

**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 7:30p.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 - Present

College Senator Arastu - Present

College Senator Bielinski - Present

Senator Bromley - Absent

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

College Senator Kisto - Present

Senator Leadmon - Present

College Senator Lipkovitch - Present

College Senator Lutman - Present

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

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was entertained by Senator Frazier
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 Senator Frazier
The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by College Senator Oursler
There were no objections, and the minutes were approved.

VI. Open Student Forum I

None were recognized for Open Student Forum I

VII. The President's Report

President Santmyer: Please rest over break. Take time off of what you are doing to take care of yourself. The Advisory Council was last week, I am finalizing the survey.

That should be done by next week. We are doing a state-wide month of service. It will be similar to the one with Marshall, but it will be with all the schools throughout the state. I will be reaching out to people next week about their previous months reports. I will text you if I need to follow up on anything. The December and January reports will be combined into one. We had a triboard right before break, it went very well. We had BOG again on the first, and committees on thursday. I put the agenda on the report from last week. We have another meeting on the 15th. We got updates on academic transformation. We are starting to do interviews for j-court. It will be an easy position as long as elections go smoothly. There will be openings in graduate and undergraduate positions, hopefully we won't need it for anything other than certification. College Senator Orcutt and I met with one of the directors for recruitment and transfer students on monday, that went well. We are continuing these ideas and the SGA group for recruitment will meet after break. We also have a social media coordinator position open. If you know of anyone, please have them apply.

VIII. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Dozier: I just want to remind you all of one thing. We only have a few legislative vacancies left, but I am closing that application this Friday. If you know someone who would be good, have them reach out to me and apply. Please do not ask me after that. Thank you all for coming in your cute pajamas.

IX. Assembly Reports

None were recognized for Assembly Reports

X. Committee Reports

None were recognized for Committee Reports

XI. Executive Reports

Elections Chair Weller: The filing packet for the election opened today and will close on January 13th. If you are going to run, please fill that out. If you don't, you will not be running for SGA next year. The team registration will open after that. If you announce tonight or whenever you announce, you can post on social media. The social media accounts have to be individual, you cannot post anything about a team. Do not post team logos. Only the president and vice president can make a

group social media. Anything that is team related, is off limits. If you have any questions, let me know.

Chief of Staff Long: Share-a-swipe will be tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help with it. Please encourage anyone with a meal plan to participate. We are hoping it will go well, I am sure it will be successful. At the end of the meeting, please give your secret snowflake your gift. If there are questions, please come to me. I am excited to see what everyone got from each other, I heard there were some really good gifts.

Outreach Coordinator Tiano: Apprentices, friends with meal plans, please encourage people to share-a-swipe. Keep tab collections in mind over the break. Encourage family members to collect them and you can bring them back to campus.

Apprentice Coordinator Flower: The spring apprentice program application is live. Please encourage people to join, it is a great way to get your foot in the door. I will be sending an email to the current mentors, just as a check in on how you have been doing this semester. If you are interested in becoming a mentor next semester, please reach out to me and I will get you set up as one.

Treasurer Patel: Susie sent out the November audit. I will go through it briefly. In November, we allocated 16 grants to 14 student organizations. Two travel grants for \$3,018.02, and 14 non-travel grants for \$11, 257.42. We have gone through about 46% of our external budget for this year. We still have a lot of money left. Please encourage organizations to fill out the grant application, we have a lot of money for the spring semester. I am excited to work with you guys and the organizations you are a part of to give you guys money.

Internal Senates Liaison Pierce: Last Thursday I met with the graduate provost, GPSS, faculty senate chair, and Madison was also there. We discussed the concerns that graduate students have had about the academic transformation. It was very productive. The GPSS president raised a lot of great questions. Their main concerns were that they felt like they have been out of the loop when it comes to program cuts and everything that has been going on with that. They have asked for more transparency and more communication about that. They want a single point of contact and maybe an online presence in the provost office. She talked

about overloading GTA hours. They are only required to work 20 hours a week, but most of them are working 40. I think that is a problem the provost has tried to address in the past but hasn't had much luck with. Many graduate students fear retaliation concerning overwork. The provost seemed receptive about having a more online, transparent presence. I went to the faculty senate on monday. Gee talked about some new majors coming: Environmental Robotics Engineering, Esports, and I believe they are going to try and increase cybersecurity funding. The provost talked about a new incentive based budget model that will be instituted Summer 2024-2025. They are trying to prevent what happened in the fall from happening again.

XII. Old Business

A. AB-2023-11-03

College Senator Oursler entertained a motion to vote on the bill
The motion was seconded by Senator Eastman
With no objections, the bill was passed

XIII. New Business

A. Carrie Showalter, Assistant Dean of Students and Chair of Campus Safety Subcommittee

Carrie Showalter gave a presentation about the Campus Safety Committee
The slides will be posted at the end of this document

B. New Student Organizations

1. WVU Dungeons and Dragons Club

With no objections, the *WVU Dungeons and Dragons Club* becomes a new student organization

C. FB-2023-17

College Senator Oursler entertained a motion to vote on the bill
The motion was seconded by Senator Frazier
With no objections, the bill was passed

D. AR-2023-12-01

Matthew Olivero: It is imperative that this resolution be fast-tracked so it will not be pushed back to January. It is important to deal with these issues now.

Senator Olivero entertained a motion to suspend the rules to vote on the bill after the first reading

The motion was seconded by Senator Eastman

With no objections, the motion passed

The resolution was passed unanimously

XIV. Open Student Forum II

Vice President Dozier: Sierra and I run mirage, and we will be having a launch party on Friday in the MIC on the fourth floor of Evansdale Crossing. There will be free food, I hope you guys can make it. You will see a lot of your peers work. Madison and I have something for you guys.

