



**Undergraduate Student Government**  
The University of Akron

## **Undergraduate Student Government**

### **Senate Agenda**

**February 27th, 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 Rahman	Present
Senator Raymond	Present
Senator Schuhart	Present
Senator Shelton	Present
Senator Smith	Present
Senator Sterns	Present

#### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **IV. Adoption of the Agenda**

Senator Schuhart: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Breon: Second.

#### **V. Approval of the 02.20.25 Minutes**

Senator Breon: Motion to approve the 02.20.25 Minutes.

Senator Schuhart: Second.

#### **VI. Open Student Expression**

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Open Student Expression. Is there anyone that would like to speak?

Chief of Staff Lane: Hi everyone! Hopefully you've noticed that we're doing USG x BEC Spirit Week, that we'll probably talk about that more in the EB report. But, if you're still looking for some sponsored events for this week, tomorrow is Slam Dunk with Zippy. We are looking for a few more people still to table because I have a meeting the first hour, so I can't be there. So if you scroll through the membership requirements and go to the sponsored events spreadsheet, and you guys are interested in signing up... It is going to be a lot of fun, like you're going to be giving away stuff, there's going to be pizza and Zippy's going to be there! I feel like if you're going to volunteer for any USG event this is going to be one of the best things ever.

Dr. Messina: Tomorrow is Blue and Gold day, and then we go into white out. I don't know if you've all been around on campus when we do Blue and Gold day, but it is all across campus. So there's going to be, I won't be in jeans, but administrators and faculty in their jeans and blue and gold attire. Then everybody will kind of convert to white clothing for the basketball game, so I wanted to mention that. And I wanted to extend my thanks for the resolution which I received. It is wonderful and so I am going to take it into a few different steps along the way and am going to share it with the departments that are directly effected and ask them to respond to the request. So you'll get two informal updates from me and then you'll get a formal response, but I wanted to thank you for putting this forward. It is so important for the safety of our walkways as we begin the restoration of Buchtel Commons, so you'll see fencing begin to go up and by the way they're designing Buchtel Commons so it will only be walkway friendly. So thank you!

President DeWitt: My All-USG email, I hope all of you read it, although not all of you answer my hidden question. So please take a look at those emails, there was a lot of good stuff this week, and a lot of times there's action items for you guys, so please make sure you're continuing to check those, I know we're entering midterm season, but it really is just a two minute read. So, please look at that as you get into your office hours every week. But, yeah the hidden question this week was interesting. If you didn't understand that ask an older USG member, it's like a USG lore kinda thing, but it's a silly funny question and you can talk to your fellow USG members about it! Hope to see more of you respond to the hidden question, this week, next week, and in the future!

## **VII. Branch Reports**

✧ Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Branch Reports starting with the Judicial Branch Report given by Chief Justice Stillion.

Chief Justice Stillion: They've got me up here too much today guys, three reports that's

crazy. We were very busy this week. We took a little bit of a detour from our normally regularly scheduled Judicial Branch work. We have had two different grievances, one constitutional and one elections grievance. So at our meeting on Monday, we heard the constitutional grievance and voted to hear it, 4-1 in favor of a constitutional violation occurring. At that meeting as well we voted to hear the election grievance, and that is happening right now. A special judicial branch meeting, in the USG office with some of our other members are hearing that grievance right now and we'll hopefully vote on it before the end of the night. So that was fun, that's something that doesn't happen often. We were supposed to meet with the Department of Student Conduct this week, but that meeting was cancelled and moved to the end of March, but we didn't have too many action items for them anyways. We are still just moving forward with helping them with programming. As always, well I don't want to say that that's not good, as has been for the past couple of weeks, the Associate Justice application is open. We have one open position, so if you know anyone who's interested point them in that direction. Are there any questions about the Judicial Branch Report?

President DeWitt: Moving forward, can they hear more about the constitutional grievance at a meeting?

Chief Justice Stillion: I don't think so.

President DeWitt: Can they, is DLT in executive session then?

