Senate Meeting Minutes

Sixteenth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, February 13th, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on February 13th, 2024, at 5:04 PM by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Bodemann
      2. Senator Barton
      3. Senator Pabin
      4. Senator Ibrahim
      5. Senator Potter
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.
4. **Guest and Student Speakers**
   1. Jennifer Smith: Legislative Update
      1. Ms. Smith is WKU’s Legislative liaison, she does Government and External Relations for WKU! Visit the Government Relations website [www.wku.edu/govrelations](http://www.wku.edu/govrelations) to stay up to date!
         1. Currently tracking HB 6 (budget), SB6 (discriminatory concepts), HB9 (DEI), and HB228 (post-secondary review).
   2. Best Buddies Club
      1. Best Buddies Club came by to say thank you for the SGA Special Olympics event!
   3. Senator Distler motioned to move out of bylaws.
      1. Senator Distler motioned to move 28-23-S into Unfinished Business as it is Time Sensitive
         1. Approved
      2. Senator Payne motioned to move 23-23-S into Unfinished Business as it is Time Sensitive
         1. Approved
            1. Motion to move back into bylaws by Senator Payne, approved.

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today” -FDR
   2. Meeting about AVP Leon's censure by the Executive Cabinet is coming up.
   3. Uber Vouchers- Exec initiative from Project funds
      1. Improve student safety.
      2. $10 voucher, 450 total.
      3. Giveaways
         1. Weekly report on Instagram, enter Uber voucher giveaway, pick 25 students over the next 9 weeks via Instagram engagement.
         2. In person- 10 vouchers per meeting, 80 total vouchers given out. This is to encourage WKU students to attend SGA meetings.
         3. Event giveaways: 16 vouchers for exec, 49 will be for direct use of the Senate.
            1. Email Chief of Staff Reed if you would like to give out vouchers at the event.
         4. Scholarship opportunity, 80 total $10 vouchers
      4. Overall
         1. Ensure student safety, Benefit Bowling Green economy, Boost student Engagement, and Outreach for SGA- For the Students!
            1. Totals $4671.05 from the Exec Projects fund
            2. Sent out an email with more information, Instagram post coming soon.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. Everyone from Hilltopper Hall is moved out, WKU provided resources, and most students stayed on Campus and are in Macormick Hall.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. Thank you for reaching out last week.
   2. Great turnout at the SGA Special Olympics event, thank you!
   3. Appoint Karley Solarzano to the Organizational Aid Board
      1. Senator Solarzano will do her best to fulfill this position.
      2. Senator Farmer gave a speech in affirmation citing Senator Solorzano’s great work with the DEI committee.
         1. Vote by voice
            1. Unanimous yes
   4. Let’s work for the students!
4. Chief of Staff – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Congrats to AVP Leon on his Special Olympics Event.
   2. Scantrons and Bluebooks are restocked.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. New SGA Merch designs
      1. Links for Quarter Zip and Crew Neck coming soon by email.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Recently updated the website with the new calendar.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. Next visit to Greenwood HS this Friday.
   2. Black History Month Scholarship due 23rd, grading them the 29th, sign up to help grade (counts for office hours).
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Please be respectful during guest speakers and pay attention.
   2. Represent the student body, we can’t take political stances on SGA.
   3. February Office hours due the 29th.
   4. As an SGA Senator that means you are required to be here from 5:00-7:00 PM.
   5. Compared to last year's SGA we are at 28 bills, only a 5-bill difference from last year. Doing great, keep up the great work!
   6. Legislation Writing Workshop “Bill-to-Bill” Wednesday, February 28th casual event.
      1. Start working on legislation now.
      2. LOC will have a station at the event and will review bills during the event.
      3. Snacks and prizes!
      4. Counts for double office hours.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Livi Ray**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Reminder bills must be turned in by noon on Wednesdays.
   2. Meet on Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Student Activities Workroom.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Scholarship tabling next Wednesday (office hours).
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Madison Payne**
   1. Calendar up on the SGA website
      1. Send events to Senator Payne.
   2. Look out for an interest email coming soon about the Pediatric cancer event.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Goody bag initiative in the works.
   2. 3 pieces of legislation coming up next week!
   3. Meetings at 4 pm on Tuesdays in room 3016.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. Met with the Engagement and Opportunity officers.
   2. Legislation in the works
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Sophia Bryant**
   1. The Mental Health and Wellbeing committee offers their condolences for last week's tragedy.
   2. Discussing events for Denim Day in April.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Dress for success drive coming up.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. 6-0 Censure of AVP Leon
      1. JC ruling that Projects Money was spent before the passing of the bill.
      2. Reach out if you have questions.
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. No report.
   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. Met with them and talked about the accountability of Dean’s Budgets.
   6. Faculty Welfare Committee – **Thomas Pabin**
      1. No report.
   7. Graduate Advisory Council – **Jaden** **Marshall**
      1. No report.
   8. Colonnade General Education Committee – **Chloe Ralston** 
      1. No report.
   9. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – **Carly Wheat**
      1. No report.
   10. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee – **Madison Payne**
       1. No report.

