UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT



ANNUAL REPORT : 2025 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

MADILYN SHAW AND BETHEL TSIGE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Over the course of this year, the All4UA platform has seen an increase in student and campus organization engagement through collaborations, outreach, or funding, and additionally a better understanding of what the Undergraduate Student Government is. When we first stepped into these roles, our goal was to make USG more accessible and to ensure students felt comfortable reaching out with concerns, questions, or even just to learn more about what our organization does. We have been working intentionally to break down barriers between students and leadership, creating spaces where every voice feels valued and heard.

As the year progressed, upper leadership realized that simply being available was not enough to fully understand and meet student needs. That realization pushed us to take a more proactive, in-person approach to campus outreach. We are proud to say that this shift has made a meaningful impact and has shown progress throughout this semester and the potential to grow. By actively engaging with students, groups, and organizations across campus, we have been able to better identify concerns, celebrate successes, and build stronger relationships within our campus community.

Internally, our organization has worked to become more connected and intentional in how we operate. Over the course of the year, there has been an improvement on communication, support, and making sure our efforts are aligned across all teams, committees, and branches. Additionally, we have had the privilege of working with incredible advisors whose guidance and support have been vital throughout this year for upper leadership, and the entirety of USG. These internal improvements have strengthened our ability to serve students effectively and to approach challenges with collaboration and purpose.

Overall, this year has been outstanding for USG. Both of us have been honored to serve as your student body President and Vice President for the 2025-2026 academic year. We wish the new incoming leadership and members nothing but success for next year! We are confident that they will continue to build upon this foundation and further elevate the student experience in the years ahead.

Go Zips, Go USG!
Madilyn Shaw and Bethel Tsige
2025-2026 USG President and Vice President

USG

FINANCIAL REVIEW

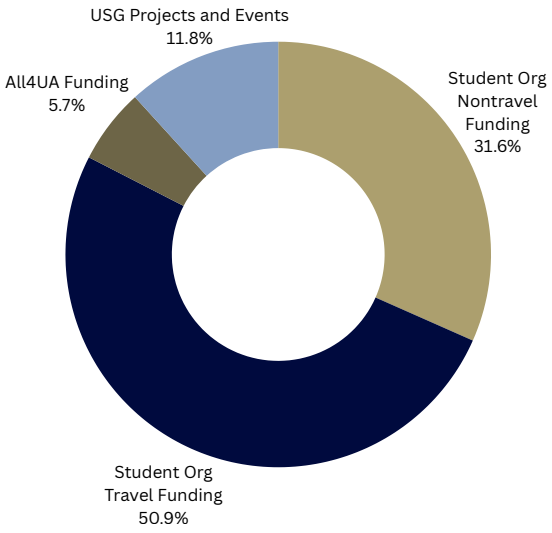
Undergraduate Student Government has the privilege of managing funds that sponsor travel and projects for the more than 300 student organizations on the University of Akron's Campus. We have been able to provide support to over 90 student organizations through the course of the 2025-2026 academic year and have pledged our support to various programs that will benefit the Zips community for years to come.

Student Org Allocations

Through the Undergraduate Activities Fund, USG has provided $58,784.78 to student organization. They have provided funding for...

- 42 student organizations to travel to conferences or professional development opportunities,
- 52 students organizations' projects and events

Additionally, the All4UA platform fund has provided $4,043.40 to student organizations and co-sponsored initiatives and functions that fall under the platform pillars of Amplifying Academic Opportunities, Enhancing the Community, Expanding Personal Growth, and Empowering Students Perspectives.





Longterm Initative Funding

USG's Longterm Initiatives fund was used to purchase and installe a Pride Flag in the Student Union Piano Lounge to finalize a legislative branch project from the previous year.

USG provided funding to ZipAssist from their Longterm Initiatives fund for assistance funding the Aunt Flow products provided to students across campus.

EXECUTIVE **BRANCH**

The Executive branch consists of appointed members, as well as the President and Vice-President that are elected by the undergraduate student body. Members of the Executive Branch work to carry out the USG Platform. Appointed members of USG include a variety of roles that focus on areas such as:

- Project Coordination
- Finance and Budgeting
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Community and Campus Engagement
- Membership Development
- Communications

All Executive Branch members play a vital role in USG's mission and activities throughout the academic year! Additionally, the Executive Branch facilitates three committees: Campus Dining Experience Committee, Mental Health Task Force, and Diversity Commitee. These committees, whose membership includes both USG and non-USG members, faciliate projects and events that align with their mission.

