West Virginia University

Student Government Association

December 2nd, 2015

E Moore Hall, 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order – 7:36 PM
2. Roll Call
3. Vice Chair Merow - p
4. Governor Dirkman - p
5. Governor Fitzwater - p
6. Governor Humphrey -p
7. Governor Kaska -p
8. Governor Kiess -p
9. Governor McIntyre-p
10. Governor Moneyhun-p
11. Governor Richardson-
12. Governor Riggins-p
13. Governor Sabatino-p
14. Governor Seabolt - p
15. Governor Thompson-p
16. Governor Waris-p
17. Governor Watson-a
18. Athletic Councilor Ferrera-p
19. Athletic Councilor Taylor-p
20. Reading and Approval of the Minutes
21. Open Student Forum I

- Heeter: We have a short meeting next week, Prof Brewster will be giving a presentation on the women’s center and the Campus Safety Act.

 a. Presentation: Big XII SGA Conference

- Brewster: We actually host this conference next year, there will about 60-80 delegates here in Morgantown next year. We have some great ideas, and we’re going to go thru some ideas that UT did. The most important part is differentiation us from other Big XII schools.

- Morgan: We’re the only school that operates with a Governor system. All of the other schools have a larger representational body w/ larger executive cabinets, we have less than 10. We differ in legislative branch for the most part. All other Big XII schools have more than 40 representatives, with 3 having 98!

- Brewster: The reason ours is like this is we wanted to be a mini-BOG for the students. Can you imagine if we had 98 people get elected? How are they held accountable? Most of these governments have VERY strict guidelines (ex. Impeachment for missing meetings)

- Morgan: All of their colleges have representatives.

- Heeter: \*shows slide with funds each government runs with\* All of the schools have bigger budgets, but they are responsible for more things on campus.

- Brewster: The reason Texas’ budget is so large is that they give up to $14000 to EVERY student org. In order for us to get to a point like OU ($4 million), we would literally be hiring people to work for SGA, such as Kim Harrison. Moving us there would require lots of job distributions.

- Kiess: Some interesting initiatives Texas does is their SGA gets a golf-cart type vehicle is they drive around and hand out t-shirts around campus. Iowa St has an umbrella share program where they can rent an umbrella and drop it off at any other location around campus. The finance director for SGA at Iowa St has a $2.5 million budget that he’s responsible for himself. Texas Tech has a program called their “Watch Party”, they let students come into the stadium and they watched it within the stadium, which is cool. Baylor University, their judicial board also serves as their student conduct board – which is much more than we have.

- Capel: Student programming is something we talk about a lot, but at OU has a Campus Activity Council (more desired position that student body president).

- Heeter: That is similar to our Arts & Entertainment program here.

- Capel: They would also be doing things like Fall Fest and or speaker events. A hot topic this year has been student fees. At OU, they have a Student Activity Fee Reserve Committee, has 9 members including SGA Pres and administrators. They decide what they’re going to charge for individual student fees. At TCU they vote on this budget by referendum, the students as a whole have to vote on it and pay for it. TCU’s student programming is “4th branch” of their Student Government. The officials within this branch are selected via an application process.

- Brewster: Yesterday, TCU decorated their entire campus Christmassy. It looked absolutely phenomenal and just looked very welcoming and warm.

- Morgan: Next are breakout sessions. George and I sat in something that was extremely influential, it was a roundtable discussion at each of our universities. We’re facing very similar issues such as diversity, campus safety, and housing at all of the Big XII schools.

- Capel: It was an awesome discussion, we gathered student opinion. They asked us how we get the students opinions on things. We thought having forums or town hall style format meetings, we could definitely be learning more about what the student body wants. It was interesting to see how things we different at the campuses and also the same.

- Merow: Some of the other schools, they sometimes have people run unopposed in certain positions or don’t fill them. I think the way WVU does it, it creates competition & cuts out dead weight.

- Brewster: What does their legislative branch deal with?

- Kiess: About the same thing. At other schools, they don’t necessarily run on a platform that they want to accomplish, they just run.

- Brewster: Every other SGA has a full time staff member that’s sole job is solely looking after SGA. I really think we’re far superior to other SGA’s around the Big XII.

