



Senate Meeting Minutes

Fourth Meeting of the Twenty-Sixth Senate - Tuesday, September 8st, 2026

1. Call to Order

- a. The regular meeting of the WKU Student Government Association was called to order on September, 1st 2026, at 5:00 PM by Speaker of the Senate Veronica Butler.

2. Roll Call

- a. Roll was called by Speaker Butler.
- b. Absences
 - I. Senator price
 - ii.Senator Martin
- c. Quorum was met.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Minutes were approved.**

4. Guest and Student Speakers

a. **WKU President Timothy Caboni**

I. Thank you all for the invitation to come visit with you!

Ii. Thank you for your leadership on this campus, the work you do if effective. The goal is to make life better for WKU students. I know you are all busy but I hope that the work is personally rewarding for you all.

Iii. I was reminded about tailgating. Tailgating was not always this way and I wanted to tell you a quick story about how we got to where we are. I visited with IFC fraternity presidents in the fall of 2019 and we decided to make 3 rules. 1. Put it in a solo cup 2. Don't be rude 3. I need you to go to the game after tailgating. My request to you is to have a great time but to go into the game after.

iv. We had a tremendous year, WKU second Truman scholar, speech and debate national championship, Canoe team won a national championship, our floral design team also won a national championship, volleyball also won a regular season and tournament championship, many others as well, we had a year of success!

V. One of the things I wanted to share with you is the success we've created around students. We had 74.9 percent retention rate last year. We set the goal of 80 percent retention, 60 percent graduation. All of that to be said, we think the WKU environment creates that.

vi. Really proud that we got Normal and Regents reopened.

vii. Elevate WKU, in the fall of 2028, we will open a new residents hall that will be hotel and suite style. After this the Valley will come down as phase two, probably another 1,000 bed dorm building. Then PFT will probably follow after. Cherry hall will reopen next fall, transformed into a building where students who need to be supported will be. The marble and staircases will stay exactly as they are. In 2029 the new AC complex will open.

Viii. WKU next fall will offer its first PHD in research science

ix. I do know that we do have a concert scheduled!

X. Entered a period of questioning.

- a. Senator Hardesty expressed that she's an RA and asked Do y'all have any plans to keep housing affordable for our students

Caboni responded: Yes, 1. The rates will not have to increase at any level than they have been with the student life foundation 2. How do we set the structure of having multiple price options within the same building? We will be offering multiple styles like single, double, quad. I find it kind of crazy that our most expensive option is less expensive than others most expensive on other campus's

- b. Senator Smith asked if there are any plans to make pickleball courts or sand volleyball courts somewhere on campus

Caboni responded that there will probably not be any right outside of residential halls but possibly on south campus or other locations.

- C. Addison Bonham asked what grise hall will be replaced with

Caboni responded that it likely will be green space.

D. Senator Tucker asked President Caboni's thoughts on development on the Bus systems as well as if the bus system will ever run out to the agriculture campus.

Caboni responded that this has never been brought up to him. The way it was explained to him was that it's better to have four buses on two routes rather than one bus on three.

- E. Student Body President Caden Lucas asked what Caboni is most excited for this year.

Caboni responded that he loves football and is very excited for parents and family weekend. He marched in the band at LSU so he loves our marching band. He expressed that he does this job for commencement, when he shakes students hands he loves the proud look in students eyes. Commencement really motivates him.

5. Officer Reports

- a. President: **Caden Lucas**

- i. What's up everybody, It's good to see you all again! We have a lot of things to get through!

- ii. Appointments:

- a. Addison Bonham appointed on the Judicial Council

- b. Marrisona Mudd appointed as Senator At-Large

- iii. Both appointments were passed by the Senate

- iv. There is still one more Senator At-Large spot available, please let me know if you know anyone!

- v. Constitution day is on thursday september 17th, we will be hosting constitution fest and this will also be the official kickoff for SGA 60! Come help out and be a face!

- vi. Three volleyball games are coming up. If 100 or more students show up, athletics will be drawing on students' names for a \$1000 scholarship. Spread this info and get that out!

- vii. Save the date for our 60 years of Alumni on Saturday November 14th around 10 am/10:30 were hosting our alumni breakfast, be on the lookout for more concrete info on that!

- viii. Hit me up with any questions!

- b. Vice President: **Jakob Barker**

- i. Hi guys! I have just a few things today.