**8.Unfinished Business**

1. Resolution 18-23-S
   * 1. Proposing that WKU Parking fines should not be able to exceed $50.
        1. Senator Distler worked for the PTS, and noted that it is a $100 fine for parking in a handicapped spot, and asked the authors if they would consider amending to exclude disability parking zones.
        2. Speaker Denney, author, motions to add a clause between 7 and 8 to exclude disability and safety parking zones.
           1. Amendment taken as friendly, Vote by voice, unanimous yes.
2. Bill 19-23-s
   * 1. Proposing a $700 scholarship fund for WKU student Parking citations.
     2. The authors explained that this helps financially vulnerable students.
        1. Senator Robinson asked about the appeal process.
           1. The authors stated that those in an appeal process for their parking ticket would not be eligible to apply.
        2. Vote by voice
           1. Unanimous yes.
3. Bill 23-23-S
   * 1. Funding for Vouchers for the ID center and dental hygiene
        1. The authors explained that this is a signature service of SGA and helps students.
        2. Vote by voice
           1. Unanimous yes.
4. Bill 28-23-S
   * 1. Funding for Valentines Tabling Event
        1. The authors explained that this bill was passed last week, but we cannot purchase flowers with state funds, so they are amending the bill to strike flowers and add ‘paper’.
           1. Amendment taken as friendly, Vote by voice, unanimous yes.
           2. Senator Ferguson gave a speech in affirmation.
           3. Vote by voice

Unanimous yes.

**9. New Business**

First Reading:  2/13/24

Second Reading:  2/20/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Resolution 24-23-S:  Resolution to Support Expanding Benches or Awnings at Topper Transit Stops on Campus

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the expansion of seating and awnings at Topper Transit bus stops on campus.

(1)WHEREAS: Many of the Topper Transit bus stops do not have adequate seating for individuals to utilize while waiting for their bus, and

(2)WHEREAS: The following stops do not have benches and/or awnings:

Campus Flats, Jones Jaggers, Meredith Hall, PFT, Regents & Chestnut, DSU, PS1, Grise Hall, The Commons, McCormack Hall, The Valley, Florence Schneider Hall, Gordon Wilson Hall, COHH, Cherry Hall, Chestnut North, Ky St. and 13th Ave, and 12th Ave & Center St., and

(3)WHEREAS: Awnings provide shelter from inclement weather including rain, snow, high winds, hail, etc., and,

(4)WHEREAS: Seating at bus stops allows for individuals to comfortably wait for the bus, and

(5)WHEREAS: Those waiting for the bus are often utilizing the sidewalk to sit on, thus limiting sidewalk availability for pedestrians.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports the expansion of seating and awnings at Topper Transit bus stops on campus.

AUTHORS:  Karley Solorzano – Senator At Large

Layne Pea – Senator At Large

Kayla Distler – College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

SPONSORS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CONTACT: Karley Solorzano | [karley.solorzano711@topper.wku.edu](mailto:karley.solorzano711@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 25-23-S. Funding for the Office of Sustainability**

PURPOSE:     For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

allocate $500.00 to the Office of Sustainability.

(1)WHEREAS:     The money will come from Legislative Discretionary, and

(2)WHEREAS:     This office is responsible for many initiatives on campus, including a food and resources pantry that is accessible to all students, and

(3)WHEREAS:     The money will be used to offset the low resources within the pantry and potentially fund sustainability projects brought forth by the student body, and

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

University will allocate $500.00 to the Office of Sustainability.

