



Wittenberg University

## Student Senate Minutes

### *SENATE MEETING MINUTES*

On Tuesday, April **29** at 7:00 p.m., in the Offices of Student Senate, the Student Senate held a meeting with the following persons present:

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call:**

- a. *Tardus*: Werner and Green
- b. *in Absentia*: Bledsoe and Harper

### **April 15th Minutes Approved By: Lowry, seconded by Livingston**

#### **Officer Reports:**

- Lowry, President
  - Congratulations to all of the new senators. I am very excited to be working with you all!
    - For this year, please let Taylor and I know if you will be absent for a meeting.
    - Reports are due at 5pm on Tuesday when we have a general body meeting.
    - We will be selecting 4 additional senators to attend faculty meetings during Claire's report, these are at 4pm on Tuesdays, not weekly, these will be on specific dates.

- I met with the Academic and Student life committee this morning and shared the following:
  - **Greek Life involvement** is currently down. Rather than having a structured plan for getting students involved in fraternity and sorority life, it appears that the University attempts to conceal the presence of FSL on our campus, which leads to negative stereotypes against both fraternities and sororities, despite our Greek life students *generally* being engaged and academically strong. Nationally, we are seeing an opposite trend in involvement, where we would expect incoming first-years to want to join Greek life, not the opposite.
  - **Usage of on-campus facilities:** I have been noticing less usage of on-campus facilities (meeting rooms, etc.) in comparison to last year. The team at the BPSC is currently developing a plan on how to advertise these spaces and better catch students' attention, but as students, we can only do so much without university assistance. The goal is to not only get people to Wittenberg but to keep them here (which you already know).
  - **Academics** As a member of the honors program and a student researcher I have been perturbed by the lack of notice coming from the University in the case of our academic students, there is a disproportionate amount of attention being placed on student athletes as *athletes* not as students, coming from the advertising of the school and the athletic staff on campus. Athletic staff are insistent on athletes not participating in outside activities, even going as far as kicking them off the teams. For a school that highlights the liberal arts experience this is not fair to the students. As someone who came to Wittenberg for the highlighted academics in STEM and pre-med, it is concerning how little our academic departments are highlighted and celebrated with the great things that our students are doing at a small university.
- Werner, Vice President
    - I am meeting with the Enrollment & Marketing Board tomorrow
    - Meeting with Joi on Thursday (May 1) to discuss W-Day for Fall 2025
    - Proposals for W-Day
      - I don't have anything financed yet because I have not been put in contact with the companies that provide for us, and I wanted to wait until my meeting with Joi to reach out to people

- Theme Ideas
- Coachella @ Witt: Dead Revival band as opener, Naked Karate Girls. Shirts, food trucks, partner with Sips (possible Red Bull drink)
  - Drive-In Movie: Rent a screen, blankets, soda bar, popcorn, raffles. Possible movies: Avengers, Back to the Future, Spider Man, Toy Story, Star Wars, Monsters University etc.
  - Medieval Witt: Blow up jousting, photo opportunities, face painting, make your own banners, hire actor/actress, apple cider
- Potential Date: September 19, 2025
- Time: 6-9 PM
- Location: Hollow or Commencement Hollow
- Bledsoe, Treasurer
  - Budget hearings are currently happening
- Butts, Secretary
  - Senators and agenda template have been updated and added to calendar thanks to Katie.
  - Meeting with the Board of Directors on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am
  - Another meeting/lunch with Board of Directors on Thursday, May 8th
- Patton, Faculty Student Coordinator
  - The next faculty is **TUESDAY, MAY 6** (in 1 WEEK). Students from the 2024/2025 Senate school year should attend. Please be there or let me know ASAP if you are unavailable. Please email me ([pattonc@wittenberg.edu](mailto:pattonc@wittenberg.edu)) if you are unable to attend any of these meetings ASAP so I can find a replacement.
  - **Positions for Faculty meetings in 2025:**
    - **We need 6 students to be the representatives at faculty meetings. You will have a voice and vote. To be eligible, you must be available on the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00-5:30 in the Science Center.**
      - September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, January 13, February 3, March 17, April 7, April 28 (and special meetings as deemed necessary)

- If you are interested in this position, you should have a strong desire to attend these meetings and participate thoughtfully. You need to have a strong record of attendance and a commitment to representing the student body. If you cannot commit to attending these monthly meetings, this might not be the opportunity for you.
- Appointed Students:
  - Student 1: Claire Patton (As Faculty-Student Coordinator, I will attend the meetings and take minutes for the rest of the Senators who do not attend).
  - Student 2:
  - Student 3:
  - Student 4:
  - Student 5:
  - Student 6:

