

Washburn University Student Government Association

Newfer/Clark Administration, August 26th, 2026

- I. Call to Order – Vice President Lillian Clark
- II. Roll Call – Chief of Staff Amya Carpenter
- III. Review of Proceeding Meeting Minutes
- IV. Cabinet Reports
 - a. Nick Lloyd, Campus & Community Affairs Director
 - i. Prepping for Can Emporia. Point collection starts next Monday. Drop off for cans is WSGA, OSID, and Bods Feeding Bods
 - ii. Bodsquad is off the ground under WSGA
 - iii. Union renovations are in conversation
 - b. Taylor Redington, Communications & Marketing Director
 - i. Make sure to use a microphone so live stream can hear you
 - ii. WU fest was a success than
 - c. Merit Carter, Student Accessibility & Belonging Director
 - i. Hispanic Heritage fiesta in September. Thinking of ideas for committee
 - d. Aidan Hixson, Legislative Research Director
 - i. Freshman elections are almost here. Handing out packets to freshman, and we have one returned so far. We are tabling during elections from September 2-4 from 9:00am-3:00pm
 - e. Prekshya Adhikari, Director of Operations
 - i. From now on, she is handling P-Cards, Lyft, and payroll. Working on updating the WSGA website. Talking to Chartwells regarding a WSGA lunch with students. Working to track progress of previously passed resolutions.
 - f. Julianna Reynoldson, Budget Director

- i. Processing reimbursements over the summer and made a new tracker. There is a SOS meeting tomorrow, all student representatives should be there. Icabod Shop is taking over direct funding for students for apparel. Updating documentation on student grants.

g. Amya Carpenter, Chief of Staff

- i. Over the summer, I attended NSO's for WSGA. WU Fest went very well. A huge thank you to Taylor and Caitlyn for all the hard work they put into it. Senate Retreat is in the works and it will probably be September 26th.

h. Lillian Clark, Vice President

- i. Caitlyn Crim has decided to step down as Special Events Director for WSGA. They will be reopening the Special Events Director position. There are many updates that will be described in the public forum

i. Caleb Newfer, President

- i. Hello to the new president of Student Life Dr. Chesnut. Attending a lot of meetings over the summer about expanding student engagement.

j. Dr. TLC, Advisor

- i. Welcome back to campus. Kudos to Caitlyn and they work everyone did for WU Fest. The setup connected students and organizations very well. Hydrate, rest, and repeat.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Speaker Yucesan, Internal Affairs Committee

- i. IA won't be set up until after Freshman elections. The speaker committee nominations were approved by Senate

b. Chairperson Smith, Allocations Committee

- i. Welcome everyone to the allocations committee. Next week we will review expectations and guidelines.
- c. Chairperson Barbery, Campus & Community Affairs Committee
 - i. Planning for a fun committee this year. Working on Scorch on the Porch for homecoming.
- d. Chairperson McFan, Student Accessibility & Belonging Committee
 - i. Really excited to get the ball rolling on this semester. Some ideas on what to expect for this semester
- e. Chairperson Bottom, Special Events Committee
 - i. Working with Chairperson Barbery on Bodbash for Homecoming, and coming up with events for WSGA.

VI. Public Forum I:

- a. Ichabods Moving Forward & Counseling, Molly Steffes-Herman
 - i. Counseling provides mental health support and basic needs to those in need. They also provide case management and advocacy for clients. The office covers domestic violence, sexual violence, and bystander training.
 - ii. Ichabod's Moving Forward was started by students to get philanthropy experience and to provide emergency funding for students in need. When Counseling partnered with IMF they were good at providing funding. Now they want to improve student participation. This is important to build leadership in students and to increase donations. They are looking for 15 student members. Counseling receives funding requests then redacts information for student ambassadors to vote on the applications. Students' time commitments are meeting with donors and vote on average for 5 applications a week. There is one donor event in the Fall and Spring, as well as a retreat. If you are interested or want more information, you can email Molly or counseling@washburn.edu. She will wait for all of our emails to come in. If we want to commit to broader advertising,

it will be harder to fund every student who applies. We need to figure out to fundraise accordingly to serve more students.