President Santmyer: Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed classmates, and fellow friends. Today I stand before you with an immense sense of pride and excitement as I speak about someone incredibly special to all of us. I had the absolute honor and privilege to lend my voice in support of a dear friend who has taken a bold step of running this esteemed position. For many of us, gathered here the individual needs no introduction. The dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our school community has been evident in every endeavor they have undertaken. From organizing events that brought us together to championing causes close to our hearts. They make a consistent force of positive change within our student body. Lastly, their vision for our school is one that resonates deeply with me, and I believe with many of you here today. A vision of unity, where differences are celebrated, opportunities are plentiful, and every student feels a sense of pride and belonging in their school.

Vice President Dozier: I love West Virginia University. For its vibrant community spirit, rich traditions, and incredible diversity and perspectives it embraces. It is a place where life-long connections are forged and opportunities for growth abound. I aspire to continue improving WVU because I believe in its potential to become an even more inclusive, innovative, and supportive environment for all students. By

fostering a culture of collaboration and progress, I am to contribute to WVU's ongoing journey towards excellence and ensure that every student thrives in their academic and personal pursuits. I am excited to announce my candidacy. I believe in the power of our collective voices and am committed to fostering an inclusive environment where every opinion matters. With your support, I am to bring positive change and amplify student concerns, and work tirelessly to make our school a place where we are all proud to call our own. I want to thank you all for considering me as your advocate and your leader. I look forward to working with all of you each and every day, I just cannot turn this opportunity away. That is why I am announcing my candidacy for... homecoming court 2023.

Charlie Long: Good evening Student Government Association. I can't even begin to express how much of an honor it is for me to be privileged with membership in this organization and to speak with you all each and every day. I can say, without hesitation, that student government has changed my life and given me some of the best moments of my college career.

Abigail Browning: Hello everyone, for those who do not know me, my name is Abigail Browning. I am currently a junior majoring in psychology and I am also an active member of many organizations on campus. Including Delta Gamma and the Pre-Law Society. Although I am new to SGA, I am not new to holding a position that has many responsibilities. Many issues on campus have compelled me to take on a more involved role in shaping the future of WVU. I believe that connecting with each and every student is essential especially with the current Fentanyl and mental health crisis we are facing on campus. I am also deeply passionate about sexual assault prevention which is something each and everyone of us can always do more about. These are large, complicated problems that require solutions on an elevated level.

Charlie Long: In addition to the problems that Abby mentioned, we have had to face daunting new challenges such as budget cuts and campus carry. There comes a time when one is compelled to do everything they can to face these challenges head on and serve their community. That is exactly why I will be jumping in the race to be your next student body president. My sole mission as you president will be to harness the potential that I see in every WVU student. I have never been one to abandon my mission when I feel called to it. I am truly sincere in my ambition to listen to each and every one of you, and find solutions we can all be proud of.

Abigail Browning: When public service calls, the only appropriate time to answer is now. Which is exactly why I will be running alongside Charlie to become your next student body vice president. I can't wait to get to know y'all better and work towards a stronger SGA at WVU.

Charlie Long: I hope that in a couple months, you all will join us in this movement to invigorate the student body like never before. Despite the challenges we face, I am resolute in my belief that the future will prove brighter, I am tremendously excited to begin the work of building a better tomorrow for all of WVU. Let's go.

College Senator Oursler: As most of you all know, my name is Garrett. This is Susie. We are here tonight to announce that we are running for student body president and student body vice president. I never thought I would be in this position, standing in front of you announcing this. Since joining SGA, as a freshman, as an intern, it allowed me to have an impact on students directly, just by putting a little bit of effort in. That is what Susie and I both want to do on campus. To provide a place for students to actually voice their concerns while also going to students and hearing their concerns first hand. As a person who is from West Virginia, a person whose family were coal miners, it is with great passion that I hold my values here at WVU. This state has touched my heart in a way that I do not know if I will ever be able to explain, and so has this university. My first choice was not WVU, I will be honest and transparent. It has been a place that has become a home, a place where I have met some of the greatest people of my life. It would be a great honor to represent them as a student body president in the upcoming year. As a student at WVU, we forget how much of an impact we have on the greater state of West Virginia, not just the students here. Through the process of election, we vow to meet students where they are, listen to their perspectives, and promise concrete solutions to those issues that are brought forward. Throughout this campaign, we will not make promises that we cannot keep. We will have solid deliverables to fix the issues that we see and that we learn from students here at WVU. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to even be in these shoes talking to you. I have grown to love all of you here, and it is with great honor that I yield my time to Susie.

Susie Risk: I was also in the position that I didn't really know if I wanted to go to WVU. I think it is just those West Virginia roots that Garrett and I both have that bring us back to WVU and had us circling back around to this university. Meeting everyone that is in this room, and SGA, has done so much for us. I am happy to be announcing that I will be running for vice president alongside Garrett, which I

think is the biggest honor that I have had in SGA. The ability to run alongside Garrett, he is a great guy. I honestly think he is one of my favorite people that I have ever met in SGA. The whole basis of our campaign was because we wanted that focus on transparency in SGA and the university as well. Being able to connect with students and help them be aware of issues that are affecting them on campus and in the state. I think that is our main goal and what we can promise. We are going to listen to your concerns and everything that you have to say. Whether it be a compliment or whether it be a complaint. We just want to be those people you can go to.

Apprentice Colin: We had pjs and bjs last week, it went great. We raised over \$600 for menstrual products that will go back toward WVU and MHS students. If you are still interested in coming to any of our events, we have one this Thursday in the monongahela room at 6:00p.m. Thank you to everyone who showed up and all the support you all have given me.

Matthew Olivero: It is with great honor that Carter and I stand before you tonight. I never thought I would be in this position, but I find myself here after nineteen years, we have toiled to get here. This is truly a momentous occasion, I hope you all enjoy it with us. I love WVU, it was one of my choices and I am now here. I don't know what else Carter has to say, but I will say that we are completely humbled and honored to announce...

