



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda

February 20th, 2025, 5:00-7:00 PM

Student Union 316

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Senator Clark-Kelley: Motion to strike the A.P.S.S. Committee Report.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senator Schuhart: Motion to change the delivery of the LB Report from Vice Senate Chair Winters to Senate Chair Feezel.

Senator McCracken: Second.

Senator McCracken: Motion to amend the agenda to strike the Advisor's Report.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senator Schuhart: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Breon: Second.

V. Approval of the 02.13.25 Minutes

Senator Breon: Motion to approve the 02.13.25 Minutes.

Senator Schuhart: Second.

VI. Open Student Expression

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Open Student Expression.

Senator Shelton: I would just like it to be known that tomorrow is Senator Smith's birthday and that she is wonderful and awesome and I am so happy she was born. That's all!

Senate Chair Feezel: Happy early birthday, Senator Smith!

Senator Smith: Thanks!

Senator Schuhart: Point of Privilege, may we sing happy birthday to Senator Smith?

Senate Chair Feezel: After adjournment!

Associate Justice Shaw: Hi Guys! You may have seen my message in the Off-Topic channel in the Teams, but I just wanted to echo it here. For those of you who don't know, I am also the Secretary of Honors Civics Club and my job is to reach out to different student organizations and promote our meetings. So our next meeting is a pretty big one, we have one on Monday the 24th, which is this upcoming Monday, from 4:45-6:00 pm in the Honors Common Room. This meeting we are discussing Ohio Senate Bill 1 and we will have Ohio Senator Cirino, the writer of the bill, in attendance as a special guest. So I encourage all of you to promote your first amendment right of free speech and come out to our meeting. We will have food, we will have drinks and snacks, courtesy of College Republicans. If you are interested in attending this meeting, registration is required since Senator Cirino is an elected official, so that form can be found in my post in the Off-Topic channel. It'll ask if you want to register under a student organization, you can or can't, it doesn't matter, as long as you register you can submit questions on there and that form closes Sunday the 23rd, so if you are looking to come to that meeting on Monday, make sure to register. If you have any questions, let me or Max Pastoria know! Thank you.

Senate Chair Feezel: Are there any questions?

Senator Breon: How many reserved spots are left?

Associate Justice Shaw: Last time we checked, yesterday, we had about 75 left. So, we're about a fourth of capacity, which we would love to get as many people as we can to this meeting, as we are having an elected official join us. So there's about 3/4ths left, so you have plenty of time still.

Senate Chair Feezel: Okay, I have a question. I submitted the form too early, like before non-honors students were allowed. So, I decided to join the waitlist, so does that mean I am already registered, or should I resubmit it?

Associate Justice Shaw: Let me ask Max. I'll text him right now and if he answers I'll let you know at the end of the meeting. I am assuming you'd be okay, but you might have to reregister. I'll let you know.

Senate Chair Feezel: Any other questions?

President DeWitt: I just wanted to say my little piece and encourage you all to attend that. Whether you agree or disagree with the bill, it's important to be informed as you can on it. I'll be attending, glad to hear that Senate Chair Feezel will also be attending, so I would encourage you all to sign up since you are student representatives on campus.

Senate Chair Feezel: Any other questions? Any others for open student expression?

Director Mahaney: There's a clean-up on Sunday at Summit Lake from 12:00-1:00 pm. The information is on Environmental Action's Instagram if you want to go and it is voluntary. That's all!

Senator Rahman: The rescheduled Power Street Safety Walk is next Wednesday. Depending on the weather, it may be rescheduled again. Then our next one would be March 5th, for the Exchange Route, but again we have to see on weather. But, you guys should go. Plus, Power Street is where I live that'll be fun if you guys wanted to see my house too and my cat you can.

Senate Chair Feezel: I would second that, especially for you know SE looking into campus safety. The safety walks would be interesting, I know that the last time I went on one, the UAPD officer that walked with us would just share random facts about stuff that they're working on to improve safety. Like they talked about the lot behind Manny's and the construction changes they're going to be making it to make it less dangerous at night. The point is, we just got a lot of random fun facts about how they are improving safety. Highly recommend attending that. Anyone else for open student expression?

VII. **Branch Reports**

≠ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Branch Reports, starting with the Legislative Branch Report.

Make sure you are filling out your Project Trackers with anything that you worked on this week. We are going to be scheduling those Check-Ins next week, so you will be receiving an email from Ali or myself about scheduling those. Assuming one of us is available during your office hours, you'll probably just receive an email from us saying that we'll show up at the time. If not we'll try and find a different time, and we'll try to make it as convenient as possible for you guys.