1. Director Redington- is it open to any student or WSGA?
 - i. Molly- it is open to any student.
2. Chairperson McFan- What will student time be spent on
 - i. Time is spent at preplanned events. In terms of voting, it happens on group me.

VII. Public Forum II:

a. Budget Updates & Senator Stipend Proposal, Vice President Clark & President Newfer

- i. VP Clark- The budget comes from the Student activity fee. We allocate to student grants, student organizations, and off the top organizations. The off the top organizations are the Campus Activities Board, Student Media, and Spirt Squad. Last Spring there was a misallocation of funds due to an error in the percentage formula used to allocate funds. CAB received an additionally unapproved 18,093.26 and Student Media received 30,063.80. This was not realized until Monday, August 17, 2026. This error has been corrected and returned to WSGA for Senate to decide what to do with it. Money approved in the Spring does not come through until October, so there is time for Senat to make a decision. The account balance of Student Media after the reduction is 24,786.50 and CAB is 152,131.96.

1. Senator Ross- is this what contributed to the 30,000 deficit.

- i. VP Clark- Yes, along with money allocated ot student organizations

- ii. VP Clark- Last semester, a resolution was passed that supported a senator stipend program. Washburn University will now fund the salaries of the WSGA President and VP which equals 25,000. This means that this money can be reallocated to

Senators in the form of a stipend. The upcoming bill tonight will eliminate the President and VP's salaries from the budget.

VIII. New Business I:

a. SB 2026-27 #015: WSGA & Washburn University Compensation Agreement Act

- i. The bill passes.

b. SB 2026-27 #016: Senator Stipend Establishment Act

- i. Senator Smith- There is a problem with section 2.5. Those who resign still deserve to be compensated for the work they did for WSGA. He moves to amend the bill
- ii. The amendment passes
- iii. The bill passes

c. SB 2026-27 #017: Union Underground Reinvestment Act

- i. Director Lloyd- there is an opportunity to return the Memorial Union to its original intention. Right now, the Union is mostly office space with little student space. We are looking to build a new space that benefits students with the direction of expertise from staff. CAB currently has 150,000 in funds that many organizations do not have. This bill looks to reallocate CAB funding to this Memorial Union renovation project. A committee will have a budget from WSGA reserves and CAB money, but the money is not allocated. Every expenditure must be approved by the Senate. This is meant as a first step to get the committee set up.
- ii. Becky Bolte, Director of Memorial Union- She has been here for 16 years and WSGA with other student organizations worked to renovate the Union in 2017. It cost around 50,000 that time. They are excited to work again with WSGA to improve the space for students.
- iii. Cristina Hernandez, Director of CAB- Last Tuesday, they reached out to PR to host a poll on Instagram asking Students

what genre of concert Students would like. Any additional funding that CAB can receive on top of the 40,00 flat rates would be appreciated to bring this event to life. A big event was always in talks, just never actualized. Now that we have that money, it is a more serious conversation.

- iv. Dr. Chestnut, Vice President of Student Life- We want to invite a conversation regarding utilization around funds. Is there a necessity to eliminate CAB funding, or just use the funds returned to WSGA. Those concerts are expensive. Eliminating their budget will mean that CAB cannot host other events. CAB started acquiring funds post-pandemic. These events take years to save up for, so it was in design just not actualized.

1. Senator Barbery- Has the money been saved for the specific purpose of a big event? CAB spent tens of thousands of dollars to bring Preacher Lawson to campus.
 - i. A big event was in the talks, just never actualized.
2. Senator Meier- Was there a poll asking students if they wanted a concert? If we have it, I want to see it properly marketed.
3. I feel wrong cutting their budget entirely, and would prefer to reduce it.
4. Director Adhikari- Why was this never brought up in the Budget Audit.
 - i. There were never clear instructions on what should be included in the audit. If they had asked for future plans, that would have been provided.
5. Senator Ross- was a concert the original plan for the funds? Or was it just thought up a few days ago?
6. Speaker Yuecsan- the poll is not good metric to discuss this because it did not include vital information or provide students accurate information

