Senate Meeting Minutes

Ninth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, October 31st, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
	1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on Tuesday, October 31st, 2023, at 5:00 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
	1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
	2. Absences
		1. Senator Carmona
		2. Senator Plumb
	3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
	1. President Caboni
		1. Hugh Poland and Douglass Keen Halls are “tired” and the University is working towards a replacement strategy for these facilities.
			1. The “other half” of the freshmen village
		2. A similar project as the Commons will be done with Cherry Hall.
			1. These projects are possible through alumni donations and state legislature
				1. $75 million towards the GFCB project
			2. None of these projects have increased WKU debt
		3. The average GPA for incoming freshmen this year is 3.49
			1. The university is aiming for a 3.5 average GPA next year
		4. The university is partnering with Bowling Green and other organizations to use the Bowling Green Trolley to take students to polling locations
	2. Senator Cisco asked why classes haven’t been cancelled for Election Day in the past
		1. President Caboni stated that there is shared governance within the university higher-ups, and that there was not a feasible way to have Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break, and Election Day all days when classes were not held.
	3. Senator Robinson asked what Caboni would like to see changed on campus regarding sustainability and improvement if money was no object
		1. President Caboni stated that Bowling Green eliminated its recycling program, and he would love to start a recycling program again
		2. He stated that he would like every freshman to have the opportunity to participate in an LLC
		3. He stated that if Kentucky’s economy continues in the way it has in the past years, there may be some opportunity for Academic Complex and Minton to be reevaluated in the future
	4. Senator Blood asked if Grise Hall would be torn down
		1. President Caboni stated that it makes more sense long term to take it down and do something else, and that he hopes by 2027 it will be gone.
	5. The university owns properties around campus that will provide opportunity for expansion should it become necessary.
		1. The university is currently at 17,000, and wants to maintain its intimate feel and close relationship with faculty, 20,000 is really the maximum that the current facilities can hold
	6. Senator Bryant asked President Caboni to address the athletic overspending
		1. He stated that the athletic department essentially owes this money to WKU and will pay it in full.
		2. President Caboni stated that there are only five self-sustaining D1 schools. The experience for WKU student athletes is very good compared to similar schools.
		3. When the weekday games air, they are the only football games on television and increase engagement significantly.
			1. 1.7 million people viewed one of the weekday games

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
	1. Quote of the Week: “Neigh hilltoppers!”
	2. It is very important that everyone exercise their right to vote next week!
	3. President Kurtz recommended that committees try and meet before homecoming if possible
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
	1. If anyone needs help writing a bill, EVP Finch is more than happy to help.
	2. If anyone has interest in helping EVP Finch with her Veterans Day Bill, please reach out to her.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
	1. The budget will be updated next week.
	2. AVP Leon gave examples of how his committee went about formulating legislation last year.
		1. Two key questions: What do you need? How can we help you?
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley**
	1. 11/14 – SGA Thanksgiving party after Senate Meeting
	2. 11/28 6:30 – SGA Christmas party after Senate Meeting
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
	1. Thank you to everyone who asked Caboni questions
	2. SGA will have a tent for homecoming
	3. Scholarships are due within the next month!
		1. Study abroad does not hinder scholarship applications
	4. He encouraged the Senate to write impactful legislation and hold impactful committee meetings.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
	1. No report.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
	1. Scholarships are due November 23rd at 5:00 PM
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
	1. Make sure to vote for SGA candidates for homecoming! Sydney is our SGA Rep.
	2. We are still meeting next week; homecoming events are not an excuse to miss SGA
	3. Please don’t lie on excuse forms or office hours to get out of coming to SGA
		1. Office hours are due 5:00 PM Friday November 3rd
	4. Legislation must be turned in by 10:00 AM on Mondays
	5. There have been many absences for committee meetings
		1. Committee meetings should not be cancelled frequently, nor should members be absent during committee meetings on a regular basis
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
	1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
	1. Senator Evans is appointed to the Parliamentarian position
		1. Senator Evans gave a speech stating that she is excited to be nominated.
		2. Speech in affirmation by Senator Bodemann
			1. Senator Evans is a very hard worker
		3. Voice vote
			1. Unanimous yes
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
	1. Tabling for scholarships
		1. SignUp Genius on the way, please sign up!
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
	1. Senator Dilts shared that their committee created a G-mail account to keep things more simple
		1. Sga.stu.outreach@gmail.com
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
	1. Cherry Hall bathrooms – “Cherry Stall Initiative”
	2. Safety Walk November 16th at 5:00 PM
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
	1. Tomorrow DEI is meeting at 5:00 PM instead of 6:30 in the SGA office
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
	1. Moving up two bills next week
	2. World Kindness Day
		1. Coffee, Cookies, etc.
	3. Tabling at HRL Hope on the Hill
		1. November 16th
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
	1. Meets Tuesdays at 4:00 PM

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
	1. Good job justices for getting office hours
		1. Yay Ellen! Woo
	2. Absences have started to become a real issue
		1. If you must leave early for other engagements, an absence form needs to be submitted
		2. Committee meetings require an absence form!!!
	3. JC has decided to start being a little stricter with absences
		1. Point of information by Senator Pierce
			1. Can committee meeting locations be put on the website?
				1. Yes
2. University Committee Reports
	1. Student Life Foundation – **Annie Finch**
		1. No report.
	2. Committee on Academic Quality – **Annie Finch**
		1. No report.
	3. University Athletic Committee – **Kaison Barton & Julia Duggins**
		1. First meeting last week, talked over sports schedules and what days athletes will be missing class.
	4. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee – **Rush Robinson, Dylan Carmona, & Megan Farmer**
		1. No report.
	5. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee – **Tanner Blood**
		1. No report.
	6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
		1. No report.
	7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Ella Wooton**
		1. No report.
	8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Kayla Distler**
		1. First meeting next Tuesday
	9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
		1. No report.
	10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
		1. No report.
3. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
	1. Senator Evans sworn in as Parliamentarian.

**8. Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Aberle made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM.