

**West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Student Assembly Meeting
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 7:30 PM
November 29th, 2023
2023-2024 Santmyer-Dozier Administration**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dozier at 7:35p.m.

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 - Absent

College Senator Bielinski - Present

Senator Bromley - 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 - Absent

College Senator Kisto - Present

Senator Leadmon - Present

College Senator Lipkovitch - Present

College Senator Lutman - Absent

College Senator Madden - Present

College Senator Magrogan - Present

College Senator Moore - Present
Senator Olivero - Present
College Senator Orcutt - Present via Zoom
College Senator Oursler - Present
College Senator Phillips - Absent
Senator Randle - Absent
Senator Sadler - Present
College Senator Schmieder - Present
Senator Scholl - Present via Zoom
College Senator Shiels - Present
College Senator Switala - Present
Senator Vodiany - Absent
Senator Weeks - Present
College Senator Witt - Present

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was entertained by College Senator Oursler
The motion to approve the agenda was seconded by Senator Eastman
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 President Pro Tempore Risk
The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Senator Olivero
There were no objections, and the minutes were approved.

VI. Discussion about Richwood Development

Presentation relating to the Richwood Development given by Ron Justice: Director of Local Government Relations & Russell Rogerson: President and CEO of Morgantown Area Partnership.

Senator Eastman: What is the time we are looking at for this project to be finished?

Richwood Development Rep.: Three to five years, most likely five, for the complete build out phase. We are looking to have financing by the end of this quarter. That is when we can go out and mark it, and the development will kick in.

Senator Sadler: This kind of concerns me. We all know what gentrification is, we all know how it works. I am not saying that is what this is, but I am saying that you are straddling some weird lines here. I am concerned to see how new stores will affect local businesses. West Virginia itself, geography wise, we have always been wide stretched. Most of us that are from the state aren't used to walkable cities. I think that will be a cultural change. Most importantly, if we are looking for something to keep ourselves away from that, that actually benefits the Morgantown community, I think you guys should look into warming shelters. It is great that we can walk around, but I do not like to see the tons of people on High Street that are walking around in 17 degree weather. Putting in something good that will help the people in the community that have no help. All of those things sound great, and really nice and shiny and new, but there are other needs here that I think we could tackle in the community to make it better for everyone, not just people that have money.

Richwood Development Rep.: I can answer the specifics for you. We told you about one project. We also have Main Street as one of our organizations. We just completed a south High Street plan. We are working with the Wharf to continue the build out of the Wharf. Also the Sunny-Side Up is one of our entities as well. We continue to work at all facets of the community and all ranges and all places. We are engaged with a multitude of projects, this particular one, is one that is ready to launch and that is why we are here.

Senator Sadler: Well personally, I am in the student union here, that is 500 some kids. A lot of us are concerned with warming shelters. It is great you all have all these projects, but I would put that at the top of the list. You have a lot of people that are coming through here, riding buses, from all over. These people need help and if they are in this community, that is our job. That's all.

College Senator Oursler: I do see the value in this project. Especially for future students, not just us. I am very interested in sustainable development throughout this project as well. There are very simple things that can be done like changing a roof

color here and there, or adding rain gardens for better water management. I think it would benefit aesthetically, and make maintenance costs less for the project overall. I would love to continue the conversations on that, I am trying to work on stuff here at the university for that. I do think a medical facility for downtown would be a major win for students. The closest one I believe is on Evansdale. If there is an emergency, it can be hard to get there. I do think that would be a wonderful addition. I also think a grocery store is major, and a community garden space. If that could be a partnership with the campus food garden here at WVU, I think it could be great to bring more green spaces to Morgantown. I will continue to try my best to help out with this project however I can.

Richwood Development Rep.: When you mentioned that the other day, that is definitely something we will be looking very hard at how we can incorporate that in. Medical, we hope. Right now we can only hope for things, but we are going to get busy locking things down as the year goes on. As far as community gardens go, actually through the Morgantown transit authority, they are putting a grant in to create five community gardens as well. We can incorporate other activities going on and how we can incorporate them into our development.

College Senator Indomenico: I was wondering if there were any plans for available space for any other recreational green spaces?

Richwood Development Rep.: We have a large green space, and as we move forward, we are doing the best we can to incorporate the activities for everyone based on the amount of space we have.

Senator Olivero: What is the degree of student input/public input that will be accepted for this project? When will that be cut off?

