



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda

February 13th, 2025

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Senator Breon	Present
Senator Clark-Kelley	Present
Senator McCracken	Present
Senator Nichols	Present
Senator Rahman	Excused
Senator Raymond	Present
Senator Schuhart	Excused
Senator Shelton	Present
Senator Smith	Present
Senator Sterns	Present

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Senator Clark-Kelley: I motion to change the delivery of the APSS report from Senator Clark-Kelley to Senator Nichols.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: I would entertain a motion to strike the Advisor's Report.

Senator Raymond: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

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

Senator McCracken: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

V. Approval of the 02.06.25 Minutes

Senator Breon: I motion to approve the 02.06.25 minutes.

Senator Shelton: Second.

VI. Open Student Expression

Chief of Staff Lane: Thank you Senate Chair Feezel. Do you mind if I utilize the front of the room?

Senate Chair Feezel: Sure.

Chief of Staff Lane: Hey guys, how are you? So, I am actually going to be up here for a minute, because I have two things to say. One of them is something I have written and the other one is something that I will be saying on behalf of Mikayla Minard, our Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, who could not be here tonight.

Hello all, I'm speaking regarding EO 37-24-25 that is on the floor tonight, otherwise known as the pride flag EO. Like many students, I was deeply saddened and discouraged to see the pride flags taken down overnight, without any explanation available to students.

I am appreciative that usg cares for our students to feel represented. However, our role as an organization should not be to solve the problems created by administration. In coordination with the passing of SB 1 and the sudden lack of funding for Rethinking Race, students can clearly see the preemptive takedowns of DEI that the university is undergoing. The pride flags are just one piece of a larger issue.

This EO does not accomplish what the students need. This is a bandaid on top of a larger, gaping wound. What the students need is to have their voices heard by administrators. We need is to feel anger and we need to fight the larger issue at hand- The students need to fight for systemic change in our administration.

This fight is not being done by students alone. If you weren't at senate last week, it was announced that faculty senate voted unanimously to pass a resolution to reinstate the pride flags. This resolution needs support from students and has been passed along on social media. By passing this EO, we create the opportunity to pacify students, creating the allusion that the issue has been solved. This is not the truth. In 3 months after I

graduate, there is just as likely as a change that this flag is taken down again. This is the importance of fighting for systemic change.

I do not say any of this lightly. As a queer woman at this university, the presence of the flags made me feel seen, even as a 17 year old high schooler touring akron. I am always inspired by the work ethics of our USG members looking to represent students and better the lives of their peers. Unfortunately, this is not the solution. I ask that you all put deep considerations into your votes and the impact of EO 37-24-25 and I urge you to vote it down so we can seek true justice and representation. So that's from me.

And I am going to say this one on behalf of Mikayla Minard, it's kind of like a letter.

Hello all, I would like to take the opportunity to address the recent removal of the Pride flags from the Jean Hower Taber Student Union and the subsequent actions taken in response. I urge Undergraduate Student Government representatives and the student body to consider all available avenues to address this injustice. We must take the most effective and impactful approach, which requires a comprehensive assessment before enacting EO 37-24-25.

I am deeply concerned, and frankly disgusted, by the removal of the Pride flags from the student union. This action has caused significant harm and distress, and it is vital that we address it with the seriousness and urgency it deserves. The Pride flags represent safety, support, visibility, and belonging for our LGBTQIA2S+ students. Their intentional removal sends a clear message that their identities are not valued or respected on this campus. This, among other administrative decisions to preemptively eliminate DEI initiatives, has wronged the very students the university is meant to protect and serve.

While I understand and appreciate the intention behind the executive order to provide a new flag, I have serious reservations about this approach. My concern is not with the intention but with the impact. I strongly believe that the Undergraduate Student Government taking on the responsibility of replacing the flags will significantly undermine the crucial work being done by the faculty resolution introduced last week. The resolution calls for the **restoration** of the Pride flags, a symbolic act of acknowledging and rectifying the administration's initial wrong. By focusing on a *student lead* replacement rather than *administrative* restoration, we risk missing a crucial opportunity to hold the administration accountable and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to our LGBTQIA2S+ community.

The Pride flag removal in the student union is deeply troubling as it is not an isolated

incident, but a symptom of a larger problem. In the past couple of weeks, students have watched in fear as diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives have been encroached upon, struck down, and “not budgeted for” in preparation for incoming state legislature. Unfortunately, this is only the beginning. By replacing the flag ourselves, we risk setting a dangerous precedent that these actions are acceptable and that *students* are expected to compensate for the university's failures to protect and value its students.

I also want to acknowledge the numerous students who have called upon us, their Undergraduate Student Government representatives, seeking action and support. To my LGBTQIA2S+ peers and fellow students, I stand with you. The removal of the Pride flags, along with looming state-wide rollbacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, is a direct attack on our community. While the executive order to replace the Pride flags may offer a quick fix, we cannot be satisfied with superficial solutions. A replacement flag, while well-intentioned, creates only the *illusion* of progress. True belonging cannot be manufactured; it must be earned through respect, inclusion, and a genuine commitment to our community. Without these efforts, the flag is devoid of meaning, offering no real representation of inclusion. The administration *must* address the systemic inequity oppressing marginalized students at this university. I encourage my peers to let their emotions fuel their mission. Historically, we have overcome similar challenges, and we will again. We are here. We have always been here, and we will continue to be here. Flag or not, our presence as marginalized students is undeniable. I encourage us to channel our strength and resilience to demand real change.

