



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Agenda

February 19th, 2026

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Guest Speaker

Kim Gentile

V. Adoption of the Agenda

Senate Chair Kasik: All right, we should be good... Senator Simas.

Senator Simas: Motion to amend the agenda to list the delivery of the S.E. Committee Report to me.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of changing the delivery of the S.E. Committee Report to

Senator Simas, please say aye.

Motion to amend the agenda to change the delivery of the S.E. Committee Report to Senator

Simas Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you. Senator Swaminathan.

Senator Swaminathan: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Chief Justice: Point of order. Advisor Ferguson-Mike is not present. The advisor report needs to be changed.

Senate Chair Kasik: Yes, Senator Prough.

Senator Prough: Motion to amend the agenda to change the deliverer of the Advisor Report to Advisor Ernst.

Senator Shelton: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of changing the delivery of the Advisor Report to Advisor Ernst, please say aye.

Motion to amend the agenda to change the delivery of the Advisor Report to Advisor Ernst

Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: We will now move on to the adoption of the agenda... Senator Swaminathan.

Senator Swaminathan: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Shelton: Second.

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

Motion to adopt the agenda Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right. We will now move on to the Approval of the 02.12.26 Minutes.

VI. Approval of the 02.12.26 Minutes

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Swaminathan.

Senator Swaminathan: Motion to approve the 02.12.26 Minutes.

Senator Shelton: Second

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of approving the 02.12.26 Minutes, please say aye.

Motion to approve the 02.12.26 Minutes Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: We will now move on to Open Student Expression.

VII. Open Student Expression

Senate Chair Kasik: Vice Senate Chair McCracken.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Hi, everyone. If you're free on March 8th, from 10am to 1pm, please go to the Alpha Delta Phi House on 291 Spicer St. for PieHop. You can get a ticket for \$6 and you get 2 sausages, 2 pancakes, and a drink. So, it's a really good deal. There are tickets online. I can share the link with anyone, but it's also on our Instagram. So, please consider going.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Sterns.

Senator Sterns: Sausages with pie?

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: No pancakes. Didn't I say pancakes? Yeah, sausage, pancakes, and drinks. It's a breakfast.

Senator Sterns: I thought you said Pie?

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: It's called PieHop.

Senator Sterns: Oh, its called not actually... I get it... Okay.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Bass.

Senator Bass: That sounds delicious. Did you say 6th or 8th of March?

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: The 8th of March.

Senator Bass: The 8th of March, okay.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: I think I told you the wrong date. It is whatever that Sunday is. I think it's the 8th.

Senator Bass: Okay, thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Swaminathan.

Senator Swaminathan: This Mon... not this Monday, but this upcoming Monday, in the honors lounge, there is Mardi Gras Monday. How fun. You can make your own, like, masquerade door dec. We'll have friendship bracelets, we have food. I think we're getting Canes. I'm pretty sure we need some type of food and were getting king's cake. So, if you guys want to drop by, they can also count for whatever 4 hours you need for USG. So, be there.

Senate Chair Kasik: President Shaw.

President Shaw: Hi, everybody. Last time, I promise you're hear about this, because the event is tonight, but afterwards, after Senate. It is the 535 event by the Alumni Association, the UA Ambassadors. Um, but from what I've heard from the pastors, the tentative schedule for tonight is, it begins at 6pm. There's like a reception until around 6:45pm. Um, and then the panel would be, um, 5 panelists, um, who are all alumni from the University of Akron under the age of 35, hence 535. Um, that will will be starting around 6:45pm or so. Um, So depending on the time we get out, obviously don't rush anything. but highly encourage everybody to head over there.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: Uh, 8:30pm, after you go to that, you should go to the rec and see AD Pi get molly whopped in volleyball. It'll be fun. It'll be entertaining. It's the championships.

Senate Chair Kasik: Executive Justice Reimer.

Executive Justice Reimer: Uh, according to the calendar invite Chief of Staff Kelly sent out earlier today that, uh, the 535 event is hosted by UAkron, the alumni, the UA Ambassadors, and USG. So, would this actually count as a USG sponsored event?

President Shaw: Umm great question. Because we did sponsor it. Where I'm hesitant on that is because it was through our platform funding, so they went through, um, a different method of collaboration, where it was just primarily financial. So, my initial thought would be no.

