



## **West Virginia University SGA Meeting**

**09/09/2020, 2020 - 2021 Administration**

### **I. Call to Order at 7:30PM**

### **II. Reading of SGA Mission Statement**

“We, the students of West Virginia University, desire to preserve within our University and the Student Government Association, an atmosphere to foster and open exchange of ideas with civil discussion, inquiry, and self-expression to help ensure that the

personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected, and to promote principles of diversity and responsible self-governance.”

### **III. Roll Call**

President Pro Tempore Jones - present

College Senator Backus - present

Senator Brooks - present

Senator Colbert - present

Senator Daniel - present

Senator Donnelly - present

Senator Eby - present

College Senator Eyler - present

College Senator Hanson - present

Senator Harman - present

Senator Ihlenfeld - present

Senator Jernigan - present

Senator Knotts - present

Senator Kumar - present

College Senator McKnight - present

Senator Miller - present

College Senator Moore - present

Senator Nadeau - present

Senator Nichols - present

College Senator Rawson

Senator Rosello - present

College Senator Seidel - present

College Senator Stackpole - present

Senator Zanabli - present

#### **IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda**

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

*VP Bragg:* The agenda for today's meeting is before you. I will now entertain a motion to approve the agenda with a show of hands.

*VP Bragg:* This motion passes.

#### **VI. Open Student Forum I**

*VP Bragg:* Does anyone have anything for Open Student Forum One?

Going once, twice. Seeing none, we will now move on to the President's Report.

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

*VP Bragg:* President Riggs.

*President Riggs:* Alrighty. Can you all hear me? .... Perfect. I apologize in advance for any unstable internet connection. Good evening everyone, I hope everyone had a wonderful Labor Day weekend. First of all, as some of you might have noticed, the group grew slightly as we finally got our Fall 2020 - 2021 Intern Class, so welcome all new interns. Welcome to your first official SGA meeting, we are happy to have you. As many of our members have said we are excited to have you all and work with all of you throughout this year. Intern Coordinator McFarland will be providing us all with additional information regarding the program during his report this evening. I will share just a few quick items that I have been working on since we last meet. Yesterday, Vice President Bragg and myself were able to meet with Dean Farris to discuss some things regarding the COVID policy and enforcement, as well as students' mental health, specifically students in the dorms and RAs. It is very important that all our members are active and receive student input right now. As you all know it is fundamental to what we do as an

organization. Our August ten for ten survey closes tonight, ummm Vice President Bragg and myself are back up with our office hours every Mondays and Wednesdays. We will also continue to push our housing student form which is back up on our website under the student resources tab. This is a great way to connect with the students, this might also provide our assembly members with any legislation ideas. Share the feedback with students especially since the change of classes moving to online, so please express that feedback and see if anyone might be experiencing those same experiences. Again this could potentially provide us with some advocacy opportunities.

This morning I met with Matthew Richardson, our director of internal value of leadership, regarding hazing prevention week which will be happening soon. They are asking for SGA participation this year, so information regarding that will be coming soon and we will be reaching out to our safety committee. I am still in the process of getting a meeting with Senator Manson and Senator Capido Office, uh the August recess delayed our meeting. Hopefully they will be returning to DC and hopefully we will be meeting with them soon. Funding for higher ED, I was reading an article the other day that stated and some of you might be aware of this but public funding has never been available for higher education, its normally so low going into recession and thats why the public funding is so low. So we're going into this next one at a worst spot. Thats a great point to make I think for Senator Daniel, Senator Harman, and Senator Ihlenfeld's approximation. Tonight is our first evening for committee sessions, so following our new business, you will all go to your selective committees. Those of you serving in multiple committees if you all will just hang back for a little while so I can be sure to put you in the correct breakout room for the evening if you have not already committees because take a few minutes among yourselves to decide who will serve as the committee head chair, these individuals will give the reports at the end of each committee session/meeting, as well as creating agendas every week to facilitate conversations. In terms of other students whom might be on the call this evening just hang back until we transfer and then we will make sure to get you in the right places. Finally, our applications for assembly vacancies, those applications close tomorrow at 8pm that link is on engage, email as been sent to all of the deans of each college, thank you

Vice President Bragg and our friends in SEL, they were able to send our press release to over a thousand students through the engage system. If any of you know of students who would like to be a part of the assembly board because send them the link before tomorrow. That is all from me, I do want to remind you all that September is Suicide Prevention month, due to students' mental health prior to the pandemic and after students have specifically experienced more stress and mental health and its super important we are reaching out and checking to our friends and fellow Mountaineers, and making support available to our fellow students and the city of Morgantown. I will leave you all with a quote as I always do

“ A person always doing his or her best is a nature leader just by example” -Joe DiMaggio  
With that have a wonderful meeting.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Chase. Does anyone have any questions for President Riggs.  
Seeing none we will move onto the Assembly Report.

