

“What have you done today to better the lives of students?”

Student Government Association

57th General Body Meeting

13 March 2019



- I. Call to Order - President Keller
- II. Roll Call - Secretary Toor
- III. Approval of 57th Meeting Minutes
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President Whitten
 - i. Last semester it didn't feel like SGA wanted to meet with me as much as I hoped so I want to commend President Keller because she has really stepped up. It's extremely valuable to have access to you all as a representative body so I wanted to say thank you to President Keller and everyone for that. I've been here a short enough amount of time that I still count my time in months; it's been a great 7 months so far; one of the things that I've done and am going to continue to do is spend as much time as I can in various settings with faculty/staff and students. I love meeting with groups like this and even meeting with students one-on-one. It might be helpful if I talk about two categories of things I've learned; the first is what I'd classify as your experience as a student. One of them was "we need 24/7 study space" so we have opened up 24/7 study space on both campuses. The feedback I have received so far about it is positive. Even small things like putting in more outlets is helpful and I love hearing the feedback. We want

to continue fighting keeping costs down for you all but there are ways we're hoping you're seeing it. Last Fall 15,000 students signed up for courses with low or no cost textbooks, so it's a start. We are space-challenged so we have an academic learning center that is in the budget this year; I'm very hopeful it gets passed; it's a 40 million dollar classroom building and everyone always says "what colleges will have classes in there?" and it's really for all colleges. We have to right size class scheduling, in terms of the courses offered and when we offer them. Too many of you guys have told me stories about being held up for a semester for graduating because you couldn't take a class you needed. We have done some stuff in the short term; we've never turned on universal waiting list for course scheduling and we did that last Fall. We have to have waiting lists to be able to predict demand for classes and courses. There are other things going on that impact your time to graduation and we've got to speed up the opportunity for you all. I want to make a plea for you all to get involved with this as it's going on. The way curriculum gets set on this campus is by faculty and faculty are the content experts in their fields and they're the ones that should be driving the creation and the curriculum in your classes. But I also want you all to participate. 93% of our undergraduate degrees require 123 credit hours. We have to create a pathway for you all to graduate at 120 should you be inclined. We're looking with degrees to see if there's room for more electives in certain degrees or too many prereqs, so there are all things that we're looking at improving in the coming years. Your opinions really matter

and are important. We have got to fix this not just for you guys but the future students at Kennesaw State as well. The other side of the house I want to talk about in terms of really good feedback I've received in the last seven months is on the culture and value system we have at this university related to diversity and inclusion. Without exception people talk about how we could and should be doing more in terms of diversity. Last semester I went to leadership over multiple parts of university and said to start design and implement these things that people are suggesting but also go out yourself and come up with ideas to implement on how to improve these issues at the university. We have to take specific action in a number of areas but everyone's got to come up with the ideas for this and collaborate in doing so. Some of the different things that have been started include the office of legal affairs. Recently they provided reference materials to all faculty and staff on how to report concerns to Kennesaw State. One of the concerns I've heard from students is they don't know where to go when they need to report a concern or issue. We have a pretty robust infrastructure of where to go to report things to be investigated but people don't know about it; so it's a communication issue and is the universal challenge in so many areas. They had a meeting and during the meeting students expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet and the information provided but also spoke up about how KSU can improve communication. Legal affairs presented to cored policies and procedures relating to safety on campus that people aren't clear on. Office of Human Resources needs to do a

