

Student Government Association

Meeting

11/22/21

Minutes

1. Call to Order
   1. President Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:30pm
2. Roll Call
   1. Justices Present: Abdulazeez and Price
   2. Justices Absent: None
   3. Justices Excused: None
   4. Senators Present: Belcaitis, Boards, Burns, Coffey, Crespo, Gilpin, Heil, Hix, McCray, McCulloch, Myers, Omar, Pfalz, Renton, Simpson, Stokes, Terrell, and Tolbert
   5. Senators Absent: None
   6. Senators Excused: Abraham, Boards, Davey, and Wright
   7. Executive Cabinet Present: Cannon, Duncan, Nguyen, Prince, Weis
   8. Executive Cabinet Absent: None
   9. Executive Cabinet Excused: Day-Carter
3. Reading of Minutes
   1. Chairperson Renton motioned to accept the minutes as electronically distributed, Chairperson Renton submoved, and Senator Abraham seconded. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
4. Open Session
   * 1. Swearing in of senators
        1. Brittney Cabrera introduced herself as a mentor of LAMP, member of LULAC, and a member of NLS. She wants more representation in the administration such as professors and staff to allow students to feel safe and a good education.
        2. President Cannon opened the floor for a 5-minute discussion.
           1. Chairman Omar thought she was wonderful during her interview and they brought up a lot of discussion on diversity.
           2. Chairperson Renton said she showed up 10 minutes early which shows she is dedicated and admires her Latinx representation ideas.
        3. Chairman Omar motioned to appoint Brittney as a new senator. Senator Heil seconded and the motion passed.
        4. Chief Justice Prince swore in Brittney as a senator.
     2. President Cannon appointed Senator Myers as the new Vice President of SGA.
        1. He introduced himself: a junior from Louisville, KY. He explained how he spoke with Senator Simpson and the ideas he wants to work on with him. He is excited and wants to take on the next steps for the senators to achieve their goals.
        2. Chairman Omar asked how will Daniel handle the stress that this role will take on?
           1. He will work out, play basketball, read, and sleep.
        3. Chairperson Renton fully agrees with President’s Cannon’s choice in choosing Senator Myers. They believe he is definitely qualified, engaged, and has great experience here at NKU that would SGA would benefit from.
        4. Senator Belcaitis also agrees with appointing Senator Myers as SGA needs him to pull SGA together.
        5. Senator Davis said that Senator Myers is always engaged in ROCKS and helps them with tasks such as LinkedIn and advocating for them to show their faces.
        6. Senator Gilpin believes his critical thinking would be needed in this position.
        7. Senator Stokes explained how Senator Myers is always able to lead within ROCKS.
        8. Senator Tolbert is someone always easy to speak with and anyone
        9. Chairman Omar asked for everyone to be understanding and to remember these
        10. Senator Gilpin motioned to accept Senator Myers as the next Vice President, Senator McCulloch seconded, and the motion passed.
     3. Chief Justice Prince swore in Senator Myers as the next Vice President of SGA.
   1. Andy Meeks Presentation
      1. Last year, the arena was quiet. This year there have been several entertainment events and basketball games held there.
      2. Parking services has an abundant of parking for students. He is not able to disclose the parking fee.
      3. Bookstore operations – the $250 voucher may go into the next few weeks of the spring semester. He is unaware if there will be another voucher in the spring semester.
      4. Food and beverage services – a lot of construction went on last year such as Qdoba, Norse Commons, and the new dining options.
      5. The foot traffic has gone down since the first few weeks of the semester. If it continues, the food and beverage operations may be affected.
      6. Chairperson Renton thanked Andy Meeks for coming to the SGA meeting. Then, they asked if it is possible to make parking passes cheaper for students that utilize Financial Aid. Also, they asked if they could use the Biller Direct not have to pay upfront.
         1. The answer is never no for those that utilize financial aid. However, are people that don’t utilize it be willing to pay for the higher parking pass? He isn’t looking for an actual answer but just wants SGA to think about the question. Biller Direct is a huge problem for Parking Services as it is an auxiliary. If students use their student account to pay, it is often paid below other services that students have to pay for.
            1. Dr. Howard wants to meet with the University Improvements committee with Andy Meeks as well to wrap his head around the subject.
   2. Scott Patton’s Presentation
      1. He thanked SGA for bringing up the importance of dietary r
      2. Transition team which consists of custodians, maintenance, and housing to look at areas of improvement and better communication amongst each other.
      3. SGA has the avenue for providing feedback on Covid-19 processes. This year, the university has piloted remote working for some of the staff. He asked for the input of SGA on how remote learning has affected students thus far as some residential students have raised concerns about not feeling connected to campus and needing more in-person services.
