

Student Government Association

Meeting

11/29/21

Minutes

1. Call to Order
   1. President Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:30pm
2. Roll Call
   1. Justices Present: Abdulazeez
   2. Justices Absent: Price
   3. Justices Excused: None
   4. Senators Present: Belcaitis, Boards, Burns, Coffey, Crespo, Davey, Davis, Gilpin, Heil, Hix, McCray, McCulloch, Omar, Pfalz, Renton, Simpson, Stokes, Terrell, Tolbert, and Wright.
   5. Senators Absent: Abraham
   6. Senators Excused: Cabrera
   7. Executive Cabinet Present: Cannon, Day-Carter, Myers, Nguyen, Prince, and Weis
   8. Executive Cabinet Absent: Duncan
   9. Executive Cabinet Excused: None
3. Reading of Minutes
   1. Senator McCulloch motioned to accept the minutes as electronically distributed, Chairperson Renton submoved. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
4. Open Session
   * 1. Swearing in of senators
        1. Garrett Scott introduced himself as a freshman that is undecided and wants to help with sustainability. He was in National Honor Society
        2. Evan Bales goes by he/him and is a junior majoring in journalism. He had a lot of issues with advising and he wants to be able to help students with finding their majors with the help of advisors through SGA. He did speech and debate in high school.
           1. Jimmy asked any ideas they had

Garrett said sustainability be more aware on campus

Evan wants there to be more accessibility for students with choosing their majors

* + - * 1. Melody asked how could they improve SGA?

Garrett said he wasn’t very focused on it and will figure out by being movre involved in it

Evan said the same thing

* + - * 1. Melody asked what are their biggest strengths

Garrett said he would be able to connect different clubs to SGA  
Evaan said he is pretty decent with people and would love to be able to talk to the different departments and bringing up new ideas to them

* + - * 1. Aliya asked

Evan said double chocolate chip because he’s a huge chocolate fan

Garrett said M&M cookie that is soft baked but had the crunch of the candy

* + - * 1. Chairperson Renton asked what’s better Red Lobster cheddar rolls or
        2. Miles asked what are you involved with on campus?

Garrett said FSLC and ECOS

Evan honestly stated he isn’t involved with anything currently.

* + - 1. President Cannon opened the floor for a 5-minute discussion.
         1. Melody said Garrett would be a great addition to SGA through their work with FSLC and introducing them to ECOS as well as other sustainability clubs.
         2. Jimmy said they did well despite their nerves and had great leadership potential in joining SGA.
         3. Miles motioned to approve the appointees as a slate and with a unanimous I they were both approved.
         4. Chief Justice Prince swore both appointees in,
      2. Jackson Coates introduced himself as a Leadership Mentor and a senior that also does Track and Country at NKU. He also has past experience in SGA and has written resolutions before. He wants to work on having better access to the study rooms in the library.
         1. Melody asked what was his role in SGA before.

He was a senator and worked on forgoing the foreign language requirement and worked with the dean as well.

* + - * 1. Jimmy feels as though that Jackson’s idea falls under more the jurisdiction of University Improvements.

He would work with any existing ideas that they already have. He would then work with the deans of the colleges. He would put into work that the ideas already brought up in the Academic Excellence committee.

* + - * 1. Aliya brought up the idea that Jackson would actually become the Chair for Academic Excellence and allowing Chairman Omar be the chair for Student Advocacy.
        2. Melody asked if he would be on board on having more diversity in the history department.

He said absolutely and never wants to shut down an idea and would want to work on it.

* + - * 1. Mohamed asked how would he connect with the senators?

He would like to meet with the committee member one on one and allow his actions show that they can trust him.

* + - * 1. Alex asked how can he make an impact on SGA and the general body overall?

Communication is important and getting ideas moving. He wants to get ideas moving in the right direction to make things happen.

* + - * 1. Aliya opened the floor for a 5 minute discussion.

Mohamed will be voting against allowing Jackson join due to his actions last year and may bring SGA back even though we have already moved many steps forward.

Arnie wants Mohamed to further explain what happened last year to ensure the entire body knows what happened to give fairness everyone and to Jackson.

The day Mohamed was sworn in, he asked senators to stand up and speak against the rock incident. He stood up and flipped it onto the black students telling them to do more. He also stated that Jackson said he attended a Black History Month event

Olive will vote for Jackson to be sworn in as he will be able to help their ideas to come to fruition.

