

West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Regular Student Assembly Meeting
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 7:30 PM
February 4th, 2026

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jones at 7:30 p.m.

II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

The SGA mission statement was read by Vice President Jones.

III. Roll Call

Roll was called by Executive Secretary Davis.

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator Cole, seconded by Senator Champ.

V. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Silva, seconded by College Senator Mugnano.

VI. Open Student Forum I

No one was called on for Open Student Forum I.

VII. The President's Report

President Street: Alright, hello everyone. I am exhausted from WVU Day today. That's partly why you don't have a presenter today. All the people that would normally come and present in an SGA meeting were also all down in Charleston today for WVU Day, and most of

them were like, yeah, I'm going home, I'm going to bed. So you guys got out of a longer meeting tonight. But on our end, WVU Day went pretty well, except for Tris and I absolutely falling in the ice on downtown Charleston. Besides that, it was pretty good. Logan did a phenomenal job. We had like six formal meetings in Charleston. We had a couple cancellations in the morning just because people got busy, but we were able to fill the schedule later in the day, which was phenomenal, and I'll let him go more in detail with that. I just wanted to thank everyone who went to WVU Day as well. I know on the drive back we were looking at how many steps we got just because we were running around the Capitol all day, particularly the people that were running and got handouts to every single House and Senate office in Charleston about the student BOG vote. I just really appreciate the work you guys put in leading up to WVU Day and the work you put in today, because I know if I'm this tired, you are also probably just as tired. Besides that, we got some good reception from some people in the House Education Committee, which is good to moving the BOG vote and the Student Health and Aid Grant forward.

Last week, I met with the chairs of the Advisory Council of Faculty and the Advisory Council of Staff, which also have representatives from every single university, to coordinate our collective messaging on the BOG vote. That meeting went pretty well, and they're very receptive to working with us, so that is good to know as well. For those of you who missed your opportunity to go to Charleston today and are still interested in doing it, and this is open to interns as well if you're interested in going down, we will be going back to Charleston on Monday, February 16th for a day trip for Students' Day at the Capitol. So it won't just be WVU going down, it'll be us and all of the other SGAs in the state, and we'll be setting up meetings for them with their respective legislators. So you don't have to have any Charleston experience, we'll take you down. It's a good opportunity to understand how things work in the state government, and it's also a great way to get involved, since we have a bill that's hopefully going to start moving in the Senate, which is fantastic. That sign-up is going to close on Friday. I'll send it out to the GroupMe as well, but if you're interested, please get your application in on Friday, so I don't have to text the GroupMe last minute. This one is also open to everyone, so even if you've gone on a trip before, you can apply to this one and then you won't be penalized at all.

Besides that, on Monday we finally had our first in-person Chief of Staff meeting, because we've been snowed out every single other time. We primarily just focused on project mapping, all of the tinier projects that we've started over the semester, so things like the Batch Initiative, things like something to make the PRT stations a little bit warmer, since the PRT people can't do heaters. We're going to look at doing windbreakers, and thank you to Mimi me for that idea.

So live update from someone in Charleston, that the Senate Education Committee is going to run the bill on an agenda tomorrow. So that's fantastic. So thank you again to all of you.

So that proves some things can get done. I know an agenda is just the first step, but it's at least something. That's one of the hardest steps. There are like 700 bills, I think, introduced in Charleston right now, so the fact that one that we had a part in is actually moving is fantastic. I'm just going to keep saying the word fantastic, because I'm so tired, and that's the one word I can think of.

Besides that, we mapped out some of our projects, so those will be closing up as we hit the end of the administration. I met with the Chief Information Officer, the head of ITS, on Friday of last week to talk about some IT issues. He was really interested in getting a WVU app that would have things like your portal on it, but also allow you to schedule advising meetings and sign up for yoga classes. So he wanted some feedback on it. I said people would genuinely like it, so he's going to look into it. He was also interested in setting up an IT services center on Evansdale, potentially in Towers or in Crossing, and he was interested in knowing where some of the IT coverage issues are. So I said particularly in some of those outdoor seating areas on Evansdale, there's great hammocks, and there's great seating near Statler, but there's just no internet, so they're going to work on that. Ro and I had our monthly meeting with Carrie Showalter, the Dean of Students. It went pretty well. We primarily talked with her about an initiative that Shelby and Olivia are going to be starting next semester, and you'll hear more information from them on that. Additionally, Ro and I have a meeting with Dr. Patrick Lee Miller, the new head of the Washington Center, on Friday, so we'll report back to you on that. And the executive vacancy form for the academic partnerships liaison and the graphics officer is going to go up tomorrow. So if you're interested in filling an executive position for the rest of the semester, keep an eye on that. That's all I've got for you.

