WKU SGA Student Senate Minutes

October 5, 2010

The 6th meeting of the 9th Senate of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University was called to order at 5:04pm on Tuesday October 5, 2010 with the Speaker of the Senate in the chair.

There were 27 Senators present.

Absent Senators were Cottrell, George, Hilderbrant, Johns, Patel, Riggs, Wilcox, and Woosley.

The minutes from September 28, 2010 were approved.

*Guest Speaker*

**WKU Athletic Director – Ross Bjork**

* How does athletics fit here at WKU?
* Fundamentals are about students, education, and degrees.
* Mr. Bjork has previously Initiated conversation with university Senate
* Wanted to lay a foundation of communication – often the situations are not about the problem but about the communication or lack thereof
* Mr. Bjork believes it his responsibility to operate athletics within WKU
  + Many people view WKU as an institution through athletics
  + This means operation is a very serious responsibility
* “Knight Foundation”
  + James L. Knight – 1989
  + Wanted to reform college athletics which was not operating within mission of the institution.
  + Latest report from this summer: athletics in higher education spend way too much, cut other programs to fund, isolated from mainstream campus, allow athletics to creep away from greater mission of campus.
* Mr. Bjork’s 3 recommendations:

1. Greater transparency
   1. Better comparisons of budgets
2. Reward practices of academics
3. Treat athletes as students not as professionals in training

* WKU Budget: $382 million for 2010-2011
  + Athletics: $20.2 million
    - Generate $5 million of own
    - The rest comes from student fees and direct allocations from President
* Over the last 10 years, 85% student athletes have graduated from WKU
  + One of the highest in general higher education
* 103 student athletes had 3.5 or higher GPA
  + More than ½ had higher than 3.0
  + Last 6 years academic awards in Sunbelt
* Bjork’s values:

1. Student athlete welfare
2. Academic excellence
3. Operate with integrity
4. Social responsibility
5. University integration
6. Community engagement
7. Competitive excellence

*Officer Reports*

**President – Colton Jessie**

* Retreat at ICSR was held Saturday October 2. The retreat was good and it went well. There was Think Tank activity. The results of which are posted in the SGA office.
* Campus Clean Up is Tuesday October 19, 3:30pm. Meet at Centennial Mall.
* Listening Tour:
  + Gordon Emslie, Gordon Baylis
  + Next October 27, 11:30 am -12:30pm Garrett Ballroom
* October 19: Kaplan testing will be using chambers
  + Hope to be in new DUC theatre for that meeting
* Appointments in agenda
  + Faculty are there – we need to vote on them

**Executive Vice President – Kendrick Bryan**

* We had a great retreat! Thank you to all of those that attended. Senator Stillwell did a fantastic job moderating the event. Thank you to Senator Calhoun for her work in creating the materials.
* I am working with Senator Woosley and Vice President Pierce on legislation. I encourage the Student Senate to pass the GPS bill.
* I worked with Director Wurth on a new poster. It should appear on the Current Students page soon.
* Pat Director Dodds on the back. He relaunched the SGA site and it looks great.
* I should be in the office all day Wednesday.

**Administrative Vice President – Wade Pierce**

* No org aid this week. Interviews will start back the week after Fall Break.
* Revised budget
  + $710 of discretionary spending: mostly scantrons and blue books
* Two org aid bills up tonight – one first read one for second
* Aramark : $2282 of funding spent
* $94,441.71 total remaining

**Speaker of the Senate – Austin Wingate**

* Committee heads – thank you for sending in bills correctly and on time.
* Request: send emails of first reads and second reads will only be accepted from LRC (Eileen)
* Thanks for coming to the Retreat.

*Staff Reports*

**Chief of Staff – Charlie Harris**

* Sorry for not attending retreat – hope it was fun
* Talking with Wade about new company for new scantrons
* Jen Tougas – want to promote carpool service “Alternate Rides”

**Public Relations Director – Jessica Wurth**

No Report

**Director of Academic and Student Affairs – Billy Stephens**

No Report

**Director of Information Technology – Cory Dodds**

* New website is up – looks good
  + Let me know if you find anything that is wrong, errors, etc
  + Any thoughts or additional things you would like to see, please contact us.
  + Contact us – can submit anonymously
* iPhone version of website is in the works
* scholarship forms are updates

*Committee Reports*

**Academic Affairs Committee– Brandon Logan**

* Hope retreat went well
* Any ideas, bring them to me
* Meet in “fishbowl” right after Senate
* This committee deserves more attendance

**Campus Improvements Committee– Kaylee Egerer**

* Welcome new senators!
* Bill up for second read tonight
* Meet after at end of hall
* Short meeting – nothing new to discuss
* Happy Birthday to Ann-Blair

**Legislative Research Committee– Eileen Forsythe**

* No meeting this week due to Fall Break
* For week after that – committee heads please submit – better to have go through LRC

**Public Relations – Ann-Blair Thornton**

* Happy Birthday to me.
* Meeting last Thursday
  + Continued conversations from last few weeks
* Would like to get with Colton about video
  + Need some assistance on “Party in USA” video
* “Focus Friday” – will be sending out emails first of next week
* Currie Martin is checking prices for SGA polos
  + May have to purchase on own – if uncomfortable with using student money on tha
* Will not be meeting this week due to Fall Break

**Student Affairs – Emmy Woosley**

* There will be no meeting this week.
* Please be bringing ideas to committees.
* Have a happy and safe Fall Break.

*Special Orders*

**Senate Executive Committee – Paul Shively**

* Domestic partner benefits is being moved forward
* Liability insurance for study abroad students

**Judicial Council**

* NO REPORT

**Bowling Green City Commission Report**

* NO REPORT

*Unfinished Business*

Bill 04-10-F Funding for TRIO Program GPS Receiver

Author’s Speech: Senator Egerer

* 6 TRIO programs on campus and they need assistance.
* Friendly amendment : change comma to period and make sure bill number reads 04-10-F (rather than 04-10-FA)

No debate

*President Jessie motioned to swear in senators who were not present last week (Sheridan, Ismail, Benton)*

Motion passed unanimously.

Bill 06-10-F Funding for the New Beginnings Bicycle Ride

Author’s Speech: Senator Stillwell

No technical questions for author

No debate

Motion does pass unanimously

Bill 07-1-F

*Senator Egerer motioned to have bill constructively read*

*Senator Stillwell motioned to have bill voted by acclamation*

*Motion passed unanimously*

Bill 08-10-F

First read

Presidential Appointments

*President Jessie spoke about each of the appointees*

*Questions and Announcements*

Senator Egerer

It’s Ann-Blair’s birthday.

Senator Stillwell

Binders

Student Concern Campaign

Vice President Pierce

Did not appreciate the vote by acclamation

Senator Shively

Will committee meetings be held this week?

Speaker Wingate

There will be no meetings this week.

I am having surgery in Louisville on Thursday; I may not be in attendance on Tuesday

Remind friends to stop by office for scantrons/Blue Books

Senator Logan

Let me know if you have any teachers that will be hosting study abroad trips – please let me know – I would like to speak with those

The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm on Tuesday October 5, 2010.

Katie Stillwell, Secretary of the Senate

Student Government Association

Western Kentucky University