The All4UA Platform

Throughout their experiences within the Undergraduate Student Government and at UA, both President Madi Shaw and Vice President Bethel Tsige have aimed to represent student thoughts, initiatives, and desires for change to the best of their ability. The All4UA platform brings the students of the University of Akron to the forefront of USG's Mission. They believe that in focusing on UA students, USG will be able to foster an administration focused on community, growth, and respect

The pillars of the All4UA Platform are:

Amplifying Academic Opportunities
- Internship & Co-op Resources
- Promoting Educational Achievements Growth
- Connecting w/Academic Services & Tutoring

Enhancing the Community
- Connecting with the City of Akron
- Creating a welcoming campus enviornment
- Fostering Student Collaboration

Expanding Personal Growth
- Showing Support to Identities on Campus,
- Highlighting Campus Resources
- Improving Mental and Self-Well Being

Empowering the Student Perspective
- Hearing Student's Voices
- Connecting USG and The StudentBody
- Strengthening International Student Relationships



COMMUNICATION TEAM



The Communications Team is tasked with creating all marketing materials for events. This year, these requests ranged from social media posts, Instagram stories, Reels, event photography, fliers, trifolds, handouts, infographics, T-Shirts, & more.

This year, the Communications team ***completed 46 marketing requests, gaining over 302.5K views***.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION TEAM



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team is tasked with promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion across campus

This year they:

- Contributed to **International Education Week** in collaboration with ZAB, ISO, and MSA (70+ attendees)
- Supported **Black History Month programming**
- Led a successful **Women's Empowerment Summit** (30+ attendees)
- Supported **Pride Flag Unveiling Ceremony and Art Show**





PROJECT COORDINATION TEAM



The Project coordination team is tasked with plan and run events centered around the pillars of the All4UA platform. This team planned and executed 34 events this year, with a majority of the events focusing on the enhancing the community pillar of the All4UA platform



CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

The purpose of the Campus and Community Outreach Team is to serve as a bridge between the student body and the Akron community. The teamworks to actively listen to student feedback on areas that need improvement and uses that input to develop initiatives that enhance the overall student experience. They collaborate with campus and community organizations to provide valuable resources that support students both now and in the future. Additionally, they engage with Greek life to strengthen involvement and maintain a strong connection with USG. They also prioritize building relationships with Athletics to ensure a solid partnership and demonstrate that USG is available to support their needs whenever possible.





MENTAL HEALTH **TASK FORCE**

Their purpose is to promote mental health and well-being to students within the UA Community through programs and general outreach.

Projects:

- *Psi Chi Tabling, Psychology, Sociology, and Nursing Department Recruitment*
- *Trans Remembrance Day Event w/ LGBTUA+*
- *Greek Life Health & Safety Pamphlets*
- *Finals Week Mental Health Tabling*
- *2026 Vision Board Event*

Due to a lack of on-campus involvement and interest in the committee, the Mental Health Task Force was suspended on February 12th, 2026, by an Executive Order, which was then approved by Senate.



CAMPUS DINING EXPERIENCE **COMMITTEE**

Their purpose is to enhance student experience with UA Dining Service.

Projects: *Addressing concerns of cross contamination at food stations both at Rob's and at the Union, helping Senator Pence with their project of donating left-over meal swipe, trying to increase meal swipe options for students during Ramadan*

Due to a lack of on-campus involvement and interest in the committee, the Campus Dining Experience Committee was suspended on February 12th, 2026, by an Executive Order, which was then approved by Senate vote.

DIVERSITY **COMMITTEE**





Their purpose is to bring together student voices to identify concerns and promote inclusive initiatives. They serve as a platform for discussing diversity, equity, and inclusion across campus.



JUDICIAL **BRANCH**

The Judicial Branch consists of an appointed panel of five Associate Justices Justices, as well as the Executive Justice and the Chief Justice.

Justices interpret and revise governing documents, review student organizational grievances, run both fall and spring USG elections and election events, maintain USG record-keeping, and work towards general advocacy to benefit the student body at the University of Akron.

