



Wittenberg University Student Senate Minutes

Outline Below:

SENATE MEETING AGENDA

On Tuesday, January 16th at 7:00p.m., in the Offices of Student Senate, the Student Senate Executive Board held a Meeting with the following persons present:

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call:
 - a. *Tardus*:
 - b. *in Absentia*: Peña, Browning, Hunt, Hummel, Specht, Pipinich
 - i. Quorum is not met.
 - ii. Student Senate will go through reports and discussions, but will table any topic that requires voting until the next meeting.

Minutes approved by:

- II. Officer Reports/Goals: (10 minutes)
 - a. **Gardner, President** —
 - i. Waiting on a response from Witt PD concerning “Smash-a-Car” event.
 - ii. The following Student Senate positions are currently vacant. If you know of anyone interested in filling these positions, email gardnerk24@wittenberg.edu with a 200–250-word statement of candidacy:
 1. Faculty-Student Coordinator
 2. Secretary
 3. Interfaith Senator
 4. AAPIIC Senator
 - iii. Palestine/Israel Conflict Panel
 1. As of this point, only Dr. Taylor has confirmed to be on the panel. Is this something that Student Senate wants to continue to try and have? Should we postpone the event as we try to find more speakers? Discussion:
 - a. Professors asked who were asked to sit on the panel:
 - i. Dr. Taylor (History)

- ii. Dr. Proctor (Religion)
 - iii. Dr. Wright (Political Science)
 - iv. Dr. Allan (Political Science)
 - v. Dr. Soque (Political Science)
 - vi. Dr. Sloss (Sociology)
- b. This event is important to host for the student body as it's a topic that has been ongoing for decades, and will likely continue to develop. In light of this, offering something for the students to learn more about the conflict is important to cultivate an atmosphere on campus where all backgrounds are acknowledged and accepted, and learning about world news is encouraged. (Lightner)
- i. If professors are unable to attend this panel, can we invite members of the greater Springfield community to present at this panel? (Lightner)
 - 1. Let's reach out to community members to see if they would be interested in participating in this event, and come back to the next meeting with whether this is feasible. (Gardner)
 - 2. Push back this paneling event until at minimum after FIRE Week and Spring break in order to ensure that there is enough time to plan the event and get more than just Dr. Taylor on the panel. (Gardner)
 - a. Because we will be pushing this panel back, let's try to have some other form of tabling take place during this time instead. Maybe have a table set up outside of CDR during the dinner rush. (Gardner)
 - 3. Reach out to previously listed professors about resources they may have to assist in planning this, or if they have contacts with community members who would be willing to talk at the event.
 - a. Dr. Proctor specifically said that he has resources for Senate to utilize.
- iv. Attached are the committee structures for Spring 2024. (*PRES attachment 1*)
- 1. Committee chairs — make sure to reach out to your committee members within the next few days to alert them of next week's committee meetings.
 - 2. [Committee Structure Spring 2024](#)
- v. Attached is the Spring 2024 Election timeline (*PRES attachment 2*)

1. Applications will open up February 1st and will close March
 2. [Election Timeline Spring 2024](#)
- vi. Tabling outside of the CDR on January 22nd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1. Make sure to sign up for at least 30 minutes during this timeslot.
 - a. If you are unable to make any of these listed times, reach out to gardnerk24@wittenberg.edu ASAP.
 2. Reach out to Peña this week to help develop graphics and a poster board to have displayed during this event.
 3. [Sign-up sheet for January 22nd tabling event](#)
- vii. Transitions for the 2024-2025 Student Senate
1. We're going to try breaking down the transition process for each position throughout the semester. If everyone can create a document in the attached folder for their position, this will help the next Student Senate have plenty of resources to utilize.
 2. By the next Student Senate meeting (1.30.2024) please have in the document the top 3-5 things that your position is responsible for handling throughout the year.
 3. [Transition Documents folder](#)
 - a. This folder can also be found on Teams — Student Senate 2023-2024.
- viii. Attendance Policy
1. Article I, Section 1, B & C
 - a. "The absence of a Student Senator may be excused at the President's discretion."
 - b. "Two unexcused absences per-term which may only be used once per semester."
 2. The only "excused" absence is for class. Greek life and varsity athletic practices are unexcused absences.
 - a. There is currently no language in the Student Senate bylaws about what varsity sport absences are accepted, so moving forward we will be following the NCAA's designation of varsity athletic competitions being excused but not varsity athletic practices, etc.
 3. If you are unable to attend, please email gardnerk24@wittenberg.edu with your report no later than 48 hours in advance to the meeting.
- ix. Reports
1. Each Senator should have a report. If there is not a report, the population and voices you represent are not being heard at Senate meetings.
 2. You should be reporting to Senate any events, plans, issues, etc. that the organization is having, and report to the organization any events, or relevant information that Senate is discussing.
- b. Dewey, Vice President —

