

**West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Student Assembly Meeting
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 7:30 PM
August 23rd, 2023
2023-2024 Santmyer-Dozier Administration**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Brogan Dozier at 7:30

II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

The SGA Mission Statement was read by Vice President Brogan Dozier

III. Roll Call

Roll was called by Executive Secretary Prichard

President Pro Tempore Risk - Present

College Senator Abbas - Present

College Senator Arastu - Present

College Senator Bielinski - Present

Senator Bromley - Present

College Senator Cahill - Present

College Senator Coulter - Present

College Senator Dursa - Present

Senator Eastman - Present

College Senator Farooq - Present

Senator Frazier - Present

College Senator Henson - Present

College Senator Indomenico - Present

College Senator Jackson - Present

College Senator Kaminski - Present

Senator Leadmon - Present

College Senator Lipkovitch - Present

College Senator Lutman - Present

College Senator Madden - Present
Senator Miller - Present
Senator Olivero - Present
College Senator Oursler - Present
College Senator Phillips - Present
College Senator Pillo - Present via Zoom
Senator Randle - Present
Senator Sadler - Present
College Senator Schmieder - Present
Senator Scholl - Present
College Senator Shields - Excused
College Senator Switala - Present
Senator Vodiany - Present
Senator Weeks - Present
College Senator Witt - Present

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

The motion to amend the agenda was entertained by President Pro Tempore Risk
President Pro Tempore Risk moved to amend the agenda by adding Senator Leadmon's
name under Bureau of Finance Members

The motion was seconded by College Senator Oursler

There were no objections, Senator Leadmon was added to the agenda

President Pro Tempore Risk moves to amend the agenda by replacing "Board of
Finance" with "Bureau of Finance"

The motion was seconded by Senator Leadmon

There were no objections, the motion was passed

The motion to approve the agenda was entertained by Senator Olivero

The motion to approve the agenda was seconded by College Senator Oursler

There were no objections, and the agenda was approved.

V. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was entertained by Senator Olivero

The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by College Senator Olivero

There were no objections, and the minutes were approved.

VI. Open Student Forum I

None recognized for Open Student Forum I

VII. The President's Report

President Santmyer: First of all, I would like to acknowledge that this is a challenging time for our campus community. There is a lot of uncertainty and I know this is difficult for all of us, whether it is the start of classes, uncertainty surrounding potential decisions about academic programs, or just overall concerns. On August 22nd, the Board of Governors held a special meeting. We received an update on the following items: academic transformation, non-academic transformation, and WVU's debt profile overview. The Board approved the Proposed Update Faculty Severance Package Schedule for Clinical Track and Library Track Faculty, as well as endorsing the proposed single unit of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design with WVU Extension. Additionally, the Board heard from several students who voiced concerns regarding the preliminary recommendations for Academic Transformation. The Board's next meeting is September 15th which is also when the Board will vote on final recommendations regarding Academic Transformation. Prior to that meeting, the Provost's Office will hold hearings and issue decisions on appeals submitted from 19 of the 25 academic programs that were a part of preliminary recommendations. Let's be clear, the University is facing a \$45 million structural budget deficit. It is non-negotiable that the University must take action to address this crisis, but all of us in this room have a responsibility to speak up and advocate for the priorities of each and every student at WVU. I am very mindful that the most important part of my role is serving as a voting member on the University's Board of Governors. My responsibility as the student voice on the Board is one that I take very seriously. To be the most effective at our jobs, it is vital that we all listen to student concerns. I challenge all of you during these next few weeks before the September 15th Board Meeting to work with Brogan and I to reach students in every corner of WVU to hear their thoughts on this process. We are sometimes going to disagree in our work here, it is bound to happen at some point during this year, and it very well could be at

some point during the next few weeks. My hope is that everyone is respectful and mindful of the fact that each student who is voicing their opinion on this matter is displaying a large amount of courage. We all want what is best for the students of West Virginia University, but we cannot allow any disagreements we may have to become personal and mean-spirited attacks. To all students who have spoken up regarding the Academic Transformation, I promise you that I am listening and that your thoughts, ideas, and concerns are and will be heard. Please know that SGA is here to support you, work with you, and listen to all of your concerns. Vice President Dozier and I worked this entire summer and met with various administrators on priorities for this administration to best support all students during this challenging time. I am excited to work with every single one of you. I have full faith that through our work together we will make this university a better place, and overcome the difficult challenges that we face today.