Richwood Development Rep.: I don't know that it does cut off, quite frankly. I love this connection with the Board of Governors because it is a great place for you all to communicate through. Input from your group is critical. Until we build the last building, I don't think we will stop taking your input. The developers wanted to make sure what they put in is something that is going to succeed, and in order to know that, they want to know what the interests of the community are. Maybe what we are asking you all to do is to put your own group together right now, and

provide any input, and we will take it tomorrow. We have heard good things here and all the discussion, the warming shelters, the medical facility. We would just look at you all on how you want to engage and present ideas.

President Pro Tempore Risk: I would hope there is some mind put into some good quality housing that is going to last a long time. But also does not become so unaffordable that it would drive up rent prices in the area. I know that not everyone can afford to pay upward of \$700, \$800 a month for somewhere to live. I know I certainly can't. I do live close to construction that has been going on in Morgantown for a long time. I know it can cause some traffic issues, or it can be pretty noisy. I have had mornings that I have been woken up by construction. Of course nobody likes it, but it is just part of the process. Are there any current plans in place to make sure the people who are already living in the area are being taken care of in the aspect of the noise and traffic caused by the project.

Richwood Development Rep.: Okay so we'll do the noise first that'll be part of the construction plan and in this particular site where we're not what we're working we're a hundred feet below the community above us and then adjacent to us parking lot and commercial so we're fortunate with that in terms of spillover. This is the exit for a lot of Woodburn folks and we've been talking with them for about two years now. City council has had a lot of strong input about affordable housing so we actually have a this buffer of this gray buffer area up here is an area that we're proposing we own these yellow blocks that we're proposing to actually help the city put together a program where working with the Housing Authority we can also continue to do single family homes. Trying to keep all that in mind and trying to keep things moving in that direction and trust me we're not talking about national retailers, no drive throughs, this is going to be kind of your neighborhood feel. A lot of these tenants are already operating in North Central West Virginia that want to open a thousand square foot shop and bring their product and make the availability so this is not large retail this is it's going to have to be affordable for ma-pa shops to open a second location. We also believe this will help downtown. Downtowns are the heart of the community.

Senator Sadler: Yeah it was just something I was thinking about the kind of concerns me because I will be here in Morgantown after I graduate I plan on staying a little bit, if we like renovate these areas will it also increase the property values of other

areas and raise like I feel like it'll probably end up raising the price for a lot of us, and no offense but Morgantown is already expensive as it is. My concern is if it is put in, I think it will raise the property value. Do you think the surrounding areas will still stay at the same rates?

Richwood Development Rep.: That's a difficult question to answer precisely but we believe in affordable housing as well and that's kind of what we've had a pretty good conversation with the city and in that line so maybe that's not you know this particular dense process. That is why we want to look at the buffer zone that may increase and continue to have housing for all. One of the beauties of that buffer area is for it to really act as a book end to the development when there is redevelopment there tends to be redevelopment in and around the same area but with the Woodburn area it has historically been one of the more affordable communities. With that being a book end to it, it is to keep that from being a creep up of more development in that neighborhood. So you will still have those places where you could buy a house in Woodburn, not just rent an apartment. We want to make sure that neighborhood not only stays affordable, but more attractive because you would be able to walk to hopefully a medical center or a grocery store.

Senator Sadler: You think it will cut off and just stay secure because it has historically, that is basically it?

Richwood Development Rep.: No. The plan is that we have done a line of demarcation that we will not be developing past Pearl Street. We work with the housing authority and the plan is to transfer the properties to them to be affordable housing options. Geography keeps this project pretty well defined. We want strong walkable neighborhoods.

VII. Open Student Forum I

None were recognized for Open Student Forum I

VIII. The President's Report

President Santmyer: I hope everyone had a good break and got some well needed rest after the long and hard semester we just had. Thank you to everyone who came to retreat, it was very productive. If you weren't able to make it, those who did,

please share what you did. Continue to be focused and purposeful for the rest of this term. Election is creeping up on us. Be sure you are able to balance both. Reach out if you need advice. Pay attention during meetings, be active in discussions. Ask questions, do not think questions are dumb. You are here to represent people. We have a few interviews for vacancies coming up. Cece unfortunately resigned due to personal reasons, so we will have an open executive position. We will try to fill it. I had the campus carry subcommittee today. We will bring updates as the semester progresses. I have an advisory council of students this Friday. We will be finalizing our statewide month of service initiative. It will be similar to the one with Marshall. We are going to make sure everyone participates in one act of service for the rest of this semester. There will be a ton of opportunities throughout this semester. We will be checking, so make sure you do that. The survey for the state is taking a little longer than expected, so that will hopefully be out next week. Please share and fill it out yourself. Next week we will have a discussion about WVU recruitment, following that we will have a discussion about AI in the classroom. If you have any concerns or questions, bring them to the meeting. If you have any other administrators that you would like to come have discussions with us, reach out to myself, Susie, or Brogan. Thanks everyone.