Carter Leadmon: I never thought I would be in this position. I love this university. I toiled so long for this university. This person I wanted to speak about loves SGA. They show up every meeting, they give it their all. It is bittersweet for me to announce, with a round of applause, this is Hyder's last SGA meeting.

Matthew Olivero: Thank you all for your support and for supporting College Senator Arastu in this difficult time. He is leaving us behind, and a piece of his heart behind too.

Hayley Day: Yesterday President Santmyer and I met with Ron Justice who is the director of local government relations here at WVU, we also met with Russel Robinson, he is the president and CEO of the Morgantown Area Partnership. They have had some exciting news. In collaboration with the university, they have a project to update the plans to the Richwood neighborhood. They passed a vote

for the rezoning project, along with a public hearing in January. This is something really exciting for our community and it will be great for our students.

XV. Advisors' Reports

Thanh Le: Congratulations to those who announced this evening. We are excited to see your platforms, we want to work with you. I will be reaching out to set up a meeting with you. I want to make sure everyone knows what they are jumping into. I encourage you all to run your campaigns in a way that aligns with your values. Do not let anything get in the way with your value set. Run a clean campaign. Good luck on exams, these next couple weeks will be long and difficult. Please take care of yourself during this time and have safe travels back to your family and friends. Madison got sick because she did not take care of herself. If you need anything, Morgan and I are here.

XVI. Snaps

Snaps were given to Senator Arastu and Senator Kaminski, those who announced, all of SGA, Liz Alducin

XVII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was entertained by College Senator Indomenico

The motion was seconded by College Senator Kaminski

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned

**West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Bureau of Finance – November Audit**

Grant Summary

In the Month of November, the WVU SGA Bureau of Finance has Allocated 16 Grants to 14 Student Organizations.

Travel Grants

Allocated 2 Travel Grants for \$3,018.02

- Campus Crusade for Christ - \$1,494.00
- WVU American Marketing Association - \$1,524.02

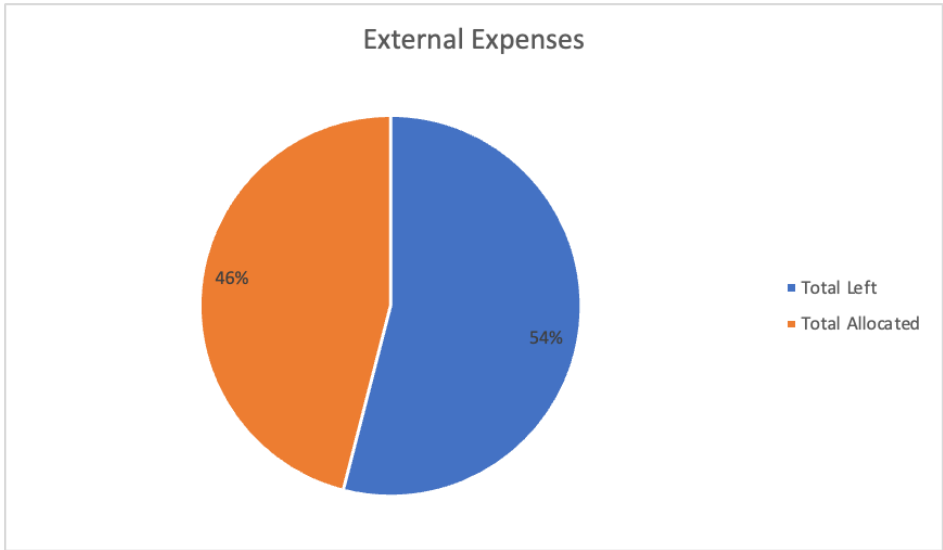
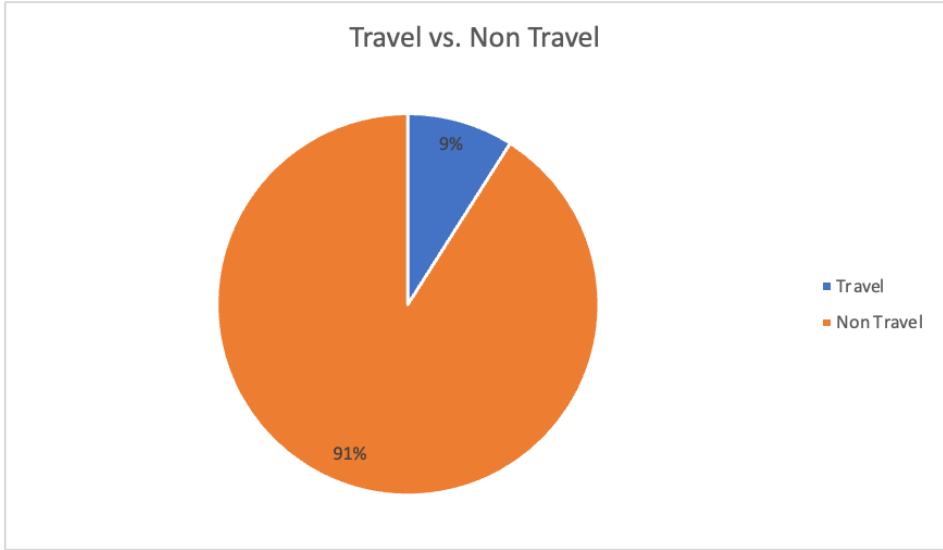
Non Travel Grants

Allocated 14 Non-Travel Grants for \$11,257.42

- WVU Filipino Association - \$184.99
- Reformed University Fellowship - \$200.00
- Ukrainian Mountaineers Association - \$925.00
- South Asian Association - \$988.35
- Student Bar Association - \$2,400.00
- Alpha Kappa Psi - \$770.00
- WVU Asian Association - \$220.39
- Women in Business - \$760.71
- WVU Entrepreneurship Club - \$500.00
- Society of Women Engineers - \$1,000.00
- Muslim Student Association - \$1,000.00
- Muslim Student Association - \$1,400.00
- Alpha Kappa Psi - \$425.00

Closing

We are projected to allocate over 100 grants to our entire budget to organizations by the end of March, 2023.



