

# West Virginia University SGA Meeting

10/21/2020, 2020-2021 Administration

## I. Call to Order

## II. Reading of the SGA Mission Statement

“We the students of West Virginia University, desire to preserve within our University and the Student Government Association, an atmosphere that helps to foster an 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 the principles of diversity and responsible self-governance.”

## III. Roll Call

President Pro Tempore Jones - Present

College Senator Backus - Present

College Senator Bonar - Present

Senator Brooks - Present

College Senator Cade - Present

**Senator Colbert**

Senator Daniel - Present

Senator Donnelly - Present

Senator Eby - Present

College Senator Eyler - Present

College Senator Glass - Present

**College Senator Hanson**

Senator Harman - Present

College Senator Hitt - Present

Senator Ihlenfeld - Present

Senator Jernigan - Present

Senator Knotts - Present



Senator Kumar - Present

College Senator Mcknight - Present

**Senator Miller**

College Senator Moore - Present

Senator Nadeau - Present

Senator Nichols - Present

College Senator Rawson - Present

College Senator Robinson - Present

Senator Rosello - Present

College Senator Seidel - Present

College Senator Sorrells - Present

**College Senator Zanabli**

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

*VP Bragg:* The minutes from the last meeting have been posted, I will have entertain a motion to approve these minutes via show of hands.

*Senator Daniel:* So moved.

*Senator Jernigan:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor. All those opposed. This motion passes. Before I get to the approval of the agenda. Election Chair Pressley will be serving as our Attorney General for the meeting tonight due to the absence of Saul.

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

*VP Bragg:* The agenda for today is now before you. I will now entertain a motion for the approval of the agenda via show of hands.

*College Senator Hitt:* So moved.

*Senator Donnelly:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor. All those opposed. This passes. We will now move on to open student forum I.

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

*VP Bragg:* President Gee is here and I believe he would like to share a few words.

*President Gordon Gee:* Well thank you, Jaron. Generally I like to come and visit in person but obviously that is not possible this semester because we are all doing the appropriate social

distancing. I did want to thank our student leadership for truly what has been a terrific start to school despite the pandemic and certainly the carrying on of the business. Jaron and I were talking about it earlier but many of the things that the leadership of the student government wanted to accomplish is certainly happening even as we speak and I know for my own self it has been an interesting journey as my 40th year as an university President and so I thought I've seen everything you know from protests, riots, to anything you can imagine but I've never had a pandemic to deal with so I in some ways I feel like a small freshman I guess walking a picket fence as danger entails in that sense but our goal is to stay open and to be safe and to provide a great education, to make sure that we are solving the solutions of the problems of our students and our faculty and to create solutions for the people of West Virginia and above because that's our land grand calling and our mission. I think we are doing that quite well. Our numbers have been relatively strong compared to most institutions, that students have come, they are taking full advantage of the university, as you saw for next semester we will probably be at about 50% of our classes in person which is up about 18-20% of where we are at right now and obviously we would love to be able to be even higher than that but we want to be appropriately contingent of the fact that the virus will continue to be ranging for awhile before it burns itself out or before a vaccine is available. The way that I view it, just in terms of the nature of the university is this that we hammered ourselves and we shutdown and we went into an online mode totally and the country shutdown and as a result we had a substantial economy crisis as you all know but as we discovered eight months into the pandemic that we can no longer live in our basements so we're having to do is figure out how to dance with this virus and I think we're starting to learn that as an institution and I certainly see the students being very contingent of that. I think initially at the beginning of the school year people thought it was sort of a lark and you know a lot of gatherings and a lot of behavioral issues were a concern and at first we start to spike in the city. The members of our community were very concerned about that, needless to say that is why we went on that two week break and what we are seeing is that our students are working very hard to be socially distance, as I see right now among all of you to follow the health protocol and to wear the masks and there are a variety of things that I think are appropriate. The more we do that, the faster we will get through this thing and the faster we can get back to regular order. If someone were to ask me what all this means for the university I would have probably predicted that we would be doing a number of things we are doing now uh ten years from now but what has

happened is that you can imagine is that everything is clasped into ten weeks and so the challenge for all of us is to figure out what this new world is going to be like, I do not think we will go back to normal, that's impossible the world is upside down so we will not go back to a new normal but I think we will go back to a next normal and what I mean by that is it will something that you all will be able to navigate and live with and I think it will be better for us and the university. It has forced us to think about how to engage with the quality of life we want to have here. Saying that, the real issue for me is that I wanted to be able to answer a few questions but most importantly I want to thank all of you for your diligence and for your hard work and for believing in the university, it is a gift to have all of you doing what your doing and an opportunity for us to do some really interesting things together, always remember this time for good or ill, we are all living through this together and we all are experiencing something we will never experience again in our lifetime. I would love to answer any questions that anyone may have. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss any issues that anyone may have.

