Senate Meeting Minutes

Fith Meeting of the Twenty-Fifth Senate - Tuesday, September 9th , 2025

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on September 9th, 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 Martin**
      2. **Senator Powell**
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. **Dr. Leslie North — Director of the Office of Sustainability** 
      1. Mission of the Office of Sustainability: preserving things for the future through sustainable methods and programs on campus. Also include social equity and economic prosperity for students.
      2. Also runs the WKU Food Pantry which not only provides methods by which to challenge food insecurity but also provide basic needs such as deodorant, toothpaste, etc.
      3. Please send students to us who would benefit from our services.
      4. Market on the Avenue is also coordinated by this office — share this network and get people interested!
      5. Refer anything under the idea of sustainability to them!
      6. Swipe-it-Forward program is also back.
      7. Office of Sustainability is located at 503 Regents Ave next to Gary Ransdell Hall.
      8. The Office of Sustainability has several partnerships with other organizations that focus on other needs such as coats and clothing.
5. **Officer Reports**
   1. President: **Rush Robinson**
      1. Constitution Day Event next Wednesday (09/17) where SGA will be grilling burgers at 4PM to celebrate the election opening up and then sliding into the event with the City at 5PM.
      2. Homecoming Queen nominations for SGA: Savanna Kurtz
      3. Faculty Senate Executive Committee report: students aren’t talking, and it is becoming an issue in the classroom.
   2. Vice President: **Savanna Kurtz**
      1. Shoutout to the Enrollment and Student Experience Committee for the Meet N’ Greet event tonight!
      2. The scholarship will be out and published tomorrow either in the office or on the website! There is the SGA Promise, Winter Term Scholarship, and the First-Generation Scholarship (all due November 14).
      3. Appointing Ciin Lun for the Faculty Welfare Committee.
         1. No Question
         2. No Speeches in Affirmation or Negation
         3. Unanimous Voice Vote in Affirmation.
   3. Chief Financial Officer: **Gabriel Jerdon**
      1. A reminder to request money as soon as possible when you have a bill that gets passed. Get the process started ASAP by contacting Gabe, Rash, and/or Meygan.
      2. Apply for Organizational Aid!
   4. Chief of Staff: **Maggie Yelton**
      1. The Swipe-it-Forward program is back and in full swing!
      2. ID Vouchers are rolling now as well!
      3. The Borrow-a-Calculator program is in full swing, and they are all checked out right now, hopefully more coming soon!
      4. Please remember to check in with COS Yelton for any and all supplies needs if you’re writing a bill.
   5. Chief Communications Officer: **Preston Jenkins**
      1. A reminder to tell your friends about the column in the SGA office if anyone is artistically gifted or wants to contribute!
      2. Please get in contact with me ASAP about future bills or PR needs in relation to bills or the SGA social media accounts.
   6. Speaker of the Senate: **Hadley Whipple**
      1. Please turn in September office hours and remember to track them!
      2. Senator-of-the-Month is back so on the lookout!
      3. Bills have been looking great!
   7. Secretary of the Senate: **Karlee Powell**
      1. Continue to send Karlee committee meeting minutes!
      2. Send Senator Powell good vibes!
6. **Committee Reports**
   1. Legislative Operations Committee: **Caden Lucas**
   2. Enrollment and Student Experience: **Jakob Barker** 
      1. Thank you all so much for Meet-N-Greet today!
      2. Four pieces of legislation in the works!
      3. Previous meeting with VP Kurtz, Senator Barker, and a meeting with Housing and Residence Life about partnerships between HRL and SGA, as well as the Residence Life Student Government.
      4. Meeting with Provost Fischer to discuss the possibility of a 24-hour space on campus. Updates from this to come in the future.
   3. Outreach and Public Relations: **Cayden Bailey**
      1. Shoutout to Senator Marshall for speaking to the Warren County Day Treatment Center
      2. Pieces of legislation in the work!
   4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability: **Emily Reinneck**
      1. Exciting talk from Dr. North today and please support the work of the Office of Sustainability.
      2. One piece of legislation on the docket for today and more in the works!
   5. Action and Opportunity Committee: **Jade Ismail**
      1. Sippin n’ September raised about $150 which means that around 250 people engaged in their fundraiser.
      2. One piece of legislation on the docket for today and some tabling coming up as well!
   6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: **Veronica Butler**
      1. It is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month!
      2. Looking into means by which to reform the Counseling Center to make it a streamlined process so our students can get help when they need it.