Executive Justice Reimer: She put in brackets USG Sponsored.

Director Damson: I just want to add and say that it is Sponsored by us.

President Shaw: It is sponsored by us. But I don't think it counts it as USG sponsored unless you have a role.

Chief Justice Stillion: I was going to say let's figure it out later. Go and submit it anyway and your branch leader will let you know if you need to change it for something else.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Prough.

Senator Prough: If anyone's looking for volunteer opportunities next Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the women's swimming and dive team need timers for the MAC championships. I should have; I have the signup link that I'm going to post in the membership requirements. It should be in the sheet as well because I told them. You should do it. They need that. They need timers like desperately.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: You also get free food. There is a hospitality room, and you're gonna, watch us win, what is it, 14th MAC n Dive?

Senator Prough: Yep.

Senator Shelton: Yeah, so come watch the women's swim and diving team because they're so good guys. They're gas.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Simas.

Senator Simas: Uh, this Saturday, there's a big women's basketball game against a school down the road, and they're giving out free tickets to the men's Kent State basketball game, uh, February 27th. That's a Friday. So come to the game on Saturday, get your free tickets, it will be a lot of fun.

Senate Chair Kasik: Vice Senate Chair McCracken.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: They're also giving away jerseys. So, if you like free merch, like that, you should go get some.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right. Anyone else for Open Student Expression? If not, we will now move on to the Advisor Report given by Advisor Ernst.

VIII. Advisor Report

Advisor Ernst

Advisor Ernst: Hi everyone. Thank you again. I always appreciate when you guys are like asking questions and doing that. I think that's great that we continue to have those connections with people on campus. Um, next week is also taking Care Week with the Counseling Testing Center. so, every single day next week from 11:30am to 1pm, there's an event happening. They are different themes each day. I believe Wednesday is when the dogs are here. Was it Tuesday? One of those days there's dogs. I'll let you know. And so, any of those, just please, if you have a moment, stop by, take a breather. I know that this is during, like, midterm-ish times, right?

And we're all stressed and we all have a lot of things going on. So, if you have a moment to take for yourself, please do so in those different events. And there is free stuff. So, um, and also, uh, if you are ever looking for, please send me those volunteer opportunities, because I'm gonna put them on the website, um, that also exists the, uh, BBU website. If you're ever looking for volunteer opportunities, I'm always updating that website with more stuff. So, if you need it for the self credit, you're doing the 50 or 100 hour service challenge, you're doing anything for

USG that you need service opportunities for. Just check out that website. One of them, that's really fun coming up is next Saturday, the 28th, the downtown action review year celebration is happening, and they need some extra people to be stage hands. So, that would be fun, you just get to be in the back with all of the different things that are happening. So, there's fun of stuff to do for volunteering as well. Other than that, keep going to class and taking care of yourself.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you. We will now move on to Branch Reports starting with the Legislative Branch Report.

IX. Branch Reports

⌘ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Kasik

Senate Chair Kasik: So, we still have one vacancy for the Senator of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Just know that we're in the process of scheduling an interview for an applicant. Next, our mock debate was rescheduled. That'll be next week after our meeting, and also next week after our meeting, but later, will be our LB Retreat. Which will be at Applebee's. It will be exactly the same thing we did last semester. So, it'll be half priced apps at 9 o'clock. If you can't make it, please let us know, and we will try to coordinate rides and all that next week or just amongst yourselves if anybody is willing or has a car. Yeah. There's a FAB 5 meeting after our meeting today. Uh, we have a guest speaker in 2 weeks, who's the Mayor of Akron, Shammass Malik. So please have questions and stuff prepared for him. Uh, if anybody is interested in leading a Senate meeting, uh, please let me know or let, uh, Vice Senate Chair McCracken know. This is only for people who are interested in being Senate Chair next year. Uh, Yeah.

Chief Justice Stillion: Can we amend this report to not have that qualification because that relies on us knowing or assuming who will win in the election?

Senate Chair Kasik: Yeah, we could, yes.

Chief Justice Stillion: Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Senator Shelton.

Senator Shelton: Motion to amend whatever Sam said.

Senator Flickinger: Second.

Senate Chair Kasik: All those in favor of amending whatever Sam said, please say aye.

