



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda
October 23rd, 2025

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call**

III. **Pledge of Allegiance**

IV. **Guest Speaker**

Jessica DeFago

V. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Senate Chair Kasik: Alright. Now onto the Adoption of the Agenda... Senator Swaminathan.

Senator Swaminathan: Motion to change Senate Bills 1.25.26 and 2.25.26 to Senate Resolutions 1.25.26 and 2.25.26

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Kleinschmidt: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All in favor of switching titles to Senate Resolutions, please say aye.

Motion to change Senate Bills 1.25.26 and 2.25.26 to Senate Resolutions 1.25.26 and 2.25.26

passed: The ayes have it.

Senator Kleinschmidt: Motion to move Senate Resolution 2.25.26 before Senate Resolution 1.25.26.

Senator Spears: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of putting Senate Resolution 2.25.26 ahead of 1.25.26, please say aye.

Motion to move Senate Resolution 2.25.26 before Senate Resolution 1.25.26 passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Simas.

Senator Simas: Motion to change the approval of the 10.9.25 minutes to the 10.16.25 minutes.

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Spears: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of switching it from the 10.9.25 minutes to the 10.16.25, please say aye.

Motion to change the approval of the 10.9.25 minutes to the 10.16.25 minutes passed: The ayes have it.

Senator Sterns: Motion to change the delivery of the Finance Report to President Shaw.

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Prough: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of switching the finance report to President Shaw please say aye.

Motion to change the delivery of the Finance Report to President Shaw passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Motion to change the delivery of the A.P.S.S. Committee Report to Senator Gnap.

Senator Prough: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of changing the delivery of the A.P.S.S. Committee Report to Senator Gnap, please say aye.

Motion to change the delivery of the A.P.S.S. Committee Report to Senator Gnap passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Prough.

Senator Prough: Motion to amend the agenda to reflect the date as October 23rd, 2025, instead of October 12, 23rd, 2025.

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Spears: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of correcting this stuff, please say aye.

Motion to amend the agenda to reflect the date as October 23rd, 2025, instead of October 12, 23rd, 2025, passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Prough: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of adopting the agenda, please say aye.

Motion to adopt the 10.23.25 agenda approved: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right. Now onto the approval of the 10.16.25 Minutes.

VI. Approval of the 10.16.25 Minutes

Senator Sterns: Motion to approve the 10.16.25 Minutes.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of approving the 10.16.25 Minutes, please say aye.

Motion to approve the 10.16.25 Minutes passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right now onto Open Student Expression.

VII. Open Student Expression

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: As athletics is changing from fall to winter sports; we will be having an event. It's called Donuts with the AD. It'll be on Tuesday, the 28th is Tuesday, 11am. It will be in the piano lounge. Dr. Gerbitch will be there handing out donuts and kind of informing people about what games are coming out. We're in the muddy waters right now for zips sports.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you... Chief Justice Stillion.

Chief Justice Stillion: If any of the Senate Resolutions are passed, I would ask that the sponsoring Senators and Senate Chair stay after the meeting so that we are able to sign those.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Moore.

Senator Moore: Um, so I just have a little bit of exciting information, or not exciting information, but Campus Cupboard. Campus Cupboard is so great. They would love volunteers. And then also, I have a lot of information, because I met with them today. I can't turn around. Um, so, um, They have a bunch of amazing resources for anyone that needs it. Um, I did like an hour and a half meeting about it today. So I am, like, so happy to share about it. There's a bunch of really awesome resources. And then pop ups coming up, drives coming up, so, like, come talk to me. Yeah.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you... Vice President Tsige.

Vice President Tsige: So, I know Finance Director Damson is not here, but I can feel her whispering, like, in the back of my head right now. So, the Francophone Student Association is having an online dancing event next, I think, Wednesday, the 29th, um, at 6 pm in Student Union 310.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Swaminathan.

Senator Swaminathan: I know we all love supporting sick people. So, there is a fundraiser next Monday from 5pm to 7pm where you can pie me for 2 bucks, or you can pie your friend for 2

bucks, or we can all pay money and convince President Shaw and Pie her for 2 bucks. With their permission. So, come on out. It'll be outside the lounge; it's 2 bucks for one pie or 5 bucks for 3 pies. You can pie your friend, if you can convince them, or you can Pie me. So that's amazing. I'm done.

Senate Chair Kasik: President Shaw.

President Shaw: First off, I would not be against it, so... if you want to find me. Anyway, um, so, I am in Honors Civics Club, and we have our 1st meeting of the semester coming up. Super exciting. It is next week. It does start at 6.30pm. As long as Senate doesn't go the entire time, I encourage you to go or show up late. But, um, this is our first speaker series spotlight. It's going to be Representative Derek Hall. Like I said, next Thursday the 30th from at 6:30pm at the Student Union, so I recommend it. Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you... Chief Justice Stillion.

Chief Justice Stillion: Next week is Halloween. Just a reminder.

