

**West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Student Assembly Meeting
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 7:30 PM
February 19th, 2025
2024-2025 Long-Browning Administration**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Abigail Browning at 7:30 pm

II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

The SGA Mission Statement was read by Vice President Abigail Browning

III. Roll Call

Roll was called by Executive Secretary Orcutt

President Pro Tempore Olivero - Present

College Senator Armstrong - Present

College Senator Bielinski - Present

Senator Davis - Present

College Senator Duvert - Absent

Senator Fernando - Present

College Senator Fleece - Present

College Senator Giggenbach - Present

College Senator Henson - Present

Senator Hoh - Present

Senator Indomenico - Present

Senator Jones - Absent

College Senator Jones - Present

College Senator Kelly - Present

College Senator Khalilullah - Absent

College Senator Lipkovitch - Absent

College Senator Lutman - Present

College Senator Madden - Absent

College Senator Magrogan - Present

Senator Meeker - Present
College Senator Mehring - Present
College Senator Merlin - Present
College Senator Mugnano - Present
Senator Olivero - Present
Senator O'Neal - Present
Senator Plymale - Absent
College Senator Robinson - Present
College Senator Schmieder - Present
College Senator Selders - Present
College Senator Shaffer - Absent
College Senator Silva - Present
Senator Street - Present
College Senator Tadros - Present
Senator Vuiller - Present

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator Street, seconded by College Senator Lutman

The agenda was Approved

V. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Street, seconded by President Pro-Tempore Olivero

The minutes were approved

VI. Open Student Forum I

Bryan Cole: Update on dining task force. I had a meeting with the director of dining today. Expect some information on ENews, we are working on getting some info out to you guys. I was appointed the chairman at that meeting, so I am excited to work on that. Over the last few weeks I have done a constitutional review, and I urge you guys to do it as well. I believe that it is extremely outdated. On top of that, the Eberly college has 4 seats instead of 6, and we have known about these vacancies since December, same with Statler. I want to urge you to amend the constitution for future administrations.

VII. Lobbying Training, Dan Kimble and Travis Mollohan, WVU Government Relations

Kimble: I served as a legislative attorney and a council speaker of the house and chief of staff for the house of delegates. After that, I became a lobbyist for the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce. I now lobby for WVU. I have spoken with Logan and others to try and get a handle on how to do a crash course. I normally do this course in a semester, but hopefully it will be helpful. First thing, what do you want? What does a win look like? And don't negotiate with yourself. Make sure you have a clear understanding of what you want. You want to go in and present and be very clear about what you want. Just as important is to determine what a win looks like. The biggest mistake I see in my role in dealing with lobbyists is people come in with high expectations and see everything else as a defeat. Winning 100 to nothing rarely happens in the world of Government. It is all about coming to some sort of agreement. Know where your bottom line is, that is essential in lobbying efforts. Can you live where they want to meet you? You don't want to stand your ground and walk out with nothing. I watch so many people over the years go in and negotiate themselves back before anyone has responded with anything. You guys have done a great job of keeping us informed with what you are doing. I would say to you after that, to have a plan. Make the appointment and call them. Catching people at random only works sometimes. I would spend some time now figuring out who you want to meet with and who is key to the things you would like to work on. I know the campus hunger bill is a big one, so use that as an example. Perhaps you would meet with someone from the health committee, house finance, the sponsors of the bill, and with the Speaker of the House and/or the Senate President. All of their information is on their webpage. Make your appointments concise, timing wise. These individuals have parades of people trying to see them all day long for 60 days. It is rare to get this time with them. You need to make a plan to get in and out in 15 minutes. If they invite you to stay, by all means, do it. But do your best to show them that you want to respect their busy schedules. If you're still looking for sponsors on bills, make sure you choose people who have the authority to do something. You may reduce your odds at passage if you fill your sponsors with one party. Make sure you have the right people engaged so you have the power to move toward your goal. Lobbying is about relationships. Even if you're dropping in for 15 minutes, you want to do your best to create a personal connection. For example, talking about where you're from can help create a personal connection. Mention what county you're from, so you can relate to them, especially if you vote in their home district. As you're going from office to office, figure out how to divide up and send everyone in different directions if there is a big group of you. Have a designated spokesperson in a group of 8 or 9. Don't try to freelance a big conversation. Don't threaten them. Don't lead with a threat, you will lose your audience. They've probably been threatened a thousand times, they aren't receptive to it, and it is not a way to build relationships. We don't have the power to intimidate and get our way. If you want to be an activist, do it, but if you want to be a lobbyist, you have to set aside your activist tendencies

and be methodical and kind. The last bit of advice is to accept the fact that the world doesn't agree with you. You can get offended about the offers you get, but you will make more headway if you stay calm and ask questions. Meet resistance with some measure of kindness and interest in what they are saying.

