

**West Virginia University
Student Government Association
Student Assembly Meeting
Vandalia Lounge, Mountainlair, 9:00 PM
April 17th, 2024
2024-2025 Long-Browning Administration**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Abigail Browning at 9:02pm

II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

The SGA Mission Statement was read by Vice President Abigail Browning

III. Roll Call

Roll was called by Interim Executive Secretary Orcutt

College Senator Barbour - Present
College Senator Bielinski - Present
Senator Davis - Present
College Senator Eastman - Present
Senator Fernando - Present
College Senator Ferrell - Present
College Senator Fleece - Present
College Senator Hart - Present
College Senator Henson - Present
Senator Hoh - Present
Senator Indomenico - Present
Senator Jones - Present
College Senator Jones - Present
College Senator Kelly - Absent
College Senator Khalilullah - Present
College Senator Lieving - Present
College Senator Lipkovitch - Present
College Senator Lutman - Present

College Senator Madden - Present
College Senator Magrogan - Present
Senator Meeker - Present
College Senator Morgan - Present
Senator Alex Olivero - Present
Senator Matthew Olivero - Present
Senator O'Neal - Present
Senator Plymale - Present
College Senator Robinson - Present
College Senator Schmieder - Present
College Senator Shaffer - Present
College Senator Silva - Present
Senator Street - Present
Senator Vuiller - Present

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was entertained by Senator M. Olivero
The motion to approve the agenda was seconded by Senator Indomenico
There were no objections, and the agenda was approved.

V. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

No minutes to approve at this time

VI. Open Student Forum I

No Open Student Forum I

VII. The President's Report

President Long: Hi everyone, I am so excited to be here with each and everyone of you in the beginning of this new administration. I want to start off by saying that in this room, we are all one voice. We aren't Long-Browning, we aren't Roots, we aren't Fresh or Future. We are not defined by our teams we had during the election season. Now we are one, and I just want you all to remember that throughout this year, and as long as we remember that, I think we can all be very successful. In service of that goal, I pledge, and this may be a little ambitious, but I pledge by the end of this year to get coffee with every single one of you to get to know you. And I wanna talk a little bit about how I plan to lead. So, obviously there will be some overarching goals this year that we will all be working towards, but I really want to empower you all to pursue your own passions as you see fit. So, as long as we are working together to do that, again, I think this will be an incredibly successful administration. I did wanna outline, really quickly, as this is something Vice President Browning and I have been working on for months; Our four main, tangible initiatives that we plan to get to work on as soon as we get into office, which I guess is right now! So, the first initiative we're going to work on is the SGA newsletter. And we're gonna need all of your all's help on that. I know you all ran on SGA visibility and transparency and so I'm very excited to see that take flight. The second initiative we are working on is expanding Up All Night to our Evansdale campus, because that's a cornerstone of Student Life, and that is something the administration has been receptive to, and so we're excited to see where that goes, potentially. We wanna focus on mental health, well-being, and safety. We're thinking about opportunities for SGA to host Narcan training, safety fairs, and things like that in the future. And finally, I wanted to talk a little bit about, kind of segwaying into the fourth initiative we want to pursue, a great moment from this week. Y'know I really enjoyed the weather this week and I hope you did too, Spring is my favorite season I have to confess and campus looks so beautiful. So one thing we want to pursue, and I know certain people ran on campus beautification, so that's something else we'd like to look into and make it look like this as much as it possibly can! I think things are looking great right now. Overall, I feel very hopeful, and I wanna leave you all with a message of hope. This is a quote from Jonas Salk; "Hope lies in dreams and imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." Thank you.

VIII. The Vice President's Report

Vice President Browning: I honestly have nothing. The only thing I had was committees but I think everyone has done that, so thank you for doing that.

VIII. Assembly Reports

No Assembly Reports

IX. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports

X. Executive Reports

No Executive Reports

XI. Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

XII. New Business

A. Executive Appointments

After each candidate gave a short speech on their qualifications, the candidates were then escorted away from the assembly. Vice President Browning opened up discussion.

