plan Committee: **Maggie Phelps**
         1. No Report.
      3. University Athletic Committee: **Garrett Price**
         1. First meeting was this past week.
      4. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee: **Evan Tuck, Jaden Marshall, Cayden Bailey**
         1. Next meeting is September 29th.
      5. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee: **Jakob Barker**
         1. No report.
      6. Graduate Advisory Council: **TBD**
      7. Colonnade General Education Committee: **Caden Lucas**
         1. Meeting is next week.
      8. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: **Will Derryberry**
         1. No report.
      9. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee: **TBD**
      10. Faculty Welfare Committee: **Ciin Lun**
          1. Faculty members are concerned with the current political climate.
8. **Unfinished Business**

**Bill 5-25-F. A Bill to Fund Giveaway Initiatives to Increase Publicity of the Student Government**

1. The raffle basket has been updated to have a gender-neutral water bottle, photoshoot,
2. No questions or debate
   1. Voice Vote
      1. Unanimous Yes

**Resolution 2-25-F. Resolution to Support the Implementation of a Direct Link between the Hilltopper’s Concerns Form and the myWKU Page**

1. The Hilltopper Concerns Forms should be easily accessible to students on the myWKU page. This is how we meet students where they are.
   1. Questions
      1. Senator Phelps asked if we could clarify titles on the form. Senator Barker asked for a point of information from Chief Financial Officer Jerdon to clarify he could.
      2. Senator Tucker asked where exactly it will be on the myWKU page and Senator Barker clarified he has been in communication with IT.
   2. Affirmation
      1. Senator Vietze stated their committee has been working hard on this bill this semester.
   3. Negation
      1. None
   4. Voice vote
      1. Unanimous yes.
2. **New Business**
   1. **Bill 7-25-F. Funding for “Birthday Boxes” for the Office of Sustainability’s Food Pantry**
   2. **Bill 8-25-F. Funding for the Western Kentucky University Food Pantry**
3. **Announcements**
   1. Senator Lucas announced the new ambassador program with the city of Bowling Green.
   2. Senator Powell announced the Panhellenic National Hazing Prevention Week.
   3. Chief Justice Graham announced the political science event where they will be voicing student concerns.
4. **Adjournment**
   1. Motion to adjourn by Senator Marshall at 6:16pm.
      1. Seconded by Senator Barker
      2. Unanimous voice vote.

First Reading: 9/2/2025

Second Reading: 9/9/2025 – TABLED 9/16/2025 – TABLED 9/23/2025

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 5-25-F. A Bill to Fund Giveaway Initiatives to Increase Publicity of the Student Government Association.

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $34.99 to purchase giveaway items for a tabling event to increase the publicity of the Student Government Association. WHEREAS: The Student Government Association will purchase the following:, and 32 oz Hydrojug ($34.99), and

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

WHEREAS: The tabling event will take place daily from September 29th to October 2nd, from 11-2 PM, and

WHEREAS: The tabling event will take place outside of DSU in Centennial Mall, and

WHEREAS: There will be one giveaway with different items such as a donated Carnes Studio Photoshoot, a JBL speaker, and a Hydrojug water bottle to attract a wide variety of individuals, and

WHEREAS: We will be collaborating with Campus Activities Board, and they are providing a JBL speaker for the giveaway, and

WHEREAS: Students can enter the giveaway by following the Instagram account, Tiktok account, and completing an information form with their name, phone number, and topper email and

WHEREAS: Students will also be prompted with another question regarding if they would like to be subscribed to the CAB Newsletter

WHEREAS: Senators will be able to volunteer for the tabling event, in exchange for office hours, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $34.99 purchase giveaway items for a tabling event to increase the publicity

of the Student Government Association.

AUTHORS: Cayden Bailey, Senator at Large

Julianna Mitchell, Senator at Large

Gabi Pace, Senator at Large

Molly Ricke, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Outreach and Public Relations Committee, WKU Campus Activities Board CONTACTS: DSU Operations/Special Events - [dsu.operations@wku.edu](mailto:dsu.operations@wku.edu), WKU Campus Activities Board

First Reading: 9/16/2025

Second Reading: 9/23/2025

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Resolution 2-25-F. Resolution to Support the Implementation of a Direct Link between the Hilltopper’s Concerns Form and the myWKU Page

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the Implementation of a Direct Link between the Hilltopper’s Concerns Form and the myWKU Page

WHEREAS: The Hilltopper’s Concerns Form on the Student Government Association website serves as the most readily accessible route for a student to contact their Senator and/or the Executive Cabinet, and

WHEREAS: The Hilltopper’s Concerns Form is located, at minimum, five (5) clicks away from WKU’s main page, and

WHEREAS: Streamlining the process of contacting the office of the Student Government Association further aligns the mission of this organization to address student needs, interests, and opinions as clearly outlined in the preamble of the Constitution, and

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

University will support the Implementation of a Direct Link between the Hilltopper’s Concerns Form and the myWKU Page.

AUTHORS: Jakob Barker, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS: Gabriel Jerdon, [gabriel.jerdon982@topper.wku.edu](mailto:gabriel.jerdon982@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 9/23/2025

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 7-25-F. Funding for “Birthday Boxes” for the Office of Sustainability’s Food Pantry

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $101.00 for “Birthday Boxes” for the Office of Sustainability’s Food Pantry.

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

WHEREAS: According to Dr. Leslie North of the WKU Office of Sustainability around 19 students visit the WKU Food Pantry daily showing immediate need, and

WHEREAS: Students who are facing financial insecurity often to have to choose physical needs such as food and hygiene over purchases such as cakes, candles, and other expensive celebration related items, and

WHEREAS: Birthday boxes, containing cake mix ($13.44 for 12 boxes), icing ($23.54 for 12 containers) , birthday candles ($11.64 for 12 sets, soda (which replaces the eggs and milk) ($7.92 for 12 cans), a birthday banner ($23.38 for 12 banners), and disposable baking dish ($17.88 for 12 pans), have previously been created for the Food Pantry in the past and quickly utilized by students ,and

WHEREAS: This funding will allow for the creation of 12 birthday boxes to be made and delivered to the food pantry, and

WHEREAS: Hilltoppers deserve to be celebrated and seen, regardless of financial status,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $101.00 to fund “Birthday Boxes” for the Office of Sustainability’s Food Pantry.

AUTHORS: Amelia R. Tucker, Senator at Large

Caden Lucas, Junior Senator

Veronica Butler, Senator at Large

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee CONTACTS: Dr. Leslie North - [Leslie.North@wku.edu](mailto:Leslie.North@wku.edu)

First Reading: 9/23/2025

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 8-25-F. Funding for the Western Kentucky University Food Pantry

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $500.00 for the WKU Food Pantry

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

WHEREAS: The WKU Food Pantry is a free resource for all students and operates off of donations from campus organizations and local donors, and

WHEREAS: Allocated funds from this bill will be used to purchase hygiene products like tampons (864), pads (1,056), toothbrushes (300), toothpaste (30), shampoo and conditioner (40 sets), which are often expensive yet much needed items, and

WHEREAS: In addition to the Student Government Association’s contributions, a donation drive will be organized to collect hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc., and

WHEREAS: Students will receive one service hour per two supplies donated with a maximum of 5 service hours offered, and

WHEREAS: Donations can be dropped off in the SGA office and signed service hour forms will be available for pick-up, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $500.00 towards the WKU Food Pantry.

AUTHORS: Caroline Yates, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

Jaden Marshall, ISEC Senator

Will Derryberry, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee CONTACTS: Dr. Leslie Nort