VIII. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Jones: Not too much besides the Hardesty Festival Ideas promotion is going to officially start in partnership with WVU Student Life. Tickets will become available this coming Monday. So just to run through it again, the Festival of Ideas will be on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of this month. The first day we'll be having a panel on artificial intelligence and ethics around artificial intelligence. It will consist of many members of President Benson's AI task force that he created. It will be led by Amy Seifert, she's a professor at the law school, former Truman scholar. She also went to Harvard Law School. We also have Brad Price, David Satterfield, a former chief of staff to a West Virginia governor. And then also General James Hoyer will be there as well. And then on the second night, we'll be having a business and innovation panel with Marilyn McClure-DeMeres, who is the former vice president of legal operations at Nationwide. We'll also have Andrew Hartstog, who is the vice president of

Constellus, a space travel corporation. He's also a former officer of the CIA. And then Jim Dodrill, who is the vice president of WVBOY. And then on Wednesday, we will be having our West Virginia politics night, where we'll start off with a 45-minute panel of just Sam Workman, who oversees the Rockefeller Policy Institute here in West Virginia, as well as Amelia Nicely, who is a reporter at West Virginia Watch, who's been covering the legislative session pretty thoroughly. We'll be having a discussion about the West Virginia legislative session and some of the biggest policy challenges facing West Virginia right now. And then after them, I'll be interviewing Senator Joey Garcia. The first night will be in the Gluck Theater from 6 to 7.30 p.m. The second night, which is the Business Innovation Panel, will be in the Esmond Shade Auditorium, which is in Reynolds Hall. And that will be from the same time, 6 to 7.30 p.m. And the final night, we'll be back in the Gluck Theater from 6 to 7.30 p.m. And again, tickets will go out on the 1st, and we'll begin permitting with Student Life this coming Monday.

IX. Committee Reports

College Senator Scott: All right, today the college project committee discussed some things that need to be picked up from last semester, such as the contacts mainly we got from Carrie Showalter. We are going to reach out to continue the conversation that has already been started with the WVU marketing director, so hopefully we can talk about how to maybe promote general events on campus, and we are also discussing the contacts we got to put and approve the signs on the goggle ball pits that will be installed to say, you know, this is an SGA project, so we have some visibility on campus there, we just have to get it approved because it's a very particular administration.

Senator Silva: Hey everyone, so I just wanted to give a little update on the basket situation. We are now in the final touches, Cheyenne and Julia spent a committee today assembling them, and soon enough we'll be able to give them out to international students, so that's all we have, thank you.

Senator Cole: We just pretty much went through some of the stuff we talked about last week, we briefly talked about the piece of legislation that was put up today, we'll see if they're still waiting on the dates for that, and whenever I do get the hard, definitive confirmation, I'll send that out, and a follow up on the lighting project, I need to reach out to Chuck Roberts at the facilities for that, and I know Ethan's probably going to talk about the safety walk, but we briefly have a very early tentative date that has not been confirmed yet for the spring safety walk, but I know that it will be HSC and Sunnyside, and then I'm going to yield my time to Senator Champ to give an update on how her event went yesterday.

Senator Champ: Anyways, my event yesterday, SGA had partnered with NAMI WVU to basically host a round table open discussion between faculty here at the university and students, I thought it went really well, there was between 20 and 30 students, kind of, not all at once, but all together, we were able to get catering from the LGBTQ Center, which was really nice. I feel like it got a lot of people in, we had Taya, the service dog there, we had a bunch of student panelists who were able to answer questions from WVU faculty, and I actually got an email from C.J. Belknap from Adventure West Virginia, sending out free guided trips or Appalachian Heritage series programs to disperse to everybody who went, so I'll be sending those out if you attended yesterday. NAMI and all of the faculty who attended were very open to having something similar in the future, so that may not be something that happens this semester, but for people who are looking to work on mental health initiatives, maybe even into next year, that's just something to think about, and I can task on all of the information that I have and the planning information to anybody who would be interested in that, thanks, and I'll give my time back.

Senator O'Neal: So sustainability today, we kind of talked about some of the subcommittees we're creating to plan our events for Earth Month and our Pittsburgh sustainability trip, over the last week we figured out that we're probably going to be going to Pittsburgh on March 31st, so we kind of finalized that committee and agreed upon that date, and then we talked about the Earth Day events we're going to host.

Senator Howell: I don't really have much to report on, we're just waiting on updates from dining to get the tri-folds finalized. We also built birdhouses.

