Senate Meeting Minutes

Fourth Meeting of the Twenty-Third Senate - Tuesday, September 5th, 2023

1. **Call to Order**
   1. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order at 5:00 PM on September 12th, 2023, by Speaker of the Senate Sydney Denney.
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Roll was called by Speaker Denney
   2. Absences
      1. Senator Bodemann was absent.
      2. Senator Barton was absent.
   3. Quorum was met.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. Minutes were approved.

**4. Guest and Student Speakers**

**5. Officer Reports**

1. President – **Sam Kurtz**
   1. Quote of the Week: “The hardest things in life are worth the most.”
   2. President Kurtz reflected on his meeting with the 2018 SGA President. He told the Senate how far SGA has come, and how important it is that we have a common goal as a Senate. He encouraged the Senate to write lots of legislation.
   3. President Kurtz explained that the student DJ concert cancellation provided the funds for the new couch and furniture in the SGA office. He explained that the couch could not be purchased until the budget was approved. $1,500 of the Executive budget was spent on the couch.
   4. SGA, Red Wave, and the IFC are hosting an event together on October 17th. The event will be called Topper Tuesday. Its goal is to promote the C-USA Tuesday football games. This event will be an interactive tailgating experience. The event will feature a livestream of the away game, live music, the Battle of the DJs Concert, and a livestream of the away game. President Kurtz stated that any volunteer work for this event will count towards office hours.
2. Executive Vice President – **Annie Finch**
   1. EVP Finch stated that there are four university committee positions that need to be filled.
      1. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
      2. Colonnade General Education Committee
      3. Graduate Council Committee
      4. Faculty Senate & Budget Committee
   2. Senator Pierce asked when the nominations will be approved
      1. EVP Finch stated that it will be a case-by-case basis.
3. Administrative Vice President – **Salvador Leon**
   1. No report.
4. Chief of Staff – **Lyndsey Kelley** 
   1. Chief Kelley described the voucher program, stating that the program helps waive the cost for student experiences.
      1. Dental Hygiene – covers the full cost of $25
      2. ID Center & Preston Center – covers half of the cost
   2. She stated that the Dental Hygiene vouchers generally receive the most funding.
   3. She described the Earn-A-Computer program and stated that she will have more information moving forward.
   4. She told the Senate that there will be a new system put in place for Executive Cabinet Office Hours.
5. Director of Public Relations – **Preston Romanov**
   1. Director Romanov thanked the Senate for outreach regarding the fall election. He stated that there are 24 candidates filed to run. He said that there has been a dramatic increase from the years past elections as far as number of candidates go.
   2. He reminded the Senate that next week is fall elections, and to continue the outreach and encouragement of student voting.
      1. He stated that there will be some amendments to the WKU Constitution on the ballot this year.
   3. He thanked everyone who stopped by the SGA Open House last week and encouraged the Senate to stop by the office to see the updates.
   4. The polo order will be processed this week. There is an SGA merchandise order in the works.
   5. He stated that SGA tabling is an opportunity for committees.
   6. SGA tailgating is back! Director Romanov shared that there will be more SGA tailgates as the semester moves forward.
6. Director of Information Technology – **Aniya Johnson**
   1. Director Johnson stated that the website is updated with the new Senate as well as the legislative archive.
7. Director of Enrollment and Student Experience – **Donte’ Reed**
   1. Director Reed stated that there is a Breast Cancer Awareness event in the works for October 6th at 6:00 PM. Participants will walk around campus. There will be free water, shirts, and potentially free ribbons. Sydney Denney and Tonya Sine will be speaking at the event. There will be 5 $100 scholarships raffled off. There will be a raffle to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness. SGA is hoping to partner with other organizations like WKU Panhellenic and IFC for this event.
8. Speaker of the Senate – **Sydney Denney**
   1. Speaker Denney shared that the New Senator Orientation is September 23rd from 10-12PM. Senators must contact Speaker Denney regarding absences.
   2. Speaker Denney shared that Senator Pierce will be going over when legislation is due for the week and when LOC meets.
   3. Legislation is due Monday at 10:00 AM to Speaker Denney.
   4. Speaker Denney stated that legislation must be in New Business for one week before it can be moved to old business and presented.
   5. She also shared that the budget has been passed by the Senate, and there should not be any pulling money from other budgets for the Senate’s use. Speaker Denney stated that the $10,000 in Legislative Discretionary is meant to last the entire year.
9. Secretary of the Senate – **Sarah Vincent**
   1. No report.

**6. Committee Reports**

1. Legislative Operations – **Meghan Pierce**
   1. Senator Pierce stated that this meeting is the last call for Parliamentarian. LOC’s first meeting is September 13th at 6:00 PM in the Greek Room.
   2. She requested that legislation be emailed to her by Wednesdays for LOC to review.
   3. She stated that the turnaround time for legislation sitting in her email to it being debated on the Senate floor is around 2 weeks. She added that bills should be passed around one week before the event or deadline.
      1. AVP Leon stated that closer to 2 to 3 weeks is more helpful.
2. Enrollment and Student Experience – **Anne-Marie Wright**
   1. Senator Wright stated that they are open to suggestions for what to raffle off for the Pink Walk.
3. Outreach and Student Experience – **Griffin Plumb**
   1. No report.
4. Campus Improvements and Sustainability – **Rush Robinson**
   1. Senator Robinson stated that Will Hemenover came to speak to their committee today. They had lots of good ideas.
      1. Senator Wooton wants to put a squirrel watering hole in place across campus.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – **Karley Solorzano**
   1. Senator Salorzano stated that meetings will be on Thursdays at 6:30.
6. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing – **Callison Padgett**
   1. Senator Padgett shared that their meetings will be Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in Student Activities.
   2. They are working on a few bills right now.
7. Community Relations – **Maiah Cisco**
   1. Senator Cisco stated that their committee is working on a local scholarship and speaking with the Warren County County Clerk about SGA providing absentee ballots to the WKU population.
   2. Their committee meets on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM.

**7. Special Orders**

1. Judicial Council Report – **Isaac King**
   1. Chief Justice King thanked Senators for coming to the Election Codes meeting.
   2. He stated that there will be a Constitutional Referendum.
      1. Any college specific Senators must meet with the Dean of their college.
   3. The Chief Justice Verdict Award goes to Senator Payne.
   4. Judicial Council meets at 5:30 in the conference room.
2. Swearing in – **Isaac King**
   1. No positions to swear in.

**8. Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

1. AVP Leon encouraged the Senate to come to the OLAS event this week and reminded the Senate about OrgAid applications.
2. Senator Robinson stated that the WKU Best Buddies meeting will be September 12th at 7:30 PM.

**Adjournment**

* 1. Senator Aberle made a motion to adjourn.
  2. The motion was seconded by Senator Flatt.
     1. The motion failed.
     2. Roll Call Vote to adjourn
        1. 26 No
        2. 1 Yes
  3. Senator Aberle made a motion to adjourn at 5:44 PM.
  4. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson.
  5. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM.