



Senate Meeting Minutes

Third Meeting of the Twenty-Sixth Senate - Tuesday, September 1st, 2026

1. Call to Order

- a. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on September, 1st 2026, at 5:04 PM by Speaker of the Senate Veronica Butler.

2. Roll Call

- a. Roll was called by Speaker Butler.
- b. Absences
 - I. No senators were absent
- c. Quorum was met.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Minutes were approved.**

4. Guest and Student Speakers

5. Officer Reports

a. President: **Caden Lucas**

- i. What's up everybody, I hope your week has gone well!
- ii. Appointments:
 - a. Emma Hardesty appointed as junior senator
 - b. Elizabeth Allen appointed as PCAL senator
 - c. Joey Willoughby appointed as Junior senator
 - d. Elliot Tapp appointed on the judicial council
- iv. All four candidates were approved by the senate and appointed into their respective positions
- v. Just as a reminder, there are still two senators at large positions vacant right now, as well as a position on the judicial council.
- vi. DAA applications are now open, you should have received an email from me.
- vii. You also got an email from me about the Alumni Networking Committee, please let me know if you are available to participate by tomorrow.
- viii. As you all know we gave out a raffle for an SGA scholarship. We drew a winner and I'm excited to welcome Mr. Bryce Combs as our winner!

b. Vice President: **Jakob Barker**

- i. First off there's a few things we need to celebrate, so let's all sing happy birthday to Caden Lucas whose birthday was yesterday!
- ii. Scholarships are Live today! Today we are also launching our new scholarship which is our Non-Traditional Scholarship. Sometimes the people who are needing the scholarship the

most, don't fit the criteria of any of the scholarships.

iii. I do want to point out that you all are all able to apply for those scholarships, however, if you are wanting to grade those or you are on exec, you are unable to apply for them.

iv. We also combined it so that all those scholarships are completely online and found on our website.

v. Scholarships are due November 13th at 11:59, that gives us plenty of time to get the word out

Vi. I also have to appoint people to the university committees so if you're interested in that send me an email!

c. Chief Financial Officer: **Will Derryberry**

i. Sup SGA, best day of the week!!

ii. Also, it wasn't just Caden Lucas' birthday, it's also Henry Fisher's birthday today!

iii. One of the coolest things I get to do as CFO so far is getting to go over the WKU budget as a whole.

iv. OrgAids coming out soon, Caden and I will be meeting soon to get emails to all the RSOs.

V. We will be voting on the budget in unfinished business today.

d. Chief of Staff: **Gabi Pace**

i. Hi everybody, happy second meeting!

ii. If the budget passes, the dental hygiene, ID vouchers, and transcript vouchers will be available tomorrow.

iii. Remember to reach out to me as you guys start writing bills, check with me if the office already has the supplies you need.

iv. Tell you friends about scantrons and bluebooks.

e. Chief Communications Officer: **Cayden Bailey**

i. Happy Tuesday!

ii. The scholarship post is going out after this meeting, I need everyone to engage with this post by reposting, commenting, etc.

iii. I'm going to send out a spreadsheet just to confirm that everyone's t-shirt sizes are correct. T-shirts will be ordered tomorrow.

iv. Email me with all your graphic requests.

v. OrgAid post should be out next Tuesday.

vi. One thing that I want to bring back is weekly or Bi-Weekly SGA recaps, if you would like to be a part of those please reach out to me.

f. Speaker of the Senate: **Veronica Butler**

i. Thank you all for being here today!

ii. I am going to be meeting with our committee chairs hopefully before the week is up so be on the lookout for that.

g. Secretary of the Senate: **Molly Ricke**

i. Hey y'all! If each committee could send me y'all's meeting minutes each week that would be phenomenal! Please have the date, the time you met, name of committee, and who was present & Absent! My email is molly.ricke398@topper.wku.edu. Thank you! Have a great week!

6. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Operations Committee: **Amelia Tucker**

i. What is up everybody! We reviewed three pieces of legislation this week.

ii. After discussion we have decided to move our meeting back to 5:05 PM

iii. We have nominated myself to be senate paralamination.

b. Enrollment and Student Experience: **Jackson Smith**

i. Henry Fisher will be our vice president and Emily Oden will be our secretary.

c. Outreach and Public Relations: **Gage Czirr**

i. We had our first meeting today!

ii. We just went over a lot of ideas of what we can do this year within our committee.