College Senator Madden: So, I think all of these candidates are great. There's only one concern I have and that's about Intern Coordinator. I know Garrett personally, and he's a great guy, he's more than qualified for the position. The only concern I have is that his leadership style is a little bit heavy-handed. I don't know if that would be best suited for Intern Coordinator, because they're so new to the organization. But, I'm open to hearing any other thoughts on that.

Senator Street: So, I hear your concern, and I was actually Garrett's intern last semester, so I can speak a lot to this. How he makes connections with people and his leadership style – he's really good at encouraging people to get involved in SGA, an organization that is so big and especially super intimidating for interns. He's a very, kind of, charismatic and easy to approach figure that I think would be amazing as the Intern Coordinator and keeping our interns here. Which, in my opinion, as someone who went through the intern process, Garrett wasn't who got me involved in SGA – There were a couple people that got me involved – But I can say, very passionately, that Garrett is the one who got me to stay. And I think that is what we need as an Intern Coordinator.

With no more intentions to discuss, Vice President Browning entertained a motion to vote on the candidates by secret ballot.

- 1. Brandon Frazier, Attorney General, Confirmed, 25 yeses**
- 2. Carter Leadmon, Treasurer, Confirmed, 28 yeses**
- 3. Garrett Oursler, Intern Coordinator, Failed, 19 yeses**
- 4. Erin Skaff, Outreach Coordinator, Confirmed, 28 yeses**
- 5. Dominic Mollica, Auditor, Confirmed, 27 yeses**
- 6. Julia Leyden, Student Organizations Liaison, Confirmed, 27 yeses**
- 7. LeeAnne McDonald, Alumni Relations Liaison, Confirmed, 27 yeses**
- 8. Haley Orcutt, Executive Secretary, Confirmed, 27 yeses**
- 9. Quinn Wooten, Policy Coordinator, Confirmed, 28 yeses**
- 10. Mary Roush, Communications Coordinator, Confirmed, 29 yeses**
- 11. Hunter Oxley, Website Designer, Confirmed, 29 yeses**
- 12. Logan Pierce, Legislative Affairs Officer, Confirmed, 29 yeses**
- 13. Mimi Ferguson, Local Governance Liaison, Confirmed, 28 yeses**
- 14. Sydney Hickle, Internal Senates Liaison, Confirmed, 27 yeses**
- 15. Susie Risk, Chief of Staff, Confirmed, 29 yeses**
- 16. Riley Coulter, Elections Chair, Confirmed, 28 yeses**

B. President Pro Tempore Election

- 1. Senator Matthew Olivero:** I appreciate your consideration for this position. I'll just give you a bit of a rundown on the whole vision, what I intend to do if I were to be elected as Pro-Temp. I think this role is very important for supporting the rest of the assembly, and ensure that everyone feels that they're included, make sure everyone is in the know and knows what's going on. I'd like to meet with everyone at least once, just to make sure, one on one. I think it is very important to understand, sort of, where everyone is, what everyone is working on. Plan on talking with Policy Coordinator Wooten to help further goals and objectives and sort of use the experience I have to hopefully achieve it. And that's kind of the way I see it. Hope to make everyone feel like they're included in the organization and make everyone feel like they know kind of what's going on and help us all be much more productive for the upcoming year. So yeah, I appreciate this nomination and opportunity. Thank you all.

