



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda
October 17th, 2024

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

Tonia Ferrell & Kate Budd

Senator Schuhart: Motion to amend the agenda to change the reading of the APSS report from Senator Knapp to Senator Nichols.

Senator Nichols: Second.

Senator Breon: Motion to amend the agenda to change the delivery of the SE report from Senator Parish to Senator Breon.

Senator Sanfrey: Second.

Senator Sanfrey: Motion to amend the agenda to change the reading of the FAST report from Senator Cameron to Senator Sanfrey.

Senator Raymond: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to entertain a motion to adopt the 10.17.24 agenda.

Senator Schuhart: So moved

Senator Breon: Second.

VI. Approval of the 10.10.24 Minutes

Senator Schuhart: Motion to approve the 10.10.24 minutes.

Senator Sanfrey: Second.

VII. Open Student Expression

President DeWitt: In the teams yesterday, I posted an invite from Dr. Messina to be in the Board of Trustees suite on November 26th for the football game. Please email me and RSVP if you plan on attending. I think that 13 of you already said you were interested, but I will give Dr. Messina the list soon.

Dr. Messina: I wanted to mention that we have an opportunity where I have access to 4 tickets to a Browns game on December 29th. The idea is that I would delegate those to USG to give as an award to someone that did something that USG wanted to incentivize them to do, like a survey, participating in programs, etc. I didn't know if there was any interest in using those, but you guys can decide on how you want to use them. I know the food robot survey is coming out soon and a number of other activities going on.

Vice President Kozma: Does anyone know what next Friday is?

Senator Breon: The retreat!

Vice President Kozma: Yes! It is next Friday the 25th from 3-6 pm in the honors common room. Reach out to President DeWitt and I if you have questions

President DeWitt: Something else was also just sent in the teams by Health and Safety Officer AJ Ruffin. Suicide prevention training is November 15th from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. It counts as a sponsored event for EB and LB, but ask Health and Safety Officer Ruffin for questions.

Associate Justice Shaw: The mental health taskforce planned their first mental health Monday event and it will be this Monday the 21st from 12-2 pm. It's called Pumpkin Positivity Painting where you can either paint a pumpkin there or grab a to-go bag and that will be in the international lounge.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: We have semester reviews during that time so if you want to change yours just email me and Senate Chair Feezel.

VIII. Branch Reports

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: On the USG side, we didn't have any expenditures. We're doing the report through the Sunday of the week prior to make sure there aren't gaps and deadlines can be hit. The actual report will be the Monday of this week to the Sunday of this week and that will be reported next week in Senate. Not too much overall though, a couple of events, a few major expenditures related to musical organizations for speakers. The Clarinet Association is for a speaker from another university. The big thing is that we will be sending out an allocation email that will be sent Monday to handle questions for the new allocation limits. If you guys get questions, direct them to me at usgfinance@uakron.edu and I'll be handling those next week.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: We have completed our internal newsletter form. It will be posted after this meeting or tomorrow at the top of the teams and it's a place to submit general updates as well as the event feedback form. If you do an event, you are required to submit it in that form. The first edition will cover the entire fall semester and hopefully that will be sent out monthly next semester. It is also alcohol awareness week. Hopefully you've gone to those events. JB did a mocktails event and after senate today is the root beer kegger. JB and the Department of Student Conduct will be running a number of activities with drunk goggles and such. Also, we are internally working on updating records both digital and physical along with the alumni social project. Speaking of records, I went to the physical archives in Polsky and there are 20 boxes of USG records in the basement of Polsky.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: The USG retreat is Friday, October 25th from 3-6pm in the honors common room. You're going to learn a lot of important things and bond and it is required for all members each semester. You'll also be given Chipotle. Let me know if you cannot attend. For meetings and events, the Mental Health Task Force's Pumpkin Positivity Painting is from 12-2 pm in the piano lounge so please show up to that. It's pumpkin painting and there will be candy corn. Our Bridging Campus and Community event is 5:30-6:30 pm on Tuesday in the Student Union Theatre. The Akron mayor is coming to talk to us. You can SS our post on the USG Instagram and send it in your groupchats and there will be refreshments and appetizers. We reached out to 180+ student organizations and presidents. We're also planning on reaching out to BEC (Black Excellence Commission) to plan more events since our offices are right next to each other.

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: You should have received a calendar invite if you scheduled your semester review session. Accept it if you haven't and if you need to move it, let us know. Next is the Bylaw amendment presentation where me and Vice Senate Chair Winters will see what the role of student housing senator position would look like. We'll be working better with RHC before passing it as a bylaw amendment. For Senate participation, we're brainstorming ways to improve your comfortability. There were lots of existing Senators last year as role models but there aren't this year so looking at mock debates, exercises on changing the agenda, and ways to get you comfortable with debating in front of the senate body. I also wanted to touch on the Roberts rules. The point of the rules is to guide and further debate and if there's no debate, there's no point in rules. Don't be scared of breaking rules so much that you don't talk. Chief Justice Stillion will answer you if you don't know how to motion something.

