



Undergraduate Student Government
The University of Akron

Undergraduate Student Government

Senate Minutes
March 19th, 2026

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Senate Chair Kasik appoints Senator Sterns to be Senate Chair

Senate Chair Sterns: Uh, motion to amend the agenda, uh, to have Deputy Director of Finance, Jovicic, to deliver the finance report.

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order; the vote was not called.

Senate Chair Sterns: All in favor. All in favor, All in favor...?

Senate: *Aye.*

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

Senate Chair Sterns: The agenda passes.

- V. **Approval of the 03.12.26 Minutes**

Senate Chair Sterns: Uh. Uh... now, an open student express...

Chief Justice Stillion: Point of order.

Senate Chair Sterns: Yes. Next up on the agenda is the approval to minutes. Right. Um, Senator Spears.

Senator Spears: Motion to approve the 3-12-26 minutes.

Senate Chair Sterns: Second?

Senator Pence: Second.

Motion to approve the 03.05.26 Minutes Passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Sterns: Now for Open Student Expression.

VI. Open Student Expression

Senator Spears: Um, thank you. The Zips play tomorrow in the 1st round of the NCAA tournament. There's a watch party at the Outstanding Time at 12:40 p.m. at House 330, hosted by the Alumni Association. We have a chance to do some good things this tournament, so I hope you tune in, wear some obscure tomorrow. Go zips.

President Shaw: Um, two things. Um, for anyone that is interested, um, or if you know anybody that is interested, um, these two trust the application closes this Sunday, um, the 22nd at 11:59.

Um, That was a hard shut off, so please make sure that anybody has interested in get those applications in by then. Second, the honors of this club is having a speaker series spotlight. Well, candidate for Ohio House, Mike Coho, is coming to Akron, Tuesday, April. Oh my goodness. Tuesday, April 7th, at 6 p.m. in the Williams Donna College Commerce himself. Anybody anybody that's interested can show up. Um, yeah.

Senator Prough: Um, the orientation leader application closes March 26, at 11:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tell your friends, maybe even apply for yourself if you've got nothing to do this summer, and you want a wonderful job experience.

Greek Life Liaison Jackson: The UA ambassadors application closes tomorrow night. So I'd love to see some USG people on there.

Senate Chair Sterns: Now, onto the advisor report

VII. Advisor Report

Advisor Ferguson-Mike

Advisor Ferguson-Mike: Um, nothing before. I just hope you all have the same... Girl, I'll be here. Thank you.

Senate Chair Sterns: Um... I'm going to the branch report, starting with the Senate chair.

VIII. **Branch Reports**

⊄ Legislative Branch Report

Senate Chair Kasik

Senate Chair Sterns: Former Senator Kasik... Should I... Update that?

Senator Kasik: No. Thank you. Oh. So, uh, for, for, uh, we still have our one vacancy. It's the Santa Clark, so once again, if you know anybody who's interested, please let them know. If anybody is still interested in leading Senate meetings, uh, please let us know you're running a little low on meetings now, so, uh, please let us know as soon as possible. Uh, if I sent you a crack and I, you know, I work on the inauguration meeting on April 30th, uh, and also, this is relevant for today. If anyone is a newly elected senator for the next academic years, lookout year, lookout for an invite, an invite from us in the near future. So that we can go over the meeting with you. And as always, please, CC Advisor Ferguson, Mike, on emails that you sent to us as well. so she can be included. So... So I got... Thank you.

⊄ Judicial Branch Report

Executive Justice Reimer

Executive Justice Reimer: All right, hi, everyone. It's me again. It's been, like, five weeks of this, isn't it so great? Um, so I actually didn't make this report. This is part of our transition, so associate justice, Mia Papatonis actually made this report, so that's why I'm not gonna take credit for it, whether it's good or bad, whatever. to let you know. So, parking update, we met with UR from Park last Thursday morning. We did get a chance to really update you on how that meeting went. But they did give us a acrobaccon journal article that should be in the U.S. office right now in Germany, and you have seen it. They are upping their ticket prices to \$100 for students