We must stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA2S+ peers and demonstrate that we will not tolerate actions that marginalize or exclude them. I urge my fellow senators to consider the potential consequences of EO 37-24-25 and to prioritize holding the administration accountable for restoring the original Pride flags. Let us amplify the voices of the students and faculty who are demanding justice and inclusion, rather than inadvertently diluting their message. We must support them in their mission. I ask that you vote against EO 37-24-25, to allow our community to engage in the strategic planning necessary to amplify student and faculty voices and create meaningful change. Thank you.

Director Minard

Chief of Staff Lane: That was all.

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you, Chief of Staff Lane. Anyone else for open student expression?

Chief Justice Stillion: Can I also come down there, I have something similar to say from Deputy Director Cosgrave.

Senate Chair Feezel: Yes.

Chief Justice Stillion: This is also a message from Deputy Director Cosgrave, as she could also not be here tonight.

First, I want to say that I admire President DeWitt's commitment to ensuring that queer kids feel seen by the Undergraduate Student Government, and Undergraduate Student Body as a whole. I think now more than ever is a time to stand in solidarity with one another since people are scared.

I am saying this as more than the Deputy Director of LGBTQ+ and Gender Equity, I am saying this as a scared queer student. I think the executive order shown before you today shows that the Undergraduate Student Government cares about the LGBTQ+ student population, but I do not think that was ever the concern when the pride flags were taken down in the student union. When the flags were taken down, regardless of intent, the student body felt that administration, not students, but administration is not supportive of queer kids. Nobody thought that students took those flags down. Instead, students began looking to administration for answers, and we have yet to hear an announcement about it.

It is great that President DeWitt has ties to administration and we get to learn that the pride flags were only a temporary thing and they were supposed to be taken down ages ago. That is not the concern. The concern is that by taking down the flags at the same time that the DEI office got renamed, the Black Male Summit got renamed, and Rethinking Race was "not budgeted for", it looks a certain way to the student body. The student body was not offered an alternative by administration to the flags being taken down. The flags were taken down and then students were given radio silence.

By passing an executive order that has Undergraduate Student Government place a flag in the student union, while a great gesture from USG, it does not give students the satisfaction of knowing administration supports them.

The executive order urges additional administrative action, but I fear that will not happen. I fear that by USG placing a flag in the student union, the administration will think that the job has been done for them. Because what queer kids want is so much more than a piece of fabric hung on the wall. Queer kids want representation.

We want a guarantee that administration does something. Not an easy way to get by by tacking their name on something that USG did. Faculty senate has a petition out right now to be signed by students begging the administration to put the pride flags back. What incentive does administration have to do so if they can tack their name on a USG initiative?

Additionally, it is not mandatory for executive orders to be seen by administration, but we have something that is STATE mandated to be seen: senate resolutions. President DeWitt can keep pushing for administrative actions in her meetings, but we have another tool to use. I once again implore the senate to write a Senate Resolution forcing administration to do two things: 1) put a pride flag back up with their own resources and their own money as insisted upon by the students and 2) demand accountability and communication about DEI on our campus. The only statements we have gotten were on rethinking race, AFTER the akron beacon journal wrote an article.

All of this is to say, the problem was never with Undergraduate Student Government's support of the queer community and it was always a problem with administrations support of the queer community. Queer kids want administrative action, to be seen, to be heard, to be supported. I don't think this executive order achieves that, but I think that you can as senators. Our job as Undergraduate Student Government has always been to bridge the gap between students and administrators/faculty/staff. But our job has also always been to hold administration accountable, and I think it's time we start doing that. You can change this with a resolution fighting for the student body that you represent.

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you, Chief Justice Stillion. Anyone else for Open Student Expression? Seeing no one else, moving onto the Legislative Branch Report given by me.

VII. Branch Reports

€ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: This will be a short report. Just a reminder to fill out your project trackers. We will be going through those and we will be scheduling check-in meetings either during your office hours or if we can't find a time that works, we will reach out to you individually. That will be around week 7, so next week is kind of a short week, at least for me because of the Tuesday off, but the week after that is when we will look to schedule those.

Semester Review Sessions are coming up, we are going to schedule those in Discussion.

All of the times for those are listed in the agenda so we'll take a look at those once we adjourn and you can take a time slot if you are available.

Last thing, it's the same thing as always, vacancies. Let your friends know if they would be a good fit for either the Senator At-Large position or the Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences or Residence Life Senator if they are interested in that. Any questions for the report?

€ Judicial Branch Report

Associate Justice Groen

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Judicial Branch Report given by Associate Justice Groen.

Associate Justice Groen: First we have the records project, so all of JB is assigned past Teams folders to review. Last week we reviewed 2019-2020 and then the next two weeks we will be reviewing 2020-2021. The newsletter, just make sure you are continuing to submit the event feedback and the newsletter updates in the USG Teams at the top of the teams. UAkron Park, JB leadership met with them last Tuesday. They discussed the upcoming engagement survey and the townhall. We also discussed getting JB back involved into parking appeals and that whole process. But, the earliest that would start is the beginning of the fall semester. The New York Times Project, so Executive Justice Bushen and I are working to get free access to the New York Times for all students. We have a meeting with the New York Times next Thursday on the 20th. Then finally, we have an Associate Justice position open, so if you know anyone who might be interested please let them know.

Senate Chair Feezel: Are there any questions for the JB Report?

Senator Sterns: Is the New York Times Project going to give us access to the games?

Associate Justice Groen: I think we're just doing access to the news, but we still have the meeting so I'm not sure yet!

Senate Chair Feezel: Any other questions?