Chief Justice Stillion: Yes. Part of the dispute resolution process is that all information we receive in regard to any grievances is kept confidential. That process is going to be reviewed in the next few weeks following our hearing of the elections grievance so that may be changed it may be presented to you for review. We're not totally sure how we want to move forward with this dispute resolution process. It hasn't been updated since 2021, so it's definitely not the most updated document, so we will be looking at it. As it stands now, all information we receive has to remain confidential. Any other questions regarding that? Onto the meme.

∉ DLT Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: Moving onto the DLT Report given by Chief Justice Stillion.

Senate Chair Feezel: Um yeah, moving onto the DLT Report given by Chief Justice Stillion.

Chief Justice Stillion: We also had a pretty busy meeting this week in DLT. The End of Year Award form is open, it's going to be open for the next two weeks, so make sure to

look at that. These are pretty exciting awards, everyone that gets one gets a real plaque with their name on it, it's pretty cool. They close on March 10<sup>th</sup>, since these are sometimes more competitive and a little bit more higher level, we are asking for a half to a whole page for a nomination. So that when we get in there, write about what you've seen people do this year, accomplishments that they have done, you can write about yourself if you'd like, but definitely go in there, be comprehensive, lift people up with what they've been doing this year in your nominations! Those close March 10<sup>th</sup>. It says RSVP to USG Awards Gala, that's already closed, so if you didn't do it already its too late. If you didn't and you're like I don't know how I missed this. Reach out to DLT and maybe we'll be able to move some things around, but I believe the catering has already been ordered so we can not take like five more people, but maybe if there's just one we could fit it in somewhere.

President DeWitt: You can literally let me know right after this if you forgot, I can squeeze you in. Please just let me know.

Chief Justice Stillion: In the more specifics of what we worked on, we recapped Vice Week and the All-USG retreat. Talked a little bit about those, the things we enjoyed, the things we want to do a little differently. Especially during Vice Week many of our members of DLT were sick so we were not able to complete that to it's fullest capacity. We also reviewed the time lines for the LIFE Awards. We will all of those compiled for us and given to us to review those for the next senate meeting to discuss and make our decisions on those. We did take a fairly large chunk of that meeting to work on our own living transition documents. Which most of ours now are 20+ pages of transitions that will be going to the next administration. Just a reminder to CC your branch heads and President DeWitt, Vice President Kozma, and Advisor Alexander on all emails to the organizations. We want to be aware of what you are all doing, so that we can talk about it to administration or if someone reaches out to us and says I have never heard of this project, that would be awkward for us. So, make sure to CC the correct people on those. As always are meetings are on Mondays from 6:30-7:45pm. We are right on the other side of that wall. We have visitors all the time, it's a great time and feel free to visits. Any questions about the DLT Report?

€ Legislative Branch Report

Vice Senate Chair Winters

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you Chief Justice Stillion. Moving onto the Legislative Branch Report given by Vice Senate Chair Winters.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Okay! So, the Legislative Branch, it's a pretty standard agenda for us this week. Project Trackers, we're currently trying to schedule Check-Ins.

We have already gone ahead and looked at all of your office hours, when Cam and I can come in and talk with you guys, specifically about them, and just kind of do a little 2:1. Make sure everybody's on the right track and everything, and make sure everybody is doing them properly. So here is the questions form for the Provost. He comes next week at the All-USG meeting. Is Dr. Price coming, do we have an update?

Senate Chair Feezel: It was unclear.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Unclear, okay! Potentially Dr. Price as well, so that's for that meeting. Again, those are our vacancies: Senator At-Large, Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences, Senator for the Williams Honors College, Senator for the College of Business, and the Senate Clerk. We did have two interviews today, very exciting so hopefully some of those will be gone.

Senate Chair Feezel: And if you know anyone who wants to apply, tell them to apply quickly.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Yeah! Apply quickly if they want to! Okay, Provost questions. Everybody get your phone out and everybody is going to write one question for the Provost next week.

Senate Chair Feezel: There was a lot of discussion about the budget cut process when it got brought up, so I expect more than zero responses here, so everyone submit one question. I'm sure you've heard at least one part of the discussion about it.

President DeWitt: For the people who don't know, what does the Provost do? Why are we having him speak?