Senator Shaik: We spoke briefly with Stephanie Young on February 2nd regarding undergraduate TA compensation. Alex has scheduled a meeting with Dr. Young to discuss details about what can be done and where funding can be allocated. Regarding lab equipment distribution, we are currently scheduling a meeting with FSC to determine when and who will distribute the donated lab equipment.

X. Assembly Reports

No Assembly Reports.

XI. Executive Reports

Wyatt Armbruster, Hospitality Taskforce Chair: If anyone with a meal plan would like to attend the dining or hospitality task force meetings, please let me know.

Sara Rately and Audrey Bennet, Grant Officers: Hey everyone, so I know we're close to finishing out this year's SGA term, so if you have any projects you're working on and wanting to finish and they're lacking funding, let us know. In the important links folder in the drive there's a grant request assistance form, we've mentioned it before, we've only got a few responses, so if you'd like the grant officers to help you find a grant for your project, please let us know and fill out that form. It's also under execs and BOF, the grant officers. We're also looking for grants that could be applicable to you and we want to report on those as they come up. If you want something specific, please fill out the form. And then additionally we're also working on the EBSCO grant for solar on the Evansdale Library. We've been working with Collin and then some other faculty members for that and then we'll keep you updated. I think it's due in April, so that's all, thanks.

Mimi Ferguson, Community Engagement Coordinator: Thanks to everyone who just came upstairs and helped build the bird boxes, I think that was a lot of fun. I actually met with Stephanie from the Sustainable Landscapes Committee and Jim from Roads and Grounds today and I talked to them and they think that it's a really good idea being able to put them around campus. They identified like 48 different locations we could put them and I was like, okay, well we only have 10, but we can start there. And they're running it through their committees this week, but they think it's a really good idea and it should be good to go. Hopefully we can put them up in March and Jim's pretty much going to do the bulk of the work on that, but we'll just stay in contact with him as well as the Sustainable Landscapes Committee as well. And then if you signed up to bring food for the Rosenbaum House thing we're doing this weekend, you can just give it to me after the meeting and if you signed up for an item that I said I could get from you at a later date, I'll text you whenever I sit back down so we can figure that out. If you signed up to go to the Rosenbaum House on Sunday, I'm about to send you an email with some more information, like where to park when you should get there, what to do if we're not all in the lobby whenever you get there. And then for our third week of month of service, it's supposed to be something animal-related, so I've been trying to talk to Mountaineer for Mutts, but a lot of the animal shelters around here are just so busy and they need so much that they don't even have time to talk to people who are trying to volunteer. That's how busy they are. So I haven't been able to make good contact with them, but I actually was at PetSmart like a few weeks ago and I was talking to one of their volunteers there, and they were talking about how they just need a lot of resources and they need a lot of donations. So we're probably just going to run a drive that

week and we'll donate those items to Mountaineer for Mutts. And if we were able to get enough items, we'll donate them to the local Mon County Animal Shelter as well.

Laynie Miller, Communications Coordinator: Hello. I'm sure everybody knows why I'm here right now. I want to address a situation that unfolded on our social media platforms over the past couple of days. Some hateful and some homophobic comments were made towards members of our administration and while those comments are unacceptable, some responses from individuals within this organization crossed the line. I want to reiterate, SGA does not engage with hate. We do not argue with hateful accounts. We do not amplify them and we do not allow our platforms to become spaces where harassment thrives. Responding, even with good intentions, gives those accounts exactly what they want, attention, legitimacy, and screenshots that can be taken out of context and used against us and this organization. Moving forward, my expectations are that you will not engage with hateful or harassing accounts, that you will not respond on behalf of SGA unless you're explicitly directed by someone in this organization, and if you see harmful content, you are going to forward it to the communications team and disengage. Hating is not weakness, it is leadership. SGA should be a space that models respect, professionalism, and care for our community and that is what I expect you guys to show. If you also do not have a profile on the website, you will be receiving an email from my team in the coming days asking for your profile.

Ethan Enterline, Local Governance Liaison: Feels like it's been a while since I've gone up here and spoken. I wanted to say congratulations to Senator Cole, our very own Senator here. He got named to the parking commission last night, and Colin's also on the planning commission. He's on the planning commission. I got named to that over the break, and I completely forgot to talk about it. So yeah, those two are now on commission boards in the city of Morgantown, which is pretty cool. I've begun planning the spring safety walk with the state's committee. We don't have a date finalized for it yet, but you can expect it's going to happen around the last week of March. I got word about the warming shelter. They've expanded the amount of beds. There used to be 36 beds or something like that in there, and they've expanded it by about 30% because the weather has been absolutely abysmal, and I have not seen grass in about two weeks. They're also rolling out this new municipal ID program. It's not really new. They've been kind of in the works for a while with it, but they're finally actually doing stuff with it now. But it's going to help those that don't have legitimate federal identification to be able to get that identification, and they'll be able to use it for certain city initiatives like city elections. I think you're also going to be able to use them for, like, you want to go to the library and get library cards. So that's something to look forward to as well.

