



**Undergraduate Student Government**  
The University of Akron

## **Undergraduate Student Government**

### **Senate Agenda**

**March 13th, 2025, 5:00-7:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

Senator Breon	Present
Senator Clark-Kelley	Present
Senator Kasik	Present
Senator Martinez	Present
Senator McCracken	Excused
Senator Rahman	Present
Senator Raymond	Present
Senator Schuhart	Present
Senator Shelton	Present
Senator Smith	Present
Senator Spears	Present
Senator Sterns	Present

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Guest Speaker**

Dr. Juanita Martin

**V. Adoption of the Agenda**

Senator Schuhart: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Breon: Second.

**VI. Approval of the 03.06.25 Minutes**

Senator Schuhart: Motion to approve the 03.06.25

Senator Shelton: Second.

## VII. Open Student Expression

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Open Student Expression.

Associate Justice Shaw: Hello everybody! So, it is that time again, Honors Civics Club is having their next meeting on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>. It is from 6:45-8:00pm in the Honors Common Room. I will be giving a presentation about the upcoming Supreme Court decisions and just having discussions about that. If you're interested, let me know, I can get you more information if you want. Thank you!

Chief Justice Stillion: I just have a question. Is this meeting also going to be RSVP or is it just open?

Associate Justice Shaw: No, the only reason that the last one was RSVP, and we're planning other events with more elected officials, is that an elected official was our guest speaker. This one is not, anyone can show up.

Senator Breon: We have one in April, right, I just saw it?

Associate Justice Shaw: Yeah, we have one in April with Senator Weinstein, so I'll be reminding you of that soon. That one would be RSVP in that case.

Chief of Staff Lane: Next week, one of our Project Managers Jessica Greene is returning to USG. She's been gone since Winter Break due to a death in her family. Similarly along these lines, our former senator, Jeremy Sanfrey, his dad just passed away this last week. So, me and JoAnna Shafer, our Director of Communications, are collecting money to buy flowers for Jessica's return and to send to Jeremy for his father. This is a personal donation, so if any of you are interested, Venmo can go to JoAnna Shafer or if you're interested in giving cash you can talk to me or to Jo. We are collecting money to send flowers to Jess Green and Jeremy Sanfrey.

Associate Justice Shaw: I just had a question for Liv. Is there anyway if we can't donate can we make a USG card.

Chief of Staff Lane: Yeah!

Senator Schuhart: I was just going to invite everyone to PreLaw Society's meeting next Tuesday at 5:45pm we'll be in Crouse Hall Room 202, it's on our Instagram too. We are having a handful of speakers, we're having a law student panel. I know there's a couple people that want to go to law school in this room! We are also very proud to be welcoming former USG royalty Alia Baig, she is going to be there.

\*Audible gasps throughout the room\*

Senator Schuhart: So yeah, we're really excited about that.

Chief of Staff Lane: What is it?

Senator Schuhart: It's a law student panel! She's going to come and talk about law school.

Chief of Staff Lane: Yeah, but can I come? When was the date of it?

Senator Schuhart: Tuesday, this coming Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm!

Associate Justice Shaw: Is she going to be in person?

Senator Schuhart: No, virtual.

Senate Chair Feezel: Anyone else for Open Student Expression?

Senator Spears: I guess while we're at it, the basketball team won today, so the AKRowdies are giving away 100 tickets tomorrow to the game in Cleveland. It's first come first serve, starting at 3:00pm at the Corner Alley bowling alley.

Chief of Staff Lane: If we win tomorrow's game and we move onto the finals, will AKRowdies give out tickets for Saturday?

Senator Spears: Yes, 100 tickets on Saturday. First come first serve, all you got to do is show up and I'll send you the tickets via SeatGeek with your phone.

Senate Chair Feezel: Anyone else?

Dr. Messina: I am not a student, but I wanted to provide a brief update before I take off. I wanted to update you on were the two Senate Resolutions. Both are in motion, one is in fast motion, so I'll start with the fast motion pun is the vehicles. I expressed to a significant body of leadership on campus the concerns that you raised. I may have taken some liberties on emphasizing them, I was a little more bold than I probably should've been to make a point. So what is going to happen, A. They were advised that tomorrow we have a significant visit day and then moving forward vehicular traffic needs to slow or stop completely on walkway areas. The next thing that they need to do, I contacted six units, so Physical Place, Athletics, Mailing Services, Special Services, Capital Planning, and Dining. They are to have a response to me as it relates to their plan moving forward. One thing I can tell you is that the Buchtel Common work area will actually result in vehicles being restricted from going onto that walkway. So, you should see a significant change soon, and I'm not encouraging folks to take pictures, but I took a picture ethis morning when I saw nine vehicles on the walkway. There are two issues, one it's your