Senator Raymond: I motion to fix the time to adjourn to 6:00 pm.

Senator Breon: Second.

Division is called. The ayes have it. The time to adjourn is fixed to 6:00 pm.

€ Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Executive Branch Report given by President

DeWitt.

President DeWitt: Okay basically for EB this week we have our vacancies still. You can see them there, our application on our USG Instagram. You can find it in our bio. USG Tabling occurred this week, our Events Team set that up, thank you to all of you who volunteered for that. We're going to be doing that pretty regular throughout the semester, so that students get to know about USG a little bit more. We've been giving out some of our merch, it's a fun time. The United We Stand Event happened last night and it was put on by our DEI team. It was a great success in my opinion, we had to pull out extra chairs and had a lot of great discussions from that. USG Presentation Night is tonight following Senate at 7:00 pm, so if you had presentations for that please attend, or just attend if you want to listen! USG and BEC is still working on their spirit week. There are going to be lots of giveaways, it'll be a great time! Scarfs, bags, shirts, so lots of great things! So more to come on that, the game is now February 28th and not March 1st anymore FYI! In other items, from a Senate Bill 1 stance, basically as Student Body President at the University of Akron, I decided to sign testimony condemning Senate Bill 1 in collaboration with many other student government presidents in the state of Ohio. I think there were like nine or ten at the time in which I had met with them last. I signed it as Student Body President, so basically if you're not familiar with Senate Bill 1, it was getting rid of DEI in higher education at universities. Although, I believe it just passed today, so I signed that testimony and it was presented in front of the state house, but ultimately they decided to pass the bill. So, if you want to talk more about it, I'd be happy to later.

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you, President DeWitt. Moving onto the DLT Report given by me.

€ DLT Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: In DLT this week there are a couple of action items for you guys. Please remember to RSVP to the USG Awards Gala, that form closes in like a week, but you should really just do that asap. It is really quick and literally just asks if you will attend, yes or no, and then dietary restrictions and then if you're bringing a guest. The link is in the DLT Report attached to the agenda in the email, so please do that as soon as this meeting ends. That will be Friday, April 25th. Then the retreat again is on February 21st, which is next Friday. Please make sure that you'll attend that, make sure it's on your calendars. It's 3:00-6:00 pm, Chipotle will be provided, its InfoCision on the 3rd floor.

President DeWitt: It's the IPromise Institute.

Senate Chair Feezel: There will be people there to guide you. Make sure you show up on time or let me know if you show up late or leave early. In DLT, we also discussed the ZipMail message that was sent out from the Board of Trustees Chair, Lewis Adkins Jr., about the Rethinking Race decision. That was published in the journal, so we discussed that to make sure that we are as leadership all aware of that message. I highly encourage you guys to read it if you haven't already and make sure that you are aware of what's going on at the university. The OSGS membership requirements clarification was briefly mentioned in DLT. For clarification, the service event that was part of OSGS, does not count towards that part of your personal membership requirements. So, don't submit two of those. As always, DLT meetings are currently on Mondays 6:30-7:45 pm, in Student Union room 318. Please attend, I highly recommend it, it's a good way to learn what leadership works on and what we do.

VIII. Committee Reports

€ Elections Board Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Elections Board Report, given by Chief Justice Stillion.

Chief Justice Stillion: Alright, our meetings, as a reminder, are closed just for the elections board portion of that meeting time. On Monday, they were canceled this week in place of our first candidate's meetings which did happen for the USG Spring election cycle, this past Monday and Tuesday night. Just so everyone is aware, petitioning and campaigning has begun for anyone who is going to be running for a position for next year in our Senate or President and Vice President, so just keep an eye out for anything. Any questions about the upcoming elections cycle?

Dr. Messina: How do we find out who is running?

Chief Justice Stillion: The candidates list is released at the second candidates meeting, so right now everyone is simply an applicant petitioning to become a candidate, so that will be released in two weeks.

€ A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Nichols

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the APSS Committee Report given by Senator Nichols.

Senator Nichols: Hi everyone, I hope you are doing well. This week APSS we met on Monday, and we discussed our Brightspace legislation that we are working on. We are trying to gauge how students feel about opening Brightspace courses at least four days in

advance in opposed to the day that that classes start. So, we're working on sending that out in ZipMail. In addition, we also have an academic advising survey that is being sent out to also gauge how students feel on their academic advisors. We are working on creating a description and a title to give to President DeWitt in order for her to submit that to ZipMail. That's basically all we worked on this week. Does anyone have any questions?

Student Trustee Pastoria: If President DeWitt just said that SB1 passed in the Senate, there is actually a provision there about opening syllabi early. You might just want to check that before you send it.

Senator Nichols: Okay, thank you.

Senator Raymond: I concur, that bill is supposed to pass in mid March so it'd be prudent to maybe see how the status of it and kind of ask the university to quickly comply with the senate bill.

Senator Nichols: Thank you.

✶ Student Engagement Committee

Senator Breon

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Student Engagement Committee report given by Senator Breon.

Senator Breon: Hello everybody, so Student Engagement met today. It was a pretty good meeting we had Senator Sterns there and myself. Senator Rahman was not able to make it today, but we did talk about our initiatives and surveys that we're doing. Senator Sterns is current working on the QR code link for around the union. That'll be completed around next week. I'm working on the safety survey, and I have drafted that. That will begin to come into play, I am going to submit that to the higher ups, and then try to collaborate with APSS and see if we can get some legislation going. That's all we got this week, does anybody have any questions?

Senator Raymond: Can you elaborate more on the survey.

