

**West Virginia University  
Student Government Association  
Student Assembly Meeting  
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 7:30 PM  
September 11th, 2024  
2024-2025 Long-Browning Administration**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Abigail Browning at 7:34 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 Barbour - Present

College Senator Bielinski - Present

Senator Davis - Present

College Senator Duvert - Present

Senator Fernando - Present

College Senator Ferrell - Present

College Senator Fleece - 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 - Present

College Senator Lieving - Present

College Senator Lipkovitch - Present

College Senator Lutman - Present

College Senator Madden - Present  
College Senator Magrogan - Present  
Senator Meeker - Present  
College Senator Merlin - Present  
College Senator Morgan - Present  
Senator Alex Olivero - Absent  
Senator O'Neal - Present  
Senator Plymale - Present  
College Senator Robinson - Present  
College Senator Schmieder - Present  
College Senator Shaffer - Present  
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 was made by Senator Indominico, Seconded by Senator Street*

**V. Reading and Approval of the Minutes**

*A motion to approve was made by College Senator Lutman, Seconded by Senator Street*

**VI. Open Student Forum I**

*College Senator Magrogan:* The Free Naloxone day will be on various locations on campus soon. Also on Tuesday the 24th, we will be doing Naloxone training, and I'd love to see some volunteers, you'll get iServe hours!

**VII. Recovery Ally Training, Andrew Caryl, Program Coordinator, WVU Collegiate Recovery**

*Andrew Caryl:* We are a program that helps support students in recovery at WVU and we

are so happy to have so much interest in our program, thank you guys for helping out. We look at recovery very broadly, and anyone is welcome. Most people think recovery is just substance abuse. We also view recovery as eating disorder recovery, mental health recovery, or anything that falls within that broad definition. It is all for the benefit for the students and for them to get the help they need. Recovery allies do not have to be experts or have all the answers, they just make themselves available and connect and support the person and help them make the changes they want to make. Recovery is a lifelong process, not just going to a facility. We don't want to stigmatize them. We also want to talk about how language is important when you are talking to someone going through recovery. What does communication about substance abuse look like in your family?

*President Pro-Tempore Olivero:* There wasn't much communication at home. More so in school. Everything seemed really bad and had bad connotations. At a young age, nobody seemed understanding.

*Caryl:* Yeah, it can seem like people view it as a flaw of character.

*College Senator Barbour:* The main thing I remember is learning through the DARE program. There were also people in my family who struggled with addiction and no one seemed to talk about it in a caring way, especially alcoholism, because no one usually sees it as a drug.

*Caryl:* Yes, Alcoholism can seem like it is normalized in society. Another question, what did communication in the media about mental health and substance abuse look like to you?

*Senator Vuiller:* The DARE program and their commercials really come to mind. They perceive people who suffer from substance abuse as dumb or uneducated, and does not highlight the mental health issues these people are struggling with.

*Caryl:* It is important to realize that anyone can suffer with substance abuse. The media also sells recovery short as well.

*College Senator Barbour:* It doesn't really show the full spectrum of what matters. In college, it is normalized. You suffer really bad consequences, and it is so common in college. It doesn't show the bad parts, only the high parts.

*Caryl:* Yeah, the media and college can really glamourize substance abuse. It seems to be fun, carefree, no consequences, which does not reflect the life altering consequences. Recovery allies don't have to be experts. You just have to understand how complex the disorders are. Understand the risks and why these disorders may arise. You just have to be aware that is more complicated than just the individuals making decisions. As an ally, it is important to keep in mind that these are our friends making these decisions on things. We want to make a community and have a sense of belonging. We want everyone to feel supported. Our job is not to diagnose

