



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda
January 16th, 2025

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Senate Chair Feezel: I would like to entertain a motion to adopt the 1.16.25 agenda.

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

V. Approval of the 12.05.24 Minutes

Senator Breon: Motion to approve the 12.05.24 minutes.

Senator Schuhart: Second.

VI. Open Student Expression

President DeWitt: Tomorrow is the UA-Kent hockey game in Canton (and the basketball

game). It's a lot of fun and I will be there. You can find out more info on the UA website or social media or talk to me after this. It's at Canton in the ice arena.

Dr. Messina: Welcome back! In honor of the lovely spring weather, you likely received notice that the university is going remote on Tuesday. Use your better judgement when it's that cold out to dress appropriately and stay in as much as possible. The wind really kicks, and it is very cold. We will keep you posted as to what happens next because the weather may change. The union will be closed, the rec will be partially open, and the onat will not be open outside official practice. That stuff will not be open because opening and closing the doors will freeze the pipes and shut things down.

President DeWitt: For students living on campus, will Rob's be open?

Dr. Messina: Rob's will have a fine buffet available to students.

Advisor Alexnader: Tuesday, Rob's will be open from 9 am to 8 pm, Rob's Zee's will be open from 9 am to 8 pm, Exchange's Zee's will be open from 10 am to 8 pm, and Spicer's Zee's will be open from 10 am to 8 pm.

Chief Justice Stillion: Just to add onto that, Bierce library will also be closed on Tuesday. The online services will be active, just the building is closed.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Informal recruitment for Greek life has started for fraternities and sororities, so if you are interested a lot of us are in that. Definitely reach out to one of us if you are interested.

Advisor Alexander: For the Akron all-in book bundle, the deadline for opting out is approaching on January 27th for this semester. Content has been looping since before we shut down for break and afterwards so hopefully folks have taken action. Make sure to spread the word that the deadline is the 27th so that people make their decisions on time.

Director Leopold: I just wanted to reiterate that informal recruitment is going on and I'm starting as the IFC president for all of 2025. You're all here to build your leadership skills and we have 11 outstanding chapters on campus that will help with just that. I would love to help put you in contact with any one of them so please reach out to me if you are interested.

VII. Branch Reports

- Finance Report

Director Howell

Director Howell: We had a couple of requests come in toward the end of break and

during break. The UA band symposium was a big one taken care of over break. For USG expenses, we had a few little things right before the end of break and then events right at the beginning of this semester for the EB cabinet meeting. The ice cream cake was very frozen but a very good use of our funds.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: We have finally completed the fall semester newsletter, which is a catalog of all of our achievements and events. We have some copies laid out in the office if you would like to see those. We worked very hard on that so definitely take a look. The spring election cycle is going on and I will say that every week for the next three and a half months. We are elected by the student body so that's important. The next meeting is tomorrow virtually on teams and that will be posted on Instagram and through Zipmail if you are interested in that. Let anyone you may know about that as well.

Associate Justice Shaw: The information session is not tomorrow but next Tuesday, January 21st.

Chief Justice Stillion: Make sure you keep in mind the election rules and have conversations about that outside of the USG office. For records keeping, we have all of those roles assigned, so committee chairs look out for an email about that. There might be some tentative changes with the executive branch records coordinator so if you're in the executive branch, wait a little bit on that. In terms of parking passes, there have been some difficulties with the parking passes for this semester. Student employees were mislabeled and were offered regular staff passes but it is pretty easy to fix if you email or call them. I had that issue but within the hour, I got the correct parking pass. Let anyone you may know having that issue about this. We have an open associate justice position so if you know anyone interested in that, point them toward that direction.

- Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: We are planning our spring senate meeting guest speaker schedules. We're reaching out to a few facilities based on the projects that your committees are working on right now. We are reaching out to the physical facilities department, the office of accessibility, ZipAssist, and the provost's office. The university library is on the docket for next week as well so we will have a focus group with them about a new library system. If you have any other departments that you would like us to bring in for a guest speaker, let us know so we can reach out to them. We have three vacancies right now: the College of Engineering and Polymer Science senator, Senator at Large, and the Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences. We are conducting an interview for the College of Engineering senator but we have no applications for the other two so recommend that to anyone you think might be interested. For ongoing tasks, make sure

you update your outlook calendar and recurring meetings are in there so it's easier to schedule things with you. Fill out your project trackers and fill those out if you didn't last semester. We haven't really detailed that in a senate yet so you aren't really expected to know how to do it already. Make sure you schedule your office hours because that's due by the end of this week.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Every all-USG meeting will be held here, room 335, for this semester.

- Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: We're scheduling our check ins for our members. If you're in EB, it was 15 or, if you're a director, 30 minutes, and we're scheduling those this week for the second or third week. We're still solidifying our team and standard meetings. We want them to all have meeting times set so if you're on those, we want to make sure that we are kicking off the semester strong. For events this week, we had the Welcome Back Cocoa and it was a huge success. People were very interested in our merchandise and the zippy stress relievers. We also had a safety walk on the Greek route and we found some issues that are being reported through campus safety including at least three blue lights being out. There were also some street lights out so we will be seeing if we can get those fixed ASAP. For events coming up, we have hot wings with President Nemer which will be at the end of January.

- DLT Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: We have a few action items from DLT. Make sure your outlook calendars are updated so that we know if we need to meet with you. Also complete the short OSGS form even if you can't attend so we know your availability. It will only be a minute of your time. For the meeting recap, the midyear award form will not be returning because we are doing end of year awards so more to come on that. That will be open in February for you guys to submit. We also have shoutouts that will be rereleased as its own form starting next week. The other thing we talked about is the office hours form that should be filled out by Friday at 5pm. If you need to change your office hours after submitting, just re-fill that out and let us know. For life award selection, USG does the AK Blue and AK Gold award and also the faculty engagement award. DLT voting members are on the selection committee so those will be announcement at the life awards. Lastly, we mapped out the spring calendar and Senate Chair Feezel, Chief Justice Stillion and I sat down and got that figured out a physical excel sheet. Lastly, DLT meetings are on Mondays from 6:30-7:45 pm in student union room 318. If you want to stop by, please do so.

VIII. Committee Reports

- O.S.G.S. Committee

Chief of Staff Lane

Chief of Staff Lane: A couple of quick updates as we get closer to the conference. We're at 150 attendees and about 16 universities. Our conference group chat will be on GroupMe so please scan that QR code right now to get on the GroupMe so that people can ask questions and whatnot. Just a few expectations, as we are hosting this, try to be present with the speakers and other universities. You want to be attending sessions. Try to be on time and break the ice with other universities. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself because this conference is at its best when we all communicate. Please register right now if you haven't already. I didn't link it here but we already ordered merch for everyone so let me know if you cannot attend. There's still a significant chunk of people that haven't filled it out. On the week of 1/27, I'll have something for you to work on since there's so much to prep, so please help if you can. It takes a load off of the committee and everyone can help so that conference is successful.

IX. Representative Reports

- University Council Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: University Council met this past week. The president had a report and said that there are about 500 or so graduates. He referenced a lot of things in his welcome back email. He talked about the Browns partnership and the internships that they are providing. They're looking for a dean of athletics soon but there's an interim person at the moment. The provost touched a little bit on retrenchment. They're working with the union for faculty to find alternatives for them. Lastly, the business dean search did not find the right fit so there's going to be more of a search for that this year. The deadline for retrenchment is being decided by committee. Proposals are due March 3rd with a final request by President Nemer and that will be decided at the April board meeting when it is presented to the board. We also had a speaker talking about the UA admin process transformation to increase efficiency for finance, HR, and IT. There's minutes if you'd like to see exactly what they said and you can always attend the next one in February if you'd like to see that.

Senate Chair Feezel: Retrenchment means budget cuts if you did not know.

X. New Business

- EO 34-24-25

Mason Dexter

President DeWitt: We had a vacancy for this position. Mason is very qualified and has an extensive background in finance. We think that he will fit the role very well.

Vice President Kozma: I would like to echo what president DeWitt said that he is very very qualified in finance and would be a good fit for the role.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there debate on the executive order? I entertain a motion on the previous question.

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

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 Schuhart	In Favor
Senator Shelton	In Favor
Senator Smith	In Favor
Senator Sterns	In Favor

The EO passes.

XI. Swearing In

XII. Adjournment

Advisor Alexander: Your USG awards should have been updated today so check your campus accounts and make sure that those are in.

XIII. Discussion