         1. President Cannon expanded upon the idea and explained that some staff members have been able to work remotely from home during certain hours for a more hybrid experience. Then, Dr. Howard clarified more things such as what is appropriate remote work? NKU can do some things virtually but certain things require a face to face opportunity. If a student really wants to see a person for a face to face discussion, then they should be able to do it soon within at least a week. The concern is understanding where the gaps may be for the student experience.
         2. Senator Gilpin asked about counseling. Dr. Howard explained they are working on it as they have lost some employees.
         3. Senator Pfalz asked if the remote situation included professors or just staff members that work in an office. Dr. Howard explained that it is those that are staff members within an office. Scott brought up how some students began with an in-person course and transitioned to an online version of the course.
         4. Chairman Omar brought up that UCAP and Advising have issues with being in person and have less availability as he has been unable to make appointments instead of just being able to drop in person at an office.
         5. The housing renewal application opens December 1. One of the big changes is changing how students are assigned such as first University Suites, Norse Hall, and Northern Terrace being for the upperclassmen. The Resident Assistant and Desk Assistant applications are open with 24/7 monitoring. The RA and DA applications have already opened and they are willing to hire more Ras. However, it is dependent on the occupancy as they will only hire as many Ras as they need. Callahan will be new and improved.
            1. Senator Simpson asked if it’s set in stone. Scott said yes. He also asked would there be any adjustments made to Kentucky or any other older dorms? The facility issue is something they have been working on and his goal is to have a 5-year facility plan to resolve their issues and make the issues occur at a lower frequency. Scott also said that research and Feedback shows that having certain populations in specific communities allows housing to focus on their own certain issues to improve their academic experience.
            2. Chairperson Renton wanted to elaborate on first year/upperclassmen housing. They said it would be valuable to see the sources as it would have a profound effect on students. They had an issue with students not having mentors if they’re not in specific programs. In previous years, it was not required to live on campus. They feel as though NKU would be less accessible and not as a popular choice with their mandatory first year housing. Scott explained it is actually not new and that it has been in place. He believes the communication is the problem, so he’s working with Britta Gibson and orientation to let students know this information. According to the research, students that don’t commute have a better retention rate by 10% compared to those that do commute. The research for the division of housing is supported by national housing organizations and an institution in Georgia. He offered to have a meeting with Chairperson Renton. Dr. Slaughter explained that these ideas were not just conjured up by Scott. President Cannon also explained as to why it would benefit first-year students to live on campus. Chairperson Renton suggested to update Commonwealth and Kentucky Hall as first years will feel pushed aside living in buildings that aren’t updated yet.
            3. Senator Gilpin asked about the LGBTQ+ LLC. Scott spoke with President Cannon and Dr. Bonnie Meyer closely. The time to plan LLC’s are in the spring and develop it during the summer to ensure it is the best by the fall semester. To make it a proper LLC, they want more student input and feedback.
            4. Senator Terrell explained the concern of increasing the prices of housing. Scott that housing student employees do not have the same compensation compared to other on-campus careers. To make DA compensations be up to $8.50, there would be a housing rate increase to help with that impact. The RA pay has also been brought up which they will try to make more stable as well as the student facility employment as well. When the rate proposition will be outlined, it will be presented to SGA. He is also working on certain buildings not requiring a meal plan. However, not all of these changes will occur next year.
            5. Secretary Duncan asked about clarification on housing rates. He said there are 4 different housing rates where there are efficiencies that include a stove and such to where they don’t have to purchase a meal plan. Norse Hall and Northern Terrace are on the lower end of the rates for upperclassmen and Kentucky and Callahan for the first-years.
            6. The NLS Fall Retreat was amazing. She learned that international students can only work on campus and that during quarantine, they had to send all of their money to their families to support and provide for them. She wants to begin more conversations with international students to get adequate income or provide more support for them. Also, there is no international first year program. Instead there is one person that leads all of them.
            7. Bradley Dickerson brought up if students needed a space to speak about the Rittenhouse trial.

