Senate Meeting Minutes

Nineteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Second Senate - Tuesday, February 21, 2023

 Before the meeting, the senate was addressed by Ena Demir, the title IX coordinator. Demir spoke on resources available to students across campus.

To contact Demir you can email her at ena.demir@wku.edu.

1. **Call to Order**
	1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:13 PM on February 21st by Speaker of the Senate Julie Mishchuk.
2. **Roll Call**
	1. Roll was called by Speaker Mishchuk.
	2. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. Minutes were approved with unanimous voice vote.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
	1. The president of the Queer Student Union brought a list of grievances with President Bornefeld and the QSU will no longer associate with SGA.
		1. The issue of trans students feeling safe was stressed.
		2. An apology was requested of President Bornefeld.
		3. The QSU also frowned upon the decision by the justices.
	2. Senator Holcombe presented before the SGA.
		1. Holcombe brought up a tweet criticizing the police which was retweeted by speaker Mishchuk.
			1. Holcombe mentioned how Mischchuk was hypocritical due to the retweeting of this statement.
		2. Holcombe discussed President Bornefeld’s right to freedom of speech and ability to represent his religious beliefs on social media.
		3. Senator Holcombe encouraged the senate to hold Speaker Mishchuk accountable in the same way.
	3. Senator Pierce asked everyone to refrain from personal attacks.
	4. Justice Baum spoke before the senate.
		1. The first statement was he would not be representing anyone but, only himself, the most senior member of the SGA.
		2. Baum explained he is appalled by the behavior within SGA and frowned upon the heightened use of politics within SGA.
		3. Baum encouraged people to stop the political division within SGA and focus more on the students.
		4. Baum explained that he felt that when he began SGA it was disunified and very difficult for things to get done.
		5. The two previous administrations fought to end the decisiveness within SGA.
			1. Baum spoke of a time when debate was relevant and friendly.
		6. Baum defined politics from the Cambridge Dictionary explaining that SGA does not govern nor influence the people that do.
	5. Senator Canialez encouraged people to come to the talisman poetry night.
	6. The president of out in honors explained the pain that trans people experience and potential dangerous precedent that was being set.
	7. The records and finance chair of the QSU read from the first amendment.
		1. Stressing that no one wanted to revoke Bornefeld’s freedom of speech and that the identity of queer students is not a political one.
		2. The chair mentioned that this could potentially decline the inclusion score of WKU.
	8. Lena Jerkins explained that while yes the SGA does not lean one way or another but by making students political you further section the community into smaller groups.
		1. Jerkins encouraged responsibility for mistakes.
		2. Jerkins asked for an admittance, not apology, that someone was hurt.
		3. Jerkins then read from Matthew 22.
	9. Senator Huffaker motioned to move out of bylaws
		1. Approved with unanimous voice vote
			1. Huffaker motioned to move unfinished and new business before the reports.
			2. Approved with unanimous voice vote.
		2. Senator Hardesty motioned to move up Bill 35-23-S. Funding for Menstrual Cups for WKU Students and Resolution 3-23-S. Resolution to Support Menstrual Product Dispensers in Women’s Restrooms.
		3. Senator Huffaker made a motion to consolidate the presentation, questioning, and debate for resolution 3-23-S and Bill 35-23-S.
		4. Senator Denney motioned to table bill 3-23-S.
			1. All above approved with unanimous voice vote.
		5. Senator Pierce motioned back into bylaws.
			1. Approved with unanimous voice vote.
5. **Unfinished Business**
	1. Bill 35-23-S. Funding for Menstrual Cups for WKU Students and Resolution 3-23-S. Resolution to Support Menstrual Product Dispensers in Women’s Restrooms
		1. Senator Hardesty presented the legislation
		2. Senator Hemenover provided a speech in affirmation explaining that this is a very direct student need.
		3. Senator Padgett provided a speech in affirmation explaining that this is a very common problem for people who menstruate.
		4. Senator Pierce provided a speech in affirmation explaining that she was excited to see legislation supporting women.
		5. Senator Huffaker moved to the previous question stating “We all know we like this legislation”
			1. Approved with unanimous voice vote.
		6. The legislation was approved with unanimous voice vote.
	2. Bill 34-23-S. Funding for Community Relations Survey.
		1. Senator Denney and Senator Patel presented the bill.
			1. They explained it would be an opportunity for students to have an increase in resources and the struggles that come with getting participation from a student survey.
		2. Senator Pierce presented a speech in negation explaining the budget has been decreasing as well as substantial events coming up for SGA.
		3. Senator Zaepfel provided a speech in affirmation explaining it could help people get jobs in Bowling Green.
		4. Senator Huffaker motioned to amend the bill to have two $25 gift cards for a total of $50.
			1. Taken as friendly
		5. Senator Leo’n provided a speech in affirmation explaining incentives are very important.
		6. Senator Farmer provided an amendment to make it one $50 scholarship.
			1. Taken as friendly
		7. Bill passed unanimously.
