**Senate Meeting Minutes**

Fifth Meeting of the Twenty-First Senate – Tuesday, 21 September 2021

Before the meeting, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Bud Fischer spoke to the members of SGA regarding his role as chief academic officer for the university as well as his goals for this year with specific emphasis on student success. Many senators voiced their concerns about various aspects of student life. Dr. Fischer encouraged those interested in continuing the conversation to contact him. His office is located in the Wetherby Administration Building Office 239 and his email is [robert.fischer@wku.edu](mailto:robert.fischer@wku.edu).

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The meeting was called to order at 5:47 PM.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Twenty-eight senators where present.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. The previous week’s minutes were approved with unanimous consent.
4. **Officer Reports**
   1. President Matthew Wininger
      1. Pres. Wininger nominated Roderick Maul, a doctoral candidate from Birmingham, AL, with previous experience as an SGA senator, for Senator-at-Large.
         1. Nominee Maul spoke on his qualifications and previous experience in SGA.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
            1. One question was asked about how Maul’s experience as a doctoral candidate could benefit his experience in SGA. Maul responded that he really wishes to assist new members of SGA and be a resource particularly for authoring legislature.
            2. Two speeches in affirmation were given referencing Maul’s extensive bill authorship and role as a graduate teaching assistant.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Maul was confirmed to the Senate with unanimous consent.
      2. Pres. Wininger nominated Fatin Yaro, a doctoral student and Fulbright Scholar from Burkina Faso with previous experience as an SGA senator, for International Senator.
         1. As Nominee Yaro was absent, Pres. Wininger spoke on his qualifications and previous contributions to SGA.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
            1. Two speeches in affirmation were made regarding Yaro’s dedication to SGA and the value of his voice as an international student.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Yaro was confirmed to the Senate with unanimous consent.
      3. Pres. Wininger nominated Addison McCoun, a senator with previous experience leading the Legislative Research Committee for Committee Head of the Legislative Operations Committee.
         1. Sen. McCoun spoke on her qualifications and interest in continuing her work with LOC.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
            1. Two speechs in affirmation regarding McCoun’s passion for SGA were given.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Sen. McCoun was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
      4. Pres. Wininger nominated Calleigh Powell for Committee Head of The Committee of Outreach and Student Experience.
         1. Sen. Powell spoke on her qualifications and goal of reaching student voices not heard through other RSOs.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Sen. Powell was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
      5. Pres. Wininger nominated Zachary Skillman for Committee Head of The Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee.
         1. Sen. Skillman spoke on his qualifications and interest in expanding recycling to off-campus students and decreasing on-campus food insecurity.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Sen. Skillman was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
      6. Pres. Wininger nominated Olivia Blackmon for Committee Head of the Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
         1. Sen. Blackmon spoke on her qualifications and ideas for exploring the different facets of diversity and promoting events to bring different groups of people together.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
            1. A question was asked about Sen. Blackmon’s regarding the involvement of LGBTQ students. Blackmon responded that she would like to first connect with students to hear their perspectives, and perhaps organize a round table to respectfully discuss issues faced by the LGBTQ community.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Sen. Blackmon was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
      7. Pres. Wininger nominated Shelby Robertson, a senator with previous SGA experience, for Committee Head of the Committee of Enrollment and Student Experience.
         1. Sen. Robertson spoke on her qualifications and initiatives involving PR to prospective and new students as well as increasing accessibility of offices for students seeking resources.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
            1. One speech in affirmation was made regarding Robertson’s passion for WKU and SGA.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Sen. Robertson was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
      8. Pres. Wininger nominated Alex Cissel for Committee Head of the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee.
         1. Sen. Cissel spoke on her qualifications and goals of promoting health from the inside out and completing the GLS Suicide Prevention Grant.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
            1. One question was asked regarding Cissell’s approach to emerging from COVID restrictions. She responded that she believes in providing information and resources, but not forcing a harsh return to normal life. She instead promotes allowing a smooth and gradual transition for students.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question.
         4. Sen. Cissell was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
   2. Executive Vice President Me’Lon Craighead
      1. Congrats to our newly confirmed Committee Heads!
      2. Please reach out if you have ideas for legislation or are looking for ideas
      3. Please reach out if interested in serving on Faculty Senate
      4. EVP Craighead nominated Senator McCoun to serve as the SGA representative on the Parking and Transportation Services Appeals Committee.
         1. McCoun spoke on her qualifications and desire to help students.
         2. Time was allowed for questions, debate, and speeches in affirmation or negation.
         3. Speaker Welch called the previous question
         4. Sen. McCoun was confirmed by the Senate with unanimous consent.
   3. Administrative Vice President Reed Breunig
      1. Org Aid Application is available on website
      2. Please reach out to RSOs about completing application
      3. Working on expenses report
      4. Please reach out if interested in serving on Org Aid Committee
      5. Shout out to Speaker Welch for doing a great job with the SGA Retreat!
   4. Chief of Staff Parker Raybourne
      1. Please sign the thank you card for Dr. Fischer
      2. Stop by the Office this week to get to know the desk workers and Exec Team
      3. Exec Meeting Minutes on Exec Branch tab on website
      4. Thank you for all your contributions to SGA
      5. Please reach out if there is anything you need
      6. Potter College fundraiser at Blaze on Thursday (9/23/21)
   5. Director of Public Relations Alexis Courtenay
      1. Sent email with signature templates if interested
      2. Hilltopper Hangout
         1. Please be there 4:45-8:15, will send out an email with assignments
         2. Let Dir. of PR Courtenay know if you are unable to attend
         3. Please promote event with friends and RSOs
         4. Will be in office all day on Thursday (9/23/21) making buttons, please come help!
   6. Director of Information Technology Jamison Moorehead
      1. Budget and Org Aid Information on website
      2. New senators have been added to website
      3. Will update committee information this week
      4. Please send information on initiatives for the “Initiatives” page on website
   7. Director of Academic and Student Affairs Trib Singh
      1. Scholarship applications will be available soon
      2. Please promote the RSOs you are involved in to come to Hilltopper Hangout
   8. Speaker of the Senate Tess Welch
      1. Legislative Information
         1. Please use the provided template for legislation
         2. Whereas clauses end with “, and”
         3. Last whereas clause ends with a period
         4. Transition words not needed in whereas clauses
         5. Don’t included opinions, instead use explanations and justifications
         6. Use only as many whereas clauses as needed and delete the extra
         7. A special title is not required for amending constitution or bylaws
         8. For the author line, include name and position
         9. Legislation must be sent by Thursday before meeting to be on next agenda
      2. Please come meet with Speaker Welch if you did not attend retreat, meeting will count as half of one office hour. For those who attended retreat, the retreat will count as office hours for September. Please still complete office hours form, have it signed by Exec Member, and turn into any office worker
      3. Committees will be announced today, please meet with committees after adjournment to plan meeting schedule
      4. Speaker Welch then announced Senate Committee assignments
5. **Special Orders**
   1. Student COVID Taskforce – Pres. Wininger
      1. COVID helpline is on WKU Website
   2. Senator of the Month Election – Speaker Welch
      1. Nomination form will be sent out and nominations due Tuesday (9/28/21) at 4:00 PM
6. **Adjournment**
   1. Sen. Baum moved to adjourn the meeting.
   2. Motion was seconded.
   3. Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.