Senator Stokes thought it would be appropriate.

Chairman Omar thought it would be necessary as well. However, who would run it and what would the purpose of the conversation be?

Senator Simpson doesn’t want it to be led. He just wants people to show up and voice their opinions and talk to people. President Cannon explained it would be like that.

Senator Pfalz thinks it would be really nice.

Senator Davis said many of the ROCKS mentees were very upset and the open space is needed to vent their opinions.

Chairperson Renton was upset as well as it matters to many of their friends and believes the space is needed. However, they stated they should be prepared for those that are hateful may come in.

President Cannon asked would next week be a good time to have a safe space to talk about the Rittenhouse trial?

Ian said that next week would be good as families will be talking about this topic during the holidays.

Senator Hix said in person

Senator Davis said hybrid

President Cannon said Norse Commons 140

1. Liaison Reports
   1. No report
2. Executive Board Reports
   1. Secretary of Public Relations
      1. No report
   2. Secretary of Student Involvement
      1. No report
   3. Secretary of Administration
      1. Book grant committee volunteers:
         1. Senator Simpson, Senator Stokes, and Vice President Myers
   4. Vice President
      1. No report
   5. President
      1. She asked how everyone was feeling. She advised that anyone can always come to her office and it doesn’t have to be SGA related.
      2. Also, if anyone doesn’t have a family to go to for the holidays, then she would figure things out for them to ensure everyone feels loved and supported.
      3. For the Board of Regents, they talked about eh Student Success Hub. They want to ensure the advisors are diverse and have bilingual advisors especially for the Latinx and Hispanic students. She also really wants a case manager that is there to provide and help with all the resources for students.
      4. President Cannon commended and appreciates how Dr. Howard is making change and actually involved within Student Affairs and the organizations. She said he had a really good report.
      5. February 22 – Rally for Higher Education. Only 15 to 16 students from each SGA can attend. Closer to February, there will be a form to see who all is attending. Andre Ward will be the keynote speaker and they will be creating workshops on activism, DEI, and other important topics. Then, there will be networking luncheon at Kentucky State University.
   6. She congratulated the new VP, Austin for transitioning into his new role, and Jackson for being the new chair.
   7. She asked people to please reply to her email as to which committees the senators on to have a roster of which senators are where.
   8. There is a basketball game tonight at 7pm and she will be blowing the horn.
   9. The NLS Retreat was amazing
   10. Please sign up for the MLK Day of Service with a whole week of events as well.
   11. During Black History Month, it is important to support and learn.
   12. Please continue recruiting for SGA as more people are leaving.
   13. She and VP Myers went to the Student Athlete Council to see how there involvement was. Only 2 of 40 students said they were enjoying their time here at NKU.
   14. The pilot program is led by Laurie. She said she was in conversations with SGA where she has actually only presented at a Board of Regents that President Cannon was at. She reached out to her to present in front of SGA. However, she declined as she said it was still in progress even though there has been so student input.
3. Committee Reports
   1. Student Advocacy
      1. No report
   2. Academic Excellence
      1. Their committee will not be meeting tomorrow
      2. Have a nice break everyone!
      3. Chief of Staff and Chief Justice Princewere voted for Homecoming report
4. University Improvements
   1. NLS retreat was amazing
   2. Please go to the spring retreat
   3. Senator Belcaitis is working on the Norse Boulevard Lights
   4. They will be meeting with Zaidi
   5. On December 6, Austin will be sworn in and the day of the Safety Walk Report
   6. Choir concert on Sunday December 5 at 5pm in St. Thomas Church in Fort Thomas, KY and it’s FREE!
   7. Their committee meeting is on the 30th of November
5. Ex-Officio Reports
   1. Chief Justice
      1. When we reach quorum, he will do the constitutional amendments
      2. He also read the attire policy as some people have been slacking
6. Chief of Staff
   * 1. No report
7. Advisors Reports
   1. Arnie told us to enjoy our time during break and to spend time with our friends and family
8. Old Business
   1. No old business
9. New Business
   1. No new business
10. Announcements
    1. Chairman Omar asked people to invite their friends to our meeting instead of just asking them to apply.
    2. At 5:30pm, it is Friendsgiving in the SU Ballroom and go to the game at 7pm.
    3. Chairperson Renton said that April 1 and April 3 will be when the opera will be here which we don’t want to miss!
    4. President Cannon thanked everyone for staying this semester despite the rocky times. Going into the spring, we will move differently. VP Myers will be doing a Spring retreat for SGA to build stronger relationships. Please help people with their SGA applications
11. Adjournment
    1. Senator Stokes motioned to adjourn and senator Tolbert seconded so the meeting adjourned at 5:09pm.