without parking permits in this upcoming fall. Now, I do want to clarify what this means is, if you are in their system, so you've been on campus before, and you do not have a parking permit, it will be \$100. Other violations, like your license plate, not facing the aisle, things like that, those will still be the \$37 or whatever it is. So, it's just to try to get students to buy their parking permits. Currently, it takes over 7 times of getting ticketed to be equivalent to a parking permit. So a lot of students would rather just get ticketed up to 7 times than pay for a parking permit. So that's their attempt to fix this. Um, so if you have any more questions, there should be minutes that I took from our meeting that are, that's in the JV folder in the USG team. It should be external meeting minutes. You can go into, like, UR Park, you can see everything that we talked about in there. Or you can ask me directly or stand directly. Sorry, Chief Justice Stillion directly. And like I said, the article is available in the office. We also went through and did all of our semester check ins last week in the week, but we finished them up this week. It was just off last week. I don't remember. It's been a long 2 weeks. So we finished all those. That's great. Everybody's doing good. And then we also amended the grievance process. So, as many of you are aware, from me presenting the grievance opinions, we've been in some grievance realm recently, and so, now that we finally have no open hearings happening, we were able to go back and revise our agreements process. So, we did a lot of amendments, and we finished amending that of this past week, and then we'll go over again next week, just to make sure we're all happy with it. So that's all I have for that. Any questions before the meet? All right. Again, I didn't make this. Mia made this. Thank you.

Senate Chair Sterns: Um, okay. E.B. report.

✶ Executive Branch Report

President Shaw

President Shaw: Okay, so, reminders and updates. Of course. I'll use your email. Find my hidden question. Read my email. There's a lot of events coming up. There's a lot of information in there, so please, look through that. Let me ask you have any questions. Um, vacant EB positions, same as the weeks prior. We did have an interview last week, like I said, probably last report. We were looking to set out, and hopefully, an offer tomorrow. Um, just getting a couple little things situated internally, but hopefully, we'll be able to send an offer tomorrow. Marketing and project requests, if you can scroll down, please, and thanks. Um, marketing and project request, just another update, or just another reminder. Um, to have these materials for marketing and projects submitted, um, at least three weeks in advance. Um, as the end of the semester's coming up, we know that that window is getting pretty slim. So, um, if you or anybody that you know or anybody, anybody that you're collaborating with, um, needs to still submit those, I would recommend doing that by the end of this week, if not early in the next week, during spring break. I know. I don't want you guys to work over spring break, but I also want your events to happen. So if that's not done, make sure to get those done. Another receipt clarification, just another reminder, to make sure that if something is purchased or transferred outside of any of our, um, finance accounts, make sure a receipt or an invoice is obtained, um, tax free, of course, and sent to the finance team for proper documentation. That is Karima's email, in case you need it. Hopefully, you all know what her email is, though. Um, and that big section, events. So, we've had a lot of movement with events this week, which is super exciting. So the Akron Small Business Series has started. It began March 16th, and it runs all the way through the month of April. Those are the little passports. You can get some inside the office, on our little, I guess, thing outside of our office, where our annual reports are and stuff. So if anybody, you know, wants to pick one up, they can do that. Speaker zip was today, which I heard went well. That is

the wrong time on there, that's supposed to be two to three, so ignore that. But, um, that happened today, heard it went well. Additionally, with a small business series, they're having promotional tabling. The week we get back from spring break, the 31st and the 1st from 12 to 2, where they're handing out passports and explaining what the event is. Um, Kane's fundraiser is also coming up the week we come back. Um, that Thursday after Senate, which is gonna be exciting. Um, USG presentation night has officially been planned, um, is either gonna be Monday the 6th or Thursday the ninth. It's one of those days. I can't remember off the top of my head. Um, but more information to come. Membership of my coordinator, Winters, will be reaching out to collect people's presentations. So, for those of you who don't know what that is, it's literally just a USG bonding activity, I guess, event. Um, where we get to make presentations on literally any topic that you want. Any topic that you want, as long as it's appropriate, of course. And then we just present it to the group, and we just have a good time. It's a good bonding experience. We did it last year. was really fun. So, looking forward to that. We are also doing another fundraiser. We're doing a nothing but cakes fundraiser, so that is gonna be April 8th, that Wednesday. Um, with more information to come, we should be in the concourse in the union, I believe. Yes, okay. Um, so yes, more information to come on that. Um, and I, another fun thing, we are doing the physical facilities in Operations Center, Tunnel Tour. So, I was able to solidify that today, actually, um, that is going to be Tuesday, April 14th, from 5 to 6 or like 630-ish, around that realm. Um, He, the executive director, David Musard, said that end time depends on how big the group is, but, um, it's around that, around that area. So sign ups for the USG sponsor, sign ups for this will be on the USG sponsored event sign-up sheet in the teams. Um, so we just have a headcount of who's all going. Super exciting. We did this two years ago. My freshman year. It was a great time. I've heard a lot of recommendations to bring it back. So,

we're doing it again. Almost done, I promise. Even the end of your rewards, of course, is Thursday, April 16th, from 7 to 9, and the honors column of the room. Each member is a lot of plus one. Um, it is required attendance for all members, so please RSVP using, um, the form I linked there. It is also in my email, um, by Thursday, April 19th. So that's a week before the event. No, it's not. That's the wrong date. That's all right. Ignore that. Just RSVP. I don't have the day off the top of my head. Just RSVP whenever you can. Um, And then something else that is new, USG is doing another Akron Art Museum, spring event, at the Akron Art Museum, of course. That is going to be Wednesday, April 22nd, from 4 to 6. Of course, more information to come on that after break. And lastly, the spring campus cleanup is going to be Friday, April 20th. Friday, April 24th, with a rain date of May 2nd. Um, and, yeah, lots of things going on. Which is super exciting. More things are in the works, too, more things are being solidified, in the next couple days, so we'll be on the lookout in my emails for all this fun stuff. Any questions? Okay, cool. Thank you, guys.