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Grace Everly, Auditor, WVU Student Government Association
Rushik Patel, Treasurer, WVU Student Government Association



Campus Safety Committee



Four Subcommittees

- Campus Carry
- Off-Campus/Morgantown
- On-Campus
- Communication



Charge for On-Campus Committee

- Campus Safety Protocols
- Blue Lights
- Pedestrian and Driver Safety
- Preparedness and Trainings
- Safety Resources



What are safety concerns of University Community?

- What is the biggest safety concern?
- Do students feel safe on campus?
- How can we improve campus safety?
- How would you like safety trainings and resources communicated to you?



How can we elicit feedback and input from the campus community?

- Forum?
- Vanity account to submit concerns/questions
- Survey by UPD in early January 2024

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Financial Bill: FB-20XX-XX
December 06, 2023

As referred by the Bureau of Finance

An Act

Making grant appropriations for various student organizations on behalf of the West Virginia University Student Government Association.

Be it enacted by the Student Assembly of the West Virginia University Student Assembly:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Student Government Association Grants to Student Organizations account and not otherwise appropriated, for the Student Organizations listed below for the Fall 2023 Semester per the official WVU Academic Calendar.

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TITLE I: Minorities Association of Pre-Healthcare Students

For expenses to cover the cost of registration and travel for the AMEC 2024 Conference on March 27, 2024- March 31, 2024 in New Orleans, LA.

<i>Minorities Association of Pre-Healthcare Students</i>		
Item	Quantity	Cost
Registration	2 students	\$474.00
Travel		\$986.10
Total Allocated Funds		\$1524.02

TITLE II: WVU Pre-Law Society

For expenses to cover the cost of Domino's for a meeting on January 25, 2024.

<i>WVU Pre-Law Society</i>		
Item	Quantity	Cost
Catering		\$40.00
		\$40.00

TITLE III: WVU Law Class of 2024

For expenses to cover the cost of catering, rental, and supplies for an event on February 01, 2024 at the Almost Heaven Bar and Grill to celebrate upcoming graduates.

<i>WVU Law Class of 2024</i>		
Item	Quantity	Cost
Catering and Rental		\$1870.00
Supplies		\$486.55
Total Allocated Funds		\$2356.55

APPENDIX A

Financial Bill Total Allocation Amount

<i>Financial Bill 2023-24 Totals</i>	
Organization	Total Cost
Minorities Association of Pre- Healthcare Students	\$1524.02
WVU Pre- Law Society	\$40.00
WVU Law Class of 2024	\$2356.55
Total	\$3920.57

APPENDIX B

Requested Amounts Per Organization

<i>Financial Bill 2023-24 Totals</i>		
Organization	Total Grant Requested	Total Suggested
Minorities Association of Pre-Healthcare Students	\$1524.02	\$1524.02
WVU Pre - Law Society	\$40.00	\$40.00
WVU Law Class of 2024	\$2356.55	\$2356.55
Total	\$3920.57	\$3920.57

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Bill: AB-2023-11-03
**AN ASSEMBLY BILL TO AMEND THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

Short Title:	Transition Documents Requirement
Author(s):	Riley Coulter, College Senator (Statler)
Sponsor(s):	Anna Witt, College Senator (CAHS) Susie Risk, President Pro Tempore Matthew Olivero, Senator Elijah Eastman, Senator
Contributor(s):	C.J. Miller, Attorney General Karsey Prichard, Executive Secretary Travis Weller, Elections Commissioner
Committee Endorsement:	Governing Documents Review Committee
First Reading Date:	11/29/2023
Second Reading Date:	12/6/2023
Date of Approval:	
Presidential Signature:	

Whereas, according to Article V, Section III of the SGA Bylaws, the purpose of the Governing Documents Committee is to “Critically evaluate the relevance and purpose of this organization’s governing documents”; and,

Whereas, upon evaluation of the SGA Constitution, the members of the Governing Documents Review Committee collectively voted on the following proposed amendments; and,

Whereas, the members of the Governing Documents Review Committee believe the following proposed amendments will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of transitioning between Student Government Association administrations,

Therefore, be it enacted by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: The following addition concerning transitioning documents set forth by the Governing Documents Review Committee shall be voted on by the student body in the spring election:

Article XII. Transitioning Documents shall be added as:

ARTICLE XII. Transitioning Documents

12.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE This article aims to mandate the timely production of essential transitioning documents by the outgoing administration, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of critical information for the incoming administration.

12.2 Requirement for Transitioning Documents The outgoing administration shall prepare and submit detailed transitioning documents on the following key areas:

- a. Elections: Provide recommendations for improving the SGA election process and highlight any complications or challenges.
- a. Legislation with Continued Implications: Summaries of enacted legislation with ongoing ramifications and assessing its effectiveness and challenges.
- b. Unfinished Legislation: Documentation of pending legislative initiatives, their objectives, and the current stage in the legislative process.
- c. Connections: Compile a comprehensive contact sheet including names, titles, and contact information for critical stakeholders for matters pertinent to the SGA.

12.3 Submission Timeline and Format The transitioning documents must be submitted no later than the last SGA meeting of the spring semester in a format accessible and understandable to the incoming administration.

