

West Virginia University
SGA Meeting 11/08/2017 2017-2018 Administration
Call to Order – at 7:30PM
Hatfields B, Mountainlair Student Union
Morgantown, WV

Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

“We, The students of West Virginia University, desiring to preserve within our university an atmosphere of open exchange of ideas with discussion, inquiry, and self-expression to insure the person freedoms and general welfare of the student within our University, to promote principles of diversity and to continue in our tradition of responsible self-governance, do hereby establish this Constitution of the West Virginia University Student Government Association.”

Roll Call

President Pro Tempore Brewster- present, i
Senator Alotaibi- present, i
College Representative Amato- present, a
Senator Arbogast- present, a
Senator Ball-
Senator Cawley- present, i
College Representative Cuomo- present, i
*College Representative Dent-*present, i
College Representative Frazier- present, i
Senator Giles- present, i
Senator Gupta- present, a
College Representative Hartwell- present, i
Senator Henriquez- present, i
Senator Hoang- present, i
College Representative Howard- present, i
Senator Hunt-
College Representative Kaminski- present, i
Senator King- present, i
Senator Kyle- present, i
Senator Leasor- present, i
Senator Osborne- present, i
College Representative Scott- present, i
Senator Sizemore- present, i
College Representative Shoemaker- present, i
College Representative Ulman- present, i
Senator Vijay- present, a
College Representative Williams- present, i
Senator White- present, i
College Representative Wolfe- present, i

Minutes from last week have been approved.

Open Student Forum I

a. WVU Connect App – Meredith Balas, WVU Alumni Association

Meredith Balas- Hello everyone, I work at the WVU Alumni Institution. I wanted to talk to you all about WVU Connect, it's a pilot program that is intended to promote internships. These come from our alumni who are looking to mentor students and recent graduates to help connect them to potential careers. It is not meant to be social media, but to seek out mentorship and give mentorships. On the site, you can check off jobs that you are willing to do. You can have your resume reviewed through the site. There are also people who are willing to meet with students, not only in Morgantown, but many places in different states. If this is something you would be interested in, I will leave my contact information. If you are interested, we will send you the application.

PPT Brewster- How would you like us to let you know if we are interested?

Meredith Balas- You all can email me, its mab0098@mail.wvu.edu.

Senator King- Today is the WVU Day of Giving, so if you have any picture you have with President Gee, please post it so we can get \$10,000 once we reach 1,000 pictures with Gee.

Chief Waters- After the past week and finding out everything that happened with Troy Clemons and his DUI, I wanted to get feedback about what you all think about the situation and MAC's response to it.

Representative Amato- I have a unique view not being from WV, but because WVU has a party mentality, people outside of the state have reached out to me saying that they aren't surprised the university did not punish him.

Senator Henriquez- I am going to talk from a different view. Freshman year, I was arrested for underage drinking and it scared me so much. In this, I think that we need the space to do these things and learn from our mistakes. I think the university has his best interests at heart, and going forward, alcohol abuse will be talked about. But I think he deserves a second chance.

Senator Cawley- I recently did an interview about my thoughts on this, but I did want to share a story with you guys. When I was sixth grade, my dad got a DUI and he blew a point above Troy. At the time I didn't realize the magnitude of his actions, but it is very serious and it should be acknowledged as such.

PPT Brewster- I respect Troy greatly, but he did make a very poor decision and I'm sure he regrets it. However, if any of us got a DUI, we would be impeached immediately. Troy is the face of the university, and he represents WVU and the state of West Virginia. This is more than just reflecting bad on WVU, but the state as a whole.

Senator Osborne- The NCAA mascots are considered division one athletes, and all other athletes are given a minor suspension for crimes such as DUI's. There is a quarterback that is being considered for the highest college football award even after his DUI.

Executive Nistendirik- This all makes me think of a girl from my high school that was killed by a drunk driver, so I don't think a suspension is just because it reflects that the university condones it.

Representative Williams- Since Troy is a representative for our university, it shows that the university accepts his behavior. And I am not a fan of going to a university that is considered somewhere that accepts illegal activity.

Senator Arbogast- If we look at it as whether he would have killed someone, he would be in jail just like anyone else regardless of him being a mascot.

Executive Brown- I do believe in second chances, but as a friend of a victim of a drunk driver, I cannot condone this.

