

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017

Morgantown, WV - The West Virginia University Student Government Association announced on August 30th that Representative Melanie Smith, Senator Seth Underwood and Representative Kelsey Morgan have officially resigned from their respective roles within SGA, effective immediately.

In their resignations, Smith, Underwood and Morgan explained personal and academic reasons for leaving, and they all wished the organization the very best moving forward.

Underwood has been a senator since April 2017. He was the deputy Big XII liaison in the 2016-17 school year. Both Smith and Morgan have been members of the Student Assembly since September 2016.

The Student Government Association is working to amend its constitution to fill vacancies. Currently, the constitution states that vacancies shall be filled by the next highest vote getter until someone meets the qualifications to be seated as a member. There is no language or process for filling seats if there is not a 'next highest vote getter.' The seats will remain vacant until new elections procedures are put in place.

"We offer our deepest thanks and appreciation to all three of these members for their service to the student body, and we truly wish Seth, Kelsey and Mel all of the best moving forward," said Student Body President Blake Humphrey. "Although we are sad to see them leave, we fully understand their reasons for stepping aside to let other passionate people take their roles. Their departures are not on anything but the best of terms."

Humphrey said he looks forward to working with the Student Assembly to fill these vacancies with "the most committed and dedicated people as soon as possible."

"In addition, these departures underscore the critical need for structural changes to both our SGA Elections Code and more broadly, our organizational structure as a whole," Humphrey said. "I am confident that the changes that our Chief of Staff Adila Fathallah outlined last week are going to comprehensively address these challenges our organization has been left with."

SGA would like to remind all students that elections for College Representatives will be taking place in tandem with the 2017 Homecoming elections. More information and details on how to qualify to run will be released in the near future.

FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Communication Director Kayla Asbury at kaasbury@mix.wvu.edu