*VP Bragg:* Does anyone have any questions for President Gee?

*Election Chair Pressley:* How are you doing President Gee?

*President Gee:* I am doing well. They keep me pretty isolated, you know I am 76, I have a fibrillator, I have asthma, in some ways I am potentially contagious with this pandemic but I am doing well. I am getting a lot of work done and I am not use to this zoom thing so I think I am doing good I speak a lot I get to speak while in my pajamas which is kind of interesting. I am getting out and about keeping myself moving.

*Senator Daniel:* Hello President Gee. for starters, thank you for coming to speak to us. I wanted to ask if you have a favorite cereal flavor?

*President Gee:* (laughs) If you would have asked me that when I was younger I would have said something like cheerios but right now I like a good KIND the brand cinnamon oat granola with a little bit of wee, which is a french yogurt.

*Senator Harman:* Hi, President Gee thank you so much for coming. I know a lot of students right now, are really sort of struggling with the burden of going to school and trying our best to adjust to this whole new world such as living with social distancing, wearing masks, and not being able to see our family and friends as much as we would like to and a lot of students are really sort of concerned or sort of hurt that in the next semester we are only going to have two days off like in

the past we had a whole week for spring break, I was just wondering if you could explain if you are totally behind that decision.

*President Gee:* Yea, i think that uh and I failed to mention this but I think that the most devastating thing to come out of this pandemic is the menal health issues that we are all going through. Mainly young people so i'll give you an example. Ten years ago when I was at Ohio State University, there was a national survey that showed that about ten percent of students in college felt that they had mental health challenges and now it is up to twenty percent as of today. You know, we're seeing it with addiction, we are seeing it with suicides, unfortunately we are seeing it with a variety of things. I think this is a terrible time in many ways and that's the reason we need to figure out ways to stay connected and to well communicate and I think that is one of the most important roles of the student government right now is how do we continue to connect with each other and build community even through we're dealing with this issue, now for young people like you, truth of the fact is that one tenth or one percent of you will not even know that you have had the virus and even smallest percentage of that will get sick so you all are really in a lockdown because of people like me because you have that spreading ability and that's the issue with leaving for spring break and you know its the same thing we are doing at thanksgiving break, you know we're putting all our classes online at that point and the reason for that is because we have students from fifty states and of course the fifty five counties in West Virginia and twenty countries and the minute you go and then come back we will have tremendous spike which may cause us to simply go back online again in a numer of different ways, it is simply a health protocol, it is nothing more than that it is what is recommended by the CVC. We will either keep people here and shorten our semester or try to do something, other than let people go. You saw what happened last spring semester a number of students left for spring break for 4 to 5 days when they returned their universities had outbreaks, for example the University of North Carolina, it lasted a week after spring break in person but then they had to go online for the rest of the semester because of their spike and we just do not want that to happen for this university and I am sorry about it, I mean I think it sucks, I hate it for all of you guys and for all of the students. Does that help ? does that at least give you an explanation?

*Senator Harman:* Yes it definitely does, I think that a lot of students are just concerned with the number, from going down from 5 to 2 is sort of just hard to gravel with but I am totally behind you on not wanting people to leave and then come back and spread the virus but in my head at

least and I could very well be far off from the truth but in my head I think it would be really great if there was like a random day in the middle of the week like a Tuesday or a Wednesday were we just had class cancelled because its hard to you know to work for as many as weeks as we go straight through but just like a Tuesday or a Wednesday or a Thursday or something in the middle of the week, can really go that far in just one day.

*President Gee:* I think that's a great idea and what you can do is you can sort of have a random day were you kind of have a surprise day. The thing is you and I both know we do not want to have people scattered around and return because we are all going to be in jeopardy but that notion of having a day here and a day there I think its a great idea. I want to revisit this issue by the way because I appreciate you raising that issue and as you know I tell everyone I am the last resort you know I don't experience the university way that you are sothe way I can learn is by the information you are providing me but I'll revisit that but I appreciate you for birng this to me, I will have that revisited.

