



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda
November 14th, 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	Excused
Senator Clark-Kelley	Present
Senator Knapp	Present
Senator Nichols	Present
Senator Rahman	Present
Senator Raymond	Present
Senator Sanfrey	Present
Senator Schuhart	Present
Senator Shelton	Present
Senator Smith	Present
Senator Sterns	Present

Others Present:

President DeWitt	Present
Vice President Kozma	Present
Chief of Staff Lane	Present
Director Howell	Present
Chief Justice Stillion	Present
Executive Justice Bushen	Present
Associate Justice Shaw	Present
Associate Justice Barna	Present
Associate Justice Reimer	Present

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Guest Speaker

PNC Bank

V. Adoption of the Agenda

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

Senator Raymond: Second.

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

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

VI. Approval of the 11.14.24 Minutes

Senator Breon: Motion to approve the 11.14.24 minutes.

Senator Schuhart: Second.

VII. Open Student Expression

Chief Justice Stillion: Presentation night is right after Senate across the hall. Even if you don't have a presentation, it's a good way to bond with USG members and see what people are interested in.

President DeWitt: If you're one of the people saying you don't know anyone in USG, you have to come to presentation night tonight and get to know people.

Senate Chair Feezel: Going off of that, many of you are featured in my presentation so go to see what I think of your car.

Dr. Messina: Next Thursday, I will not be here. I will be in Rob's standing over a turkey so I can't tell you all what to do during USG, but I would love to see you all during Robsgiving. Get in line early if you can and I strongly encourage you to partake in this if you have not. President Nemer will be there, and he's not allowed to serve because he'll just be talking to people the whole time, but he'll be taking .5's so please go.

Chief of Staff Lane: I will definitely be at Robsgiving. You made have heard that EA had a cleanup this Sunday but the weather was not good so it will now be this Sunday at 11 am to do a cleanup on the tow path.

Senator Shelton: In the Honors college, on the 18th, there's going to be a pie eating contest and a hand turkey making contest so please show up to that.

Director Howell: I will also be at Robsgiving. For any freshmen that haven't been there, it is phenomenal. Also, for the Kent State game next week, the AK Rowdies are officially back as a registered student organization and will be having a tailgate at the stadium in the east lot. I'll send a flyer out in the off-topic chat.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Alpha Delta Pi sorority is having their philanthropy event this Saturday. Tickets are \$12 for students and you have your choice of pasta with your choice of protein, sauce, salad, breadsticks, and a drink. All profits go to the Ronald McDonald house. It starts at 5 pm and it's at 291 Spicer Street.

Chief Justice Stillion: The plan for Robsgiving is to have an abbreviated Senate and then walk over to that afterwards.

Senate Chair Feezel: We will likely have a casual Senate so that we can all go to Robsgiving together. Also, if you don't have a meal plan, Senators can use their guest swipes to help other Senators go.

VIII. Branch Reports

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: This was the shortest finance report I've ever written. Last week, we had a student organization request pizza and the African American Business Association requested some food. For USG, we have postage for OSGS and we got the office fan and it was super cool. It has a wireless remote and everything. That's basically it.

Chief Justice Stillion: Last week, the printer was not working.

Chief of Staff Lane: That has been ordered.

Director Howell: I'm also figuring out the Amazon package thing. For some reason, workday set my dean's team priority as a higher job than USG so it's started sending everything that I ordered to the College of Business.

Associate Justice Shaw: Is that where the Roberts Rules book is?

Executive Justice Bushen: As an employee of the Ritchie residence hall program, it's there.

Director Howell: Well, I will swing by after this.

Executive Justice Bushen: The mail room would be closed now.