Chief Justice Stillion: Can you move the elections or report to the end of the command court? I'm still waiting on those numbers.

Senator Spears: Motion to amend the agenda to move the elections board report to the end of the committee reports.

Senator Pence: Second.

The Motion to move the Elections Board Report passed: The ayes have it.

Senate Chair Sterns: For the report by director. I just... Jovicic. Jovicic.

€ Finance Report

Deputy Director Jovicic

Deputy Director Jovicic: Uh, finance report this week. Not a lot going on. Uh, couple suit orgs are going on conference trips now, so we've been now getting money out towards them. Internal

to USG, we've got a little bit from our all USG meeting with the mayor, and a little bit with the Zips Winter giveaway. Beyond that, nothing else really going on right now.

Senate Chair Sterns: Now off the DLT report.

∉ DLT Report

Senate Chair Kasik

Former Senate Chair Kasik: So, uh, at our meeting, we had, uh, we suddenly had the skip shout outs, and the bond activities do the time, 'cause we spent most of our time working on the, uh, life awards, the end of year awards. So, uh... Uh, we also, this, uh, the error was noticed with the office hours that the LT members have, that it's not, uh, clear, 'cause it's, it's not, like, they're not all the same in the, in the bylaws, we'll have to look into that in the future. Life Awards is after Senate today. We're still working on our transition packets. You do at the end of the week, and then we enter, executive session to talk about the end of the year, the awards took up most of the time, like I said. Afterwards, we had spoke about our couple of events that had been mentioned already. And our future DLT items, like the award ceremonies and like the words. The target? To clarify on the office hours, we do have different office hours. The difference is that some people had a minimum and some people had a set number. So it's not that we have different office hours. It's that the work was different.

Senator Flickinger: Motion to amend the agenda for the fast committee presenter to be Senator Flickinger.

Senator Spears: Second.

The Motion to edit the Presenter of the F.A.S.T. Report Passes: The ayes have it.

IX. Committee Reports

- F.A.S.T. Committee

Senator Flickinger

Senator Flickinger: Hi, everyone. Didn't know this is happening? Um... What did we do? So we talked about the, we finally got approved to do the fast tours in the resident hall, so we do have one setup, which is very exciting. We did pick a date, April 17th at 3 PM, so be there. Um, we talked about, I believe, the PFOC QR code, correct? Fast Committee was requested to place a QR code where people could put accessibility complaints. However, Carmine is currently working on speaking with PFOC to see if we could use their website because they already actually have a, um, function on their website to submit accessibility complaints. We would just use that website on the QR code. So we're still working on that. Carmine's even outreach for that. Um, We talked about ice again. Um, I was supposed to send my final draft. I didn't do that, don't worry about that. Um, just forgot. Senator Blankenship is starting on a rough draft for the water purification legislation that fast was working on from the um, outreach form that we got, again, final draft. Don't worry about that. Um, Senator Messmer had a lot actually. Do I yield the floor to? How does that work? I yield the floor to Senator Messmer to explain.

Floor Yielded to Senator Messmer

Senator Messmer: What that is. talk about projects I've been working on. We discussed disruptions to students sleeping early in the morning, but there is nothing we can do about that because they're using snowblowers to clear pathways so students can get to class without slipping or getting stuck, especially for commuting students. Then brought up the work I've been doing on compiling a list of issues we found on various fast tours. I brought that up to them, and I'll be sending it to them shortly, so they can address it. And I will, yeah, that's all.

Senator Flickinger: Okay. Um, Senator Pence is still working on that error mark. Again, we did have progress on it, like we talked about in at the all USG meeting, but Senator Pence is still working on seeing if we can get people to, like, donate meal swipes, because, like, we all know

they go away after a certain amount of time. So like if we could donate, that'd be great. So still working on that. And then Senator Shelton is still working on the peace on Earth legislation and finishing that up. So, yeah, that was our meeting. Thanks, guys.