      3. Upcoming meeting and potential partnership with Dr. Gabbard and NAMI.
   7. Community Relations: **Bradley Wagoner**
      1. Working on a few pieces of legislation right now and looking for anyone who wants to help contribute to the Veterans Day 5K and the prize for that event.
7. **Special Orders**
   1. Judicial Council Report: **Blake Graham** 
      1. First SGA code meeting was last night, and we had 29 potential candidates there! Another meeting is tomorrow, and elections open next week!
   2. Swearing In: **Blake Graham**
      1. Senator Lun as representative on the Faculty Welfare Advisory Committee.
   3. University Committee Reports
      1. Student Life Foundation: **Savanna Kurtz**
         1. Meeting next Tuesday!
      2. Committee on Academic Quality: **Jaden Marshall**
         1. Meeting every third Tuesday of each month
         2. Animal fact: Every Zebra has completely different stripes.
      3. Master Plan Committee: **Maggie Phelps**
         1. No Report.
      4. University Athletic Committee: **Garrett Price**
         1. No Report**.**
      5. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee: **Evan Tuck, Jaden Marshall, Cayden Bailey**
         1. First meeting is next Wednesday, 09/17
      6. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee: **Jakob Barker**
         1. Faculty Regent Shane Spiller discussed the RAMP financial model.
         2. Shared student perspective on the colleges fees and increased tuition rate.
      7. Graduate Advisory Council: **TBD**
      8. Colonnade General Education Committee: **Caden Lucas**
         1. Next meeting is on 09/30!
      9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: **Will Derryberry**
         1. Meeting every third Tuesday of each month.
      10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee: **TBD**
      11. Faculty Welfare Committee: **Ciin Lun**
          1. No Report.
8. **Unfinished Business**
   1. Bill 3-25-F. Funding for the SGA Big Red Rise Event
      1. Amendment to change the final price in the “THEREFORE” clause to $119.92 to match the other listed price.
      2. Senator Humble: This provides a mean by which to promote the senior experience while also emphasizing the important of community on the Hill through a new event.
      3. Senator Derryberry: What is your marketing plan?
         1. Senator Humble: The plan is to do some sort of video to publish on our various social media pages to boost engagement. Word of mouth is also very important in spreading the word on this event.
      4. Senator Ismail: Why did you decide to do this so soon in the semester?
         1. Senator Humble: We want to prioritize the weather plan while it is somewhat predictable in Kentucky.
         2. Senator Reinneck: People will notice this event and will make plans to attend in the spring or following semesters.
      5. Senator Tucker: Just to clarify, is this event open to just senior or all students?
         1. Open to all students, but wants to target seniors.
      6. Senator Ismail: I know that Panera Bread will donate their leftover so look into that.
      7. Senator Barker: Have you thought about the programming of the event?
         1. Senator Humble: We’re wanting to get the event stapled via this bill ASAP and early so that we have time to properly plan. It will be come and go as you please, and creating an enjoyable environment. Deepening in interest it will open the possibility of a speaker in the future.
         2. Senator Reinneck: This will create memories for students who will share it with other people on social media outlets.
      8. Speeches in Affirmation:
         1. Senator Rettig: As a senior, this provides a very full circle moment, and I think it would be an excellent idea.
      9. Unanimous Voice Vote in Affirmation.
      10. Bill is passed.
   2. Bill 4-25-F. A Bill to Fund the Pumpkin Carving Contest Fundraiser benefiting Hope Harbor, Inc.
      1. Amendment by Senator Ismail (author): The price of the pumpkins will be $250 (increase) and the Boo-Basket will be $70 (lower).
      2. The Boo-Basket will include a heated-blanket, a similar alternative to Uggs, and other items from various suppliers as well as donations.