Carter Leadmon, Elections Chair read the list of all candidates who are running for election.

Will Andrews, External Chief of Staff: All right, I'll try to be quick about this. We're getting a lot done in the early stages here, so I'm excited about that. But first and foremost, thank you all for the confirmation of my appointment. I'm very eager to help you guys finish out your great project. So I'm proud of you all, and I look forward to working with you this semester. So beginning with establishing contact with the roads and grounds for the Gaga Ball pits. So that seems to be a pretty big priority for SGA, so willing to help you guys out with that. I've been reaching out to venues around town for our culture events later in the semester. I set up a weekly meeting with Mimi and Ethan for the renter's right to repair campaign. So stay tuned for more information on that. We're gonna need a lot of SGA support once that gets brought to the city. In my alumni relations role, I met with the SGA alumni on Monday, and we discussed the potential of adding a social media position to their board. So if you're graduating and have a lot of experience in graphics, or if it's just a passion of yours, please reach out to me, and I'll connect you with them. SGA alumni also wanted to do an administration and review event at the end of the semester virtually. So that all of you can share the various projects, legislation, and anything else you did during the semester. They're very proud of you guys, so they wanna hear about what you did. We outlined the ideal timeline of project completion with our project mapping, like Colin mentioned. And then Julia and I visited the WVU hub to discuss student feedback for the hub, and their new remodels, which look pretty exciting. And then we also talked about some potential collaborations with SGA, including future speaking opportunities, and also the potential of other informational resources maybe embedded within SGA.

Logan Pierce, State Governance Liaison: I think Colin summarized WVU Day pretty well. But I just wanna start my report with thank yous. Thank you to Michael, Bradley, Tris, Colin, Hank, and Nick. I can't do my job without people like you guys. I can't run 101 pages around the capitol, so I'm proud of the work you guys did today. You're all across the way, so I'm trying to look at all of you. I really do appreciate it, and it doesn't go anywhere this time, I think. Whether that's running a one-pager or sitting in a meeting, I think it's really important work that you guys do. So thank you. So WVU Day was a pretty big hit, I would say. We got to go to the Universities United reception on Tuesday night, and we had some good conversations there. And then, obviously, WVU Day today. I'll also just say thank you to the people that we met. I'm sure that you will never watch this meeting or look at our minutes, but I'd like to acknowledge them anyway. We actually had meetings with Senator Queen, Senator Clements,

Senator Taylor, and Delegates Tony and Stadler. Tony and Stadler are the Education Chair and Vice Chair, and Senator Clements is the Vice Chair of Senate Education. Tony and Stadler are out, so I don't know if I can preface that. So thank you to them, but we also just had conversations with Delegates Willis, Williams, Garcia, Dittman, and Senators Oliveira, Garcia, and Grady. I do appreciate everything they do for the state, and they were very receptive to our ideas. Even if they had some suggestions, they were always willing to help in the future. So thank you to them. We had a lot of pagers today, like I said, if anybody would like to see an example of that, I can pass that around, if not, it's completely fine. There's some talking points about what the POG vote does for students. And also, we talked about higher education as well. We got that on people's radar in the Senate, hopefully that will move to the Senate. Today, WVU Day, the WVU budget was unveiled in the House. I don't know specific details about that. I'll report on that next week, when I know more about that. But that's a big step for the future of the university, especially with President Benson being here and his new vision for what he wants to see the next couple of years look like. I think that's pretty much all I have. Right now, the higher education grant is still in the Senate Education. And like Colin said, the POG bill is up on the Senate Education Committee tomorrow. So I think that's a big step for that. But yeah, I'll keep you updated as things come, so thank you.

XII. Old Business

No Older Business.

