



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda
October 3rd, 2024

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

President Nemer

Senator Nichols: Motion to amend the agenda to strike the CDE Committee report.
Senator Cameron: Second.

Senator Sanfrey: I motion to change the reading of the DEI report to Deputy Director Cosgrave and to be placed first in place of Deputy Director Nichols.
Senator Cameron: Second.

Senator Parish: Motion to amend the agenda to change the delivery of the SE Committee Report to Senator Breon.
Senator Cameron: Second.

Senator Clark-Kelley: Motion to amend the agenda by swearing in before adjournment.
Senator Cameron: Second.

VI. Approval of the 9.26.24 Minutes

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to entertain a motion to approve the 9.26.24 minutes.
Senator Schuhart: So moved.
Senator Sanfrey: Second.

VII. Open Student Expression

Dr. Messina: I had the opportunity to meet with all of the Vice Presidents for Student Affairs for all of the Ohio universities and one of the things brought up specifically by Bowling Green State was about the Ohio Student Government Summit. Bowling Green and two other universities spoke incredibly fondly of the event and all of the Ohio

universities want to be involved in the summit hosted by the University of Akron. As soon as we have that information, I'd like to advance that, but know that the reputation of this government body is very strong so thank you and congratulations.

Chief of Staff Lane: OSGS is February 1st and 2nd of 2025 for future reference. I also wanted to say that I hope to see everyone at the homecoming game on Saturday and you'll see Grace walking down the field at halftime.

VIII. Branch Reports

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: A couple of new student organizations were congratulated, including the Society of Cell Biologists and Roo Moovez Step Up. The first-year senators election occurred, and we are excited to welcome a new senator, Senator Smith, and the other two candidates are here as guests so thank you for being here. I also attended the faculty senate informal meeting on Tuesday. One of the things that was brought up that I would like to add is the lack of weekend campus activities. A faculty member heard from a student that there was nothing to do on weekends so that is something to think about. Also, we have an open position. The Senator at Large position is open for applications, which will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Tell your friends to apply if you think that they would be interested.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: The big thing to cover is that voting did close for the first-year senator election on Wednesday. We have one candidate that is being sworn in today and two candidates that tied so we will be moving into a roll-off election, so voting will open on Monday at 8 am and close on Tuesday at 5 pm, so that's October 7th to October 8th. We haven't had a tie happen in a long time so that's very exciting. I still want to thank these three people for all their help in the election. Social Media Strategist Nathan Flint was incredibly flexible and is still working with us for the roll-off election. Event Coordinator AJ Stewart was instrumental in helping us get locations locked down for the candidate meet-and-greets, and I believe he even called one of the offices after hours and left a voicemail to get updates for us. Director of Event Coordination Maggie Mahaney was also incredibly influential and necessary for this election. Moving on from that, we are into the beginning of our election review. After each election, we send out a feedback form to see what went well and what can be fixed for the future as well as internal review on our own end, which will be happening next week and the week after. After that, we will be shifting our focus to working on an internal newsletter. Lining up with our records keeping roles, we're trying to bring transparency to our organization. Sometimes you don't know what's going on in other branches, so we have an idea to highlight personal projects without you having to dig through minutes to find out what happened in a

meeting you missed. The judicial branch is working with the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards to staff some of those alcohol awareness events, specifically the event on October 17th, the rootbeer kegger. This will count as an on-campus event for your membership requirements. And then hearing board training, that is still open, and the application closes next week so if you're interested, please take a look at the application on our Instagram.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: I hope you all enjoyed having President Nemer come to speak to you guys. One of the things he said about giving concerns to him, if you want you can include stuff in your reports about concerns or email me and Elena. I can also tell him about that. The USG office is decorated and its pretty cool, so thank you to Director Leipold, Senate Chair Feezel, Event Coordinator Nguyen, Chief of Staff Lane, Social Media Strategist Garcia Cruz, Vice President Kozma, & me for helping. We are in a contest, and it is being judged so that's exciting. If your photo is not hanging up, its because you didn't submit your headshot and bio for this year in the form.

