

West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Regular Student Assembly Meeting
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 7:30 PM
September 10th, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jones at 7:30 p.m.

II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

The SGA mission statement was read by Vice President Jones.

III. Roll Call

Roll was called by Executive Secretary Davis.

President Pro Tempore Robinson - Present

Senator Alfgeirsson - Present

College Senator Armstrong - Present

College Senator Bielinski - Absent

College Senator Bellisario - Present

College Senator Campbell - Present

Senator Champ - Present

Senator Cole - Present

College Senator Duvert - Absent

College Senator Erwin - Present

College Senator Evans - Present

College Senator Everly - Present

College Senator Flanagan - Present

Senator Green - Present

College Senator Hale - Present

Senator Hickle - Present

College Senator Hill - Absent

Senator Howell - Present

College Senator Mehring- Present

College Senator Mugnano - Present

Senator O'Neal - Present

College Senator Poole - Present

College Senator Qian - Present

College Senator Schmidt - Present

College Senator Scott - Present

Senator Seabolt - Present

College Senator Selders - Absent

College Senator Shaik - Absent

Senator Shawn - Present

Senator Silva - Present

College Senator Stenger- Present

College Senator Snyder - Present

College Senator Tadros - Present

Senator Torres - Present

College Senator Traylor - Present

College Senator Tuttle - Present

Senator Vuiller - Present

College Senator Worley - Absent

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator Silva, seconded by President Pro Tempore Robinson.

V. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Cole, seconded by Senator Silva.

VI. “Charting Our Path Forward,” University President Michael Benson

President Benson: I've talked a lot to both your President and Vice President about how important it is for us to have a strategic plan as we move forward. I've had a chance to, as they say now, to socialize this with our board. Colin serves on our Board of Governors and we have a lot more work to do but this is kind of a 30,000 foot view in rapid fashion of what we're thinking and where we want to go. So first off, this is what our freshman class of nearly 4,500 students looks like. This is our, one of our biggest in recent years, probably our biggest freshman class since the year 2022. Thank you for joining us in Morgantown, we're so happy to have you because freshman classes this size will stay with you, we hope, for four years toward graduation.

I have a lot of enthusiasm about where we are going as a university, and I want to share some thoughts with you tonight that I hope ignites in you the same kind of enthusiasm, because it is a great time to be at West Virginia University. So, we will have a plan that we will use as a guide mark and a road map, if you will, for our university, but the process we're going through right now is very significant. And the reason I say that is, oftentimes we forget that history is all around us, that historical events involve people that are in our lives. I want to tell you kind of what we are thinking in terms of our process of planning. And these are kind of, I would say, kind of assumed truths, or assumed principles of planning, that they'll only work if. They'll work if there's buy-in. The process stays dynamic, it's never static, it's always moving. Both short- and long-term goals are measurable, and you are held accountable for them. It's done on an ongoing basis, it's aligned with budget and resources, and progress that you make is communicated, and it's shared, and I would also say it's celebrated. So, this is where we are.

One thing, I started here in July, and when I got here, when I was named at the end of February, I did all this research on the university, and I saw Let's Go everywhere. I saw it on flags, I saw it on bumper stickers, I saw it in our hometown of Borough Beach, on the back of West Virginia cars that are everywhere in South Carolina. And I decided it would be great to take those letters, the six letters, and associate with them action verbs that are very easily remembered. So, the six letters. L, lead. E, empower. T, transform. S, stake. G, grow. And O, outwork and outperform.

So, one thing I wanted to do after I met with this group of students from Wheeling. They were all classmates in Wheeling. And as I talked to them, I said, I think a few of them were first generation. I said, instead of a different empower, I want to empower through education because the one thing that is going to change our state and change our country and our world for that matter is access to education. It's the one thing that can change the life of a person more profoundly than anything else.

So, lead with pride. Why do I say lead with pride? West Virginians by nature, I have found, are not boastful people. They're self-effacing, they're humble, but they're gritty. They have a little moxie too. They got a little steel in their spines. And one thing we're going to do as a university is to lead with pride. My mom used to say, chin up, shoulders back. Be proud of who you are, but not in a boastful sort of way, but tell the stories of you as students. Tell the stories of our faculty that are making a difference in people's lives, of our staff, of our alumni. So, we're going to lead with pride and do it in a really powerful sort of way.

Empower through education, I touched on that. Horace Mann was a great educational reformer. He said, education is the great equalizer of the conditions of man, the balance wheel of the social machinery. There's nothing that can change your life more than the education that you attain. And we're going to really stress that.

T is transform lives. How many of you are familiar with what's going on at WVU Medicine? There's a doctor over there by the name of Ali Rezai. He was the focal point of two segments on 60 Minutes because he is using ultrasound to target parts of the brain where you can control addiction and dementia and epilepsy and Alzheimer's. Nobody else in the world is doing this. This is happening right here in Morgantown, at our hospital, at the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute. That is the kind of transformation of lives that we're seeing throughout our state.

