



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda

January 30th, 2025

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Senator Breon	Present
Senator Clark-Kelley	Present
Senator Nichols	Present
Senator Rahman	Excused
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 entertain a motion to move the Judicial Branch report to the end of the branch reports after the DLT report.

Senator Raymond: So moved.

Senator Schuhart: Second.

Senator Schuhart: Motion to amend the agenda to change the delivery of the APSS report from Senator Clark-Kelley to Senator Schuhart.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: Are there any other amendments to the agenda? Seeing none, I would entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

V. Approval of the 01.23.25 Minutes

Senator Breon: Motion to approve the 01.23.25 Minutes.

Senator Nichols: Second.

VI. Open Student Expression

President DeWitt: Just a bit of advice I wanted to give all of you. I used to be a senator, it's a great position to be in, you have the power to make a lot of change at the university. I just want to encourage you all to listen to your constituents and hear everything going on campus and just use this information to inspire your next projects and really make a difference. I know you all will do this, but I just wanted to encourage you all to be agents of change and make positive changes on campus and I know you'll have a great semester.

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you, President DeWitt.

Associate Justice Shaw: Hi guys, next Monday from 11-1 is the first Mental Health Monday of the year, and the semester. We will be giving away little care packages, and boxes of fidget toys. We will be in the international lounge goodie bags with stress toys. We will be in the international lounge, so stop by if you can!

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you, Associate Justice Shaw.

President DeWitt: One more thing, and I asked Chief Justice Stillion, so I'm not breaking elections rules! If you are interested in running for President or VP, please come talk to me and Vice President Kozma. If you are interested and just want to know more about what we do, we'd love to chat and just show you what a day in our lives looks like.

VII. Branch Reports

✎ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving on to Branch Reports. With the first report being the Legislative Branch Report given by me!

Senate Chair Feezel: So, as we get into the spring semester, keep in mind as you begin thinking about your plans for next year in either USG leadership or senate you will have to apply for election or reelection for the next academic year. If you are interested in Senate Leadership next year we'd love for you to come talk to me and Ali. We'd love to

tell you about what we do and we also would like to offer up the opportunity to arrange a senate meeting for you to try out our positions. We did this last year to transition some of the old senators because often times going into the first senate meeting it being your first time leading the meeting can be a lot.

Also make sure that the spring retreat is in your calendar, it is February 21st from 3-6pm it is required for all of USG to attend unless you have a class. Make sure it is on your calendar and let us know as soon as possible so we can excuse you.

And then just continuing with the vacancies that we have the Senator At-Large, Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences and now officially the Residence Life Senator, so that has also been added to the application and if you know of anyone in Residence Life who would be interested encourage them to apply. That is it for the LB report.

✂ Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving on to the Executive Branch Report given by President DeWitt.

President DeWitt: Alright, we have a few vacancies in the Executive Branch just because as you guys know semester changes, classes change and things like that. So here are our vacancies please spread the word (Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Racial Equity, Deputy Director of Campus Outreach, Student Athlete Liaisons (2), and a Project Manager)! The positions range from 2 hours to 10 hours so if you know anyone who'd be interested show them the application.

We have just a few updates for you guys from EB. Vice President Kozma and I recently did some grant writing, so it's called the Campus Security Support Program grant with help from Abigail Ernst and Brittany Ferguson-Mike from Student Life. The grant is being submitted tomorrow morning, so we're really excited and hopefully we'll get some money! I think the amount is somewhere from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Advisor Alexander: It's \$50,000.

President DeWitt: Yeah, it's \$50,00! So, we settled on that. We'll keep you in the loop!

We also met with the DEI team and finalized a lot of their events for Black History Month. So, keep a look out for that, I think it'll be about mid-February maybe the 19th. And we are meeting to discuss the Rooclusive Space revamp it needs some funding. It is a space for underrepresented student orgs on campus to house their meetings and supplies and things like that. So, hopefully we can get some funding for that.

Events this week. As you guys know, Hot Wings with President Nemer just happened on Wednesday, I think it was a big hit! It was a lot of fun, and we recorded it so if you want to watch it that will be available soon. There might be more events in this series too, so be on the lookout for that! And then OSGS is coming up this weekend, come on let's hear some excitement! But yeah, so that's this weekend, basically all day, and it is being planned by Chief of Staff Lane!