7. Chairperson Bottom- Is there a plan for the returned 40,000. There is a lot of discussion that a concert might be unfeasible, but
8. Senator Horselenberg- If we are only having an event once every 4 years, it will not truly benefit every student. They story post does not seem credible to base the discussion off of.
9. Senator Stevens- Washburn is a suitcase school and turnout is typically not very good at these type of events.
10. Chairperson Smith- Since there was a deficit, spending the recovered funds is not the best idea. Just because CAB has a surplus of money does not mean they should just spend it on a big event. Senate should pass this, but knowing we have a surplus and then get a concrete plan from CAB to perhaps use the surplus for a specific event.
11. Chairperson Ross- When looking to revamp WU Stock, there was many different problems including scheduling and funding. 150,000 might not be enough to have a concert. All the previous tries for a concert have failed.

d. The bill passes.

IX. New Business II:

- a. New Senator Confirmation Vote, Kate Coulter
 - i. Kate Coulter is confirmed as a Senator
- b. Fall Election Board Nomination and Confirmation
 - i. Senator Ross nominates himself
 - ii. Chairperson Barbary nominates herself
 - iii. Chairperson Bottom nominates himself
 - iv. Parliamentarian Hammes nominates herself
 - v. Chief of Staff Carpenter is nominated by President Newfer
 - vi. The Fall Election board is confirmed.

X. Public Forum III:

- a. Swearing in of New Senator
 - i. Kate Coulter is sworn in as a senator
 - b. Swearing in of New Chairperson
 - i. Ka'hari Mcfari is sworn in as Chairperson of the Student Accessibility and Belonging Committee.
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Roll Call – Chief of Staff Amya Carpenter
- XIII. Adjournment

Attendance at Beginning and End of Meeting

- 1. Senator Arnold
- 2. Chairperson Barbery
- 3. Senator Berry
- 4. Senator Coulter
- 5. Senator Ginn
- 6. Parliamentarian Hammes
- 7. Chairperson Mcfan
- 8. Senator Meier
- 9. Senator Murray
- 10. Senator Nanju
- 11. Senator Ross
- 12. Senator Selm
- 13. Chairperson Smith
- 14. Senator Stevens
- 15. Speaker Yucesan
- 16. Director of Operations Adhikari
- 17. CCA Director Lloyd
- 18. SAB Director Carter
- 19. Marketing Director Redington
- 20. Legislative Director Hixson
- 21. Budget Director Reynoldson
- 22. Chief of Staff Carpenter
- 23. Vice President Clark
- 24. President Newfer
- 25. Advisor Dr. TLC



SENATE BILL 2026-27 #015
TITLE: WSGA & Washburn University Compensation
Agreement Act
ORIGINATOR: Newfer/Clark Administration
SPONSOR: Speaker Yucesan
STATUS: Committee of the Whole – neutral

WHEREAS, the current and previous administrations of the Washburn Student Government Association have engaged in ongoing discussions with University Leadership regarding financial support for the operations and responsibilities of WSGA, specifically regarding a proposed Senator Stipend Program; and

WHEREAS, because of these discussions, the University Administration has agreed to provide compensation for the hourly wages associated with the WSGA President and Vice President positions; and

WHEREAS, the University's compensation for the WSGA President and Vice President became effective July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the WSGA's existing budget contains line items allocating funds for the wages of the WSGA President and Vice President; and

WHEREAS, continued allocation of WSGA funds for these positions is no longer necessary because the University has assumed responsibility for compensating the positions; and

WHEREAS, removing these expenditures from the WSGA budget will ensure that WSGA funds can instead be directed toward student programming and internal organizational operations;

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE WSGA SENATE:

SECTION ONE: The WSGA budget shall be amended to eliminate the remaining monetary amount as of July 1, 2026, within the budget line items designated for the wages of the WSGA President and Vice President.

SECTION TWO: Compensation for the WSGA President and Vice President shall be provided by the University in accordance with the University's agreement to compensate the hourly wages associated with these positions, beginning July 1, 2026.