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: As you know, we're hosting semester review sessions this week. If you haven't had yours yet, please remember to show up tomorrow. They're casual and to review what we've done over the semester. We've also extended an offer to an applicant for the College of Health and Human Sciences Senator. We're waiting to hear back from them and they will be appointed next week if all goes well. We also are continuing the Residence Life Senator project so we're reaching out to the Department of Residence Life and Housing and RHC to hopefully set up a meeting with them and USG to plan how a senator would fit into that ecosystem. Also, I'll be sending out a form seeking feedback from senators about guest speakers and if there's anyone you would like to see or your thoughts on the guest speakers that we've already brought in. We've tried to be strategic about bringing in people who relate to your projects.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: Things are picking back up in terms of election planning. The spring election cycle has almost begun. We passed the election rules internally last week and then again this week for some minor changes. You will be voting on the changes today. On Monday, we also workshopped our marketing timeline to boost the numbers a little bit. For UAkorn Park virtual townhall, that is next Thursday 12-1pm. That is the same time as one of our rethinking race events so if you want to ask questions and you can't make it, there is a link on our social media post to submit questions before it starts. For the open Associate Justice position, we are hoping to pass an EO today to fill that with a swearing in following. The internal newsletter will also hopefully be sent out on Monday so please fill that out before the end of the week. And if you're not a committee chair, feel free to submit anything interesting that you're working on.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: Reminder to submit your midyear award submission by next Sunday, November 24th at 11:59 PM and we'll give those out at the last senate/ holiday party. For events this week, the Akron Art Museum event happened yesterday 4-6 pm at the Akron Art Museum. There were 55-60 people that came, and it was a great success. The outreach team primary planned that so give Deputy Senkow congratulations. That exhibition will be there until February. USG presentation night is tonight at 7 pm. Suicide prevention training is also happening this Friday from 2:30-4pm in Student Union room 316. Sign-ups are closed for that but if you are signed up, make sure you show up. Please let Health and Safety Officer Ruffin know if you can't go. The fall campus cleanup is

happening Monday, November 18th from 11-3pm and the backup date for if it rains is the 20th but its on our USG Instagram. Encourage your student organizations to participate because there's lots to clean up. It is in the USG sponsored events spreadsheet and the link to sign up is in the USG Instagram bio and in our LinkTree. Rethinking Race is a weeklong full of events. USG and a lot of student organizations are planning events. Our event is Feeding Futures: Bridging the Gap and Food Access. It's on November 21st at 11 am in Student Union room 310. Our DEI team have been working very hard to plan this event centering around health and race. There's a huge flyer in the USG office with all of those events on there. You can come talk to me afterward if you want their Instagram username. You can sign up to volunteer for a service event so go check that out.

IX. Advisor's Report

Advisor Alexander

Advisor Alexander: My only report is that I'm also guest carving so I will also not be at Senate. I was very excited to pop by at yesterday's event. I hope there's some good questions on the level of detail for the election rules made by the election board.

Dr. Messina: For the football game on the 26th, you should have received e-tickets. The menu does not include the stinky buffalo cauliflower. We will have hot dogs, chili, chicken tenders, and the triple cheese mac and cheese.

X. Committee Reports

- Student Engagement Committee

Senator Rahman

Senator Rahman: This week, we finished tabling for the starship delivery robot survey. It went really well. We don't have access to how many people came but a lot came in. As a committee, we're still working on car legislation. Personally, I met with Health and Safety Officer Ruffin this Tuesday and we discussed who we're going to contact, made some draft emails, and we also met with Project Manager Webster. We also picked out weeks in the spring to have four safety walks.

Senate Chair Feezel: We've had 157 responses so far. Also, if you need more sponsored events, if you send out that survey in group chats and walk around with a QR code we can work with you to make that a sponsored event.

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Sanfrey

Senator Sanfrey: FAST did not meet this week but we all worked on our individual projects. Chief of Staff Lane invited me to a meeting with Environmental Action Tuesday to discuss how a bunch of birds have been killed by the polymer building. Our fourth accessibility tour is Monday from 12:30-1:30 pm and that will encompass the Rec Center, James A Rhodes, and InfoCision. That counts as a USG sponsored event.

- A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Knapp

Senator Knapp: This week, we are still working on the distress event before finals. It's scheduled for December 5th from 1:30-3:30 pm in the student union in the piano lounge. We're working on rebranding with one of the project managers right now. Hopefully by next week, we can finalize that.

Senator Schuhart: I believe that the first 30 minutes of that will be allotted for setting up so plan to be there around 2 if you plan on attending.

XI. Representative Reports

- Faculty Senate Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Faculty Senate occurred last Thursday. We heard remarks from the President and Provost. The FASFA is running late in case you're curious so financial aid offers will be late if you know anyone applying. We also heard from a committee that passed a few curriculum changes and discussed a proposal to change some general education requirements to allow some programs with a lot of classes to replace some of the gen ed classes to fit more major-specific classes. That will be considered in February.