S, stake our claim. Can anybody tell me what the word stake means? What does stake mean? Put a stake in the ground, stake our claim. We're going to stake our claim as a national model for the 21st century land-grant university.

The final two, grow our reach. How many of you are from out of state? Raise your hands, please. This is a great state of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. How many of you are from Pennsylvania? Ohio? I want to focus on those two states for a second. The freshmen here that graduated back in the, what, May or June, represent the approximately 17,000 graduates from high school in the state of West Virginia. That's how many we produce. Anybody want to guess how many graduates that were from high school this year from the state of Pennsylvania? 118,000. Ohio had 118,400 approximately. So those two states combined far outstrip us in terms of the sheer number of high school graduates that our state is going to produce. All of you West Virginians, we are so happy you are here. And I mean that. This is your university. This is a

university that belongs to the people of the state of West Virginia. We will never turn away a qualified, willing, capable student from this state that wants to come here. Or they want to maybe go to Beckley, or they want to go to our campus in Keyser, Potomac State. But the future for our enrollment is inextricably tied to going to places where students are. And two of those places are Pennsylvania and Ohio. And New Jersey, and Virginia, and North Carolina, and South Carolina. But those are two states that are very proximate and very easy to get to.

I'm not going to take a lot of time on this, because the six action verbs are kind of the overarching, what I'd call the strategic priorities in terms of education, discovery, health, service, and experiences. But the guiding principles is what I talked about. Lead, empower, transform,.

So this is our current mission statement. I'm not going to take the time to read it because it's not very memorable. Again, I don't mean to be uber critical. But we're going to distill down the essence of our guiding principles in a pithy, very pointed summary of what we want to do. And this is what we're proposing- At West Virginia University, we inspire bold futures where pride runs deep, success is earned, and life-changing experiences prepare Mountaineers to lead in West Virginia and the world. Bold futures start here. Let's go.

We polled our board of governors, and I'll end with this. Colin was part of that. You remember all the sessions we had? So we gave them the vertical areas of the goal. Health, discovery, experiences, et cetera. And we came up with goals that they wanted to focus on. Retention rate for US students. Job placement. Grad school applications and admissions. Education ROI. What job did you land in the major or your discipline? And are you gainfully employed 6, 10, 12 months after graduation? You can see some of the other indicators, but these were fed back to us by our board of what they wanted to measure. Talk to groups about this. We're going to socialize this. We're going to get as much feedback as we possibly can. Develop a seed funding mechanism that supports projects, initiatives that align with our goals. It's kind of the WVU version of Shark Tank. We're going to put out solicitations for ideas of what you would like to do as a student, as a faculty member, as a staff member. And if it aligns with what we want to accomplish, we're going to come up with some funding to help you accomplish your project. And the idea is to get everybody kind of pulling in the same direction and involved in a really meaningful sort of way. If you care to provide feedback, we are very grateful. I thank you for your participation.

The university, if you've been paying attention the last several years, has gone through some challenges. Those are behind us. We are going to be aggressive and bold as we chart this very positive movement forward. And that's going to be our response. And I'll finish where I started with a quote from General Eisenhower- Optimism and pessimism are infectious. And they spread more rapidly from the head downward than in any other direction. I will tell you, I appreciate a lot about student government and especially your leaders this year.

I've gotten to know Colin and Ro very well. And they, to me, embody enthusiasm and positivity in a way that I haven't really seen too often in student leaders. And I really appreciate that, because you're going to see that in me, too. If I'm on campus, I'm going to, I hope, exude excitement and enthusiasm about where we're going. We'll be realistic, but we're going to be optimistic. And I'm really excited about where we're headed.

The floor was opened for questions.

College Senator Scott: I am from PA and I'm 45 minutes away. And I was really interested to know, when you say going to PA and Ohio, what did you have in mind?

President Benson: So the university has what we call metro rates. So instead of charging the full freight of out-of-state tuition, we may target a certain metro rate or a certain area where we have feeder high schools, or even target an entire, let's say, Allegheny County. And say, instead of you paying the full freight of out-of-state tuition, we're going to reduce that a certain amount, still above in-state tuition, to try and recruit more students to come here. And then when a student compares the cost of what that might be compared to, let's say, going to Penn State, or Pitt, or Rutgers if you're in New Jersey, or Temple if you're in Pennsylvania, that's what we're talking about. The same thing applies for Ohio.

College Senator Poole: Basically, so a few years ago, the Wall Street Journal basically said of West Virginia University that we banked on growth, and it backfired. And I know that there was a previous goal of having us expand to like 40,000 students. I basically was just wondering, when you picture the university in five years, where do you see it? Are some of those prior goals still in place? Just a general direction going forward.