	3. Bill 36-23-S. Funding for the Counseling Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention Month T-Shirts.
		1. Senator Feck presented the bill.
		2. Senator Padgett provided a speech in affirmation.
		3. Bill passed with unanimous voice vote.
6. **Officer Reports**
	1. President – Cole Bornefeld
		1. President Bornefeld provided a statement on the recent judicial council and explained the administration’s strides to connect with all students regardless of identity.
	2. Executive Vice President – Garrison Reed
		1. EVP Reed discussed recent updates with committees.
	3. Administrative Vice President – Sam Kurtz
		1. AVP Kurtz gave shoutouts for…
			1. Senator Gadd and the narcan bill.
		2. Org aid appointments
			1. Approved with unanimous voice vote.
		3. AVP Kurtz announced all the org aid was given to the student organizations.
		4. AVP Kurtz expressed his support for the president’s use of free speech.
	4. Chief of Staff – Lauren Willett
		1. Chief of Staff Willett asked all homecoming king nominees to stand.
			1. Willett expressed her pride and happiness for them.
		2. Willett explained that transportation for the Kentucky Rally for Higher Ed was in the process.
		3. Willett advertised computer rentals.
		4. The banquet will be April 4th from 7 - 9 PM.
		5. A survey will be sent out shortly.
		6. Chief of Staff Willett stressed that everyone is allowed to have their own beliefs.
	5. Director of Public Relations – Preston Romanov
		1. Romanov explained the Bikes for All Bill was a group that applied for org aid and would rather them get funding an alternate way.
		2. The Black History Month scholarship will be closing soon.
		3. Posts will be resuming this week.
			1. One will be going up for vouchers.
	6. Director of IT - Aniya Johnson
		1. Website has been updated.
	7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – Donte’ Reed
		1. Reed stressed scholarships currently open.
	8. Speaker of the Senate – Julie Mishchuk
		1. Whereas clauses should be complete sentences not bullet points.
		2. Legislation should be put in new business for a week before it is voted on.
		3. Mishchuk maintained her position on the statements endorsed by Bornefeld.
	9. Secretary of the Senate – Antonina Clementi
		1. No report.
	10. Parliamentarian - Meghan Pierce
		1. No report.
7. **Committee Reports**
	1. Legislative Operations - Liz Delozier
		1. LOC committee chair Delozier brought her stuffed uterus.
		2. Delozier also expressed support for the potential funding issues.
	2. Enrollment and Student Experience - Adan Canizalez
		1. Poetry slam tonight with free coffee and donuts!
	3. Outreach and Student Experience- Matt Gadd
		1. No report
	4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – Will Hemenover
		1. Congrats to Senator Hardesty on the passage of legislation.
		2. Discussion of water bottle fillers and more lights were discussed as well.
	5. Diversity Equity, and Inclusion – Juan Tomas
		1. Will be developing an afro latino showcase.
	6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – Olivia Feck
		1. Thanked SGA for the passage of funding for the counseling center.
		2. A bill is in the works for setting up dates and to be on the lookout.
		3. Feck stressed that being a human is hard and if you need help and to please reach out.
	7. Community Relations – Sydney Denney
		1. Thanked the senate for passing the bill and to be on the lookout for that email.
		2. Senator Denney encouraged the filling out of the survey.
		3. The meeting tomorrow has been canceled.
8. **Faculty Senate Reports**
	1. SGA Representatives - Senator Liz Delozier, Senator Sydney Denney, Senator Will Hemenover.
		1. Senator Delozier
			1. No report
		2. Senator Denney
			1. No report
		3. Senator Hemenover
			1. No report
9. **Special Orders**
	1. Judicial Council Report - Justin Goins
		1. Addressed some questions on the recent decision.
		2. Goins stressed him and the justices looked through the by laws and the constitution.
		3. Goins stated that Bornefeld has not done anything to make life more difficult for trans students.
		4. Goins further stated that he believed that trans rights are human rights.
		5. He furthered that the decision was not a political issue.
		6. The issue at hand was about discrimination and harassment.
		7. Senator Farmer made a motion to adjourn the motion - 6:36
	2. University Committee Reports
		1. Senate Executive Committee – Cole Bornefeld
			1. No report
		2. Student Life Foundation – Garrison Reed
			1. No report.
		3. Preston Center Advisory Council – Garrison Reed
			1. No report
		4. Budget Executive Committee – Sam Kurtz
			1. Considering putting money into a new roof for Diddle.
		5. University Curriculum Committee – Brett Phelps
			1. No report.
		6. Colonnade General Education Committee – Antonina Clementi
			1. No report.
		7. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee – Ethan Huffaker
			1. No report.
		8. Committee on Academic Quality – Mallory Hardesty
			1. No report.
		9. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee – James Cecil, Matt Gadd, Annalise Finch
			1. No report.
		10. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup – Megan Farmer
			1. No report.
		11. Academic Calendar – Adan Canizalez
			1. No report. .
		12. University Athletic Committee- Matt Gadd, ShyAnte'e Williams
			1. No report. .
	3. Swearing in
	4. Senator of the Month Election – Julie Mishchuk
		1. Speaker Mishchuk sent out the senator of the month form.
		2. Senator Canizalez was named the January senator of the month.
10. **Announcements**
11. **Adjournment**
	1. Senator called for adjournment.
	2. The motion was seconded.
	3. The Meeting was adjourned at 6:40.