Senator Breon: Yeah, so the survey is a general consensus of how students feel on campus at night or in the day. Different students such as commuter students, how they feel, when they are going out to their cars late at night. Or obviously down at South Exchange, that seems to be a prevalent problem. We're just trying to gauge where students feel the most safe or where students feel the least safe on campus. And it can be during the day or during the night. There's a whole lot of questions in there, but that's drafted and I'll get that out as soon as possible.

Student Trustee Pastoria: Are there any other projects in the pipeline?

Senator Breon: Not that I know of.

Dr. John Messina: Can I add one?

Senator Breon: Yes, you can add one, of course!

Dr. Messina: You were very helpful and your committee was very helpful, in the analysis of the food robots. We would like, if there is interest, to continue to assess that at the end of the semester and potentially get more information now that the robots need to fight challenging weather and terrain.

Senator Breon: I concur as it is snowing outside right now!

Dr. Messina: So, if you would be willing to do that at some point, there's no rush.

Senator Breon: Yes, of course. I will take that! Any other questions? Alright, thank you guys very much!

∉ F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Shelton

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

Senator Shelton: Just a reminder that the 17th is our first accessibility tour we will be hitting up Crouse, Zook, and Buchtel. Please show up, it'll be fun, it'll be a good USG Sponsored Event, so be sure to go! As for individual updates, Senator Smith is working on legislation and some events. Senator Raymond is working on plans to talk with the Chief of Police and some other people about safety issues that he sees. Senator McCracken is planning to communicate with the College of Engineering and Polymer Science about project ideas for FAST and is in the works with the library about a game cabinet, so she is hopefully doing that. I am trying to work with the Meyers School of Art to put up art on the third floor and will hopefully have enough time to get to the car legislation today! Any questions?

Student Trustee Pastoria: So, in the College of Business the hot water doesn't work. So like when I go to wash my hands, they're freezing cold.

Director Mahaney: Since we're on the topic, opposite of the College of Business Crouse's water is really hot.

Chief of Staff Lane: First off, I love the accessibility tours that you guys do, and I have an email drafted for you about this already. I was in ASEC the other day, the main elevator there. There is a set of doors in front of the main elevator, said doors do not have a push

button, so there's no accessibility to open the elevator. I discovered this when I was exiting the elevator and there was a student in a wheelchair that could not open the door. I did take a picture of said door for you!

Senator Raymond: I noticed two things similar. One is that the handicap door opener in the Student Union by the Starbucks doesn't work and then the building by Buchtel doesn't have buttons to be able to enter it.

Senator Shelton: Awesome, any other questions?

Student Trustee: Yes, one more. The bridge from Buckingham to the College of Business drips a lot of water.

Associate Justice Shaw: Shrank Hall North the main elevators, I don't know if they work because you can press the button and wait there for ten minutes and they don't come.

Senator Shelton: Okay, if we could include these in emails to me, and any other concerns please include in an email. I don't even have a doc open these are all in my search bar!

Senator Raymond: These will all be in the meeting minutes.

Senator Shelton: Thank you. Sorry, Ali.

IX. Constituency Reports

☞ University Council Report

Chief of Staff Lane

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the University Council Report to be given by Chief of Staff Lane.

Chief of Staff Lane: Hey guys! We had University Council this past Tuesday, it's held in Leigh Hall and it is welcome to anyone, so you don't have to be a representative of USG to attend these. They're kind of interesting to listen to. So we started off with the Executive Council Committee report, they just were discussing future guest speakers for the UC meetings and then they discussed that the Provost gave remarks at that meeting because it was the day his resignation was announced. Then they discussed UC involvements and shared governance and that they are being represented on the leadership searches for the Senior VP and Provost. They said it is a full, but accelerated search. There's also multiple statements on the visioning group from last month, but I'll get to that later, and that they wanted to let us know that they have monthly meetings with shared governments and the President, so if you ever have any concerns you can give it to them.

Now, the President's remarks, he discussed his special digest that went out that day. It

was in conjunction with the Chair Lewis one that was in the Akron Beacon Journal. He did say that if you had questions after you have read both, you can reach out to his office. He also discussed the vision session that occurred last month. This is a firm called 160 over 90 that was hired by the university. They are doing a refresh branding initiative that they have been in discussions with faculty and staff and students and everyone to understand what the university is like and then use that as an anchoring point for further branding initiatives to further build off of in the future. He also discussed the Brown's partnership and how there are 70 students who have affiliated courses with it. There is a special event next Wednesday in the Gardner Theater. He discussed alumni socials and one of them that happened in Tampa. He discussed OSGS and we are holding a speech and debate tournament this weekend. The College of Business is also hosting it's first of two annual cohorts of Brazilians Execs. UA Athletics is doing pretty well, go Zips, and they are conducting searches for the Athletic Director, they are looking at candidates in March, and then of course the Provost.

Then the guest speakers were ZAB, I am not going to go through all that because you guys all know about ZAB. We did learn mostly about the structure of how they work, but I'm pretty sure you guys have attended ZAB events recently. The Provost remarks were pretty short. He said that we are good on enrollment, the admits are up 1% and enrollment is up 5%. They are also looking like they will have a normal process with FAFSA this year, so that's pretty good. He obviously announced his resignation, and he is returning to faculty. There was a question to him from Dr. Huss that asked about Senate Bill 1 because of how the state level is going to effect education and he asked what is going on institutionally. The Provost responded that the inter University Council took a position that it will not rebut Senate Bill 1 in any way so if you notice that there was no college presidents that gave a testimony on Senate Bill 1 on Tuesday that is why.