- i. Reminder that Mocktails with the Senators will be taking place at 8 p.m. tonight!
 - ii. Class Presidents, please send me who your current Vice-President is.
- c. **Kuzilwa, Treasurer —**
 - i. Creating incentives for students to join Student Senate
 1. Talked with Kristina Bryant (Director of Student Conduct and Deputy Title IX Coordinator) about the potential of Student Senators having priority access to select housing properties in the annual housing lottery.
 - a. Kristina has greenlit this idea to be presented to Gwen Owens (Associate Dean of Students and Director of Resident Life).
 2. Talked with Katie Simms (Director for Student Programming and Organizations) about Student Senate executive members getting paid for their work for Student Senate.
 - a. This would be done with the intention of requiring all executive members to have been on Student Senate for at least a term prior, to always have competition for general body member positions who would have that potential of getting paid for their work.
 3. Look into what other universities are offering as incentives to Student Senators in order to make sure whatever Wittenberg offers is fair. (Gill)
 - a. Several years ago, Wittenberg’s Student Senate decided that executive officers would be paid and this program was ended after one year. If Student Senate decides to look at this potential again, it should look over those previous documents and develop a plan for how Student Senate can step up and justify getting paid. (Gill)
- d. **XXX, Secretary —**
 - i. Until further notice, reports should be sent to gardnerk24@wittenberg.edu.
 - ii. Reports should be labeled as follows: Last name, Position.
 1. If you have “no report” use the above format and send “no report.”
 - iii. Reports are due the Monday before Student Senate meets at 10 p.m.
- e. **XXX, FSC —**
 - i. Beginning in Fall 2024, the faculty has voted to approve the following changes to class times: **(FEB attachment 1)**
 1. Faculty voted to increase Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes from 50 minutes to 60 minutes.
 2. Faculty voted to increase Tuesday and Thursday classes from 75 minutes to 90 minutes.

- a. These changes are being made to reduce the number of outside of class assignments from 700 minutes per semester to 250 minutes per semester.
 - 3. [FEB attachment 1](#)
 - ii. Faculty voted to approve the following classes
 - 1. PUBH 102: Introduction to Public Health (4 credits) (*EPC attachment 1*)
 - a. [EPC attachment 1](#)
 - 2. PUBH 302: Health Services (4 credits) (*EPC attachment 2*)
 - a. [EPC attachment 2](#)
 - iii. Attendance at Faculty Meetings:
 - 1. All Senators who have voice and vote at faculty meetings need to make sure they are attending.
 - a. SAAC Senator
 - b. Junior Class President
 - c. Sophomore Class President
- f. **Stern, 2024** —
 - i. Senior class executive board has been figured out:
 - 1. Vice-President – Morgan Pagel
 - 2. Treasurer – Lexi Carrol
 - 3. Secretary – Gabby Baker
 - ii. Bi-weekly meetings with Tammy to plan senior fundraising events and senior gift.
 - iii. Make sure you are spreading information to seniors to watch their emails and the Student Senate Instagram page for updates regarding the senior class.
- g. **Pena, Public Relations** —
 - i. No report.
- h. **Lightner, Diversity** —
 - i. MLK Convocation was overall a success in the sense that a lot of students and community members attended the event, however there have been some concerns that have been brought up since:
 - 1. Problems with the way President Frandsen carried himself during the event, specifically on stage. He looked uninterested in what the speakers had to say.
 - a. According to Gill, it was extremely hard for the individuals sitting behind the speakers to hear what they had to say, so President Frandsen may have been trying to hear them better but Gill will talk with him about these concerns regardless. (Gill)
 - i. Moving forward, having the IT department test all specific seats in the area to ensure things can be heard is important, and if speakers want to sit during a convocation, we need to move the