Senate Chair Kasik: I have that in my Branch Report, but that's okay. We're gonna move onto Branch Reports starting with the Legislative Branch Report given by Senate Chair Kasik.

VIII. **Branch Reports**

- **Legislative Branch Report**

Senate Chair Kasik

Senate Chair Kasik: No guest speaker next week. That is mostly due to next week being Halloween Senate. You can feel free to dress up in a costume if you'd like. If not, then you gotta dress business professional. Another update is that our legislative flow chart is done. It is, uh, there's a physical copy on the bulletin board in the office. There's a few physical copies on the table, and it's also on the share point in the legislative branch folder that you can find So, for reminders, Yes.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Do you want to say what the flow chart says?

Senate Chair Kasik: That's a good idea. The flow chart is a legislative flow chart that shows the process on how to write legislation from the start of having an idea, to who to contact, to how to organize your findings, and to how to write legislation, and who to give it to. It goes through all of that, which should definitely clear up any confusion that people might have in the future about writing legislation. For the reminders, please, once again, just remember to keep individual pullers and tracking the documents up to date, and keep getting the correct permission for emails. Once again, here is the permission order. If there's any confusion, this is, once again, on your email if you want to look at this on your own time, you can. If you have any questions, please let us know. That's all I've got. So, now I'd like to move on to the Judicial Branch Report given by Chief Justice Stillion.

- Judicial Branch Report

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: So, we finished up our elections review this week in JB. We have many, many, uh, interesting ideas for the spring election cycle, which will be starting preparation for in the next 2 weeks. So, expect to hear more about that pretty soon, but a large part of remaining this week has been focused on grievance practice. We wrote up a mock grievance and ran through the process of whether or not we were going to hear that mock grievance, and then this week, the Judicial Branch voted unanimously to hear the mock grievance. And this week, actually, in JB, we will be hearing the requested evidence for that grievance and making a ruling on whether or not the bylaws have been violated. So, fun stuff. We're continuing with our records project. We're discussing best practices in removing the LB records. We've created a different format for the archive system for the legislative branch. We're now trying to figure out how best to move those records while they remain in the public teams without it getting too

messy and ugly and bad. But while we're doing that, we're also working on creating a similar updated archive structure for the executive branch records, which is a little bit more complicated than the legislative branch, because it changes a lot more year by year. So, we've got positions and committees all around that don't fall neatly into the nice categories like they do with you guys. But we do, we are interviewing for our vacancy, in the Judicial Branch. We should hopefully have a decision sent out by next week, and we'll have a full branch again. We'll see. Any questions? All right.

Meme:



Senate Chair Kasik: That's great, thank you Chief Justice Stillion. We will now be moving onto the Executive Branch Report given by President Shaw.

- Executive Branch Report

President Shaw

President Shaw: That might be the best meme Chief Justice Stillion has ever made. That one is so good. Anyways, executive branch report. So, um, same reminders, same reminders every week. Answer my hidden question. There's a lot of debate for this week. So, I highly recommend you look for it. And answer that, and input your opinions in the off topic channel. It's very

interesting in there. Um, we also still have two vacant EB positions, the IFC Greek life liaison. We are interviewing for that next week, which is super exciting. Um, and then we have the NPHC Greek life liaison position open as well. Um, so moving on to some works in progress, um, project coordination, still working on a lot of the same events as last week. The A.K. Rowdies collab, the all-USG retreat, which is tomorrow, which is just so exciting. Um, safety walks, the safety grant, self defense class, and with meeting with people this week, there's a lot of events in the works. So please look out for those. I'm very excited to share those once they get solidified. Outreach team, of course, still working on the A.K. Rowdies Collab, downtown Akron Partnership, small business series for next spring. Um, Akron Art Museum Event, um, a Pan-Hellenic Council and USG event, and the MAC Food Donation collection. Communication has a lot of requests coming in so a couple are they're still working on a homecoming recap, working on the Akron art Museum promotion, and a couple others that I couldn't name off the top of my head because they're still working on them. Um, but lots of fun things coming out on our social media. DEI is still working on the International Education Week. I believe they're reaching out to collaborate with ZAB on that event, which is super exciting. The pride flag dedication ceremony, a cultural fair, and reaching out again for other collaborations. Moving on to events, we have the, we are finishing up, Vice President Tsige and I, our EB Midsemester check-ins. They've gone pretty well so far. lots of good feedback that we will, um, bring up in weeks to come. We have one more safety walk for this semester. Which is Thursday, November 13th from 7pm to 8pm. So right after Senate again. The all-USG retreat, like I said, is tomorrow. Really looking forward to that. Really looking forward to seeing you all there. Um, make a difference days also this weekend. We're, again, planning on having a group go to volunteer at the campus cupboard. Right here on campus, so we don't have to go very far, which is great. We