Chief Waters- You can give second chances without keeping him as the Mountaineer. My sister was killed when I was in high school, so this hits home with me. The university goes after some people much harder than others, and I want to hear from the university on why they are complicit with a DUI committed by a representative of the university.

The Presidents Report

President Humphrey- I agree with all of this discussion, and what you all said was correct. I think we make choices and that there are consequences to our decisions that we must face. I first want to say that I'm glad to be back and I want to share with you about the week of travelling I did. I was invited to speak about the young people of the state in Charleston in order to emphasize the voice of the young people in our government. To highlight about our time in Charleston, there is a desire to have more people be part of the conversation. Many officials expressed interest in sitting down with young people and talking with them about their thoughts and opinions. We have the opportunity to meet with and talk to decision makers in our state, which is not always achievable in other states with greater populations. We will continue our work on open textbooks, and on the agenda this week, there is an assembly bill to vote on this. If we get behind this initiative, we can push it forward and show student interest. I also want you all to be aware that at 1PM in Rhododendron Room, there will be a talk about WV Forward, which is an initiative to keep talented people in the state. It is necessary to engage in these conversations so that we can know what is important to you all. Shannon and I also visited Potomac State today which is one of our regional campuses and we will soon be going to Beckley, so if you are all interested in coming with us on that visit let me know, it's a great time. I had a great time in Charleston and Huntington, and I wanted to share that with you all. Lastly, I wanted to congratulate Brenna for the Heroin(e) screening. She put a lot of work into it, and it shows.

Senators Reports

PPT Brewster- I would like to report that discussions have continued with UPD, about the Safety Map. I have run into a roadblock with Chief Rogers due to the safety map that exists on the Livesafe App. I don't think the map on Livesafe goes as in depth as it should which is why I think this one is so important. Shannon and I have been meeting with the new representative to hear about things they want to work on. I learned that the CAC doesn't have water since Evive went out of business, so I planned on reaching out to set up water bottle refill stations, which is actually in the works with a new company that I received an email about just a little while ago.

Senator Arbogast- I met with the Director of Dining Services, we talked about meal swipes and dining dollars and how they disappear at the end of the semester. I plan on working toward getting them to rollover to the next semester.

Senator Leasor- The Heroin(e) event is next Thursday, so make sure to come out to that if you can. We need someone else to come be a greeter, so let me know if you can definitely be there and are interested. I have been working on Swipe Out Hunger, and our drive date will December 1st, so keep that in mind. Another issue I just wanted to bring up in relation to keeping West Virginian's in West Virginia. I have a friend who came here when he was six years old, and he isn't a resident of the state which makes finding jobs harder. I say this to make sure job fairs are transparent with students and companies hiring are open about their hiring expectancies and policies.

Representatives Reports

Representative Amato- The Student Success Department is implementing some changes to the student suspension policy that I plan to work on bettering and also ensuring that residents have access to the support they need.

PPT Brewster- Do you know if this change in policy is because the university is trying to step up academic standards?

Representative Amato- It is more about federal standards. People that the university allowed to continue here were losing federal funding because they didn't meet their requirements, so now we are bringing our standard up to theirs. I also want to apologize for missing next week, I have a Teach for America interview. Going forward I would also like to talk about SGA partnership with WVU Children's Hospital.

Senator King- I move to add Senator Hoang to the roll.

Second.

Executive Reports

Chief of Staff Fathallah- There is an executive meeting next Monday 6:30PM in the Mountaineer Room of the Lair. Feel free to bring interns. Reps and assembly also feel free to come. Attendance is expected, so send an excuse if you can't make it.

Executive Keaton- We have the tax outline from the house. Things that are on our radar, some of which are troublesome are grad student tuition waivers. This is about whether tuition should be tax withheld. Student loan interest deduction will go, and taxes won't go up. In terms of what is directly effecting WVU, there is a tax coming off of private institutions. While this isn't directly involving us, it is precautionary for public schools. On the state level, as Blake said, they are talking about the open textbooks bill.

Attorney General Cannon- This is a draft on the amendments for the elections code which includes online voting, removal of ticket system, and reduction of signatures. Due to the amenability clause, these changes wouldn't go into effect until spring 2019. Due to this, we want to amend the amenability clause which would allow for the changes to go into effect immediately. This is a proposal from executive branch on what we would all like to see. Questions?