Section 2: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to the mandates below:

Mandates:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students

Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)

Daily Athenaeum

Madison Santmyer, Student Body President

Brogan Dozier, Student Body Vice President

Karsey Prichard, Executive Secretary

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Resolution: AR-2023-12-01
**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING WVU
ADMINISTRATORS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS THE
CONCERNS IDENTIFIED IN THE FALL 2023 SAFETY AND
ACCESSIBILITY WALK**

Short Title:	Safety and Accessibility Walk Report
Author(s):	Matthew Olivero, Senator Gabrielle Frazier, Senator Carter Leadmon, Senator
Sponsor(s):	Joanna Switala, College Senator (Eberly) Peyton Bielinski, College Senator (CAHS) Elijah Eastman, Senator Olivia Schmieder, College Senator (Davis) Daniel Madden, College Senator (Chambers)
Contributor(s):	Drew Gatlin, Staff Engineer, City of Morgantown MJ Jones, Apprentice Tris Silva, Apprentice Savannah Guzzi-Graber, Apprentice Charles C. Long, Chief of Staff Hayley Day, Local Government Liaison
Committee Endorsement:	Student Life
First Reading Date:	12/6/2023
Second Reading Date:	N/A-Request to Fast-Track
Date of Approval:	
Presidential Signature:	

Whereas, West Virginia University is “dedicated to providing a safe learning, working, and living environment for [its] students, faculty, staff, and visitors;”¹

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association mission statement reads, “We, the students of West Virginia University, desire to...help ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected;”² and,

Whereas, Board of Governors rule 1.6 prohibits discrimination, including: “failure to provide reasonable accommodation, consistent with state and federal law, to persons with disabilities;”³ and,

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle-related pedestrian deaths have risen year-over-year since 2018;⁴ and,

Whereas, in 2021 (the most recent year with data), West Virginia ranked in the top half of states in pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 people;⁵ and

Whereas, Morgantown had seven fatal motor vehicle crashes and two fatal crashes involving pedestrians in 2021;⁶ and,

Whereas, the WV Department of Transportation’s recently published Vulnerable Road User Assessment⁷ found that Morgantown was grossly overrepresented in both the High Injury Network and Systemic (Risk) Analysis, containing 20% of the state’s top High Injury Network segments and 12 of the 25 riskiest road segments for pedestrians and cyclists; and,

Whereas, in the fall of 2023, WVU SGA conducted a survey for the purpose of understanding student sentiment towards safety and accessibility in the City and

¹ <https://safety.wvu.edu/>

² <https://sga.wvu.edu/about/our-mission>

³ <https://policies.wvu.edu/finalized-bog-rules/bog-governance-rule-1-6-rule>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal/trends.html>

⁵ <https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/states/statespedestrians.aspx>

⁶ <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>

⁷ https://www.plantogether.org/files/ugd/613794_374f8ec74d1a46408dbc102bb2d25782.pdf

University;⁸ and,

Whereas, on October 17th, 2023, the West Virginia University Student Government Association conducted the Fall 2023 Safety and Accessibility Walk, covering areas including the downtown campus, Sunnyside, and Evansdale; and,

Whereas, participants in the walk cataloged concerns relating to accessibility, lighting, crosswalks, sidewalks, blue lights, and other safety concerns;⁹ and,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: recommends that the University and City of Morgantown investigate and address the safety and accessibility concerns detailed in Appendix A: Safety and Accessibility Walk Report.

Section 2: requests that the University and the City provide regular updates on the status of the concerns outlined in the report, as well as any future plans to address them.

Section 3: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

Mandates:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students

Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership

Carrie Showalter, Assistant Dean of Students

Ted Svehlik, Associate Vice President, Auxiliary and Business Services

Sam Miller, Maintenance Director, WVU Facilities and Services

Chuck Roberts, Assistant Vice President, WVU Facilities and Services

Ron Justice, Director, Local Government Relations

Sherry St. Clair, Chief, University Police Department

Jill Hess, ADA Coordinator, Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Tris Cendana, Executive Director, WVU Housing and Residence Life

Drew Gatlin, Staff Engineer, City of Morgantown

⁸ See Appendix B

⁹ See Appendix A

Matthew Cross, Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board
M. Joe Abu-Ghannam, 1st Ward, Morgantown City Council
Bill Kawecki, 2nd Ward, Morgantown City Council
Louise Michael, 3rd Ward, Morgantown City Council
Jennifer Selin, Mayor, City of Morgantown
Danielle Trumble, 5th Ward, Morgantown City Council
Dave Harshbarger, 6th Ward, Morgantown City Council
Brian Butcher, 7th Ward, Morgantown City Council
Daily Athenaeum
Madison Santmyer, Student Body President
Karsey Prichard, SGA Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A – SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY WALK REPORT

Executive Summary

On October 17th, 2023, the West Virginia University Student Government Association conducted the Fall 2023 Safety and Accessibility walk in coordination with relevant stakeholders from the University, City, and State of West Virginia. The walk was divided into three sections: the downtown campus, Sunnyside, and the Evansdale Campus. Findings of deficiencies relating to safety and accessibility were made in each of these sections, and those findings are summarized in this report. As with the Spring 2023 walk, participants cataloged their findings by using the QuickCapture app; accordingly, the full database of reports can be found here.¹⁰ In all, there were a total of 308 reports: 265 categorized and 43 uncategorized. In many cases, findings were made that are of high priority; those findings are bolded for convenience. While the walk was a success in terms of participation and reporting, the authors believe it is crucial for the City and University to develop more comprehensive assessment and reporting plans for safety and accessibility deficiencies, so that student involvement can shift from a need to a luxury.

Collection Process

Electronic field reporting using geolocated photos – developed by the City of Morgantown and first deployed in the Spring 2023 walk and used again for the Fall 2023 walk – continues to have dramatic effects on the complaint submission and reporting process. The most obvious of these effects is an increase in the number of reports submitted. Previous walks generated, on average, several dozen reports for

¹⁰ https://morgantownwv.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a06645e8bea0419f8a6dd8eb345cc5_8b

each event. The Fall 2023 walk generated over 300 combined reports – nearly 90% of which were submitted using the custom ArcGIS QuickCapture app.¹¹

Data Overview

Fall 2023 participants covered three main areas – downtown campus, the Sunnyside neighborhood, and the Evansdale campus. The Evansdale and downtown campus areas are frequently covered in safety walks; the Sunnyside area hadn't been covered in at least several years. The downtown campus area was expanded to include nearby residential areas north of Willey Street and was ultimately covered by two separate groups due to the large geographic size and high density of sidewalks and trails present. All three areas have roads and other infrastructure owned / maintained by several different agencies, though in general the campus areas lean toward WVU / State maintained roads and infrastructure, and the Sunnyside area leans toward City/State maintained roads and infrastructure.