podium back so that they can be seen more easily by those in attendance.

2. Some students who were involved in the procession had issues with organizers of the event who (intentionally or not) were using microaggressions and talking down to Black and Brown students when providing a breakdown of the event.
 - a. This was done through over-explaining every facet of the event as if the students were toddlers and because this specific concern was brought by multiple Black and Brown students it was seen as targeted.
 - b. This may have been unintentional, but the way it was presented was unclear to the students.
 - c. Follow up with these students to get more information about what happened, and formalized statements. (Lightner)
- ii. On Thursday, January 18th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Bayley Auditorium there will be a panel called “Reflecting on Dr. King’s Legacy Beyond U.S. Borders.”
 1. Professors speaking at this event:
 - a. Dr. Soque (Political Science) *organier*
 - b. Dr. Plumly (German)
 - c. Dr. Starr (Assistant Professor of English)
 - d. Dr. White (United Theological Seminary) *guest speaker*
- i. **Browning, Student Organizations —**
 - i. Lesotho Nutrition Initiative (LNI) wants to become an official student organization.
 1. Unsure how this process would work as they have an advisor and are already established on campus.
 2. They tried to become a student organization a few years ago but because they are part of a non-profit who also operates on campus, there is a financial logistical issue that needs to be addressed.
 - a. This concern specifically regards students who serve on the board of the non-profit while simultaneously on the executive board of the student organization.
 - b. Will reach out to Rob Young about specifics on what the issue are and how to address them. (Gill)
- j. **Raymond, RHA —**
 - i. RHA has not met or communicated as a board this semester.
 1. RHA is being run by Mellie.
 - ii. Tower Hall floors 1-5 do not currently have hot water and has been out since around 3 p.m. today, but maintenance is trying to fix this by tomorrow 1.17.2024.

- iii. The 10-year contract with the current laundry company has expired and so changes in the machines may occur over the summer. More info to come on this.
- k. **Hunt, Greek** —
 - i. The January Presidents Roundtable will be postponed until after Spring recruitment.
- l. **Weis, Green** —
 - i. Thinking of approving funding for 2 electric vehicle charging stations.
 - 1. One in the parking lot for Sprecher Apartments.
 - 2. One in the parking lot for Tower Hall.
- m. **XXX, AIA** —
 - i. No report.
- n. **Hummel, Witten 'Burbs** —
 - i. No report.
- o. **Dicks, CBS** —
 - i. No meeting schedule for CBS has been established for the semester.
 - ii. Secretary and treasurer positions are currently vacant.
- p. **XXX, Interfaith** —
 - i. There is currently one person interested in becoming the Interfaith Senator.
 - 1. Claire Patton (Sophomore)
 - ii. Weaver Chapel Association is trying to bring back the Crop Walk for Hunger.
 - 1. Planning for this is still in the initial stages, but more information is to come on this.
 - iii. Rev. Charmaine events for Spring 2024:
 - 1. Fellowship at Central State on January 28th (time: tbd)
 - 2. Soul Food Bible Study
 - a. February 11th
 - b. March 17th
 - c. April 7th
 - 3. Monthly worship service
 - a. February 18th
 - b. March 24th
 - c. April 21st
 - 4. Ramadan Iftar Dinner will take place throughout April.
- q. **Neutzling, SAAC** —
 - i. Men's and women's swim and dive teams have their code red meets on January 20th at 1 p.m.
 - ii. Men's and women's basketball, men's volleyball, and both men's and women's track and field teams all have games/meets but they are all away this week.
 - iii. Further information about away games can be found on the Wittenberg athletics website at: [Athletics Website](#)