President Humphrey- We are putting out all the options here with this draft so that you all can see it and discuss.

Representative Amato- SGA has been around longer than this administration, so while changing things are great, there needs to be justification on crossing constitutional boundaries.

President Humphrey- Student legal says amending the amenability clause is okay.

Representative Amato- Given that we have a judicial branch, why wasn't the judicial court asked?

President Humphrey- The judicial court doesn't give advising/consulting.

Senator Gupta- I think most of us are on the same page, but I wonder if it is practical to apply this now on such short notice to avoid getting caught between two systems going into an election.

President Humphrey- This is a consultation opinion, so we are open to other perspectives.

Senator Gupta- But do you think it is feasible to implement in the time frame we have before the next election?

Attorney General Cannon- Yes.

Chief of Staff Fathallah- We have been working for months on the online voting, and it will be implemented through the appointed elections code position.

Senator Leasor- Since you're amending the elections code, would you also be amending the constitutional line that references it?

President Humphrey- Sure.

Senator Hoang- Can you tell me the difference between a ticket and a team?

Attorney General Cannon- A team is only a president and vice president.

PPT Brewster- I think the assembly should look closely at this, because the constitution shouldn't be changed every year. You should all talk to people and ask questions you may have. Personally, it seems unethical to change the rules of an election right before an election. From the outside, looks sketchy. I think the changes themselves are fine, I am only concerned about implementing them immediately.

Senator White- While getting 500 signatures was a lot, we met a lot of people and it ended up being good to put ourselves out there.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

a. Financial Bill 2017-15

Treasurer Daw- Title I is Global Business Brigades. This grant is to help cover the expenses for the organization's annual chapter contributions and transportation as they travel to Nicaragua in May. We are willing to allocate \$2,075.00 toward transportation (bus) and registration. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Treasurer Daw- Title II is Global Dental Brigades. This grant is to help cover the expenses for transportation and supplies for the organization's trip to Nicaragua in May. We are willing to allocate \$2,500 toward transportation (bus) and supplies. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Daniel Brewster- I am the advisor for the Medical and Dental Brigades. The Dental Brigades work with Medical Brigades to run medical and dental clinics in Nicaragua. The students have to learn Spanish in order to give demonstrations to children. Some of the things we need are 2,200 toothbrushes, toothpastes, flosses, mouthwashes. This number is based on the turnout we had last year. Another expense we have are getting supplies to teach them. Any drugs that are used at the clinics are included in student fees. We are considered by the Global Brigades to be one of the best, so we wanted to come talk about this so you all know what we do. Between the two groups, eight colleges are represented, so it is a great thing for the students.

PPT Brewster- I went last year, and it is invaluable. It is some of the most impactful work I've ever done, and it shows WVU on an international level. I can't think of organization that deserves this grant more because they go above and beyond for the university and world.

Senator Kyle- From what I've heard, it is one of the most impactful things we've seen come to vote so far, so I think it is a worthwhile cause.

Senator Hoang- Last year you could see the impact the trip had on the students, and to hear about all they did was really great.

Treasurer Daw- Title III is Global Medical Brigades. This grant is to help cover the expenses for transportation and supplies for the organization's trip to Nicaragua in May. We are willing to allocate \$2,500 toward transportation (bus) and supplies. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Joey McGuire- Hi everyone, I'm the president of Medical Brigades. We travel to Nicaragua over Spring Break. All year we gather supplies to travel down and hire local doctors to provide care to rural Nicaragua. The way we represent the university and state makes us extremely proud, and since we did fall into the special category for grant amounts we would love to come back and talk about our trip and give a presentation to you all.

Shani Waris (VP)- Something that we work on all year is fundraising, which we have been pushing today since its WVU's Day of Giving. Our total budget is over \$100,000 for the trip.