have the self-defense class with UAPD, which is also coming up next Tuesday at 7pm. I forgot to change that time again, but it is 7pm, not five. If you're interested in going sign up using the QR code in the USG office that is also on our social media. Um, and then USG needs some help running that event and just events in general. So please take a look at the USG sponsored event, sign up Excel sheets. If you still, especially if you still need to fill out your, um, sponsored event, our requirements for your membership requirements. Um, we have the, I said this wrong, but it's called Celebrate Smart, not safe. Celebrate smart. It's Duncan's birthday celebration. That is another event that just popped up. Um, that is going to be Tuesday the 4th from 12 to 2 in the student union. Um, we are celebrating UAPDs, canines, Dunkin's fourth birthday. He's gonna have some other Akron police department canine friends there, there's gonna be cake. It's gonna be really fun. And we also need some help staffing that event too, so sponsored event sign up sheet look at that. Um, and then the last one we have is, of course, Night of the Akron Art Museum, November 5th from 4pm to 6pm. Um, and we are still trying to solidify catering and food, but there will be catering and food of some sort there. So come hungry. Um, I believe that's all I have. So, if there's any questions, I'd be happy to take them, yes.

Senator Swaminathan: Is there a dress code for tomorrow's retreat?

President Shaw: Yes, there is. So, the retreat is, you should wear either USG or if you don't have USG merch, just wear general Akron merch. Um, if you, we do have some leftover t-shirts from last year um, that we still have. So, if you want a USG T-shirt, see me after Senate, I can grab you one. Um, and then that brings up a great point. The USG T-shirt for this year, so we are, our end is complete. We are just waiting for a company called AG Print. We work with them to get back to us. They told us since we don't have a strict deadline for this. They had to do a whole bunch of other schools, like homecoming shirts and all this fun stuff. So, they're coming

hopefully by the end of the semester. I am crossing my fingers, but I promise they will be here eventually. Um, but yes, is that, here's your question? Perfect. Any other questions? Anything? No? Yes?

Chief of Staff Kelly: We'll have our photos taken at this event, that's why it's important to wear your nice gear.

President Shaw: At the retreat? Yes, we are taking a group photo. We do have a speaker, too.

Um, so we always like to rep USG and Akron in that respect. Um, there's kind of a fun, fun little activity. Um, that also brings up make sure to bring coats. Make sure to dress accordingly to the weather. Gives you a little hint of what we're doing tomorrow. So, um, yeah, expect to be outside. So, sucks that it's a little bit cold, but we can't predict the weather. I'm sorry. Any other questions? No? Thank you, guys.

Senate Chair Kasik: We will now be moving onto the Finance Report given by President Shaw.

- Finance Report

President Shaw

President Shaw: Yes, Director Damson is in New Orléans for a suite conference, which is so exciting. So, there are not a lot of requests this week. There are some travel requests up at the top. Um, some non-travel requests for UAF funds as well. Um, totaling to roughly a little bit under \$4000. Um, and then USG expenses, um, none currently, there's some source still pending on our end. Um, but they're not officially approved yet. You should see those pop up soon. Um, and then no SAF expenses, either. Um, so kind of a, I don't want to say lighter spending week because it's not a light amount of money, but, um, a little bit easier compared to other weeks, but anybody have any questions? No? Okay. Cool, thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you President Shaw. We will now be moving onto the DLT report given by Vice President Tsige.

Vice President Tsige: Happy Thursday everyone. So, DLT met earlier this Monday, so these are just some of the items that we discussed about. So, same reminders as every week, keep submitting your office hours. Just make sure to have one submission every week. And then submit any USG shout outs. And also, please start submitting mid-year awards. So DLT does look at these mid-year awards towards the mid of November and we try to congratulate those of you guys who you submit for. So just please try to, if you see someone working hard, you feel like they align with one of those awards, just submit it if you can't. And then submit your membership requirements as completed, you all had your check-ins as well, so you know your stance of where you're at for the semester. So, if you feel like you've had some events that you haven't submitted yet, we check those every Sunday, so if you put them in, they'll be accounted for. So just the main reminders. As for our meeting recap, we did some shout outs for a couple of minutes, then we went into our individual branch reports. Um, as President Shaw said, for our open positions, we have our IFC liaison, who will be integrating next week, and then we have our NPHC liaison as well, and then, as Chief Justice Stillion said, they have been interviewing for their associate justices. So, they'll be making decisions next week, as he said. We have some OSGS meeting updates. They had speaker discuss what they which they did during the meeting. Um, ticketing pricing as well, and also a t-shirt design as well. And then, as we said last week, DLT is doing our transition documents, which will be due on Monday, November 3rd, and Chief Justice Stillion provided us a template to work with. So they'll be reviewed by our membership development coordinator Manny later on in November. And then for our end of semester reviews, we worked with our advisors to solidify dates so that we could work with all of you guys to see when you're all available for those. As for OSGE safety grant, Brittany talked with