- 2. Senator Colin Street:** Hello everyone, if you don't exactly know me, My name is Colin Street, I'm a triple major in Political Science, Environmental Energy Resource Management, and History here at WVU. And in my opinion, the most important job of the Pro-Temp is to be a bridge between the assembly and the executives. I actually held a very similar position to that. For two years in high school, I ran a non-profit called Mountaineer Area Robotics, where as President my main job was to coordinate communication between forty students and an adult board of advisors. In the organization's twenty year history, I was the only student to hold that position for two years, so I have ample experience in a position like this helping to facilitate communication. I also worked on projects in student life, academic affairs, and strategic initiatives, which will help me help you achieve your goals here in SGA and make next year the best it could possibly be. I worked with Joy Carr to help reform advising, so pre-reqs for courses don't sneak up on students, we can make them more visible in degree works. I worked with the undergraduate research program to help research visibility here at WVU and we're currently working with the Board of Governors to help push WVU to implement solar here on campus and I've worked with student life with the Period of Giving, which was a menstrual product drive where we got together 25 local businesses, student organizations, and WVU offices to help raise over \$800 in period products for our students here at WVU. I also want to help you achieve your goals by finding funding for them, because I found here in SGA, when you're able to go to administrators and say "Hey, I have funding for this project, let's make it happen," that's when you make real progress. I wrote a \$500 grant that we got for a period product cabinet here at WVU, and it's just a small part of my experience in grant writing. I have experience in over \$20,000 in grant writing, and I cannot wait to help you write your own grants. I can't wait to help you make next year the year it could be, and I hope you choose me to be your next Pro-Temp. Thank you.

Once the candidates were escorted, Vice President Browning opened up discussion.

Senator A. Olivero moved to open discussion to the gallery, seconded by College Senator Lipkovich. With no objections, the motion passed.

Senator Indominico, Senator O'Neal, Olivia Dowler, College Senator Madden, Senator Plymale, Treasurer Leadmon, Senator Hoh, Senator A. Olivero, College Senator Barbour, spoke in support of M. Olivero. College Senator Jones and College Senator Silva, spoke in support of Senator Street.

A motion to end discussion was made by Senator Silva. The motion was seconded. With all in favor, discussion ended.

The assembly voted for President Pro-Tempore by secret ballot.

With 21 Votes, Matthew Olivero is the new President Pro-Tempore

XIII. Open Student Forum II

President Long: I would like to express my disappointment tonight in the assembly in their decision to reject our executive nominee, Garrett Oursler, for intern coordinator. We chose him for many reasons, chief of which being he was the most qualified candidate. He has clearly transformed this organization. Another key reason we chose him for this position was to help bridge the divide that has been created by our elections system, which I hope we are gonna look at this year. And I'll just reiterate what I said in my report – These teams have got to stop. They do not exist in this room, so don't factor that into your decisions. I'm not saying that those who voted him down did, but please just be mindful of that if we want to have a productive year, together, as a cohesive whole. And Garrett, if this is your send-off for SGA, I'm really sorry it has to be this way. I want you to know that there are so many people in this room who support you and are thankful for what you've done for the organization.

Chief of Staff Risk: Yeah guys, I am a little bit saddened for this to be my first open student forum in this administration. I just wanted to give some context. Last year, I'm not sure how many of you read our Governing Documents, but it used to be when the administration I was in, prior to the most recent one, so, if you got voted down for an executive appointment, you could go back up for a second appointment. We changed that so you could only be put up for appointment for any given position once with the hope that if you did have an issue with the person being nominated, you would voice that, and that every person who was voting no would say why they were voting no. So, I obviously wasn't here for the discussion, but I hope that if you did vote no you had a good reason. I don't know how you could find a good reason to vote no on somebody who is so qualified and has given three years to such an important organization. For his intern sitting right there and my intern sitting right next to him, if I had wanted them to be in somebody other than Sophia's hands, it would have been Garrett's. I'm very disappointed. I want to echo what Charlie said; don't let any division of any team that you might have been on come into this room. It certainly hasn't for me, it wasn't when I applied to be Chief of Staff. A lot of people haven't been here before, but that has hurt a lot of administrations in the past so please forget any of those divides that may have happened during elections and please really think before you vote on things in SGA because it might be easy to press no on a ballot, but it

takes a true member of SGA to be able to sit there and really reflect on why they are voting no and why they are voting yes and how can they facilitate a discussion on the way they are voting. I'm excited for everyone who did get approved tonight and to see what everybody does. I want to represent the executive branch to the best of my ability. Just be left with the idea that your actions do have implications and consequences on the future of your organization. You know, you voted in Matthew as your Pro-Temp tonight who was literally on that committee that picked Garrett to be appointed, so if you had confidence in him, you should have had confidence in his decision and confidence in Charlie and Abi's decisions as well. But yeah, that's enough of that, I know this meeting has been long, but I appreciate you guys for listening because it is very important to be considerate of the way you are voting.