- DLT Report

Executive Justice Bushen

Executive Justice Bushen: We had a pretty packed agenda. I wanted to remind everyone to attend office hours. We can be flexible if you need to change, just tell your branch leadership and get them in at some point during the week. We talked about our vacancies and we have 2 offers in EB and one in LB. We still have openings in 2 student athlete liaison, a Deputy Director of Racial Equity, and one Associate Justice Position. We had a small finance discussion. If you have any Amazon orders to be completed, talk to Director Howell. We talked about the newsletter, reviewed a form for everyone to submit memes and we talked about a USG alumni social. And the all USG retreat is Friday, October 25th from 3-6. Our meetings are on Mondays from 6-7:15 if anyone wants to join.

IX. Advisor's Report

Advisor Alexander

Advisor Alexander: The only thing I have is to talk about next week's senate. Beth Harrington from UA's bookstore will focus on the Akron all-in book bundle and looking at how that has gone and how we have saturated communication to help students be informed on making decisions. The goal next week is to see what communications were the most effective and what USG can do to continue to play a part in that. We have a unique opportunity in thinking about how that narrative pairs nicely with class registration. The window kicks off the Monday after finals week, which is I believe December 16th after graduation and commencement, and that will go through the 14th calendar day of the spring semester and we will end around the 27th so we will make sure it lands on a final business day. There has been initial feedback to make sure the opt out link is more prominent on the home page. That page is ours to edit. We are also looking at refining the language to clear up confusion. Some students accidentally opted out thinking the courses online were free when they were not. USG played a big part in this conversation last year so this is something we want to continue to support. We will not be doing all of what we did for the initial rollout.

Senate Chair Feezel: That's why Senate participation is so important, because people come to us for feedback and if no one has anything to say that would be bad.

X. Committee Reports

- A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Nichols

Senator Nichols: It was brought to our attention that reading days for Akron would be useful leading into midterms or finals week. Reading days are for students to take a day or two off of classes to work on studying for midterms and finals. We had a graduate student from Akron come and talk to us today. He did his undergraduate at Case Western and he said it was really helpful so our next order of business is to make a survey to see how the student body would feel about that.

Chief Justice Stillion: One thing that would be helpful is to see how many other universities do that to compare and show our administration to see if Akron is the outlier in not having reading days.

Senator Schuhart: We have been reaching out to other schools, but a lot of them have classes Monday, Tuesday, and then finals on Wednesday, whereas we have a weekend involved. The students that spoke to us said that it would be better to include reading days during a typical work week so students can go home and relax on weekends. The pushback that I've heard is that students won't go home on the weekend when they live too far to come back and take finals.

- Student Engagement Committee

Senator Breon

Senator Breon: Not too much to report. The past two weeks were exciting with the swearing in of Senator Smith and Senator Sterns joining the SE committee. We're still rolling the survey through the process of approval. We probably won't meet this week because we don't have time and we're still looking for other projects to pursue. The Browns tickets sound cool as an incentive for that though.

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Sanfrey

Senator Sanfrey: FAST didn't meet this week because Senator Cameron, our committee chair, couldn't attend, but we provided updates through email. Senator Raymond is pursuing a project to make a tennis court also accommodate pickleball. I am pursuing a project regarding salt usage on campus during the winter. It seems like the use of salt outnumbered the amount of snow and that can cause environmental issues, so we're looking into that.

Chief Justice Stillion: I believe someone did a project on that. Have you reached out to him?

Senator Sanfrey: No, but I looked at the files for that.

XI. New Business

- EO 31-24-25
- EO 32-24-25
- SB 11-24-25

Maya Allooh
Selena Spencer
Genevieve Shelton

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to entertain a motion to blanket read EO 31-24-25 and EO 32-24-25.

Senator Sanfrey: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

The Executive Orders are read.

Senate Chair Feezel: I now invite President DeWitt and Vice President Kozma to speak on behalf of the nominees.

President DeWitt: We interviewed both of these nominees and they were both very qualified, very involved, and each were very enthusiastic about joining USG and being active participants. Our greek life position has not been filled yet so it is exciting to finally have that filled. Overall, I think this will help USG and they are very qualified.

Vice President Kozma: I would just like to echo that. Both candidates had very good qualifications, great interviews and applications, and this is once again a roll that hasn't been filled before so that's very exciting.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate on the executive orders? I would like to entertain a motion to adopt executive orders 31-24-25 and 32-24-25.

Senator Sanfrey: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

The EO's passed.

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto senate bill 11-24-25. Vice Senate Chair Winters, can you read Senate Bill 11-24-25.

The Senate Bill is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: I now invite Vice Senate Chair Winters to speak on behalf of the nominee.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Genevieve ran in first year elections. She was also interviewed over the summer for the vacancies. She is very interested in joining and we invited her to an interview. She is an amazing candidate and deserves to be in the legislative branch. We can see her eventually taking on a leadership roll and she is very qualified to be here.

Senate Chair Feezel: I also had the opportunity to meet her when she was a candidate in the first-year election and she seemed like a good fit for the Senator at Large position, so

that's why we moved forward with that. I'd like to entertain a motion to dispense the requirement for a second reading.

Senator Breon: So moved.

Senator Sanfrey: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: I'd also like to entertain a motion to the previous question.

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: Senators, I will now proceed with a roll call vote of Senate Bill 11-24-25, the appointment of Genevieve Shelton as Senator at Large.

The vote passes.

XII. Swearing In

XIII. Pass the Gavel

XIV. Adjournment

XV. Discussion

Chief Justice Stillion