



**Undergraduate Student Government**  
The University of Akron

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**Senate Agenda**  
**September 26th, 2024**

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

Senator Cameron: Motion to adopt the 9.26.24 agenda.  
Senator Sanfrey: Second.

- V. Guest Speaker** Democracy Fellows
- VI. Approval of the 9.19.24 Minutes**

Senator Cameron: Motion to approve the 9.19.24 minutes.  
Senator Sanfrey: Second.

**VII. Open Student Expression**

Chief of Staff Lane: Hi everyone, two things. One, tomorrow is Latin Night at El Patron. There's a cover fee and all of the money goes to Proyecto Raices, which is a nonprofit in Akron for Hispanic families. They also have volunteer opportunities if you guys are ever interested. In addition to that, we have also entered the homecoming office decorating contest for Oktoberfest. The judging for that is actually Monday, so me and Ali are collaborating with some ideas. We'll have some supplies put out in the office hopefully tonight or tomorrow morning for you guys to start working on stuff and the EB retreat is likely also going to be on Sunday, so we can work on stuff then and Monday up until judging so if you guys would like to help out with that please let me and Ali know.

Associate Justice Shaw: Hi guys, so I am speaking on behalf of Max Pastoria and he really wants me to advertise this. Next Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first official honors civics club meeting. It is a foundations meeting to get to know the org better and the different opportunities that they offer. This year, we are focusing on free speech, so there's going to be conversations where anyone can input and have civil conversations about specific political topics. That first meeting will be at 6:30 pm in Honors College

room 92 if you guys are interested.

Senator Clark-Kelley: College Republicans are doing our first meeting on Tuesday. We're having Jack Daniels come speak and he's the Summit county state representative.

## **VIII. Branch Reports**

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Next week is all-USG meeting. President Nemer will be there, so please were business professional and show up on time. First-year senator elections are also ending next Wednesday and you new 2 senators will be in Senate that Thursday, and we'll have swearing in during that meeting as well. There is one open position that we'll be promoting once the first-year election closes to give a chance for any candidates that don't win those 2 first-year senator seats to apply for the opening in the Senator-at-Large seat, so tell your friends and anyone that might be interested that there's a position available.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: Our candidate meet and greet events were yesterday and the day before downstairs, and they went really well. Our new candidate posters sponsored by the election board were put out and they were pretty nice. Voting for that election opens on Monday at 8 am. All eligible first year voters will receive a link in their email with candidate headshots and bios. You're able to vote for up to 2 candidates and there are 8, so definitely check those out and vote if you are able. That link will close Wednesday, 10/2 at 5 pm. The announcement will hopefully be on social media Thursday or Friday. For Alcohol Awareness Week, that is the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Judicial Branch is partnering with the Department of Student Conduct and Community standards, which we did last year. We helped out at tabling events; they have a number of those drunk goggles to simulate that situation and I believe there were discussions about purchasing an Nintendo Switch to play Mario kart with the drunk goggles on, so definitely some cool events coming up. Those events will take place Thursday right after Senate. Similar with that, the hearing board training for the Department of Student Conduct that I talked about last week is still open. The application was in last week's judicial branch report and it was also sent out in the Zipmail this week, so if you know anyone interested in that, point them in that direction.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: Just some reminders and updates: make sure you're aware of deadlines for internal USG requests, including marketing, event coordinating, project management, etc. Make sure that if you're reaching out to them that you're following those deadlines, which I believe are 3 weeks ahead of your event. Specifically for this week, the Student

Leadership Summit finally happened. We had a really great turnout; President Nemer stopped by, Dr. Messina stopped by, and we had a total of 70 students and 30 student organizations, so a lot of good collaboration. We also had our Hot Wings task force meeting this week. It's a really fun event, hopefully going to be a series. We're shooting for November to have the first one with President Nemer and he's super excited for it, and we're going to maybe collab with ZTB and WZIP to broadcast it, so it'll probably be an in-person event for the first one but broadcasted. We're still working on the logistics for that, such as dates and locations. We also had an Akron Art Museum meeting on Wednesday. We met with a representative from there and we're doing a collaboration for their glow exhibition, so we did a collab last spring and last fall with them so kind of continuing that. SpringFest committee meeting is happening this Friday, so Vice President Kozma and I are going to go to that meeting and help them plan SpringFest. For anyone that's new, it's an annual tradition that happens in the spring.