student experience and two is the ability to make this campus accessible, specifically when you have construction. If the vehicles are blocking somebody that's trying to get somewhere, it's a problem. So, I thank you, it is being addressed. I also thank you for the other resolution, that will be advanced as quickly as possible. I think some work has been put back on some members of Undergraduate Student Government to designate a location and then we will order it and install it appropriately. So, you should see both things done soon. The first one is going to take longer because it's a cultural shift and we also need to fix Google because some old Google directions will put you on Buchtel Commons. Otherwise the other one is just a matter of getting it done, so you should both in full action probably right after Spring Break and definitely before the end of the school year. I thank you for that, I look forward to more exciting resolutions.

Senate Chair Feezel: Anyone else for Open Student Expression?

### **VIII. Branch Reports**

✎ Judicial Branch Report

Associate Justice Reimer

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Branch Reports, starting out with Judicial Branch Report.

Associate Justice Reimer: If you don't have it, I have my computer. I'm sorry my laptop is not as big as Ali's but it's okay. First up, we have the grievances. We heard another grievance on Monday, we voted unanimously opposed to this grievance. It was an elections grievance. After that, we are continuing with our records project> We didn't get to have time to work on that on Monday, but we are keeping looking at those Teams folders, trying to organize that and make sure those look good. Our newsletter is delayed because of all the stuff with the elections, so we're still trying to work on that and trying to get that out soon. The Associate Justice application is still open so if you have somebody that you know that would maybe want to do that, tell them they can apply and maybe they would be an Associate Justice for the rest of the year. Finally, I have on here, the Presidential Debate. That cut our meeting short, so thank you to everyone that came to that and that was annoying that we didn't get to finish everything. Then I have the meme, it is small text so I will read aloud.

CHIEF JUSTICE STILLION WHEN  
JB HAS TO HEAR A GRIEVANCE BUT  
THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE IS IN AN HOUR



∉ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the legislative branch report given by me! My laptop is not as big as Ali's. Couple things, the Provost is coming next week now. That will be the same topic that we've kinda been stringing along for a while now, but that's finally next week. I submitted your questions already that you've already submitted. He has a pretty good list of topics to talk about and he is a one slide presentation to kind of explain the retrenchment process before answering your questions. Next, if you're returning or USG to contact me and Ali if you're interested in leadership. We will need to have a Senate Chair and Vice Senate Chair at the end of this year! I can talk to you about the role and explain to you how it goes, what you need to do. Even if you don't think you're interested, reach out maybe you'll end up wanting to do it! Transitions, keep your project trackers up to date, start thinking about how you're going to compile everything you've done over this year for next years senators. If you have legislation that you want to bring forward, I highly recommend you bring it forward by week 12, it's like two weeks after Spring Break, because week 14 is the last week that we can bring legislation to the floor. Week 15 is the inauguration meeting, it's a completely different agenda, so if you have legislation I highly recommend week 12 because it gets really hectic after that. Some final reminders, make sure you are CCing everyone, me, Ali, President DeWitt, Vice President Kozma, and Advisor Alexander, and that we are approving drafts if they are going outside of USG. If you are meeting people, make sure you let us and President DeWitt know, even if it's not in the form of an email. That's it, oh and if you are emailing another branch CC their branch heads and us! Any questions?

President DeWitt: Important stuff, thanks for mentioning that about emails. I have had people come up to me and I don't know what they're talking about. Please, please, please keep me in the loop. That's not me being mean, it's just me trying to help! Reminders, please read the All-USG email, those are written for you! DLT already knows what's going on. Respond to the hidden questions! Office cleanliness, so if you are the clean up crew for one of the events don't just put the bag of stuff on the table for someone else to put away, please just put it away yourself. We've had some problems where things are piling up. Everything can fit in that grey cabinet, so just go ahead and sort that all away. Lastly, we've been doing really bad with food waste guys! I have seen so many straw wrappers from Chic-fil-a on the ground, so I know we love those milkshakes, but please they're going to have to go away if we can't clean them up properly! Student Trustee application is the last reminder. The form is open until Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at midnight. I highly encourage you all to apply! We've had two info sessions already and we're tabling next week for it. The other marketing for it is Zipmail, social media posts, flyers across campus, departmental announcements, groupchats with select student orgs, USG meetings and word of mouth! We're really trying to push this out, I want at least 15 people to apply! Disclaimer, if you get that position you typically would resign for your position in USG. Events and meetings this week, we had the Provost candidate presentations, that was put on by HR. I highly encourage you to look into those, I believe they are posted somewhere. They have a really big impact at the university and it's important for us to give student feedback! I think they sent that out in Zipmail. I think the final decision will be made about the Provost like right before April. One of the events we had this week was Mental Health Monday, Restful Minds, it was on Monday which would make sense because it's a Mental Health Monday. It was a sleep awareness event! Our last safety walk happened, we had ZipAssist and the Office of Off-Campus living reach out wanting to be involved. The Physical Environment's committee and UAPD were there per usual. It was a great series! Any questions?

