

## SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

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- The twelfth meeting of the sixteenth Senate was called to order by Ryan Richardson at 5:00 pm on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- The minutes from the last Senate meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- **President – Andi Dahmer:** Andi outlines the importance of the strategic planning committee. PowerPoint presentations will be given for each working group in the following order: Student Success and Experience; Academic Excellence and Innovation; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavor; and Budget Efficiency and Infrastructure. There will be two appointments during the Judicial Council report. There will be pizza party on the Wednesday of finals week from 11:30-1:00 in ISEC (attached to the SGA office) to promote dialogue. We will be implementing voter registration drives next year. There will also be health and safety games during tabling next year as well. February 6<sup>th</sup> is the date of the rally in Frankfort. We will leave campus around 6:30am and will meet with several other institutions at the capital. They will also be reviewing involvement in university committees over winter break. The letter in support of Title IX has been officially signed and will be delivered to the Department of Education on Friday. Tomorrow at 4pm in Centennial Mall there will be a gathering to show solidarity for graduate students. Police updates will be made more expedient. She is in favor of Bill 34-17-F, 35-17-F, supports the Fairness Ordinance for the Bowling Green community, Major Redz, and clarifying senate debate procedures.
- Student Success and Experience Committee – Connor Hounshell: He discusses their goals to assist all students and working towards an applied learning approach. They have identified three core skills and competencies students should have.
- Academic Excellence and Innovation Committee – Andi Dahmer: Their goals are to engage all students, make sure colleges communicate more with each other (interdisciplinary collaboration), more engagement in research, improving faculty morale, evolving student needs, and merit-based pay for faculty.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – Francisco Serrano: He lists contacts for students to reach out to, outlines their mission statement, and asks students how

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they would like to be more involved. Their meetings are extremely transparent and students can watch them online if they would like.

- **Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavor Committee – Kara Lowry:** This committee consists of both faculty from WKU and members of the community in order to do research that can help the community as well. Participating in research has been shown to improve retention. They also aim to become more nationally competitive and draw students to the university for that reason.
- **Budget Efficiency and Infrastructure Committee – Andi Dahmer:** This group is different than the Budget Council because they look more at future planning than current budget changes. Being a student-centered institution, all of their planning revolves around the students. Therefore, they are aiming to find ways to make students feel attending WKU is more affordable for them.
- **Question and Answer:** The PowerPoints outline the five working groups; however, there is also a Steering Committee that works to make one comprehensive document of what the working groups have discussed. The idea of veering away from grades and towards skills is discussed. They have officially voted against removing the modern language requirement as it currently stands. The buzz phrase has been “retention, persistence, and graduation” by making students feel WKU is more financially accessible and that they are cared about and will receive assistance from the faculty. In order to continue to attract faculty, tenure will not be removed, and more time will be dedicated to research than teaching. WKU is currently in a hiring freeze. Faculty are required to do research for tenure purposes; however, they would like to encourage faculty to integrate students more into their research. Suggestions for a research-based class are made. There is currently a lot of debate over whether or not to focus on recruiting local or international students. They have also discussed raising the Composite Academic Index Score (CAIS), which is an average of ACT scores and GPA.
- **Executive Vice President – Savannah Molyneaux:** Budget council is trying to finish everything before their February deadline to submit recommendations to president Caboni. Parking and Transportation Services will now be accepting two items from a list that will be sent to students to get a late fee reduced. Let Savannah know if your schedule next semester will no longer allow you to attend your university committee.
- **Administrative Vice President – Kara Lowry:** A budget update is given. Organizational Aid funding has now officially run out.

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- **Chief of Staff – Connor Hounshell:** He also serves on the Faculty Welfare Committee. The potential for merit pay was discussed.
- **Director of Public Relations – Amy Wyer:** PR is looking to have more specific tabling events next semester. Next week’s holiday party will be after the meeting. There will also be special gifts for senators at the holiday party.
- **Director of Academic and Student Affairs (DASA) – Emily Houston:** She is the student representative on the search committee for the new Provost and Director of Academic and Student Affairs. They are planning to get SGA involved in the process in order to gain student input. The person they are hiring will start on July 1.
- **Director of Information Technology – Smita Peter:** Office hour attendance is now available on the SGA website. Committee meeting minutes will also be made available on the website.
- **Speaker of the Senate – Ryan Richardson:** Bill 33-17-F, Bill 36-17-F, and Bill 38-17-F were voted on last week, disregard them on the agenda.
- **Secretary of the Senate – Asha McWilliams:** No report.
- **Academic and Student Affairs – Ashley Cox:** No report.
- **Campus Improvements – Garrett Edmonds:** No report.
- **Legislative Research – Lillian Nellans:** The pieces of legislation that we will be voting on tonight have all been cleared by Legislative Research. They will be meeting after senate.
- **Public Relations – William Hurst:** No report.
- **Diversity and Inclusion – Corey Newsome:** They will be meeting after senate.
- **Sustainability – Ian Hamilton:** No report.
- **SGA SAVES – Ashlyn Jones:** No report.
- **Judicial Council Report – Annalicia Carlson:** The ballot is ready for Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> on TopNet. They have clarified that senate has the power to impeach a senator and the Judicial Council can then officially remove senators.
- Ashton Jones’ nomination as a Senator at Large is approved by unanimous consent.
- Chief Justice Annalicia Carlson appoints Ashton Jones as a Senator at Large.

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- Corey Newsome’s nomination as the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is approved by unanimous consent.
- Chief Justice Annalicia Carlson appoints Corey Newsome as the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
- **Student Speaker – Hunter Smith:** Crime statistics in Bowling Green are outlined.
- **Unfinished Business**
- **Bill 31-17-F**
- Bill 31-17-F is passed by unanimous consent.
- **Bill 32-17-F**
- Bill 32-17-F fails.
- **Bill 34-17-F**
- Bill 34-17-F is passed by unanimous consent.
- **Resolution 6-17-F**
- Resolution 6-17-F is passed by unanimous consent.
- **Resolution 7-17-F**
- Resolution 7-17-F is passed.
- **Resolution 8-17-F**
- Brigid Stakelum makes a friendly amendment changing “preform” to “perform.”
- Resolution 8-17-F is passed by unanimous consent.
- **Bill 36-17-F**
- William Hurst makes a friendly amending adding “add Section 5.4 on speaking procedure” after “to” in the Therefore clause.
- Emily Houston makes a friendly amendment changing “officer reports” to “officer reports and university committee reports.”
- Bill 36-17-F passes by unanimous consent.
- **Announcement – Francisco Serrano:** The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the DSU ballroom.

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- **Announcement – Andi Dahmer:** Thanks senators for attending the strategic planning forum.
- **Announcement – Lily Nellans:** This Thursday in DSU Room 2081 from 7-8:30pm the Planned Parenthood club will be having a forum on abortion.
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58 pm.