President Benson: Yeah, I can't speak to what that goal was or why they talked about it. But that came out several years ago, and it never materialized for whatever reason. I've come from a school where we focused singularly and very aggressively on enrollment. At Coastal Carolina University, we had the biggest freshman class for the last five years in a row. So there was a progressive kind of incremental direction upward. We're going to focus on that, but it's going to be measured and informed. And we've got to ensure we have facilities to accommodate that growth. We have the residence halls to accommodate the growth, and we have the necessary infrastructure in Morgantown itself. So the growth, you don't grow just for growth's sake, but you do have to grow if you want to accomplish some of the things. In terms of your budget, our

employees have not had a substantial raise in terms of cost of living adjustments for quite some time. That's inexorably tied to how we do with our enrollment. So a lot of that is tied to it.

College Senator Poole: You had mentioned how access to education is one of the things that can save the world. And you had mentioned how we're making efforts to expand to out-of-state students. I was just wondering, how are you going to do that and still provide access to poor folks in West Virginia, make sure they have access to an education, and that's a priority?

President Benson: It is a priority. We have a program where if your household income is at a certain threshold and you're below that through a combination of Pell Grants and institutional aid, you can come to West Virginia University free of tuition. And that will continue to be in place, because I think that's really important.

Senator O'Neal: So like, what are the costs of out-of-state tuition for certain students in metro areas? Is that going to have an effect on in-state tuition for people in West Virginia? Or is there going to be a cost offset somewhere?

President Benson: Yeah, good question. We've tried to keep our tuition relatively flat. In my previous school, we kept in-state at a certain rate. We noticed that there's a principle in economics called elasticity. You can do a certain price of an item, or a commodity, or a service. And what are people willing to pay? So we certainly don't want to price out anybody that wants access in-state to a West Virginia University education. There is a little more elasticity for some out-of-state students. But we don't want to foreclose to them the opportunity as well. So there's a lot of science to pricing that. And you'll hear more about that as well.

College Senator Mehring: I'm from Ohio. I started as an undergrad, now I'm here as a graduate student. So you guys got me. But I was just wondering if you were planning to increase awareness about reciprocity, because I know that was a huge thing that got me here, but never was informed on it, never heard about anyone talking about it. So I just wondered if you had any plans to increase awareness of that? Since I was a Sports and Exercise Psych, I paid in-state tuition here.

President Benson: We'll make sure we advertise and communicate a lot about it.

Senator Seabolt: So just like Hank said, you mentioned academics as a huge priority for you. Just being post-academic transformation and also cutting our DEI departments last year, where do majors and minors, such as Women and Gender studies, fall under that?

President Benson: There are, as you know, kind of mandates that we've been given by the state. And we're not unique in that. A lot of other states have done it as well. But we're in a persistent, continuous evaluation of our degree programs. And when we hear from people, boy, we could sure use a lot more kind of gear to our AI, or we could see a lot more in the hard sciences. I speak Italian. Americans do a terrible job of learning a second language. So I would love to see more emphasis from our university. I'm not saying anything more than that on learning a language, whether you do it here or you do it somewhere else. But that is, I think, learning about other people, and cultures, and languages is really, really important.

Senator Silva: I wanted to ask, you mentioned out-of-state growth and trying to get students from out-of-state. And I was wondering if there is or if there would be a plan to include international students in that recruitment. And if so, what would that look like?

President Benson: Yes, I had a chance to meet with our international students. And I told them I lived overseas for almost seven years. And I have enormous respect for students that come here and do their degrees in a second language. I had the good fortune, I guess, of studying in English. But I have nothing but respect for students that tackle that. I mean, it's one thing to have a conversational ability in a language. So we actually saw a slight uptick in student applications and admissions this year. A lot of that is tied to the government and if they're letting more international students in. But we will continue to advocate for more international students here because they add to the tapestry of our campus. We can learn from them. And I hope that they can learn from us.

Senator Vuiller: So Hank had mentioned the lower-income students and that you guys have programs such as the Pell Grant, which is a more federalized program for low-income students. And with the most recent federal decisions, especially from the House of Representatives about the Resilience Program, I do know that the Pell Grant is at risk of being lost. And as well, in the last year, a lot of the federal work study was cut, which hit a lot of low-income students. So obviously, I'm going to suspect that you're going to be there for a really long time. So you're going to kind of feel the effects of this new federal administration. I kind of want to know, you know, if that Pell Grant goes away, which would have a large effect on many West Virginians, like, what does that look like?

President Benson: And you're exactly right about the federal implications of decisions relative to Pell Grants. One thing we could do as an institution is we have a very robust foundation that raises private money. And there's no more important way to spend that money, in my mind, than on scholarships. So the more opportunities you can provide for more students with more funding is priority number one for me. Now, I'm a big believer that the pendulum's going to swing back, and we can't stay in this kind of state of craziness forever. And so I really do believe that people will recognize that the greatest asset we have in our country is people. And when people have access to affordable education, it cures so many other things that are collateral products of things that come from not having as much education as possible.

