

Student Government Association

Minutes for meeting held Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by Vice President Matthew Atwell (filling in for President Stovall). Attendance was taken and a quorum was established. The minutes for the meeting held on November 12th, 2025 were approved.

Special Order of Business:

- Professor Lonnie Bowe – presentation on AI in higher education; *see pages 5-6*

Student Open Forum:

- The Thanksgiving lunch served in the cafeteria on November 19th stopped at 1:30; feeling from some that it should be served the entire day for people who have class during the regular lunch time

Officer Reports:

Faculty Executive Board Representative – Ms. Zoey Shamblin

- Ms. Shamblin attended the Faculty Assembly meeting on Thursday, November 13th
- Some of the topics discussed included:
 - “Two States, One Rate,” extending in-state tuition to Virginia residents; the purpose of the program is to increase our enrollment and keep us competitive with universities that have already implemented this
 - September Foundation funding request breakdown:
 - \$7,000 for updated campus signage
 - \$7,000 for updated library furniture
 - \$20,000 for the card access readers to be installed at residence hall entrances over winter break
 - \$12,000 for software to assist with housing assignments and other services
 - The provost search is ongoing; if faculty have any questions of concerns, please direct them to Dr. Meighen to receive a timeline on the search
- There will be no more FEB meetings for the remainder of the semester
- SGA is still having its food drive for the month of November, including “Frozen Food Fridays”

Board of Governors Representative – Mr. Garon Wiseman (absent; report given on his behalf by Vice President Atwell)

- Mr. Wiseman has been in contact with student government associations statewide regarding the loss of the student vote on state university boards of governors

- A letter was drafted by him to send to Mercer County's state legislators requesting they support restoring the student vote. *A copy of the letter is attached on page 7*
- Mr. Wiseman wished to have the Senate's approval before sending the letter
- The Honors Program moved to approve Mr. Wiseman's letter; seconded by Delegate Carothers

Judicial Liaison – Mr. Ben Bailey

- *No report*

Ombudsman – Ms. Maren Boblits

- Ms. Boblits addressed a concern regarding vending machines in Wilson Hall only being located on a male floor, forcing women to need a male escort to use them
- The possibility of moving the vending machines is being looked at; Ms. Boblits will update the Senate next week after she receives more information

Parliamentarian – Ms. Elena Chamness

- *No report*

Secretary – Mr. Brian Strickler

- Mr. Strickler will meet with the university technology committee on December 3rd; internet concerns will be addressed
- A solution for Esports is being looked into by installing Frontier Fiber Optic in the facility
- Any additional concerns about campus technology may be forwarded to Mr. Strickler to take to the committee
- “Housekeeping” in the SGA office will be taking place through the end of winter break; any comments about supplies or the office in general may be forwarded to Mr. Strickler
- Office hours for Friday, November 21st will be pushed one hour back to **10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

Business Manager – Ms. Kenzie Franson

- *No report*

Vice President – Mr. Matthew Atwell

- Mr. Atwell is continuing to plan Spring Fling
- Office hours for the week we get back from Thanksgiving Break should be normal

President – Ms. Abby Stovall (absent; report given on her behalf by Vice President Atwell)

- President Stovall apologizes for her absence, as she was attending an event in Charleston

- For the December 3rd Senate meeting, which will be the last one for the Fall 2025 semester, the Counseling Center will be speaking
- President Stovall met with Dr. Meighen on November 17th, and discussed a few different topics:
 - She reviewed the food concerns document with Dr. Meighen; we will be going over the document with Aramark the next time we meet with them
 - Internet concerns were addressed; there were attempts to stabilize the connection in the Esports facility over the weekend (November 15th and 16th)
 - She will meet again with Dr. Meighen and Mr. Ron Hamilton on Monday, November 24th to discuss the academic ramifications of the internet issues
 - The following areas will receive the card/phone access readers over winter break:
 - Outside doors of residence halls
 - The nursing wing in the Fine Arts Building
 - Wooddell Hall for the PA students
 - The Kendrick Athletic Facility
 - The office area in the Carter Center
 - It will be easier in the future to install the card readers if they are needed elsewhere

Committee Reports:

Budgetary Commission – Ms. Kenzie Franson

- *No report*

Philanthropy – Mr. Matthew Atwell

- The food drive is still going on; thank you to all who have made donations!

Rules – Ms. Elena Chamness

- *No report*

CUSAC – Ms. Maren Boblits

- There will likely not be any more CUSAC meetings this semester
- In the event a concern is received that needs urgently addressed, Ms. Boblits will send an e-mail to CUSAC to schedule a meeting

Technology – Mr. Brian Strickler

- The technology committee met on Thursday, November 13th
- There will be no more meetings for the remainder of the semester

ATTENTION! Campus life and commuter committee members should have gotten an e-mail asking that they stay after for the December 3rd meeting. If you do not know what committee you are on, please see Matt Atwell or Brian Strickler.