Advocacy

The Judicial Branch works alongside the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards and UAkronPark in order to provide a student perspective and on campus and parking issues. This year, the branch tabled for Student Conduct's annual Rootbeer Kegger, tabled at the Sexual Assault Awareness event, went over the Code of Conduct in first year seminar courses, tabled for feedback for UAkronPark, and assisted in the interview process of Student Conduct's new Assistant Director.

SOuRCe Initiative

This year, the Judicial Branch took on a new responsibility and began collaborating with the SOuRCe Office to help with their new student organization approval process. The branch has approved 3 student organizations since the initiative began and reached out to 16, and was honored with an Initiative of the Year Award at the USG End-of-Year Awards Ceremony.

Elections

The Judicial Branch works as the Elections Board during the Fall and Spring election cycles and is responsible for running the the USG elections process. This year, the branch ran the Fall election for two First-Year senators, the Spring election for 16 sentator positions, and a special election to elect out President and Vice President.

Fall Election Cycle: 82 votes were cast out of 3,092 potential voters

- 2.65% of potential voters

Spring Election Cycle: 257 votes were cast out of 8,986 potential voters

- 2.86% of potential voters

Special Election Cycle: 241 votes were cast out of 8,986 potential voters

- 2.68% of potential voters



LEGISLATIVE **BRANCH**



The Legislative Branch is made up of elected senators who represent the student body. Senators write legislation and pursue projects and initiatives to better the student experience on campus. We advocate on behalf of students to ensure that their concerns are heard and addressed.

The Legislative branch consists of 16 elected members, including:

- Senators At-Large (7)
- College-Specific Senators (5)
- Residence Life Senator
- Off-Campus Living Senator
- First-Year Senators (2)

During the semester, our Senate has speakers come in from across our campus as well as our community. These speakers help our members to learn more about different departments on campus and what we can do for them. This speaker series is a great opportunity to interact with important individuals on campus and hear new perspectives on important issues.

Fall Guest Speakers

- Attorney Scott Campbell: Legal resources available to students
- Chief Jim Gilbride: Safety on campus
- President R.J. Nemer: University Administration
- Jared Coleman: UAkron Park
- Jessice DeFago: Accessibility
- Provost Gwyneth Price: SB 1 and the provost office

Spring Guest Speakers

- Dr. Andrew Goodrich: Athletics, Akron v. Kent Basketball game
- Nick Weber: Rec Center information
- Kim Gentile: Office of Admissions
- Mayor Shammas Malik: How USG can work with Akron
- Provost Gwyneth Price: Retention and Budget cuts
- Allison Doehring: ZipAssist





Legislation Spotlight:

SR-07-25-26

This Senate Resolution requests that The University of Akron provide sexual assault information (Including Title IX) inside bathroom stalls. This also urges respective personnel to provide trauma response information to new students during check-in. It was sponsored by Senator Kleinschmidt, Senator Swaminathan, Senator Blankenship, and Senator Moore



SR-05-25-26

This Senate Resolution encouraged The University of Akron and the City of Akron to work on the maintenance of the University Bridge which serves as a connection point between campus and Downtown Akron. The bridge was in a condition which raised concerns of accessibility and safety. This Resolution was sponsored by Senator Shelton, Senator McCracken, and Senator Prough.

LEGISLATION

Senate Bills for 2025-2026

SB-01-25-26
Appointment of Logan Simas

SB-02-25-26
Appointment of Eliza Kleinschmidt

SB-03-25-26
Appointment of Genevieve Shelton

SB-04-25-26
Appointment of Sridevi Swaminathan

SB-05-25-26
Appointment of Carmine Messmer

SB-06-25-26
Appointment of Kendall Gnap

SB-07-25-26
Appointment of Garin Prough

SB-08-25-26
Appointment of Brooklynn Moore

SB-09-25-26
Appointment of Jeremiah Stalnaker

SB-10-25-26
Appointment of Scott Spears

SB-11-25-26
Appointment of Andrew Nees

SB-12-25-26
Appointment of Rylee Flickinger

SB-13-25-26
Sexual Assault Awareness Bill

SB-14-25-26
Appointment of Owen Bass

SB-15-25-26
Appointment of Sami Roskam

SB-16-25-26
Bylaw Amendment Request - Deputy Director of Disability Equity

SB-17-25-26
Immigration and Customs Enforcement Address - Social Media Campaign

SB-18-25-26
Bylaw Amendment Request - Meetings with College Deans and Directors of Programs

