



**Undergraduate Student Government**  
The University of Akron

**Undergraduate Student Government**

**Senate Agenda**  
**September 19th, 2024**

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

Senator Nichols: Motion to strike advisor's report.

Senator Cameron: Second.

Seante Chair Feezel: I'd like to entertain a motion to adopt the 9.19.24 agenda.

Senator Cameron: So moved.

Senator Cameron: Second.

- V. Guest Speaker**
- VI. Approval of the 9.12.24 Minutes**

UAPD Chief Gilbride

Senate Chair Feezel: I would entertain a motion to approve the 9.12.24 minutes.

Senator Cameron: So moved.

Senator Rahman: Second

**VII. Open Student Expression**

Chief of Staff Lane: We have entered the office decorating contest and the theme this year is Oktoberfest. If anyone wants to help me come up with cool themes and ideas, please let me know. I know Dylan posted something in the teams so please respond to that if you have any ideas. There are prizes if we win, I know Zippy cookies are a prize so definitely help if you want those.

President DeWitt: If you didn't know, the Greek festival is happening this week. It's happening at the Greek church over by honors if you know where that is. It's very good, it happens every year, and a lot of students are a part of that church. There is lots of food, and if you eat the chicken, it was probably made by Elena's grandpa. But yeah, food, dancing, and they're selling stuff now until Saturday night.

Senator Parish: One organization, Students of African American Brotherhood, is hosting a community event September 25<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-9pm. Anyone is welcome to come and there will be food and music, so please come, it will be a lot of fun.

Senator Schuhart: I would like to speak on behalf of prelaw society, which will be meeting next Wednesday at 6:30 in the College of Business. We have a law student panel with students from three different law schools coming in, so if anyone is interested in learning about the law experience, please join us then.

Chief of Staff Lane: I wanted to remind everyone to vote for homecoming court. We have many Undergraduate Student Government members nominated, including Grace and Cam (who were nominated by USG), Elena is nominated, I am nominated, Makayla Minard, JoAnna, Event Coordinator AJ Stewart, and Isaac.

### **VIII. Branch Reports**

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Quick report, most of it is in discussion, but we have committees! They're finalized, you responded, and you know what committee you're on. The meeting times were set up by you guys so thank you for sending me those emails and committee chairs will be up shortly to talk about those. LB Retreat is next week. Senate Clerk McCracken, Vice Senate Chair Winters, and I are all planning that. It will be very fun. Today's discussion is just some final onboarding stuff so now you should all be working on projects and getting stuff started.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: We are, as I continue to say, deep into the fall election cycle for Undergraduate Student Government first year senators. We had our candidate meeting yesterday in this room, so that was pretty cool. Our meet-and-greets will be next week; we are working on getting dates for those solidified since we have had some difficulties with space requests being put through, but there will be one on Tuesday. It will either be downstairs in the concourse or outside of the student union so definitely stop by those if you are interested in hearing what the candidates have to say and point any other first year students in the direction of that. That will be 12-2 on Tuesday. The second date will either be Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday in that same 12-2 spot. Voting then does open not next week, but the week after on Monday, 9/30. It opens at 8 am and closes that Wednesday at 5 pm. Only first year students can vote for other first year students, but definitely point people in the direction of that voting link when it opens.

For the judicial branch meeting, we will be working on that and will be making election

board sponsored-materials next week. Also, we made that Roberts Rules presentation that we will be going over in discussion alongside Senate Chair Feezel. And we have been tasked by President DeWitt to clean up one of the old Senate teams from 2021-2022, so we pulled a lot of interesting documentation from that and put it into the new teams. It's pretty cool if you want to look at that. And then this last thing is a flyer; the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards have opened applications for the University Hearing Board, so these are the students who serve on the hearing board to hear misconduct activity against other students. They go through that process and determine if any misconduct has happened and then determine what the consequences for that action may be. It is a great opportunity, and the QR code to sign up is right there. All of the Judicial Branch will be members soon; a few of our members just need to be onboarded. It should be sent out in Zipmail.

Senator Schuhart: How long is the time commitment?

Chief Justice Stillion: The main hearing is a 3-hour time commitment because its such a large and important process for many students. You are sent most of that before the meeting to read which is required and will also take time.