Iii. Molly Ricke will be our secretary.

d. Campus Improvements and Sustainability: **Ethan Vietze**

i. Our committee meetings will be after the Senate meeting each week.

e. Action and Opportunity Committee: **Jade Ismail**

i. We will meet every Tuesday at 4, so please join us!

Ii. We have a bill on the agenda today.

f. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing / Campus Safety and Security: **Tyreesha Morris**

i. We had our first meeting today, I can't wait to work with Trent and Miles!

g. Campus Safety and Security Committee: **Elizabeth Allen**

I. Our committee will be meeting every Thursday from 5:00 to 5:45 Pm.

h. Community Relations: **Landon Terry**

i. We will meet every Tuesday after the Senate meeting.

ii. Our vice chair will be Hylton Brumley and our Secretary will be Miranda Heuglin.

7. Special Orders

a. Judicial Council Report: **Sophie Stirling**

i. Code meetings are September 15th and 16th.

ii. Elections are September 23rd through 25th.

iii. If you cannot make it to a meeting, please send me an excuse 24 hours before by using the form on the website.

iv. Caden and I will be filming a video soon about elections.

b. Swearing In: **Sophie Stirling**

Sworn In:

1. Emma Hardesty

2. Elizabeth Allen

3. Joie Willoughby

4. Elliot Tapp

5. Amelia Tucker

c. University Committee Reports (**NO REPORTS**)

i. Committee on Academic Quality:

ii. Master Plan Committee:

- iii. University Athletic Committee:
- iv. Parking and Transportation Services Appeal Committee:
- v. Faculty Senate Budget and Finance Committee:
- vi. Graduate Advisory Council:
- vii. Colonnade General Education Committee:
- viii. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:
- ix. Faculty Welfare Committee:
- x. Student Life Foundation:

8. Unfinished Business

2026-2027 SGA Budget

9. New Business

Bill 1-26-F. Funding for continued expansion of the Adirondack Chair Project at Western Kentucky University

Bill 2-26-F. Funding for WKU Office of Sustainability Food Pantry's Hygiene Product Needs

Bill 3-26-F. Funding for the Stand Together September Initiative

10. Announcements

I. President Lucas said to remember to check your emails

11. Adjournment

- a. Senator Terry made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- b. The motion was seconded by Senator Petruska.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.



First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 1-26-F. Funding for continued expansion of the Adirondack Chair Project at Western Kentucky University

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate \$554.99 for the expansion of the Adirondack Chair Project.

WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Fund, and

WHEREAS: One of the most popular activities among WKU students is to enjoy the beautiful green spaces on campus, and

WHEREAS: The Adirondack Chair Project, beginning in Spring 2025, sought to provide WKU students with Adirondack chairs located on popular places around campus to further enjoy such spaces, and

WHEREAS: The initial project has been perceived by the student body as popular and useful, thus warranting the expansion of these tangible resources, and

WHEREAS: This project has not yet been expanded into the Freshman Village, but with the reopening of Regents and Normal Hall this is an ideal time to bring something new to this area, and

WHEREAS: The chairs would first be placed by Zacharias and Meredith halls, with the intent to potentially move towards Regents and Normal Halls after the lawn area next to the halls is able to grow, and

WHEREAS: The WKU Housing and Residence Life (HRL) also owns Adirondack Chairs and has pledged to follow suit in placement around campus areas meaning further extension of this project into HRL maintained spaces would not necessary after the purchase of these initial chairs, and
WHEREAS: The bill will allocate \$50.00 to Home Depot to purchase 22 sets of weatherproof nuts, washers, and bolts to prolong the life of the chairs, and

WHEREAS: This bill will allocate funding to purchase a set of four (4) Westin Adirondack Chairs from Amazon at \$126.25 each and 22 sets of weatherproof nuts, washers, and bolts with a total cost of \$554.99, bringing the total chairs available for student enjoyment on campus to twelve (12), and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate \$554.99 to fund the expansion of the WKU Adirondack Chair Project.