- DLT Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: Please, please, please, read the all-USG emails. It gets sent out every Monday, so if you don't get them please let me know, but there's hidden questions in each other and this week's was really good. Hopefully everyone knows where the off-topic tab is in the teams but please, if you don't, also let me or your branch heads know, because that's how we tell that you read the emails. We also have a new channel for membership requirements, so you know of the resources available to you. It's a channel on that left tabs of the teams that has spreadsheets and all of your membership requirement so please check that out. Meeting recap: we talked about Student Leadership Summit, we collected DLT's availability for that to make sure that we had a good DLT presence. October 3<sup>rd</sup> senate: we talked about the importance of that since it's all-USG and it's the first time President Nemer has been in front of the entirety of USG, so it's a great opportunity to make a good first impression. Make sure you come with questions since he will be opening the floor to that. Membership requirement approvals are being updated weekly or biweekly. We'll let you know if we deny any of those, but we probably won't. Senate Bylaws: we talked about the requirements for those and made sure we were following the correct requirements as the bylaws state. We did also receive our budget for the year, so we'll be doing a presentation for that on October 10<sup>th</sup> I believe. And then an idea for increased social media traffic. What gets the most attention is Zippy, photos with lots of people or well known people (like Nemer), and memes! It would be great if we could put those on social media since JB already does memes so people could see that on our Instagram. You guys can also submit ideas if you have any. As always, DLT meets on Mondays from 6-7:15 in student union room 318.

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: This week is just allocations. A bunch of people are requesting for a lot

of student organizations since a lot of people are starting their programs. A lot of travel too, and for those of you who were not at the student leadership summit, we did an overhaul of how we limit allocations. As of right now, it will be \$1,000 per student org for travel throughout the academic year, and \$500 per event for non-travel. There was a question about how multiple student orgs collaborating on an event and how that would be allocated, which is something that we will be figuring out in EB. Nobody is really requesting over and for anybody who is, we're able to manage it really well. Also, thank you to Chief of Staff Lane for providing me with a master list of all of the student orgs. We're still on pace since we lowered the allocation limit, but if we see things come up we can still make adjustments for that. For USG, just a lot of beginning of the year stuff. Obviously Student Leader Summit, a lot of retreats, different marketing materials, and the new Roberts Rules book.

Senate Chair Feezel: I actually have a request for information from President DeWitt. Do we have date set for the all-USG retreat?

President DeWitt: No, but tentatively October. Director Leopold is in charge of that.

Associate Justice Shaw: A leader of a student organization came up to me and asked if there's a cap limit on overall funding they can get from USG.

Director Howell: It's on an event-by-event basis. I think for both non-travel and travel combined, it's \$2,500, but there's not much of a hard limit regardless. I am watching for student orgs that are constantly looking for \$500 to try to slow that down to give other people opportunities to see if we can make sure that we can still have event but with same effect.

Advisor Alexander: Most events last year were well under \$500. That kind of request won't really create any challenges for them, big things will be in President Dewitt's budget presentation. We'll give a big picture to this, but USG's budget levels have returned to normal operations. We just want to support as many student groups as possible, but ultimately funds are only available as we have them. We're trying to pace and evaluate how spending was last year to support what folks might feel like is a big change. USG was still on funding from pandemic since there wasn't a lot of travel/funding, so while before we've been encouraging students to ask for more, now we're leveling that out.