XIII. New Business

A. New Student Organization Approvals

1. Movement for Medicine

Haley, Jackson, Brooklyn: My name is Haley Mead, and I'm the founder for Movement for Medicine. And this is Jackson and Brooklyn, and they're on our executive board. Yeah, we're good. So our mission statement is quite lengthy. I won't put you through reading all of that, but it essentially is that we are emphasizing stress relief through recreational sports and some mindful movement to protect our mental health. Because I'm in pharmacy school, so is Brooklyn, and Jackson is starting medical school, and we tend to put the care for others over

ourselves 95% of the time, and we don't dedicate enough time to actually take care of ourselves. So I wanted to create a safe space for us to actually thrive, not only in the classroom, but also outside. We already have 65 members who will be added to our roster if we get approved, so fingers crossed. But yeah, 65 is a huge number, and that was in a week, so I'm sure we're going to continue to grow, because it's very much needed. So our bylaws are the same as every other WVU organization. I'm also not going to put you through that as well. The only thing is we're going to host all of our general meetings monthly on Zoom, so that allows people who are working, obviously, in healthcare, the opportunity to use it. They don't have to go to Health Science and actually participate. We also don't have an attendance policy. We would like everyone to attend, but we also know the hardships of being a healthcare worker as well as being in grad school, it can be very daunting. So we don't have an attendance policy. So goals this semester, we're going to alternate between weeks. One week, we're going to do sports-related activities, such as running or playing soccer, and then the next week, we're going to do some mental health activities, such as yoga. We haven't really gotten too far. We're going to host a poll to see what most people are interested in. We also are going to host one community service event a month, just to get to involve our community in what we're doing as well, and give back to our community in Morgantown. And the last three are pretty self-explanatory. So we just found out today that the American Heart Association is hosting a Morgantown Walk for Heart on April 25th, so anyone who is interested, please reach out to me. And all of the donations will go to their research at the American Heart Association. And we're also holding an American Red Cross blood drive at the end of February.

2. The 304 Garage:

Kadence, Jackson, Elliot: So my name is Candice Wells, I'm one of the founders along with Jackson, and I'm also the president of the club. So our purpose for creating this club was just to create an environment for students interested in automotive engineering and design, and just cars in general. So for me personally, I'm interested in automotive engineering, as I'm a student at Sadler College, I'm a sophomore this year in mechanical engineering. So for me that was my purpose in wanting to start this organization. And then Jackson. My name is Jackson Sherrell, as Sherry said, I'm the founder, yeah, super passionate about

anything automotive. I grew up around it my entire life, automotive industry, design, modification, manufacturing, anything like that. So I'm a founder, I've heavily influenced all of the club operation and event coordination and stuff like that. And then here are our officers. So unfortunately our vice president and our treasurer weren't able to be here today, but this is Liam Elliot, and he is our secretary. If you want to introduce yourself, you can, it's up to you. I'll introduce myself. I'm an engineering technology major, just like Jackson. I grew up around cars, and love them. I mean, I think they're pretty cool. So that's kind of, I found these guys at the beginning of last semester and kind of got the ball rolling on this. All right, so the purpose of the club is essentially to bring in the massive amount of enthusiasts across the WVU student body, which I don't know if you noticed, have you seen any nice cars rolling around? They all enjoy it. So yeah, just create a space for enthusiasts alike to discuss anything, and even honestly create an education opportunity for anybody that's interested in any sort of engineering like that to be educated on the topic of the automotive industry, anything like that. So we have already had a couple of meets, and we have a single cruise. I'm not sure if you guys saw the previous picture on the last slide, but that was from our first meet. We had a really good turnout for not even being an official organization yet. So the meet at the beginning of the year, we had one during welcome week, and that was our biggest one, obviously because people were trying to find their group, and I think that people really did enjoy that meet, and from the students that we talked to during that, they said that they were really feeling like this was needed at WVU, so they were glad that somebody was starting it, and the ball was getting rolled in the air. And then for our cruise, that also was pretty good, I don't know if you guys are into cars or anything. That's just basically where you just drive around with your friends, and that's it. But that also went really well. And then we did have a collaboration with the photography club already. The president there is, his name is Case, he is into automotive stuff as well, and he's also in engineering. So we had connected with him before our first meet, and he said that the photography club would love to come, so they came to our second one. There were a couple of them, they each posted a bunch of pictures on their Instagram, so it was super fun. But we'd like to continue doing stuff like that with other organizations, and just collaborate with them. We can do SAE, we can do Baja, if they want to, it's completely up to them, but we would love to collaborate with them as well. And then we would like to host meetings, general meetings, hopefully monthly, along with the cruises. Those would be

more sporadic than just monthly, just because of the weather, it's been so bad recently. So, yeah, that's our plan, and it's already gone pretty well, so we hope to continue the amount of involvement that we've had within the student body.

