**Senate Meeting Agenda**

Fifth Meeting of the Eighteenth Senate – Tuesday October 1st, 2019

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Officer Reports

President – Will Harris

Executive Vice President – Garrett Edmonds

Administrative Vice President – Kenan Mujkanovic

Chief of Staff – Aubrey Kelley

Director of Public Relations – Ashlynn Evans

Director of Academic and Student Affairs – Abbey Norvell

Director of Information Technology – Paul Brosky

Speaker of the Senate – Nathan Terrell

Secretary of the Senate –

1. Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs –

Campus Improvements –

Legislative Research – Josh Zaczek

Public Relations –

Diversity and Inclusion –

Sustainability –

SAVES –

1. Special Orders

University Committee Reports

Judicial Council Report

Guest/Student Speakers



1. Unfinished Business
2. New Business

Bill 3-19-F: Funding for a scholarship for LGBT+ students through SGA.

1. Announcements and Adjournment

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 3-19-F. Funding for a scholarship for LGBT+ students through SGA.

PURPOSE:    For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $2,000 to create multiple one-time scholarships for LGBT+ students who demonstrate significant financial need through personal essays and examples.

WHEREAS:   The money will come from the scholarships fund, and

WHEREAS:   The scholarship will renew within SGA every year henceforth, and

WHEREAS:   The scholarship will be a one-time amount per recipient per year, and

WHEREAS:   Due to the higher likelihood of LGBT+ adults and youth being estranged from and receiving no aid from family compared to non LGBT+ individuals (see sources), pell grant eligibility may not be a requirement for the scholarship but may be considered in determining need, and

WHEREAS: The amount given to recipients and the number of recipients awarded may be determined by the Academic Affairs Committee based on the number of applicants so long as scholarship amounts across a pool of recipients do not vary and do not drop below $250 per recipient, and

WHEREAS: The creation of the scholarship application and grading rubric shall be a co-effort between the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion and the Academic Affairs Committee to ensure that effectiveness and sensitivity are observed within the application and grading rubric and their questions and/or requirements, and

WHEREAS: Any unaddressed logistical issues or considerations will be deferred to the Academic Affairs Committee, and

WHEREAS: “Significant financial need” may be considered as: lack of funding from parents or family for school related expenses, inability to work, inability to acquire secure transportation, being or having the possibility of becoming housing insecure, being food insecure, and any other reasonable factor as determined between the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion and the Academic Affairs Committee, and

WHEREAS: For many LGBT+ individuals, housing and employment are issues of anxiety due to the higher rates of homelessness caused by unsupportive families and discrimination, the lack of housing and workplace discrimination protections in Bowling Green for LGBT+ people (a Fairness Ordinance), and the financial and mental strain that such factors put on people of LGBT+ identity. This scholarship works to combat those specific issues and ease the financial strain on LGBT+ students, and

WHEREAS: WKU’s score on the campus pride index, a “National Listing of LGBTQ-Friendly

Colleges & Universities” that scores a university on a plethora of LGBT+ issues and inclusion, is only a 3 out of 5 stars, showing WKU’s lack of LGBT+ inclusive policies and practices. This scholarship would be one of the only “LGBTQ student scholarships” available at WKU, which resulted in WKU receiving zero stars for that section under “LGBTQ Recruitment & Retention”. This scholarship would not only help improve those scores, but push for the administration to take a lead in LGBT+ student issues such as establishing its own LGBT+ scholarship outside of SGA, and

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

University will allocate $2,000 to create multiple one-time scholarships for LGBT+ students who demonstrate significant financial and personal need through personal essays and examples.

AUTHORS:   Jillian Kenney, Senator at Large, Queer Student Union Chair

SPONSORS:  Legislative Research Committee

CONTACTS:   Queer Student Union (qsuwku@gmail.com), Transgender Non-Binary Group ([qsu.tnb@gmail.com](mailto:qsu.tnb@gmail.com)), Intercultural Student Engagement Center (ISEC) ([isec@wku.edu](mailto:isec@wku.edu))

Sources:

40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT+, according to this study: <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Durso-Gates-LGBT-Homeless-Youth-Survey-July-2012.pdf>

WKU Campus Pride Index rating: [https://www.campusprideindex.org/campuses/details/7422?campus=western-kentucky-universit](https://www.campusprideindex.org/campuses/details/7422?campus=western-kentucky-university)