Senate Chair Feezel: So, the Provost is the head of the Office of Academic Affairs. He, in like the hierarchy of higher education, it goes your Professors, Department Head, Department Chairs, Deans, and then the Provost is the top of that, right next/below the President. So, he is pretty much the highest point of Academic Affairs in the institution. So he handles all that stuff and including the budget cut process, especially when it comes to academic programs that have been cut and like the budgets for individual departments. All of that is pretty much covered by him. He has a really heavy hand in playing the Board of Trustees retrenchment process, I think he's developing a proposal for the budget cuts currently being presented. So he'll be able to talk about that, he'll be able to talk about how that will affect students, how many programs will be cut, how many students are graduating from those programs, how he made those decisions. So all of that stuff is kind of what we're looking for from him.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: He's also resigning from the Provost position at the end of May, like as soon as graduation is over, and he is moving back to a faculty position so that's interesting. But, yeah I'm sure you guys have heard that, we've talked about it for a couple weeks. Any questions about the Provost meeting specifically, what to expect next week? He is going to have an unlimited amount of time to talk, since it will be an All-USG meeting, so we're not going to keep him on that 15 minute time crunch that we typically keep speakers on. So, ask as many questions as you want to. I think we're going to open the floor at some point too.

Senate Chair Feezel: So yeah, these are just going to be compiled into general areas of discussion topics for him, so that he has a chance to prepare and have proper answers to them. But you will also be welcome to ask questions or follow-up questions on the floor, just make sure that you are being professional and respectful in every question that you ask. Address him formally, address the question as it relates to the student body, your constituents, try and keep as much personal drama out of it, so this is a productive discussion about how you can best represent your constituents. Any questions?

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Yeah if there's no questions about the Provost, is there any questions about LB at all maybe? Okay, thanks guys!

✶ Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

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

President DeWitt: Your favorite report of all time in the whole wide world. A lot of words on this page, but basically EB committees, I wanted to talk about this. If you don't remember, EB has three committees open to all students, so any branch can be apart of it. It's Campus Dining Experience, Mental Health Task Force, and then Diversity Committee. They all have biweekly meetings, just an hour or less, they have fun events some times, it's just a great time. So, if you're interested in being a part of any of those committees, they are currently recruiting for more people, so let me know or it should be in the All-USG calendar if you want to just take a look for the times on there and show up. They usually meet in the USG office or the Diversity Committee meets in the Rooclusive Space in Schrank. But, question for you, CDE is looking for new members because they're a little low, but also a representative for the Aramark Food Committee. You would have to have a meal plan, but is there anyone here who would be willing to be a part of the committee, has a meal plan and is free on Fridays?

Senate Chair Feezel: They give you free Rob's.

Senator Breon: What time is it at on Fridays?

President DeWitt: I think it's like at noon, one Friday a month. Are you available? Do you have a meal plan?

Senator Breon: Yeah, I do have a meal plan.

President DeWitt: Do you want to be on it?

Senator Breon: Sure, why not!

President DeWitt: Question?

Senator Sterns: What was the time?

President DeWitt: It was noon on Fridays, once a month. That was for the Aramark Food Committee. CDE has their own meeting times, and those are on the USG calendar.

Senator Sterns: How long is it?

President DeWitt: It's an hour. Let me know if you're interested!

Senator Sterns: I'll get back to you on that.

President DeWitt: Okay, cool! Some people in USG have been submitting requests a little late. Please be respectful of these deadlines, it's basically just three weeks for everything. Marketing is three weeks before the posting date, Finance requests is three weeks before you need the items ordered, and then Events is just three weeks before the actual event itself. So remember three weeks, three weeks, three weeks! They are going to deny your request if it is unreasonable. So like if it's the week of, we unfortunately can not accommodate that. So, please be respectful of our teams and their timelines for that. We can move onto Events and Meetings this week. Basically, BEC and USG had a spirit week this week. A lot of cool things happened, the only thing remaining is our Slam Dunk with Zippy event on Friday from 3:00-5:00pm in the International Lounge. There is going to be pizza, Zippy's going to be there, she's going to have that little basketball hoop in the USG office and she's gonna do some slam dunks! It's basically all just to hype up the Akron v.s. Kent game on Friday which is at 9:00pm! Doors open at 7:30pm! There will be white out pompoms provided by USG in collaboration with the AKRowdies, so they'll be under the student section seats so you can get one. There is only like 500 I believe, so get there early! We had a Safety Walk on Wednesday, we did the Power Street Route, so they reported all of the information they got. Chief Gilbride was there, so they are going to see to any of those issues. 5 under 35, so this was planned by UA Ambassadors but USG actually sponsored it, so we could provide some funding