- Kiess: For our breakout sessions, we all kind of divvied up. George and I went to a campus safety one, and we discussed things such as drones on campus, and the campus carry (where universities in the state of Texas can opt in/out in carrying a firearm). Apparently the use of drones in Texas is a major issue at large events. We also discussed sexual assault prevention and residence hall policies.

- Kiess: There’s a lot of issues that we have and they don’t and vice versa. Other schools have major issues where bike accidents actually happen DAILY.

- Capel: It’s good to know that we’re in the front end of knowing certain policies.

- McIntyre: We kind of dominated the diversity conversation with COF Heeter and Brewster. WV is kind of a homogenous state, same with TCU so we don’t have as much diversity such as other schools. At UT, the top 10% of every high school graduating class gets automatically admitted to UT. A lot of universities were surprised that we here in Morgantown don’t have accessibility for people with physical disabilities.

- Brewster: The VP at Texas didn’t come out and defend the black minority at her campus and the NAACP on campus actually kind of rioted against her and forced her hand to help out. A lot of the stuff was about ADA stuff, and UT has a law suit where a girl got a 3.9 GPA in high school but didn’t finish in top 10% and didn’t get in.

- Humphrey: I went to a breakout session for financial aid, and I learned a lot about how they discuss things that they go to the state legislature with.

- Morgan: We are ahead of the game when it comes to Sexual Assault on campus, here at WVU we have Konitz and other workshops to help people know how to deal with these actions.

- Merow: We think that making more students apt to step in in situations where assault is happening is crucial here in Morgantown.

- Brewster: We didn’t send anybody to the research grant funding, but our SGA doesn’t really do that, but we might consider doing it in the future.

- Heeter: We had lots of takeaways: Some schools run on a point system (if you’re not up to date, you get punished), some schools run on a calendar year, not an academic year.

- Morgan: “Frog Camp”, it’s where people who come to TCU learn all about the campus in the summer before their freshman year, kind of like Adventure WV.

- Capel: Some schools SGA works alongside other executive things within their campus (RHA, etc.), these individual groups also choose their liaison to SGA and keeps the whole campus involved on what’s happening there.

- Morgan: If anyone has any suggestions for next year, please let us know.

- Capel: One thing SGA doesn’t have is a strategic plan. WVU has one for 2020, we don’t. We need to find one for SGA and have continuity with the University and other student orgs. We need something to focus all our effort on and get things actually accomplished.

- Brewster: Some of you who are Governors now, when you leave in March – you platform dies with you. You may have been 3 meetings away, but we need to have some kind of plan to help us move forward progressively from year to year.

1. The President’s Weekly Address
* Welcome to the 2nd to last meeting of the semester, we have a “fireside chat” this evening. I’ll be brief tonight. I’d like to give notice for something that happened today, people were giving out free hugs today and that was really cool. In the spirit of service, I had the pleasure of grading Course 393, these people created projects where they were connected to student programming, everyone who was that in that class did over 40 hours of community service this semester and are coming up with great ideas for SGA in the future. I’ve done similar classes like this several times so I highly, highly recommend it. Next week we’ll have a very short meeting, but today we have lots of food for after the meeting. Good luck on finals, if you don’t know something – ASK! Happy Holidays!
1. Governor’s Reports
* VC Merow: There will be a Share-A-Swipe tomorrow at Summit, and we’ll be delivering these after Christmas break.
* Humphrey: This Friday at 11:30 in SGA, we’ll have our first ADHOC meeting. In Texas we talked a lot about campus safety, it is critical we move forward rather quickly. We hope to have a resolution next week. Tonight we have a resolution for an SGA mission statement.
* Kaska: Another Share-a-Swipe event is tomorrow, from last time we’ll be able to do more donations this time around. I want to start on working on a banquet for seniors that are graduating who have made an impact in a student org, excellent service or great grades.
* Kiess: Prof Brewster, VP Morgan and I met with Residence VP Coordinator and we made progress in what we’re trying to fulfill, we can’t announce yet – but we hope to be able to do it now. We’re also working on things for transportation and parking, and we will be working on those over break. Project Nanny was my project, named after my past-grandmother to give kits to students who have family in ICU. Brandon Waters wins the signed football. Madison Hott wins the signed basketball.
* McIntyre: I had the first meeting right before Thanksgiving, Andrew Southerland, Roshan Daniels, and Jihad Dixon are the executives for representing those who are trying to rent property here in Morgantown.
1. Athletic Councilor Reports
2. Executive Reports
* Barnhart: Hello, I have compiled together a lovely winter newsletter and I’ll be sending it out to the student body and faculty. It was very easy to participate, and I’m disappointed in those who did not. Good luck on Finals!
* Quigley: I wanted to recognize Justin Click for single handedly organizing the vigil for Paris and Beirut.
* Southerland: I’m already slowly dying because of Finals. This Saturday, Toy Mountain Shop we’ll be at the Coliseum collecting toys, I need volunteers. We’ll be meeting there by 11 AM, if you’re interested see me. On Friday I’ll be in the SGA Office preparing for next year’s community service events, if other members of the student body are interested in participating, see me. House will also be meeting to trying to figure out future plans for the International House, so they have at least some form of shelter.
1. Riseburg: At the CaC this week, Bouex Stratagem will be going on this week. On Sunday there will be a Christmas choral concert. On the 14th 7:30 they’ll be another Christmas concert with alumni coming in at. There’s a few spots left on the NYC trip, see me if interested.
2. Harrison: Today is the day that Presidents have the right to announce their tickets, no one else! Thanks!
3. Unfinished Business
4. New Business