*Senator Brooks:* Hey President Gee. I want to know what changes are in place for next semester that are different from what we have in place right now?

*President Gee:* Well I think we will have more in person classes I think as I saidbefoe we will be at about 25% more or about 50% more. Or it might change as you know the pandemic might go down soyou know we are driven a lot more by fear, you're driven by fear, I am driven by fear, we are all driven by fear. I was at our hospital boarding today and you know in March when people were coming to the hospital the chance of them leaving the hospital was very limited. We are just now starting to get control and have increased the mobility rate by ten times as high. I think that you're going to see is a lot more in person, a lot more opportunity for us to gather, they are now opening up the bars doing a limited amount of people and I think that is helpful and I think that our refresh program will expand. I think that once I am able to have a vaccine and all of us can I think the fear factor leaves and the notion of just taking good of yourself and thats when the dam will break. We may even see a whole different world next semesterthan what we are seeing now. Well listen, I hope I can do this a little bit more often and it is great to hear from you all, I really appreciate it. Everyone have a great evening, thank you all very much.

\*everyone thanks President Gee for coming to the meeting\*

\*President Gee leaves\*

*VP Bragg:* Alrighty, we are still in student forum I does anyone have anything for open student forum I? Alrighty seeing none we will move onto the President's report.

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

*President Riggs:* Hello everyone. I hope everyone is doing well, it's nice to see everyone you know in person and online. Just some housekeeping remember to make sure that you are observing physical distance guidelines and wearing your mask while we are in the buildings for those of you in person. I am trying to make this look like a real president report as possible I have a projector and I have a microphone so I got my little sign right here so I am trying to make it look like the vandalia lounge but just a few updates on my end we will be attending the big twelve conference this weekend, myself, Vice President Bragg, Chief of Staff Satterfield, Chief of Staff Kemp-Rye, Senator Jernigan, and Senator Daniel will be attending so we will have more to report next week but we are looking forward for the opportunity to collaborate with our big 12 colleagues on some issues that are particularly within higher education I am so excited about that. Inclusion coordinator Hossain and the rest of the inclusion committee has planned a wonderful event for tomorrow at 7pm so make sure you guys attend but I will let them provide us with more information on that, I am super excited for the intersectionality coalition's diversity among us event. For next week's meeting any assembly members or executive members that are wanting to meet in person who haven't yet please be sure to reach out to me before this weekend if you can we can make sure that we have rooms next week to accommodate you all. Lastly, I do want to add that President Gee made me reflect when he said we will always remember our time serving in these positions and I would never imagine an SGA meeting like this, nine of us in a room and all wearing masks, so I just want to thank you and I know I've said this before for just being so willing to adapt this year and I really really appreciate it and I love us coming together on wednesdays and seeing the work that you all do and Jaron and I are super appreciative of you guys so much and with that have a great meeting. There is no quote for today but early voting did start today in West Virginia so go vote. That is the quote for today and you know there is a lot at stake this november so please go vote. That is it from me.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you President Riggs. Are there any questions for President Riggs? Alrighty, seeing none we will now move onto Assembly reports.

## **VIII. Assembly Report**

*VP Bragg:* Do any assembly members have a report?

*Pro Tempore Jones:* Hi everyone. I hope that you all are having a good evening. I just wanted to update you all on a couple of things I have been working on and have been doing. I first want to thank all of the college senators who attended our SGA one on one last night, I hope it was helpful for you all. I want to encourage any assembly member that needs a little brush up or advice on anything about the organization or on legislation in particular to just reach out and I would love to sit down and have a conversation with you about anything. In addition, today President Riggs and I met with our faculty senate committee to discuss third party platforms and we have sent an email to college senators to ask them to help us to submit a survey within their colleges to acquire information on these third party platforms and how they are doing used in specific courses. The faculty senate is very willing to work with us and we are going to have a very fruitful conversation to discuss all the data that we collect when we meet again in November. We will definitely keep you all updated on any developments on my end. I want to remind assembly members to make sure that you are getting legislation into to me by 5pm on Tuesdays in a google document please because it is easier for me to change the numbers at the top as well as coordinate with each of you. As always if you all ever need anything please send me a message or an email. I hope you all have a good night.

*President Riggs:* I believe Vice President Bragg is frozen so Amelia if you would like to take over for us until he gets back on.