3. The Maddox Potter Foundation:

Luke: I'm a freshman biology student here. I'm from Wheeling, West Virginia, and I appreciate you all for having me here tonight. I'm here to ask for your permission to open the Maddox Potter Foundation as a recognized student organization here on campus. And first I'd like to talk about the namesake of the organization, Maddox Potter. If anybody's from the Charleston area, I'm sure you heard about him on the news. He was an inspiring junior golfer. I had the pleasure of playing against him in high school. And he, in late 2023, was diagnosed with a very rare and aggressive form of childhood cancer, and he passed away in January of 2025. But his final request in his last days was that someone learn something from him and his experiences. So his family, very soon after his death, established the Maddox Potter Foundation. And just to go off of their mission statement, it was created to provide financial assistance to families affected by childhood cancer, to support the advancement of pediatric cancer treatments and research, and to connect youth golf with philanthropy and purpose and service of children facing a diagnosis. So in under a year, the foundation has been very impressive. They've raised over \$320,000 for the causes I've just described. They've partnered with various hospitals, professional golfers, junior golf tours, and local businesses for awareness and fundraising. And they're also looking to establish possible chapters at universities across the country, which has not yet been done. So if we're approved tonight, we would be the flagship and the first chapter of the organization, which would be very cool. So basically what we're going to be doing will be a service-based organization that will directly benefit the WVU-Golisano Children's Hospital through an official partnership that we were able to establish with them last year between the hospital and the foundation. And so basically we would be a specialized wing of the overall foundation that will focus its efforts directly on aiding children from the children's hospital. So we will have three types of meetings. We'll have planning meetings for outreach and fundraising. Then we'll have the actual fundraiser or event. And then we'll have meetings where we use those funds to somehow directly benefit the children's hospital. And ways we would do that is, for example, making care packages for

the families and for the kids. And for direct financial assistance for families who might need aid, paying for food, gas, or housing. So membership is open to all. We're very new. All the members so far are just people who I know. So we'd like to spread the club around. We're soon going to open an Instagram account and a group meeting. So please look out for that. You just have to meet the basic university grade and conduct requirements to join. So it's pretty easy to join. We hope to meet at least once a month, but I'm sure we'll meet more than that based on what events we'll be planning. And future events could include karaoke nights, bingo, basketball tournaments, golf scrambles, stuff with prizes that'll be fun to come to.

Senator Cole made a motion to approve the organizations by voice, seconded by Senator Silva. All ayes. The organizations were approved unanimously.

B. Bureau of Legislation

1. AP-2026-02-01, “An Assembly Proclamation Regarding Winter Weather Safety, Campus Operations, Transportation Access, and Instructional Flexibility,” Senator Bryan Cole

Senator Cole: Whereas, the West Virginia University Mission Statement reads “At West Virginia University, pride in our land-grant mission runs deep, success is earned, and life-changing experiences prepare Mountaineers to serve others and lead in West Virginia and the world...”; and,

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association (SGA) Vision Statement reads “To be a Student Government Association that serves the students, West Virginia University, and the State of West Virginia by; promoting inclusion, creating a campus that can accommodate everyone, actively engaging all 55 counties in West Virginia...enhancing environmental stewardship, participating in meaningful community service, fostering healthy lifestyles, and developing innovative partnerships with students, faculty, staff and other key stakeholders.”; and,

Whereas, during the winter weather events produced by Winter Storm Fern,³ members of the student body have expressed widespread concern regarding pedestrian safety, transportation access, and preparedness of the campus and Morgantown Metropolitan Area due to below-freezing temperatures, snow, and icy conditions; and,

Whereas, students have specifically cited concerns regarding uncleared or partially

cleared sidewalks, packed snow, icy surfaces, and limited road treatment and plowing near campus, which those conditions presented a heightened risk of slips, falls, and/or injury; and,

Whereas, students recognize that winter operations involve shared responsibility among relevant stakeholders including West Virginia University, the City of Morgantown, and the State of West Virginia, and acknowledge that appropriate coordination among these stakeholders is essential to ensuring safe access to campus; and,

Whereas, despite these ongoing efforts, many students, particularly those living off campus, have expressed serious concern about being required to walk long distances in extreme cold, across untreated or icy surfaces in order to attend classes or reach essential facilities; and,

Whereas, the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system experienced significant service disruptions throughout January 28th and January 29th, leaving many students without reliable transportation during periods of extreme cold;⁵ and,

Whereas, the continuation of normal operations during these conditions allowed for concern to rise by students regarding personal safety and accessibility; and,

Whereas, in response to these conditions students independently organized a petition titled “Ensure West Virginia University Adapts to Extreme Weather Conditions,” which received 1,160 supporters, demonstrating documentation of student concerns; and,

Whereas, the petition stated that while West Virginia University is known for its commitment to “academic excellence and the well-being of its students,” operating on “normal operations” during below-freezing temperatures and poor pedestrian and roadway conditions poses significant risks to the students, faculty, and staff; and,