- ii. I'm super excited to announce some permanent longer hours at dining areas for this semester. They are pulling data from this to see if it is worth it to do this.

iii. Appointments for faculty and staff committees

- a. Simon petruska
- b. Isaiah wilson
- c. Molly ricke
- d. Henry fisher
- e. Landon terry
- f. Jackson smith
- g. Amelia tucker
- h. Ethan vietze

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

- i. Sup guys! Great to see yall!
- ii. It's OrgAid season! It's officially up on the website. Cayden and I are working on an email to send to all RSO presidents. The due date will be September 29th
- iii. The only money we spent this week was on the T-shirt order for the Senate
- iv. Make sure your spending amount is the exact same as it is written on the bill

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

- i. Hi everyone!
- ii. The dental vouchers and all the vouchers have been going great. We've passed out 16 out of 24 of the dental vouchers
- iii. Tell all your friends about all the programs we have
- iv. The office hours forms are in the office
- v. if you need to make a meeting with exec, we all have calendly links

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

- i. Please share, repost, all the things. Just do it please!
- ii. Orgaid post will be going out tonight
- iii. T shirts should be getting to yall by next tuesday
- iv. By no means should any senator be sending out a student all email, please come ask me to do that for you
- v. We have a logo for SGA 60!

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

- i. Thanks to everyone who has signed up for the polleveryone account!
- ii. E-voting will make things a lot easier, please make sure you have that account logged in so that you can vote on our legislation tonight
- iii. The committee head meeting went well!

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

- i. Hey yall! You guys have done a great job at sending me those meeting minutes! The only thing I ask is that they're in a powerpoint or google doc form instead of just copied and pasted into an email to me! Thank you! Have a great week!

6. Committee Reports

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

- i. If you ever have any questions about what it looks like to write a bill, I'd be happy to assist you in that!

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

- I. We're finalizing our student experience survey right now

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

- i. What's going on you guys!
- ii. We talked a lot about our weekly senate meeting on instagram, to let students know exactly what we do here!
- lii. Were in the beginning stage of collabing with the Mental Health and Wellness committee to begin toppers talk about it
- Iv. Reach out to us with any ideas you have, we meet 4-5 every Tuesday! We love hearing everyone's feedback!

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

- i. We have some ideas about extending the calculator program and RSO presidents being able book a room in DSU on their own

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

- i. We Meet every tuesday at 4:10!

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

- i. We met with Gage's committee today to discuss plans for toppers talk about it!

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

- I. September is usually the month that is national campus safety
- Ii. Veronica Butler joined our meeting this week to help chip in on some ideas

h. Community Relations: **Landon Terry**

- i. We're trying to work around some complications we ran into with Pink Walk
- ii. Were reaching out to Dr.Simpson with a potential collab with ACDC
- Iii. In the works for a TopNet reconstruction

7. Special Orders

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

- i. Today I'll be going over what we changed in the election code packet.
- ii. Went over things that were changed in the election code packet
- iii. Added an extra signature at the bottom of the codes packet

b. Swearing In: **Sophie Stirling**
Sworn In

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

Election Codes for Fall 2026 Election

- Electronic vote
- Unanimous Yes

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

- Presented by Senator Tucker and Petruska
- Senators requested to amend the bill to change to \$53.68
- Senator Brumley raised concern about pollen in the spring in the location outside of Meredith
 - Tucker responded that these chairs are easily movable
- Senator Harvey gave an affirmation of this bill
- Electronic Vote
- Unanimous Yes

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

- Presented by Senator Tucker
- Senator Wilson asked why we don't just get 12 bottles of three in one
 - Tucker responded that some students may need these supplies separately
- Senator Willoughby asked if were looking for people with different hair types
 - Tucker responded that in expansion of this bill that may be beneficial but the pantry has none at the moment and thinks this bill would be beneficial just to get on their campus
- Senator Vietze gave an affirmation of this bill
- Tucker motioned to amend the bill to add the Campus Improvement and Sustainability to sponsor this bill
- Senator Allen gave an affirmation of this bill
- Electronic vote.
- Unanimous yes

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

- Presented by senator ismail
- Senator Ismail asked to amend the bill to September 21st
- No question.
- Senator Marshall spoke in affirmation of this bill.
- Electronic vote
 - Unanimous Yes

9. New Business

10. Announcements

I. Derryberry gave a shoutout to Simon on his recent engagement!

11. Adjournment

- a. Senator Tucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- b. The motion was seconded by Senator Terry.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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First Reading: 9/1/2026

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: 9/1/2026

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: 9/1/2026

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