AUTHORS: Simon Petruska - Senator At Large
Amelia Tucker - Senior Senator

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee
Campus Improvements and Sustainability Committee

CONTACTS: Dr. Catherine LaRoche - Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement
Jeremy Howell - Inwood Management Operations Director
Bryan Russell - Chief Facilities Officer

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 2-26-F. Funding for WKU Office of Sustainability Food Pantry's Hygiene Product Needs

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate \$65.88 for WKU Food Pantry hygiene items.

WHEREAS: The money will come from the legislative discretionary fund, and

WHEREAS: The WKU Office of Sustainability Food Pantry is a longstanding partner of SGA that provides support, nutrition, and assistance to Hilltoppers in need, and

WHEREAS: After speaking with the Food Pantry, the most pressing need is hygiene items, specifically
shampoo, conditioner, and bodywash, and

WHEREAS: The goal of SGA is to be "for the students" and students who needed these products would be greatly helped by the presence of such items on the Food Pantry's shelves, and

WHEREAS: This funding would purchase 12 bottles of shampoo, 12 bottles of conditioner, and 12 bottles of body wash at Walmart to be distributed at the discretion of the Food Pantry, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate \$65.88.

AUTHORS: Amelia Tucker - Senior Senator

SPONSORS: Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS: Dr. Leslie North - Director - WKU Office of Sustainability

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 3-26-F. Funding for the Stand Together September Initiative

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate \$62.98 for materials and space associated with the Stand Together September suicide prevention awareness initiative.

WHEREAS: The money will come from the Legislative Discretionary Fund, and

WHEREAS: The requested appropriation of \$62.98 will be used to purchase 2 large canvases for \$32.99, one 400-pack of glow sticks for \$14.99, and reserve the SGA Chambers in Downing Student Union for \$15.00, and

WHEREAS: Paint, paintbrushes, markers, and other art materials necessary for the event will be provided from existing supplies in the SGA office at no additional cost, and

WHEREAS: Stand Together September is a suicide prevention awareness initiative led by the Action & Opportunity Committee and the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee, in collaboration

with the WKU Counseling Center, Queer Student Union's Friends of Ruby initiative, and members of the WKU community, and

WHEREAS: The initiative will include a suicide prevention outreach and tabling event on Monday, September 14th during which students will have access to Counseling Center resources, information about suicide prevention and mental health support, and information about the culminating Stand Together September event, and

WHEREAS: During the outreach tabling, students passing by will be invited to contribute to a large collaborative canvas through paintings, words, and other messages of hope, support, connection, and community, and

WHEREAS: Following the outreach event, SGA representatives will complete and prepare the collaborative canvas to be displayed in the WKU Counseling Center as a representation of WKU students coming together in support of suicide prevention and one another, and

WHEREAS: The Stand Together September closing event will take place on Tuesday, September 29, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM immediately following the SGA Senate meeting, and

WHEREAS: Participants will receive glow sticks and take part in a suicide prevention awareness walk

around South Lawn centered on the message that every member of the WKU community carries a light that belongs here, and

WHEREAS: Following the walk, representatives from the WKU Counseling Center and members of the WKU community will be invited to provide brief remarks on suicide prevention, mental health resources, hope, connection, and support, and

WHEREAS: Participants will also have the opportunity to voluntarily contribute to a video for the larger WKU community by sharing one thing that brings them joy or light in their lives, with the goal of extending the event's message of hope and connection beyond those in attendance, and

WHEREAS: Through the collaborative canvas, prevention outreach, awareness walk, community speakers, and student video, Stand Together September will provide multiple opportunities for WKU students to engage with suicide prevention resources while reinforcing a campus culture of connection, support, and hope.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate \$62.98 to fund materials and space for the Stand Together September suicide prevention awareness initiative.

AUTHORS: Jade Ismail, Action & Opportunity Committee, Chair
Tyreesha Morris, Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee, Chair

SPONSORS: Action & Opportunity Committee Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee

CONTACTS:

Saturn Miller, Queer Student Union Friends of Ruby Head

saturn.miller@wku.edu

LaTeisha Butler, WKU Counseling Center Director