Associate Justice Shaw: Point of Privilege, do we have a finance report?

Senate Chair Feezel: It was sent. I think I just forgot to put it on the agenda. Do you just want to give it as part of the EB Report?

President DeWitt: Sure! You guys know the drill. We had some UAF allocations, we actually had a lot this week it was like \$8000. A lot of travel requests for student orgs! Projects and events, we helped out a ton of student orgs as well. That was about \$1600. USG expenses, we also spent a lot on USG this week around \$2000. There's a lot of good

stuff on there, event stuff, just all kinds of things like big events like the Women's Empowerment Summit. You can take a peak if you'd like, and SAF we had none.

Chief Justice Stillion: What is the \$2.06 purchase for the Downtown Small Business Series.

President DeWitt: Yeah, so that is just Stickers from Walmart.

Senate Chair Feezel: Would it be possible for next week or at the All-USG on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Finance Report to contain kind of a midyear summary on the totals that were spent in the budget. Like what's been spent and what's left.

President DeWitt: Sure!

Senator Shelton: Are we talking like Spiderman stickers, Smily face stickers?

President DeWitt: Important question, yeah so they're gold star stickers.

President DeWitt: Any other questions? Okay, I'll get out of your hair now.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

✶ Elections Board Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: As was already mentioned, we had the Presidential Debate on Monday. It went great! I saw some of you there! We did live stream it to the USG Instagram, it is still up if you want to watch it. It was recorded by ZTV and we will be getting that recording next week and then we will post it to YouTube and send it out in ZipMail. Voting does open on Monday, isn't that crazy! One more week! All of the undergraduate students will get an email that will have the ballot and all the candidates information as well. So, tell all of your friends to check their emails, look at all of the candidate information and vote! The results will be announced on Friday, 3/21. Voting will be open from 8:00am Monday to 5:00pm Thursday. So I will have some super secret election numbers for all of you at Senate next week! That'll be so fun! We will also be tabling next week for two days to promote voting. There will be more Zippy cookies. The Monday we come back from Spring Break we will be tabling for election feedback as well to see how the student experience was. There will be Zippy cookies there too! Any questions about anything? We're almost done, guys!

✶ F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Shelton

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the F.A.S.T. Committee Report with Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: Hey guys! Its been two weeks so you know what that means...our next

Accessibility tour is Monday! It is 1:00-2:00pm we will meet at the USG office on Monday! Write it down in your calendars! It's really fun. This does count as a USG Sponsored Event, which those are coming due soon! Senator McCracken is working on a project right now with the library, you donate board games and those will go towards a board game renting process with the library! That was just posted on the Instagram, so you should definitely promote it. We are looking for projects right now, so please give us some ideas!

President DeWitt: What's your method of reporting the F.A.S.T. Accessibility Tour issues?

Senator Shelton: I have sent one email to the point of contact that the last FAST Committee chair and then I sent a follow up two weeks after. I do have everything cataloged in papers and people in the group are in charge of reporting everything they see.

Chief of Staff Lane: Where are you going?

Senator Shelton: I don't really remember right now, but I can let you know!

∉ A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Clark-Kelley

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

Senator Clark-Kelley: Friday we tabled, we gave out Zippy cookies. We did have an Instagram post made about us and President DeWitt got our survey in Zipmail again. We also got approval for the Chipotle giftcard!

Associate Justice Shaw: When does it close?

Senator Clark-Kelley: March 21<sup>st</sup>!

∉ Student Engagement Committee

Senator Breon

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

Senator Breon: Short and sweet report. Senator Rahman helped out with all of the safety walks. She has done a really great job with those! We are still trying to figure out a time that we can all meet together. We've all be kind of working on the same projects for the past two or three weeks, so we're just trying to make progress.