The nature of the walks is infrequent, dependent on voluntary participation, and hosted by revolving student government administrations. Therefore, readers must understand that the collection of reports from any given walk cannot be considered a systematic or comprehensive examination of existing conditions or trends in covered areas. Where time allowed and memory served, the author of this report included context from previous walks (ex. comparisons of report types, whether a report had been previously submitted), current and imminent construction projects, and previous planning documents including the 2020 MMMPO Regional Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.

¹¹ <https://arcg.is/1fTqXC0>

A Preliminary Note on Sidewalk Repair¹²

In general, federal guidelines mandate that pedestrian facilities like sidewalks and crosswalks must be brought up to relevant standards when they are newly constructed or altered. There are two major standards that apply: the Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines¹³ generally to sidewalks along streets, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities¹⁴ generally to sidewalks that provide access to buildings and other structures. However, there are no universal guidelines applicable to set thresholds for sidewalk repair out of sequence with other planned construction activities.

The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) notes that municipalities and other agencies tend to have custom or ad-hoc thresholds for repair informed by political will and a general sense of liability and risk. For communities with aging networks, they concede that the efforts to inspect and prioritize sidewalk defects require significant resources. However, they implore communities to:

“...develop and adopt sidewalk inspection and maintenance policies if guidelines, standards and policies do not already exist. At a minimum, inspections should consider changes in level, changes in grade, excessive cross-slopes (including cross slopes at driveways), vertical clearances, maximum running grades, minimum clear width and the distance protruding objects extend into the pedestrian path.”¹⁵

The reference above provides excellent examples and a general process overview of developing community inspection programs and establishing specific thresholds. As shown by the growing number and regularity of defect reports in the city, area officials

¹² That sidewalks were the single biggest source of reports makes it necessary to understand the relevant legal and technical context.

¹³ <https://www.access-board.gov/provag/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-XI/part-1191>

¹⁵ https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/fhwas13037/research_report/chap2b.cfm

should strongly consider developing a standard of mutually agreed thresholds and a systematic and community-wide method to identify and address sidewalk defects.

Participants generated nearly 150 observations of cracks and other deterioration in area sidewalks, forming more than half of all reports submitted in October. They were equally distributed across the three focus areas and featured a mix of sidewalks that sit along streets, sidewalks that sit next to buildings, and sidewalks that connect buildings and other structures across properties. Morgantown's sidewalk networks are aging and subject to extreme forces as frequent and extended freeze-thaw cycling and mature tree roots. Spot deterioration is widespread and noted in all regional plans.

Some photos, such as most of the 13 reports around the Creative Arts Center – did not appear to show clear violation of this threshold. In these cases, cracks should be monitored and remediated as appropriate.

Others, though demonstrating legitimate hazards, will be addressed by ongoing projects. For example, around 17 reports submitted on Campus Drive between Beechurst and McLane will be addressed by the WVDOH Beechurst Widening and Campus Drive Intersection Reconfiguration.

In other cases, repairs should be prioritized, programmed, and performed as soon as practicable. These cases are outlined—inexhaustively—within the geographic reports below.

Reports From the Downtown Campus

Accessibility Reports

- Formalize both ramps to crosswalk on University Avenue at Colson Hall
 - **Pedestrian crosswalk buttons unresponsive at Campus/University/Stewart intersection**
 - This is a report of very high importance; the issue has existed for at least the past year, and there have been several accidents involving pedestrians at this intersection. There is reduced visibility at this location
-

caused by the meeting of the upward sloping Campus Drive and University Avenue.

- **Improper / inaccessible pedestrian detour for sidewalk closures on Beechurst and Campus Dr. related to intersection realignment work.**
 - Poor and incomplete advance signage. Reports of WVU OAS shuttling specific students do not fully address Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines failures.

Lighting Reports

There were a number of lighting reports on the Downtown Campus and adjacent neighborhoods. While the totality of these reports can be found within the complete database,¹⁶ some of the general trends are summarized.

- **Additional lighting requested along Campus Drive between University Ave and Beechurst Ave.**
 - This area is regularly trafficked by students at most hours, as it is surrounded by academic buildings and student housing.
- Additional lighting requested on Beechurst Avenue sidewalk below Eisland Hall
 - This area is almost completely devoid of any lighting infrastructure
- Additional lighting and lighting repairs requested on Spruce Street north of Prospect St., Wiles St., and Fife St. between Spruce and N High Streets.
 - These areas are both lacking in sufficient physical lights, and characterized by a high rate of nonfunctional lights.

Sidewalk Reports

There were numerous discrete sidewalk reports—some rising to the actionable level and others not. The main trends are summarized, and it is noted that the area of Campus Drive below McLane Avenue will be undergoing realignment so reports in that area are not included here.

¹⁶ See Executive Summary

- There is a general deterioration of sidewalks along Spruce Street and Fife Street in the areas north of Prospect St.
 - Around 10 reports were made in this region alone.
- Repairs are requested on the Campus Drive sidewalk above McLane Avenue
- There are some large cracks and deterioration on the sidewalks along Hough St.

Crossing Reports

- **Participants requested re-establishment of a marked crossings at the intersection of University Avenue and Willey St.**
 - State road maintenance failed to re-mark at least one crossing here after resurfacing. Participants submitted requests for two to cross each leg of this complicated intersection.
 - This is a heavily trafficked crossing, especially at night. Lighting is uneven and sightlines are generally poor.
 - Additionally, a flashing crossing sign at each side of the crossing is requested to improve pedestrian visibility and facilitate the safe and efficient crossing of the two streets.
 - City officials should reexamine Prospect St and North High St. intersection
 - The sidewalks and curb ramps at this doglegged intersection were recently reconfigured due to underground utility constraints. Although the changes improved certain aspects of accessibility, there is no longer a clear accessible route to cross North High at Boreman Hall nor to cross the west side of Prospect at North High. The new accessible crossings are either offset from the old crossing locations, are incomplete (lacking markings and/or ramps), or both.
 - Additional crosswalk markings requested at:
 - Price crossing Prospect
 - Willey crossing Price
 - Willey crossing Prospect
 - Spruce crossing Wiles
 - Fife crossing Spruce
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Reports from Sunnyside

Accessibility Reports

There were no specific accessibility reports made in Sunnyside, likely due to the inherently inaccessible nature of the terrain in that region.