      3. Senator Ricke: Do we know how many pumpkins will be included since it varies?
         1. The pallet will be about 100-175 pumpkins with 60 medium pumpkins and 50 large pumpkins.
      4. Senator Price: I think more people would be open to $10 as an entry fee.
      5. Senator Price: I think the Uggs would maybe not be the greatest fall-themed item since they would be very specific to one-size.
      6. Senator Ismail: Amendment to get rid of the boot-link of for the Uggs.
      7. Senator Derryberry: What are you doing to get the $100 Chipotle gift card?
         1. Chipotle will give to organizations for these types of events, so I am working to get that.
      8. Senator Barker: POI to Exec, is this during the fall concert?
         1. President Robinson: No but it is during the same week.
      9. Senator Barker: I think you might get more sells from this by splitting up the event to during the day for picking the pumpkin and then at night for the carving as well. (or s similar idea.
         1. Senator Ismail: Yeah I like this idea! This can be used in the future.
      10. Senator Barker: Would you be willing to take it where students can just buy a pumpkin?
          1. Senator Ismail: I am not sure this event would be the best for this just because eof the nature of the contest.
      11. Senator Butler: Have you looked into what Transylvania University does as a similar event around this Halloween?
          1. Senator Ismail: No, I have not but I will!
      12. Senator Humble: I do not think that $15 is reasonable for this bill for getting students engaged.
          1. Senator Ismail: Amendment to lower the entry fee from $15.00 to $10.00.
      13. Senator Yates: This is Homecoming Week, and that cuts out a big population of students who might participate simply due to student being engaged in those activities?
      14. Senator Yates: What about carving tools for this event?
          1. Senator Ismail: I am working with the Agriculture community to increase the life of the pumpkins when they are delivered and get tools for this.
      15. Senator Derryberry: Will the pumpkin supplier care if we re-sell the pumpkins?
          1. Senator Ismail: No, they’re buying the opportunity to carve them.
      16. Senator Phelps: For the entry fee, would there be an opportunity for teams to enter?
          1. Senator Ismail: Having it as a team maybe lowers the number of people entering as well as engagement.
      17. Senator Phelps: What would happen if we had pumpkins left over?
          1. Senator Ismail: This is something to consider moving forward.
      18. Senator Barker: Motion to Table this Bill
          1. Seconded by Senator Price
          2. Tabling motion opposed by Senator Humble.
          3. Bill tabled by voice vote.
   3. Bill 5-25-F. A Bill to Fund Giveaway Initiatives to Increase Publicity of the Student Government
      1. Senator Bailey: The name SGA isn’t as known as well as it could be, and we want to change that by increasing visibility and publicity of the organization. The overall goal is to increase the number of followers we have on the Instagram account. This will be done by offering two differently-tailored gift baskets for students to enter into a chance to win by following SGA’s social media accounts.
      2. Questions:
         1. Senator Humble: I think the gendered-basis of the gift baskets needs to be changed to be more representative.
         2. Senator Wagoner: You could find a student ambassador for a certain business and see if they would be willing to sponsor a gift card.
         3. Senator Butler: I would like to see if there was potential for a TopperFella collab on Instagram to increase awareness.
         4. Chief Justice Graham: You can look into reaching out to the Campus Activities Board and there might be potential for partnerships with them.
      3. Motion by Senator Bailey to table this bill.
         1. Seconded by Senator Barker.
         2. Unanimous Voice Vote.
9. **New Business**
   1. Resolution 1-25-F: Resolution to Support the Transfer Center Event at SKYCTC
   2. Bill 4-25-F and 5-25-F will be back on Unfinished Business next week.
10. **Announcements**
    1. Senator Marshall: Warren County Day Treatment Center is always looking for speakers so please consider coming out and speaking to them with me!
    2. Thank you to Senator Bailey for the shoutout!
    3. CFO Jerdon: Make sure you’re reaching out to a bunch of people on committees and collaborators to make sure your bills are ready to go, and read bills in new business!
    4. Speaker Whipple: Thank you for your debate today!
    5. President Robinson: I will be reaching out to various Senators about various issues.
    6. Senator Tucker: Colligate Farm Bureau is having a cookout tomorrow night at 6pm with fun games!
11. **Adjournment**
    1. Motion to adjourn by Senator Marshall
       1. Seconded by Senator Barker
       2. Unanimous voice vote.