Senator Street: I know recently the rules regarding public hearings have changed, what does that mean for us?

Kimble: What the speaker has proposed is that instead of going the 40 second route, he slowed the process down by making bills have 3 readings in committees, so now the judiciary would put on a committee agenda, a level of public notice about that. The next day there would be a meeting about it to speak to the bill and provide amendments. The public can now submit written comments to the bill. You can also contact your local senator and delegate and say that you will be around and would like to come and speak to the bill. The delegate would then ask you to come speak and field questions. I think in the long run, this will invite and engage greater participation. I just want to say again your government relations team has been excellent to work with. They kept us informed and vice versa. They have our contact information, if there is something concerning you, please have them reach out to us.

VIII. The President's Report

President Long: Thank you to Bryan for coming up and sharing his thoughts. We are lucky to have him and his advocacy. The deadline has passed for constitutional amendments, but please put that in your transition documents. I would like to push back on the fact that our constitution is outdated, our attorney generals have amended it every year. I also wanted to push back on the fact that we are underrepresented. The senators we have are doing a great job and so are our executives. Abi and I are both members of the Eberly college, and our treasurer, Carter, if a member of the Engineering college. Also, keep working, don't burn out on me, we are all doing great work, I want to encourage you all to continue it. We did a joint post with the ROOTS Board regarding flood relief. I would love for more SGA involvement in this. We need to be strategic on the relief efforts we take on. I think this is so important. I applaud the University and CCE for taking the time to do this. I have a proclamation for RA Appreciation day, and I appreciate Olivia and some other RA's for helping with this. Representatives from the Carruth Center and I have used this to help with my initiative for combating loneliness. I have two BOG meetings this week.. "They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." - Andy Warhol

IX. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Browning: Please schedule your one on ones, end of the year brunch is on April 13th, I will be sending out info on that shortly. Please let me know if you need anything!

X. Assembly Reports

Senator Indominico: College Senator Henson and I have a piece of legislation in the drive about textbook affordability, so if you have information regarding that, please let us know.

College Senator Selders: Tea party in the Lair this Friday for Cupid's Drive! Please come!

President Pro-Tempore Olivero: The last day to put up a bill is April 2nd. Be sure to reach out to us if you need anything.

XI. Committee Reports

College Senator Robinson: Today CGR and Student Life had a good meeting with VP Poore regarding DEI. Ro and I have been working on a proclamation regarding the end of DEI and we will be collecting information from students. VP Poore wants us to be authentic and does not want us to censor ourselves. If you want to share a testimonial regarding DEI, please come to me and Ro.

College Senator Jones: We asked VP Poore a few questions regarding DEI and how we in the assembly can tackle questions about DEI. She said it is okay to say you don't know certain things. Please let them know that the new office still offers all the same resources, but please reiterate that it is not just a name change. Don't speculate on anything. She is keeping a list of questions, so please refer to her office and she will try to provide you with the best information possible. Supporting the WVU students has to be our number one priority.

College Senator Magrogan: In Health and Safety we discussed doing something regarding harm reduction on campus and working with collegiate recovery, we will be meeting with someone soon.

Senator Street: The ROOTS Board got to meet with city council members here in Morgantown. We talked about the disconnect between the city and students, and she talked about wanting to have some sort of conversation on campus with students prior to the city election.

XII. Executive Reports

Students Organizations Liaison Leyden: We don't have a lot of engagement with the student engagement and outreach act. Please fill out those forms on engage. You guys passed this bill unanimously, please sign up.

Local Governance Liaison Ferguson: The city urges students to download and use the LiveSafe app! Please spread the word.