SECTION THREE: This legislation shall become effective upon passage by the WSGA Senate, subject to the veto power of the WSGA President as outlined in the Constitution.



SENATE BILL 2026-27 #016
TITLE: Senator Stipend Establishment Act
ORIGINATOR: Vice President Clark
SPONSOR: Speaker Yucesan
STATUS: Committee of the Whole – neutral

WHEREAS, the Washburn Student Government Association recognizes that effective student government requires significant time, effort, leadership, and commitment from its elected and appointed Senators; and

WHEREAS, financial barriers may limit the ability of students to participate fully in student governance, and providing a stipend may promote broader access to participation and more accurately reflect the diversity of the student body; and

WHEREAS, the Washburn Student Government Association seeks to establish clear, equitable, and transparent requirements governing the eligibility, determination, payment, and continuation of a Senator Stipend program; and

WHEREAS, the Senate recognizes the need to provide a prorated stipend for Senators who begin service during a semester through the Open Senate Seat process and satisfy the requirements established herein; and

WHEREAS, the availability of Senator Stipends remains subject to the availability and approval of Washburn Student Government Association funds.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE WSGA SENATE:

SECTION ONE: A line item labeled “Senator Stipend Program” shall be added to the WSGA Fiscal Year 2027 budget with the amount of \$17,000. This line item shall be grouped with the other Legislative Branch line items under WSGA Operations.

SECTION TWO: This legislation shall become effective upon passage by the WSGA Senate, subject to the veto power of the WSGA President as outlined in the Constitution. All provisions of the WSGA Awards Policy not expressly amended by this bill shall remain in full force and effect. The WSGA Chief of Staff, Vice President, and Budget Director shall administer the Senator Stipend program in accordance with the provisions established by this bill.

SECTION THREE: The WSGA Awards Policy be amended by adding the following:

CHAPTER 3. SENATOR STIPENDS

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

Senator Stipends exist to recognize the significant time, effort, and leadership required to effectively represent the student body as a Senator of WSGA. This stipend program aims to promote broader access to participation in student governance by reducing financial barriers, thereby ensuring that decision-making more accurately reflects the diversity of the student population at Washburn University. The only individuals authorized to receive a WSGA Senator Stipend are currently serving Senate members. Removal from Senate due to malfeasance and/or Student Code of Conduct violation revokes the right to a Senator Stipend award.

SECTION 2. AWARD REQUIREMENTS

SUBSECTION 2.1: ELIGIBILITY

A Senator shall be eligible to receive the semester stipend only if the Senator:

1. Remains an officially sworn-in and seated Senator through the conclusion of the applicable semester;
2. Satisfies all requirements established by the Senate Attendance Policy and does not acquire a cumulative total of three or more unexcused absences;
3. Fulfills the additional attendance and participation requirements of attending and volunteering for at least two (2) WSGA events per applicable semester in accordance with the official list of eligible events made available to the Senate at the beginning of each semester;
4. Attends the WSGA Audit Meeting, if the stipend is for the Spring Semester

SUBSECTION 2.2: DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

At the conclusion of each semester, the WSGA Chief of Staff shall review each Senator's compliance with the requirements of this section. A Senator who satisfies all applicable requirements shall be eligible for the stipend. Senators who are elected via First Year Elections are eligible for the full stipend amount if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

In emergency circumstances beyond the Senator's reasonable control that prevent the Senator from satisfying one or more of the applicable requirements, the Senator may petition for an exception by submitting a written request to the WSGA Vice President and WSGA Chief of Staff. The request must explain the emergency circumstances preventing the Senator from meeting the applicable requirements and provide any relevant supporting information.

Final determination regarding the award of a stipend under an exception shall be at the sole discretion of the WSGA Vice President and WSGA Chief of Staff. An exception shall be granted only when the circumstances constitute an emergency beyond the Senator's reasonable control and shall not be considered a guarantee of stipend eligibility. The decision regarding any exception shall be communicated to the WSGA Senate.

SUBSECTION 2.3: DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

An eligible Senator shall receive the \$250 stipend following the conclusion of the semester, subject to completion of any required institutional and financial procedures. The stipend shall not be paid prior to the conclusion of the applicable semester. Senator Stipend payments shall be processed by the WSGA Budget Director.