lot to be contributing to these efforts as well; they're providing training for the KSU talent acquisition; they're working with the LGBTQ community on campus; I can not stress enough how important it is to set up search committees to find diverse pools of candidates for faculty and students; the creation of a focused office now exists that just opened up. The division of student affairs participating with coreed to discuss policies related to student diversity and safety. Councils and leadership coordinated with SGA and other groups to host a healing event to discuss issues and I think that's extremely important and was long overdue. RSO leaders have received diversity training and freedom of expression training at the annual RSO conference. The unity center provides space for students to come together to discuss concerns and issues. The office of diversity and inclusion; just to be very frank with you as I was having conversations last semester with all types of folks there was a very resounding cry of disappointment. Disappointment in terms of what it could and should be doing for this campus and various groups across campus. We have launched a national search for a new Chief Diversity Officer at Kennesaw State; we've hired an external search firm that's not cheap but they have a track record of finding good candidates for this position for other universities as well. The finalists are planned to be on campus in April. It's going to be very public and you are all going to be invited and encouraged to ask questions. We will set up a mechanism so that you can get feedback; it will also be done in a way so that you can send anonymous feedback that only I can see. I will stop

there but I just want you all to understand that we have only just started with this; we will always be identifying things but hopefully we will get some strong leadership across multiple units across campus, but by multiple units I want you to know that I mean you all too. Action is important and we need to be doing things as well; we need to be thinking about how to address challenges and positive things to do; but you can reach out to me anytime personally and we will have a Chief Diversity Officer on this campus soon that I'm quite sure you will be seeing at SGA meetings.

ii. President Keller

I'd like to open the floor to ask questions from the senate and then to the audience for our president.

iii. President Whitten:

Several of the large class building projects have been on this (Marietta) campus; there's four new labs being built over by the engineering building. We're also looking at a plan for potential renovations to the rec center on campus as well.

(In regards to the recent event of the man on the green holding up a sign with offensive and hateful messages towards certain groups of people) I am deeply offended by certain things people say and do and particularly offended when it's directed at students; this is a really complex topic because there are laws related to what you can and can't say that are complicated and sometimes frustrating but they are the law that sometimes prohibits police from doing what we think is common sense to do; I'd be interested and I think students would be as well to hearing

more details about this and where we draw the line. Being a public university comes with some of these issues but these would be useful sessions for students to talk about this and come up with ideas as well.

(regarding the universal waitlist and how decisions are made on creating more class and course options) I have hired a whole bunch of new leadership at this university and one of the areas that was a weakness for us was the institution of research; so we recruited a new gentleman named Mark Burr and I've gone forth and said I need data on A-Z and they're running data on it and analyzing it and that's how we're figuring out the demand and changes needed for courses. One example is looking at courses by year so we can pinpoint the level of classes where there's the most pent up demand or even not enough seats. We also have to understand the resources we have and how does that match what we need to do for you guys. We identify there may be some areas where there's not enough faculty or an excess so we're matching those two together. Sometimes we're also constrained by space. The new labs that we're building on this campus was intended to try and add that problem; but those are hard in example of labs because of the requirements needed so we can't just make any room into a lab.

(regarding the issue non-traditional students not having as many options for classes that work with their lives and schedules and how more night classes would be ideal) We have a lot of classes in the evening and one of the things that blows me away is some of your classmates are sitting in a classroom at 10:30 at night so I tend to hear more of

the opposite but we frankly have to expand in the summer more; students who take classes in the summer tend to graduate fast so we need to be more aggressive with those being available online as well but also encouraging and advocating for taking classes in the summer as well.

An increasing number of our student population is online and student fees are decreasing so you have to make hard decisions about what goes away when that happens. We still have to deal with getting costs under control.

B. Danielle Buehrer - Executive Director of Institutional Quality and Accreditation - SACSCOC Site Updates

i. The university is accredited which means we have the availability to award money for things such as financial aid. Your degree is worth something besides the money you pay for it. Every 10 years an institution goes through something called a reaffirmation and it is a huge research project. I had to write a 500 page paper with 1800 pieces of evidence and that took about a year and a half. It covered 74 standards that we had to demonstrate compliance with. We had to prove things like the resources we have, the faculty we have, supports student learning. The body that accredits us is known as SACSCOC; SACS stands for Students Are Central for Success. For next week that body will be here on campus. It's actually not employees of an accrediting body; it's a peer review process. So it's going to be presidents, professors, and other administrators and faculty from other universities: University of Texas, University of Virginia. We want all majors and campuses represented, they'll also be visiting the Paulding site so this is about the entire university. Once that is over the SACS