Whereas, the petition urged proactive measures including, but not limited to, adjusting class schedules during extreme inclement weather, improving the de-icing and maintenance of walkways, and ensuring that transportation options are safe and reliable, and improving transparency and communication during winter weather events; and,

Whereas, the level of student concern reached a point where students felt compelled to elevate these issues to local media, resulting in coverage by WBOY, which documented student experiences navigating icy conditions near campus; and,

Whereas, students interviewed by local media described the difficulty of commuting to campus from off-campus housing, particularly in areas surrounding campus, specifically noting that untreated streets and sidewalks made travel unsafe; and,

Whereas, students respectfully recognize the efforts made by Facilities & Operations,

the City of Morgantown, and the State of West Virginia, while also maintaining concerns through petitions, direct contact to relevant university offices, and news outlets, where it reflects a need for clearer policies, proactive planning, and preparedness of the institution to ensure the safety of its students; and, Whereas, students have encouraged the University to explore more flexible instructional approaches during severe weather conditions, including temporary campus-wide virtual instruction when appropriate, to allow for additional time for Facilities Management and other agencies to appropriately prepare campus and surrounding infrastructure; and,

Whereas, students have expressed that if virtual instruction is explored or implemented, the University should educate students about resources to ensure equitable access, including the support for obtaining devices; and,

Whereas, students have requested that cold-weather safety guidance be communicated in advance, particularly to off-campus students who rely on walking or public transportation, including guidance on appropriate attire, walking safety, transportation disruptions, and available support resources; and,

Therefore, be it proclaimed by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: The Student Government Association formally communicates these concerns, perspectives, and recommendations to the University Administration on behalf of the student body.

Section 2: The Student Government Association recognizes and sincerely appreciates the continued efforts of Facilities Management, first responders, and operational staff who work tirelessly to maintain campus, and surrounding areas during winter weather conditions.

Section 3: The Student Government Association, communicates on behalf of the student body, respectfully, that there should be continued coordination between West Virginia University, the City of Morgantown, and the State of West Virginia to enhance sidewalk clearing, road treatment, and pedestrian safety during winter weather events.

Section 4: The Student Government Association, communicates on behalf of the student body, respectfully, that the University explores and clearly defines a campus-wide virtual instruction policy for severe winter weather conditions, when appropriate, as measures to prioritize safety while supporting academic excellence.

Section 5: The Student Government Association, communicates on behalf of the student body, respectfully, that shall any exploration of virtual instruction occur, this should also be accompanied by communications regarding equitable access to technology, devices, resources, and academic support services.

Section 6: The Student Government Association recognizes that it has a responsibility to transparently elevate student concerns, including those voiced through petitions, social media, and news outlets. The Student Government Association, and the Student Government Association Safety Committee for the 2025-2026 administration is ready to work collaboratively with the University Administration to strengthen winter weather preparedness, accessibility, and transparency for every Mountaineer.

Section 7: Upon passage and within 24 hours of Presidential approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to (the mandates).

Senator Cole made a motion to vote by voice, seconded by Senator Champ. All ayes. The proclamation passed.

2. AR-2026-02-01, “An Assembly Resolution to Develop Areas for Planting Native Species,” Senators Andrew O’Neal and Noi Alfgeirsson.

The bill had its first reading.

Senator Silva made a motion to table the bill, seconded by College Senator Armstrong.

XIV. Open Student Forum II

Camille Fenton, Attorney General: I just want to say we're going to have a GovDocs meeting on Monday at 4: 30, so we're going to be going over some of Senator Cole's changes, and if you want to show up, please do, send me a text.

Senator Cole: If you're in GovDocs, you probably already know, but we talked about this last semester that Molly graduated. God bless her. If you have an opinion on what is being voted on in GovDocs, you should probably go to GovDocs, but submit an opinion to the Attorney General, because the changes do not have to be voted on by the Assembly or the State Budget. They're just grammatical. So if you have an opinion on it, please voice that via our online report. Thank you.

Shelby Davis, Internal Chief of Staff: So last year, we worked on campus publication and put out legislation and a survey to increase art on campus, and then this year, we're actually going to try and put art in the buildings, hopefully student art. So last year's survey included some suggested buildings, but I think a physical survey of the buildings would be more accurate.

So if you visit a building a lot, I'd really appreciate if you could just list some of the lounge areas that are in need of art, also now the Google Sheet and the Group Me, but you just have to write down the location of the lounge, like Vandalia or like outside of like G39, you know, if it doesn't have a number, and then just put some photos of the space in the Google Drive, yeah. So like this area kind of wouldn't be in need of art because it's got like plaques and stuff, but it's like mostly blank walls and kind of like no interest on the walls, like no breaks. Yeah, that means it needs art. Thanks.