AUTHORS: Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

SPONSORS:   Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

​​ Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

                                      ​

CONTACTS:   Leslie North, WKU Director of Sustainability, [leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:leslie.north@wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Resolution 26-23-S. Resolution to encourage sustainability initiatives by charging a $5.00 sustainability fee to students.**

PURPOSE:​ For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support an initiative that would fund sustainability projects by charging students a $5.00 sustainability fee per semester.

(1)WHEREAS:​ Many schools have a “green fee” to fund sustainability projects on campus such as University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University, and University of Louisville, and

(2)WHEREAS:​ WKU has had inadequate funding to support our sustainability programs in the past, and

(3)WHEREAS: ​ This has caused our progress to plateau over the years without funding to pursue new ventures, and

(4)WHEREAS:     The money that is acquired from the fee will go directly to fund the Office of Sustainability, and

(5)WHEREAS:​ The purpose of the Sustainability Office is to promote equity, the environment and the economy of WKU. Any project funded through this fee would ultimately invest in student experience and/or result in long term cost savings to the university, and

(6)WHEREAS:​ For the price of a cup of coffee each semester, the students of WKU are able to reinvest in not only the campus, but specifically in the Office of Sustainability, and

(7)WHEREAS:​ This is one way that WKU and it’s scholars can demonstrate to state leaders that we are an institution that innovates when it comes to sustainability, and

THEREFORE:​  Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support an initiative that would fund sustainability projects by charging students a $5.00 sustainability fee per semester.

AUTHORS: ​ Rush Robinson, Sophomore Senator

SPONSOR: ​ Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

CONTACTS:​ Leslie North, Director of Sustainability

[Leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:Leslie.north@wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/20/24

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 27-23-S. Funding for Gift Bags for WKU Students**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $585.00 to purchase gift bags for students.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS:  The money will be used to purchase $59.98 worth of pens, $38.20worth of pencils, $19.99 worth of fidgets, $104.97 worth of lip balm, $62.93 worth of notepads, $113.94 worth of Liquid IV, $38.36 worth of Emergen-C, $74.95worth of gum, and $34.95 worth of packaging, and

(3)WHEREAS: Handing out the gift bags will give students some basic products that they may need in order to better their learning experience, create a more comfortable and productive study environment, and support their overall well-being during the remainder of the semester, and

(4)WHEREAS: While opting for an eco-friendlier option of these products will be more expensive it will be a physical representation of how the Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee is trying to support a greener campus.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $585.00 to purchase gift bags for the students of WKU.

AUTHORS:​ Ella Wooton

Rush Robinson

SPONSORS:  Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee​

CONTACTS:  Dr. Leslie North

[leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:leslie.north@wku.edu)

**10. Announcements** Rally forhigher education, March 7th

**11. Adjournment**

1. Senator Pierce made a motion to adjourn.
2. The motion was seconded by Senator Hornback.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

First Reading: 2/6/2024

Second Reading: 2/13/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Resolution 18-23-S. Resolution to Support Lowering Parking Fees Incurred by Students**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

support the lowering of parking fees incurred by students in order to aid students who are financially vulnerable.

(1)WHEREAS: WKU Parking and Transportation Services offers students the opportunity to purchase a yearly parking pass in which they are eligible to park in designated areas on campus, and

(2)WHEREAS: Parking passes can cost a student upwards of $200 annually and any parking violation incurred ranges in cost from $10-$600, and

(3)WHEREAS: As there is a lack in physical parking areas and parking resources, parking violations have become common among WKU students, and

(4)WHEREAS: In addition to worrying about tuition, housing costs, etc., students should not have to be consistently concerned about extra fees that are not inherent to earning a degree, and

(5)WHEREAS: According to National Library of Medicine, “financial stress impedes student’s ability to succeed academically… and impacts their social lives. Students experiencing financial stress find it challenging to navigate relationships with wealthier peers, often leading to feelings of isolation and embarrassment,” and

(6)WHEREAS: According to WKU’s Common Data Set 2022-2023, over 62% of WKU students were determined to exhibit financial need which makes them financially and academically vulnerable, and

(7)WHEREAS: WKU Parking and Transportation Services parking violations should not exceed $50, as over half of WKU’s student population is proven to be financially vulnerable,

(8)WHEREAS This would not apply to parking violation for disability and safety parking zones, and

(9)WHEREAS: As WKU is ultimately an academic institution, academic success should be one of the many primary considerations in all business decisions, and

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

University supports the lowering of parking violation fees incurred by students.

