

West Virginia University
SGA Meeting 04/15/2020, 2020-2021 Administration

- I. Call to Order at 8:00PM via Zoom**
- II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement**

“We, the students of West Virginia University, desire to preserve within our University and the Student Government Association, an atmosphere that helps to foster an open exchange of ideas with civil discussion, inquiry, and self-expression to help ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected, and to promote the principles of diversity and responsible self-governance.”

III. Roll Call

- 1. President Pro Tempore Jones
- 2. College Senator Backus
- 3. Senator Brooks
- 4. Senator Colbert
- 5. Senator Cunningham
- 6. Senator Daniel
- 7. Senator Donnelly
- 8. Senator Eby
- 9. College Senator Eyler
- 10. College Senator Hanson
- 11. Senator Harman
- 12. Senator Ihlenfeld
- 13. Senator Jernigan
- 14. Senator Knotts
- 15. Senator Kumar
- 16. College Senator McKnight
- 17. Senator Miller
- 18. College Senator Moore
- 19. Senator Nadeau
- 20. Senator Nichols
- 21. College Senator Seidel
- 22. College Senator Stackpole
- 23. Senator Zanabli

IV. Reading and Approval of the Minutes/Agenda

Vice President Bragg: The agenda for this week’s meeting is before you, I will now entertain a motion to approve this week’s agenda via show of hands

Senator Daniel: So moved

Senator Donnelly: Second

V. Open Student Forum 1

Vice President Bragg: Does anyone have anything to present for Open Student Forum 1?

Vice President Bragg: Seeing none, we will now move on to the president's report.

VI. President's Report

President Riggs: Wow, I am going to have to get used to this. President Dye, you have left me with big shoes to fill so I thank you. I can ensure you that Freshman Bureau of Finance Intern Chase would never have imagined that one day he would give the president's report and tonight has been filled with lots of emotions, but I will say that I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. I look forward to a productive and exciting year working alongside you all. I want to reiterate something that I mentioned in my inauguration speech, though right now we might be isolated from each other, this does not mean that our work as a student government comes to any halt. It is important for us as mountaineers to rise to the occasion and take advantage of this newfound spare time to start thinking of ways that we can still advocate for students, to work on any of the platforms that you have developed over the past couple of weeks, and really use this time to build a powerful momentum for the upcoming year. This way, as soon as we reconvene, we can hit the ground running as an organization. As far as business goes, SGA will continue to promote all the services that are available to students and that the university is offering during this time, such as the Rack and the Grey Student Emergency Fund. We will also be working with the university to promote the census and making sure that students complete it. Jaron and I have spent the last week holding executive interviews. The executive application is still live, it will close Friday, April 24th at midnight. I encourage anyone who might be interested in getting involved to please fill that out. Also, starting next week we will begin putting individuals up for appointment, so that's something to keep in mind. A couple housekeeping items, the assembly should have received a contact sheet – I believe on Monday – If you haven't filled that out, please try to immediately after this meeting. Again, I just was wanting everyone's information as I will be creating a GroupMe soon for all of our future communication. I will also be adding everyone to a Google Drive which will really house all of our important documents, minutes, agendas, the contact sheet, and we will use that throughout the entirety of this year. I believe, that's everything. Once again, I'm thrilled to be able to see your faces on the assembly and to finally be able to work with you all. I think that I'm going to stick to the tradition of the past two administrations and I'll be closing out every president's report with a quote. Today's quote seemed fitting and is one from President Barrack Obama, so I leave you all with, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time, we are the ones we've been waiting for, we are the change that we seek." So, stay healthy everyone.

VII. Assembly Reports/Executive Reports

Assembly

College Senator Moore: Hey guys, I just wanted to let you know really fast that last semester Former Senator Myya Helm was working on some attendance and impeachment updates for our governing documents and I've been working with her. I think that's something important that we

need to revisit and continue to work on. So, before we get anything official together, if anyone wants to reach out with some of their ideas, maybe work at forming a committee, we'll get something more concrete to move on. But if anyone, preemptively, wants to get on the ground floor of that, please let me know.

VIII. New Business

Vice President Bragg: I will now open the floor for nominations for president pro tempore.