IX. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Dozier: Hello Everyone! I am so unbelievably happy to see all of you. I loved all of the photos and facetimes I received during retreat. It felt like I was almost there. I am very sorry again that I could not make it, but I promise I have a doctor's excuse. Prior to break I attended an alumni board meeting where retention was a big focus, and enhancing the overall student experience. Please do not hesitate to send me any ideas, concepts, or questions that I can bring up to the alumni board! I know a lot of you want to get more involved with alumni and I am more than happy to help! Last week I went to a campus safety subcommittee meeting where I learned more about the university's plans to accommodate campus carry. The committee plans to attend an sga meeting in february and march to brief us, and seek our suggestions. With the start of the new semester Jillian, Susie and I will be doing one on ones once again. This will be conducted just as they were last time. Please be on the lookout for a message from me to sign up. Today I met with Javier McCoy, the director of the center for Black Culture. We discussed all events taking place on campus for Black History Month. I will be compiling a list to send to you all. Lastly just as a general reminder please

work with your fellow senators to set up meetings with your deans! It is very important especially for college senators to have a working relationship with your dean. If you have any trouble setting these meetings up please let me know!

X. Assembly Reports

College Senator Oursler: I met with dining services again, this semester we will be composting at all dining locations. Big things are happening with composting, if anyone wants to help with that, I will take the help. As of a week ago, I announced that we are a bee campus affiliate. This project has been a work in progress. We are designing at least four different pollinator gardens across campus and reevaluating rain gardens. I will be starting a native plant project where we will be growing the plants from seeds collected through West Virginia.

Senator Olivero: All right I wanted to update you all on our favorite thing, recycling. We're currently looking to build on what we did last year with the recycling stuff into Greek life in fraternities and sororities. The first part we are looking to do this spring. We are wanting to do a recycling competition so we can get everyone up to speed on how it works. To work on developing the neural pathways on why recycling is good and important. We are hoping in the next year, to have 100% of those organizations have a permanent recycling system in place. It will take a lot, so if you want to help, let us know.

College Senator Coulter: I am working on setting up a meeting with the office of undergraduate research. Specifically talking about outreach and getting more students involved in the program. If anyone is interested in hoping for that meeting, reach out to me, especially if you are in the humanities, social sciences, or art.

Senator Frazier: I want to give an update on the library legislature in the drive. There will be more to it by the end of the week. If there is any input you want to have on that legislation, feel free to let me know. Myself and others will be meeting with the libraries in February. We haven't set a date for that yet but we will soon. We won't be bringing a huge group, but we will take your concerns to the meetings.

XI. Committee Reports

1. Community Engagement

Senator Leadmon: The SGA 3v3 is this Saturday. If you are available, please volunteer or participate. UpAllNight is next weekend, there will be a signup sheet for that.

XII. Executive Reports

Attorney General Miller: Gov Docs has a meeting on Friday at 5:00pm. on zoom. We will be talking about senator numbers, possibly cutting them down. I will put the zoom link in the chat if that is something you care about.

Elections Chair Weller: The Candidacy meeting is tomorrow at 7:00pm. in the Greenbrier room. If you are running you have to come to that. For president and vice president there will be 6 people. At-large senators there will be 15. Eberly there will be 11. Davis will be 1. Statler will be 4. Health Sciences is 1. Applied Human Sciences will be two. Law will be 1. Reed will be 2. Creative Arts will be 1. Chambers will have 4. There will be some openings for the next administration. Candidate announcements will happen later tonight. Just come up here and say what you are running for. You will get timed if you do a long-winded speech. After you announce, you can post on social media. Make sure that during informal time, there will be no logos, slogans, or will be lobbying for votes at this time. You can talk about your platform, but do not try to get people to vote for you. You will get a violation.