AUTHORS: Sydney Denney, Speaker of the Senate

Donte Reed, Chief of Staff

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS: Sydney Denney, Speaker of the Senate

[Sydney.denney780@topper.wku.edu](mailto:Sydney.denney780@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/6/24

Second Reading: 2/13/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 19-23-S. Funding to Pay for Student Parking Fees**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to

allocate $700 to help pay parking fees incurred by financially vulnerable students.

(1)WHEREAS: The money will come from the legislative discretionary budget, and

(2)WHEREAS: WKU Parking and Transportation parking fees range from $10 to $600, per violation, and

(3)WHEREAS: Unresolved parking violations can hinder a student’s academic career, as unpaid tickets can keep a student from receiving transcripts, their diploma, etc., and

(4)WHEREAS: According to WKU’s Common Data Set 2022-2023, over 62% of WKU students were determined to exhibit financial need, and

(5)WHEREAS: Providing funding to students who exhibit financial need not only improves the student experience, but also sets students up for future academic success, and

(6)WHEREAS: WKU SGA has a Parking and Transportation Appeals Committee; therefore, providing funding would aid in solving an issue that has proven to be prevalent enough for SGA to previously intervene, and

(7)WHEREAS: As each parking violation costs $10-$600, the $700 would be split between the students with the most deserving applications until the fees being paid reach $700, and

(8)WHEREAS: Students who received citations as a result of parking in disability parking or a fire lane are not eligible for this grant, as those zones are designated for marginalized groups and community safety, and

(9)WHEREAS: Students would apply and be required to exhibit financial need and prove parking violation debt, with all applications being graded according to the same procedures WKU SGA scholarship grading follows.

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

University will allocate $700 to provide funding for paying for student parking fees.

AUTHORS: Sydney Denney, Speaker of the Senate

Donte Reed, Chief of Staff

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACTS: Sydney Denney, Speaker of the Senate

[Sydney.denney780@topper.wku.edu](mailto:Sydney.denney780@topper.wku.edu)

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/13/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 23-23-S. Funding for vouchers for the WKU Dental Hygiene Center and ID Center.**

PURPOSE:     For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $2,000.00 from the Legislative Voucher Program budget for the fall and spring 2023-2024 WKU ID Center and Dental Hygiene Vouchers.

(1)WHEREAS:     For the fall semester, students used $955.00 total in vouchers between the ID Vouchers and Dental Hygiene Vouchers, and

(2)WHEREAS: For the spring semester, there is $1,045.00 remaining from the Legislative Voucher Program Budget, and

(3)WHEREAS:     For the spring semester, the remainder of the Legislative Voucher Program ($1,045.00) will be split 62/38 between the Dental Hygiene Clinic and ID Center vouchers. The Dental Hygiene Office will receive $650.00 and the ID Center will receive $390.00. This will give 26 vouchers to the Dental Hygiene Office and 39 vouchers to the ID Center, and

(4)WHEREAS:   Through the voucher program, students are able to get a $10.00 (50%) discount when receiving a new ID and a $25.00 voucher for completely free services at the Dental Hygiene Clinic, and

(5)WHEREAS:   Students are immediately and positively impacted by the availability of the vouchers that SGA provides. The use of these vouchers enables students to have access to a service that many have trouble affording.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will distribute $650.00 for the Dental Hygiene Clinic and $390.00 to the ID Center,, for a total of $1,040.00. The remaining five dollars will be allocated back to the Legislative Discretionary Budget.

AUTHORS:   Donte Reed, Chief of Staff

                    Anne-Marie Wright, Junior Senator

SPONSORS: Enrollment and Student Experience Committee

CONTACT: Millie Glessner, WKU Dental Hygiene Clinic Office Manager

(270) 745-2427

First Reading: 2/13/24

Second Reading: 2/13/24

Pass: Yes

Fail:

Other:

**Bill 28-23-S:**​**Funding for the Valentine’s Day Tabling**

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $300 for Valentine’s Day Tabling.

(1)WHEREAS:​ The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Budget, and

(2)WHEREAS:​ The money will be used to purchase candy, cookies, colored paper and donuts to be given out to students, and

(3)WHEREAS:​ The event will be held on February 14 to promote positivity on campus.

THEREFORE: ​ Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $300 for Valentine’s Day Tabling.

AUTHORS:​​ Sophia Bryant, Senator At Large

​​​ Megan Farmer, Senator At Large

​​​ Kayla Distler, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Senator

SPONSORS: ​​Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee

​​​ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

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