Senator Harman: I would like to nominate Senator Jones, working with her and getting to know her this past year, she has proven herself to be not only a diligent, organized and effective leader but a fierce advocate, a powerful friend and just an overall excellent member of the assembly. I think she would be an excellent candidate for the president pro tempore position.

Senator Nichols: Second

College Senator Backus: I would like to nominate Senator Donnelly because I love Amelia, and it would be hard to vote for either one because I think they're both very deserving of this position. I think we have all seen Kevin work with Amelia and the assembly from last administration and I think they would both be good decisions. But I think Kevin would be really good.

Senator Jones: Second

Senator Jernigan: I would like to nominate Haden Miller. He's been an instrumental part to the Climb Ticket and I really feel like his background of political science will shine in this position. He's an overall positive person.

Senator Cunningham: Second

Senator Kumar: I would like to nominate Senator Ihlenfeld. I believe that through her work she has just shown a great compassion and an understanding for leadership and definitely teamwork, which is something very important coming from pro tempore leading an assembly to be working together.

Senator Cunningham: Second

Vice President Bragg: I will now ask if you accept your nomination and if you would like to speak before you are split into a breakout session for discussion.

Senator Donnelly: I do accept the nomination.

Senator Jones: I do accept the nomination and first, I just want to say how thankful I am for the nomination for president pro temp. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Amelia Jones and I am a junior English major. This will be my second term as a senator at-large and I've had the greatest time serving the student body as a senator. Not only do I have the experience

working with students and departments across campus, I have also authored several pieces of legislation. With my experience with legislation, attending conferences, and passion for SGA, I believe that I would make a great president pro temp. I'm very organized and excel at time management to make sure information is distributed clearly and timely to the organization. If selected, I have so many ideas on how to better serve the organization as a whole. I feel confident in my ability to step into this position to help each and every one of you. Thank you all, I am so excited for this year. I also just wanted to shout out all the other nominees for president pro temp, anyone is very lucky to receive this position.

Senator Miller: I accept the nomination and first, I'd like to say that I am glad to be here with everybody for the first opportunity to come together for the 2020-21 assembly. I really appreciate meeting a lot of you guys for the first time, as this would be the first opportunity, I've had to join SGA. I really look forward to the opportunity if selected to be president pro temp and work with President Riggs and Vice President Bragg, they're two men who I admire very much and the work they've done through SGA and organizations outside of campus. I think that I am an individual who will continue to be able to foster and build positive relationships with all of you. Building a good working relationship between the executive branch as well as the assembly, once again I understand this is the first time that I'm here as a senator but I think that this is a really good opportunity to step into a role that gives me and the rest of everybody as an opportunity to just build a really positive environment for everybody. So, thank you.

Senator Ihlenfeld: So, I really appreciate the nomination, I wasn't expecting it at all, and I'm really honored so thank you, Arpan. However, I wasn't really planning on being the pro temp, but I will say since I am unmuted and have the chance to talk. I would really encourage you guys to either vote for Kevin or Amelia because they have a lot of experience in the organization and I know them personally and have seen the work that they have done as senators over the past year. I would just really encourage you guys to look for someone that has that experience because I know they would do a really great job.

Vice President Bragg: We will now separate the nominees into a breakout session and open the floor to discussion. Is there any discussion on the nominees?

Senator Kumar: So, one of the nominees that I know really well is Haden Miller. I got to know him through running this season. Beyond running and campaigning, this man really knows what it takes to lead someone. He knows what it takes to lead by example and that's something that you don't see much these days. He always makes sure that if he is going to tell someone to do something or if he's going to take a leadership role, he's going to show you why it's important to follow the rules and what can come of it if you do something right. So, I really think it would be good choice to vote for him.

Senator Harman: Again, I can just not state in any sort of list, the nice things that I have to say about Amelia Jones. I think that she is passionate to a point that it frankly scares me, I think that she is qualified to the point that it is not even possible to capture in the English language, and I think that she is just organized to the point that I am just scared by her google drive. I think that she would be an amazing pro temp. I think she is organized, punctual, and has the right temperament to help all of us get through all of the important legislation that we all want to get

through this year. I think that a vote for her would be something that would be very great for our organization.