anyone. We need to look for signs and be mindful of our friends and have a conversation if we notice things changing with our friends. We also need to be mindful of the way we communicate about substance abuse disorders, because language is something that could deter people from treatment. We advocate for “people first” language. Context matters with respect to the language we use. Offer your time to your friends who are struggling. Be knowledgeable of resources on campus. Attend a Nalaxone training, it can save lives. Empathy and connection is very important. As allies, that is what we start with. We have many resources available in Collegiate Recovery. We have our own drop in center, recovery meeting, Carruth Center for anything clinical, mindfulness programming, HelpForth WVU, substance free social events, and other social networking opportunities that don’t infringe on your recovery journey. Just come on in and make yourself at home. There are also multiple options for sober living. There are at least half a dozen in the Morgantown area. There are also support groups. There are also resources for people who want to work on their relationships with their mind and body. Use motivational interviewing when you’re talking to someone struggling with substance abuse. Use open ended questions and see what changes they want to make. Use the same careful language when you are talking to someone struggling with food and body issues. How would you talk to a friend struggling with these issues?

*College Senator Lutman:* I think a good first step is to ask your friend is okay and then run through the process of comfortable language and not overstepping your boundaries

*Caryl:* Yes, I think using those open ended questions are a good idea. Anyone else?

*College Senator Barbour:* Just letting them know that you’re there with them regardless and continuously checking up on them.

*Caryl:* Yes, unconditional support is a great practice. What if your roommate comes home stressed from school and work and engages in bad practices with parties, how do you respond?

*College Senator Morgan:* I think it would be good to have an open conversation, and see if they open up to you on their own terms, just let them know that you are an ally.

*Caryl:* Yes, inviting them to open up to you will help them seek you out. Anyone else?

*Senator Vuiller:* I think just asking them if they are okay and seeing if they need help, especially if you guys are sharing an environment would be beneficial. And trying to get them to do other things than what they usually do.

*Caryl:* Yes, getting them out of the routine would help them as well. Any questions?

*College Senator Lutman:* How are you advertising this to students? I want students to know about all these resources.

*Caryl:* We do outreach every single day. We are a small team, so it is hard, but we work everyday to make our resources known.

*College Senator Lutman:* Is your website available on the WVU website?

*Caryl:* Yes, it is [collegiaterecovery.wvu.edu](http://collegiaterecovery.wvu.edu). Anyone else?

*Senator Vuiller:* I actually toured the Serenity Place and it was great. How can we help share the resources at the Serenity Place?

*Caryl:* Word of mouth, sharing our newsletter, our events, social media, and just staying in touch.

*College Senator Madden:* Do you guys send out any digital flyers for people to put on infoboards?

*Caryl:* Yes, we do a ton with HSC specifically, and the infoboards. We are open to collaboration with anyone. Thank you guys so much for having us tonight.

### **VIII. The President's Report**

*President Long:* We will be making our decisions on who we are taking to BIG XII tomorrow. We are working on an event at the art museum called We The People, Exploring Diversity through the Art Museum of WVU's collection next Wednesday at 6pm. Share it around and let your friends know. Also check their exhibits on voting. Next week on Monday, we are having a zoom meeting regarding WVUEngage. Anyone is welcome. Tonight I am making my first Judicial Court appointment. I think he will be a great addition to our team. If you guys know any grad students, please have them apply. We need a full court for the election. Yesterday, I met with representatives from Barnes and Noble regarding First Day Complete so they will be coming next week to get your feedback. We want to help work out the kinks and I will be working with their marketing team to help make things a little bit clearer to the student body. My quote is "We have two ears and one mouth so we can listen twice as much as we speak."

### **IX. The Vice President's Report**

*Vice President Browning:*

If you have not scheduled your one on one with Policy Coordinator Wooten, President Pro-Tempore Olivero or myself, please do so soon, we are missing people. I also had my first alumni board meeting last week and things went well, and the eve of that we had a little event and that went well. And there is also an application out for a committee for legislative vacancies,

we are looking for one senator to apply. Collegiate Recovery is having a paint a tote bag event next week.

## **X. Assembly Reports**

*Senator Street:* Voter Registration drive starts next week. We are going to table every Tuesday and Thursday up until October 15th. We will send the link to sign up to table in the chat. Shelby and I met with the directors of the PRT last week, and they were very receptive, and just to look into it more and look at funding opportunities. We are going to schedule a meeting to go to each station next week.

