



Undergraduate Student Government

The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Last 2023-2024 All-USG Agenda

May 2nd, 2024

Senate Chair Cosgrave: Hello, everyone. My name is Ashley Cosgrave. I act as the Senate Chair for the Undergraduate Student Government, and I just want to say thank you to all of our guests who are able to make it tonight. Thank you to all of our new members who have come here to be supported, and thank you to all of our current members who have had a great year with the above. Okay, without further ado,

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Adoption of the Agenda**

Senator Machar: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Pastoria: Second

- V. Approval of the 4.25.24 Minutes**

Senator Gardner: Motion to approve the 4.25.24 minutes,

Senator Cameron: Second

- VI. Presidential Thank You**

President Baig

President Baig: Hello, everyone. I hope you're all doing well. Thank you all for being here today to celebrate the end of an amazing year and the beginning of a new one. When I first joined USG, I never pictured myself as the president of the organization. Throughout the past year, I still found myself questioning the reality of my situation and wondering when I would wake up from the dream, it is nearly impossible for me to put into words how proud I am of the YouAkron platform and the work done by each and every one of you this past year has been nothing short of incredible. Our programming has bettered the student experience, our advocacy has impacted this campus, and this feat was only accomplished by the dedication and sincerity of you as student leaders. What makes me proud is not just our long list of achievements. I am proud of our compassion for one another and the sense of community we have helped cultivate within our organization and across campus. This is not tangible, but something I know we all feel being a part of USG has meant so much to me, and I truly love this organization and all the incredible individuals who are a part of it, the accomplishments of USG have also been dependent on our relationship with UA's Administration. Without the support of President Miller, Dr Levy, Dr Messina and many others, we would not have been able to impact the lives of as many students. I extend my gratitude to them for their leadership of the university. Thank you, Advisor Alexander, Vice President Feezel, and all of the USG directional leadership team for your support. Throughout the past year, I have had the honor of working with the most talented and sincere group of USG members, and I thank you for putting your trust in my leadership. I am eternally grateful for each and every one of the people I've had the pleasure of working with and throughout the past year, and look forward to seeing everything USG accomplishes in the future. Thank you.

VII. Transfer of Power

- Swearing in Judicial Branch Leadership Fleming Chief Justice
- Swearing in Senators Stillion Chief Justice
- Swearing in President and Vice President Stillion Chief Justice
- Pinning of the USG President Baig Previous USG President
- USG Presidential Remarks DeWitt USG President

President DeWitt: Hello, everyone. I would like to thank you all for taking the time to be a part of this special day ushering in a new chapter in undergraduate student government history. Vice President Kozma and I are thrilled to have the new members of USG

inducted today. This group of individuals are some of the most driven, passionate and involved students that we have seen on this campus. We have no doubt that they will help cultivate a stronger sense of community at UA. I look forward to the coming year and the things these individuals will achieve through next year's platform, the USG platform, is a central theme of the governing body that is carefully crafted each year by the President and Vice President. The work being done in USG is then focused around the platform and its main concepts. This upcoming year, the platform will be named, Unify UAkron, and consist of three pillars, which are academic, professional and community development. The platform is centered around the aspects that tend to be most important to students in this collegiate career. In the coming year, I look forward to pursuing initiatives and working with administration to enhance the student experience at UA. On behalf of USG, I would thank everyone again for being here and helping make this day a special one for the students. This past year was a great one full of numerous events, programs, projects and initiatives, and we were able to see a direct impact on the student body from those efforts, former President Baig and Vice President Feezel have been integral to the process of me and Elena transitioning into our new roles, and we're endlessly grateful for their efforts. Vice President Kozma and I are dedicated to maintain this momentum into next year so that we can continue serving a student body and making UA a place that feels like home for all students. Thank you and go zips!

VIII. Adjournment

- First 24/25 Academic Year All-USG Meeting begins at 6:15pm

Senate Chair Cosgrave: I would now like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Senator Machar: So moved.

Senator Pastoria: Second.



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- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Adoption of the Agenda**

Senator Winters: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Cameron: Second.

V. Open Student Expression

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: On to open student expression. This is where anybody can speak.

Mr. Isaac Machar: Thank you. As my last edition as a senator, we held our course evaluation tabling today. We had great success getting rid of all of our Zippy cookies within the hour. Lots of people have filled out course evaluations, but if you haven't yet, please do so. My professor reported on Monday that only 40% of students filled them out last year, and we could try to break that at least 50% threshold and keep going from there, it allows you to set up success for your classes with those professors, but also that class for other students in the future. So fill those out. It's been a long time project of mine and academic policy and student success that I am incredibly passionate about, and want to just promote it one last time.