Senate Resolutions for 2025-2026

Vetoed
SR-01-25-26
Dedicate a Tree and Plaque to the Victims of Political Violence

SR-02-25-26
Request that Design Team Contributors can be awarded up to 3 Credit Hours

SR-03-25-26
Implement more Accessible Features on the UAkron App and Virtual Map

SR-04-25-26
Implement Uniform Navigational Signage in Buildings Across Campus

SR-05-25-26
Urges Collaboration Between the University and City of Akron for University Bridge Repairs

SR-06-25-26
Request to improve Water Fountain at the Entrance of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center

SR-07-25-26
Provides Students with Trauma Response Materials and Sexual Assault Resources

SR-08-25-26
Require Professors to Utilize “Grades” tab in Brightspace for transparency

SR-09-25-26
Request to Distribute Voting Materials to New Students

SR-10-25-26
Zee’s Meal Swipe Expansion for Equitable Pricing

FACILITIES, AMENITIES, SERVICES, AND TRANSPORTATION **COMMITTEE**



Their purpose is to complete projects that advocate for student safety and improving the overall on-campus experience. We work to address concerns related to housing, parking, transportation, campus facilities, and other essential student services.

Legislation: *Improving campus maps to add accesibility routes, improving signage around campus, repairing university bridge, and adding a Deputy Director of Disability Equity Position within USG*



F.A.S.T. Tours: *Olin Hall, ASEC, BCAS, Guzzetta Hall, Polsky, Schrank Hall South, The Student Union (2 times), Kolbe Hall, Leigh Hall, and Honors Residence Hall*

Projects

- ***PFOC and accessibility office***
  - Regarding accessibility issues, noise complaints, and ensuring contract compliance with outside companies
- ***Aramark***
  - Ensuring contract compliance with outside companies as well as bringing up dietary availability concerns having them review the matter for the first time in a while
- ***ZipAssist***
  - Meal swipe donations + name change social media post (you can email IT and have your name changed on your student email if your name was legally changed)
- ***Residence Hall Council***
  - Allowing us access to resident halls for F.A.S.T. Tours
- ***Myers School of Art***
  - Attempting a collaborations on various art projects
- ***UAkron Park***
  - Attending F.A.S.T. Tours trying to understand the needs of the student body better
- ***AND MANY MORE***

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT **COMMITTEE**



Their purpose is to create projects that drive student engagement on and around campus for undergraduate students.

Legislation: *Consent Awareness Bill and Resolution, Political Violence Awareness Resolution, I.C.E. Address Bill, Bill for Bylaw Amendment*

Projects: *Bathrooms Check, AI Usage in Marketing, Summer Employee Parking, Pill Bottle Recycling, and Feedback Form*

ACADEMIC POLICY AND STUDENT SUCCESS **COMMITTEE**

Their purpose is to ensure that the student body has access to all academic resources our university offers.

Legislation: *Collaboration with USG social media team, the Workday video, Brightspace Grading Legislation*

Projects: *Installing cameras in the Knight Chemical Lab, lockers in Guzzetta + Cubbies in biology lab, outdoor courts*



FALL EVENTS

Student Leadership Summit
Executive Branch Retreat
F.A.S.T. Tours
Safety Walks
All-USG Retreat
UAPD Self Defense Class
Celebrate SMART: Dunkin's Birthday Edition
Night at the Akron Art Museum
AK-ROWDIES Tailgate
Pride Flag Ceremony
Cultural Night
Trans Remembrance Day
USG Holiday Party







SPRING EVENTS





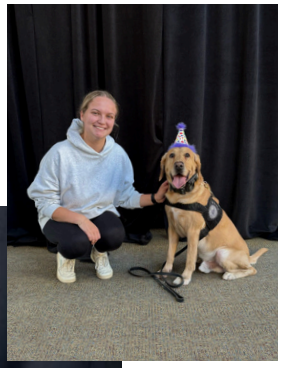


BEC x AK-ROWDIES BB game tabling
Tie-Blanket Event
100 Years of Black History
All-USG Spring Retreat
Women's Leadership Summit
Downtown Akron Small Business Series
Learning Perspective: Colorism
Consent Campaign Tabling
End-of-Year Awards Ceremony
Presentation Night
USG Day at the Akron Art Museum
Spring Campus Clean Up
End of Year Inauguration

EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

SAFETY GRANT





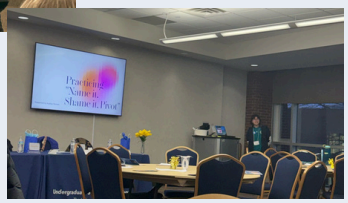
USG hosted our first of three Safety First for Zips workshops on Wednesday, September 3rd. We invited UAPD, the Department of Student Life, and our local PNC bank representatives to host a table with informative information on how to stay safe on campus, at events, and with your finances. At the event, students were able to enter to win a free Ring doorbell for their off-campus apartments, get free giveaways, like our seat belts cutters, Birdie alarms, RFID anti-scan wallets, bike/scooter locks, and potable keychain lights. Each station had a different UAPD officer working it, allowing them all to introduce and get to know each student. At the end of the event, students got a chance to meet Dunkan, our UAPD K9, snap a photo with him, and get a free t-shirt with his face and information on it!

This entire event served as a safe space for students to ask questions about safety on campus, feel open to talking with and getting to know our UAPD officers, and feel prepared for next time they are walking on campus alone with their new safety giveaways. The event attendance was officially 330 people.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

On March 16 , USG hosted its annual Women's Empowerment Summit. Attendees had the pleasure of hearing from a panel of female student leaders about their experiences on campus and in their positions. There was also a panel of women in the professional field from around the area, each chosen by the attending student organizations. Students were able to ask them questions about their experiences in their careers, especially in relation to their status as women. Following this, a student presented on strategies to deal with sexist comments in a professional way, leaving off with an activity to practice these skills. Overall, the Women's Empowerment Summit was a great way to celebrate the women on our campus and in the area, as well as have important conversations about being a women in the professional world.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT





The Executive Branch hosted USG's annual Student Leadership Summit on September 15 . Presentations were given by President Shaw, Vice President Tsige and Director of Finance Damson to inform students about how we operate our finances, both internally and externally, and how organizations can obtain different forms of funding. The presentations were followed by roundtables where attendees discussed topics like prioritizing balance, innovation and growth, engagement and involvement, and building connections. A total of 41 students attended the event.

USG FALL AND SPRING **RETREATS**

Each semester, all our members meet for an evening of team bonding and fun. The USG retreats are intended to recenter our focus as an organization. This fall, we had Katherine Miracle come in to speak to us about teamwork. We also worked together to complete a scavenger hunt alongside members of different branches. This was a great opportunity to learn more about each other and improve our teamwork skills. In the spring semester, Dr. Anna Ball came to speak to us about what true advocacy looks like. These events allow our members to engage with community members and remember our values as an organization.







USG **AWARDS**

At the end of every semester, the members of Undergraduate Student Government gather together to recognize the achievements, hard work and dediciation put in week after week. Together, we celebrate our wins, acknowledge the difficult moments, and recognize the hard working individuals who make up the foundations of our organization. During our End-of-Year Awards, we also take some time to recognize all of our graduating seniors, awarding them cords and stoles for their service in USG. Seniors also choose a USG member to write and read out a speech during the awards. These awards serve as a way to celebrate the end of a semester and the work our members put in.









Mid-Year Awards

USG Champion Recognition Award
Kristin Groen
Associate Justice

UA Spirit and Campus Involvement Recognition Award
Scott Spears
Senator for Off-Campus Living

City of Akron Service and Community Involvement Recognition Award
Nick Senko
Deputy Director of Community Outreach

All4UA Award
Djordje Jovicic
Deputy Director of Finance

End-of-Year Awards

Senator of the Year
Genevieve Shelton
Senator At-Large

Justice of the Year
Kristin Groen
Associate Justice

Executive Branch Member of the Year
Djordje Jovicic
Deputy Director of Finance

Initiative of the Year Award (2)
SOuRCe Initiative
The Judicial Branch

Sexual Violence Awareness Initiative
Eliza Kleinschmidt

Phoenix Award
Julia Cunha dos Santos
International Student Liaison

Cornerstone Award
Ciel Wise
Social Media Strategist

Compass Award
Julianna Muller
Director of Project Coordination

Campus Connector Award
Scott Spears
Senator for Off-Campus Living

LOOKING ***FORWARD***



During our time at The University of Akron, we have seen the impact of the Undergraduate Student Government from both inside and outside of the organization. The impact that we can have on the student body is immense, and we have seen it already under the 2025-2026 iteration of the All4UA platform. President Shaw and Vice President Tsige have been tireless leaders, advocates, and mentors for so many Zips both in and out of USG. This dedication has helped set a strong precedent for what student leadership can and should look like on this campus.