Motion to amend whatever Sam said Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Kasik: All right. Uh, so, same thing, like I just said, uh, yeah, that's what I did last year, for Senate Meeting. It's kind of fun. So, that is completely up to our discretion, though, depending on what kind of meeting it is, like, you're not going to be doing it for an all-USG meeting. Uh, so yeah, uh, mid semester check-ins will be in 2 weeks. An email will be sent out later today about what time that will be, and if you can make it. And this last part, nobody is, nothing's wrong, but we want to offer and have this up here again, that they're about surveying the student body in ways to get ideas from people and from student organizations. So, if anybody is interested in trying to find ideas for projects, or when to work on their project in the survey, consider these other things that you can do. So yeah... Yes.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Um, one thing to note about the mid-semester check-ins, those we scheduled based on the office hours that you guys submitted, so you should be able to make those because you should be there. So, if anything has happened where that has changed and we send out a different time, like let us know.

Senate Chair Kasik: It'll be sent out after this meeting, please just respond. Preferably now and not in two weeks. We will now be moving on to the Judicial Branch Report given by Chief Justice Stillion.

€ **Judicial Branch Report**

Chief Justice Stillion

Chief Justice Stillion: So, right now, I don't have too much for you, but trust, in the coming weeks, there will be many more words on this word doc. Um, we did get an election grievance.

That's one of the things that's happened. So, we're gonna be hearing that on Tuesday. And then, see what happens, not hearing, voting to hear it, I apologize. Voting on whether or not we'll be hearing that on Tuesday. Yeah. That's JB.

Meme:

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, Chief Justice Stillion. We will now be moving on to the...

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of privilege. Advisor Ernst has a question.

Advisor Ernst: Um... Not a question just a further statement. I looked it up. Therapy dogs are coming Thursday.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you. We will now move on to the Executive Branch Report given by President Shaw.

€ **Executive Branch Report**

President Shaw

President Shaw: Hi everybody. Sam's other memes are really good too. So, I promise you all are in for a treat. Anyways, reminders and updates. Same thing. All-USG email, find my hidden question in there. Still the same vacant EB positions, so the Deputy Chief of Staff, and NPHC Greek Life Liaison, Social Media strategists, project coordinator. Those are all in the application.

Please encourage some lovely people to apply. Um, as we almost hit the halfway point of the semester. That's scary. But yeah, we're still happily taking applications. Um, and then additionally, I've had a couple questions this week about, hey, I'm not gonna be at the retreat because of X, Y, Z, whatever. Um, should I email my branch head? Should I do this? Our lovely membership development coordinator made an RSVP form. So, it's linked on this

document, which obviously was emailed to you all. So, if you haven't filled that out, please do so by tomorrow. Um, not tomorrow. By next Friday. Um, and whether you're going or you're not, just so we have a record of everybody that will or will not be there. And depending on if you can't go, branch heads will reach out regarding excused versus unexcused absences for that. Additionally, she's also looking for ideas on what you want to see at the retreat and different topics that you want to discuss at the retreat. And she's really hoping to have all of those ideas compiled by the end of this week. And again, that forms also linked in this, um, document as well. So please fill that out if you haven't. It will help Membership Development Coordinator Winters out. Both of those are also in my email from this week too. So, a couple places to find them. Um, additionally, events, of course, um, we have the USG Chipotle fundraiser on Wednesday, March 4th, the day before the all-USG from 5pm to 9pm. And then the spring retreat, of course, is that Friday as well. Um, from 6 to 8 in the Honors Common Room. Um, that will, we will have food at that as well, so don't you worry. Additionally, another fundraiser, USG Canes fundraiser, Thursday, April 2nd, same day as that all USG meeting from 4pm to 9pm at the Howe Avenue location specifically. And then, of course, you or she ended your awards, Thursday, April 16th, from 7pm to 9pm in the honors common room. Everybody's aloud +one. And then that is also required attendance. And yes, I know that I forgot some. Please.

Vice President Tsige: I'll add 2 more minutes on there. The DEI team's posting a lot just from black history month and celebration event, the next Friday, February 27th, 11am to 1pm, it'll be downstairs, there will be some games and prizes. And then the Women's Empowerment Summit is on March 16th from 6pm to 8pm.