VII. Open Student Forum I

Matthew Oliverio: I'm a senior here at WVU, and I'm the president of the Pre- Law Society, and I was a member of this organization for three years, and most recently as President Pro Tempore, and for all three of those years I was a member of the Bureau of Finance. And on that note, I was recently at a BOF meeting this week to discuss a catering grant, when I was informed that there's a new rule that student organizations can only cater one meeting per semester through SGA. So I'm here today to express my opposition to this rule. Student organizations are the cornerstone of student life on our campus, and we rely on money from SGA to be able to function at our best. The ability to cater meetings allows us to draw in members and incentivize them to come back. For many organizations, all that is asked of SGA is catering for a few meetings a year. While it may not seem like much, it does make a big difference. Under this new rule, we effectively have to choose which single meeting we value the most across an entire semester and leave the rest behind. Having been a member of BOF, I do understand that there is a need for some guidelines for grant applications. That's the function of the Bureau. Maybe a limit for three events a semester or some kind of monetary cap on catering money would be reasonable. But in a year when the external budget has already been significantly cut, this limit puts unnecessary and painful strain on our student organizations and the students they support. I hope that SGA will reconsider this rule to help our student organizations thrive. Thanks guys, have a good night.

College Senator Poole: I would just like to say that I really appreciate Matthew for coming out and talking. But I would just like to say that I'm trying to, just looking at the bigger picture, I'm very optimistic about the new things we're doing with the budget. And I think that SGA can do more than just, you know, cater to student organizations. I think if we look at the

bigger picture, how can we give money that can deliver better outputs, which I understand is the goal of this administration. And I think if we can work with student organizations to benefit students as a whole or those particular organizations, then our resources are better suited in that direction.

College Senator Hale: If you're struggling to afford food for meetings or whatever, they have good snacks and stuff at Walmart. They have pre-made desserts and stuff. It's actually pretty good. It's pretty cheap. You can always do that instead of catering.

College Senator Mugnano: I guess we're talking about the catering rules and what students do with the money that we give them. I guess my rebuttal to that would be, is that not the point of our internal budget to be able to partner with Student Orgs for more pointed use? Is the external budget, like, if an organization views food as the best way for them to provide their service to campus, should we not give them the autonomy to use those funds in a means that they think is best for them?

Senator Silva: I have two things to say. One, and I do understand what College Senator Mugnano was saying regarding, you know, is it our authority to tell Student Orgs what to spend their money on? Not necessarily, but this is why we have BOF, to scrutinize why they're asking us for money and to decide whether or not this is something that we can accommodate. So, in a way, I don't think that it's really us telling them what to do with their money. But what I do want to say is, while I do understand that having meetings catered is nice, it also brings people. I do understand that. I think there are other things that Student Orgs can do and often want to do, and we no longer have the budget for it because three or four organizations got five or six meetings catered. And I understand it's nice, but there are other people who also want to get initiatives. Not initiatives, but, like, as organizations, they want to get events done. They want to get certain things, and they're unable to because we spent all of that money on food.

Carter Leadmon: First off, the thing to restrict meeting catering to one meeting, not a new idea. It's very old. I've been on BOF for, well, not this year, but the past three years. It was always something we discussed. And my freshman year, so when Daniel was the treasurer, he left. He actually suggested that we limit to one meeting a semester, which I thought was a great idea at the time. But then I realized that our external budget is not really our money. It comes from students' fees. We can use it, and we can allot it, but it's not necessarily our money.

We're funded from student fees. Catering as an expense as a whole is a large chunk of our external budget. It ends up being allocated quite a bit. But it's large, but also it's not like a humongous category. It's like registration, which can be very expensive. Travel, very expensive. Events, also very expensive. Another thing. How can we distinguish between a large catering event for a large organization, which could cost \$2,000, versus a small organization who wants one meeting catered for \$100, which is something you see a lot of. So I'd say when we make these decisions on how to allot our money, we need to consider how this impacts the organizations. An organization that's more about the community, catering might be the best thing for them to get at meetings. So I would say when we make these decisions to really think about it, look at the numbers, and make the decision that's best for the student body because you're all here to serve the student body. So that's all I've got to say is that when we say it's our money, it's not really our money. It's more like their money. And, you know, we run out of budget roughly at the beginning of every year. There has to be four weeks ahead for catering anyway. We basically run out of money on time.