Miss. Olivia Lane: I'll give this announcement on behalf of Katelee Mata. Tomorrow night is Latin night down at El Patron its a \$10 cover fee, and

those profits go to Proyecto Raices, which is a local nonprofit in the area. The first 100 people there get free tacos.

Miss. Ashley Cosgrave: Hey, tomorrow is Spring Fest. And if you haven't heard, Spring Fest was moved inside. However, there are some lovely, beautiful faces in this room, though, actually being dunked in the dunk tank isn't that, right? Yeah!!! Dude, they canceled the dunk tank scratch that you know, never mind. It'll still be a blast without the dunk tank, though.

Advisor Alexander: On that note, to clarify, the food trucks can be over in the roundabout that is right outside, and you do have seniors that are in the challenge. Which will be happening throughout the building, but the minute to win it challenges, and the final challenge will be on the coffee house stage in Starbucks. So, make sure to come cheer on your contestants as they navigate the challenges.

VI. Senate Leadership Election

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria

- Senate Chair Election

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: Do I have any nominations for Senate Chair?

Senator Winters: I would like to nominate Senator Pastoria.

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria: I accept. Would you like to speak on behalf of the nominee?

Senator Winters: Senator Pastoria has been really involved in USG these past few years and I truly believe that he cares about the organization and is an amazing candidate for the position.

Acting Senate Chair Pastoria was elected to the position of Senate Chair.

- Vice Senate Chair Election

Senate Chair Pastoria: Any nominations for vice chair? I would like to recognize myself, and I would like to nominate Senator Winters.

Senator Winters: I accept.

Senate Chair Pastoria: I will speak on behalf of the nomination. Senator Winters has shown that she has great potential within the Senate and within USG. She's worked tirelessly on her individual and committee projects, and she's passionate about pursuit within USG, and I commend her for that, and I would encourage all people to vote for her for this position.

Senator Winters was elected to the position of Vice Senate Chair.

VII. Senate Leadership Swearing In
VIII. Senate Leadership Remarks

Chief Justice Stillion

Senate Chair Pastoria: Well, I think, on behalf of Vice Senate Chair Winters and I, we would like to thank you all for trusting us with this role within this great organization. We look forward to working with all three of you and the new senators that we appoint over this summer and the two first-year senators that will be elected

in the fall to continue the momentum that former Senate Chair Cosgrave and now President DeWitt have set in motion. They did a great job last year, and we look forward to continuing their work and working with them. So thank you.

IX. New Business

- EO 01-24-25 Olivia Lane
- EO 02-24-25 Isaac Machar
- EO 03-24-25 Dylan Leipold
- EO 04-24-25 Natalie Gardner
- EO 05-24-25 Nicholas Senko
- EO 06-24-25 Reese Walter
- EO 07-24-25 Isaac Bee
- EO 08-24-25 Brynn Lewis
- EO 09-24-25 A.J. Ruffin-Steyr
- EO 10-24-25 JoAnna Shafer
- EO 11-24-25 Nathan Flint
- EO 12-24-25 Irene Garcia Cruz

- EO 13-24-25 Molly Bergstrom
- EO 14-24-25 Makayla Minard
- EO 15-24-25 Ijeoma Anaraodo
- EO 16-24-25 Ashley Cosgrave
- EO 17-24-25 Sarvesh Sudhaharan
- EO 18-24-25 Bryanne Webster
- EO 19-24-25 Lana Tamim
- EO 20-24-25 Jessica Green
- EO 21-24-25 Forest Pence
- EO 22-24-25 Margaret Mahaney
- EO 23-24-25 Alexander Stewart
- EO 24-24-25 Brian Nguyen
- EO 25-24-24 Julianna Muller
- EO 26-24-25 Isabella Ackerman

Senate Chair Pastoria: We will now move on to new business. So we will

be going through all the executive orders, but first I would entertain a motion to blanket read, EO 1-24-25 through EO 26-24-25.

Senator Cameron: So moved.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Senator Winters, the rationale for executive orders 1-24-25 through 26-24-25.

The Executive Orders are read.

Senate Chair Pastoria: President DeWitt, would you like to speak on behalf of these EOs?

President DeWitt: Like I said, these individuals are some of the most passionate, driven and dedicated students we have seen at this university. Elena and I or Vice President

Kozma, are very confident in their ability to serve and perform the functions of their teams to the utmost. So we are very, very confident in this group's ability to uplift the values of USG.

Vice President Kozma: I would like to echo what President DeWitt said as well. They are truly dedicated students using their interviews and applications that we continue to deliver the invitation.

Senate Chair Pastoria: We will now do a roll call vote.

The EOs pass.