Ian asked for other input from people that were there last year as well.

Jacob said he and Jackson voted against the impeachment of Lauren due to the evidence they saw.

Aliya said she was there but doesn’t know if Jackson actually said that statement. Also, She believes he has the drive and work ethic as he already applied to be a senator before being appointed as a chairman.

Stephanie asked if the Student Advocacy committee would meet with Mohamed or Jackson.

Aliya said the switch would happen next week and SGA would have committee meetings for the next couple weeks during SGA meeting time.

Jimmy said they still have respect for Jacob and Jackson despite voting against the impeachment last year. They then asked if he said anything to Aliya that made her confident in choosing him as the next chair.

Aliya said it took her awhile to make this decision and spoke with Mohamed several times. She also believes he has the work ethic as he already applied without her knowing and he ran a whole campaign against her last semester.

Melody asked if we would be voting in Jackson as the Student Advocacy or Academic Excellence chair?

Aliya said it would be for the Student Advocacy chair.

Melody said they would be voting against swearing him in as there is a lot of room for error.

The voting results

Senator Bales: Yay

Senator Belcaitis: Abstain

Boards: Yay

Burns: Yay

Coffey: Yay

Crespo: Abstain

Davey: Yay

Davis: Abstain

Gilpin: Nay

Heil: Nay

Hix: Abstain

McCray: Nay

Senator McCulloch: Nay

Chairman Omar: Nay

Senator Pfalz: Yay

Chairperson Renton: Nay

Senator Scott: Abstain

Senator Simpson: Yay

Senator Stokes: Abstain

Senator Terrell: Yay

Senator Wright: Abstain

* + - * 1. Vote on by roll call Mohamed seconded by Melody

With a majority, Jackson was voted in by the body.

* + - * 1. Arnie told everyone to accept him despite their personal issues as he was voted in by the SGA body.
        2. Chief Justice Prince swore in Jackson Coates as the next Student Advocacy chairman.
    1. Age-Friendly University (AFU) Presentation
       1. NKU was announced an AFU in 2020.
       2. There is a population of 25 years old and older who have different needs
       3. Those that are over the age of 65 are encouraged to take courses at a discounted price.
       4. They have resources in place to help with faculty that age while in their careers
       5. They formalized their work group in 2021
       6. They are doing different tours in constituencies on campus to help and promote their goals
       7. They have an Adult Learner Week in support of ALPS
       8. And have a team for the Tri-State Walk to End Alzheimer’s
       9. They want SGA to be a part of their work and help spread the word
       10. If anyone is interested in AFU, they invited everyone to reach out to them. Especially Dr. Allyson Graf, the director.
       11. Suk-hee Kim asked us to please share their information with everyone to spread the word.
    2. Aliya announced we have officially met quorum and will have the first reading of the first 3 articles of the Constitution.
    3. Chief Justice Prince read the revised first 3 articles of the Constitution.
       1. Senator McCray asked when is it appropriate to speak about running/campaigning?
          1. Sarah said you cannot talk about running or campaigning until you have completed the application to run.
       2. Senator Gilpin asked to go to Article 2 Section 2. Would it make sense to include the exact number?
          1. Chief Justice Prince said the number is never with quorum.
       3. Chairperson Renton said we always need 25 members to conduct business and need a majority to vote on anything. In article 3 subsection B C they suggested it would be nice to change the number as they might miss the number.
       4. Senator Burns asked are Graduate student barred form joining SGA? If not, should we implement it?
          1. No, they are not banned. However, we can include it in the constitution if need be.
       5. Senator Burns asked if they can vote on SGA-related things?
          1. Yes.
       6. Chairman Coates asked why can’t professional staff and faculty join?
          1. Chairperson Renton said they already have their voices heard in other organizations.
       7. Senator Pfalz asked about quorum again.
       8. Senator Davey went to Article 2 section 2. Asked if the wording worked about transaction.
          1. Chief Justice Prince said it can be changed but it is up to the Judicial Council. However, the body votes on it in the end. He does think it makes sense though.
          2. Chief Justice Prince asked if it would be better to use the word conducted. A majority agreed.
          3. Senator Burns asked if the word drafted would make sense.

Chief Justice Prince and Sarah did not agree.

* + - * 1. Senator Davey asked why they’re getting rid of the word business and just making it legislation.

It makes more sense to say legislation when we have not yet reached quorum.

* + - * 1. Senator Gilpin asked if we could change it to 22 for quorum.