Senator Knotts: I had the opportunity of working with all three of them. I worked on a conference with both Kevin and Amelia and then I also worked a lot with Haden on this past campaign. All three have worked super hard in their roles, but honestly, I can't say enough amazing things about Haden. He literally has been my rock throughout this entire campaign season. He's someone that I've never met before but from the get-go he is there for anyone. He is really trying to do the best for the students and sometimes we kind of get involved in our own personal agendas but Haden is one that makes us all take a step back and looks and sees not only what's good for you as a student but what's good for everyone else.

Senator Nichols: I just wanted to voice my support for Senator Jones, over the past year since I've been an intern, I've seen all the amazing work that she's done for this organization. I think that she could use that to be such an effective leader for all of us and help us continue what we want to do and make sure that the student assembly is doing what they should.

Vice President Bragg: Seeing no more discussion, I will now entertain a motion to vote on the three nominees for president pro tempore via secret ballot.

Senator Harman: So moved

College Senator Moore: Second

Vice President Bragg: Alright, please everybody, congratulate our new president pro tempore, Jones.

IX. Open Student Forum 2

Vice President Bragg: Does anyone have anything to present for Open Student Forum 2?

Acting Attorney General Satterfield: I just want to say congratulations to the new assembly, I'm super excited to see what this year holds and I'm just so thankful to be able to be a junior this year and see all the good things that will come. Thank you!

Senator Daniel: Hey everyone, just wanted to congratulate the new assembly again. I can't wait to work with all of you.

President Pro Tempore Jones: I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for selecting me to be your next president pro tempore. I really do admire everyone in this organization, and I am truly humbled that you've selected me to help serve you this upcoming administration. Sorry, I'm a little overwhelmed but again, thank you so much. I will continue to serve you as best as I can, please reach out to me if you need absolutely anything. I am here for you no matter what. I also just wanted to give a big shout out to Senator Donnelly and Senator Miller, they are awesome nominees as well and I have no doubt in my mind that they will be rock stars on the assembly. Once again, thank you very much and I am so excited.

Vice President Bragg: Seeing nothing else for Open Student Forum 2, I would like to say a few words. I would like to thank all the nominees for putting themselves out there and remind you all that the assembly isn't just one leader, it is a group of all of you. I look forward to all the good that you all collectively do this year. As President Riggs stated in his report, we have made a Google Drive. In this Google Drive, I will be making a document for you to set your goals for the coming year. I would like for you to try and prioritize one or two things that you can focus upon in the coming year. Remember that long term changes are more important than the short-term goals, so let's try to prioritize a few things and try and get our focus for next year. Once again, thank you for all those nominees. We will now move on to snaps before the advisor's report, does anyone have any snaps?

President Riggs: So, you guys might have seen this in our last meeting, we do this at the end of every meeting where we want to acknowledge someone for doing something great or just hype us up. I will give snaps to our advisor, Thanh Lee, thank you Thanh! Huge snaps to you for being helpful for all of this year and throughout this transition process. We are extremely lucky to have an advisor who is so dedicated to us and this university, so thank you Thanh.

Senator Nichols: I want to give huge snaps to President Pro Tempore Jones for her being elected and I also wanted to give snaps to President Riggs, Vice President Bragg, and to all of the new members, I'm really excited to work with everybody this year.

Senator Daniel: Snaps to President Riggs, Vice President Bragg, and Dr. Thanh Lee for organizing this meeting with the current situation.

X. Advisor's Report

SGA Advisor, Dr. Thanh Lee: Welcome, so glad to see you all. I'm looking forward to seeing this you all this coming year and working with you and getting to know you all a bit better. I have an open door policy, so if you ever need anything, please feel free to come by my office or now email me or text me. I always try to make myself available. I will make sure to leave my cellphone number in the group chat so feel free to save it in your phone and to text me or give me a call if you need anything. I really mean that. I'm here to make sure that your vision here becomes a reality. You'll hear that a lot from me because it's not about me, it's about you all and what you want to advocate for your students and what's best for the university. I will always make sure that your voice is heard and make sure that you have the right platforms and resources to be successful. Good luck everyone, and like I said, do not hesitate to give me a quick ring or email and I'll make sure that I respond. Congratulations again.

Vice President Bragg: I will now entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Senator Donnelly: So moved

College Senator Backus: Second

Meeting Adjourned 8:33