Policy Coordinator Blair: Please be expecting messages from me, Susie, and Brogan. We all need to be communicating now while everyone has momentum. Everyone who led a small group session at retreat, you should have gotten a message from me. We need to focus on what is going on now, rather than what is coming next. Gabby and I will be starting fast facts to help better give out information we may be privy to through administrative meetings, etc. Talking about topics such as applying for graduation, SGA elections, advising, etc. If you want to help, let us know. Matthew and I are working on the Sports Arts Campus Challenge to help get “green” workout equipment at the rec. Every week, we will be posting a tik tok about ways we engage in sustainability on campus up until spring break. E day at the capitol will be February 13th. It is at the capitol in Charleston. We will organize carpooling to go down. The Sierra Student Coalition will also be going.

We will have tables in the rotunda and hopefully be able to speak and engage with legislators. We will talk about what we are doing with sustainability, and get meetings with anyone involved with parks, rec, tourism, etc. I would like to have conversations with leaders about how we can be engaged to be sure we aren't being left out of the conversation. Please message me at any time if you need me. We can go anywhere anytime. Just not Jimmy Johns.

Legislative Affairs Liaison Buxton: Legislature is back. It is slow moving currently. In my drive there is a master tracker of the bills we are looking at. We will work on linking the bills directly. Campus free hunger act reintroduced two bills. There will be more information as time goes on. Madison and I have a meeting with Travis Mollohan tomorrow to find out more information. Please fill out the big 12 topic list if there are any topics you would like to be lobbied for during that time. Please text me with any questions.

Apprentice Coordinator Flower: I want to welcome our new apprentices here. There are six new apprentices joining us this semester. If you were assigned a new apprentice, please reach out to them as soon as possible. If you are a mentor, please reach out to your apprentices again. They are excited to be back. If you have questions about your apprentice, let me know and I will help you out with that. If you have any other questions, please ask me. Many of them are running for positions in the upcoming election.

Chief of Staff Long: I am here to announce that the monthly report form is open, please fill it out. The link is in the GroupMe and in the drive. If you have any questions about that, please let me know.

Local Governance Liaison Day: Madison, Garrett, and I attended city council. We spoke about the Richwood Development. That passed in a 6-1 vote. It can now go forward. We want to make sure all of your ideas and concerns are heard, keep in contact with me. There was an ordinance up for its first reading last night. They are planning on redesignating the downtown district and the Wharf. Once it is privately designated, you can walk around downtown with an alcoholic beverage, IF YOU ARE OF AGE, similar to somewhere like Pigeon Forge. If you are into that kind of deal, you can get some wine and walk around and shop. It opens up more opportunities for festivals, and I think it could liven up the neighborhood.

Once approved, it would likely go into effect in May. The Rainbow House has its grand opening tonight. It is a LGBTQ+ emergency shelter, and is the first in West Virginia. This is a great resource, they are looking for volunteers. If you want to help or know someone who needs help please contact me. Our warming shelter is operating as we speak. Once the beds are full, they overflow into the sobering center. The city has spent \$30,000 to keep them operating throughout March. Please reach out to me about any questions or concerns about anything I said.

Outreach Coordinator Tiano: I want to give a reminder about tab collection. You can receive service hours for collecting pop tabs that support the Ronald McDonald house. We have an opportunity to volunteer with the Science Bowl on February the 2nd and 3rd. There will be an opportunity to set up a STEM station on Saturday. College Senator Oursler and I will be working on that so if you want to help, reach out to me. You can also get service hours for the 3v3 tournament this weekend, I will be sure to send that out.

Internal Senates Liaison Pierce: President Gee is retiring in June of 2025. The search for a new president is underway. There is a new committee established to do so. This is not the formal search committee but will be finalized at a later date. The current committee is studying and providing best practices for the presidential search and hiring. Faculty senate leadership has been receiving information on non-academic area reviews. They anticipate some budget reductions from these first eleven reviews. These recommendations will be presented by the end of February. They established a template for administrative review. Provost MaryAnn Reed said it would be unlikely for another institutional level reduction, but it is possible there could be other cuts. The faculty senate approved seven new programs. They removed 83 courses from the GEF catalog. Most have not been taught in the past 3 years. The teaching committee is looking at restructuring the SEI's. The Staff Council met today. They have been working on marketing and recruitment. We could collaborate with them on that. They reestablished a retention committee and are talking about having a SGA representative on that committee. They are keeping tabs on higher education initiatives in the legislature. Next Tuesday, I helped to plan a SGA senate's mixer. This will be a good way to meet faculty and staff. They are working on a lot of the same issues that we are. Please come out and attend if you can. It will be a good way to build your networks. It will likely be in the ballrooms at 6:00p.m.