The Chief Strategy remarks were also a 160 over 90 update, similar things. Committee reports, there was nothing huge. I know Dr. Messina is doing a lot in his committee, trying to improve the portals for how a student would gather in the experience of registering for classes and using Brightspace. GSG discussed how they are focusing on there election and increase advocacy. They are having a townhall. We talked about all of our USG events that we have already talked about, and yeah that's all the highlights honestly. Any questions?

Senator Raymond: I've been a little bit behind on the Provost resignation information. Is he still in the Provost position.

Chief of Staff Lane: Yes, he is still in the Provost position, I believe until May. He will

be here for graduation. They are just currently searching for his replacement. Also he is not resigning completely from the university, he is just going back into a faculty position. Any other questions?

X. **New Business**

EO 36-24-25

Period Project

EO 36-24-25 is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate on the executive order? Actually, I'll give an opportunity for President DeWitt and Vice President Kozma, to speak on behalf of the executive order.

President DeWitt: Yeah, I think the EO explains it pretty well. But basically, this has been an initiative of USG for many years. I believe President Garchar supplied funding when he was still here. I was just doing USG's continuation for that initiative, and it will just help students for the next academic year.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate on the executive order.

Senator Raymond: I noticed in the executive order, it doesn't specify, like where these are going at the university, and I would be curious to know how they will be made available to the student population. Specifically.

Senate Chair Feezel: As a reminder, if you have a question that needs answered, You should preface it with a request for information, wait for the person to accept it or decline it, and then state it otherwise. What you just said isn't debate, so it won't be answered.

Senator Shelton: Point of information from President DeWitt, these will be placed in the women's, in the flow things correct?

President DeWitt: Yeah, they will be placed in a pre-existing machine. So none of this money will go towards that. It's just refilling them. That's an existing initiative and machines already exist in campus. In the Jean Hower Taber Student Union, Bierce library, there's like four or five buildings, I believe, or more, yeah, pre-existing machines and supplies would go in there.

Senator Breon: Point of information, are they in just the women's bathrooms or in the men's bathrooms as well?

President DeWitt: I do not recall, I believe they are in both.

Senate Chair Feezel: I can answer that. It's in all library men's bathrooms and some of the Student Union men's bathrooms as well, wherever the machines are already pre-existing.

Senator Sterns: Request for information from President DeWitt, if this is supposed to fund menstrual products for the entirety of the 25-26 year. How? It doesn't seem like \$3,000 is enough.

President DeWitt: Yes. So due to returning to normal operating levels for USG, we had a lot of rollover from COVID. We were able to supply at least \$17,000 when President Garchar was here and wrote an executive order to buy these machines. We will not be able to provide that much funding now, considering our current budgets, but we can still help support this initiative, so this will be able to help support that. We'll be able to use this money, but also we'll have to turn to external funding sources as well. So this is what USG can contribute based on our current budget. So it will help support it, but not fully funded.

Senator Sterns: Is there an estimation for how long the \$3,000 will last?

President DeWitt: They will ration it throughout the semesters.

Senator Raymond: Request for information from President DeWitt. So this \$3,000 is for the 2025 2026 academic year. What is the total USG budget for that same academic year?

President DeWitt: That will be determined to receive our funding from the Office of Student Affairs, I believe. But yeah, we don't know that until like, the beginning of the academic year, but it will probably reflect on the same relatively as this year. Does that answer your question?

Senate Chair Feezel: Chief of Staff Lane, if you have an answer.

Chief of Staff Lane: I just want to clarify that we also budget for projects like this, as you'll see in point number three, long term initiatives and projects. That is current money that we have set aside for projects like these out of the budget that we have now. So there is long term planning that we've invested in thinking about how this money will go across multiple years. Thank you.

Senator Sterns: Request for information from President DeWitt. How will students, since it's going to be rationed, how will students know when products are available in times of emergency?

President DeWitt: Yeah, so basically, ZipAssist is in charge of ensuring that machines are filled and everything. So we just apply the funding. They will decide when they are going

to resupply these basically, so when they notice that a machine is down, they can go ahead and refill it, so they'll be able to review that based on their procedures.

Senator Sterns: But how will the students know?

Dr. Messina: The company that works with ZipAssist monitors all of the facilities that have the equipment. So it would be highly unusual during the particular period of monitoring. That the machines would be completely empty. So they go and they verify the items and they restock, or if they pull, they may pull from less utilized areas and placing in more utilized areas. This is a bad analogy, but it's not different than we have a company that checks our fire extinguishers to make sure that they're all full and that they're all operating correctly. It's the same principle. So, it would be highly unlikely that in any one given period of time, because of the way that they monitor the devices, they know which ones get used more frequently than others, and supply those accordingly and check those. Does that help?

Chief of Staff Lane: I would also like to contribute that the \$17,000 that was given by President Garchar before was not only to create the stock for these machines, but we also installed new machines at that time, and that also supplied us for the past three years, which is why the number is so large compared to what we're giving now. You'll also notice, if you look at the machines now, that there is an advertisement for ZipAssist next to those, because one of the issues in the past was people taking large amounts to increase their own personal supply of hygienic products or menstrual products, and now that ZipAssist has their own programming to supply personally, supply these programs to people that need them. They're anticipating that we're able to use our supply more strongly and only within need in the restrooms on campus.

Senator Shelton: I'm not sure if I'm doing this right, but I'd like to move to the previous question.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there a second?

Senator Raymond: Second.

The motion to close debate passes and take a roll call vote on EO 36-24-25.