- University Council Report

Chief of Staff Lane

Chief of Staff Lane: In case some of you aren't aware what University Council is, it's one of the representative bodies on campus that USG gets a seat on. We have three seats held by President DeWitt, Vice President Kozma, and me. It's very similar to our senate and there's reports from all of the different committees and representative bodies. They started with the executive committee and they talked about how they met with the chief strategy officer about his plan for the university since he is new to his position. The Provost also gave remarks about FASFA but said it shouldn't be as bad as the hiccups that happened with FASFA last year. They're not having too many problems. Enrollment is a lot higher. Applications are up 3.6% and admits are up 8.3% from last year and those stats are even better from two years ago. We also had the chief strategy officer talk about two main elements from an email he sent about strategy. One of those was a strategic analysis team. Their marketing team is really active right now and they're working on bringing in a third party consultation starting in early December to do an overview of campus. They also touched on the athletic director who left but that there will be a really smooth transition. There's been a committee on this meeting quite frequently and they have a plan in place. They also continued with their student speaker series and had E-sports featured. They talked about how it's not just the varsity team, which is composed of 40 members, but a club team, a recreational team, and camps that they host. They estimate that around 200 students besides varsity are connected to this. They also had a speaker on the NSSE 2024, which stands for the National Survey for Student Engagement. It gauges student satisfaction and academic use at the university compared

to other similar Great Lake institutions. We're up to par with the other universities. It also includes high impact practices. We then had reports, nothing too big to report though. They also pushed everyone to attend Rethinking Race. We have some really good keynote speakers and that's happening Monday at 7 pm in EJ Thomas.

XII. New Business

Senate Chair Feezel: Vice Senate Chair Winters, can you please conduct the reading?

- EO 33-24-25

Kristin Groen

Senator Schuhart: It says that she is being appointed a member of the executive branch but she's a justice so that should not be worded that way. May I make a motion to amend?

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to entertain a motion to enter recess.

Senator Sanfrey: So moved.

Senator Raymond: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to entertain a motion to amend the agenda to strike EO 33-24-25 and reintroduce a new version of EO 33-24-25.

Senator Raymond: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: This is the same document minus the change in the rationale. I will reread the rationale beginning at the changes.

Chief Justice Stillion: I would 100% like to voice my support for Kristen being nominated for the position of Associate Justice. She sounded very passionate about her high school activities in the interview that Executive Justice Bushen and I had with her that aligned with the Associate Justice role. I believe that she is the best fit for this role. We invited her as a guest to our meeting on Monday and she has the potential to mesh very well with the rest of the branch. She actively participated in some of our conversations in her capacity as a guest.

President DeWitt: I encourage you to vote in favor of this. I think it's a great decision and we will have 53 or 54 members after this so that's pretty neat.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate? We will now bring this to a roll call vote.

Senator Breon	In Favor
Senator Clark-Kelley	In Favor
Senator Knapp	In Favor
Senator Nichols	In Favor
Senator Rahman	In Favor
Senator Raymond	In Favor
Senator Sanfrey	In Favor
Senator Schuhart	In Favor
Senator Shelton	In Favor
Senator Smith	In Favor
Senator Sterns	In Favor

The EO passed.

- Spring Election Rules

Judicial Branch

President DeWitt: I've heard a lot of concerns from the presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the past about whether or not they had enough petitions. You might have said this already, but is there any language in there about the Chief Justice being required to give an update regularly?

Chief Justice Stillion: Yes, there is a section that says essentially that the elections board is required to regularly update candidates. It's not in the presentation but it is in the document. The reason that we had difficulties with that in the past was because we were using google forms, which does not regularly update the amount of submissions an individual has. You have to go to the owner of the form to send you how many individual submissions that you have. Microsoft forms will actively update with how many submissions you have so potential candidates should have access to see how many submissions they have even though they won't be completely verified yet.

Chief Justice Stillion: Motion to amend the election rules to reflect the amendments in the document that I sent to Senate Chair Feezel.

Senate Chair Feezel: Chief Justice Stillion has moved the following amendment to add: Section 6 Election Petitions and the following sections to correct the number. Is there a second to the motion?

Senator Breon: Second.

The Motion to amend passes by voice vote.

Senator Raymond: Motion to amend the election rules per documents.

Senate Chair Feezel: Senator Raymond has moved the following amendment: in section 3AIAI to add “except they may cast a vote in the election” to the following paragraph about preventing participation in the election from election board members and has also added section II “the foregoing section does not prevent an individual fulfilling this role from eligibility for or applied for candidacy after that individual resigns or is dismissed from the elections board. If it is believed that the individual used their role prior to resignation dismissal to obtain a material advantage in the election such as speech will be handled through the grievance process.

Chief of Staff Lane: Second.

The Motion to amend passes by voice vote.

Senate Chair Feezel: I would entertain a motion to the previous question.

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

The election rules pass by voice vote.

XIII. Swearing In

XIV. Adjournment

XV. Pass The Gavel