X. EB Members Swearing In

Chief Justice Stillion

XI. USG Representative Elections

Senate Chair Pastoria: We will now move onto the fun part, which is USG representative elections. President DeWitt if you would like to join me at the front.

President DeWitt: Okay? So, we've prepared a presentation for you all so you can learn a little bit more about these committees, because we'll be voting on them, and this is coming from just general USG membership, so anyone can be voted on these committees. So these are the voting ones.

- Faculty Senate Representative Election

All-USG

President DeWitt: Okay, starting off with faculty senate. So this meeting occurs on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30. So, it does overlap with Senate a little bit, but I believe senators are free to be on this committee. It is the first Thursday every month, so its once a month. There will be two USG members that will serve as voting representatives on the Faculty Senate. One of them is automatically me as the USG president, and another one will have to be voted on so that can be any one from this body. Doesn't matter the branch.

Deputy Director Cosgrave: Could we just have a brief description of what this is?

President DeWitt: Yes, thank you. I was just going to follow up with that, so I appreciate it. So basically, I've had the opportunity to attend one of these meetings. Basically, what happens is, it's a big deal with faculty members. It's a formal setup kind of similar to Senate. So faculty will go through and give their reports the President often attends, other cabinet members, President Miller I mean, but yes, so I will be attending because I'm the USG President, whoever is the second representative will be as well. Basically, the role of USG during this time is just to sit and listen on the information that the faculty have to share. The Chair has to share and things like that. So yeah, and there will be a report at the end, but usually I'll be the one giving that. So that's

basically what happens at this meeting, just a formal setting, the faculty and other administration.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Anybody have a question? Seeing none. We will now move to nominations.

President DeWitt: Yes, I would like to nominate Vice President Kozma. Vice President, we

Senate Chair Pastoria: Do we have any other nominations at this time? Seeing none, we will proceed with a vocal vote.

Vice President Kozma was elected to the second representative spot on the Faculty Senate.

- OSGA – Primary Delegate Election

All-USG

President DeWitt: Okay, moving on now to OSGA, which

is also known as Ohio Student Government Association. So basically, the requirement for this that you must attend the OSGA conference if it is held. I believe that time changes every year. It's not like some set date that you have to commit to now, just keep that in mind. Two USG members serve as primary delegates, and those will be the voting members, and then there will be two USG secondary delegates, and they will be non-voting members, so we'll be breaking up that voting. You can see on the next slide, but the President will serve on OSGA automatically and be on the President's Council

and all the other three delegates, the other Primary delegate and the two secondary delegates will be voted from the USG general body.

All right, starting off with the primary delegate election. So this is kind of a reiteration of the last slide a little bit. So I'm already automatically a primary delegate as the president. However, there's someone else who needs to be voted onto that. So, that's what we are doing now, this other individual will be on here, and this, actually, I don't believe, was active this year, so it's going to be a new, defined role. I cannot tell you too much about it, but I do love it, it is basically, with other student governments in the area.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Any questions for President DeWitt? Seeing none, we will now move onto nominations.

President DeWitt: I would like to nominate Vice President Kozma.

Vice President Kozma is elected to be the second primary delegate for the OSGA.

- OSGA – Secondary Delegate Election

All-USG

President DeWitt: Moving on to the secondary delegate election. Again, it's just a reiteration of that first slide on OSGA. So, this would be two members. They will be non-voting.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Any questions? Seeing none will we go into nominations.

Deputy Director Cosgrave: I would like to nominate Chief Justice Stillion.

Director Gardner: I would like to nominate Chief of Staff Lane.

Chief Justice Stillion: I would like to nominate Deputy Director Cosgrave.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Are there any other nominations. Seeing none, we will now move on.

Senator Feezel: Motion to close nominations and take to a ballot.

Senator Cameron: Second.

Deputy Chief of Staff Machar: Point of order, there should be an opportunity to speak on the nominees, if necessary, where the nominees do exit the room, and then we would take this to a vote on the ballot.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Yes, would the nominators like to speak on behalf of the nominee?

Director Gardner: So I nominate Chief of Staff Lane, because, as we've seen the past two years, they're very involved in Ohio Student Government Summit, so it might be easier for them to coordinate with other student governments and take feedback, if they were on a committee and could hear their feedback throughout, while also planning.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Would anybody else like to speak on the behalf of their nominations?