### **VIII. Assembly Report**

*VP Bragg:* Do any other assembly members have any reports?  
Senator Nichols.

*Senator Nichols:* Thank you to Intern Coordinator McFarland for that quick, yet stress introduction to the new interns. Senator Jernigan and I, met with Laura C. who came to the last meeting last week about her Sodex issues and so we met with her and had a good conversation and we are kind of looking into that and I know there were some people who liked my message in the assembly groupchat, we will reaching out to them more and discuss it. Also I wanted to talk about being a diversity ambassador, on saturday we are going to be doing training and I plan on talking to some of you about that so if any of you wanna help me get that setup to do if for SGA, I would love to have some help on that.

Thank you.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you Senator Nichols.

Does anyone else have any other assembly reports?

Senator Knotts.

*Senator Knotts:* Hi everyone. I have a meeting coming up with Sam from title IX, we had discussion after RA training about some of the things that are problematic that we were given information about and that it wasn't in the most helpful way for students, we are looking more at it in a prosecution way with different issues of students, so I am meeting with Sam to discuss more with that and not only for RAs but other members on campus for some of the resources that we have, if anyone has any questions that they want me to bring up that goes along with title IX, if you want to add that to the agenda just reach out to me.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Senator Knotts.

Are there anymore assembly reports?

Seeing none, we will now move on to the Executive reports.

## **IX. Executive Reports**

*VP Bragg:* Do any executive members have any reports?

Elections Chair Pressley.

*Elections Chair Pressley:* Hi, so has promised I have the portional seats. Can you all hear me?

*VP Bragg:* Yes.

*Election Chair Pressley:* Okay. Our advisor Dr. Thanh Lee sent us the numbers. So Eberly will have six college senators, Health Science will have five college senators, Chambers will have four seats, Stalers will have four college senators, CPass, Davis, and Reed will have two college senators, Law and the CAC will have one college senator with the combination of twelve college senators at large we will have forty one seats in the assembly in this upcoming election. I know that's going ot be a lot, I am going to try to start getting things together and talk to some deans because that is a lot of spaces to fill, at the moment the spaces aren't filled right now. If there are any concerns please text me or with any ideas that you have please let me know. Due to the online classes and things not being in person it is going to be hard getting people involved. Any ideas that you all have I am open to it so please let me know.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Cam.

Are there anymore executive reports? ..... Intern Coordinator McFarland.

*Intern Coordinator McFarland:* Hi everyone. I am just going to update everyone on the intern program. We had our first meeting before this one it actually went very well. 40 interns were there out of 45 interns so we are doing good. There was some class restricts, a long with some other issues or some were unaware. It was a cool class and some really cool interns. One thing while I am on here to interns just a little PSA here, in the future we have our two chats we have the SGA chat and then we have the SGA after dark chat, so if you have any questions regarding the university or something like that go ahead and put it in the after dark chat but that's all I have everyone, once again if anyone has any questions on the intern program or any concerns about contact with your intern just shoot me a groupme or shoot me a text and I'll response as soon as possible.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Randy. Any other executive reports?

*Madison White:* Hi everyone, so last week we had our safety townhall meeting it was very successful, thank you to everyone who came out to that and then tonight at midnight, our student resource survey ten for ten closes so I'll drop the link in our informal groupchat especially for interns. I'll drop that on in the chat and then next week our safety two will roll out so that's coming to be on the lookout for. That is all for me.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Madison. Do any other executive members have any reports?

Attorney General Harlow.