r. **Specht, GSDA** —

- i. GSDA exec met with our advisor to get the ball rolling on events for this upcoming semester:
 1. January 29th, at 6 p.m.: Swag & Social/Meet the Exec Social
 2. February 12th, at 6 p.m.: “Love Simon” movie screening and discussion
 3. March 11-15th: Safe Sex Week
 - a. “Sex Toy Bingo” has been rebranded to “Get Lucky Bingo” in anticipation of St. Patrick’s Day and will take place during this week.
 4. March 25th, at 6 p.m.: “Red, White, and Royal Blue” movie screening and discussion.
 5. April 1-5th: Consent Week
 - a. Thinking about putting together a Drag Brunch during this week.
 - i. Having the brunch take place while also having a theater component take place?
 - ii. People interested in joining an ad hoc committee to help plan this Drag Brunch:
 1. Lighter
 2. Weis
 3. Dicks
 4. Gardner
 5. Harper
 - iii. Reach out to a third organization to be eligible for the Student Involvement programming grant (\$6000).
 1. Reach out to Art League (Claire Patton) to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring this event.
 6. April 8th, at 6 p.m.: “Boys Don’t Cry” movie screening and discussion.
 - a. This will be the last general body meeting of the semester and elections for the executive board will take place during this time.
 - ii. We have recruited a PR chair but we are still looking for a secretary!
 - iii. We are sending out an email to our general body to inform them about elections and to see if they would be interested in attending weekly screenings of the current season of “RuPaul’s Drag Race” co-sponsored by Student Involvement.

s. **Pipinich, 2025** —

- i. No report

t. **Harper, 2026** —

- i. No report.

u. **Lowry, 2027** —

- i. We now have three vacancies in the Class of 2027 cabinet.
 1. Kiiv Upshaw, the previous Class of 2027 VP has left.
 2. We are looking to appoint Caroline Burns as the new Vice-President for the Class of 2027.
 3. For the treasurer vacancy, I am appointing Zoey Hupp for the position.
- ii. The Class of 2027 now has a Senate Insagram — @wittsenate27

v. **Gill, Advisor** —

- i. The E-Sports arena is going to be on the first floor of the Student Center and should be completed by summer. It will be fitted with “gaming stations” for the E-Sports players to compete/practice with.
 1. Since there is going to be a space for an E-Sports team, will this space be open for the general Wittenberg community to have access to in having LAN parties and such? (Harper)
 - a. Reach out to Coach Ryan (E-Sports coach) regarding when access to this space will be available and how to promote that to the students, but this space should be available during non-practice or competition times. (Gill)
 2. The E-Sports arena will take over the former office of The Torch in the Student Center, and The Torch will be relocated to Hollenbeck which is closer to the office of its new advisor.
 3. Titles played by the team:
 - a. Valorant (Varsity)
 - b. Rocket League (Varsity)
 - c. Rainbow Six Siege (Junior Varsity)
- ii. Sibs Weekend is February 2nd and 3rd
 1. There will be lots of different events going on this weekend, so if you have sibling bring them to campus hang out with them.
- iii. Snow Day is February 16th
 1. Student Senate did allocate \$8000 towards this event, so please try to make this event if you're able.
- iv. Honors Convocation is April 5th
 1. Applications for these awards will be coming out shortly. Please promote filling it out as these are large awards from the university and it's important to have a variety of nominees for each category.

III. Committee Reports: (5 minutes)

a. **Dewey, Special Events** —

- v. No report.

b. **Kuzilwa, Finance** —

- a. Approved \$2000 in funding for the kayak club.