VIII. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Dozier: Hi everyone! I'm so happy to be back and start getting to work with each and every one of you. Madison and I have been working tirelessly this summer to form relationships to further support you all. We had meetings with the provost, the president, the carruth center, Rob Alsop and many more administrators to fully understand the state of the university and how we could best advocate for the students of WVU. We are exceedingly excited for our upcoming town halls to hear from students, and will continue to advertise our open student forum for student voices. Over the summer I attended my first Alumni Board meeting as a member and continued to express the concerns of the student body. Today college Senator Pillo and I began the process of setting up a joint meeting between the deans of reed and the CCA to fully understand the merger. As a reminder please be respectful tonight and treat others how you wish to be treated.

IX. Q&A With (A) Mark Gavin and (B) Evan Widders

- A. Associate Provost for Academic, Budget, Facilities, and Strategic Initiatives**
- B. Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education**

Q: Senator Frazier: How will the academic transformation impact first generation students, and what can we do as SGA members to advocate for the community?

A: *Mark Gavin:* It doesn't necessarily impact first generation students any more or less than other students. We hope to still have a robust of programs that would be attractive to any students, regardless of background.

A: *Evan Widders:* One of our greatest concerns is student success and getting retention in graduation numbers as high as possible. What could happen is that we make certain areas of the university more efficient, with more money to invest in student support. We are starting the REACH center this year with support from a grant, and money from the provost office, to specifically support Pell recipients and first generation students.

Q: *unknown:* I have heard they are attempting to cut the program (World Languages) because they are attempting to move away from the basic language requirement for certain majors, is that true?

A: *Mark Gavin:* Yes, that is true. One of the things we are proposing for the language requirement that is attached to the Eberly Bachelor of Arts degree is to eliminate it as a requirement. If the current methodology is upheld, we will be looking for different ways of delivering the language instruction. While it may be delivered through different ways, it is not something we would cease to do. It would just be taken on an elective basis, rather than a requirement basis.

A: *Evan Widders:* We are looking into other ways to encourage and facilitate languages as well on campus. Whether it be through badges, or gain courses through other Big 12 schools, it would help us gain access to even courses that we do not offer now.

Q: *Senator Switala:* Will there be steps in place to help first generation students who may be affected by these cuts transfer to another university?

A: *Evan Widders:* It's not just first generation, it's every single student who is in a major that could get discontinued. That is going to vary a lot and we can not really implement a certain plan now because we do not know if any undergraduate programs will actually be discontinued. But as of now, the plan would be to teach out any student in their junior or senior year, possibly even sophomores, and they could graduate. We aren't required to teach out the degree with the same requirements we have now, so we do have some leniency with course substitutions and credit alternatives. Our most important goals are for students to graduate and to keep their

financial aid. If you are a first time freshman, it would be hard to just teach them out. Fortunately, there's only twenty three first time freshman who have been admitted into a program that could be discontinued. We would hope to be able to find a new home for those students, and if a student wants to transfer we will do our best to facilitate that process.

Q: *unknown*: What should students in the affected programs expect to see in the upcoming months in regards to their education?

A: *Evan Widders*: We hope they see nothing. Even if there is a reduction in the program, it won't take place right away. The faculty are still here for the remainder of the year, and a period after that. We will support the teach-outs in those units, but I would not expect to see anything in this academic year.

A: *Mark Gavin*: In the units that we have recommended reductions in faculty, but not to discontinue the program, we would hope that the impact on students would be very minimal to none. Due to overstaffing in some departments, because of a decrease in enrollment, we are having to reduce the number in staffing to help meet the deficit.

Q: *Senator Sadler*: What metrics are the departments being measured by? A lot of students are unsure what grounds to appeal for.

A: *Mark Gavin*: I encourage you to go to the provost website, and search for the academic transformation section at the top. If you click on it, and drop down on the right hand side, there's a link to the data site that shows the data set we use to conduct our reviews of the programs.

Q: *Student Advisory Boards Liaison Munslow*: When considering the World Languages Department, if the discontinuation of the program were to be upheld, and if it is outsourced, are there going to be programs put in place to support the lack of face-to-face programs?

A: *Evan Widders*: A teach-out will occur for any of those who are in a major or minor of World Languages. We aren't exactly sure the outcome or what will take place if those programs get cut, considering this will happen two years from now, we hope to have something in place for those students to support their learning.

Q: *Student Advisory Boards Liaison Munslow*: Has there been any consideration of cutting some of the smaller World Languages programs?