Julia Leyden, Treasurer: So I feel like it's natural that I speak on this a little bit. When this was initially brought up to me, I was strongly against it. I, like Carter, the former treasurer, had discussed it with him, and it does make sense to limit certain things and to go about things a certain way. But my initial suggestion was to limit to three for this semester. It seemed like a good compromise. And I pulled up a lot of numbers, and have a giant spreadsheet. The average number spent on catering was \$628. That is far below the max of \$2,000, which it has been limited to. That's not a number that's, like, outrageous. And it's actually, like Carter was saying, way less than most people spend on, like, registration, travel, things like that. So for a lot of student orgs, catering is the best that they can do. I mean, a lot of you guys talked today. Matthew was in BOF. I'm in BOF. We love to have guests at BOF. But I would really like for you guys to have those conversations with the student orgs and to be able to best advocate for them. It's been considered before, and, you know, other alternatives such as dues or other things are not always feasible for the student orgs. Things like bake sales, still require labor, and maybe there's four people in that student org. And they're trying to get members by catering their meetings. And so that's the real situation we have. So my encouragement, my initial suggestion was three, and I don't know what we can do about it today, but it's to get the word out about these grants. Because if you're going to, you know, say that the money is being spent the wrong way, which in and of itself is giving a little bit of paternalism, then you may want to get that word out and kind of discuss it with your people in your colleges, in the orgs that you're in, things like that. So if you're going to be saying it isn't used fairly, make it used fairly. That's all I have to say.

President Street: When Ro and I were running, we met with about 30 student organizations, and we saw a huge disparity between them. The Bureau of Finance administers grants to less than 100 organizations, and we have over 500 student organizations on this campus. We saw some student orgs that were able to cater every single meeting and even send pizzas home with every member. And we saw others that weren't able to send their students to represent WVU at national conferences. So we decided if we're going to try something, we have to do something about it. One student org grant might not be the exact right policy, but we need to do something, so we're going to try one for now. What we'd like you all to do in your committees is talk about it next week, see what your committee feels about it, uplift that to Olivia, and we'll discuss it in cabinet, and we'll have a report for you next meeting.

VIII. The President's Report

President Street: So thank you so much for your attention to President Benson. Shout out to our comms team for posting its first SGA spotlight today. It was absolutely amazing. And Elise, thank you for being our guinea pig in that. So this week, I have had meeting after meeting after meeting. One day, I had meetings from 9 AM to 7 PM straight. We have a Board of Governors meeting on Friday, so it's all of the committee meetings leading up to that. I sit on the Divisional Campuses Committee meeting and the Strategic Plans Committee meeting. So I had both of those committee meetings. We talked about Potomac State and WVU Tech, but I'll be able to tell you more information after the General Board meeting on Friday. I also attended the other two committee meetings I am not a part of, which is Academic Affairs and the Audit Committee. Later this week, like I mentioned, the entire Board of Governors will be meeting on Friday, but there are several events leading up to that. Thursday night, there will be a brief Board update on the WVU Strategic Plan and the input President Benson has got from presenting to constituency groups across campus on that. I also have the General Board of Governors meeting on Friday from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm. There's a packed schedule. I haven't finished prepping for it, because the prep document is almost 150 pages. But just to get you some highlights on what the agenda will be like, we have remarks from Governor Morrissey, a resolution about athletics, report about enrollment from our new Vice President of Enrollment, approval of a new master's degree in cybersecurity and associate's degree in media studies, and deactivation of 16 programs across the Morgantown and Potomac State campuses. Additionally, Friday night after the Board meeting, Ro, Shelby, Logan, Will, and I will be going to an alumni fundraising event to promote some of the initiatives you all are doing and see how alumni might be able to financially support some of them. Beyond the Board, that's been the majority of my time this week on Board-related issues. Ro and I filmed our first Monday memo, which will be another programmatic TikTok that

goes out every Monday, highlighting all the work you guys do in your committees and department meetings. And then I had a meeting with Marshall, Shepherd, and Fairmont State's SGAs about expanding our month of service in October. Normally, we do month of service just with Marshall, and we compete on service initiatives with them. We're looking to expand that beyond just Marshall. And Shepherd and Fairmont State were interested. Also, I finally finished our re-registration with SEL.

IX. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Jones: Colin, Will, and I will be presenting to the Alumni Board. I sit as our representative on the Alumni Board, so my first quarter one meeting will be on September 19th. Colin, Will, and I will be presenting our administration's priorities to the Alumni Board on September 19th as well. Additionally, we will be hosting, in partnership with the Alumni Board, an Alumni Board networking session, and that will be on September 18th. It will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center. We will be sending out a sign-up sheet for that just because we can only take up, I believe, about 30 to 40 folks or so. So be on the lookout for that. So all of the senators and all of the executives that are currently present, whip out your phones, because on August 27th, you were sent a Google Calendar invite for our retreat, which will be next weekend, September 20th to the 21st. We'll be spending 24 hours in Jackson's Mill. Lastly, we will be doing a networking event on Capitol Hill on October 1st. We will be taking a car or so of people. So we will be sending an application form out for that as well. In fact, I believe it is already out and it was sent in the Monday memo, but you can go ahead and apply to that as well. President Benson, as well as some representatives, federal representatives, representatives from WVU Hospital, and some alumni will be there as well. So there'll be a really great opportunity to get involved.