*Attorney General Harlow:* I just wanted to update the assembly that we did form the assembly vacancy committee and that is remaining open to students until tomorrow. If anyone has any questions about that please reach out and we will have more information on that by next week

hopefully. Since we're going to have so many senators this committee should get familiar with the approximation I mentioned.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you Saul. Are there any more executive reports? Also I just got a message from Senator Daniel, when a senator joins a meeting late you do not have to motion to be let in, as we record all meetings.

So are there anymore executive reports? Seeing none, and seeing we have no old business we will move onto new business.

## **X. New Business**

*VP Bragg:* I will now entertain a motion to consider the AR-2020-05. Senator Nichols.

*Senator Nichols:* So moved.

*VP Bragg:* Senator Donnelly.

*Senator Donnelly:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor.

All those opposed.

This motion passes. Senator Daniel, you have the floor.

*Senator Daniel:* This AR-2020-05, this is an AR for WVU, to encourage the use of the nova act and I am also looking to backtrack this tonight. Whereas according to the West Virginia University mission state, faculty and students at West Virginia University to create a diverse space and education and healthcare for all and as of September 7th there has been 215 positive cases of COVID-19 reported on the Morgantown campus since the start of classes, whereas of September 9th, there have been 900 students quarantined and 439 students in isolation. Whereas, according to the CDC it only takes 15 minutes of full enclosure to become infected with the virus. Whereas, Asymptomatic is when an individual has developed the virus but is showing no symptoms of the virus. Whereas, according to the West Virginia University School of Public Health contact information is due to a follow up and whereas undergraduate classes switching to online until September 25th it is likely that a majority of classes will still be present on campus.

Whereas nova is a proactive app and allows students to make approval decisions. Uses technology, bluetooth, and wi-fi. Whereas this technology avoids falsely recorded actions with a 99.6% accurate. Whereas the app will be able to track students who have contracted COVID-19. As long as individuals use the app and notifies it and will also receive exposure notifications. Whereas the application will only be effective by the adoption of Nova by students and faculty. There become proclaimed by the university. The West Virginia University Student Government Association encourages the involvement of this application.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Senator Daniel. Anyone have any questions? Senator Kumar.

*Senator Kumar:* I just wondering how the app will work? Bluetooth or maybe Wifi?

*Senator Daniel:* You do not really make an account, its kind of connected to your phone and it just tracks who been close to you other than that the nova app does say it does not take any information other than that.

*Senator Donnelly:* I absolutely love this idea. When it comes to this pandemic, one of the scariest parts of this has definitely been the unknowing or being unsure when you've been in close contact with the virus. Now does the app kind of specific what constitutes as being in contact with the virus? Like being within a certain distant from somebody, does it count for the time? You mentioned the CDC.

*Senator Daniel:* It depends on how long you are close to that person who has COVID if its longer than fifteen minutes than it will notify you but you also have to be within six feet.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you. College Senator Moore.

*College Senator Moore:*

## **XI. Committee Sessions**

*VP Bragg:* I will now entertain a motion to move onto committee session. Senator Nichols.

*Senator Nichols:* So moved.

*VP Bragg:* Senator Donnelly.

*Senator Donnelly:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor.

All those opposed.



This motion passes. At this time I believe you will be directed to your breakout rooms, we will cap these at thirty minutes. If you get your business done before hands feel free to come back to the main session but those elected committee heads once the thirty minutes is up, just direct everyone back to the main session.

[\* 30 minutes in breakout session\*]

*VP Bragg:* We will now move on to Open Student Forum Two at this time.

## **XII. Open Student Forum II**

*VP Bragg:* Do any students have anything for Open Student Forum Two? .... College Senator Hanson.

*College Senator Hanson:* Alright, so I was thinking about this throughout our meeting tonight, I do not want to blame or scorn anything on any particular students or organizations, there has been in the news of stories about unaffiliated fraternities and maybe a few affiliated I am not really sure but basically they've had parties that have been busted and the university has suspended them and I was really curious in terms of maybe some of the people here have maybe talked to some of these members of these fraternities that are affiliated or unaffiliated, I am curious as to what the greek network has done to police itself to discourage these parties because it's making news and national headlines and it's bad for the university and I do not know if the students are doing enough to sanction themselves, maybe we should write a bill to sanction those organizations to say your bad for having those parties, you obviously have a choice and yet they're doing parties and the university suspended some people, I don't necessarily know enough about the issue to say and who to blame and who not to blame. So I wanted to raise that question and ask if the greek organizations are trying to police their actions and steps are being taken?