A: *Mark Gavin*: We have ideas, but have not defined the range of possibilities. World Languages will be coming to us with a proposal, rather than us telling them this is what they need to do. Our hope is that they come back with such a proposal that we can consider, and I don't know, but I suspect that their appeal will be along the lines of that.

Q: *Senator Leadmon*: How do you expect faculty cuts to affect the math Honors Courses?

A: *Evan Widders*: We would like to see the faculty balanced out between those who teach many classes, and those who do mostly research to be sure they are teaching about the same number of students. We hope this will have no effect on the honors classes, and will definitely have to see how it plays out.

Q: *Senator Olivero*: How is what we are doing (academic transformation), compared to other universities in the Big 12? Specifically the foreign language requirement for the Bachelors of Arts?

A: *Mark Gavin*: We are trying to be transparent about it, while a lot of other universities are dealing with it quietly. Other schools such as Penn State, are dealing with a \$145 million deficit right now and have been on a hiring freeze for at least a year. A school in New Jersey is sitting on a \$70 million deficit that they have to deal with. This is unfortunately a nationwide issue.

A: *Evan Widders*: One thing we can say is that we do not believe the answer is to raise tuition. We are not going to do that. That is how some other institutions have worked their way out of such a deficit. I cannot speak to the requirement, but it is very common for Universities to cut their foreign language departments. So much so, it is not reported any more. We would like to work with other Big 12 schools to share resources amongst one another.

Q: *College Senator Pillo*: With the merging of the colleges, how will this effect students who have the Dean's Scholarship?

A: *Evan Widders*: It is safe to say that if you currently have the scholarship you will keep the scholarship. In the future, those funds will be ruled into our general funds for any student who wants to come to WVU.

Q: *President Pro Tempore Risk*: Could we expect more recommendations or cuts for academic programs in the future?

A: *Mark Gavin*: Generally, no. We want to give the metrics we used this time to the individual colleges in hopes for them to manage themselves. We want to become partners amongst all of the universities. While the review process will continue, and discontinuations are possible, we will not see it on the scale we are seeing it now. If we are successful in making the adjustments that need to be made this time, then the big issues will be mostly handled. Then, it is just a matter of making micro adjustments.

X. Assembly Reports

College Senator Oursler: The Sustainable Land Committee has been hard at work. We have three pollinator gardens on Evansdale currently; one we are still working on. Hopefully by mid-september, there will be some IServe opportunities where you can help us plant in our pollinator gardens. I met with all division chairs and the associate dean in my college, along with students and faculty to get feedback on the proclamation. If there are any wrinkles, we can get them out tonight.

Senator Olivero: Spoke with Traci Knabenshue and Eric Ohara in May. Recycling bill; was told they got a module into NSO and was sent a comprehensive plan for implementing certain programs and initiatives in the fall. Looking forward to seeing how it all pans out and appreciative of everyone's help on that bill.

XI. Committee Reports

None Recognized for Committee Reports

XII. Executive Reports

Apprentice Coordinator Flower: Please continue to push the Apprentice Application; it closes next Wednesday so there is still one more week to apply. Additionally, I am sending everyone the mentor applications. You will be paired up with an apprentice, and you will mentor them to show them the ropes of SGA.

Chief of Staff Long: If you need to cancel a reservation, or you'd like to modify the room setup for events like committees, please reach out to me as your point of contact.

Treasurer Patel: We have ten amazing members up for the Bureau of Finance, I highly recommend them all and encourage them to all be voted in on their appointments. Additionally, the grant application opened Monday, if you haven't shared it, please let people know to apply. We are working with internally \$21,920, and externally \$121,921.52. If you need more details, let me know and I will be happy to provide you with that.

XIII. Old Business

No old business

XIV. New Business

A. Voting on Committee Chairs

1. Strategic Initiatives Committee Chair

a. College Senator Oursler

College Senator Oursler was nominated by Senator Olivero

b. Senator Frazier

College Senator Frazier was nominated by a member of the Assembly.