Senator Breon	Opposed
Senator Clark-Kelley	Opposed
Senator McCracken	In Favor
Senator Nichols	In Favor
Senator Raymond	In Favor

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

EO 36-24-25 passes.

EO 37-24-25

Permanent Pride Flag Installation

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Executive Order 37-24-25.

EO 37-24-25 is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: I'll give an opportunity for President DeWitt and Vice President Kozma to speak on behalf of Executive Order 37-24-25.

President DeWitt: Yes, I do have something to say. Thank you. As you all know and have heard probably a million times now, this executive order will allow for a permanent pride flag display in the Student Union. Many of you know the pride lines were taken down as the former location was marked as a temporary display space for events. Following this, there were a vast number of students who came to USG to express their desire for a permanent pride flag display to offer a continued sense of belonging at the university. These conversations sparked the idea for an executive order providing a permanent solution, led by students, which still urges administration to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community. This EO has the support of students in LGBTUA, a student organization on our campus, representing the LGBTQ+ community. If students take this action, it will be much harder to take away. If an administrator were to take this action, administrators often change and it would be much easier to eliminate their action than direct action plus students. Students have a powerful voice on this campus, and they should exercise it in this way. This act is not the end of the road for advocacy on this issue. If we want systemic change at USG displaying a pride flag in the union will not bar the submission. USG will continue to support positive change at the university and urge administrators to uphold the values of inclusion and diversity at UA. This EO not only allows for these students to get representation on campus, but it also sends a message to the university that inclusion and diversity are valued by the University of Akron students. This permanent display would be arranged by students in collaboration with the Student Union to create a more inclusive, welcoming environment for all. I urge you to vote in favor of this EO as it ultimately contributes to fostering a sense of belonging and community at the University of Akron. Thank you.

Senate Chair Feezel: I will now open debate on the Executive Order 37-24-25.

Senator Sterns: Point of information from President DeWitt. Faculty Senate is already doing stuff?

President DeWitt: Yeah, I believe they released a petition to have the pride flags put back up in the location that they were. But that's a temporary display location for events that is what I was told.

Senator Raymond: Point of information from President DeWitt. I had a question about the scope of authority under which this executive order was issued. Our bylaws stipulate that the President, or our constitution stipulates that the President may issue executive orders for matters necessitating prompt or immediate action. The decision to permanently install pride flag in the student union does not appear to meet these criteria for urgency, there's been no demonstration of an immediate need or emergency justifying the bypass of our standard legislative process inclusivity on campus, while the significant issue should ideally be addressed through a thorough, inclusive legislative process to ensure it reflects the will and diversity of the student body. I'm asking for clarification on how this executive order aligns with the bylaws definition of prompt or immediate action, and if it does not meet this criterion, I question legitimacy of issuing this order the executive action, rather than through our established legislative procedures.

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order, furthering debate.

Senator Raymond: I retract my last sentence.

President DeWitt: I see this executive order similar to the International Lounge Executive Order. If you are not aware, the International Lounge exists in its current form because of the undergraduate student government, and that came in the form of an EO, so USG can provide funding to spaces. So, since USG would be purchasing this flag and paying with the long-term issues and projects account. I see it as a way to similar processes that, so that is how it votes as an executive order. Does that make sense?

Senator Raymond: I was just more curious, what would necessitate this being necessary to be immediate, rather than in the budget for the following year?

President DeWitt: Yeah, it's based on student concern. So students came to us and said, "Hey, we really need representation. We feel like they've taken away our representation." And you know, it's hard to wait, tell students to wait a semester and then a summer, but again, it would come out of our long term initiatives and projects account now, so it would not affect next year's budget.

Senator Shelton: Point of information from Senate Chair Feezel. If we were to pass this, can we still pass further legislation saying that we want the staff to pass their bill to and to put up further pride flags in the union?

Senate Chair Feezel: Yes, that wouldn't prevent us from passing further legislation. And if we were to pursue that, I believe President DeWitt would have the ability to delay her Executive Order action, if that were to make progress, or if it were to appear to be have a successful chance.

Senator Shelton: Further point of information, generally, if the staff were to pass their bill and we weren't to pass this bill, how would that just like in general work.

Senate Chair Feezel: If you're talking about faculty senate these two aren't technically conflicting. It would be accomplishing two different tasks. So if faculty senate was to pass theirs, it would really not affect it.

Senator Sterns: I motion to lay this executive order on the table until Thursday, February 20th, next Senate meeting.

Senator Raymond: Second.

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order, that cannot be done per the Constitution. Executive Orders must be voted on by the next Senate meeting and immediately following their issuance.

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you, Chief Justice Stillion. The motion does not stand.

President DeWitt: Request for information from Senate Chair Feezel. Is there a way to extend the time of this meeting?

Senate Chair Feezel: A Senator would have to motion to change the time to adjourn.

Senator Shelton: I motion to extend the time to 6:30 pm.

Senator McCracken: Second.

Division is called. The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Feezel: The time to adjourn is fixed to 6:30 pm. Is there any further debate on the order?

Chief Justice Stillion: Senator Sterns did not vote.

Senate Chair Feezel: He has the right to abstain.

Chief Justice Stillion: Then the ayes don't have it.

Senate Chair Feezel: The majority of those voting does have it, and per Robert's Rules, it is majority vote. There's also the power of the Senate to dispute account, so.

Senator Raymond: Motion to recess for five minutes.

Senator Breon: Second.

Division is called. The nays have it.

Senate Chair Feezel: The nays have it. Continuing debate on executive order 37-24-25. Any further debate? Seeing none I would entertain a motion of the previous question.