We would personally like to take time and thank Vice President Tsige for their work on campus. Vice President Tsige, thank you for always being a leader for change in all that you have done. Your voice and presence here every day will be missed, but please do not be a stranger. The contributions made over this past year have left a lasting mark on this institution and on the individuals fortunate enough to work alongside you.

As we look forward to next year, we want to say thank you for trusting us to help lead this distinguished organization. The work that we intend to do will continue to embody the four pillars of the All4UA platform. The world, higher education, and this very institution are changing all around us, but with the help of each other and our incoming administration, senate, judiciary, and advisor, we can help this organization adapt and prepare for what is ahead. Not every event, decision, or meeting will be a success, but to quote from an anonymous author, “A single mistake shouldn’t overshadow countless acts of kindness. One wrong turn doesn’t rewrite an entire story. Just as one cloudy day doesn’t erase months of sunshine.” We will see mistakes, but there will be countless successes that will not, and should not, be overshadowed. It is through resilience, reflections, and continued effort that we will ensure theose successes define our legacy moving forward.

This campus is growing, academics are excelling, athletic programs are having record breaking seasons, faculty and staff are shining, and overall, an ambiance of achievement is coalescing here at UA. It is our job to steady the ship of USG when things get rocky and continue to help advance this organization and The University of Akron as a whole. Thank you to everyone who has done great work this year, and thank you to all who are new or returning for joining us to continue the efforts of the All4UA platform. Together, we will continue to build on this momentum and shape an even stronger future for the students that we serve.

Forever and always, Go Zips!
Madilyn Shaw and Scott Spears
2026-2027 USG President and Vice President





2025-26 Members

Executive Branch

President - Madilyn Shaw
Vice President - Bethel Tsige
Chief of Staff - Hannah Kelly
Director of Finance - Karima Damson
Deputy Director of Finance - Djordje Jovicic
Director of Project Coordination - Julie Muller
Director of Project Coordination - Jessica Cliff
Project Coordinator - Riley Viator
Project Coordinator - Lana Tamim
Director of Communications - Kylie Cameron
Social Media Strategist - Ciel Wise
Social Media Strategist - Kailyn Galchick
Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Harold Eshun
Deputy Director of LGBTQ+ and Gender Equity - Lexxe Parsons
Deputy Director of Racial Equity - Garrett Ngungu
Director of Community & Campus Involvement - AJ Ruffin-Stycr
Deputy Director of Community Outreach - Nick Senko
Deputy Director of Campus Outreach - Brooklynn Moore
Student Athlete Liaison - Emily Razo
Greek Life Liaison (PHC) - Tessa Knopp
Greek Life Liaison (IFC) - Shanon Jackson II
Membership Development Coordinator - Ali Winters

Judicial Branch

Chief Justice - Samuel Stillion
Executive Justice - Audrey Reimer
Associate Justice - Mia Papatonis
Associate Justice - Kristin Groen
Associate Justice - Arden Jones
Associate Justice - Jacob Geib
Associate Justice - Danaka Adams

Advisor

Brittany Ferguson-Mike

Legislative Branch

Senate Chair / Residence Life Senator - Ryan Kasik
Vice Senate Chair / Senator for the College of Engineering and Polymer Science - Megan McCracken
Senator for the Williams Honors College - Kendall Gnap
Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences - Sami Roskam
Senator for the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences - Garin Prough
Senator for the College of Business - Rylee Flickinger
Senator for Off-Campus Living - Scott Spears II
Senator At-Large - Logan Simas
Senator At-Large - Sridevi Swaminathan
Senator At-Large - Genevieve Shelton
Senator At-Large - Noah Sterns
Senator At-Large - Eliza Kleinschmidt
Senator At-Large - Carmine Messmer
Senator At-Large - Forest Pence
First Year Senator - Owen Bass
First Year Senator - Cheyenne Blankenship