Board of Accreditation will vote on the accreditation for the university for December 2019. The goal is business as usual; we're not disrupting classes; they want to see what the Kennesaw and Marietta campuses are like every day.

ii. Treasurer Harr

Does the reaffirmation process change at all now that KSU was elevated to an R2 institution?

iii. R2 is a Carnegie classification; for SACSCOC the classification is level one to level six. They accredit all institutions. We're a level six so we're on the same category with the University of Virginia, University of Florida, University of Georgia. Challenges come with that because we have not been at that level for one hundred years like those other universities. We're not a mature R2 research university; so when they visit it's my job to help tell that story of the facilities, the labs, the resources.

C. Directors

i. Director Williams

My report is very short; I just wanted to let everyone know that the governance committee is up and running; if anyone wants to be apart of the ad-hoc committee you can still be apart of that if you'd like.

ii. Director Lopez

I want to thank you guys for when I put that poll in the groupme about the academic planning committee; everyone liked the way it is now and I did communicate that to them so they're keeping it the same with just one week long break in Fall. I did create an events board; that's not just for SGA events; it's for announcements. So if you're curious about what's happening on campus you can refer to

that board. Marietta if you're interested in one as well I can get that for you. I will be attending both forums at the end of the year; the one that's this month will be on Marietta so if you want to come with me please let me know. The next one will be on Kennesaw in April. I've reached out for a marketing committee and haven't gotten much response; the students activities board wants students from SGA to meet with them to talk about how they can get better communication with the student body. Please let me know if you want to be apart of the homecoming committee for next year. We're having a social next week on the 19th; I decided I want to have that out of the office so people can walk by and see that it's a welcoming place and the people are warm. A new thing that's very important; if you meet with an outside organization and are planning an event please let internal affairs and communications know so we can start promoting that and communicating efficiently. We will be at Andretti's tonight after, please pop in just for a little bit if you can.

iii. Director Watkins

The go-vote campaign didn't work out the way I planned because i'm not technologically savvy and when I went to record people they weren't being very cooperative so it instead shifted to flyers. Next Wednesday from 7-9 is the Words of a Lover event; please come and tell people about it; it's going to be really fun; we have students coming to perform and a headlining poet; we have a live band. Communications committee did a bonding thing last Saturday after the SGA retreat. Last week Senator Bradford and I met with Nigel Harris and a couple of other individuals

regarding the Daffodil Dash on April 19th and it's a 5k; it happens twice a year every year. The E-Board is talking about getting SGA involved in it and reaching out to students and other RSOs about it. We're also trying to make a competition between RSOs to participate in a canned food drive. The comment/question/concern page now works. I would like you all to use me as a resource, when you plan an event you need to let Director Lopez and I know; send me the flyer and if you need help creating a flyer let me know so more people know about our events.

iv. Director Delaney

Thank you to everyone who came out for Fuel for Midterms; we have a lot of fun stuff planned for Fuel for Finals so be on the lookout for that. Senator Benitez and I went to UPCC and there's a lot of stuff that's going on and students should be involved; the next meeting is March 28th on the Marietta campus in the J building 109 from 12:30-2; it's really important and it's about if you should have to pay for required classes or not. Please come and get involved; we're the only two students there in a room full of faculty. If you're interested please let me know. I'm going to have some meetings come up with the provost; please join me especially if you're interested in doing this position next year. Lastly, elections, voting has started; it's open make sure you guys vote. Just a few reminders: if you're participating in elections you can only campaign for yourself. Just tell people to go vote and they can make their own decision on their own. Keep encouraging people and lastly it closes at exactly March 18th at 11:45 PM.