you guys about some ideas that you had. So, we're just finalizing those ideas and items needed and just seeing, um, if we had any conclusions on what we can submit. So those will be solidified towards the end of this week. We also have an upcoming collaboration with A.K. Rowdies for a tailgate for the wagon wheel game against Kent. And so, during the meeting, they discussed food pricing and event outlining, and I believe the date for the game is November 11, 2025. Perfect. Okay. And then for the USG budget, the presentation was completed last week, as you guys saw, by President Shaw and Director of Finance Damson. And so, voting will be conducted today as, um, Senate Chair Kasik said, and then tomorrow, we've been saying this to you guys like a 100 times, the whole USG retreat, you know the deal, you know what to do. And, um, the outfits you wear as well. So that'll be fun tomorrow and you'll get to see all your members within USG. And then also, we are, we signed up for SAMS rock alike, and it's on November 5th from 8 PM to 10 PM, and the music decade that we chose was the 1990s. As for DLT members, it'll be me, President Shaw, and then Executive Justice Remer. If anyone's interested in joining, please contact President Shaw by tomorrow at 5 PM. Um, sorry go ahead.

Chief Justice Stillion: What is SAMS Rock-A-Like?

President Tsige: Go ahead.

Chief of Staff Kelly: SAMS stands for Students Against Multiple Sclerosis, uh, it's hosted by residence councils, it been in their landscape for over 20 years. Um, but generally, I don't know if any of you are familiar with multiple sclerosis, it's a very debilitating disease that is usually a quick onset. So, it means one day you don't realize you have it the next day you have it. Sometimes for people can paralyze them, it has a lot of other drastic effects on their other physical abilities. But fun fact about it is that nobody knows what causes it. So, all the money raised goes towards research. For you guys, it's just a fun way to have a lip sync battle. Um, but

it tends to raise several thousands of dollars per year. It was really impactful for that research organization.

Vice President Tsige: You are very lovely. So yeah, if you're interested in wanting to make an impact and joining us for lip syncing and some easy dancing, feel free to, you know, reach out to President Shaw and we'll put you on our team and do some, like, small, little practices here and there for that. So, another event that we have upcoming is the UAPD self-defense class. So, if you're looking to fill your USG sponsored events, this is on October 28th at 7 PM in the student ballroom, CDE. There's an RSVP link that you have to sign up, so just make sure to fill that out and feel free to attend. As for some upcoming events and meetings, of course, OSGS is weekly, the all-USG retreat is tomorrow, make a difference day is this Saturday. Again, the UAPD self-defense class, Night at the Akron Art Museum is upcoming as well. The All-USG meeting is next week. And then as for some DLT future items, we discussed, just stay ahead of the game. We'll be playing planning the USG holiday party. So, keep an eye out for that. The DLT winter retreat where we just discussed on upcoming topics. And then, of course, membership requirement discussion for you guys to volunteer awards as well. But any questions? Cool. Thank you guys.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you Vice President Tsige, we will now go onto the Committee Reports starting with the F.A.S.T. Committee Report given by Senator Shelton.

IX. Committee Reports

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Shelton

Senator Shelton: Okay, so we did two F.A.S.T. tours pretty close together, which is really cool. We went to Colby Hall and Gazetta. If you want to raise your hand, if you were there, I'd be really grateful, 'cause I want to show off you guys, 'cause it's so, it really means a lot that you

guys show up. We had such a small. Turnout last year and people are showing up and showing out this year so I really do appreciate it. Um, and then, there's some new dates for new F.A.S.T. tours. You guys are some of the first people to know. Uh, one of them is subject to change, but we have October 28th from 6pm to 7pm. We're going to Olin Hall. We have November 14th from 12pm to 1pm. We're going to Polski. Weather permitting, if it's snowing, raining. You know, we might stay a little closer to home. Um, and then November 24th, the date is pretty set, but the time may change. And we are going to Schrank south. And then University Bridge, we're working on that. We're trying on legislation. It's happening slowly but surely. As per individual updates, Senator Messmer is still working on the dietary surveys and questionnaires with AraMark and trying to promote the student discount hub. So, talk to him about that. Senator Moore had a meeting with Campus Cupboard as they talked about the beginning of the meeting, and with the dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Senator Pence is awaiting some information on emails for heating and cooling, as it is that time of the year where the heating kicks on, things will be odd for a bit, and it can either be really hot or really cold. No in between. And then I'm working on my projects. I'm still trying to fight out the Myers project, and then I have a meeting on the 29th with, I believe our lovely speaker that we had earlier. So, yeah. That's what's going on.

Chief Justice Stillion: I saw someone by University Bridge today doing something. Do you know anything about that?

Senator Shelton: I called the city, like, a month ago and asked for a surveyor to try to figure out who owns it, 'cause nobody owns it. It doesn't even exist guys. But, yeah, so maybe they're finally doing it. They told me it'd take two weeks. It's definitely been more than two weeks. So, you know, you never know. You never know. All right, thanks, guys.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, Senator Shelton. We will now go onto the A.P.S.S. Committee Report given by Senator Gnap.

