



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda

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

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Guest Speaker

Provost Wiencek

V. Adoption of the Agenda

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Adoption of the Agenda. Wake up, Senators!

Senator Schuhart: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Breon: Second.

VI. Approval of the 03.13.25 Minutes

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the 03.13.25 Minutes.

Senator Breon: Motion to approve the 03.13.25 Minutes.

Senator Schuhart: Second.

VII. Open Student Expression

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving on to Open Student Expression.

Associate Justice Shaw: I just want to say I hope everyone has a great and safe spring break. I know I'm excited for spring break. I hope you guys are too.

Chief Justice Stillion: Right after this senate meeting, we have the Women's Empowerment Summit on this floor down the hall. I definitely, if you haven't signed up yet, you don't have to sign up. You just won't have a fun name tag with your name on it, you can still attend. It's gonna be great. There's panelist speakers, there's gonna be round table questions. It's a great opportunity, you should attend. There'll be food right after this, same floor!

Senate Chair Feezel: Anyone else?

President DeWitt: Student Trustee application is closing, I'm gonna say it again in my report, but please, please tell me to apply.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: I just wanted to say, I mean, I'm not involved in it, but I know that UA Ambassador application also closes tomorrow. So if you're interested in that, it's in their Instagram bio.

Senator Spears: I'm happy to report that after an 18 point comeback, we are playing in Seattle tomorrow, if you can't make Seattle there's a watch party down at the Barley House.

Senate Chair Feezel: Anyone else for Open Student Expression?

VIII. Branch Reports

⌘ Judicial Branch Report

Associate Justice Shaw

Senate Chair Feezel: Alright, moving on to Branch Reports, starting off with the Judicial Branch Report, Associate Justice Shaw.

Associate Justice Shaw: Hello guys! So JB's regular meeting was pretty short this week. We're just kind of regrouping after the election cycle, different things, different grievances, things like that. So yeah, last week we had our you UAkronPark town hall. From what I've heard, I was not there, but from what I've heard, it went pretty good. And then our newsletter is unfortunately delayed until after spring break, so we are working

on that. Expect a newsletter for January, February and March coming up soon. We are continuing working on our records projects in our JB archive 2021 and 2022 folder. So we're continuing doing that. And then, to my knowledge, we had an Associate Justice interview this week. So we might be getting a full branch after spring break, which will be great. So yeah, it's kind of what we covered. Nothing too crazy. And then... my meme.



Associate Justice Shaw: I know all of JB's very excited for Spring Break, but yes, any questions.

✧ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Feezel

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving on to the Legislative Branch Report given by myself.

Starting off with the Check-in meetings updates by Vice Senate Chair Winters.

Vice Senate Chair Winters: Guys, if you had known the couple of weeks that I've had... they're coming, you're getting a calendar invite sometime soon, probably tomorrow, and they're gonna be scheduled for, like, probably the week after spring break. So just get ready. If they don't work for your office hours, just shoot me a text and we can figure something else out.

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving to the onboarding section. We finished onboarding... what?

Vice Senate Chair Winters: The minutes, guys? I'm just a girl. I'm sorry again, if you had known the kind of week. I'm sorry. Sorry, now you're good.

Senate Chair Feezel: Yeah, so we finished up onboarding the last two Senator appointments that we had, that Senator Spears and Senator Kasik are assigned to APSS.

The last vacancies. So this is, I'm like 90% sure this is the case. But since we're almost at Spring Break, we can't fill any more vacancies. So the final vacancies that we have that we can't, to my knowledge, fill this semester the College of Business and College of Health and Human Science senators and the Senate clerk. That's just because last semester or last year, we ran into this issue where we filled a seat at like week 13, and then there was no onboarding, and there was no real purpose to that, because they weren't able to do anything. So it was changed in the bylaws that spring break is the deadline to fill vacancies. We had one application come in, like yesterday for one of those vacancies. So I'm going to review the word in the Bylaws and see if, like, if we're allowed to interview them and then appoint them next, like, after a week after spring break, but I'm like 90% sure it's over, so that's unfortunate.