for like appetizers and things like that, so that was a really great success. I was there, a few of you were there as well I believe. But yeah, that's the recap for this week. Are there any questions about committees, requests, events? The only other thing I have is the Student Trustee application will be opening. I met with GSG and the Student Bar Association, the three of us kind of do the phase one of that, so the application is going to be opening next week. I'll be blowing up your teams, your emails about it, so if any of you are interested in applying. It is a two year long position, hopefully we are going to get some current Student Trustess in here to talk about it some more and you'll see stuff on social media. Yeah, more to come on that, but let me know if you're interested!

Senate Chair Feezel: Do you know when that application would close?

President DeWitt: The application, so the tentative timeline is that it opens on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and it is open until Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, so right before Spring Break. Then the interviews would be after Spring Break. That's the proposed timeline. Any other questions? I'd be happy to talk more!

## **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: We had the second candidates meeting this week, the candidates list is now public. It was sent out in the All-USG email on Monday, it has changed a little bit since then, so an updated one will probably be sent out next Monday with that All-USG email. We have the Candidate Meet and Greets next week. These are events where the candidates are given an opportunity to campaign directly towards the student body in an elections board proctored environment. Those are happening downstairs in the International Lounge on next Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11:00-1:00pm. The candidate posters that are created by the elections board will be displayed there all week, so definitely take a look. This is a great way to meet the people who will potentially be picking up some of the projects that some of you are currently working on. Definitely a great way to meet them, see what their views are, see where they are coming from, and see what they are looking to do if they are elected into the Senate or your President and Vice President. Put that in your calendars for next week, there will be goodies, there will be Zippy cookies provided by the elections board, so maybe get one of those. The week after, not this upcoming Monday, but the next Monday is the Presidential Debate from 6:00-8:00pm across the hall in Student Union room 312. We will have a ton of goodies there as well, food, beverages, and Starbucks vouchers for the first 20 people to show up.



This will serve as a debate for the contested Presidential and Vice Presidential tickets, where there will be predetermined questions by the elections board, as well as questions taken directly from the student body. There will be a QR code sent out, maybe in next weeks All-USG email, but definitely ready by next weeks Senate if you are interested in submitting questions for either of those candidates. So yeah, definitely take the opportunity to attend that and learn a little bit more about their platforms and their plans for the future.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: We did cancel DLT for that week, so everyone can be there.

Chief Justice Stillion: We did! So all of DLT will be at that event, it is mandatory, I said so. If you are worried about being the only people you know there, you won't because there is actually going to be a lot of people there. It's a big room, can fit like 130 some people. Any questions about anything upcoming with the elections?

∄ F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Shelton

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the F.A.S.T. Committee report given by Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: Hi guys! Get out your calendars! If you are not busy 1:00-2:00pm March 3<sup>rd</sup>, please go on the Accessibility tour! It's to Leigh, Kolbe, and Olin. It'll be a nice walk, you'll get to see what we do and make sure everything is accessible! It'll be a lot of fun! Please show up, we only had three people including myself last time.

Individual updates wise, Senator Raymond met with the Chief of Police and is working on Pickle Ball courts. Senator Smith is trying to plan an event and is working on flag legislation. Senator McCracken is working on the board games for the library and she is working on development for other projects. I am working on getting these Accessibility tours all set up and working with facilities and trying to reach the right people to get things done. We had some special guests at F.A.S.T. last week! We had President DeWitt, Director Shafer, and Chief of Staff Lane! They all had a wonderful time and I really think that we should all go to F.A.S.T.! It is 4:00-5:00pm every Monday!

∄ A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Clark-Kelley

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the A.P.S.S. Committee report given by Senator Clark-Kelley.

Senator Clark-Kelley: First ever committee report done by me, so please bear with me for a little bit. Brightspace survey is going into the Zipmail.