President Shaw: Oh, sorry. I didn't know if you we're done or not. Um, we also have a, our Greek Life Liasion Tessa Knopp is planning a tie blanket event next week. Can we check the day on that. I think it's the 24th. I could be wrong.

Vice President Tsige: 24th.

President Shaw: 24th from 6pm to 8pm. That is also on the calendar. Um, for reference, but, um, that's the events for this semester, very exciting. Usually something else that I wanted to add regarding the letter that I discussed last week. We have been in contact with, of course, like I said, Dr. Messina, Rosetta Hall Council, and we are actively drafting and sending an email to Dr. Grove, to meet with her and gauge next steps in what we can do from here, about reaching out to the student body as a whole about this concern. Um, just another update on the letter. Funtimes, but does anybody have any questions?

Executive Justice Reimer: Will there be an RSVP form for the end of year awards as well?

President Shaw: Probably once we get closer to it, yes. Um, but at this time it's not, but keep an eye on it. I don't want to throw too many forms at you guys at once. So, they're most likely will be, yes... Yes.

Senator Sterns: Um, I don't know if you previously mentioned this, but are we all going to Cane's after USG on?

President Shaw: That's a great question. I would personally love to. My car sits 4 additional people, so if anybody wants to ride with me, I will be going after Senate. And I bet most of DLT will, maybe? We all should. Anyways. But yes, please. Everybody, go to Chipotle and Canes. So much fun. But yeah, we can try to coordinate some things if need be for some people if more people want to go. So, I guess. Any other questions?. Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, President Shaw. We will now be moving on to the Finance Report given by Director Damson.

€ **Finance Report**

Director Damson

Director Damson: Hi everyone, I hope you're all doing well. Okay, so, for the Finance Report this week, we allocated about \$1700 exactly for the student organizations on campus. For the USG expenses, we'll have some upcoming event with a tie blanket event and everything next week. Um, and so far, administrative, we just got a dry erase board sprays. And then for OSGS that was canceled. Um, we had to refund \$6300 to all the schools, um, \$1500 to the sponsors, and there was an additional um, expense for OSGS standards. Yeah, any questions? Thank you.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, Director Damson. We will now move on to the DLT Report given by Vice Senate Chair McCracken.

€ **DLT Report**

Vice Senate Chair McCracken

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Hi guys. So, we did our normal stuff. We did some shout outs, we did our bonding question. Which was a fun one. Did our branch updates, we've already heard those. We talked about the Life Awards and end of year awards discussion. So we talked about timelines when we're discussing each of those. We talked about our mid-semester check-in, so all branches are doing those, March 2nd to the 6th. Um, and then the cut off for membership requirements review is February 25th, so Chief of Staff Kelly, like last semester, will send those updates by email telling you if you're in good standing or not. Uh, DLT transition package we talked about, those are due right before spring break. We talked a little bit about membership assessment, upcoming events and meetings. We briefly touched on the award ceremony and then all of these events that are going on. Yes, many events, so, put those in your calendar, and then finally, our meetings are on Mondays from 5:15pm to 630pm. It's in student union room 322. If

you're considering running for a position in or going for a position in DLT, I highly recommend going to these. It's very instrumental. We discuss a lot of important things. So that's great.

Hey, Sam.

Chief Justice Stillion: It is not a petition meet and greet. It is a meet and greet.

Vice Senate Chair McCracken: Sorry. It's in my head.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you. We will now be moving on to Committee Reports starting with the Elections Board Report given by Elections Chair Stillion.

X. Committee Reports

≠ Elections Board

Elections Chair Stillion

Elections Chair Stillion: Speaking of Meet and Greets, we have had them all, all every day this week, except for Tuesday because nobody was here. I have another one tomorrow, and Bierce.

New space. Wow. Not our typical area. Tryna branch outside of the student union, you know?

But we have many cookies. I'm sure all of you have been enjoying them. We definitely meant to order that many. And didn't order too many. But we will have more tomorrow. So, stop by.