Unfinished Business:

- *No unfinished business*

New Business:

- *No new business*

Announcements:

- **Alpha Psi Omega** - (*Ms. Elizabeth Burr*) APO has picked *Rabbit Hole* for the show they will perform for “APO Presents.” Auditions will be from 5 to 6 PM on November 19th, with callbacks being the next day from 5 to 7 PM. An interest meeting for the Spring 2026 musical *Firebringer* was held on November 17th, and auditions will be on December 4th at 5 PM.
- **Hopper-Turing Society** - (*Emilio Bosma*) The Hopper-Turing Society had their “code reading Jeopardy” game on November 19th, which was a success. They will be hosting an anime-themed Jeopardy on December 3rd. All students are welcome!
- It was asked that students do not bring up other students’ medical emergencies during Senate; if you have concerns about how a medical situation was handled, please see Ms. Anna Hardy or Ms. Carolyn Worley in private
- **Ms. Anna Hardy** – The men’s and women’s basketball teams will take on Bluefield State at home at 5:30 and 7:30.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM

Brian L. Strickler, Secretary

Presentation by Professor Lonnie Bowe

Regarding AI in Higher Education

- Professor Bowe is the head of Concord's AI advisory committee

Current Situation:

- AI is everywhere and being used all the time
- The messaging about how it should be used has been inconsistent
- *Reminder:* AI programs like ChatGPT are not sentient or intelligent; it's all math and algorithms behind the scenes
- ChatGPT is trained by ingesting data from the internet
- Because of the nature of how it is trained, AI doesn't always get things right; as an example, when prompted on how to keep cheese from sliding off of pizza, ChatGPT once said to use Elmer's glue, which came from a joke on Reddit
- **GPS Analogy: It can be useful and save you time, but if you become over-reliant on it, you lose sense of where you are at**

AI Policy:

- Currently, AI policy is set by individual professors, leading to a lot of inconsistencies
- The AI advisory committee is working on a campus-wide AI policy to set guidelines
- They are looking for SGA feedback on a draft policy

AI as a Replacement vs. a Tool:

- Faculty are concerned that over-reliance on AI will cause students to miss out on building skills their program is supposed to stress
- Employers have noticed that graduates are losing the ability to problem solve, reason, write clearly, or defend their statements
- **When you use AI as a *replacement*, you will miss out on building these skills. If you use it as a *tool*, it can help you improve some of these skills!**

Question for Students: Why do you use AI and what do you hope you get from AI?

- One student reported using AI to help them with the syntax of unfamiliar programming languages
- Assistance with essay and citation formatting
- Some students ask AI to provide them with clearer explanations of problems
- Non-academic uses include time management and planning out your day
- AI can give an outline for writing a paper
- AI can be used to help a student figure out their mistake in solving a math problem, but be warned that large language models are notoriously bad at math

Transparency of AI Use:

- Students can document their AI use on assignments to protect themselves

- It was asked if students like that as a policy; support was noted
- Some faculty want students to keep track of a document's version history, but there is a feeling that this is overly burdensome

AI Detectors:

- They don't work; professors have been asked to stop using them

Question for Students: What is the point of a college education to you?

- Students often see it two ways: as a job/career requisite and as a way to broaden their worldview
- Even in a world of endless information on the internet, students like to have someone there to help them work through the content and hold them accountable
- **If you're using AI to do everything in college, how are you going to build relevant job and life skills?**

Question for Students: How do you think your professors are using AI?

- Some comments from students included:
 - Being explicitly told to use AI on a project
 - Some classes have assignments that feel entirely AI-generated, and are written in such a way they are difficult or annoying to do without AI
 - Some students have watched professors use AI
 - Some syllabi and outlines of course modules feel entirely AI-generated
 - Some faculty use AI to support their research
- Feeling of hypocrisy if a professor will use AI extensively and then forbid students from using it
- If you are paying to have access to experts in your chosen field of study, you expect to receive knowledge and feedback from the expert and not an AI

Digital Literacy: Who controls AI?

- It is a common tactic for technology companies to give out their products cheaply to K-12 schools to get people used to their products early on; AI companies are already doing this
- **If we become dependent on a product to think, then the company making that product can control how you think and see the world**
- We need to critically look at the information AI is giving us

If you have any questions or concerns about AI, you are welcome to see Professor Bowe!

Concord University SGA Student Vote Proposal for WV House of Delegates and Senate

The West Virginia Legislature passed HB3279 on April 9th, 2025, which, along with other changes, removed the ability for student representatives to vote on the Boards of Governors statewide. The Student Government and student body at Concord University feel that this action has personally impacted our ability to properly represent ourselves.

Because of this, we, the representatives of the student body and the officers of the Student Government Association at Concord University, are requesting that West Virginia House of Delegates district 039 representative Doug Smith and West Virginia Senate district 6 senators Craig Hart and Mark Maynard propose legislation to the West Virginia Legislature to reinstate the student vote on the Board of Governors state-wide.

At Concord University, we put an extreme amount of importance on the value of student opinions and voices. We hold the value of civic responsibility and engagement dear and believe that for this to be fully enacted, our voices must be heard. With approximately 1,900 students, we believe that every student has the right to make their voice heard and that each voice has an impact. We, the Student Government Association of Concord University, believe that we are the connection between students and the legislators, who represent them, and cannot have daily contact with them. To successfully be able to represent our student body, we need to have a prominent presence in crucial decision-making processes. And for this, the student representatives must have a vote.

We hope that, as our representatives and legislators, you understand the importance and impact that your votes have on our ability to represent our students at the university and state level, as well as our daily lives in university. We strongly urge you to use that voice for good and propose or support legislation in the West Virginia Legislature that gives the student body its voice back. We appreciate your representation, and we hope that you will advocate for our voice to represent our constituents as well.