



**Undergraduate Student Government**  
The University of Akron

**Undergraduate Student Government**

**Senate Agenda**  
**October 24th, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

Senate Chair Feezel	Present
Vice Senate Chair Winters	Present
Senate Clerk McCracken	Present
Senator Breon	Present
Senator Cameron	Present
Senator Clark-Kelley	Present
Senator Knapp	Present
Senator Nichols	Present
Senator Rahman	Present
Senator Raymond	Present
Senator Sanfrey	Present
Senator Schuhart	Excused
Senator Shelton	Excused
Senator Smith	Present
Senator Sterns	Present

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Guest Speaker**

UA Bookstore

**V. Adoption of the Agenda**

Senator Sanfrey: Motion to amend the agenda to strike Pass the Gavel.

Senator Cameron: Second.

Senator Breon: Motion to amend the agenda to strike the SE Committee Report.

Senator Raymond: Second.

Senator Cameron: Motion to adopt the 10.24.24 agenda.

Senator Sanfrey: Second.

## **VI. Approval of the 10.17.24 Minutes**

Senator Cameron: Motion to approve the 10.17.24 minutes.

Senator Breon: Second.

## **VII. Open Student Expression**

Director Howell: For anyone interested, a group of us are trying to get AK Rowdies back together since they aren't a registered organization anymore. With basketball season coming up, the AK rowdies typically fill a whole section, so if you're interested, please let us know.

Senator Breon: On the survey for the robots, the incentive is 4 browns tickets so 2 people that take the survey will get those tickets. I just submitted the form for that today so you can use those if you win.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Director Howell, I still have the key to the AK Rowdies office so email me.

President DeWitt: I don't know if you saw yet but I sent in the teams that we got asked to be apart of some award committees. It's a pretty low commitment and it's in the general channel in the teams. There's 7 or 8 committees and they asked for a few student representatives. There are 2 spots left.

Chief Justice Stillion: What are the 2 spots?

President DeWitt: I'll talk to you later.

Deputy Director Cosgrave: USG presentation night is happening. It's in the USG teams on November 14<sup>th</sup> in student union room 345. It should start at 7:45 after Senate so if you're interested, react to my message in the teams and send me a presentation.

Associate Justice Shaw: There's a service event opportunity this weekend and it's Make a Difference Day. If you haven't filled your service event requirements, you should definitely go from 9:30am – 12 pm. A lot of USG people are going. If you're interested, reach out to Director Leopold.

Senator Sterns: What day?

Associate Justice Shaw: The 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Senator Raymond: What is USG presentation night?

Deputy Director Cosgrave: A night to just have fun and give presentations, you should answer the post in the off-topic tab in the teams if you'd like to be apart of it.

President DeWitt: To follow up on Chief Justice Stillion's question, the committees that are open are Exemplary Service, Community Engagement, Outstanding Faculty, and potentially Student Experience. If anyone is interested in being on those, let me know.

Senator Sterns: Request for information for President DeWitt.

President DeWitt: I accept.

Senator Sterns: Does serving on one of those committees count as a service event?

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to say it might count as a USG-sponsored event or an office hour for constituent services.

## **VIII. Branch Reports**

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: This was the most chill week of all time. Nothing was really approved except for the national convention for Tau Beta Pi. That was something we had to work through for a while because of the new funding limits. The people that wanted to go can go. For USG expenses, we have the all-USG retreat, so that should be good. I met with a source today and we talked about the new allocation limits. Handling emails was also a lot easier than I thought. If you hear anything from student groups about concerns, please let me know.

Advisor Alexander: Do you want to talk about the resource we talked about today for ways to get funding.

Director Howell: In the emails, we will start to go over a bunch of different ways for student orgs to get funding and that will be very clear.

Vice President Kozma: Did you want to tell everyone about the business travel fee?

Director Howell: In past years, we used to partner with Christopherson Business Travel,

but the university isn't partnered with them anymore. Student organizations are largely on their own now for travel expenses, but they can use the conferences or Expedia to plan now. We're talking about officially striking that language from a few forms but if anyone asks about that, we are no longer using them.

Senate Chair Feezel: Does that also include rental cars?

Director Howell: They're still working on that. I'm not sure how that works out and they don't have that pieced together either. If I hear anything, we'll get that out to student organizations as soon as possible.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: Lots of crazy things happening in EB this week and next week. The USG Retreat is happening this Friday in the Honors Common Room from 3:00-6:00pm. You're getting free Chipotle and it is self-serve. That is required and it will be a lot of fun. For past meetings that happened this week, we had the mental health task force positivity painting, and we ran out of pumpkins. Bridging Campus and Community with Mayor Malik also happened; we had a big turnout, and they were very thankful.

Senator Raymond: Did anyone ask Mayor Malik about the status of exchange street?