Senator Shelton: So moved.

Senator McCracken: Second.

Division is called. The nays have it.

Senate Chair Feezel: The nays have it, because it requires two thirds majority debate is still open.

Senator Raymond: Point of order, the rationale for the necessity of this executive order was based on the general feeling of the student organization. So, the question about the student organization's feelings on the matter is legitimate information pertaining to the matter at hand.

Senate Chair Feezel: I believe if you wanted to express a opinion on students feelings on the matter, it would have to be done in debate. I would encourage you to make that statement in debate, rather than furthering debate through points of information. President DeWitt had already explained her opinions in her ability to speak on behalf of the executive order, so you can appeal my decision. But as it stands that would be further engaging and she can't speak.

Senator Breon: Point of information from President DeWitt. So as this order is in questioning right now, is there an idealized place where this pride flag would be raised?

President DeWitt: Yeah, so the ideal place would be the Piano Lounge or a location like that. It doesn't currently have a display, probably not the International Lounge just because they already have flags displayed there. But we will work with the student union staff to identify a specific location, but we're hoping the Piano Lounge.

Senator Shelton: Point of information from Senator Feezel. If a senator were to make a bill similar to the faculty senate and we were to pass that and try to encourage the fact,

like the faculty at large, to reinstate the flags. Could we do that hypothetically? Could we encourage them to hang the flags back as they were?

Senate Chair Feezel: As I've already answered? This executive order would be a different solution than the one that is being proposed by faculty senate. So whether this passes or fails doesn't directly impact the actions of Faculty Senate or the raising of the original pride flags in the original location. It might have a correlated effect on their success, or whether they are or that that is a different issue.

Senator Raymond: Okay, I want to speak on why I am opposed to this bill being passed. I believe that the manner in the way that this pride flag is being tabulated is not the right process. It explains that the most current and inclusive pride flag would be used, which is a nebulous statement. That I feel like will be hard to determine. On top of that, I think that it will be impossible to find a flag that would accurately represent the diversity of students at the University of Akron. And I also believe that using student government money to purchase a political item would be a negative to the impartiality of students that we represent.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there further debate?

Senator Sterns: Request for information from President DeWitt. Is this just like a single flag somewhere in the union?

President DeWitt: It would be a framed display for the most inclusive and current pride flag which LGBTUA has agreed to choose in collaboration with USG. So it would be like the most inclusive pride flag we could choose in collaboration with them.

Senator Sterns: So it's just like one thing somewhere.

President DeWitt: It's like a framed flag and it'd probably have a plaque.

Senator Breon: Point of information from President DeWitt. How many flags were hung in the Union outside there before they were taken down?

President DeWitt: I don't recall. It was like eight maybe.

Senator Breon: Do you have any idea what they all represented?

President DeWitt: Various different identities at the university, but obviously they're taken down, I can't go take a peak at them.

Senator Breon: Point of information from Senate Chair Feezel, question about all the identities of the previous pride flags in the union.

Senate Chair Feezel: I do not have personal knowledge, you'd have to ask President DeWitt or let her defer to someone else. Would you like Vice Senate Chair Winters to answer?

Senator Breon: Please do.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: I can at least name six of them. So we had the gay flag, we had the lesbian flag, we had the transgender flag, we had the bisexual flag, we had the pansexual flag, and we had the asexual flag. There's more, I think we had the intersexual flag. That's as far as I know. But there are more that were there.

Senator Shelton: You also have the non binary flag.

Senator Raymond: I once again would like to exhort my fellow senators to vote no on this, as it also establishes a poor precedent of being a student organizations or different interest groups pressuring the Undergraduate Student Government or the university administration to display flags that or any flag that they want and that in the future, this opens the door for whoever to approach the university and request for their specific flag. I can think of an example is that I could imagine, possibly a year ago, when a lot of the Palestine in Israel conflict was in the news, and there was a lot of protests unrest on campus, I could have seen a similar thing being passed at the time to say, put like a Palestinian flag or an Israel flag, which would obviously be offensive to other people, it would be a very divisive matter, and by allowing student organizations and students to pressure the administration, I believe that it could open the floodgate in the future to potentially more offensive flags being put up.

Chief of Staff Lane: Both of those flags are already on display through the international knowledge display.

Senator Shelton: I do not think that these flags in any form would show a certain political statement. I believe it shows identities the same way as a country's flag may show identities, and I think that anything that would make a student feel more comfortable within their own student union is beneficial, whether it's a flag of their own country or something that they think represents them.

Senator Raymond: I agree that it does represent identities something like country would, but I think that a lot of people identify with a lot of different identities and things that they correspond to, and just because they identify with something does not necessarily mean that the university should be obligated to put it up. I'm sure that if, if you know, we asked for the university to put up a, we'll say a Gadsden flag or a or have a giant cross on display in the Student Union, because that's something that students deeply identify with,

or if you put up religious flags, deeply identify with that. But it would still be inappropriate for the university to display those flags, and I'm sure that if we were to attempt to that, there would be a large amount of backlash displaying those specific identities.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any further debate?

Senator Sterns: I personally don't recall any pushback to previous flags being brought to the Senate before. So curious to how reimplementation is any different from just continuing on the previous policy. You were talking about flags from previous years supposedly being put up, and we are supposed to represent student opinions. So I'm curious to how following through on student opinions on certain things being displayed is not under our purview.

Senator Raymond: Point of information from Senate Chair Feezel. If I'm being addressed in debate, am I allowed to respond if I've gone over my three.