Tell anybody you know who likes cookies to stop by. We have too many cookies. But petitioning's do close tomorrow. 11:59 pm. So, if you see anyone petitioning after that, they aren't, 'cause I have the big red kill switch button that closed so forms at 11:59 p.m. But that means next week we have our next week is sort of a gray week for the election cycle where we're not in petitioning. We are not really in campaigning yet. We have our two candidates meetings. 2nd candidates' meetings. We ensure that everyone actually got valid signatures, because there's, like, 1,200 signatures, I think, total, that we have to make sure each, every, each and every one of them is a student on campus. I don't do that. That's all Brittany. Yay. So that does mean that not next week, but the week after, maybe next week if we're lucky, but probably

the week after, I will have an official candidates list for all of you, up on this beautiful board, and will be sent out on all of our social medias. But if you want maybe a predictive sneak peek of what that could maybe possibly look like, we have all of our petition information up on the USG website as well. So, take a look. Tell your constituents to take a look. I think I had something else to say, but I don't remember what it is. So, we're going to move on.

Meme:

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, Elections Chair Stillion. We will now be moving on to the F.A.S.T. Committee Report given by Senator Shelton.

● **F.A.S.T. Committee**

Senator Shelton

Senator Shelton: Hey, guys, so we got our done Tuesday, 'cause we're better than JB. Our fast tour. Everyone get out your calendars, please. Um, and it's 2pm to 3pm Be there or be square. Guess where we're going, guys. You're about to learn some secret information. We're gonna go to ASEC. We have some good legislation that's probably going to be coming out of the F.A.S.T. Committee within the next couple of weeks. I think we have about six-ish coming out. From various senators. As per our updates, Senator Blankenship sent out some emails to her Myers contacts and is currently in communication with them, working out some good information. Senator Flickinger has drafted four pieces of legislation and is working on starting some voting legislation, working hard. Senator Messmer, sendt out some emails to the downtown Akron partnership, and is doing constituent outreach, and looking for possible projects, and is looking into previous trends for our F.A.S.T. tours, seeing what the biggest issue was, and maybe what we can work on. Um, Senator Pence is continuing old projects and continuing constituent outreach. Uh, and then I drafted two pieces of legislation and am looking for new projects and constituent outreach. So, yeah. Any questions? Thanks, guys.

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

- **A.P.S.S. Committee**

Senator Gnap

Senator Gnap: Okay, so for this week's rapport, Senator Swaminathan, um, due to, like, all the conflicts with this week, um, next week is gonna go, it's gonna be in full swing on those resolutions and projects. She's also looking to scout new projects as well. Sender Prough met with UAkron parking on Tuesday. We had good feedback and a new location suggestion with UAPD and that's supposed to say Chief Gilbride. Um, Senator Sterns had some conflict with the bright space people about the bright space grading legislation. However, he is pushing ahead and seeking a review. He's also working on cameras in the night chemical lab. Um, and then I was prepping for my meeting with Dr. Nicholson, which will be next Tuesday at 3pm. Um, I'm working on that check-in resolution still and I did draft up a survey. So hopefully that can be released next week. It's for honors students who live in honors, so if you do live in honors, I'd appreciate it if you fill that out. Um, and then other items, we had a discussion over updating our committee's bio on the USG website. So hopefully that'll be updated around next week. We also had a bonding activity. The question was, what is your proudest moment or proudest thing you've ever done? And Senate Chair Kasik was an Eagle Scout, so fun fact. So there's that.

And we have 2 memes for this week. Any questions?

Meme:

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

- **S.E. Committee**

Senator Simas

Senator Simas: Hi, guys, never thought I'd make it this far. Um, I'm not Senator Spears. Um, so this week, um, Senator Kleinschmidt, um, is still working on her initiative. So, she followed up with Senator Shelton, and she's potentially going to be working with the S.A.F.E. team. So that's exciting stuff. Senator Spears is continuing communicating with Wayne Campus, and he's also considering pursuing a student org health form. So, the idea behind that is student orgs could submit some sort of form, and we could work with them. Um, see if they have any issues, um, see if we can get their name out there somehow. Senator Bass is still getting his feet on the ground. He got onboarded, which is exciting, and now is brainstorming. And then I am planning on contacting UBO about AI in university marketing. Senator Kleinschmidt and I walked around and did surveys the old fashioned way. So that's another idea for you. Um, and the bonding activity this week, the Q of the D, we talked about what kind of fruit we'd be. It might be a mango. Because I like mangoes. That's all I got. Oh, any questions? All right.

Senate Chair Kasik: Thank you, Senator Simas. Seeing that there is nothing else, we are now adjourned.

XI. Adjournment

€ Feb 5