Associate Justice Shaw: Just to add onto that, we were onboarded but have not had to go to any meetings yet. Training is kind of long; it's 2 hours in one seating, but it's on an as-needed basis, so not too bad.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: A few reminders. Remember with all-USG emails, you're supposed to respond to the hidden questions and some of you haven't responded so please read the emails and respond to the hidden question. It only takes a second and there's a lot of important stuff in those emails. Chief of Staff Lane already mentioned this, but homecoming nominations are also happening. Onto events, Wes Woodson was a speaker that we welcomed to campus on Monday. That was in EJ Thomas Hall and USG opened because that was something we help run every year. But yeah, we introduced him on stage, and he is a very cool guy. Student Leader Summit is happening next Tuesday, which is crazy to think about, and it's from 5-7pm in the student ballroom. Chief of Staff Lane planned that, and a lot of student orgs will come together for that. Definitely check that out if you can volunteer because we do need help and need note-takers.

Chief of Staff Lane: It's split up into two so you can just do the first one from 5-6 but it might run a little bit later than that. And if you're going to be at the event, you can just sign up anyways.

President DeWitt: Rethinking Race Week is happening November 18-22 and it is during diversity week. The reason that I am bringing this up is because USG is a big part of this every year. Vice President Kozma and I actually cochair the Student Led Activities Committee. We're in charge of making sure that all of the student led activities are planned, submitting proposals, and things like that. USG is also planning their own event, so the DEI team (especially Makayla Minard) is really working on that and brainstorming for that event, but also outreaching to student orgs on campus and seeing if they want to plan their own events. If you know any organization that would like to be apart of rethinking race week or have an activity or panel, tell them to reach out to me. The deadline for when they want to have the proposals is the 4<sup>th</sup>. One more thing that's not on here but just happened, I had the privilege of meeting with Dr. Paul Levy and Mark Greer who plans the Akron Vice Sentinel Foundation. If you didn't know, Akron's founding was 200 years ago as of 2025, so they're having a huge, year long thing. So many events so it's very exciting and they really want campus to be involved. More to come on that, but I just met with them and I was really excited so I wanted to share that with you all.

Chief of staff Lane: I just wanted to bring up something that we talked about earlier. If you've ever looked at the teams and were overwhelmed with the amount of tabs at the top, we made another channel called membership requirements to simplify the teams so you really only have to look there for shoutouts, event planning, and membership requirements.

- DLT Report

President DeWitt

President Dewitt: A reminder to join the photo circle if you have not already. This helps our marketing team when they're looking for posts, like the homecoming post, and it's important for our Instagram, social media, reports, and presentations that we do. Please scan the QR code and join. If you ever attend USG events, please share the photos you take in there.

Our meeting recap for this week, we had 2 guests. It was Associate Justice Shaw and Deputy Cosgrave. We love having guests, so if you want to attend, we meet every Monday from 6-7:15 pm in Student Union Room 315 right there. We did shoutout submissions, branch reports, and we talked about outlook calendars so please update those if you have not already. And for membership requirements, we have a checklist to make sure that we're following all the proper processes for that like adding and removing USG members from the teams.

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: Not too many requests. One big thing was the American Institute of Chemical Engineers going to their national conference, so that was a pretty big travel

expenditure. We had only one USG expense and that was a subscription to Canva so that we can make nice posters. The big thing that I want to talk about is our budget as a whole. For those of you that don't know, previously during the pandemic people were using the funds that were allocated for USG, so we built up a surplus over a year or two. Since then, we've got that down over the last two years. So essentially, anything that came through, as long as it was rank and file with the RSO finance manual, we could approve it up to that \$2,500 amount. However, that amount has since dropped so not that we're out of money, but we're back to that normal operating level. That means for student orgs now that just because they can request something and can get \$2,500 doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to get that. As of now, we're looking at introducing some caps such as a \$1,000 cap on travel instead of the \$2,500 just because of the way that we were originally allocating at weeks ago was just too much to sustain for the rest of the academic year. So just so you guys are aware, we aren't going to be able to approve everything like we have in the past because of our financial situation.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Cameron

Senator Cameron: So FAST this year is me, Senator Rahman, and Senator Sanfrey. We're looking at Tuesdays, maybe 5:30. Still figuring things out though.

- Student Engagement Committee

Senator Parish

Senator Parish: I'm the chair for Student Engagement Committee. Two members are Senator Breon and Senator Rahman. Right now, time is TBD and we're just getting started.

- A.P.S.S Committee

Senator Knapp

Senator Knapp: Not too much to report, still figuring things out because I'm new to USG. I'm with Senator Clark-Kelley, Senator Schurhart, and Senator Nichols.

## **X. Adjournment**

## **XI. Discussion**

- Robert's Rules Presentation
- Housekeeping Items
- Transition Check-Ins
- Committee Chairs Meeting

Judicial Branch