SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

* The 2nd meeting of the eighteenth Senate was called to order by Nathan Terrell at 5:00 pm on September 10, 2019.
* Minutes from the last meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
* **President William Harris**
* There is now new PR material (flash drives, bottle openers, pocket wallets, etc.). Senators and students can feel free to pick them up.
* JC has 3 applications thus far, so nominations will be made once there are at least four and the new senators are installed. He has spoken with Randall Bogard regarding elections. TopNet requires names to be submitted 5 days in advance, and hopefully election codes can be voted on next Tuesday being moved up.
* Rather than a Monday-Tuesday election, it may be later in the week, to be confirmed by Randall and advertised by PR to ensure we are following the Constitution and that all prospective students can fill the senate.
* Homecoming Queen nomination needed.
* **Executive Vice President Garrett Edmonds**
* RAMP Committees have been restructured. Instead of Executive Budget committee, we have the Budget Executive committee. The Operating Allocation and Capital Allocation committees were also changed.
* He is serving on the Budget Executive committee. If you ever have any questions about university committee chairs, let him know.
* **Administrative Vice President Kenan Mujkanovic**
* No report.
* **Chief of Staff Aubrey Kelley**
* Vouchers are based on whether or not our budget is passed tonight, and will affect whether or not we can pass them out.
* New student worker is Cody Okert on TR 9-11 a.m.
* She proposes Comfort Colors T-shirts, to which Senator Whalin asks if they uphold the SGA ideal. Aubrey mentions still finding a way to make them classy.
* She has a report for the Academic Review committee per fees. She mentions that any fee before 2010 has to be resubmitted, and is purely departmental. They are working hard to eliminate unnecessary fees and Aubrey has been fighting for students—i.e. a music fee paid for by all students.
* **Director of Public Relations Ashlynn Evans**
* Organizations have reached out to her regarding advertisement. JC link for nominations is still available on our social media. Election information will be published when it is finalized.
* **Director of Academic and Student Affairs Abbey Norvell**
* She is finishing up working on the rubric and it will be done by next week.
* **Director of Information Technology Paul Brosky**
* He has posted last week’s meeting minutes, and attendance will be posted when the template is completed.
* **Speaker of the Senate Nathan Terrell**
* He encourages all to encourage others to run for SGA and to submit all legislation through LRC committee.
* He says his first nomination is Noah Moore to Secretary of the Senate. There is no debate on the nominee.
* The vote passes 14-0-1.
* Nathan then nominates Brenna Mathews for Parliamentarian.
* The vote passes 12-0-3.
* **Secretary of the Senate Noah Moore**
* He says to attend Senate meetings and speak clearly.
* **Legislative Research Chair Josh Zaczek**
* He says that as the single committee chair, to treat him as two different people. If he needs legislation sponsored, that is separate from having it approved and confirmed by LRC. He emphasizes that it is legally required to send legislation through LRC.
* **Budget Vote**
* AVP Mujkanovic displays the budget for the Senate. He got rid of the athletic marketing sponsorship. He has reallocated said money.
* Senator Whalin asks for why there are decreases in other areas when the executive budget has increased. Edmonds says that executive discretionary has decreased $200 in the past, while others have only decreased by $50. Edmonds says that the executive budget will be for special projects, such as revitalizing green space in the freshman village, such as beach volleyball courts.
* Whalin then asks if the freshman village will be done this year, to which Edmonds replies no, but says that the money will be allocated to help it push funding and get it accomplished ahead of time.
* Survance asks why scholarships have decreased and Edmonds replies that it is based on how the university budgets itself. Last year, he asks Aubrey how many scholarships were given out, to which she replies that less than 200 scholarships were given out.
* Survance then asks how their plan will find the sweet spot in the market instead of capital to students, and says that scholarships are guaranteed to work. Mujkanovic replies that there is never a guarantee. Hounshell asks about the food budget, to which Edmonds replies that food is the first to be tapped into, to which Survance motions to move food to scholarships.
* Hounshell asks why the projects fund money be under executive budget. Edmonds says that it is because they are the ones that negotiated the budget already and that $6,500 is already projected to be spent. If not used, it will flow into the senate discretionary.
* Zaczek asks why we are investing in courts, to which Edmonds speaks about retention and a foundation of family. Zaczek asks about their evaluation, to which Harris replies that NKU uses volleyball courts and are popular there, and a way to get SGA’s name out there for students.
* Whalin asks Mujkanovic why they chose to make these separate projects funds instead of discretionary. He says they chose to allocate it to ensure it is known what they are trying to do.
* Phillips asks if it is something that can allocated toward a committee, not an executive branch. They reply that they placed it there based on prior negotiations.
* Jones asks if scholarships are part of retention, to which Mujkanovic replies that that it is based on the amount of people affected by it and that retention has been dropping.
* Kenney says she appreciates the intents and says that spending our money on this since it is such a big part of our budget. She doesn’t think that it should have gone through executive cabinet.
* McCoun asks if the freshman village project will be benefited by this to which Edmonds replies that this is not to aid the freshman village. He says this is an area of campus where students will be, with ideas for wellness. He says that there can be a bill to reallocate resources.
* Hounshell motions to move into debate, Moore seconds.
* He motions to move projects to senate discretionary.
* Survance adds an amendment to put $3,000 in scholarships and $3,500 in senate discretionary.
* The motion passes 10-4.
* The executive team pulls the budget from the agenda, thus tabling the remaining bills.
* Zaczek motions to suspend the bylaws to hear from the executive team, there is a second.
* The motion passes 10-3.
* President Harris mentions that he does not want to be without a budget and wants to work with everyone in the organization. He wants a real discussion now that bylaws are suspended.
* Whalin says that this is not personal, but instead that the thought process behind cutting scholarships should not be at the cost of the most vulnerable students on campus. Jones says there is a possible compromise.
* Harris suggests taking $1,500 from Special Projects Fund, $700 from Executive Discretionary and $750 from Senate Discretionary. They recommend a special joint-committee with Senate and Executive branches.
* Speaker Terrell mentions that the budget has been pulled so it cannot be voted on today.
* Kinney proposes to rehash out the bill the following week and moving it up to unfinished business the following week.
* Edmonds emphasizes that this is simply a projection, but he wants to get others on campus to join in and help fund these projects. Harris mentions $5000 for beach volleyball and $1500 for hammocks as these projections.
* Clark asks when they would know whether or not these funds would be used for special projects, to which Harris replies this semester.
* Whalin motions to move back into bylaws, there is a second.
* The motion passes unanimously.
* Hounshell motions to table bills 2-19-F and 1-19-F. There is a second.
* The motion passes unanimously.
* **Announcements**
* Homecoming Queen candidates
  + Ashlyn Jones accepts her nomination, and is our Homecoming Queen candidate.
* Randall Bogard says to be respectful furing discourse and open to new ideas and new senators.
* The meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.