



**Undergraduate Student Government**  
The University of Akron

**Undergraduate Student Government**

**Senate Agenda**  
**March 7th, 2024**

- I. Guest Speaker**
  - Donald Jensen
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance**
- V. Adoption of the Agenda**

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: I would like to entertain a motion to strike the advisory report from the agenda.

Senator Gardner: So, moved.

Senator Cameron: Second.

Senator Mainzer: Motion to amend the agenda to switch the delivery of the APSS report from Senator Machar to Senator Mainzer.

Senator Martin: Second.

Senator Gardner: Motion to change the JB report presenter from Chief Justice Flemming to Associate Justice Stillion.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Second.

Senator Mainzer: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Second.

**VI. Approval of the 2.29.24 Minutes**

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Motion to approve the 2.29.24 minutes.

Senator Mainzer: Second.

**VII. Open Student Expression**

Deputy Chief of Staff Lane: I hope to see all of you in the USG office for the CDE meeting after this. We have lots of projects going on so we could use extra hands right

now.

Acting Vice Senate Chair Winters: PHC will be tabling outside the FSL office on the first floor on Friday. It's Women's History Month and we are just going to be handing out stickers and taking pictures with all the amazing women of the university. I encourage you to stop by.

Senator Gardner: Everyone go tell your student organizations about the spring cleanup event. It's on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We really want as many people there as possible. It's a great way to get some community service in.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: If everyone could say their name before you speak, it would help our new senate assistant. Thanks.

### **VIII. Branch Reports**

- Legislative Report

Senate Chair Cosgrave

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Our upcoming meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>. That'll be our legislative branch retreat for the first part and then our SWAG kickback for the second half. We are working out some of the details about when we can arrive at the kickback because it should be different for the rest of you who signed up. So, we're working on those details, and we will notify the branch about when you should arrive. I'm now going to give the floor to Vice Senate Chair DeWitt so she can talk about project trackers.

Vice Senate Chair DeWitt: Hello everybody, raise your hand if you got my email about project trackers. Ok, raise your hand if you haven't. Okay, I'll get those out. So, I'm sending out project tracker email updates. They have two things in them. One is the last day they were updated, and the other was some suggestions if I had any. So just take a moment to look at those and please just update your project trackers as needed. I try to keep the deadline for those as updated as possible. I know some of your projects are a little more in depth and there aren't many updates, but if you do include them or specify why there haven't been many updates. I want this to be a priority for the Vice Senate Chair from now on and hopefully next year the Vice Senate Chair can keep up with this because I think project trackers are beneficial to the longevity of the organizations and ensuring that were continuing initiatives and projects.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: As you can see LB transitions are in the works. If you're interested in acting as the Senate Chair or Vice Senate Chair let me know. We also have other open positions as well; the link is still in the USG Instagram bio. Any questions?

- Judicial Report

Associate Justice Stillion

Associate Justice Stillion: JB has been hard at work planning Advocacy Week, it will be the first week in April, right after we come back from spring break. We're planning an event every day of that week. There will be several prizes and even a campus wide scavenger hunt. We are also in the middle of an election cycle. Tomorrow there will be a meet and greet for the candidates. We just finished working on the candidate boards this week. Next week on Monday will be the presidential Q&A where there will be refreshments and the senator even will be going on via social media. We are also working on transitions as well. Also, I did not make the meme this week, but there is a meme.

- Executive Report

President Baig

President Baig: Yesterday we had the Night at the Museum event. We had a pretty good turn out and we will be planning another event in the fall. Next, we have a couple of events going on. We have the Women's Empowerment Summit on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a sign up so if you're not registered, I'm sorry but you'll see it on social media so be sure to share that. Another event we're going to have is Pots of Positivity with the Mental Health Task Force and Environmental Action on March 19<sup>th</sup>. That'll be in the sponsored event sign-up sheet. We also have a learning perspective event, Girl Talk, that focuses on women's experiences and that will be Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Student Trustee applications are open, so if you're interested in that be sure to fill it out. Also tell your friends to apply as well, I want to make sure we have a lot of applicants from different parts of campus. It's important that when we present these applications to the board of trustees, they have a good range of students to pick from. They're due Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> which is right before spring break. If everyone could pull up their outlook calendars or personal calendars, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00pm we are having Remembrance Day. It's an event that's used to recognize any students who have passed away during the academic school year. Their families are invited to a memorial service. After this event, for the rest of the day there are service projects, so we want to make sure we have a huge USG presence at the event and at the service projects. There will be more information coming soon, but just make sure this is on your calendar. Then, the USG Awards are April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm-7:00pm, raise your hand if you are a new USG member this year. For those of you who don't know, the USG awards are a celebration of everything we've done all year. Everyone should submit someone for USG awards. A lot of you have done some incredible work this year and you should be recognized for it. Applications for USG awards close next Thursday, so get those in. Next, the USG branch summary reports meeting will be Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm-7:00pm. This is for summaries from JB, LB, and EB. Committees will also be giving reports. You guys will be getting more information in the upcoming weeks about having a presentation prepared and what should be included, but just make sure this is on your radar. Then, our final

USG meeting is going to be Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Everyone is required to be here for the first half of the meeting and then we will transition to the first meeting of the following academic year. This will be when new members are sworn in, so make sure it's on your calendar. Are there any questions?