Senator Schuhart: Senate Bill 1 says no, so we're going to talk about that. Every syllabi

that's posted has to be available for two years on a university's website after it's posted. The one-day prior to class is only for brand new classes, I read through it all during my office hours this morning and I do think that the Brightspace Initiative is kind of a moot point.

Senate Chair Feezel: There are other factors with the Brightspace Initiative other than the syllabus factor. Also, for new courses the goal would be four days prior.

Senator Clark-Kelley: Just like that the Brightspace Initiative is back! The rollercoaster of emotions I just went through is crazy. Anyways, the academic advisor survey has been put on pause until the Brightspace survey gets into the Zipmail, which I have to edit a question because it was worded poorly. March 7<sup>th</sup>, we are tabling for the Brightspace survey, so that's exciting there will be Zippy cookies. Please fill out the survey unless Senate Bill 1 does something evil. So yeah, that's all I got!

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you! Any questions for that report?

✉ Student Engagement Committee

Senator Breon

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

Senator Breon: Hello everybody! Student Engagement met today in the Student Union from 11:00-12:00pm. We discussed projects with the Starship delivery robots, I know that you, Dr. Messina, kind of wanted to resurrect that project. I emailed you about it! Obviously, that's in the works and we're trying to figure that out. We did the UA Safety Survey, that went out last week. I can follow up with President DeWitt and a couple other people here in a little bit. Then it came to my attention that Senate Chair Feezel talked about the campus space request form, specifically for the classrooms, there is something wrong with it, so we are going to try and look into that and see what we can improve. But, that's pretty much it, other than the Safety Walks, we're still trying to find some more projects. Does anybody have any questions?

Senator Raymond: The Chief of Police just asked that you transmit the results of the Safety Survey to him.

Senator Breon: Awesome, thank you!

Chief of Staff Lane: I don't know if you have talked to our Director of Events, the wonderful Miss Maggie Mahaney, she also has been having issues with the new form doing repeat events. So I would also talk to her to hear whatever feedback she had, because she does so many of those all the time.

Senator Breon: Yeah, she was in the office.

Senate Chair Feezel: Yeah, I relayed it from her to Senator Breon.

Senator Breon: Anyone else? Any pertinent news, nope we all good? Okay!

## **IX. New Business**

SB 14-24-25

Melody Martinez

Senate Chair Feezel: Thank you Senator Breon. Moving onto New Business we have Senate Bill 14-24-25. Vice Senate Chair could you please read Senate Bill 14-24-25.

SB 14-24-25 is read.

Senate Chair Feezel: To speak a little bit on behalf of Melody Martinez, she applied for Residence Life Senator. We interviewed her, she was really qualified for the position. She is involved in Hall Government and has planned events for them. She will obviously attend RHC meetings as a part of that role and has a lot of great connections with Hall Governments already, so I am really confident in this appointment and that they will be able to fulfill the role and make a really great foundation for this new role in Senate moving forward. Do you have anything to add?

Vice Senate Chair: No, I mean Senate Chair Feezel pretty much covered it all. Their interview was great, we have full faith that they'll be able to execute the office really well for the rest of the semester.

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any debate on the bill? I would entertain a motion to dispense of the requirement for a second reading.

Senator Raymond: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second

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

Senator Schuhart: So moved.

Senator Breon: Second.

SB 14-24-25 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 Raymond	In Favor
Senator Schuhart	In Favor
Senator Shelton	In Favor
Senator Smith	In Favor
Senator Sterns	In Favor

SB 14-24-25 passes.

**X. Swearing In**

Melody Martinez is sworn into the office of Residence Life Senator.

**XI. Adjournment**

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there anything for the good of the order.

Senator Schuhart: I move to have a casual Senate on March 13th.

Senator McCracken: Second.

Senator Clark-Kelley: Third!

Senate Chair Feezel: We have a guest speaker that day, the counseling and testing center is coming that day.

Dr. Messina: Point of information, Dr. Martin doesn't care what you wear!

Senate Chair Feezel: All those in favor of casual Senate on March 13<sup>th</sup>?

\*Every Senator screams aye\*

Senate Chair Feezel: Okay, we'll have casual senate on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

\*Cheers around the room\*

Senate Chair Feezel: Okay, anything else for the good of the order? We are adjourned!

**XII. Discussion**