Legislative Affairs Officer Pierce: I wanted to give you an update on the Hanshaw meeting. He seems very open to the idea. I spoke to Senator Grady as well and she has a few concerns with the fiscal side of it but she seems willing to work with it. Today I met with the

Executive Vice Chancellor of Education and he does reiterate that the scholarship would call for more funding. We are also making good progress with expanding the critical needs areas. I am also tracking many bills, mostly within higher education. WVU Day is March 5th, we will be traveling to lobby, so if you would like to come, please apply if you have the time. State of the State happened last Wednesday. The Governor did not touch higher education funding. The department of Education on Friday discussed the future of DEI and higher education funding, so please read that.

Alumni Relations Liaison McDonald: March 8th Basketball game sold out, so we are turning to a baseball game!

Intern Coordinator Skaff: We had the Intern Retreat on Sunday. These interns are working really hard. I would really like it if you would include them on their legislation. They could really use your support and guidance. Thank you to all of you who are interacting with them!

Chief of Staff Risk: Intern retreat was super fun! I know that a lot of people are busy and elections are going on, so if you are going to a meeting, please sign up to knock out being an SGA representative. This is super crucial. Everyone go look at the report link I sent in the GroupMe and pull it up. I just want to make sure you all have it. Please go and do your reports or else I am going to go crazy. I am staying up here for a minute for real. Are you getting this in the minutes?

Executive Secretary Orcutt: Yes. "I am staying up here for a minute for real."

Chief of Staff Risk: Please get this done by Tuesday at midnight. If you forget, I am not looking at your message.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

A. AP-2025-02-02, An Assembly Proclamation to Recognize Resident Assistant Appreciation Day

College Senator Robinson yielded her time to President Long

President Long read the bill

Senator Street moved to end discussion, seconded by President Pro-Tempore Olivero.

College Senator Robinson moved to waive the second reading, seconded by Senator Indominico

Senator Olivero moved to approve the bill, seconded by College Senator Lutman.

B. FB-2025-05, Financial Bill

Treasurer Leadmon read the bill

Senator Olivero moved to end discussion, seconded by President Pro-Tempore Olivero.

President Pro-Tempore moved to approve the bill, seconded by College Senator Mugnano.

XV. Open Student Forum II

Senator Meeker: Although I do commend the work that the past AG's have done, I do want to refer to the ninth page of the constitution. The constitution is outdated. There are many colleges that no longer exist, such as the college of education, college of physical activity and sports science, and the Reed college of media, but that is a new merger so we'll let that one slide. I just believe it is important to regard that information as fact.

Bradley Dale: We just wanted to confirm that we do not think that this assembly is doing a bad job, but we just want to fill the vacancies right now because we have so many interns ready to get things going. With the division in the country, students need our voices more than ever.

Chief of Staff Risk: Every time we have reports, I will be doing this. I now have 24 out of 44 reports.

President Long: I wanted to encourage and remind everyone of our resources on campus such as the Carruth Center. There is a lot going on in this world. There was a time that I felt that I didn't have anyone to talk to, but once I realized that I was not alone, I became a better leader. I want to make sure everyone considers their mental health, because that is how we are going to win these fights. Don't be afraid to ask for help or make mistakes.

President Pro-Tempore Olivero: Tomorrow the Pre-Law Society will be meeting at 7pm in the Laurel Room of the Lair. There will be pizza and discussions of the LSAT

Senator Vuiller: I think it is important to practice radical empathy. Also 123 will be hosting a show for the flood victims, so please advocate and tell people to go to the show.

College Senator Merlin: I put a link for a lobby day in the chat, if you sign up Planned Parenthood will pay for your gas.

Communications Coordinator Roush: BOF members please stay after so I can get a photo of you guys.

XVI. Advisors' Reports

Thanh Le: We have launched applications for excellence awards, please sign up. Morgan had her baby! She had a healthy baby boy. She will be out for the rest of the semester, so please reach out to her and tell her congratulations. She and the baby are doing well. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please come talk to me. CGR had a great meeting today

with VP Poore, and she is willing to have that conversation with anyone. Please feel free to contact us if you need anything. Echoing what Charlie said, please take some time for yourself and take care of yourself. I appreciate all the work you do for our campus.

XVII. Snaps

Snaps were given to Carter, Dominic, Carter's interns, Susie, Mary, Carter, Committee Chairs, everyone at the intern retreat, the interns that spoke today, Logan, Olivia, Ro, Logan x2, and Bryan Cole.

XVIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by President Pro-Tempore Olivero, seconded by Senator Street.

The ayes have it, the meeting was adjourned.