Senate Chair Feezel: No, so the same reason that they must refer to in third person and speak through me, you would have to respond the same way. So through debate and in third person directed to me.

Senator Raymond: Right, so I can't respond to him.

Executive Justice Bushen: That's correct. You cannot.

Chief Justice Stillion: Assuming you've exhausted all of your debate time, which you have.

Senator Clark-Kelley: I don't really have much to add, but just a personal thing. A couple years ago, my best friend came out to me, saying that he was gay, and I think that it's a damn travesty that the faculty is forcing us to have a say on this, and that this is a big issue that is affecting a lot of people that we get it the night before that we have to vote on instead of having a week to think about it. Thank you.

Senator Shelton: Firstly, I'd like to concur with Senator Clark-Kelley that I do believe that we should have more time for debate on this, and I do think it is a travesty that this is for debate at all, really, about people's identities.

Senator Shelton: Point of information from President DeWitt. Were there any complaints registered with you or USG in general, about the flags previously?

President DeWitt: No.

President DeWitt: I just wanted to add a point of clarification that executive orders are always sent out at 5:00 pm the night before the Senate time frame, so it wasn't like me trying to slight you guys of anything. That's just the normal process for them. I did mention it during the DLT meeting minutes so if you read those, they are visible. I just don't want you guys to think that I was not allowing you time to review this or anything like that and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have about it.

Senator Clark-Kelley: I just want to make sure that President DeWitt knows that I am not upset or anything with how this process is being approached. I just have a problem with the fact that we only have a day or what 20 minutes the day after to debate on it. I just hope that in the future the bylaws or what have it can be amended, so that way Executive Orders can be debated thoroughly and thought out.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any further debate?

Senator Sterns: Motion to move the previous question.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Division is called. The ayes have it. Debate is now closed and the EO is taken to a roll call vote.

Senator Breon	Abstain
Senator Clark-Kelley	Opposed
Senator McCracken	In Favor
Senator Nichols	Abstain
Senator Raymond	Opposed
Senator Shelton	Abstain
Senator Smith	Abstain
Senator Sterns	Abstain

EO 37-24-25 does not pass.

EO 38-24-25

Nick McCracken

EO 38-24-25 is read.

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

President DeWitt: Yes, so we had a vacancy in the role of Director of Finance it's a position that we really need to have filled considering we do allocations for other student

organizations as well as internal funding. So, Nick interviewed and he is excellent for the role. He has a lot of great experience and we think he'll do great in this position.

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you. Is there any debate on the executive order?

Senator Raymond: Motion to close debate.

Senator Clark-Kelley: Second.

A roll call vote on EO 38-24-25 is taken.

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

EO 38-24-25 passes.

~~SR~~ SR 01-24-25

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto SR 01-24-25 and I apologize, I forgot to list this on the agenda, but it is primarily sponsored by Senator Shelton. Vice Senate Chair Winters, please conduct the first reading.

Senator McCracken: I motion to amend the resolution to change the spelling of the word vehicles in the second whereas clause.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: I would also entertain a motion to change the wording to the bottom where it says "resolution/bill" to just resolution.

Senator Breon: So moved.

Senator Raymond: Second.

Senator Raymond: I motion to amend the resolution to change the word from car to vehicle in the second paragraph of the rationale.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senator Shelton: I would just like to say, as this is my first legislation, please feel free to tear it apart. I would like it to be the most effective resolution possible and for that it does need critiques, so whatever anyone has to say is more than welcome. Even if it is rewording in general or just questions of the resolution. Thank you.

Senator Nichols: Motion to amend the resolution to change the spelling of “safety and measures” in the second whereas.

Senator Raymond: Second.

Senator Breon: Okay third line, I got it now! Motion to change the wording to “it is apparent” in the third line.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is this what you’re trying to change?

Senator Breon: Yes.

Senator McCracken: Second.

Senator Sterns: Motion to amend the second whereas to correctly spell the word measures.

Senator McCracken: Second.

Chief of Staff Lane: Request for information from the sponsor of the resolution.

Senator Shelton: I accept.

Chief of Staff Lane: You specify vehicles, which is a broader term, so will this impact other vehicles on campus like electric bikes or scooters?

Senator Shelton: I don’t believe so. It would be nice if it did, but those would be harder to regulate since those are off campus affiliated. So, I don’t believe it would apply.

Senator Raymond: Alright, I think that this is for a good cause and I think that even if this would extend to non campus affiliated vehicles, that being personal electric bikes or scooters, that would also make sense. Those are vehicles, and they can travel at unsafe speeds. Electric bikes can travel get up to speeds in excess of 40 mph which would obviously be unsafe. So, if there is a speed limit, it should apply to all vehicles passing on the walkways. In addition, I would like to see this amended to have a more concrete call to action at the end of it.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there more debate?

Senator Raymond: Motion to refer this back to the FAST committee.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senator Shelton: What does that mean?

Senate Chair Feezel: The motion is to take it off of the floor and have the FAST committee review it again to consider the changes that were made during debate. It would still be eligible for the second reading as long as FAST committee sends it back to me to be a part of the agenda for the next week.

Going back to that motion, are all the Senators in favor of taking this off the floor and referring it back to the FAST committee? The motion passes.

XI. Adjournment

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any new business? We are adjourned.

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order, adjournment is fixed for 7:00 pm.

Senator Raymond: I motion to adjourn.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: We are adjourned.

XII. Discussion

∅ Semester Review Sessions:

∅ 4/15 9am-10:30am

∅ 4/22 9am-10:30am

∅ 4/23 5pm-6pm