*Senator Vuiller:* Wanted to announce that Senator O'Neal and I are working on some tabling legislation. The legislation would require all senators to table a certain amount of times every month at various locations on campus. We want to make sure that students' voices are being heard and a lot of senators ran on visibility and transparency.

*College Senator Barbour:* Do you have an idea of how many times senators will be required to table?

*Senator Vuiller:* At least once a month, with hopefully 2-3 tabling events a month. We are aware of busy schedules. Only 3% of the student body voted in the last election, so we want to engage more to see if that changes anything.

*College Senator Magrogan:* I had a meeting with Drew Gatland on Friday to discuss the safety walk. We will be setting a date for it hopefully Friday. Please fill out that google form saying where you may want to go. Again, it is not official, so no stress. I'll send an actual sign up sheet later when the date is released.

*Senator Davis:* We will be having a mini SGA meeting regarding connecting with alumni, so if you're interested, please come to the conference room tomorrow at 4pm.

## **XI. Committee Reports**

*Senator Vuiller:* The Health and Safety Committee will be doing meditation. Open to the assembly and I encourage you to bring your interns. It will start next week from 7pm-7:20 in the Monongalia room.

*Senator Davis:* SGA will be tabling at Parent Weekend at the end of September.

## **XII. Executive Reports**

*Internal Senates Liaison Hickle:* I attended two meetings this week, faculty senate and first day complete. The faculty senate meeting was about the Presidential Search and eCampus Ultra transition. The search committee presented data from the surveys and issues concerning governing. The provost's office spoke about good data regarding retention and reducing the amount of students having to leave campus due to financial reasons and the campus carry act. eCampus was brought up, and the ultra is just an updated version of the service and they just listened to concerns from faculty about the transition. In the first day complete meeting, we talked about how HSC students had to automatically opt out of the program because they already have their materials, and they reiterated that FDC is a rental system. We also asked by the bookstore was so slow in handing out books, and they said that some students did not opt in to the program quick enough, and there were some miscommunications between parents and students regarding the bill, and faculty did not put in the materials quick enough. We just need to communicate better about the program so students understand more.

*Chief of Staff Risk:* Gov Docs had our first meeting on Tuesday, so if you have any suggestions for us, let me, Attorney General Frazier or Elections Chair Coulter know. We do have a date set for our formal set for this semester. November 15th from 7-9. I'll send more info out later.

*Website Designer Oxley:* Quick reminder of the SGA bio form, I am still missing some so please send them in. I want to get them up by Friday.

*Outreach Coordinator Cantwell:* Our first townhall will be tomorrow here in the mountaineer room at 7pm. It will be about the Richwood Project. Want to get as many voices involved as possible. Please come show up for SGA.

### **XIII. Old Business**

*No Old Business at this time*

### **XIV. New Business**

#### **A. New Student Organization Approval**

- 1. Iranian Students Association**
- 2. Animal Law Society**
- 3. Painting and Drawing Club**
- 4. Ecology Club**

*All New Student Organizations pass.*

#### **B. Confirmation of Judicial Court Member**

- 1. Devin Price, College of Law**

*With majority vote, Devin Price passes*

#### **C. FB-2024-11**

*The financial Bill passes*

### **XV. Open Student Forum II**

*No open student forum II*

### **XIV Advisors' Reports**

*Thahn Le: Welcome Interns! I am Dr. Thahn Le. Beside me is your legislative advisor Morgan Prunty, and behind me is Dean of Students Corey Ferris. He also serves in an advisor capacity for SGA. We are an organization full of ideas, so we look forward to your hard work. We have now pushed back the reregistration deadline for all student organizations until September 30th. If you do not reregister, you will be derecognized. Homecoming applications are still live, so seniors that want to run for homecoming royalty, we want to see your application. Those are due the 20th at noon. Registration for homecoming parade participation are live too. Be safe this weekend!*

### **XV. Snaps**

*Snaps to interns, College Senator Hoh, Senator Indominico, College Senator Magrogan, College Senator Bielinski, Chief of Staff Risk.*



**XVI. Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Street, seconded by College Senator Jones.*

*The ayes have it, the meeting was adjourned.*