President DeWitt: Just a thought but would Student Engagement be able to help with

getting more students out to other sporting events. Like some baseball games because basketball will be over eventually!

Senator Breon: Yes! I will definitely start working with that and potentially see if Senator Spears would like to collaborate, because obviously he's the guy for that!

## **X. Constituency Reports**

€ University Council Report

Chief of Staff Lane

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

Chief of Staff Lane: The University Council met this Wednesday, we have a few new senators so I'll kind of explain what it is. So University Council is one of the constituency groups on campus that USG serves on. We have three representatives from USG myself, President DeWitt and Vice President Kozma. It was really cool this meeting, because something that UC has been trying to incorporate in more meetings has been student group presentations, and they invited USG to present. So me and President DeWitt presented on USG, like the organization of the org, and also what we've done this year. And they were very impressed in our long list of accomplishments. They actually told us that. They're like, wow, more students should know what you guys do. So just so just so you guys know, like we're spreading your accomplishments and words around. So the executive committee report was about a topic submission regarding the admin transformation and UC ECs role in participating in that process of selecting new admin. And they also received a topic submission on Rethinking Race. They were kind of general about it, but they said that they decided that UC should not have oversight of the committees relating to that. The Provost remarks, sorry if you heard the Faculty Senate report, by the way, because some of these are similar. The Provost talked about the international student task force that is happening to increase the number of international students on campus. Apparently, in comparison to our public peer universities, we have a small number of international students, so they want to increase that number. So there's two subgroups. One of those is the student experience and services focusing on students right now. That way, if they like Akron, they'll tell people to come here. And then also another group focused specifically on policy issues and recruiting, a whole bunch of things about that. Then he updated on enrollment. He said we're slightly up on apps, we're 2% up and admits, and then we're actually double digits up in decisions. He didn't want to give us a number on that one, because he said it's still early in the season. Um, he said that part of that could be last year with the uncertainty of all the FAFSA issues could have caused a lower number versus the higher numbers in this year. But he said that he

thinks that Akron also contributed, because they worked really hard to think the financial aid letters out early, so they were some of the first ones out the door. So they also think that could be a reason why we're seeing such high numbers. They're also holding ground on minimizing the summer melts and the year to year retention. The Chief Strategy Officer did not give a report. He said he'd be giving a large report next month, and then I like to hit the highlights of all the committees. It has a classroom tech survey that they will be talking about the results of at our April University Council meeting. Physical environment passed a number of space requests and recommended and also participated in the Safety Walks with USG, the student engagement and success committee is continuing to investigate issues with student enrollment and then talent development and human resources, this one's kind of hefty, they first of all review preliminary data for the Fall 24 wellness survey. And then there is a rule, 3359-2201, changing the notice period for except professional staff. So they also worked with PSAC, which is the organizational group that represents them about this. So they are changing that notification that they are being let go without reason to three months standardized across the board, it used to be three months if you've been here for less than two years, and six months if you've been here greater than two years. And this is just to match peer public institutions. We had different numbers than them, and they want to improve our efficiency as a university and just standardize that across the board. They worked with P SEC during this change, and P SEC also just made a statement saying that they think it just needs to be communicated properly, because it could alarm groups about this and may think that there's layoffs coming when that's not the issue that's happening. They said maybe give a number of how many people it's going to be affected, assuming that it's a really low number, and then giving a central communication point of contact, so that people can have their answers questions very easily and avoid misinformation. GSG gave an update they're in election season. They had a leadership summit. They had a meet the candidate event this week. And they're also working with USG and the Student Bar Association on the student trustee application. I'm not gonna tell you what USG is up to, you know that. And then Faculty Senate, they talked about what Grace talked about last meeting the general education that passed to reduce the number of credits with more flexibility and humanities that did not approve regarding the public speaking class. That resolution, and then they returned the first-year seminar to committee. Lot of information, any questions?

Senator Raymond: Next time you're there, can you ask them to update their meeting minutes on their website, because the last time they published them was in December, and that meeting was canceled, so November.

Chief of Staff Lane: Yeah, I will ask. I know they're a little bit behind on that and stuff,

because I still don't have a name placard and I've emailed twice about that, so I just sit there like a stranger every week.

President DeWitt: Not necessarily a question more of a comment, but I just really wanted to reiterate, they did appreciate that presentation a lot. So I looked and I checked in at least like every committee was represented on the presentation. So your guys's work was in the presentation, and they did appreciate it!

## **XI. Adjournment**

Senate Chair Feezel: Is there any other business? We are adjourn

## **XII. Discussion**