Treasurer Daw- Title IV is USITT. This grant is to help cover the expenses for registration as the organization travels to Fort Lauderdale in March for an international conference. We are willing to allocate \$1,500.00 toward the registration fees for six students. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Treasurer Daw- Title V is WVU American Society of Civil Engineers. This grant is to help cover the expenses for a reservation in the Innovation Center room of the Evansdale Crossing, catering for those attending, and binders with information on the event. We are willing to allocate \$1,462.05 toward the room rental, catering, and binders for the event. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Treasurer Daw- Title VI is Phi Sigma Pi. This grant is to help cover the expenses for plane tickets for two members as they travel to Phoenix, Arizona for the 2018 National Convention. We are willing to allocate \$784.00 toward the cost of two plane tickets. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Treasurer Daw- Title VII is Amateur Radio Club. This grant is to help cover the expenses for the cost of a radio that the organization will use in situations that require emergency response. We are willing to allocate \$329.95 toward the cost of a new radio. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Treasurer Daw- Title VIII is Mon Hills Record. This grant is to help cover the expenses for social media advertising for three local artists. We are willing to allocate \$999.00 toward the advertising of Marissa Bailey, Rebecca Berhanu, and 18 Strings. Is there a representative here to speak on behalf of the organization?

Representative Amato- Would you mind providing a more detailed breakdown on what the grant will be used for?

Mon Hills Record Representative- We are asking for any amount to be able to advertise. Since we are a student run record label, we want to get experience and support local artists. We can use any kind of budget to advertise for them such as making videos for social media.

PPT Brewster- What kind of social media advertising?

Mon Hills Record Representative - On Facebook we can promote the post or buy ads in magazines.

Treasurer Daw- The total of Financial Bill 2017-15 is \$12,150.00.

Senator Arbogast- I move to vote on Financial Bill 2017-15 via roll call.

Second.

b. Assembly Bill 2017-02- 17

PPT Brewster- A resolution in support of open textbooks at West Virginia University

WHEREAS, The price of textbooks rose eighty-eight percent in the past decade, according to the Consumer Price Index; and;

WHEREAS, The cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students, who take on additional loan debt to pay for textbooks, or undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks; and;

WHEREAS, Textbook publishers have not responded adequately to the concerns of students, faculty, and other stakeholders about textbook pricing; and;

WHEREAS, Faculty, students, and administrators all share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and;

WHEREAS, An 'open textbook' is defined as: a textbook written by education professionals and released online under an open license permitting everyone to freely use, print, share, and adapt the material; and

WHEREAS, Open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable, and flexible alternative to expensive commercial textbooks; and;

WHEREAS, It is the prerogative of faculty members to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class; and;

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for faculty members to seek and consider using open educational resources (OER), including open textbooks, in their courses as long as there is no reduction in educational quality; and;

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that students using OER perform as well, if not better, in their classes compared to students using traditional textbooks; and;

WHEREAS, Universities that have created programs to increase their use of OER are already saving their students millions of dollars in textbook costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The West Virginia University Student Assembly and Student Government Association supports the use of open textbooks at West Virginia University; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Student Government Association encourages faculty members to consider open textbooks and other low-cost course materials when selecting textbooks for their classes; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Student Government Association encourages West Virginia University to offer support to faculty members who consider and adopt open textbooks, when academically appropriate; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Student Government Association urges West Virginia University to expand its OER program to increase the use of open textbooks on our campus; and;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, Student Government Association will work in partnership with members of the West Virginia legislature and representatives in Congress to support open textbooks as a solution to high textbook costs.

President Humphrey- The work we've done for open textbooks is looking at producing around a half million dollars in savings. We would love your support on this and the work we've done.

Representative Amato- I move to vote on Assembly Bill 2017-02-17 via unanimous consent.

Second.

Open Student Forum II

Senator Leasor- We have thank you cards that we are sending around now to write a note to any faculty member you appreciate.

Senator King- Do we give them to you or the faculty member personally?

Senaor Leasor- You can give them to myself or President Pro Tempore Brewster.

Treasurer Daw- I wanted to say that this is Katie's last meeting with us and that I'm going to miss her so much.

Joey McGuire- With Global Medical Brigades, we do collect supplies all year. I wanted to thank Executive Nistendirk who, with Students For Reproductive Justice, got condoms as a donation for us to take with us. If any other orgs you are involved with have things to donate, let me know.

Senator Arbogast- Just a reminder that there is on-campus living over break for \$25 a day on housing.wvu.edu.

Executive Jalso- I'm starting to work on an open mic night at the crossing where students can perform music, comedy, or skits for fun and relaxation and just to get experience performing. If anyone has ideas or advice on how to get it off the ground, let me know.

President Humphrey- Congrats to Katie, she will be going to The Dominion Post and we will miss her a ton.

Advisors Reports

None.

Senator King- I move to adjourn.

Second.

Adjournment