On March 6th, I believe that is a Thursday, is an All-USG meeting. We rescheduled the Provost and possibly the Senior Vice Provost to come to that meeting as a guest speaker, so that All-USG is able to attend, hear about it, and provide insight. So please submit any questions or discussion topics you have to that form. Again, the goal is that we have him talking about the retrenchment and budget process. There's a lot of questions that students have brought up about it, about how it's going to effect their programs, and how it's going to effect their friend's programs. You guys have probably heard something about it, and how it's going to affect student amenities as well, so make sure you are thinking critically about how it's going to affect you, how it's going to affect your constituents, and then bring that to your discussion on March 6th and submit questions to the form, so that the Provost has time to prepare. As we've seen multiple times at Faculty Senate, he usually has a partial answer to most of the questions, but it's usually often defer and say that he doesn't know exactly and that he'll get back to you on that. So submit your questions before hand, so he can prepare his responses and get your questions fully answered during the meeting. Yeah that was a lot of yapping, but hopefully you understand the importance of submitting beforehand. I won't be removing any questions, unless they are unrelated, and you can ask follow up questions on the floor as well.

In discussion today, we are going to be briefly checking in on legislations planning and progress. A lot of you are working on legislation and a lot of you are interested in working on legislation. So, we just want to make sure that everyone is working on something and not working on the same thing as someone else. I know some Senators are missing, so it might be difficult, but we're just going to do a brief check-

in.

Again, let your friends know about our vacancies. Including the Senate Clerk, I forgot to include that in the agenda, but it has been vacant since we appointed Senator McCracken to the Senate, so if you want to help out Ali from writing minutes, and doing all of the other tasks of the Senate Clerk and save her time of listening to hours and hours of voice memos, tell your friends to apply for Senate Clerk! I do not have a meme so that is it!

€ Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

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

President DeWitt: Alright, nothing crazy this week. The first thing is make sure to RSVP to the USG Awards Gala, so that's Friday April 25th, from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Honors Common Room. This is something new we are trying, usually its on a Thursday in place of Senate, but a lot of people couldn't go because they had class or work or they couldn't go for whatever reason. So, we're trying out a Friday evening time, and so far only one person has said they can't do it, so yay! Hopefully, this time does work for you, the QR code is below, so we do ask that you do RSVP so that our events team, which is actually here today, has the correct number and knows if there is any dietary restrictions or things like that. If you want to scroll down there is a QR code, so if you could all get your phones out please it's literally like 4 questions. You can bring a plus one, if you don't know their name and email right now you can just put N/A. It's more important that you just RSVP right now as soon as you can.

Our EB Cabinet meeting got canceled this week. So that didn't happen, so all of our directors just updated us via email. Our USG Retreat is tomorrow from 3:00-6:00 pm in the I Promise Institute. Raise your hand if you've never been to the I Promise Institute. It is in Infocision, all the way over there by the football stadium, on the third floor. We'll probably have someone there on the third floor by the elevator to direct you. But yeah, it's a nice room, it's kinda tucked away, but we'll direct you. It is required for all USG members, so let your branch heads know asap if you can't go, and they can take attendance and things like that. But yeah, it'll be a lot of fun, there's Chipotle, so you're being fed, lots of bonding activities, professional development, Dylan planned everything, so yeah there is also a speaker, Scott Read, so he's awesome. Any questions?

Associate Justice Shaw: This isn't necessarily a question, but I just saw in the Teams that Dylan needs help setting up tomorrow, so if you're available at 1:00 pm tomorrow, I'm

sure he'd appreciate the help.

President DeWitt: Sponsored Event! We're a little low this semester, so take the opportunities when they come. Any questions?

≠ Judicial Branch Report

Executive Justice Bushen

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Judicial Branch Report given by Executive Justice Bushen.

Executive Justice Bushen: Hi everyone! The newsletter is being started next week, so if you have any events or any projects that you would like included in the newsletter definitely be sure to submit those. You can find it in the All-USG email or the USG teams, it's the Event Feedback form and the Newsletter Update form, same form! So, if you have anything cool please submit that. Records keeping, we are reviewing one folder of the Judicial Branch teams in the USG folder per week, so we are cleaning up in there. Grievances, we reviewed the grievance process and we did vote to hear the grievance filed last week, so we'll be hearing that on Monday, very exciting stuff. The New York Times Access Project, we just had a meeting, literally right now that's why I was late, with the New York Times representative and we learned more about what the access includes and the pricing for that, so definitely going to try to figure some of that out. And finally, there's an Associate Justice application open so if you know anyone that would be interested in the position, definitely tell them to apply! Any questions?

Chief Justice Stillion: Is everyone familiar with what a grievance is in this organization? So, one of the things that the Judicial Branch is responsible for is if anyone is to alleged to have violated any of our governing documents or the election rules, or any other undergraduate student grievance that doesn't fall under a specific department can also be brought to us. But yeah, we are responsible for hearing those types of issues and essentially deciding if a violation has occurred and then we forward that information to the appropriate people. So it is a pretty interesting thing that we do, and is pretty similar to how a court works.

Senate Chair Feezel: Any questions for the JB Report?

Executive Justice Bushen: I made a meme, so.

≠ DLT Report

Executive Justice Bushen

Senate Chair Feezel: Okay, moving onto the DLT Report, also given by Executive Justice Bushen.