2. Academic Affairs Committee Chair

a. College Senator Madden

College Senator Madden was nominated by College Senator Phillips

3. Student Life Committee Chair

a. Senator Olivero

Senator Olivero was nominated by College Senator Oursler

b. College Senator Coulter

College Senator Coulter was nominated by President Pro Tempore Risk

4. Community Engagement Committee Chair

a. Senator Leadmon

Senator Leadmon was nominated by Senator Olivero

b. Senator Bromley

Senator Bromley was nominated by Senator Eastman

a. Discussion and Voting

President Pro Tempore Risk moved to bundle all nominees into a single vote via secret ballot

The motion was seconded by Senator Miller

There were no objections, the chair elections were bundled

The motion to end discussion was entertained by President Pro Tempore Risk

The motion was seconded by College Senator Abbas

There were none opposed, the motion passes and the ballot was sent to the assembly.

i. College Senator Madden was elected by acclamation, and is now the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee

ii. College Senator Oursler was elected with 19 yays, and is now the chair of the Strategic Initiatives Committee

iii. Senator Olivero was elected with 25 yays, and is now the chair of the Student Life Committee

iv. Senator Leadmon was elected with 21 yays, and is now the chair of the Student Engagement Committee

B. Bureau of Finance Voting Member Appointments

- 1. Daniel Madden, College Senator (Chambers)**
- 2. Gabrielle Frazier, Senator**
- 3. Garrett Oursler, College Senator (Davis)**
- 4. Garrison Phillips, College Senator (Eberly)**
- 5. Matthew Olivero, Senator**
- 6. Olivia Schmieder, College Senator (Davis)**
- 7. Peyton Bielinski, College Senator (CAHS)**
- 8. Caitlin Shiels, College Senator (Eberly)**
- 9. C.J. Miller, Senator**
- 10. Carter Leadmon, Senator**

a. Discussion and Voting

Senator Leadmon moved to end discussion

The motion was seconded by President Pro Tempore

There were no objections, the motion was passed

The vote was conducted via voice vote

The yays have it, and all voting members were appointed

C. Executive Appointments

1. C.J. Miller, Attorney General

2. Hayley Day, Local Governance Liaison

3. Makayla Davis, Chief Information Officer

4. Travis Weller, Elections Chair

a. Discussion and Voting

The vote was conducted via secret ballot

i. C.J. Miller, Attorney General passed with 21 votes

ii. Hayley Day, Local Governance Liaison passed with 30 votes

iii. Makayla Davis, Chief Information Officer passed with 31

Votes

iv. Travis Weller, Elections Chair passed with 28 votes

D. Bylaws of the Student Government Association, 17th Edition

a. Read by President Pro Tempore Risk

The motion to end discussion was put in order

The motion was seconded by President Pro Tempore Risk

There were no objections, discussion was ended

The Bylaws were passed via voice vote

There were no objections, the Bylaws were approved

E. AP-2023-08-01

a. Read by College Senator Oursler

The motion to end discussion was entertained by Senator Leadmon

The motion was seconded by College Senator Abbas

There were no objections, discussion was ended

The proclamation was voted on via roll call

All those present, voted in favor of the proclamation

There were to objections, the proclamation was passed unanimously

XV. Open Student Forum II

Apprentice Coordinator Flowers: I am the President of Global Brigades here on campus.

We travel to underserved, rural countries over spring break. Last spring we were able to provide healthcare to those in Panama. It is a really great experience, and we welcome everyone. Applications are open now, and we have an info session on September 7th at 6:00p.m. at Ming Hsieh Hall if you guys are interested.

Vice President Dozier: Legislative vacancies are still open, please keep pushing those. Please encourage your friends to apply.

Senator Vodiany: Tomorrow is the Independence Day of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Mountaineer Association will be here in the Mountainlair tomorrow, stop by and say hi.

College Senator Indominico: On Monday the 28th at 4:00p.m. there is a meeting with Dean Dunaway regarding the academic transformation. If anyone wants to be in on that, let me know.

XVI. Advisors' Reports

Thanh Le: Welcome back, it is great to see everyone. The meeting should not be this long every week. This Saturday we are hosting our SOLD retreat for student organizations. There will also be a financial workshop, and trademark and licensing. Homecoming court applications are open, for those seniors out there who are interested. Along with applications open to participate in the parade. On September 29th - October 1st we are hosting our REACH conference again. We are hoping to bring other campuses in our space and have good conversations about diversity and inclusion. Let us know how we can support you, and know that your voice matters to us all.

XVII. Snaps

Snaps were given to College Senator Oursler, Senator Olivero, Vice President Dozier, The Communications Team, Attorney General Miller, Everyone in SGA, The Executives.

XVIII. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was entertained by Senator Leadmon

The motion to adjourn was seconded by President Pro Tempore Risk

The ayes have it. The meeting was adjourned.