President DeWitt: They didn't but I stalked his Instagram to see the mean comments that he mentioned, and he said it would be done at the end of Fall 2024 so it might be pushed back a little bit. For upcoming meetings, the USG retreat is happening and Make a Difference Day if you want to help out. We are having Prepping for Professionalism being put on by Deputy of Campus Outreach Walter. That's happening on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm. Location I think is TBD, but check the all-USG email sent out Monday to get more info on that. The Halloween Movie Night and Costume Contest was planned by Deputy Director of LGBTQ+ and Gender Equity Cosgrave and that is on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm in the theatre. The movie is Little Shop of Horrors.

Deputy Director Cosgrave: It's going to be cool, please go. We're collaborating with LGBTUA and there's some pretty cool prizes and there's an audience favorite so you can vote for your favorite costume there. All the slots for helping out are filled but if you still want to help let me know.

Advisor Alexander: Going back to Bridging Campus and Community, that was an impressive event, so I want to applaud you all for asking such thoughtful and deep questions and it was a really proud moment. It was a long time coming and that has been

planned since the spring semester. It was cool to work with officials and it prompted some follow-up conversations. Hopefully that is something that will continue in the future and puts USG on the map.

Senate Chair Feezel: Mayor Malik mentioned an interest in coming to Senate in the spring, so you have 4 months to gather more ideas as to what to ask him about if you did not attend Bridging Campus and Community.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: As I mentioned last week, we completed our internal newsletter submission form. For anything going on, submit that there. We're gathering info as to what USG has been doing this semester to submit. Outside of that, we're working on our own internal midsemester sessions. We are currently interviewing for an open Associate Justice position. We have two interviews scheduled for next week and we're continuing internal records reviewing. President DeWitt gave me 8 more binders of physical records last night, so cool stuff.

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Pretty brief. Next week we're hosting our mock debate, which we'll talk about in discussion tonight. Next week is also Halloween, so you can either show up to next week's Senate meeting in business professional or wear a Halloween costume. Also, Boo at the Roo is a tradition happening at 7 pm right after Senate. There's free food and a dance floor and it's right after Senate. It's on ZAB's Instagram so go to that if you want to wear your costume.

Chief Justice Stillion: Last year, two USG members won the costume contest dressed as the Roo Express and the blimp.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: The Roo Express was handmade.

Senate Chair Feezel: We also have a vacancy in the Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences so if you know anyone interested in that let me know. For membership requirements, try to be at least halfway through your membership requirements unless you just joined. Some of you haven't submitted anything, so please submit what you have done, or we'll get worried.

- DLT Report

Vice Senate Chair Winters

Vice Senate Chair Winters: We had our branch reports and interbranch discussion. We talked about the main events that we wanted a huge DLT presence at, such as Bridging Campus and Community. A lot of non-USG students were there. The all-USG retreat is

also coming up on Friday from 3-6 pm. Suicide prevention training is November 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30 pm in Student Union Room 315. AJ Ruffin is planning it for only USG members. We have semester review sessions during that time, so if you'd like to change yours, let us know. For semester review sessions, we reviewed last year's questions and made edits. We'd also like to encourage all of you to do your own bonding because DLT went to the Green Dragon Inn and that was super fun.

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

Advisor Alexander

Advisor Alexander: Two more things to share. Many of you are involved in other student orgs, so if you're involved in booking spaces, a good question got brought up for how to register for spaces and what resources are available for costs. We had an event planning seminar to help give out info for that and that is coming back for the month of November, so that will be sent out soon directly through USG. The other thing that will be changed later this semester is the Roo Connect form for event requesting. That form might not be working, so that will be edited and you will start to see some changes. It will be about how to do events and what spaces can be used. This lands in the cycle of talking about food, movie nights, and other things that trouble student organizations. Conversations are starting this week and will be happening in the following weeks.

Deputy Director Cosgrave: Is there a time frame for when that occurs?

Advisor Alexander: It will be a live change and there will be disclaimer language at the top. Just on how you know how to use a space, filming rights, etc.

## **X. Committee Reports**

- A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Knapp

Senator Knapp: This week, we kept it light. We worked on what we had to do for tomorrow's retreat so if you weren't there, talk to me afterward about what to do for that.

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Raymond

Senator Raymond: This week, we discussed assisting with the campus cleanup initiative. We're looking for people to help November 18<sup>th</sup>, which is a Monday. It will count for USG service hours and we'll be doing shifts for 2 hours. We're also working on Nights Out Akron to help the birds because apparently the Goodyear building accounts for 80% of bird deaths. Finally, our next accessibility tour will be Monday and we'll meet in the USG office at 1.

Deputy Director Cosgrave: Is the cleanup event like the one last year?

Senator Raymond: I believe multiple student organizations will be there. The Greek Life

Liaison brought this to our attention.

**XI. New Business**

**XII. Adjournment**

**XIII. Brief Discussion**

- Reminders
- Retreat Prep
- Mock Debate Prep