*Pro Tempore Jones:* Yea absolutely. Uh senator Knotts.

*Senator Knotts:* Hi everyone, I have a meeting in this upcoming week we are still working on those dates, meeting with dining to take more about sustainability efforts in the dining halls, one of my suggestions is going back to the old containers that they had in stalnaker and seeing any other efforts we can do to kind of reduce the waste. I know with covid we have increased the waste tremendously so if there is nothing we can do this year but how or what are some things we can do in the next following years to reduce this. If anyone has any more questions or anything they would like me to bring up just let me know.

*Senator Harman:* Hello everyone. I am now writing a legislation on the discussion we had with President Gee. I know that senator Kumar had a idea not too long ago, I will definitely be reaching out to him but if anyone else would like to be involved in that especially members of the assembly let me know. Thank you.



*College Senator Eyster:* Hey at some point this week the rack is going to be posting a survey about the turk fields outside the rec center, this is going along with this legislation that I am writing so can you guys please share that link and please please take the survey, it would really mean a lot to me.

*College Senator Cade:* Hi yes so I am almost finished with the final draft of my legislation. I hope to have that in by next week and also tomorrow I am having a zoom call with Dr. Amy H. and a couple of other members of the faculty senate committee along with the sustainability coordinator. Anyone interested in joining this meeting, please let me know.

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, college senator cade. Anyone else have an assembly report? Alright seeing none we will now move onto executive reports.

### **IX. Executive Reports**

*VP Bragg:* Do any executive members have a report?

*Chief of Staff Satterfield:* Thank you so I have a few things to share with you all tonight. So my first thing is that Saul Harlow did retire as our Attorney General this past week due to some personal reasons due to the timely-ness and the demand of this position, the application is opening this evening at 9pm and will close next wednesday at 9pm. Following next wednesday the interviews will take place next Thursday, Friday, and Monday and the new attorney general will be appointed at the next meeting. We will release a press release on this topic so in the meaning time election chair Pressley is kindly serving as our AG for now. If you have any questions about this let me know. The application can be found on engage, I will share that with you all and my second announcement is that there is a chambers college of business and economics career field on November 9th from 3pm to 5pm. If anyone else is interested in that please do not hesitate to reach out to collaborate and you can sign up on engage. My last announcement is from the SEL newsletter, it already started but October 19th through November 20th there is a student organization rack challenge this is better benefit our student pantry for those of you who do not know about the rack it is our student pantry and it is free of charge for students, so this is a great opportunity on campus. This is a way that we can really give back to our student body and to advocate for them and what we can do is visit their wishlist which I will drop down in the chat. The student organization whodonates the most to the pantry gets a grant, first place gets 500\$, second place gsts 250\$, and third place gets 100\$. So even if its not for SGA I would really need you guys to involved in this, this is such a great way to get involved on

campus and in our community but I think also just to get some money for your organization because I know it is kind of a difficult time to fundraise. If you have any questions let me know. Thank you.

*Local Government Liaison Rifley:* Hi everyone. I am going to remind you every meeting until the elections but as you know the elections are coming up and early voting as Chase had mentioned started today and will end on October 31st and uh Mon. country has several voting stations including the Alumni Center and various other places. 9am to 5pm, Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays. If you have not voted yet and you want to vote early, it is now your chance. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot now is the time to do so, the last day for that is October 28th. Today with several other members we filmed a video that we hope to get out to promote elections so we look forward to that and that is all I have, thank you.

*Election Chair Pressley:* So on Monday I emailed all of the college deans about the open senator seats that we will have available in the Spring of 2021 elections. I also forgot to tell you that education will have two seats. The deans who responded back to me were School of medicine, Chambers of Creative Arts, and CPASS. CPASS as a really good thing going on they have a newsletter. So if other college senators if you want to have your deans do that I think that would be a really good idea because I know for myself and eberly there are always things going on in eberly. That's all, thank you and please start promoting the senators seats because like I said we are going to have 41 seats on the assembly.

*Inclusion Coordinator Hossain:* Hi everyone. I hope you all are having a great week as President Riggs mentioned earlier the Insectionality Coalition event is tomorrow night, the inclusion committee and senator Donnelly have been working very hard on this. It is at 7pm until 8:30pm, if you need any information on this just let me know. Also if you know of any students or any student leaders involved in student organizations that represent underrepresented students on campus feel free to let us know and we will share this information with you guys. Thank you.