But anyway, keep in mind transitions are coming up. So be thinking about if you're a senator elect, like, just be thinking about talking to me or Ali if you're interested in Senate leadership again. Here is a whole rundown that will explain why that's important of the inauguration ceremony. So that's the last we're almost there, the last meeting of the year. It's on Thursday May 1, at 5pm so it's just standard senate meeting time. You already have it in your calendars. It's in the ballroom instead of this room, all USG attends, including new USG members and old USG members. So it's the first and last meeting of the year. We'll have catering, It'll be light, but there will be catering. Administrative faculty and community members will be attending as well, if you're being sworn in for anything. And the gist of the meeting is, basically the first half is the last senate meeting of the year. So it'll be the last time that you guys are voting members of Senate. You will be basically, there'll be, like, brief branch reports, and then we will swear in the new JB and EB leadership, and then the new senators in that order. So pretty much you swear in the new senators in the last meeting of the year, there's a reception for like the inauguration, because swearing in the new president, and then before adjournment, you'll elect the new Senate leadership. So there's a recess for the reception. Then the end of the last meeting of the year, the new senators take over and swear in Senate leadership. It doesn't really make sense, but that's how the Constitution has it. So basically, you're done after the reception. If you're old senator, new senators come in, they swear, they elect Senate leadership. So it's only new senators that can elect leadership, and it's at the first, at the very first chance that they can. So you can't. That's

just how it goes. And then they adjourn, and then another Senate starts. And that's the first Senate of the next year where they appoint all the EOS for EB members and stuff like that. So pretty much the first Senate the next year is you already have an elected Senate Chair. So you if you're not a senator elect, you can't be elected the Senate chair or Vice Senate Chair for next year. That's it. Are there any questions on that run down. There'll be a formal agenda, obviously sent out, but that's like, so you guys understand why it's gonna be chaotic, and why you can't run resolutions on that meeting because it's a fixed agenda. So any questions, cool, that's it for my report.

✧ Executive Branch Report

President DeWitt

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

President DeWitt: Okay, like I said earlier, student trustee application closes Friday, so literally, tomorrow at midnight. So I want to have a bunch of people, so please tell your friends to apply. They can email me if they have any questions. The applications in the USG Instagram. It was out in zip mail, so they should have it. And I've been tabling. Speaking of tabling, that happened twice this week. That's something new that I tried this year. I think we got some more people from it. So definitely gonna recommend that next year's president does that in addition to the two info sessions. We had general USG tabling, which I believe was our events team that set that up. So that did happen, giving out USG merch, just spreading more about USG, reaching out to our constituents. That's all important. Menstruation Education that happened on Wednesday, that was planned by campus programs, but they asked USG to collaborate with them. So we gave away pink water bottles. Raise your hand if you saw them, they were pretty cool. We also gave educational hydration handouts. So that happened. EB Cabinet meeting also happened. So that was great. Directors met. We gave reports, the usual. We had our town hall, if you're not familiar with the structure of our meetings this year or this semester, I should say we added a town hall section that basically we just talked about issues on campus, and then Vice President Kozma and I can bring them to Dr. Messina's attention, other stakeholders, the university Advisor Alexander, you know, whoever is needed. Women's Empowerment Summit, we already talked about this, but it's happening today after Senate. There's gonna be a lot of cool things, a panel, round table discussions, there's gonna be food, so I highly recommend you come. It's a huge annual event. It took a lot of planning, so there's a lot of collaborative effort in that, as you can see from all of the student organizations listed. So very impressive. And kudos to Deputy Director of LGBTQ+ and Gender Equity Cosgrave for putting that together. Then just USG and GSG

have a meeting tomorrow. So something the Vice President Kozma and I started, was having a regularly scheduled monthly meeting with them. So that is just our check-in. Any questions? Oh, one more. Student Leader Showcase upcoming more to come. But yeah, tell your student org to sign up. This is a time for them to apply to awards. Kind of showcase what they did in the past year. It's a celebration, so it'll be a lot of fun. There'll be food. It's an annual event. So continuation from last year. Any questions?