For meetings and events that happened this week, for Rethinking Race proposals specifically, proposals are due on the 4th by the committees and our proposal has been approved. We're still encouraging student organizations to plan an event. Hower House collaboration: so we met with a student assistant to get more students down to that house since it is one of the historic houses that the university owns. We're trying to get more students to come down there, so we might be planning a USG event for that. We're also doing a downtown small business series. We met with downtown Akron partnership to discuss what business we could do what themes we could do, and basically the logistics behind that. We just added two new things to the sponsored events spreadsheet. It's the mental health fair and we need one person every 30-minute increments to watch the snacks and water. The other thing is the international lounge dedication to just have two people there to mingle and that will get you two new sponsored events.

Vice President Kozma: The UAPD meet and greet is also happening next week. We have events Monday through Wednesday, so we hope to see you at those.

Senator Raymond: When is the international lounge dedication?

President DeWitt: It is Wednesday, October 9th from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the international lounge in the student union.

- DLT Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: Please answer the all-USG email in the off-topic tab of the USG teams. There are lots of important things in those emails. For membership requirements, there is

a new channel, and the forms and signups are there so please let us know if you can't find that. Meeting recap, we talked about the all-USG retreat, which is October 25th from tentatively 3-6 pm in the honors common room. This is a semesterly event with team building stuff and presentations to help you learn how to be a good USG member, and it is planned around your input. It is required for all USG members so please attend, and we might have Chipotle. In the off-topic tab, Vice President Kozma is collecting shirt sizes so please submit yours so you can get the USG merch. We also all participated in fraud training that we had to do as student employees. Every year, we will have semester reviews with you and you guys can pick times for that. We also talked about mid-year awards and the holiday party, so we're discussing potential timelines for that. And again, DLT meetings are on Mondays from 6-7:15 pm, so you are more than welcome to come as always.

IX. Advisor's Report

Advisor Alexander

Advisor Alexander: I don't think I have a whole lot, but I want to echo the international lounge dedication. USG played a big part in this, so whether you sign up for one of the shifts or just stop by, that is really important. There will be other announcements for other ways that the space will promote opportunities to learn about our global community, learn about study abroad opportunities, etc. Also make sure you are taking care of yourself since the midpoint of the semester is approaching. Take time for yourself and lean into your branch leadership if you need support. Everything is converging around this time so look out for one another.

X. Committee Reports

- **F.A.S.T. Committee**

Senator Cameron

Senator Cameron: FAST had our first meeting this week. It's me, our vice chair Senator Sanfrey, and Senator Raymond. We planned our first accessibility tour this week so that will be Monday, October 21st and we're meeting in the USG office before leaving for that. We'll be covering Schrank North, South, and the Student Union. For individual updates, I'm still working on my project from last year and that will hopefully be done by the end of the month. Senator Sanfrey is doing research and Senator Raymond is actually working on a really cool project to turn the tennis courts on Brown Street into pickleball courts.

- **Student Engagement Committee**

Senator Breon

Senator Breon: I wanted to give an update on the survey I'm doing for the student engagement committee. It was actually Senate Chair Feezel's idea to do on the starship delivery robots. Various questions on how those operate, whether its food delivery temperature, how long it takes to get somewhere and where it can go. President DeWitt also talked to me about giving Starbucks gift cards out to people who completed the

survey.

- A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Knapp

Senator Knapp: My team met a couple of hours before this. We started working on a survey to get ideas on academic services and we had Isaac come in and give us a rundown on what was worked on last year and what is still in the works. There's a proposed change in the Brightspace and he gave us a good vision on what to work on for the next coming year.

XI. Director Reports

- D.E.I. Report

Deputy Director Cosgrave

Deputy Director Cosgrave: Rethinking Race week is coming up. The theme is Rethinking Race and health equity, promoting health and care for all. In case you don't know, it's a weeklong event that happens in the fall to elevate our knowledge on race and how it impacts our students and communities. We choose a different theme for each year and USG has a pretty integral part on how this functions. The DEI actually got our proposal for our event approved. The entire week of Rethinking Race takes place November 18th-22nd. You probably won't be able to make all of them because there are so many. Our event is called "Rethinking Race: Feeding Futures and Bridging the Gap in Food Access." So we'll be talking about food and equity as well as how race and ethnicity ties into that. Additionally, for this, student organizations are allowed to plan events and the proposal deadline for that actually ends tomorrow.