- A.P.S.S. Committee

Senator Gnap

Senator Gnap: Okay, we had a short committee meeting this week. Currently, Senator Swaminathan is finalizing that safety grant for the Gazetta Hall locks project. Um, and waiting on a response from ZipAssist. Um, If she does not hear back from ZipAssist, she did mention that she's gonna start looking for new projects. Um, and then the APSS social media initiative is still going on, so look out for that. Senator Prough was able to get a meeting with capital planning for outdoor courts. That's going to happen in April 27th. Um, Senator Sterns is looking for new projects. Then I was able to set up a meeting with the associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Housing Officer, Dr. Melinda Grove, that is gonna take place April 2nd, and we're gonna discuss my honor staircase legislation. And then for my constituent hour this week, I've been scoping out new projects in Bierce library. Um, typically like the book sections, um, in the printers, I've kind of just been looking at those. And then I am acting Senate clerk for this meeting. And as per request, we only have one meme this week. Do you guys have any questions? Ok, thank you.

- S.E. Committee

Senator Spears

Senator Spears: Been on our marsh madness, I say. Um.. Uh, this weekend, another great committee meeting. Uh, Senator Klein Schmidt really, um, updated us on her project, uh, about the consent legislation, um, really, the events have been improved, the times where some of them, uh, continue to work on some others, sending in some sort of requests, uh, for those, you know, doing excellent work on that front. I work for Center Bass, on the feedback form, which is

Steph Kelly to kind of tweak it and make it more useful for students to tell us exactly what their concerns are. Kind of drop them into buckets, which would be easier for us to kind of dive, delve through. They also continued their campus tour, and the bathrooms upkeep. going to different buildings this week and continuing that, correct, end of the coming weeks. I spoke with Senator Shelton because she was in the office when I was there about the legislative approach to the ice statement. It was a really great conversation that we had during the DLT when the executive session. Um, and hopefully in Fat 5, we can talk about that today too. I also looked at the campus calendar, this idea where we see a lot of events being planned when other events are happening. So kind of updating that, making it more accessible for other organizations to see when events are happening. So you don't conflict and then everyone loses attendance numbers. Senator Roskam spoke with clubs in the CHS, see how they interact with USG. Senator Ross came and I are also going to work on a project attempting a bylaw amendment about having college specific centers at least having to reach out to their deans, to introduce themselves at the end of the year, actually making that a rule. And then sender Siemus, looked at advertising policy on campus in different parts of campus. Student union, res life, the rec center, et cetera. And then our cue of the D this week was, if your personality was a holiday, which would be very funny answers. And I'd like to point you to former sound sarcastic line. Any questions? Thank you. See you, Jason.

∉ Elections Board

Elections Chair Stillion

Election Chair Stillion: All right, guys. So, wait, I've got a little bit of the story. before we get to this. But way back when, 4 years ago, when the elections board before was part of the judicial branch report, we did our transitions in my first year, and this meeting, right now, giving you the elections numbers, is the first JB report I ever gave in front of his body. so the last one. Yay. Um... The last elections report. I guess it's not actually the last anything. Never mind. It was the

first. That's okay. I do have those numbers, but we got a couple other things beforehand. With the regular election, obviously, the candidates list is still up on the website, and the Instagram. Voting has closed as of 5 p.m. today. Don't tell me if you didn't vote. I'll be upset. I do have those numbers, but we'll go through the special election. First, the regular election results will be announced tomorrow on our Instagram and on the updated website, whenever that website gets updated, it might not be till after spring break, but the Instagram will be sent out tomorrow. So, all of you will know that. I guess I can tell you because I've already notified the candidates, but that's okay. For the special election petitioning is still open, it closes next Friday, but, you know, that's spring break, so I wouldn't be decision. But I'm not a candidate. So who knows? Any questions about that before we get to the numbers? Great. Okay. So... we had 257 votes out of 8,986 possible student voters. So that's a 2.8% return of people who voted on campus, that is about 2.4% lower than our average of the past 10 years, which is a 5.2% of the student body voting. And that is 0.2% down from our last uncontested election. So I'm sort of considering this as similar to an uncontested presidential election, uh, in terms of who, I think the demographics are going to be, for how these numbers are going to get to students. So, the last time we had it on contested, presidential election was 2024. There was a 3.1% result from that one. From the uncontested race before that, which was all the way back in 2021, it's the exact same amount of students that voted 2.8%. So a little bit lower than where we would like it, but not as low as I think a lot of people were expecting. So good on our student body and on those candidates who went out and advocated for their now actual constituents. But are there any questions about any of that? Great, thank you. Oh, there's a meme. I forgot. We will be here. For so long. All right, there he is.

Senate Chair Sterns: No other committee reports, uh, Feb 5 after the meeting. Uh, this meeting is adjourned.

X. Adjournment

- Feb 5