D. Senate Leads

i. Senate Lead Dykes

If you have not signed up for 1-1 this month please do that; the link is on the groupme; I'll drop it again. If you have not yet gotten your campus engagement scheduled it needs to be done; it needs to be done two weeks in advance. If you would like your event that you're hosting to be added to the google calendar let me know and I will add it for you. Day of Service is coming up on March 23rd; it's a really important event and a great way for us as an organization to support our community so this is a mandatory event for SGA if you are not able to attend you need to email the secretary with you reason why.

ii. Senate Lead Henry

Same.

E. Treasurer

i. Treasurer Harr

Hey guys so I just wanted to quickly review over a couple of things before I got into a quick powerpoint presentation. There were only three money requests this month: President Keller requested \$148 for new nametags for some of our newer senators, Senator Benitez requested \$40 for her co-sponsored event with the Orientation Office, and Director Watkins for \$48 for her Words of a Lover event. In total, out of the FY19 budget we've spent approximately \$11,000 and have approximately \$15,000 left. A third of that will go to Spring Stipends, and another third of that goes to conference registration fees; it's a yearly fee we pay; fuel for finals we've got some big things planned for you guys and office supplies as well as we're looking at a printer for the Marietta office. Stipends; our

next committee meeting is planned for next week, and we will continue the work that they have been doing all semester. Today at the Executive Board meeting I distributed a view only link to the "Spring 2019 Stipends" doc for the second time so that all E Board members can view their progress up to this point. I also distributed hard copies of HR and Payroll paperwork for any members of the Executive Board who have yet to complete theirs.

Paperwork that was also distributed included electronic documents; the stipends are updated it has a record of when it was last updated. Not much has changed with SABAC since the last meeting, the next SABAC will be 3-20, and the annual budget requests are due March 29th, this month. We're working very hard to get that together for you guys for next year. I sent Director Watkins a powerpoint presentation that I wanted to share with you guys as being members of an RSO this applies to us. Some things that have been maintained was that \$500 per individual event that has been maintained; \$500 maximum annual promotion budget but you're still able to submit promotion requests for your event so you can still introduce those supplementary requests. SABAC is the students activities budget advisory committee; comprised of 10 members, 6 students and 4 faculty/staff, it reviews annual budget submissions and supplemental funding requests from all RSOS. It is advisor to the VP of Student Affairs so any requests we make are not set and stone until she approves it. Our Protocol Manual can be found at sabac.kennesaw.edu as well as any meeting schedules, agendas, or anything else RSOs are curious about. All RSOs

are now welcome to submit an annual budget request as well as supplemental funding requests; it is due at 12 noon on March 29th of 2019. If you have any concerns reach out to me or any member of SABAC for that matter. How SABAC makes our decisions: we really try to do it on a consistent viewpoint-neutral requirements. RSO officers and members must be currently enrolled at KSU. All events and activities funded through student activity fees must be open to all KSU students. Requests must accurately estimate likely costs considering the number of students. Items that SABAC cannot fund: alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or other illegal/restricted items; contributions to campaigns/political parties; off campus organizations/agencies. We cannot pay sales tax; we have a tax exemption form that is currently located in the Kennesaw office that you can make copies of and bring to vendors. These items are 90% of items traditionally funded by SABAC: travel support, promotion, programming or one-time equipment.

F. Secretary

i. Secretary Toor

Hey guys I'm going to make this report really quick since we're running short on time; first off I just want to remind everyone that before you submit an event request form to please go on the ksu reservations page and make sure the place you are trying to reserve is available for that time and date. Additionally even if it appears to be available please click on the actual room because some rooms are not able to be reserved. Please also make sure to include backup locations that you also check to make sure they're available

as well in case your first choice is not. Also just as a general reminder for now and all meetings please do not turn the microphones off when you're done speaking. Just put it down or pass it to the next person and please don't touch that switch at all because it really messes the audio up.