- A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Gnap

Senator Gnap: Okay, for this week's meeting, Senator Swaminathan is working to push resources that are already available to students instead of like Quizlet Plus. Um, and was asked to help plan a 1st generation student event in November. Um, and then Senator Prough is looking to email the assistant director of student organizations and involvement and student life about that 2nd Roo Fest. Um, Senator Sterns is just waiting on approval to meet with the new director for his bright space initiative. And then I'm just waiting on a response from our student life photographer to set up, like, a date and a time to actually start filming that workday video. Um, and then future projects, the town hall event has been moved to around January 28th. This is not like a final date, but just to give you guys a heads up. Um, any questions? Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, Senator Gnap. We will now go onto the S.E. Committee Report given by Senator Spears.

- S.E. Committee

Senator Spears

Senator Spears: Some things that we worked on this week, we actually had the most people any committee has had this year. Thank you. We're getting there. Um, but we had, um, we're waiting on response from college business, Senator Nees is. It is resolution day, finally, for Senator Simas. The Auburn University sweatshirt posters are still in the crosshairs of trying to get them down. And then Senator Simas is looking for new projects. Consent education, Senator Kleinschmidt's been working with leadership to expand that and go further look into new projects. It's new project time for a lot of us. Um, I heard from our wonderful advisor, um, that the, uh, that the, uh, medication dump boxes might happen next semester just so that money can

funnel in. And then Wayne Campus has responded. I mean, this is three weeks in the making. She's back, she's doing good. Um, and then, um, Senator Sonntog, Sontag is waiting, um, to get his email approved to go to the orientation office. And then we have a special guest, uh, Senator Blankenship, who's working on project ideas. And then this week's Question of the Day, the Q of the D was, if your aura was a color, or what is your aura's color? Um, mine was royal purple, I'll take it 'cause that's a pretty color. Um, Senator Kleinschmidt was mauve. Senator Simas was Blue. Nees maroon, which we did find, and this is why we do this, is to find out more about each other. I did not know that Senator Nees is color blind. So, I need to do better questions. Executive Justice Reimer is Teal, Senator Blankenship said, sage green. Senator Sonntog is dark green, and we gave Director Senko khaki. So, in honor of him, I'm wearing my Khaki's. Any questions? Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: We will now be moving onto New Business.

X. New Business

- 2025-2026 USG Budget

Senate Chair Kasik: Starting with the 2025-2026 USG budget, is there any debate? Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Motion to close debate and move to previous question.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All in favor of closing debate and moving to previous question, please say aye.

Motion to close debate and move to previous question passed: The ayes have it.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken calls the role

Senator Blankenship: In Favor

Senator Gnap: In Favor

Senator Kleinschmidt: In Favor

Senator Nees: In Favor

Senator Messmer: In Favor

Senator Moore: In Favor

Senator Pence: In Favor

Senator Prough: In Favor

Senator Shelton: In Favor

Senator Simas: In Favor

Senator Sonntag: In Favor

Senator Spears: In Favor

Senator Sterns: In Favor

Senator Swaminathan: In Favor

2025-2026 USG Budget Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: We'll now be moving onto SR 2-25-26

- SR 2-25-26

Political Violence Memorial

Senate Chair Kasik: Would the sponsors be open for debate?

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order, you have to read the bill first.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right. Sorry, been a little bit since we did this.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken recites rationale for SR 2-25-26

Senate Chair Kasik: Now onto debate.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Can I speak on behalf of it?

Senate Chair Kasik: Yes, you can.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Sorry. I know I spoke a lot. Um, I had this whole paragraph written, but I feel like the statements in support really show, um, as well as the legislation, um, what I've been feeling, this has been my passion project for the past 6 months. For a bit of contacts at our regionals this year, I had some members of the teams come up to me and spark this idea. So, I've been working over the past couple months, going over every question concerned. Um, idea in my head. Uh, I've met with every single design, or I've contacted every single design team, uh, to hear their ideas and help manage with most of them. I emailed, uh, variety of faculty, including the dean of the College of Engineering, the mechanical engineering department head, uh, the interim, civil engineering department head, and others. I believe this best represents the opinions of my constituents and those around me. I did intentionally leave some sections blank to allow for growth and adaptation because they all had very different needs. But I'm very excited about this project and to see it grow. And I urge you to vote in favor.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Uh, when Vice Senate Chair McCracken came to me and asked me about this, I am not an engineer. So, I'm sponsoring this as a BCAS, um, a BCAS student, but as someone who loves athletics, who is an athlete themselves, uh, in high school, you see the work and determination that an athlete would have. They get their flowers in the court, they get their flowers in the field. They get to be celebrated when they win championships and such. These individuals who work day in and day out, practice day in, day out, deserve their flowers too. And I think this is a great way to get into them is to say how much work you're putting and how much you learn a user, some credits towards your graduation requirements.