□ **Committees for Students in 2025-2026. Check your email this summer when I ask for your availability!**

- Responsibilities for these meetings vary depending on the committee, but your role is to help represent the student body in faculty committee meetings and report on what you are doing.
- *Educational Policies Committee: 2 Student members*
- *Diversity Advisory Committee: 2 Student members*
- *General Education Advisory Committee: 2 Student members*
- *International and Field Studies Committee: 3 students, at least one international student and field study/study away program*
- *Program Review and Assessment Committee: 2 students (Including Claire Patton as the Faculty Student Coordinator).*

□ **Committee Positions and Vacancies, 2024-2025:**

- Educational Policies Committee (meets on Teams on Thursdays this semester, 4:00-5:00)
  - Approved International Business program overhaul

- Approved an exciting new EDUC 200 Learning Assistantship Pedagogy program
- Approved EDUC 590 and EDUC 595 as a group, which changed the language of the course description for the capstone and thesis of the masters-level courses.
- Approved new course description for EDUC 582
- DATA 460 (a 2-credit course) is being removed and students will now have the option to complete DATA 490, 491, or 499 as their honors/thesis component.
- All changes to the academic catalog for the 2025-2026 school year should be solidified.
- The Program Review and Assessment Committee
  - Met twice to discuss the Chemistry Department's 5-year plan.
- The Athletic Policy and Recreation Committee.
- Diversity Advisory Committee
- Facilities and Environment Committee.
- General Education Advisory Committee meets on Wednesdays, 1:50-2:50 (in Science Center room 243).
- International and Field Studies committee.
- President Search Committee
  - The Presidential Search Profile is live! ([Link here](#)) and candidates have applied.
  - There was an update sent out regarding the last meeting on the Wittenberg website ([Link here](#)).
  - The committee "has reviewed the feedback from the visits and is now finalizing its recommendation to the University's Board of Directors for our 16th President."
    - This is a good sign!
- Board of Directors
  - The board is coming to campus on May 8 and 9.
  - Lowry and I represented students at the Board's Academic and Student Life Committee meeting this morning.

- Honors Convocation
  - I received highly positive feedback from the professors who we highlighted (selected as those nominated for the Advisor of the Year award faculty). They thanked us for the recognition and appreciated the kind words. [I created a Microsoft form](#) if anyone is interested in me continuing this. It would be great if students would respond and appreciate their faculty!
- Harper, Senior Class Representative
  - Refer to Burnside Report
- Burnside, Senior Class Representative
  - Meeting with Board of Directors on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>. May 6<sup>th</sup> will be a virtual meeting with the Committee on Advancement & Alumni Relations and May 8<sup>th</sup> will be the Board of Directors Opening Session and lunch.
- Pantalone, Public Relations
  - No Report
- Livingston, Diversity
  - McClain Senior events
    - Lavender Graduation Celebration (For LGBTQ seniors) Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm
      - Lavender cords will be presented to seniors (can choose to wear).
    - Hitimu-Multicultural Graduation Celebration (For minority group seniors) Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm
      - Stoles will be provided to seniors (can choose to wear).
    - Registration is mandatory for both events to attend.
  - Mi Gente
    - Carne Asada Event
      - Great turnout; thanks to all who were able to come.
        - Weather was an influencing factor.
      - Looking for two execs to sit on the team.
- Muhammad, Diversity

- Tri Alpha just had their induction ceremony and celebrated first generation students
- Green, Interfaith
  - Choir concert
    - 4pm - 6pm Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>
    - Band Concert on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Alumni singing
    - Thanksgiving offered for choir students and gift of music they gave given
    - Chapel is checking in with music department as it is their last concert
  - Easter and Passover students have been checked on and all have been given proper ability to freely celebrate their religious holiday
  - Baccalaureate Friday 16<sup>th</sup> coming up with a diversity of seniors picked and ready
  - Extra spiritual support is offered to music students and choir students ending their Wittenberg career
- Archer, Student Organizations
  - Collecting/Reviewing Organization Officer Transition Forms
    - Due 5/5
  - Wittfest this Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Assabir Ali is looking for new Pickleball president, if interested please reach out to me or him directly
  - Potential Organization Startups for next year:
    - Ski/Snowboarding club, Wittenberg Ultimate (ultimate frisbee), Line Dancing
- Mulvihill, Fraternity and Sorority Life
  - I have created a GroupMe with the Presidents of each of the fraternities and sororities on campus.
  - In the fall I plan on coordinating a time that suits each President for President Roundtable meetings but for now because of busy schedules at the end of the year, I asked for virtual reports.
  - Reports from the Presidents:

□ Alpha Delta Pi:

- We have 12 graduating seniors
- We have one new initiated member
- Pie a Pi was on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>
  - April 3<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled after one hour due to rain
- Our Spring Formal was April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Science Building and was Mamma Mia themed

□ Alpha Phi Alpha:

- No report received

□ Alpha Xi Delta:

- We had a bingo/trivia night for philanthropy recently, as well as two other philanthropy events this semester.
- We have 7 graduating seniors, and we got one new member this semester.

□ Beta Theta Pi:

- No report received

□ Delta Gamma:

- Graduating seniors: 8
- Newly initiated members: 0
- Recent philanthropic events: Serve it for Sight, pickleball tournament on April 27th

□ Delta Sigma Phi:

- We are doing very well as a chapter, growing super close to one another. I am really proud of where we are right now as a brotherhood. We gained 4 new members this semester, and 3 last semester.
- A couple of weeks ago, we created a fundraiser for an alumnus whose son was diagnosed with a rare cancer. We ended up raising around \$7,500 for the family. We held a fundraiser on Instagram live where we completed all of the milestones that we hit!
- We just had our senior sendoff at the John Bryan Day House where everyone was in attendance. We played a lot of yard games, hiked, grilled out, etc. We are graduating 5 seniors this semester.
- This Friday, we have our formal located at the lettered house
- Might try to plan a quick social event before the end of the semester
- Started planning for Fall Rush (fun events incoming)
- We think it would be super beneficial to every Greek organization and the overall campus if all of us collaborated a lot more on events. It would



boost the morale of campus, and it would be good PR for the Greek orgs so we can grow big.

□ Delta Tau Delta:

- No report received

□ Gamma Phi Beta:

- We are graduating 9 girls this semester
- We initiated 1 this semester
- We had our dad's day April 5th
- Our moonball Philanthropy activity was kickball and it was on April 6th
- Our formal was this past weekend on April 26th
- Yesterday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a campus wide yoga event
- We are looking forward to planning more events and doing more around campus next semester and I look forward to working with you as well!

□ Kappa Delta:

- We had our Girl Scout philanthropy event this semester on February 15<sup>th</sup>
- We have 6 graduating seniors
- We had 3 new members join this semester

□ Sigma Kappa:

- Sig Kap and cheese went great, and we reached our donation goal
- We have initiated one new member this spring
- We have 5 graduating seniors
- We have started recruitment workshops
- Working on summer plans/goals
- Closing the house for summer is going well
- We are working on being up to code with the fire marshal after our first check! 30-day time frame to fix our issues

- **XXX**, Student Athletics Senator

□ Vacant

- Monroe, Class Representative 2027

□ No Report

- **XXX**, Class Representative 2027

□ Vacant

- Clark, Class Representative 2028

- Ava Schiff and I are doing Gen-Z trivia on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00-8:30. There will be prizes and food!
- Could possibly be moved if we cannot get all our supplies in time
- Peterson, Class Representative 2028
  - No Report
- **XXX**, First Year Class Representative
  - Vacant
- **XXX**, First Year Class Representative
  - Vacant
- Garrett Scales, Advisor
  - Staff and Student Development searches happening right now
  - Searching for an assistant director of Greek life
  - Formally reintroduced during ASL to expand the athletics department with club sports more competitively
    - Men's and Women's Ice hockey, flag football, bowling
    - Add men's bowling, competition cheerleading, women's flag football, drumline, men's and women's wrestling.
  - Increase recruitment for women's swim and dive and track

#### **Committee Reports:**

- No Report

#### **Open Forum**

- Representatives at faculty meetings that are appointed
  - Werner, Livingston, Pantalone, Archer, and Monroe
- Also discussed fall schedule. First Student Senate meeting of the new school year will be August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Possible date for the involvement fair is Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>
- Plan for a trivia night in January and start planning in November

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Announcements:**

- Sociology club is having an event tomorrow night 4/30
- Nami is having a yoga event in commencement hollow

**Adjournment:**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm following a motion by Patton and second by  
Pantalone