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, College Senator Hanson. I, myself am President of my fraternity and we have a house on spur street. I think greek life is definitely trying to police itself, you have these outcast who still try to have events and still do as they please but as you see the university still comes down hard on them, I can not recall the exact name of the fraternity but I know twenty nine members were suspended due to the party when they actually knew they should of in

quarantine I believe they were exposed to the virus. I also believe they are unaffiliated with the university. As was Alpha Sig who were partying in that same address, I can not remember if it was Dean Farris or President Gee who sent out that email. By at large the IFC has been abiding by the rules and that's why you see it being mostly unaffiliated orgs that are engaging in these activities.

*Senator Daniel:* Yea um change of topic we have interns, awesome. Uhh I know a lot of you guys brought up a lot of concerns during our resolution, so I am putting Sarah, Josh, and my email in the chat and if you have any other questions you would like to add just let me know. (Fantasy League Talk).

*VP Bragg:* Is there anything for Open Student Forum Two?

*Olivia Dowler (Intern):* So I work at the downtown library and it happen today, I asked a brother from a fraternity, because we have to ask for your wellness card at the library and he gave me a lot of attitude and swore at him and really got upset and so obviously he is not taking it serious and it kind of reflects badly on his fraternity as well. I think that I definitely agree that they are not taking it seriously.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Senator Harman.

*Senator Harman:* Hello everyone, so in the student experience committee, we talk a lot about the resolution Senator Daniel, Senator Ihlenfeld, and myself wrote and we talked about there's room for improvement, we haven't set a time when but we will probably be hosting a meeting just to talk about the bill (off the record) and so if anyone has anything they would like to say about this bill, please come to that meeting whenever it is or you can always email us. Please please, it would be very much appreciated. Any sort of thoughts you have or any sort of experience you had that is weighing on you or if you feel there is anything we need to address as I said such as food or policy issues with enforcing quarantine or covid policies or anything you have to say about the decisions that the university makes or has make or will make, in the next incoming days I have a feeling we will be seeing some of those, please just let us know. We try to host a meeting sometime this week.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you College Senator Harman. Does anyone else have anything for Open Student Forum Two.

Alrighty. I just want to touch on something that Senator Harman brought up about food, uh during our meeting yesterday and I had a meeting with Dr. Thanh Lee today and we're working on instacodes for students so that food can be delivered for free to students that are under quarantine or that are in university housing, for example greek life housing due to extended periods of quarantine because of the extension of the fourteen days a new member gets the virus the quarantine extends. So we're looking at possibly getting food codes for delivery for basically all students but that is still in the works.

Senator Harman.

*Senator Harman:* So is this something through Grubhub or ?

*VP Bragg:* It will be through like instacart or maybe Kroger's. We're still in the early stages of this, it something being worked on.

*Senator Harman:* if you do not mind me saying but Dean Farris is my boss, the current policy is no outside food is allowed to be delivered to dorms and front staff is not suppose to accept.

*VP Bragg:* Madison White.

*Madison :* I just wanted to add, I hate being a negative nancy but regarding the food this is something I want to mention, I have a friend who was quarantine and he was asking about food and I was asking about it, he got food poisoning from the food that was delivered and it made him very sick for a few days. Although I see it as a good idea but I think we have all seen NYC tik-tok and I think that WVU needs to get to that, so if we have those resources here I think it would be a good idea and him having food poisoning was horrible, but I like the instacart idea and I would love to be a part of that if possible.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you Madison. Anyone have anything else for Open Student Forum Two? Seeing none we will move onto snaps.

(Snaps)

### **XIII. Advisor's Reports**

*VP Bragg:* We will now do our Advisor's Report. Dr. Thanh Lee.

*Dr. Thanh Lee:* Hello everyone. Great job tonight you all. I am proud of all the work you all have accomplished. Great dialogue that you all are having and continue to have those. Continue to be safe and make good choices and we're gonna get through this all together. Thank you all for your hard work.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you Dr. Thanh Lee.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

*VP Bragg:* I will not entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*College Senator Eyer:* So moved.

*Senator Jernigan:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* Meeting is adjourned.