Deputy Director Cosgrave: Hi there. I nominated Chief Justice Stillion for this position. I believe that Chief Justice Stillion is in a very unique position, and would serve very well on this board. So OSGA is the Ohio Student Government Association. That role really hasn't been well defined, but it's basically whenever student governments from across the entirety of Ohio come together to meet, to collaborate on ideas. Not only do I think that this should be someone who is experienced in undergraduate student government, which Chief Justice Stillion has, I believe that it should also be a person who has experienced leadership within the organization so they truly understand it within and without of the organization. But I also believe that Chief Justice Stillion would bring a unique perspective to this, because many of you don't know this, but most of the other student governments within the state do not have a judicial branch, and I believe that our specific undergraduate student government brings a very unique perspective on that. So I believe that having the Chief Justice, specifically Chief Justice Stillion, in this case, on that committee, would bring a unique perspective, not only from the

University of Akron, but specifically from our judicial branch, that I think would be very beneficial with the upstart of this committee.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Thank you. Chief Justice Stillion?

Chief Justice Stillion: I nominated Deputy Director Cosgrave because this would be their fourth year in USG. They have served as a senator and as Senate chair. They have a very unique perspective on how the organization functions, a very in depth understanding of what we as an undergraduate student government do. I think that is very important to bring to the table for something like the Ohio Student Government Association, where we're going to be able to share our ideas and how we function

uniquely in ways that other organizations do not.

Senate Chair Pastoria: We will now move onto the voting.

Deputy Director Cosgrave and Chief Justice Stillion are voted into the secondary delegate positions.

- University Council Representative Election

All-USG

President DeWitt: All right, this is our last voting committee. So, University Council, I had the chance of being on the committee in the last year, and I can say a little bit about my experience. Basically, you attend meetings on a Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:30, the second Tuesday of each month, so only monthly meeting as well. So, it is kind of in the middle of the day but if you are available, this is an option for you. Basically, what happens is a lot of different staff and administration will come here.

They'll give reports for different committees that they are a part of. President Miller sometimes attends, Dr. Messina, people like that. So it's again, just like, kind of a similar meeting faculty senate. But it's not happening based so that's the University Council. There are student representatives on it. There are three who serve as voting. Voting members, one will automatically be the USG President, so I will be on it already, but there will be two positions that will be elected from this body. And again, it can be any branch, anybody that's a member.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Any questions about that? Seeing none we will move onto the nominations.

President DeWitt: I would like to nominate Vice President Kozma.

Senate Chair Pastoria: Any other nominees?

President DeWitt: I would like to nominate Senate Chair Pastoria.

Senator Feezel: Motion to close nominations and to suspend the bylaws and use a vocal vote.

Senator Rahman: Second.

Vice President Kozma and Senate Chair Pastoria are elected to the two remaining student spots on the University Council.

- University Council Committee Placements President DeWitt

President DeWitt: These are non-voting committees and are not nearly as

long as the voting committee. So, university council committees. This is kind of confusing. So it's University Council is what we just went over. And these are, these are committees within University Council. Does that make sense? Perfect. So here are the options. We have the opportunity to have two students on each however, I will say we would like for the Director of Finance on Budget and Financing. We're probably only going to, you know, ask for interest for one position at this time until

we fill the Director of Finance. So I'm just going to ask, is anyone interested in on Institutional Advancement. Okay, moving onto Student Engagement and Success. Anyone interested?

Senate Chair Pastoria: I can just say that I served on this UC committee in the fall semester. Its a really cool committee, you do a lot of interesting projects, you work with Dr. Messina, and overall I had a good time.

President DeWitt:

Moving on to the budget and finance. Is there an individual that's interested in

this? Oh. Love the engagement. All right, moving onto Campus Involvement. Communications? Okay, Talent Development and Resources. Physical Environment committee?

Director Gardner: What's your question? Okay, so physical Environment Committee, I was on it as the facilities, amenities, services and transportation committee chair this whole year. It really focuses on what's going on on campus and what will shut down, and how they're combating what's going on. For example, one of the big topics that they talk about is exchange. We hear that at least once

every single meeting that we have, it's usually, it's always once a month for, I think an hour and a half, and they talk about sort of requests, if someone wants to, like, switch offices, or if an elevator is broken, they'll talk about that and how to fix it. And you can give student input of when they're like, "Well, I don't know how much this is going to affect everyone's day." There was a project, and it definitely affected students who were disabled in how they would get about classes. So I made sure to bring that up and say that if they were to do this project, they would have to come up with an alternative way for them to get around the construction build up.

President DeWitt: Moving on to the last one, Information Technology. How about some new people.

Senate Chair Pastoria: I was also on this one. If you are interested in AI or like, doing some tech on campus. They're very excited about students, but especially with new ideas. So anybody interested in that.

President DeWitt: That concludes this then, thank you guys. I was not expecting that engagement, so you're trying to do that. You're ready to be involved.

II. **Adjournment**

Senator Feezel: Motion to Adjourn.

Senator Cameron: Second.