Senet Chair Kasik: Any other debate or stances? Senator Moore.

Chief of Staff Kelly: Point of order. We're not in discussion they can speak because they are sponsors of the bill

Senate Chair Kasik: Right okay.

Senator Spears: Motion to open debate

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of going to debate please say aye.

Motion to open debate passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Moore.

Senator Moore: I'm allowed to ask questions right?

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order, you are allowed to ask questions if you format it correctly.

It would be a request of information from whoever you are asking.

Senator Moore: Request for information from Vice Senate Chair McCracken.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Accept.

Senator Moore: Okay, so, um, you stated it was, uh, you said 3 credit hours in some places, and I feel like, uh, somewhere else had 3 plus credit hours. Would that fluctuate? or maybe I think it was one of the statements. It may have been one of the teams saying that. So it would be that concrete across the board for all of those folks. It would be 3 credit hours. That's per year, not per Semester, correct?

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: So, it would be one credit hour per year. So, you would register for it in one semester. It would be somewhere like the honors project. You would do the work over the course of a year. So, throughout the year, you would do a minimum of 50 hours. That

would be one credit hour. Um, it's a max of three credits. If you do it for three years, you would get a max of three credits. So, it's one per year, 3 max.

Senator Moore: Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Anybody else? Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: I would just like to say this is a purely written and highly detailed bill. And it is very impressive. And that's all I have to say.

Senate Chair Kaik: Senator Sterns.

Senator Sterns: Motion to close debate.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of closing the debate and moving to previous question, please say aye.

Motion to close debate passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Yes, Senator Spears?

Senator Spears: Motion to waive the second reading of the bill or the resolution.

Senate Chair Kasik: Yes, is there a second?

Senator Prough: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of waiving the second reading of the resolution, please say aye.

Motion to waive the second reading of resolution passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right. We will now be voting on Senate Resolution 2-25-26, your options are in favor, opposed, or abstain. Vice Senate Chair McCracken will now call the role.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken calls the Role

Senator Blankenship: In Favor

Senator Gnap: In Favor

Senator Kleinschmidt: In Favor

Senator Nees: In Favor

Senator Messmer: In Favor

Senator Moore: In Favor

Senator Pence: In Favor

Senator Prough: In Favor

Senator Shelton: In Favor

Senator Simas: In Favor

Senator Sonntag: In Favor

Senator Spears: In Favor

Senator Sterns: In Favor

Senator Swaminathan: In Favor

Senate Resolution 2-25-26 is passed

Senate Chair Kasik: Congratulations, now that is passed we will now be moving onto SR 1-25-

26. Political Violence Memorial Resolution..

- SR 1-25-26

Design Team Technical Elective

Vice Senate Chair McCracken recites rationale for SR 1-25-26

Senate Chair Kasik: Would the sponsors like to talk about their Senate Resolution?

Senator Simas: From a very young age, I've had the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, instilled within me. And it really makes me sick when I read the news, and I hear about another person who has had these things taken from them unfairly and seemingly, um, people as a whole, and especially like, um, the large news media seems to have brushed past these tragedies, and it's an issue that is nonpartisan. You know, it doesn't matter if you're a

Republican, Democrat, anything in between. It truly affects us all equally, and it's a tragedy that some people do not get to exercise their rights to its full extent. As for the plaque itself, I think it's, I think to be kept simple, I think it should just be dedicated to all Americans who have lost their lives at the hand of political violence. Just keep it relatively simple. But enrich my fellow Senators, to vote in favor, to remember those who have been lost.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Thank you. When Senator Simas came to me and asked me to sponsor this I was, again, honored too, but I'm a political science major. I did stuff over this past summer in DC for an organization that promotes civil engagement for high schoolers. And we, obviously before some of the more recent events had happened, we were talking about every person, whether they like it or not, are guardians of a democracy. that they're living in. And whether you're voting, whether you're going to school, whether you're going to work, whether you're just going home, you have a responsibility to upkeep what we have. And this is just another stance by this body, hopefully by the University of Akron, that says we all have a part in this to protect one another, but to protect something that has protected us for so long.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Kleinschmidt.

Senator Kleinschmidt: As someone who has worked closely with Senator Simas on many different projects, I've been able to see this idea blossom and grow over time. I think that it truly comes from a beautiful place and will serve as a strong reminder to the undergraduate student body, to look past the us and the otherness of politics, and remember that everybody is a human.

Senator Kasik: Senator Messmer.

Senator Messmer: The resolution is a simple messaging bill that clearly conveys that we, as an undergraduate student government, and that the university background opposes political violence of all sorts, and it's simple, common sense. And I encourage everyone to support it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Motion to open debate.

Senator Prough: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of opening up the debate, please say aye.

Motion to open up debate passes: The ayes have it.

Chief of Staff Kelly: I have a request for information from the sponsors of this bill.

Senator Spears: We accept.