Resolution: Gov Humphrey reads said resolution.

Questions: N/A

Discussion: N/A

* Morgan: If you have any questions or concerns talk to Gov. Humphrey/Kiess.

Recall Roll

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Gov. Seabolt motions to add Executive Appts to agenda, 2nd – Kaska.

* Heeter: This is Gabby, she’s in the service dog training program. Unfortunately, Shannon Redman isn’t here tonight but he’s hoping to become our Big XII liaison, any questions? We’re also trying to be our Graduate Student Liaison.
* Turani: I’ll be the liaison between SGA and Graduate Student Senate, this is our first year as an org and we’re trying to get all the help we can get. So if I can do anything to help, please get in contact with me.

Questions?

Gov. McIntyre motions to move on ballot via secret ballot, 2nd – Richardson.

* VP Morgan: Since Shannon isn’t here due to academic conflict, can we get a motion.

Gov Waris motions to vote on this appointment via secret ballot., 2nd – Seabolt.

BOTH APPOINTMENTS PASS

1. Open Student Forum II
* Justin Click: I’m serving as the VP for WVU’s Reproductive Justice Club, this Sunday from 3-5 we’re having a meeting.
* Morris: I’m the President of the Young Dems, this coming Thursday is our last meeting of the year. We’re averaging about 20 people a night which is a huge increase for us, next semester we’re trying to increase participation in turn with the upcoming election.
* Horter: As Historian, I’m assembling a database for this administration. If you have anything you want in our database, please send it my way. I’d love to do a presentation about this as it continues to grow.
* VP Morgan speaking for Attorney General Blair: We only received 3 Governor’s reports this week, if you guys could send those in now.
* VP Morgan: I’d love to hand these out to the residence halls to help students know about upcoming changes in the spring semester.
* Merow: Hi, I’m Julie Merow and I’m a diehard Mountaineer fan. I’ve been very proud to be a part of this University. WVU is closer than ever to reaching its full potential, and I want to lead this leap. It’s been a great privilege being on the BOG, but we need better representation here on campus. My running mate is Governor Mac McIntyre.
* McIntyre: I can say without hesitation that Julie Merow has what it takes to lead this University. For myself, the student body at this University needs to realize that everyone has a voice. I’d like to see an all-inclusive SGA, and if you share our vision JulesMac2016.com is our website, please check it out.
1. Advisor’s Reports

Farris: There’s pizza and soda here in the back, good luck on Finals!

1. Announcements – \*VP Morgan reads announcements\*
2. Adjournment – 8:47 PM

Announcements

There will be a Share a Swipe event at Summit Grab ‘n Go and Towers Brew ‘n Gold all day tomorrow. Please contact Julie Merow at jemerow@mix.wvu.edu or Amber Kaska at aakaska@mix.wvu.edu if you would like to help!

Toy Mountain and SHOP need volunteers for the Dec. 5th toy collection at the Men’s basketball game.  The game starts at 12:30PM, but volunteers need to be at the gates (blue, red, gold and green) by 11AM. Please contact Andrew Sutherland at adsutherland@mix.wvu.edu for details.

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