Senator Schuhart: I know you had mentioned that you had set a goal to get 15 applications for the student trustee position. Have you yet reached that number?

President DeWitt: I'm so close. I'm really proud of myself, but yeah, there's like 13, so I'm kind of proud of everyone, but, um, yeah, still apply. So am I allowed to say that? Too late. Okay. Any other questions? Okay!

€ Finance Report

President DeWitt

President DeWitt: Finance Report, yes. So, as you can see, the breakdown, Director McCracken is not able to come because he has class. So breakdown, UAF allocations, you can see that we had one travel expense. Total for travel is just \$300. A lot of projects and events, so non travel activities, as you can see, totaling about \$1,600 and then a grand total for all those UAF is \$1,900 so that all went to student organizations, which is awesome, USG expenses, just the Prank and Paint, that's just an event we're doing with the ZAB. So that was about like \$200 and then SAF none. So basically, we spent a lot of money on student orgs and students this week. So, any questions? Cool. Thanks.

IX. Advisor's Report

Advisor Alexander

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the Advisor's Report given by Advisor Alexander.

Advisor Alexander: Well, echoing the comments, I hope you all have a safe and restful spring break. April will be very busy as we come back with a lot of things that bring closure to this academic year, exciting chapters of new leadership and folks seeking to get involved in different ways comes out on the horizon. So very excited about all of that. I did want to share one thing, that when we come back from spring break to put out the word, how many of you know that the Bierce library has been renovating a space to become a sensory space? Good, so that is going to be having a opening for that sensory space on April 22 from 12:00-2:00pm. There are a number of departments that will also be participating in a fair to talk about things that go on campus, and services that they offer to students. The first 100 people will get Zippy cookies, and they will be giving tours to that space as that space becomes public and open for students and are UA community to be able to use? So just be on the lookout for Zip Mail and posters and

things that help to promote that and spread that word. In addition to the Recenter space here, that space was brought in partnership with the ODHE mental health grant, the Bierce library and then the Office of Accessibility have been really leading that charge. So come over, stop by see the space another great avenue, in addition to the union, to be able to escape and retreat for those that need it. Any questions? Anything anybody needs, I am out of the office next week, as you all are also kind of unplugging next week. But if you do need anything, please let me know before the close of business tomorrow, I will be checking email sporadically, but not easily available.

X. Committee Reports

€ Elections Board Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto Committee Reports, starting with the Election's Board Report.

Chief Justice Stillion: Alright guys, I got a couple of things that I want to say. Firstly, the first ever judicial branch report that I gave as part of transitions my freshman year was this report that year. That was weird for me, but it's an honor to be presenting these numbers to all of you. Secondly, I will not be announcing the candidates as part of this report, so you will have to wait, like everyone else for the Instagram post tomorrow, unless you are one of the candidates who will be notified immediately after this meeting. But if you are anticipating that, I'm sorry, you'll have to wait until tomorrow. But again, now onto this, voting is closed. Obviously closed at 5pm the second we started this meeting, but it was open this week. Hopefully all of you voted and knew that, because I've been here for so many weeks, but it's closed now. The spring election cycle is almost very, very nearly completed. As I mentioned, winners will be announced on the Instagram tomorrow. I'd like to thank those candidates that we have in the room for your work throughout this entire election cycle. And I'd like to thank the members of the elections board that we have here, which is just me. Also the rest of the judicial branch and the elections board, specifically, for all of their hard work. We would not have been able to do this without them, but a little bit of a number breakdown for you guys, some fun stuff. So they might be a little shocking, but in this election, 7% of the undergraduate student body voted. So that may sound a little small, but compared to last year, last year's was 3% of the undergraduate student body that voted. The last year's was not a contested race. When we compare this to the last contested presidential race, the last contested presidential race was two years ago, and during that race, there were 9.7% of potential voters voted. So we're a little bit lower than we were. It's technically, it's exactly 7.7% so we're about 2% lower than we were two years ago. But that was the numbers. I won't

comment on them any more than that. That's not my job. I give you the numbers, and you do what you will with them. So are there any questions for the very last Elections Board Report of this semester.