Lighting Reports

- There is a series of burnt-out lights along 6th St., beginning at the intersection with Grant Avenue and continuing until the intersection with Beverly Avenue.
- There is a light out on Beechurst Avenue across from 4 ½ St.

Sidewalk Reports

There are several Sunnyside areas with sidewalks in need of repair.

- The SW corner of the intersection of McLane & 6th, extending down both streets for half a block (abutting private residential property)
 - This sidewalk is massively deteriorated and being encroached upon by grass.
- The southside of Beechurst between 6th and 5th (abutting City-owned property)
- The west side of University Avenue between Houston Drive and 1st Street (abutting commercial properties)
 - This area is highly trafficked and characterized by narrow sidewalks with sizable cracks and an uneven surface.

Crossing Reports

There were no reports or requests made in the Sunnyside area, although the authors of this report believe it is important to either add a crossing on University Avenue crossing 1st St, or add flashing crossing signs at the crosswalk on University Ave/Carson St, as

this section of University Avenue is crossed with regularity and vehicle traffic is heavy throughout the day.

Reports from Evansdale

Accessibility Reports

- Request for an accessible path from the CAC to Evansdale Crossing/Bus Stop
- Request for ramps near the southwest corner of Oakland Hall

Lighting Reports

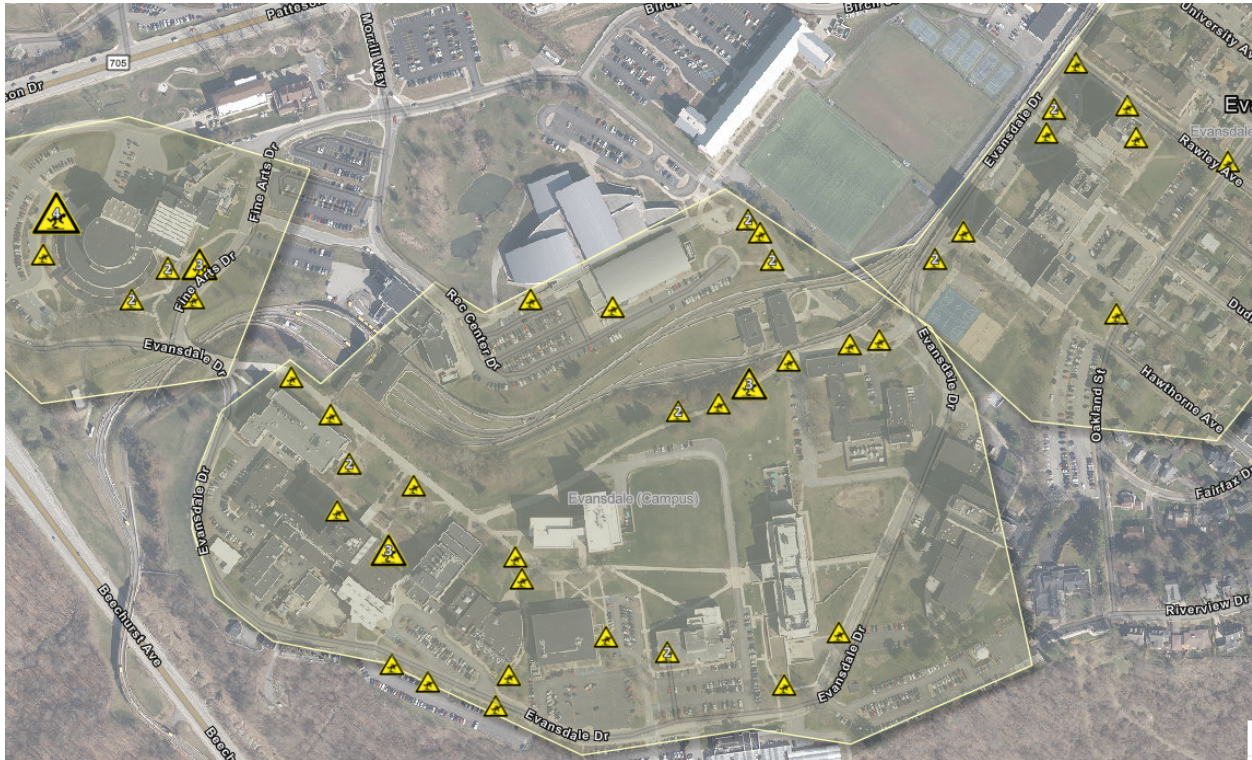
- There are multiple blue lights with functioning machines but broken lights, including at the Southwest corner of Bennett Tower and between the Rec Center and the Rec Fields.
- The University should consider adding on the footpath leading from the Advanced Engineering Research Building to the Towers PRT station, as well as between the CAC lot entrance and Fine Arts Drive.