Director Howell: When student organizations are requesting what we can't give, people are typically very understanding. I'm prepping an email for all changes we're making, but I am trying to collect fundraising resources to soften the blow to give other ways for

them to fundraise. It's hard for organizations that relied on UAF funding, but right now things are going well.

## **IX. Advisor's Report**

Advisor Alexander

Advisor Alexander: To echo voter registration conversations, anyone engaging you in this building is not permitted to do so. There're opportunities for students to engage with organizations on campus, like getting people to vote, but we want to make sure its an academic space and that you're all being treated fairly. Some groups have been informed of this, but if you feel a group is being aggressive/following you if you don't want to engage, you can call UAPD. It's not helpful to say after the fact, so in the moment it's on you as an individual. People that want to engage can do it outside the building, like outside of the Starbucks entrance. Unless they are invited by a department, like the Women's Voting League was permitted to be in the union because they were invited in by an organization. That's where that's an opportunity to be in this space. We've seen it fizzling out, but it still happens on a weekly basis.

In addition to that, we have some folks in competition for homecoming royalty. Your president and also Isaac are up to being slimed. They have to be amongst the top to generate in the competition. The buckets for all of homecoming royalty are located in the Department of Student Life and you can stop at any time to contribute. Last year's USG president was successfully slimed, so it would be nice to see them fall into that same tradition.

Internation lounge dedication: USG played a big part on reimagining this space. We will be dedicating that space (Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>) from 3:30-4:30, so please make sure that's on your calendar so you can make it and celebrate our international community. We'll have some of last year's leadership joining us, a few international students sharing their stories, and an activity that USG is helping with, and a "Where our Zips call him" photo challenge. It's meant to be an opportunity to promote all things that are being global citizens and being connected abroad. There will be slides in the future that talk about study abroad opportunities, highlighting student who took trips abroad, and welcoming international students each semester. President DeWitt, along with a number of other student leaders, will give wonderful remarks.

Last thing is about the Akron all-in book bundle. As we prepare for the spring semester, we will be doing a USG focus group with the Barnes and Noble bookstore. This focus group is a chance for us to refine our communication efforts on how we can do more and better so people are well-informed on their actions, making sure they opt out within that time frame, and making sure everyone can understand. It will be a good open dialogue conversation, and also a separate debrief with separate campus entities will probably happening in next couple weeks after the formal part of senate is done.

Senator Raymond: At the Student Leadership Summit, I heard a concern about rules

being changed about tabling in the student union. They said that it required the use of your student activity funds and that it costs \$20 to table in the student union.

Advisor Alexander: That is not accurate. If you're booking more than 3 spaces, then you're required to pay. Also, if you're using ballroom, theatre, or game room, or a single space for more than 4 hours, you have to pay. Tabling works as normal unless you're asking for like 9 hours.

## **X. Committee Reports**

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Cameron

Senator Cameron: FAST didn't meet this week because 2 of our senators were helping at Student Leadership Summit, so we don't have any updates, so we figured it would be better to start next week on Tuesday from 5:30-6:30. Individually, I'm working on finishing up my project from last year but I am also going to be meeting with the Dean for the College of Engineering and Polymer Science soon. And then Senator Sanfrey and Senator Raymond are researching and working on getting onboarded

- Student Engagement Committee

Senator Parish

Senator Parish: We have a set time for Thursdays after senate for our committee hours. Our project is centered around campus safety, with the UAPD Chief. I also met with the Dean for College of Health and Human Sciences and I'm excited for what's to come.

- A.P.S.S Committee

Senator Knapp

Senator Knapp: We did get the opportunity to meet this week. All of us are new, so we looked through old documents and seeing how they set up their minutes and agendas. We also want someone on the APSS committee last year to help transition us to pick up their stuff, and hopefully have new initiatives within the next couple weeks

Associate Justice Shaw: Do you have any FAST accessibility things planned?

Senator Cameron: Not yet, but it's on the agenda for next week.

## **XI. Adjournment**

## **XII. Discussion**

- Senate Retreat!