*Treasurer Cappadona:* Hey just letting you all know that for financial bill 2020-11, there is no changes tonight, there is just one organization that is asking for crafts to make for children at the hospital. If you have any questions please let me know. Have a good evening.

*VP Bragg:* Do any other executive members have a report? Seeing none we will move on to old business.

## **X. Old Business**

*VP Bragg:* I will now entertain a motion to consider AP 2020-07 for its second reading.

*Senator Daniel:* So moved.

*College Senator Backus:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* all those in favor. All those opposed. This motion passes. Senator Donnelly and Senator Kumar you have the floor.

*Senator Donnelly:* Good evening everyone. I would like to preference this reading and before we beginning there are going to be a number of amendments that are going to be necessary in the discussion phrase of this reading. There is a big necessitated to getting this legislation passed tonight. This is AP-2020-07, Proclamation condemning ICE and keeping international students from harmful government policies, whereas the WVU statement ensures that WVU will commit to creating a diverse. (continue of the reading of AP-2020-07)

*VP Bragg:* Thank you, Senator Donnelly. Are there any questions for Senator Donnelly? Seeing none we will now move onto discussion is there any discussion on the proposed proclamation.

*Senator Donnelly:* To beginning a number of emails have been sent out to the foreign government office, with details of WVU is going to do about it.

\*discussion goes on\*

*VP Bragg:* Any more discussion? Seeing none I will now entertain a motion to approve the proposed amendment.

*Senator Harman:* So moved.

*College Senator Cade:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor. All those opposed. This motion passes. We are now in discussion of AP-2020-07 as a whole. Is there any discussion on AP-2020-07?

*Senator Daniel:* I just wanted to say I really love all the edits you guys did over the past week. This looks really nice.

*Senator Kumar:* I would also like to make a motion to amend the proclamation to amend the title to read now the assembly proclamation condemning ICE and supporting the university's efforts to ensure international student safety.

*VP Bragg:* Is there a second for the proposed amendment.

*Senator Donnelly:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* We are in discussion of the proposed amendment. Is there any discussion? We will now vote on the amendment via show of hands. All those opposed. The amendment to the amendment passes.

*VP Bragg:* We are now in discussion of the regular amendment.

*Senator Harman:* So moved.

*Senator Donnelly:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* We will now vote on the amendment via show of hands. All those in favor. All those opposed. This motion passes. We are now in discussion of the amended amendment is there any discussion? Seeing none I will now entertain a motion to approve the amended vision of the amendment AP-2020-07 via show of hands.

*Senator Jernigan:* So moved.

*College Senator Cade:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor. All those opposed. This bill passes. We will now move onto new business.

## **XI. New Business**

*\*FB-2020-11\**

*VP Bragg:* I believe there are no changes that need to be made to this financial bill at this time I will entertain a motion to approve this financial bill via show of hands.

*Pro Tempore Jones:* So moved.

*Senator Nichols:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor. All those opposed. This bill passes. We will now move onto open student forum II.

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

*VP Bragg:* Does anyone have anything for open student forum II?

*Senator Donnelly:* Thank you all for your support of this assembly proclamation, it is a very critical one for us to really address this rule that's been by the department of security but I do want to let you all know there are several calls to action for all of us not just international students.

*College Senator Glass:* Hi everybody. I just wanted to remind everybody to get their flu shot this season, I can drop the link in the chat. The methods here at WVU are you can do drive thru or in the rec this ends Nov. 14th you must register and that ends the 30th.

*VP Bragg:* Does anyone have anything else for open student forum II? Seeing none we will now move onto the advisor's report.

## **XII. Advisor's Report**

*Dr. Thanh Lee:* Hello everyone. I do not have much, I just want to reiterate that for everyone to be safe so be on the lookout for emails during the weekend there should be a lot of things that the university will be doing to kind of help those people going out so be on the lookout for that and encourage your peers to be very safe during next weekend's festivities if you are to participate please be safe, also I just want to put out that my fantasy football team has won four straight games. I am 4-0. Thank you very much that is the end of my report.

**\*Snaps\***

## **XIII. Adjournment**

*VP Bragg:* I will now entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting.

*Senator Harman:* So moved.

*College Senator Cade:* Second.

*VP Bragg:* All those in favor. All those opposed. This motion passes, everyone have a great week.