Chief of Staff Lane: If you are volunteering, please be sure to check your email and see your time slots and everything!

Senate Chair Feezel: Volunteers should wear their OSGS shirts, correct?

Chief of Staff Lane: Yes, you guys can all wear your OSGS shirts if you want! Thank you, but at least business casual if you're volunteering, please!

President DeWitt: Any questions? And you can always reach out to Chief of Staff Lane if you have any questions regarding OSGS. Thanks!

∄ DLT Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the DLT report given by me! Action Item: Attend OSGS! You are all required to do that, as we added it to the bylaws last week, so make sure to send an excuse which you should have already done. It'll be fun!

Meeting Recap: We discussed the USG retreat, so like I said previously, make sure you put it in your calendar and make sure to send us your excuses. As soon as possible, it is in 3 weeks. And then, we talked about the USG calendar for all of DLT's tasks and mapped out some timelines for events and leadership transitions.

We also discussed the plan for the judging of LIFE awards and who is eligible to apply for them. Everyone in USG is eligible to apply except for the voting members of DLT, so you can all apply for the A-Key Blue and A-Key Gold awards. USG does judge those and it is based on involvement, and we're sure so many of you are involved on campus. These awards are open right now.

We also discussed when the USG award ceremony will take place, so that was it for the DLT meeting. They occur every Monday from 6:30-7:45pm and you are all welcome to attend if you want! Any questions?

Project Manager Salvatore: Where do you apply for the Life Awards?

President Dewitt: On RooConnect, I can send you a link and put it in the teams. The deadline is February 23rd I believe, so make sure you have everything in by then.

Senator Sterns: Can we get a reminder of what the Life Awards are?

Senate Chair Feezel: They are awards that are given to students and student organizations every year regarding their accomplishments for the year and their career. I think it is administered every year and various groups judge the awards. There are many different awards like, Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior of the Year Awards given to students on campus, so I highly recommend you all look into them. The applications are in ZipMail and on RooConnect.

President DeWitt: Slight update! Get on RooConnect, go to organizations, click Department of Student Life, then forms, and then Life 2025 awards application. I will put that in the teams for everyone.

Senate Chair Feezel: Any other questions?

€ Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving on to the Judicial Branch Report, given by Chief Justice Stillion.

Chief Justice Stillion: Sometimes you're just late to senate... sometimes for some reason you just think it starts at 6:00 pm even though you've been doing this for 3 years now.

Um anyways, at JB we voted on the Bylaw Amendments similar to how you guys did last week, and they passed in our branches and our now ratified and official and apply to the whole organization.

We also did some significant work on the Spring election cycle and went over some of our upcoming events. Those that are most relevant included the applications opened on Monday, we are tabling for it on next Monday, and the application closes next Thursday at 11:59 pm. It is in the ZipMail and the USG social media. So keep an eye out for that and definitely push that out to anyone interested.

Moving on from the elections cycle, all of the records coordinators roles with the passing of the Bylaws have now been assigned and if you're a committee chair you should've heard from the LB Records Coordinator. Make sure to read over that email. Emails were also sent to all of the EB committee chairs, directors, and all of the branch heads. Things are going well with all of the new records coordinators roles.

With the newsletter, make sure you are submitting all of the events feedback and newsletter update form, so we can starting getting everything ready for the February newsletter.

We do still have an Associate Justice position open, so if you know anyone interested in that please send them our way. Any questions before the meme? Is there a meme? Surely there is one... I didn't change it this week guys.

Sam did not change the meme, many boos were given throughout the room.

VIII. Committee Reports

€ Student Engagement Committee

Senator Breon

Senate Chair Feezel: Okay, moving onto committee reports. The first one being the Student Engagement Committee given by Senator Breon.

Senator Breon: Hi people! Student Engagement met today; we are down somebody, Hania is sick obviously. We are in the works of getting student feedback large enough that we can get to the point where the QR codes all over the building so people can scan it and if they have something wrong where they are living or if they know somebody who is having issues in their residence hall. We are just trying to get the most student feedback right now to see what the best step forward is going to be. So for now, we're working on that and that is led by Senator Sterns. Then obviously Senator Rahman is sick so she could not come to our meeting today, and then I am still searching for a project to pick up. And that's all I have does anybody have any questions?