Deputy Chief of Staff Lane: One more time could you repeat the due date for awards submissions?

President Baig: Next Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: For the Women's Empowerment Summit, is the form to submit a women leader still open?

Dir. Strohecker: It's still open, but I'd like them to be in tonight.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Everybody, there is still time! Submit a woman leader!

President Baig: Thank you for pointing that out, Senator Cosgrave. I'm excited to see all the submissions for USG awards. And if you do win, you get an award.

- DLT Report

President Baig

Ok, so. Acting Senate Chair Pastoria brought us a new bylaw to review. It was interesting to hear about. While I don't think it will be on the floor this year, I think it will be used during transitions. It focuses on making sure the student body knows what we're doing for them and being held accountable. We also did our USG lookaheads and worked on our 'How to be a USG member' document. That document will be sent out to all the new senators and other new members that will be joining USG at the end of the election cycle. We also went through our operating manuals. DLT created these for our positions, last week our homework was to create an outline and next week we'll be adding some more information to it and making it a bit more substantial. As always, if you're interested in DLT feel free to stop by.

- Finance Report

President Baig

There were a lot of UA allocations and a couple of USG expenses. It's great to see the student organizations taking advantage of the funding. Any questions?

## **IX. Committee Reports**

- FAST Committee Report

Senator Gardner

Senator Gardner: As you all know, FAST meets on Tuesdays from 5:00pm-6:00pm. We have got some more accessibility tours planned for you guys. Next week we are having one directly after our meeting from 6:00pm-7:00pm, and then the following week we are having one instead of our meeting. So, if you're interested in that, it's a sponsored event, and I know some of you need those. We would love for you guys to come and learn a little bit more about us. We are also working on collaborating with the Director of Campus and Community involvement and Deputy Director of Campus and Community involvement on a Metro collab project so stay tuned. We are helping Project Manager Nguyen to make the hallways in ASEC a little bit less confusing because I know all of you engineers would appreciate that, so if you have any ideas, let us know. This is his project; we are just helping. Individual reports, Senator Cameron is working heavily on the sustainability Projects with the bottle caps, while also taking on a new project for Sustainable Senators and Senator Winters is working as our point of contact for the Metro project were working on while also taking on a new project for sustainability for the grease that will be caused by the parking garage being torn down. I have been working on everything I've mentioned, and I also just sent an email regarding the College of Business food stand. I have also joined both their projects.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: For the ASEC colored hallways project, was that inspired by a past senator? Because there was a past senator who worked on this and there is a project tracker filled out, so I believe there was some progress already made on that, so you may want to check that out.

Vice Senate Chair DeWitt: For the accessibility tours, is that on the excel sheet for sponsored even sign-ups?

Senator Gardner: It should be. We just planned the one for the following Tuesday, so that may not be on there yet, but it will be coming shortly if it is not yet.

Vice Senate Chair DeWitt: Follow-up question, if all the slots are filled can people still attend?

Senator Gardner: Yes, everyone can attend. Anything else?

- APSS Committee Report

Senator Mainzer

Senator Mainzer: Unfortunately, Isaac had to commit to being a student this week as he has an OCHEM exam. This is a great example of making sure you guys put your student efforts first and then USG right after that. If you didn't know, I was switched to APSS. I

will be completely honest; we did take advantage of Night at the Museum and we held our meeting at the Akron Museum. I think we used that great to event for involving our students and getting to know our student body, but I really appreciated the warm welcome from Isaac and Phillip. I will say they had to take a step back and kind of get me up to date so we didn't quite make a very productive meeting. Senator Martin and Senator Machar met with President Baig and talked about what they needed to write and do research on sustainability. Next week will be very productive, and my role will be getting acclimated to APSS. Unfortunately, I don't have specific individual updates, but if you look at our minutes it says, Midterms, Midterms, Midterms. Are there any questions?

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: What is that status of the Open Syllabi initiative.

Senator Mainzer: Can I call on our leadership to answer that question?