X. Committee Reports

Senator Cole: Hospitality group is going to pay for the coffee for our event on October 1st. That's October 1st, 9am to 12pm outside of Mountainlair. Safety walk, tentatively, is going to be on the 16th at a to-be-determined date. Ethan and I, as well as Zadie from our committee, are going to be working on that. I do have an update regarding safety communication. Safety communication will be sending out the road closures that we asked them to. Those will be posted on social media. I just heard from their team that they'll be working to do some public safety changes that we worked on. Some opt-in requests for safety communications for those road closures, so you can get push notifications for those. They did start using social media for road

closures last week. And then Gracie and I are going to talk about the de-escalation training stuff. We're going to talk to the Department of Creek Life next week, hopefully.

College Senator Scott: A couple of things from the college projects committee, there's been a meeting set up that will happen soon with the dean of chambers to discuss the early stages of the mentor program. Gabe and I talked to our dean recently about projects we wanted to do within CCAM and he was very receptive to that. Gabe's helping different music sections become orgs and organize them that way has been going very well.

Senator Silva: So we will be going to Stalnaker Hall for a meeting with the international student LLC next week. So we're very excited about that and to talk to some international students. And we'll also be meeting with Carruth soon to try and get some more ideas going for our pivot on the project.

Senator O'Neal: I had a meeting with the sustainability director and facilities leadership. We went over some initiatives. Hopefully we'll start meeting monthly at least and have them come to our committee and stuff. But great feedback from them on sustainability initiatives, they seemed really eager to work with us this year. And so I would definitely recommend if you guys have any work that has to go through facilities, it's a great team there. They're super receptive to student government and working with us.

Senator Vullier: Creating some new reforms within our committee for our technical projects and our campus closets to kind of gauge how it works. I know the campus closet from seeing the need base, like through the Rack and other resources that people use whenever they're in need. Also through the group Rack opportunities, actually knowing organizations and seeing what they want out of this or if they even want this.

College Senator Armstrong: Alright, our meeting today, we just discussed different strategies to accomplish our graduate TA initiative. Like how they are awarded for being a TA. So we discussed maybe researching other schools' policies and then polling our undergraduate TA's here. And we're going to continue working on that until the next meeting. And then for our Lap Equipment Drive initiative, Tyson is attempting to set up a Zoom with Dr. Osborne.

XI. Assembly Reports

Senator Seabolt: I have a meeting with the Campus Rec next Wednesday about the group rec classes for student orgs and I will keep you updated on that.

President Pro Tempore Robinson: First, I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone for being so respectful to President Benson. Make sure that you're respectful to everyone that is speaking going forward as well. That was really good. Let's keep that energy going forward. I would just like to maybe implement a new thing with the Bureau of Legislation meetings just so that every committee is well represented each time. Chairs, if you're not going to go, like if you can't go, if something comes up, I would like you to at least try to get your Vice Chair to come. Vice Chairs, it's me extending the invitation to you to come anytime you want as well. Other people in the committee, if you guys ever want to come to the Bureau of Legislation, please let me know. But what I'm saying right now is somebody from each committee has to come to BOL each time. I'm just going to reiterate something Shelly is probably going to talk about, but let's just make sure when we're doing our projects, everything is data driven and the students want it. You guys are focused right now, let's make sure we remain focused in the future.

XII. Executive Reports

A. Admin Meeting Advice, SGA Project Roadmap, Internal Chief of Staff Shelby Davis

Internal Chief of Staff, Shelby Davis: I met with Thanh and Logan for our weekly Chief of Staff meetings that just started. During this time, I'm going to keep Thanh in the loop with Senator projects. He recommended that we slow down because at this rate we're going to get really burned out by midterms. So y'all are doing great, but we just want to make sure we're taking the proper amount of time to plan. And feel free, and it's encouraged, that y'all work on like one personal project at a time. Or just get adjusted to the school year. That's okay too. We are only four weeks in. And then in terms of projects, I know I felt this way too, but oftentimes we feel the need to invent these unique initiatives. But if it already exists, let's just focus on promoting that resource and working with the WVU department that provides it to do so. And then, like Olivia said, when we're working on our projects, it is crucial that we have data to back the initiatives. So when you have a project in mind, ask yourself, who are you doing this for and do they want it? So this means talking to your target audience and meeting with the related WVU departments.

And then on the agenda, you all expressed a need for admin and project advice in your August check-ins. Everybody has their dean meetings coming up. Thanks for getting them scheduled. And there's some general advice for admin meetings and the important link doc. Most importantly, just show up and be on time. If that doesn't work out, please email your dean and let them know. And then if you want to be professional, create an agenda with the SGA letterhead. And feel free to meet with your fellow college senators before the meeting to talk about any initiatives you want to bring up. And then there's also a project road map and the important docs. Key points consist of talking to and listening to your audience, working closely with administrators and following their recommendations. And also really important, keeping me in the loop. Get approval from me first from projects, even if you campaigned on it. Still check in with me. And after that, CC the SGA email. And then when you check in with me, I'm just going to help you make your plan strong and make sure it's something SGA can do or hasn't done before. And then I'll keep Thanh in the loop. He's super busy, so I'll keep him posted instead of like every 38 people here doing it. Thank you. And you're all doing great.