Associate Justice Shaw: Can I get another clarification on what the QR codes are for?

Breon: The QR codes are for the student body, it's almost like a form where they can go in and submit a complaint or an issue they're having and then the form gets to us so we can try to adapt and work on a project to help them fix this issue. Anything else? Sweet, thank you.

€ F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Shelton

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the FAST committee report given by Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: Hi guys! FAST meets every Monday from 4-5 pm, we'd love if you came by and visited, especially next Monday. We will be going through the Car legislation and read through all of the legislation and make sure everything is organized. So we'd love any help, any extra set of eyes. We didn't really cover much, we are trying to schedule our FAST Accessibility tours for the coming semester. We are also thinking on Mondays from 1-2 pm. This is still up in the air but will be finalized next Monday. That just about covers it, this was our first meeting of the year and we are just trying to

get things back out. Any questions? Thank you!

€ A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Schuhart

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the APSS committee report given by Senator Schuhart.

Senator Schuhart: APSS had a really productive meeting this week! As a committee we are working on two separate projects right now. Number one is something that was started by APSS a couple of years ago, called the Brightspace Initiative. Basically, the goal of that is to get Brightspace pages open four days before the start of classes, so students can look over their syllabi and any other required texts they might need and start to make expectations for the semester. Aside from that, we have heard lots of commentary from students where there has been disconnect from students and their academic advisors. As far as, student advisors not really knowing how to direct students who are on pathes to graduate school, medical school things like that. So, we are putting out a survey and seeing how we can kind of help bridge that disconnect and see where this disconnect is actually the largest. Obviously, we have a lot of advisors and if the problem is just with the premed advisor not knowing premed kids have to take physics for the MCAT, well we're not going to try and overhaul the entire advising across campus. So we're working on those surveys to just see what's going on campus and when we get our results to see how we can help. Any questions?

IX. **New Business**

€ SB 13-24-25

Megan McCracken

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto New Business starting with Senate Bill 13-24-25.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: It won't load, give me a second.

Senate Bill 13-24-25 is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: We will speak on behalf of the appointee. We interviewed Megan, and as you know she was the Senate Clerk before, so she took great minutes the whole semester. Now that we have a vacancy in the College of Engineering and Polymer Science role she applied for it and we interviewed her, she's really well qualified for it. From her interview over the summer, she was really well prepared for USG and interested in taking on a larger role in the senate, so I am really excited for her to be able to take this opportunity. With her experience in USG, she has a better understanding of what is said out loud, because she had to write it out too. Anything else you'd like to add, Vice Senate Chair Winters?

Vice Senate Chair Winters: I mean yeah, just to kind of reflect on what Cam said. We reached out to Megan and asked her to apply for the position, so we are really eager to have her in a position where she can do more power than just taking minutes, so we are very excited for her.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate on the bill? Seeing none, I would entertain a motion to dispense of the requirement of a second reading.

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

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

Senator Schuhart: I move the previous question.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: Vice Senate Chair Winters, please call the role.

SB 13-24-25 is taken to a role call vote.

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

SB 13-24-25 passes.

EO 35-24-25

Grace Salvatore

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Executive Order 35-24-25.

Executive Order 35-24-25 is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: Would President DeWitt and Vice President Kozma like to speak on behalf of the appointee.

President DeWitt: Yes! Grace was a Project Manager prior to this position, she had an event, it was tie blanket making for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Many PHC students ended up attending and it was just a great success. She is very involved in PHC

and her sorority, so yeah we look forward to seeing her in this position.

Vice President Kozma: I'll just echo what Grace said, she has don't great in the Project Manager job. She is very involved in PHC and we can't wait to see what she does.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate on the executive order? Seeing none, I'd entertain a motion to move the previous question.

Senator Schuhart: I move the previous question.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: Vice Senate Chair Winters, please call the role.

EO 35-24-25 is taken to a role call vote.

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

EO 35-24-25 passes.

X. Swearing In

Megan McCracken and Grace Salvatore are sworn into the position of Senator for the College of Engineering and Polymer Science and Greek Life Liaison (PHC).

XI. Adjournment

XII. Discussion