Crossing Reports

- The University should study the crosswalk at the intersection of Fine Arts Drive and Evansdale Drive to determine if there are upgrades which could better handle the regular vehicle/pedestrian congestion present during weekday daytime hours

Sidewalk Reports

Participants submitted around 70 requests for sidewalk repair in the Evansdale area:



All requests for new sidewalks submitted in October came from the Evansdale area. These 12 reports can be summarized as follows:

- A large gap in the sidewalk on Evansdale Dr. between Parking Area 41 and Parking Area 40
- Desire path between Parking Area 44 and Parking Area 43
- Desire path on the west side of Evansdale Dr. near CAFEE
- A small gap connecting the sidewalk on Oakland St. to the walkway / staircase behind Lyon Tower on the north side of Parking Area 50
- A desire for a path on the north side of Rawley Ave. between Oakland St. Parking Area 58
- Gaps on Oakland St. and Harding St. between University Avenue and the dense student housing to the northeast

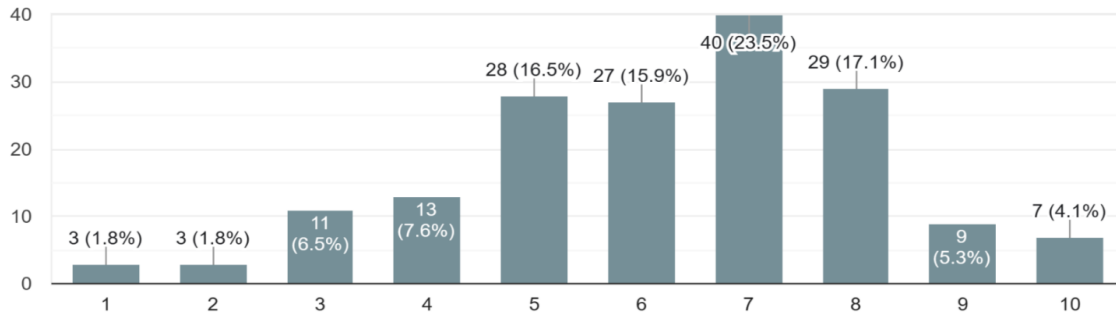
The Oakland/Harding/University Avenue intersections near the Evansdale McDonald's serve as main pedestrian crossroads between the HSC, Law School, and Evansdale campuses. They sit next to dense student housing and major developments seen in the area over the past decade (Pierpont Place/University Park and surrounds). They often host hundreds of pedestrians per hour throughout each weekday and on all football game days. Pedestrian/vehicular conflict is common at the City-owned Oakland/University signalized intersection.

- City officials should follow through with their commitment to implement a Leading Pedestrian Interval into the signal timing pattern at Oakland/University.
 - **City and WVU officials should work together to fill the gaps in the sidewalk and lack of marked crossings on Oakland St. between the Evansdale McDonald's and West Everly St.**
 - City officials should reexamine their Harding Avenue streetscape plans and seek partners to bring those plans to reality. Those upgrades should fill gaps in the sidewalk network on Harding Ave. between Oakland Hall and Oakland St.
 - City should better maintain crosswalk markings eradicated by utility work, such as the four at the Oakland/University intersection.
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APPENDIX B – SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

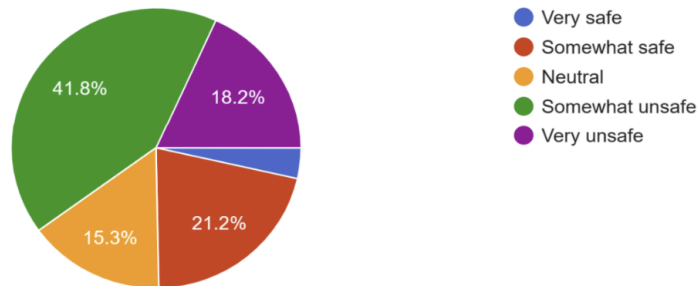
On a scale of 1 to 10, how safe do you feel in the city of Morgantown?

170 responses



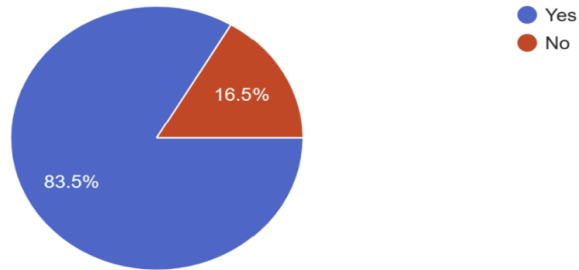
Do you feel safe walking alone at night in different areas of the city?

170 responses



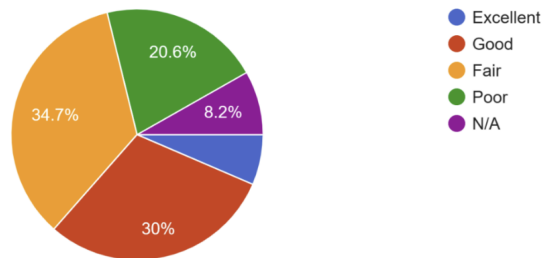
Have you ever used public transportation in our city?

170 responses



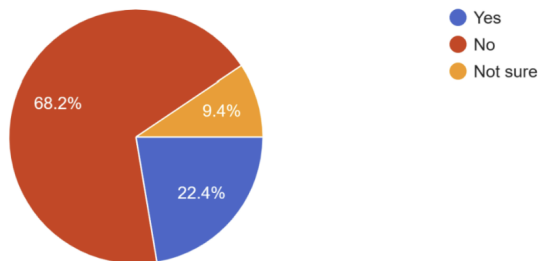
How would you rate the accessibility and convenience of public transportation in our city?

170 responses



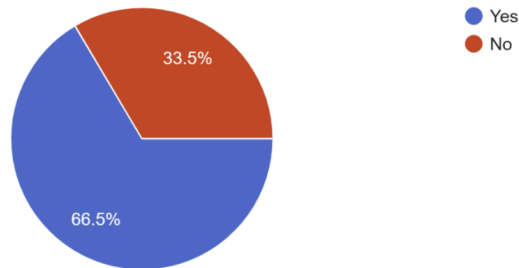
Do you think there are enough well-lit and well-maintained sidewalks in the city to facilitate walking and biking safely?

170 responses



Do you believe there are enough affordable and convenient transportation options available for college students in the city?

170 responses



How important is the safety and accessibility of the city when it comes to your decision to continue living and studying here?

170 responses