B. Student Organization Overview, Student Organizations Liaison Kendall Gebhard

Student Organizations Liaison, Kendall Gebhard: You guys have one organization requirement. So I'll address, you'll be sending a follow-up email, and this will just, like, etiquette and stuff. I will be putting it in the drive after I present it, and there is a resource doc also under my title. So a main thing I kind of want to talk about is the SORC because it has a lot of resources. And I also am in the process right now with comms of making a pamphlet to give out to you guys in order, when you go to these events, to give out to these organizations, so it'll have the stuff on it. And this is just, like, about the grants. There are four tiers, so if they were curious what tier their request might fall under. Of course, there's also the BOF website, which you can refer to. And this is just how to apply for grants, which is also on the BOF website. And there's the resources, and these are just, like, the main contacts. You also, if you have BOF questions, message Julia, and then I'm here to answer any comments or concerns.

So you guys will have, on Engage, it will be in a pre-visit form, which I will approve or deny, and then there's a post-visit form. So this is just how to find visits. You can go through Engage, it has to be, like, an organization event. And then before you visit and you fill out the form, I would prefer if the event is, like, two weeks in advance from the date when you submit it, because then it's, like, not rushing to go to it last minute. So you also, I would prefer also if you guys didn't keep picking, like, the same category or college, like, event type. Also it'll have everything in the Engage form, like, all the information I need and everything.

And if you have questions on how to access that or where it is, please let me know.

So this is during your visit, obviously, to be respectful, and don't overtake what they are trying to do. I will, there is a requirement, you do have to take a picture that you are actually at the event, which will be in the Engage form, so don't forget about that. It will be in the pre-visit form. And you can wear SGA merch and stuff. And then after the visit, which is just important, you will send the follow-up email. Be like, hey, I had fun, if you guys need any resources, then you input the links and stuff, or this PowerPoint, and I think that link works for the post-visit.

We'll have a spreadsheet already made and stuff, so it'll be easy to have, all the information you input will be put in the spreadsheet, and then there are the links, let me know if they don't work.

XIII. Old Business

No Old Business.

XIV. New Business

A. Legislation

1. AP-2025-09-01; An Assembly Proclamation To Support the Recommendation Regarding Infrastructure in the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Area

Senator Cole read the bill.

Senator Cole: Whereas West Virginia University's mission statement reads, as a land grant institution, the faculty, staff, and students at West Virginia University shall commit to creating health care and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity, by advancing high impact research, and leading by transformation in West Virginia and the world through local and state engagement.

And, whereas West Virginia University Student Government Association's mission statement reads to be a student government association that serves the students, West Virginia University, and the state of West Virginia by creating a campus that can accommodate everyone, actively engaging in all 35 counties in West Virginia, supporting economic development, fostering healthy lifestyles, and developing innovative partnerships with students, faculty, staff, and other key stakeholders.

And, whereas the Morgantown and Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization, MMMPO, in partnership with the traffic engineering firm, Kimley Horn, has concluded this year

regional traffic micro-simulation study, analyzing the efficiency of traffic, safety of citizens, and pedestrian accessibility of major intersections and travel corridors in the downtown and the Monongalia metropolitan area.

And, whereas the \$500,000 study utilized traffic modeling software and provided real-time pedestrian and vehicle data across dozens of sites to evaluate current and future traffic conditions, particularly in high-congestion, high-risk areas on the university campus.

And, whereas the findings of the study identify several intersections and travel corridors in need of urgent and long-term structural reconfiguration, specifically University Avenue, Lily Street, Beechurst Avenue, Richwood Avenue, Snyder Street, Long Run Road, and Monongalia Boulevard.

And, whereas the implementation of roundabouts at the intersections of Beechurst Avenue and 8th Street, the 5-way intersection of Stewart Street, Protzman Street, Van Gilder Avenue, and Hoffman Avenue, and the University Avenue, Pleasant Street, and Westover Bridge, is expected to reduce vehicle idling and lowering crash frequency. Improve overall pedestrian accessibility and contribute to long-term emissions reductions.

And, whereas the study further recommends that the critical pedestrian crossing infrastructure in front of the Mountainliar, called Grumbein's Island, shall be closed to the closure of University Avenue to vehicular traffic between College Avenue and Beechurst Avenue with the realignment of Lilly Street and new pedestrian corridors.

And, whereas the recommendation from Kimley Horn to the Morgantown, Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization is to include signal optimization, multimodal improvements, and the closure of Grumbein's Island to vehicular traffic, the realignment of U.S. Route 119 to Snyder Street and multiple improvements to intersections.