Chief of Staff Kelly: So, um, I'd like to understand; at the University of Akron, students faculty or staff, it doesn't have to be present, it could be from the beginning of University of Akron, who haven't been victims of political violence because that would be a question posed to you, ultimately, to see this bill passes or resolution passes.

Senator Simas: It has affected our local community, of course, when you look at Kent State, um, and the massacre that happened there. Um, You know, that's very close. It's very relevant. I'm sure, you know, many families or many people who have attended the University of Akron has had somebody affected by that, either directly or indirectly. And as a whole, um, you know, college campuses are a place of, um, of dialogue, place of personal growth, and while there may not be a direct instance, you can point to and say, um, this was an act of political violence that occurred here at the University of Akron. is important to recognize that there is an issue present and recognize, you know, that need for remembrance and the need for, you know, to have that in the back of your mind while not only learning how to be a scholar, but a citizen of this world.

Chief of Staff Kelly: Is that the only answer from all the sponsors?

Senator Spears: Um, my answer would be that macro issues like this, um, that attack the core of a system, um, attack the core of a democracy republic of a nation, um, it is, it is not, um, right to take it as, well, if it affects, if it affects me, um, then I will join in, um, on the messaging to root against it. You have to be in it for the whole. And so it might not happen, have happened here at UA. might not be major examples of UA graduates who have felt this sort of pain. It is our responsibility as a public university to promote dialogue and to promote a welcomed environment for all perspectives. whether they be on one end or the other.

Senator Kleinschmidt: To build upon what my fellow senators have stated, political violence is an attack on freedom of speech, which is a very important topic on college campuses. As was outlined by previous guest speakers here in Senate, and it is important that the University of Akron shows to its students that freedom of speech is welcome here and is an important factor into everyone's life.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senate Clerk Stalnaker.

Senate Clerk Stalnaker: I guess my only concern for this...

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order. You have to request for information from the sponsors.

Senate Clerk Stalnaker: Request for information from sponsors.

Senator Simas: Accept.

Senate Clerk Stalnaker: How would you guys go about distincting this; because we're an apolitical group and with the current things that have been going around the country, most recently, extremist things that are happening around the country. How do we, to other students, show this as something that's not in response to recent events? And overall, events as a country, rather than just like the shooting that took place in Utah, or the shooting that took place with the

Congresswoman in Minnesota. How do we go about it as it not being a direct build to something like that, rather something that's been we should have been doing over time or should have already been done. How do we go about portraying that?

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order. Furthering debate to the discretion of the chair. I'm making up my order saying that that question is furthering debate, you have the authority to decide if I'm right or not. Because I think it was unclear.

Senate Chair Kasik: It doesn't seem like it is but...

Chief Justice Stillion: Okay, that's your ruling.

Senator Simas: I think it's important to elaborate, um, I guess the fact that isn't just affecting it. That's not that this isn't just motivated by the murder of Charlie Kirk or just the murder of Melissa Hortman and her husband. Um, You know, it's really, I guess, plagued, the United States. Innocent civilians, I mean, look at the terror attacks of 9-11. Um, I think it's just important to elaborate that this isn't just a recent phenomenon. It's truly occurred throughout all of our history and that, you know, is the potential to continue occurring unless there is an active recognition of the issue at hand.

Senator Kleinschmidt: I think that the dedication of this tree with the plaque will exemplify that this is an issue that needs to be stopped regardless of political party, um, though the inspiration may seem political due to recent events, I think the avenue of this dedication and of the plaque and the dedication of the tree, um, will be clear to say that this is a nonpartisan issue. As USG, we are a nonpartisan organization made up of people who may see one side or may see another, and I think that's the beautiful part of it, is that we have members of different political views coming together to sign this bill and to approve it. And I think that will speak for itself.

Senator Moore: As an individual who, um, was fortunate enough to, uh, take a look at the, um, the document before, um, being brought forward here. Senator Simas came to the F.A.S.T. Committee, and we were happy to take a look at it. My understanding, um, and request of information to Senator Simas.

Senator Simas: I accept.

Senator Moore: The recent events have acted as a, um... catalyst to bring forth what has been an issue for a long time, to my understanding. Is that what you've intended?

Senator Simas: Yes. Um, well, recent events may have motivated, um, this piece of legislation, um, I guess motivated my writing of this legislation, um, It's not the entirety of the issue. It's more so a reminder of this large and tragic problem that has affected us all as Americans.

Senator Moore: And follow up question if you would allow a request of information.

Senator Simas: I accept.

Senator Moore: Do you think the timing of these events would be received poorly from the student body versus us knowing your intention? Versus if it's announced on campus, what students may infer. I know that was a question previously asked, how do you intend to differentiate that? But I don't believe that you have control over what the plaque will say. Correct?

Senator Simas: Yes, I don't believe that this will be received poorly by the student body as a whole. I think that many student organizations, have expressed their remorse for tragedies that have happened. Um, recently, whether that's, um, the murder of Charlie Kirk or, um, the student in Louisiana. Um, I know there have been multiple candlelight vigils so far in the semester, which goes to, um, show, just how frequent and how breaking these instances are. I guess

because of that and the unity that student body has shown, I just, I don't believe that it will be perceived poorly.