President DeWitt: What does the proposal include? Is there a time commitment?

Deputy Director Cosgrave: The proposal is actually just a little form that takes about 10 minutes to fill out.

Chief Justice Stillion: Where can you find that form?

Deputy Director Cosgrave: I'll send it to you. It might be on the website, but I can post it in the teams, but it does close tomorrow at I believe 5 pm. We also had our diversity committee meeting. For those of you that don't know, the DEI team is also in charge of the diversity committee, which includes all of the student organizations in the reclusive space. The reclusive space is in Schrank South and it's going to be a space for underrepresented student organizations to apply to and have their office in there. It's going to be all of those organizations, and anyone really is welcome to come. We had our first meeting yesterday for that. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 16th from 3pm-4pm in the reclusive space, which should also be on the USG calendar. Finally, we have an event coming up with the LGBTUA for a Halloween movie night and costume contest

on Wednesday, October 30th at 6 pm in the student union theater. We will be showing Dracula, and the date is not confirmed.

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: These are our allocations over the past week. Not a lot of approvals this week, a couple things for travel, a lot of food for student organizations, but the total is \$2,500. For USG specifically, we're getting a new TV for the USG office for events and information. We also had the first-year tabling supplies that we paid for.

- Events Report

Event Coordinator Muller

Event Coordinator Muller: October 8th is the UAPD meet and greet. The signup sheet is in the sponsored event form, and we do need volunteers for that. Also, Halloween movie night is October 30th, which we will also need volunteers for. That will be in the signup sheet as soon as it is confirmed. I can confirm that we will be getting Chipotle for the all-USG retreat, so come to that on Friday, October 25th. For anyone submitting events, please do that before 3 weeks of the event so we aren't scrambling. Lastly, from Brian, please go to his event on October 22nd from 5-6 pm. If you do go, wear USG merch, and he said he will remember who comes and who doesn't.

- Marketing Report

Director Shafer

Director Shafer: I heard that the USG Instagram has a lot of advertisements. Our goal this year is to have more pictures of the actual events, so if you do go to any of these events, please take photos and share them to show our students and our members. Page 2 on our marketing form has a link to our Photocircle and I do check that regularly to see what we can post. Also, if you're having an event, please fill out the marketing form within 3 weeks of your event.

Chief Justice Stillion: What is the status of the open social media strategist position?

Director Shafer: We interviewed someone today not specifically for that position but if you know anyone interested let me know.

President DeWitt: Would it be helpful if people uploaded photos to the Photocircle?

Director Shafer: Yes. Super easy but you do have to download the app.

- Project Management Report

Directors Sudhaharan & Webster

Director Sudhaharan: Some of the events that we're working on are the Mental Health Task Force event, the Akron Art Museum event, the LGBTQ event, the Hot Wings with the dean event that is still being planned, and a hot cocoa and scarf giveaway event that is

also still being planned. The UAPD meet and greet is next Tuesday from 11-1pm. For next semester, the Uakron Bicentennial event is being planned. Also, just for everyone here, there will no longer be one person per team. If you need help with an event, reach out to us and we will help.

- Community and Campus Outreach Report Deputy Director Walter

Deputy Director Walter: I have a couple of things to share. This should already be in the USG calendar but our first event is “Prepping for Professional: Social Media in the Workplace” on Tuesday, October 29th. Please help because there are already signups to be there as volunteers for that. We are also working on a mocktails team and that will be happening Monday, October 14th at 7 pm. The theme is Jake and Finn from Adventure Time. I will be dressed as Jake and a couple of other people in this room will be dressed up as well. As Project Manager Sudhaharan said, we’ve been planning stuff for the Akron Art Museum for their glow exhibit as well as meetings with the downtown Akron partnership to work on a small business tour to increase student engagement. Our Greek Life liaisons are also working on a cleanup event similar to the spring cleanup that we’ve done in the past. Our mental health task force has been meeting every Wednesday at 5 pm. Per Director Leopold, Make a Difference Day is October 26th at the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. If you are interested, it is from 9 am - 12 pm. We need ten volunteers (hands raised: Grace DeWitt, Maddie Shaw, Marshall Knapp, Nathan Parish, and Grace Salvatore).

XII. Swearing In

XIII. Adjournment