**SGA Meeting Minutes
November 15th, 2016**

At 7:00PM, the meeting commenced. Trent Griner led the invocation, and Teddy Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lindsay Norman presented herself to the body as the Assistant Dean of Resident Life. She explained that she brought her team from Residence Life in order to introduce them and have them explain their areas around campus. Trish Wiggins introduced herself as the area coordinator for Morgan, Deerfield, and Alternative Housing. She encouraged students to stop by her office in Deerfield if students ever need anything. She reminded the body about closing for Thanksgiving Break. All students must be checked out of their residence hall on Tuesday, November 22nd by 6 PM. The last resident of the room has to checkout with the RA. She encouraged students to do this in a timely manner because the residence life staff cannot leave until all students do. She reminded the body about closing for Winter Break as well. The last day to checkout is Friday, December 9th at 6 PM. She stated that students will no longer stay on Saturdays because there is no December graduation. All students must sign-up for a checkout time. Residence Halls will reopen on Sunday, January 8th at 8 AM. Steven Wyatt introduced himself as the area coordinator for Thomas Berry, Mountain, and Dana and his office is located in Dana Hall. He stated that he is working on revamping the Green Team. The Green Team is a group on campus that pushes green initiatives like recycling, reusing, etc. The Green Team is looking at how to make residence halls better for the environment. If you have any ideas, please email residence life! Matt Mixer introduced himself as the area coordinator for Morton – Lemley and Ford and his office is located in the East Mary Lobby. He announced that the RA applications are now available and they are due at the end of January. Being an RA is a student work position on campus and allows you to engage with Berry community. The qualifications to apply are: 2.5 GPA and you have to have lived on campus for a semester. The first information session will be held on Thursday, November 17th in Krannert at 11 AM. Lindsay Norman addressed the topic of room reclaiming. Room reclaiming is when students are able to reclaim the same room or general area that they currently live in. 100 students room reclaimed last year and they have given positive feedback. A student from the body asked what type of rooms students could reclaim. Lindsay responded that students could reclaim triples or doubles. Kassie Jones inquired about the rooms students could not reclaim. Lindsay responded that students could not reclaim rooms in alternative, Thomas Berry, Townhouses, singles, or rooms in Centennial. Marcus Ghee inquired about the criteria for students to get single rooms. Lindsay said singles are usually made for students with disabilities. A student from the body asked if room selection is decided based on a lottery selection. Lindsay replied that she would not call it a lottery because it is not random. Marcus Ghee inquired about how Residence Life calculated room selection numbers for students. Matt Mixer responded that the number was given based on a students completed credits hours. Lindsay Norman added that residence life will be hosting an information session before room selection happens. A student from the body stated that last year, he and his roommate had to wait because they did not have the same registration time. He inquired if that would be the same for this year. Lindsay responded that they plan on keeping the system the same. Lindsay thanked the body for their feedback and encouraged the body to email Residence Life if they had any other questions, comments, or concerns.

**Officer Reports:**

**Matthew Harry, Treasurer**

Matthew announced that the deadline for turning in all budget forms would be on December 7th.

Matthew informed the body that the SGA Account Balance is $12,351.48

**Kassie Jones, Secretary**

Kassie asked the body to review the minutes. The minutes passed as typed.

Kassie informed the body of a volunteer opportunity. She stated that if clubs and organizations created 2 boxes for Operation Christmas Child and paid for the shipping label then they would receive credit. She added that student can drop their boxes off in the SGA office until November 18th.

Kassie announced that Food for Finals will be on December 4th from 9 PM to 11 PM. Clubs and Organizations can receive SGA credit if they volunteer to set-up or take-down.

A student from the body won the SGA Prize of the Week.

**Valerie DeWandel, Vice President of Service**

Val announced that on November 14th, SGA will be hosting a blood drive. If clubs are willing to work a shift for the blood drive, it will count as an SGA credit.

Val informed the body that SGA would continue with the Monthly Campus Service project. The project was created to award officers around campus for all their hard work and dedication to Berry. The body voted between House Keeping, Financial Aid, and Police Department. Financial Aid won with a majority of the vote.

Val announced that the Special Project Committee had decided on giving portable paddle boards to the Department of Recreation. She stated that they will be buying 10 of the paddle boards.

**Preston Putnam, Vice President of Administration**

Preston gave the weekly weather report. Wednesday will have a high of 74 degrees and a low of 40 degrees.

Preston announced that the lights were officially up in Kilpatrick Commons. He stated that the lights would be plugged in when students returned from Thanksgiving break.

**Tedric Palmer, President**

Teddy asked the body for feedback on registration. Bobby Kreps commented that Vikingweb kept logging him out of the registration page and he was not able to get any of the classes he needed. A student from the body commented that Berry should look into creating a program that allows for Bonner Scholars or Gate Scholars to schedule their classes around work or volunteering.

**Old Business**

Teddy reintroduced the topic of political sidewalk chalking’s. He stated that the Student Life Council is looking at the policy of chalking and the language that surrounds the policy. Teddy stated that if students have something to contribute to the policy to email the SGA account at SGA@berry.edu.

**New Business**

Joey Miller asked if a crosswalk could be added on the road between McAllister and Herman Hall.

Chimara Good stated that the turning lane by the service entrance of Berry should be longer. It is a heavy traffic area.

Chimara Good asked if it could be a possibility for students to have Election Day off. She stated that for some students receiving an absentee ballot is not a possibility. Several areas in Tennessee require that you vote in person for the first time.

Alexx Beato stated that Stretch Road is very dangerous. It is not well lit and small cars have a hard time on it because of all the cracks, bumps, etc.

Leslie Bowen inquired about mass emails. She stated that not all mass emails apply to her. For example: Music Major emails, etc. She asked if there could be a filter for emails that go to students.

Zachary Lemcke warned students that even if it rains, students still cannot have fires. Georgia will need a lot more rain before we should start light fires.

**Class President Reports**

Senior Class President Whitney Kirkpatrick informed the body that the senior class officers will be hosting a reception for December graduates. More information will be available soon. Junior Class President Adrian Lopez stated that the Junior Class will be hosting a clothing drive for the homeless Rome community. Boxes will be placed around campus from November 28th to December 2nd. Dominic Miller stated that the sophomore class will be writing letter to the firefighters putting out all the local fires. Stop by Krannert during the week of November 28th and write a letter during lunch. Freshmen Class President Ben Walker announced a Freshman Class Forum on Thursday, November 17th at 11 AM in front of the Krannert fountains. There will be free coffee.

**Committee Reports**

None.

**Announcements**

Krista Zalewski announced that KCAB will be hosting Skate night at Fun Wheels, on Friday, November 19th at 11 PM. KCAB will also be hosting Semi-Formal in the Ford Dining Hall, on Saturday, November 20th at 9 PM. The theme is “Tale as Old as Time”.

Momo Abdellatif announced that the women’s Basketball Team has a game going on in the Cage Arena. He encouraged the body to go after the SGA meeting. The Swim and Dive team also have a meet on Saturday, November 20th in the Cage pool.

Whitney Kirkpatrick, with a second from Michael Dunn, moved to adjourn at 7:47PM.