Senate Chair Feezel: So 7%, do you have like a number? Thank you all Yes, 7%

Chief Justice Stillion: 717 ballots were cast out of a potential voting body of 9,216. I can also give you his exact numbers for the previous the previous year, so just don't have them written down. Any other questions. All right. Thank you.

∄ Student Engagement Committee

Senator Breon

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

Senator Breon: How's everybody doing? Good? Pretty good week. So Student Engagement Committee, yes, Student Engagement Committee, we obviously have taken in a new member, and we are trying to make accommodations for timing. We are going to meet after this to discuss timing. We have a date set, but we need to all physically agree on it. And as of right now, we are still pursuing the current projects that we are on. The safety walks were a huge, huge success. Want to thank Senator Rahman for doing that and orchestrating that, and working with working with other committees, and doing just all that. We're so proud. And yeah, and then I'm obviously trying to get right now survey, Health and Safety Survey passed through branch leadership, emailed people about it, and you were just trying to work that through, and then still trying to figure out new projects to work on and pursue, but that's essentially it. We're going to, we're going to put the pedal to the metal after spring break, and we need to, we ought to. So yeah, with that. Does anybody have questions, comments, complaints, concerns, anything in that realm? Thank you guys, appreciate you!

∄ F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Shelton

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

Senator Shelton: Hey guys, let's all open our calendars again. So the week after spring break, the Monday from 1:00-2:00pm in the USG office, per usual, guess where we're going!

Associate Justice Shaw: Accessibility Tour!

Senator Shelton: Thank you! This time we're going to the College of Arts and Sciences and Guzzeta for our first one so, but we will have some secondary dates and time to be determined, but they will get a different time the week after. We're gonna have one every week until we get out. So guys, I'm begging, pleading, please go on one. They're so fun. You get to go on a nice little nature walk. You fill out a little form please. As for what we're doing right now, Senator McCracken has been collaborating with the library. And if you enter and then look to your right, I believe there is a bin for donations for board games. That would be a really cool thing for us to donate to if you have the means, it's totally okay if you don't. But, yeah, it's just a fun little thing. We are still looking for projects right now. So if you have any ideas, please give them to me. I'm really trying with the elevators and, like all of the issues at the moment. So, yeah, yeah. Any questions?

Senator Breon: What are the dates again? I'm so sorry.

Senator Shelton: Let me pull up my calendar. Sorry. It is the 31st Monday from 1:00-2:00pm. There's one on the seventh time to be determined, one on the 14th from 1:00-2:00pm, and then one on the 21st time to be determined, and then one on the 28th I believe, from 1:00-2:00pm.

Senator Breon: So Mondays, essentially?

Senator Shelton: Yeah, Mondays, but times are interchangeable at the moment. Anyone else? Okay, thank you.

∉ A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Clark-Kelley

Senate Chair Feezel: Moving onto the APSS Committee Report given by Senator Clark-Kelley.

Senator Clark-Kelley: All right, so I got some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that my favorite joke of having more acronyms in our name than people, is now dead. But the good news is, is that we got two new people. They had to sit through my awful jokes for about 30 minutes on Monday. So that's true. So Friday, at midnight, mybaby, the survey is being closed. So, but after spring break, we'll write legislation on the brightspace survey. So thank you.

Associate Justice Shaw: Do you know the current number of submissions you have on that form?

Senate Chair Feezel: 169.

Senator Clark-Kelley: It's closed on Friday at 11:59pm with 59 seconds.

XI. Pass The Gavel

Senate Chair Feezel: Okay. Is there any new business? Seeing none. We're in pass the gavel time.

XII. Adjournment

Senate Chair Feezel: We're adjourned.

XIII. Discussion