Executive Justice Bushen: So DLT this week, pretty packed. Happy Vice Week everyone! What that is, this week the vices of each branch kind of took on the duties of the other branch leadership, so just kind of for transition purposes and to try something new. That is why I am up here giving the report! So action items, as mentioned RSVP to the USG Awards Gala on Friday, April 25th in the Honors Common Room. Also the USG Retreat, that's tomorrow, so 3:00-6:00 pm I think we all went over that. Swearing In ceremony, so we had a swearing in ceremony for our Director of Finance Nick, so if you see him, welcome him to the organization. The Pride Flag Project, we talked more about how that could be adapted or continued. We looked at Semester Review questions, prepped them, and approved those. We also looked over the End of Year Award form, so that will open on Monday, February 24th and remain open for about two weeks, so make sure you nominate some people for some awards. And then we just went over some reminders, shoutouts, and did our bonding activity. DLT meetings are on Mondays from 6:30-7:45pm in room 318. They are open to all, so please come visit! We had some visitors this week, so we appreciate that. Any questions?

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: I have a physical form for you this week, we had a very busy judicial branch for half of our meeting. So we didn't get too too much of the actual election boards tasks, but that's okay because we are on task for everything else. In terms of general updates, the petitions closed this morning technically, it was at noon today, so all of the candidates should have gotten their petitions in then. As well as the campaign staff compliance form, so all of those applicants will be receiving information tomorrow about the results of their petition forms and the information about the second candidates meeting that will be happening next week. Are there any questions about that?

Senate Chair Feezel: I have a question. Have you ever considered moving the deadlines of the petitions to high noon instead of noon to add a taste of drama to the event?

Chief Justice Stillion: No. We haven't.

Senate Chair Feezel: You should add that in your transition notes.

Chief Justice Stillion: I'll think about it.

Senate Chair Feezel: Any other questions for the Elections Board Report?

Senate Chair Feezel: Alright, moving onto the F.A.S.T. Committee report given by Senator McCracken.

Senator McCracken: Okay, so at our meeting we talked about the first accessibility tour that we went on, on Monday we did Crouse, Zook, and Buchtel in 45 minutes so that was really good. We also rereviewed the car legislation, which is coming up! Senator Raymond added some clauses and resolutions, so we'll have a better outcome this time. For individual updates, Senator Smith had a meeting with Project Manager Pence today for the event they're planning and Senator Raymond had a meeting with Chief Gilbride. Senator Shelton finished up the car legislation, worked on fixing the building issues that we compiled during the tour, and then she's working with her Myers School of Art contact for the Union murals. And then for me, I am continuing to work on the board game closet to go in the library, hoping to have a meeting set up with that soon, as well as preparing a meeting with UAkron Park to discuss creating an easier form for Guest Speaker Parking Passes. Any Questions?

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Student Engagement Committee Report given by Senator Rahman.

Senator Rahman: So, like I said the next Safety Walk is next Wednesday. You would meet in the office if you're already in the building, but if not, it's going to start on the corner of Speedway, that's all that I am really doing. Then Senator Breon has sent out a draft for the Safety Survey and he's also trying to start making a new Starship Survey. Everyone else is kind of just working on their own projects right now. We are trying to find a new meeting time, so I can attend all of our meetings actually because I have class. Any questions?

IX. Old Business

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Old Business we have Senate Resolution 01-24-25. This is for the second reading of Senate Resolution 01-24-25, which last week was referred to the F.A.S.T. Committee to do further review. Acting Vice Senate Chair Rahman, can you please read Senate Resolution 01-24-25.

SR 01-24-25 is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there debate on the resolution?

Senator Sterns: Request for information. Should the information about the introduced at the top of the page be changed?

Senate Chair Feezel: No, because that is the date that it was first introduced, and since this is the second reading it will not need to be adjusted. Any other debate on Senate Resolution 01-24-25?

Senator Rahman: Point of information to Senate Chair Feezel. There is a typo, but I lost it.

Senate Chair Feezel: Does someone know where the typo is?

Senator McCracken: The word “protocols” in the fifth line.

Senator Shelton: Let it be known that I ran it through two spell checkers! I tried guys!

Senator Schuhart: Motion to amend the resolution to correct the misspelling of the word protocols.

Senator Breon: Second.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there further debate on the resolution?

Senator Schuhart: I move the previous question.

Senator Breon: Second.

SR 01-24-25 is taken to a roll call vote.

Senator Breon	In Favor
Senator Clark-Kelley	In Favor
Senator McCracken	In Favor
Senator Rahman	In Favor
Senator Schuhart	In Favor
Senator Shelton	Abstain
Senator Smith	In Favor
Senator Sterns	In Favor

SR 01-24-25 passes.

Senate Chair Feezel: If the sponsors of the resolution could stay behind after so you could sign it please.

X. **Adjournment**

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any other business, for the good of the order, besides singing happy birthday to Senator Smith? With that we are adjourned.

XI. Discussion