If we change the maximum, it also lowers the opportunity for representation.

Aliya said this year was really hard to reach quorum. If we had 22 straight white men run for SGA, then they could conduct business on the entire student body even though they don’t represent everyone. We already don’t represent enough SOTA, Latinx/Hispanic, nor international students.

* + - * 1. Senator Gilpin said it would be great to have more representation of organizations within SGA.

Sarah said that they spoke about senators being assigned to an X amount of student organizations to be more involved and inclusive that way.

* + - * 1. Senator Pfalz asked to include at least 1 student from every college to be a member of SGA to conduct business in the By-law.

Jimmy said SOTA students are too busy with other arts activities which makes it hard to have more involvement from them and have them represented in SGA due to their course load.

When some things are so small or minute, they could be included in the By-laws.

* + - * 1. If you have any suggestions, please email Chief Justice Prince.
    1. First reading of the Office Resolution
       1. Jimmy read the Office Resolution
       2. Tiffany Budd thanked everyone that worked on the resolution. Promoting sustainability would help with other goals on campus. She does sustainability and other things on top of it which is a lot. A lot of other universities are already ahead of us on sustainability.
       3. Maria Osbourn is a senior here at NKU and there is room for great change for the students.
       4. Senator Burns is passionate about this and believes it would improve student life as a whole.
       5. Jimmy opened the floor for questions, comments, and concerns.
          1. Aliya asked to sell this resolution in 1 minute or less.
          2. It is to meet the current and future goals for better sustainability for all students and lessen the stress for the sustainability staff.
          3. Senator Crespo wanted to include the Latino Student Initiatives.
          4. Senator Gilpin wanted to correct the LGBTQA+ Student Initiatives title in the resolution.
          5. Senator McCray asked about how would it be funded?

It would be through funds that seem fit.

* + - * 1. Aliya said they would try to get grant writers to get funded themselves. Also, it would be a lot more work than just signing this paper.
        2. If you want Tiffany to elaborate on funding, we can allow her according to Chairperson Renton.
        3. Chairman Omar asked of there’s a concrete plan for the timeline and how will it come together?

When it comes to funding, it will be hashed out at a higher level. The office will be located anywhere if available. They just want this resource available.

Senator Burns said they might not have the specifics but the administration will definitely work on it as soon as possible.

* + - * 1. Senator McCray asked if this were to be passed, when would it happen?

Chairperson Renton doesn’t know, but it will most likely take years.

* + - * 1. Aliya said that they are already working on the budget now so meeting someone to be included on the budget would be helpful.
        2. Tiffany Budd said the details of the office are still being worked on. It’s good to not have the details right now. The office can be set up without any funding right now. It shows that students care about sustainability which is the most important part of the resolution.
        3. Chairman Coates recommended to include some more specifics to see how fit it is such as being understaffed and why the project needs more staffing.

Senator Burns said the university already has their own goals.

* + - * 1. Aliya suggested including the organization portion to the resolution.
        2. Aliya also said to just email Jimmy if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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. Great job with everyone’s focus today at meeting
      2. He is planning the spring retreat so please email him with any suggestions.
      3. He will be scheduling 1 on 1’s with chairs for next spring
      4. He will post his office hours to meet up with him.
      5. On December 8 at 7pm, it will be an SGA game day that will be mandatory!! If you can’t come, please email Vice President Myers.
         1. Please dress business casual to show them what SGA looks like.
         2. You can wear face paint if you want.
      6. We are rebranding as SGA and want to have a presence on campus.
      7. His email is Myersd12@nku.edu
   5. President
      1. Is anyone interested on joining the planning committee for the café event?
         1. Senator Gilpin and Senator Simpson are intersested
      2. December 8, please go to the game
      3. Senator Pfalz motioned to suspend dress code to wear NKU gear for the holiday cookies prepared by Sarah Aikman.
3. Committee Reports
   1. Student Advocacy
      1. No report
   2. Academic Excellence
      1. Committee meeting tomorrow.
4. University Improvements
   1. Committee meeting at 12:15PM tomorrow in SU 324.
   2. Come see the choir concert on Sunday 5PM at St. Thomas Church.
5. Ex-Officio Reports
   1. Chief Justice
      1. SGA can’t close meetings past 5:30PM
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. No announcements
11. Adjournment
    1. Senator Stokes motioned to adjourn and senator Hix seconded so the meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.