And, whereas students, faculty, staff, and residents of the Morgantown area rely heavily on these corridors for daily commutes, access to these essential services, and recreational activity, and therefore have a direct stake in the future configuration of the safety and safety of the transportation network. And, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University.

Section 1, the Student Government Association formally endorses the recommendation set forth from the Morgantown, Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes a micro-simulation study as presented by Kimley Horn.

Section 2, the Student Government Association recognizes that the implementation of roundabouts, pedestrian corridors, realigned traffic flows, signal optimization, and more is essential to long-term safety, sustainability, and efficiency of the Morgantown, Monongalia Metropolitan Transportation and Infrastructure Network.

And Section 3, the Student Government Association calls on students, faculty, staff, and members of the community to actively participate in public comment during MMMOP meetings regarding the future of the infrastructure network in our community.

And Section 4, on task for approval, this legislation shall be reported in advance.

President Pro Tempore Robinson moved to table the discussion, seconded by Senator Seabolt.

B. Bureau of Finance

1. FB-2025-07

Julia Leyden, Treasurer: We have a fantastic financial bill, it's going to be six grants for five organizations. We're funding some meetings, including a Halloween social event and some travel, so highly recommend voting yes on this bill.

Senator Silva motioned to vote by voice, seconded by Senator Champ.

All ayes, the bill passed unanimously.

XV. Open Student Forum II

College Senator Everly: I already have two people recruited for our Dancing with the Stars group chat. If anyone else would like to be added, my name is Grace Everly. Look me up in the contact sheet and send me a text.

Senator Silva: Hey everyone, so if you're interested in joining Greek life, Alpha Omega Epsilon is gonna have fall recruitment next week. We have our first event, our sisterhood event in the Towers Blue and Gold Room, September 15th from six to eight p.m. So it'd be lovely to see some of you guys there. We are a sorority for non-men in STEM, but also just interested in uplifting non-men in STEM. So please pop up, it's gonna be great. Thank you.

College Senator Snyder: I would like to point out that it is very important that the policy of see something, say something I think that a lot of us overlook. So this was preventable, please if you see something weird even if you just want to blow it off, report it and say something because you never know.

Senator Cole: Everybody take your phones out and download LiveSafe because we can solve this by downloading LiveSafe. You can have two-way communication to the University Police Department. We're gonna get our numbers up.

Julia Leyden, Treasurer: One, I'm sending out the SGA Family Feud form in the group chat. Everyone please fill that out. And then lastly, I just wanted to clarify really quickly, don't come to BOF to talk about your policy concerns because we have business to attend to. You can reach out to me for that. We have lots of student orgs coming there that have things that need to happen. So just like you'd respect anyone else's business, please allow us to do that. You're welcome to come and help do the student org meetings, but don't come to just talk about the policy. I'm happy to talk about it at a different time. Reach out to me, but I just want to clarify that. Thank you.

XVI. Advisors' Reports

Dr. Thanh Le: On Monday, re-registration ends. And so if your student organization is not registered and complete, you will be receiving a letter of the de-recognition and your reservations will be canceled. So I believe SGA has taken care of their responsibilities. So thank you, Colin and Ro for taking care of that. We appreciate you all for leading the charge with that.

Also, homecoming parade applications are open and then also homecoming court applications are open. And so we're looking for lots of great people to represent us on the royalty court, and then be in our amazing parade. Next Wednesday is our student involvement fair. So if you all want to participate or you have organizations that want to participate, let us know. I believe the registration closes on Friday for their side of the closing for Friday on Engage. I prefer SORC for the Student Resource Center. You know, we're the source for student organizations. So be the source for student organizations. Thank you.

XVII. Snaps

Vice President Jones: I would like to give snaps to our Alumni Relations Liaison, Will Andrews. He's doing a great job, putting in a lot of hard work. And then I would also like to give snaps to Elise for her senator spotlight. It was excellent.

Senator Silva: Snaps to Vice President Jones, College Senator Armstrong, and College Senator Duvert for winning their alumni soccer game. And congrats to Ro for making it to the end of the game.

Intern coordinator, Garrett Ourlser: Snaps to all the interns who are here. Thank you for all the work and effort you're putting in.

Senator Seabolt: Snaps to Brian, he is making really good legislation and doing a lot already really early.

College Senator Mugnano: Snaps to Bradley Dale.

President Street: Snaps to College Senator Poole and the rest of the DSP folks. You guys had a great event yesterday. I didn't realize how big DSP was, but it was fun.

Senator Torres: Snaps to Hank, Briar, and Ava for coming to the NAACP event last Thursday. They really contributed to the conversation, so I really appreciate that.

XVIII. Adjournment

College Senator Tadros motioned to adjourn, seconded by Senator Silva.
Ayes have it, the meeting was adjourned.