XIV. Advisors' Reports

Thahn Le: Hello, hello, hello. It is amazing to see such new, fresh faces. This is always an exciting time for myself and for an organization that I really, really love. So, for those who don't know who I am and for those who are new executives, my name is Dr. Thahn Le, I serve as the director of Student Engagement and Leadership here, and also have the privilege of serving as your primary advisor. So, just to kind of give you some oversight on my role, so, I essentially get to work with you all daily, almost nightly, you know I think I text with someone from SGA probably hourly it seems like. I'm here to help you brainstorm, strategize how you want to help facilitate change here on campus. I get to work with a lot of the executives, but I do get to have some legislative priorities as well. I work with some legislators, but your main legislative advisor will be Morgan Prunty, so you all will be working with her primarily but I will always step in if I need to. I also read through every piece of legislation, so please don't feel like I'm out of the loop. I do meet with the Vice President quite often and so I get all those updates as they come in. Please use me as a resource. I've been at the university for about almost eight years now, since 2016, and I've enjoyed my time a lot with you all. One thing I will say very quickly is that, and I don't have to say much because I think Charlie and Susie kind of mentioned it, that I've advised SGA for over 15 years and the years that I've seen SGA thrive are the years where there's great discussion, great debate, and nothing is held back, where everyone knows what everyone else is thinking. That way we are kind of able to strategize how we, as a collective, can move forward. As you can imagine, Charlie and Abigail have an amazing, hard task to kind of pull together fifty or sixty individuals into one voice. When those voices are scattered, we tend to have a lot of scatteredness, a lot of different directions. Those are the years that we struggle a lot, when we let negativity creep into the conversation instead of how can we be constructive and how can we move forward. I really challenge you all to really think and go beyond yourself because you all are in elected positions. Students have put their trust in you to make decisions on their behalf and to be their voice. It's difficult, you will see very quickly for those of you that are new, that no

matter what topic you put out there, there's gonna be divide. How can you unify those voices to ensure they're heard, but also understand that we need to move forward together. That's a difficult task. If I knew how to do that perfectly, I think I'd be a rich man, but I'm not. And I'm here everyday with you trying to figure that piece out. I really challenge you all, and I think Susie said it very well, to really think about the implications that your voice may have. You all were elected to use your voice, not be silenced. So, that's all I have to say about that. But I look forward to working with you all, it's gonna be a great time. I know we only have one meeting left so I'm gonna reiterate what I said at the inauguration; Just breathe. You all are still students, you have finals coming up. Please make sure you do well on those because you don't wanna get an email from me in the Summertime when your grades drop, that's not a good conversation to have. I will be checking those, checking in on you all. I hope to get a chance to sit down and have a chat with each of you all. There's a lot of you all, but I will try. I want you all to get a chance to know who I am and the passion I have to serve you all. With that, I hope you have a great rest of the week, I know it's been a long night, but thank you for staying with us. This will be only one of many times we're together for a long period of time so enjoy these moments. It's light now, but it will start to get a little deeper as we move forward. I know next week we have a few more light plans for you all that will hopefully help us build together. Thank y'all.

XV. Snaps

Snaps were given to Garrett Oursler, College Senator Silva, President Pro Tempore Olivero, Senator Street, and all Assembly members.

Senator Jones moved to end snaps. The motion was seconded by College Senator Eastman. With none opposed, snaps ended.

All appointed candidates took the oath of office.

XVI. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was entertained by College Senator Eastman

The motion to adjourn was seconded by Senator Olivero

The ayes have it. The meeting was adjourned.