President Baig: I don't think there are many updates on that right now.

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: Are there any updates regarding First Day Complete?

President Baig: There is a roll out planned for First Day Complete. The University will consider that the senate just passed the resolution supports it. They have a very thorough roll out plan, and that'll start over the summer. If you would like more information about it, Advisor Alexander is the person to contact, he's working with Barnes and Noble.

Senator Mainzer: Are there any other questions?

- SE Committee Report

Senator Pastoria

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: SE is currently only working on the Spring-Cleaning event. It's the second annual event. We're trying to get as many student organizations as possible to join us in cleaning up as much of campus that we can. We work with facilities, and it's fun for everybody. I know all of you have friends that will want their organization to come help clean.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Are individuals able to sign up?

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: Yes, individuals and student organizations can sign up. The survey will look a bit different depending on who signs up.

Vice Senate Chair DeWitt: I have two questions. Is it separated into groupings meaning

that if one student organization signs up, they will have their own project? And if there is someone in charge of volunteering for the organization, can they sign everyone up?

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: Good questions, no, everyone will be divided based on ability and interest. There are two shifts so if an organization wants to split up and come at different times, they are allowed. And yes, they can sign everyone up if they represent the organization. We also provide proof that the organization attended the event. And then for individual projects, Senator Ladimer is working on her sports coalition project and I'm working on the Workday awareness project, and we just filmed today. Any questions?

## **X. Director's Reports**

- Community Involvement Report      Dir. Strohecker and Dep. Dir. Mata

Dir. Strohecker: Last night was the night at the museum event at the Akron Art Museum. There were crafting activities, a scavenger hunt, free food, we also had the downtown Akron partnership tabling there. It was a great time all around. I also wanted to thank everyone for helping with spirit week. We also got the sports liaison to get shirts signed by both the men's and women's basketball teams. We got to hand those out and we got to slam dunk on zippy. We've been very busy this semester. We have the women's leader display that will be premiered at the women's empowerment summit. It will be then moved to the archive lounge. We have the take back the night event that will be coming in April. That is being planned by the Greek Life liaison Bhumi. That is to raise awareness for sexual assault.

President Baig: Greek Life liaison Patel and I had a meeting earlier today about the take back the night event to determine a date. I believe it will be Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. It'll be in the evening, around 7:00pm. This will be a big event; it is a walk around campus where different student organizations will be asked to table and provide statistics about sexual violence and provide resources. We want to have a lot of participants to show support for anyone who has been affected in that way. So, make sure you sign up for that event.

Dep. Dir. Mata: We have two exciting events planned for April. One of them is April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. This is an interactive research study, so I encourage all of you to ask members of your organization to come and fill out the survey with us. We want to get as much representation as we can. We're also collaborating with compass coffee on April 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be working with FAST committee and also UA ambassadors for this project so stay tuned for more info on that.

- DEI Report

Dep. Dir. Minard

Dep. Dir. Minard: Upcoming we have the Girl Talk event on March 20th and it'll be great to see everyone and make some sugar scrubs. And then also the Women's Empowerment Summit on Monday, which we are so excited about. Also, diversity committee meetings are now virtual, so if you're unable to come in person, look into joining us virtually.

Senator Mainzer: I just wanted to say that at OSGS your presentation was fantastic. Thank you for representing Akron is such a great way.

Dep. Dir. Minard: Thank you, I really appreciate it.

- Events Team Report

Event Coordinator Mahaney

Event Coordinator Mahaney: Everyone knows about the events that are going on. We have a sponsored event signup sheet completely updated, so there are a lot of events that need a lot of help. Lauren is doing a ton so thank her and if you guys need any help with your events feel free to email us and we will get back to help you out.

- Project Team Report

Project Manager Tsigie

Project Manager Tsigie: The project managers and executive project managers have been hard at work with all the events on campus. The women's empowerment summit is this Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Brian has been working on the bridging campus and community project, he's been trying to get in contact with the mayor, and we've been working with the mental health task force, and we've just been organizing events all around campus. So, if you need any help with your projects or have any other questions please reach out.

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: While you're talking with the mayor, can you ask him to come to the spring-cleaning event?

Project Manager Nguyen: I'll bring it up when I get in contact with him.

- Media and Analytics Report

Dir. Kozma

Dir. Kozma: So, we don't have a ton of updates for you. If anyone saw the message I put in the teams earlier, go ahead and join that so you can see all the photos from OSGS. We have a couple of projects that our social media curators are working on right now. Irene and I are working on a member spotlight series, it's still in the early stages but if anyone is interested let me know.



## **XI. Adjournment**

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Second.

## **XII. Discussion**

- USG Awards
- Sustainability Projects