G. Vice President

i. Vice President Abdul Salam

We got a lot of feedback on our performance within our group; it wasn't a lot of positive but we can improve it so I really appreciate that. I believe we are on the right track and believe we can make progress. When you have an issue try to reach out to the person directly affected by it and talk to them to improve communication. Try to make students aware of elections and what's going on; registration is opening up on March 18th for summer and for fall; we should make sure that there are no holds on our account at that point and a lot of students have problems with that.

H. President

President Keller

Fuel for Midterms was awesome; Senator Ray came up with an idea for to give a donut for feedback. If you're having campus engagements take that suggestion box and encourage students to utilize it. The unity events: I want to praise each and everyone of you who advertised that event, who supported it and who came. I was so encouraged to see students be vulnerable and we were in a room of strangers and by the end of it we were a family. Tomorrow from 1 pm to 2 pm they are having a recap meeting that I cannot go to so I'd like one of you to go if you can so please

reach out to me. I met with President Whitten and if you want to find out more information on what that conversation looked like let me know. Thank you to those of us who went to KSU Miracle; congratulations to SGA for raising \$1500; what can we do next year? I also went to the football committee meeting; the objective for that committee is how to raise ticket sales and how to get students to come. If you have any burning ideas or desires you would like to see happen this next season let me know. We went to the student technology committee; the objective is we allocate over 6 million dollars of your student fees to help fund technology and stuff like that. Thank you for the 22 of you that came to the retreat; I was so excited to get to bond with you. I have carried with me all of your ideas and comments since then and it was heartwarming to see you guys be candid. I will be dropping a survey in the groupme to get your feedback on that and if you guys want to do it again. Elections; today is day 3; I've only received two text messages from people. I'm going to take the person out to lunch who reaches out the most to students. Chief Diversity Officer we are scheduling another meeting so if you have comments or questions about that I'll do my best to answer.

V. Open Forum (2 min/per officer)

a. Senator Ray

Yesterday Stephen and I met with ATO; a fraternity that's going to be joining us in the fall. I'm really excited about that and think they're going to do very well.

b. Senator Coakley

Dean search going on in our college; the four candidates came to campus over the last week; we had some great candidates and had our final committee meeting this past Wednesday. I attended the faculty senate meeting we're trying to get a forum set up for students to come out and ask questions.

c. Senator Bradford

A great idea we had for getting students to football games is a student place inside the stadium for students to come from the tailgate and continue the part. And we have students who will be on campus promoting it and having ambassadors.

d. Senator Coakley

There's going to be a new parking lot coming to the Marietta campus Fall 2019.

VI. New Business

A. New Senator Training Presentation - Director Lopez and Senator Hale

VII. Announcements (2 min/per officer)

a. Senator Coakley

I'd like to recognize one of the students from the College of Technology and Engineering for being nationally recognized; she's got a whole article in the Sentinel and everything

b. Senator Bradford

We have a track meet at Georgia Tech this weekend and you should come out.

c. Director Watkins

On Wednesday it's the all majors fair so we're all in college trying to get jobs; trying to graduate so if you want more

information about internships or jobs in your field come out to that.

d. Senate Lead Dykes:

Greek-Get-Down is in the Marietta event center after Day of Service.

e. Senator Ray

For that career fair there's an app you can download called Career Fair Plus

f. Senator Hussain

My know your legal rights event is tomorrow night in the Prillaman building; we're going to have an attorney and if you have questions about your legal rights come out from 6 to 8:30 pm.

g. Senator Rahman

As you all know we take mental health very seriously in our community and the counseling service center is having an event next week for suicide prevention week starting next Monday so if you guys want to come out and show your support please do.

h. Cindy Vo

I'm going to Congress Tuesday for Congressional Day Aerospace; I'm going to be at the Georgia Capitol for American Cancer Society and then I'm going back to Congress again for American Cancer Society.

VIII. Adjournment