XIII. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss

XIV. New Business

A. New Student Organization Approval

1. *Mantra Meditation Society*

With unanimous approval, the *Mantra Meditation Society* is a new WVU student organization

B. Legislative Vacancy Appointment

1. Katelyn Merlin, Health Sciences College Senator

With unanimous votes, Katelyn Merlin is a new Health Sciences College Senator

XV. Open Student Forum II

Matthew Kolb: I am with the Student Union. I want to talk about the Stewardship Program. Earlier tonight, you heard that MaryAnn Reed said more cuts are likely because the budget deficit was not closed by the cuts they already did. I think we all predicted that. This plan was put together by a professional accountant and a member of the WVU faculty. It was to be an alternative for the academic transformation. I implore all of you to look at this plan and to understand what it has to offer. We hope I can help going forward when there are more cuts on the table.

Erin Scuff: Singups for the I Belong game have been extended until Friday. You can earn \$400 for your club. Advisor appreciation week is coming up. If you could take a minute to send in nice things about your advisor, a photo or video, that would be great. Please do so by February 2nd.

Senator Sadler: To follow up on Matthew's Stewardship Plan, I have been looking at it. I am trying to write some legislation on it. It looks really good. It doesn't say we can remove what has happened. What happened has happened. It looks at admin spending. Admins spend \$350,000 flights to Charleston in 2023 alone. That is 4x

what West Virginians make. We aren't going to stop seeing academic cuts. I know it is annoying as shit and in everyone's faces, but it is here for a reason. I think we should look at our alternate plans and put up some stances here. Students are still getting fucked over. So is the faculty. We still have students that need our help.

XVI. Advisors' Reports

Thank Le: Next Wednesday is our student involvement fair. We will have offices and departments trying to recruit there. From 1:00pm. to 4:00p.m. at the Rec. The Rack is expanding on January 29th at Statler College. We are gearing up for our first year leadership academy. Signups are February 2nd. It used to be eight weeks, but we are trying a new plan for four weeks this year. If you know some people let us know. I wish everyone luck with this semester.

XVII. Snaps

Snaps were given to Sierra Worden, Apprentice Olivero, Policy Coordinator Blair, everyone who is announcing tonight and keeping it short

XVIII. 2024 Election Candidacy Announcements

Matthew Kolb: My name is Matthew Kolb and I will be running for President

Winston Smith: My name is Winston Smith and I will be running for Vice President

Matthew Kolb: You probably recognize us from working with the Student Union, saw us at protests earlier in the semester. Throughout that time, working with Student Union, we have met countless people and students that we have gotten to speak to about the issues on campus and what they want to see happen here at WVU. We felt that this is the right step for us to take.

Daniel Madden, *Chambers College Senator*

Peyton Bielinski, *College of Applied Human Sciences Senator*

Olivia Schmieder, *Davis College Senator*

Elise Vuiller, *Senator-At-Large*

Olivia Robinson, *Eberly College Senator*

Matthew Olivero, *Senator-At-Large*

Raveen Fernando, *Senator-At-Large*

Jordan Kelly, *Eberly College Senator*

Adeline Barbour, *Eberly College Senator*
Madison Morgan, *Statler College Senator*
Abbie Lieving, *Statler College Senator*
Isabella, *Statler College Senator*
Molly Meeker, *Senator-At-Large*
Alex Olivero, *Senator-At-Large*
Madison Schaffer, *College of Creative Arts Senator*
William Snidow, *Eberly College Senator*
Andrew Indomenico, *Senator-At-Large*
Dominic, *Senator-At-Large*
M.J. Jones, *Senator-At-Large*
Andrew O'Neal, *Senator-At-Large*
Tris Silva, *Eberly College Senator*
Shelby Davis, *Senator-At-Large*
Isabella Ferrel, *Eberly College Senator*
Sydney Fleece, *Chambers College Senator*
Colin Street, *Senator-At-Large*
Elijah Eastman, *Chambers College Senator*
Lilly Henson, *Eberly College Senator*
Cate McGrogan, *Health Science Senator*
Baxton Sheets, *Eberly College Senator*

**not all candidates are listed due to difficulties relating to technologies. Complete list can be found through the Elections Chair

XIX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was entertained by College Senator Indomenico
The motion was seconded by Senator Weeks
With no objections, the meeting was adjourned