SUBSECTION 2.4: PRORATED STIPEND

A Senator who joins the WSGA Senate through the Open Senate Seat process and serves for at least one-half ($1/2$) of the applicable semester, but does not serve for the full semester, shall be eligible to receive a prorated stipend equal to fifty percent (50%) of the full-semester stipend, or one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125), provided that the Senator satisfies all applicable stipend requirements.

For purposes of determining eligibility for a prorated stipend, the length of the applicable semester shall be calculated based on the total number of weeks in which a Senate meeting is scheduled or held during that semester. A Senator shall be considered to have served for at least one-half ($1/2$) of the applicable semester when the Senator's period of service encompasses at least one-half ($1/2$) of the total number of such weeks. The Senator must satisfy the applicable requirements of the Senate Attendance Policy and all other stipend requirements during their period of service.

A Senator who serves for less than one-half ($1/2$) of the applicable semester shall not be eligible to receive a stipend for that semester.

SUBSECTION 2.5: INELIGIBILITY

A Senator who fails to satisfy any requirement established under this section shall be ineligible to receive the stipend for that semester. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a Senator who resigns from WSGA at any time during the semester shall be ineligible to receive a stipend for that semester, regardless of the length of time served.

SUBSECTION 2.6: FUTURE STIPENDS

Receipt of a stipend in one semester shall not create a right or entitlement to a stipend in any subsequent semester. The stipend program shall remain subject to the availability and approval of Washburn Student Government funds.



SENATE BILL 2026-27 #017
TITLE: Union Underground Reinvestment Act
ORIGINATOR: CCA Director Lloyd
SPONSOR: Speaker Yucesan
STATUS: Committee of the Whole – Neutral

WHEREAS, the Union Underground was created to serve as a central space for student gathering, recreation, collaboration, and campus engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Union Underground throughout the course of its existence has become increasingly inaccessible to the student population,

WHEREAS, investing in the Union Underground provides an opportunity to create a more welcoming and student-focused environment while increasing utilization and traffic within the Memorial Union; and

WHEREAS, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) maintains an operating balance of \$170,171.24 as of August 7, 2026, with an average annual expenditure of \$52,996.77 over the previous four years; and

WHEREAS, redirecting CAB's Fiscal Year 2027 allocation of \$45,000 provides an opportunity to make a lasting investment in the Union Underground while allowing CAB to continue programming from its existing reserves.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE WSGA SENATE:

SECTION ONE: The Union Underground Revival Committee (UURC)

- A. This committee shall be comprised of 4 senators, a CAB representative, a Student Media representative, an Intersection representative, the OSID director, the Union director, and the CCA Director. Any other member may be added by the Washburn Student Government Association (WSGA) President at any time.
 - a. The senators shall be selected by the WSGA Speaker.
 - b. The chairperson of the committee shall be the CCA director.
 - c. The meeting times of this committee shall be determined by committee members.
 - d. The goal of this committee shall be to create a more student friendly environment to produce more connection and traffic within the Union Underground.
 - e. Only senators shall be able to vote in this committee.
 - i. The chairperson shall act as the deciding vote in the event of a tie
 - ii. Quorum shall be established by 50% of voting members being present.
 1. The chairperson shall be considered a voting member.
- B. The Union Underground Revival Committee shall develop and recommend uses of funds for improvements intended to create a more student-friendly environment, increase student engagement, and increase utilization of the Union Underground.
- C. The UURC shall give weekly updates to full senate.
- D. This committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the renovation.

SECTION TWO: CAB Budget

- A. CAB shall no longer be allocated student activity fee dollars for the fiscal year of 2027.

SECTION THREE: Union Underground Revival Budget

- A. The UURC shall have a budget of \$45,000 and an additional \$55,000 from the WSGA Reserve Fund.
- B. Every expenditure/proposal must be approved by Full Senate with a simple majority.

SECTION FOUR: This legislation shall become effective upon passage by the WSGA Senate, subject to the veto power of the WSGA President as outlined in the Constitution.