Senator Shelton: Point of information from the sponsors of the bill.

Senator Spears: We accept.

Senator Shelton: Um, so it's been brought up multiple times already that it is out of your hands, how the public will react to it. I believe it is positive but it is my fear that some actors on campus will attach themselves to it, which they may not reflect USG's values. How would you mitigate that in your opinion? Have you contacted any of the people with individuals, their organizations, for opinions, or...? That's my question.

Senator Simas: Um, I have not. Um, involved, there is uncertainty regarding, um, how certain student organizations will attach themselves to it, um, or how they will react. Um, I think that, um, their actions have, um, have made it clear that, um, I guess their their feelings will remain civilized and respectful.

Senator Kleinschmidt: Additionally, from my understanding of this resolution is that this is a request to the University of Akron as a larger entity, meaning that the specific details of how to handle such a sensitive topic would be left up to professionals with more training that are employed by the university to maintain a sensitivity surrounding this topic and ensure that the student body does not feel attacked or as if this is coming off as a political statement further than this is a bad thing for everybody.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Nees.

Senator Nees: It's not really a question, but just a statement forward. Republican or Democratic, we are a community of Akron. I mean, that's the base level. Just being able to put this out there and say, listen, we don't care who you are. This is just evil, bad as in general. So being able to

have this just shows that we're not going to take this lightly, this is the way you express, and that political violence shouldn't be allowed.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Prough.

Senator Prough: As someone who goes to the University of Akron, as I mentioned previously, by some of the other Senators, there has been political violence that has occurred in Ohio with the Kent State shootings, and I think that as has been stated, but just to reinforce even further, regardless of how you fall on the political spectrum, political violence is not something that we should encourage. It's not something that we should cheer for. And regardless of how public perception may be regarding the introduction of certain plaques, just due to timing and happenstance. I think it is important to recognize these events as being a horrendous action part of the university. And I believe it would even help further to invite members from organizations on campus to come and speak during a dedication of this plaque to solidify the general support for a memorial to political violence.

Senate Chair Kasik: President Shaw.

President Shaw: Request for information from sponsors.

Senator Simas: Accept.

President Shaw: So, I guess my question is, what is your rationale for having a physical, um, I guess, memorial, rather than something from USG, so just like a statement?

Senator Simas: I think a physical memorial, you know, something you're walking through, um, walking through campus, pass it every day. I pass the Korean War Memorial every day. And it reminds me of a little bit of the people who lost their lives in that conflict. And it reminds me of the people who have lost their lives to ensure that us and us as Americans have a better life. I guess a statement, you know, I might open that once, I might say, like, oh, you know, like, that

was a really nice settlement. I really appreciate that. But I don't think it has the same weight as a physical, um, as a physical thing that serves as a constant reminder and a reminder to, um, better ourselves.

Senator Messmer: When many people think about political violence, they'll immediately jump to the assassination of political figures, but political violence also consists of minor things, like hate crimes that have been caused because of rhetoric that has inspired people to do wrong things.

And I don't think opposing violence as an organization is partisan in any way.

Senator Klenischmidt: To add on to my fellow Senators' statements, I think that the dedication of a tree is something that will live on longer than a statement issued by USG as political violence has plagued us since the creation of this country. So, it would be amazing if it would just go away, it's not going to. And a statement will be forgotten much sooner than a memorial with a plaque.

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there any other debates or questions?

Senator Moore: Motion to close debate.

Senate Chair Kasik: Is there a second?

Senator Spears: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of closing the debate and moving to the previous question, please say aye.

Motion to close debate passed: The ayes have it.

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order. The dating produced on the resolution needs amended.

Senator Spears: Motion to amend the resolution, so that date will be the 23rd of October, 2025.

Senator Prough: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of updating the date on the resolution, please say aye.

Motion to change the resolution date passed: The ayes have it.

Senator Prough: Motion to wave the second reading and in favor of the vote.

Senator Spears: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of waving the second reading, please say aye

Motion to wave the second reading passed: The ayes have it.

Senator Sterns calls the roll in place of Vice Senate Chair McCracken.

Senator Blankenship: In Favor

Senator Gnap: In Favor

Senator Kleinschmidt: In Favor

Senator Nees: In Favor

Senator Messmer: In Favor

Senator Moore: Abstain

Senator Pence: In Favor

Senator Prough: In Favor

Senator Shelton: In Favor

Senator Simas: In Favor

Senator Sonntag: In Favor

Senator Spears: In Favor

Senator Sterns: In Favor

Senator Swaminathan: In Favor

Senate Resolution 1-25-26 passed

Senate Chair Kasik Congratulations, we are now adjourned.

XI. Adjournment

XII. Discussion

- Feb 5