XV. Advisors' Reports

Dr. Thanh Le: I had in my notes to kind of talk about what Lainey had mentioned but I think what Lainey mentioned was beautiful and so I will leave you with this though in that regard is do not let the actions of another person dictate your actions, you stay true to who you are and be true to yourself and the organization that you represent and so ignorance does not require a response and so you know those are things that we can talk about and I know I've already talked to Ro and Colin about all that stuff and I had a conversation with Morgan as well earlier yesterday about it so I appreciate the words Lainey, great job. Also I would be remiss if I didn't mention please practice self-care especially going into this season I know today was the announcement of all the people deciding to run and now we're official candidates of the SGA election and also around this time is potential midterms coming up I think I looked at my calendar at the end of February midterms are due already which is crazy we're already in February folks and so believe it or not midterms are coming up and so while you're in your campaigns, while you're preparing for midterms, while you're also serving your position at SGA and all the other great things that you're doing here on campus remember to take care of yourself and you know this time of year can be very stressing and we don't want you to burn out so early in the game that you know you have nothing left for March and April and so please take care of yourself, look after each other, if there's anything you need from us please feel free to come into our offices, if you need a sounding board or you just need to scream or yell or curse or whatever it may be to get it out of your system just know that we're here for you and you know we're here to support you whatever you may be doing and so we know you guys are overachievers and you want to do great with this campus but you know you can't pour from a cup that's empty and so please take care of yourself. I'm going to continue to say that week after week until we are at the end of April and so you know I just urge you all to please go ahead and start practicing self-care now so that way when you get to April you still have plenty of steam and you're ready to serve after the election. So we appreciate all that you do as you can see there's so much going on trying to corral and get everybody together can be very challenging and so just be patient with us as you

know we're learning more about what you're trying to do and trying to accomplish and we hope to be able to support every initiative that you have but understand you know realistically we ran out of money externally very quickly and I'm sure Julia and I will be talking very soon about the essential last spins of the internal budget and so there will be some priority setting that Colin and I are going to have to do and so we're going to have to make some decisions hard decisions and so please bear with them as they make those decisions and continue to work with Julia to get those internal budget requests the earlier the better and then that way we can manage that and hopefully balance our budget the best we can by the end of the year.
All right thanks y'all.

XVI. Snaps

Senator Silva: First I wanted to give snaps to Logan. I know a few people have said it before, but I wanted to echo that sentiment. Logan did such an amazing job, both yesterday and today, but especially today, with talking to everyone and as someone who had never done this and had never really been to Charleston, seeing Logan act made me feel a lot more confident about what we were doing and clearly it was not in vain because we are making a lot of progress. So, snaps to Logan for that. I also wanted to give snaps to Julia and Cheyenne, who assembled the welcome baskets for the international students today. I really appreciate you guys doing that. You did an amazing job. And lastly, I wanted to give snaps to Michael for ironing my shirt last night. I really, really appreciate it. I think you did a really, really great job. Thank you.

Senator Champ: But I just wanted to give snaps to Caden, who's not here. He was our law school student panelist. He came from the law school after his professor held class for like 30 minutes, and he was still a panelist and was there for the rest of the night. So I really appreciated him, as well as Julia, Kate, and Shelby for coming to the event. It means a lot whenever you try and work really hard to host something, and then you have that support, so I just really appreciate them showing up for that.

Maria Flesher, Development Officer: I'm going to give snaps to Dominic for an excellent performance in Greece. The show was fantastic.

Vice President Jones: I would like to give snaps to, firstly, everyone who went down to Charleston. It is quite the commute, so snaps to all of you for doing the dirty work.

College Senator Everly: I would like to give snaps to Camille for passing out everyone's name tags, even though she's only been here for two weeks.

College Senator Mugnano: I'm going to give snaps to Dominic for his participation in Uniontown community production. Very good. Also, I want to give snaps to Garrett for teaching Speaker Hanshaw how to grow a bonsai tree. I know it was something that he never considered taking up, but I guess it's never too late to learn.

Nick Albright, Development Officer: Whenever Ro drove us down to D.C., I got a text from my mom saying we were going too fast. Whenever Colin drove us down, I got no text from my mom. So that's to Colin for being a fantastic driver.

Senator Worley: I'll give further snaps to Colin, even though I wasn't there, because Ro was a little bit scary on the drive to D.C. We were going real quick.

XVII. Adjournment

College Senator Mugnano motioned to adjourn, seconded by Senator Champ.
Ayes have it, the meeting was adjourned.
