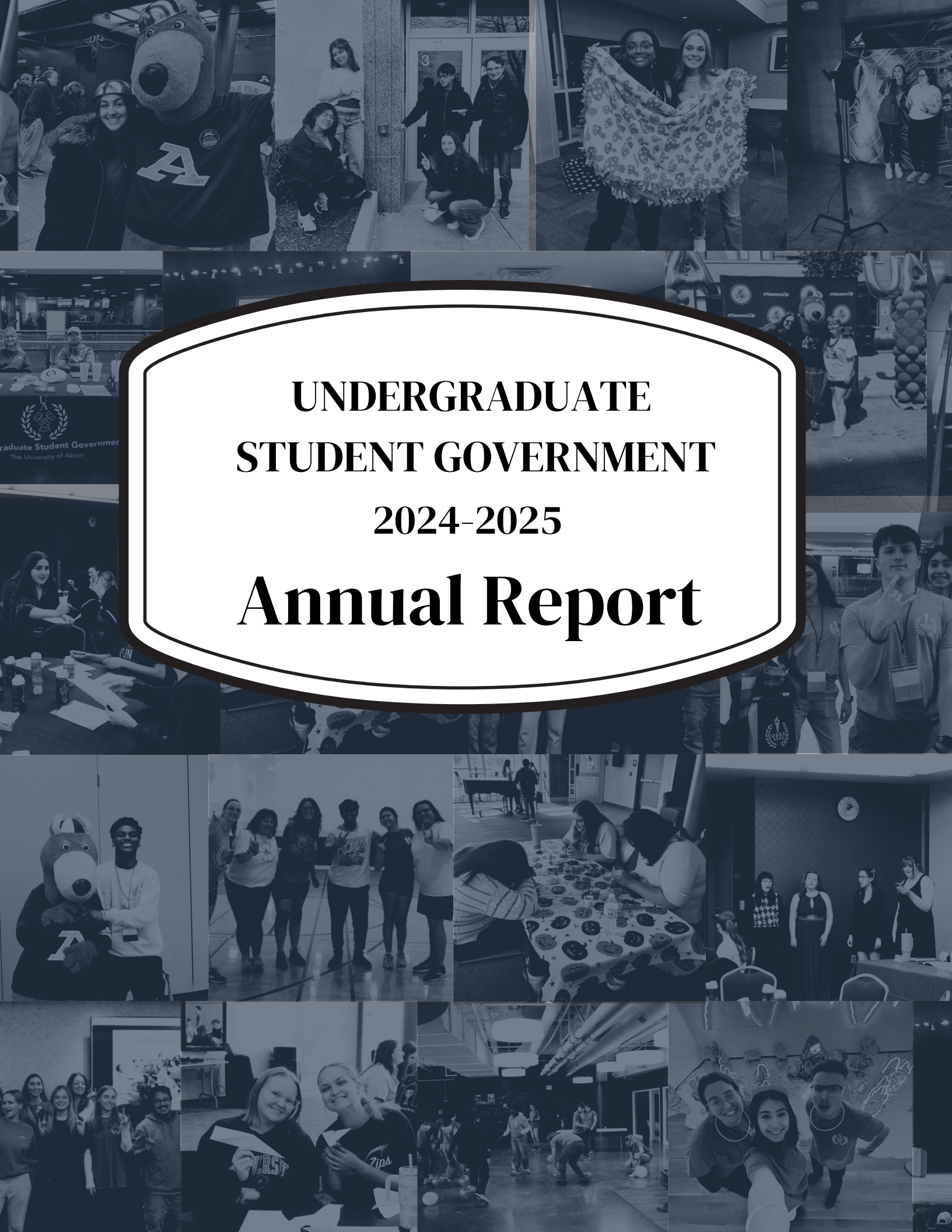


UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

2024-2025

Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GRACE DEWITT



When I reflect on the 2024-2025 academic year for Undergraduate Student Government, I am overcome with a sense of pride and deep respect for all its accomplished. As an incoming freshman on this campus, I recall my profound sense of intrigue and awe for USG. I found myself carrying these feelings throughout my four years in the organization as I witnessed all its achievements. This has been an excellent year for USG, and I feel privileged to have experienced it alongside my fellow USG members.

When I had the chance to run in the election for Student Body President alongside Vice President Elena Kozma, we knew that a monumental task lied ahead of us. To lead such an esteemed and active governing body is no easy feat, although we went into our roles with vigor and excitement, ready for the year to come. Through all the hurdles of this year, we could not have done it without the support of USG members. What gives USG its true significance is not just the name itself. It is the incredible individuals who make up this organization. USG consisted of 62 members throughout this academic year. It is through their commitment, hard work, and perseverance that has shaped USG into what it is today.

This past academic year, USG members have pursued a plethora of projects, initiatives, and events, with are further detailed in this annual report. Through this work, USG has been dedicated to supporting students, fostering their academic, professional, and community development through the Unify UAkron platform. Much of the work in USG was centered around supporting these integral components of every student's undergraduate journey.

All of this would not have been possible without the continuous support from our mentors such as USG Advisor Brandon Alexander and Dr. Messina. Thank you for your dedication to supporting USG and its various projects and initiatives. Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the students on this campus. USG exists to serve and represent the student body. They are the purpose that drives us forward in the pursuit of our initiatives.

It is with great humility and honor that I had the chance to serve as president of this esteemed and accomplished governing body. Having the chance to be a part of something so great is hard to come by, and I am forever grateful for all the memories USG has given me. As the university continues to grow, flourish, and adapt in the following years, I know that USG will be at the forefront of supporting students through the times to come.

Moving forward, I may no longer be a member of USG, but I am a proud alum and look forward to all that USG will accomplish in the future.

As always, Go Zips! Go USG!

Grace DeWitt

2024-2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

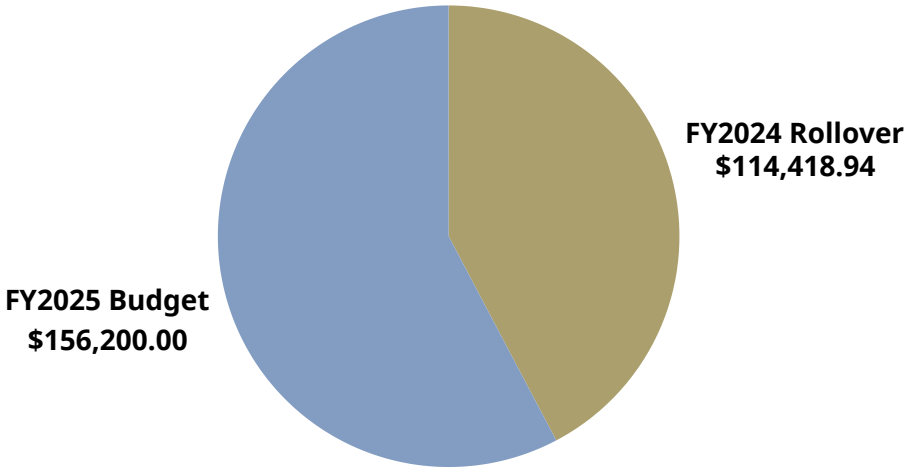
Undergraduate Student Government has the privilege of managing funds that sponsor travel and projects for the more than 300 student organizations on the University of Akron's Campus. We have been able to provide support to over 120 student organizations through the course of the 2024-2025 academic year and have pledged our support to various programs that will benefit the Zips community for years to come.

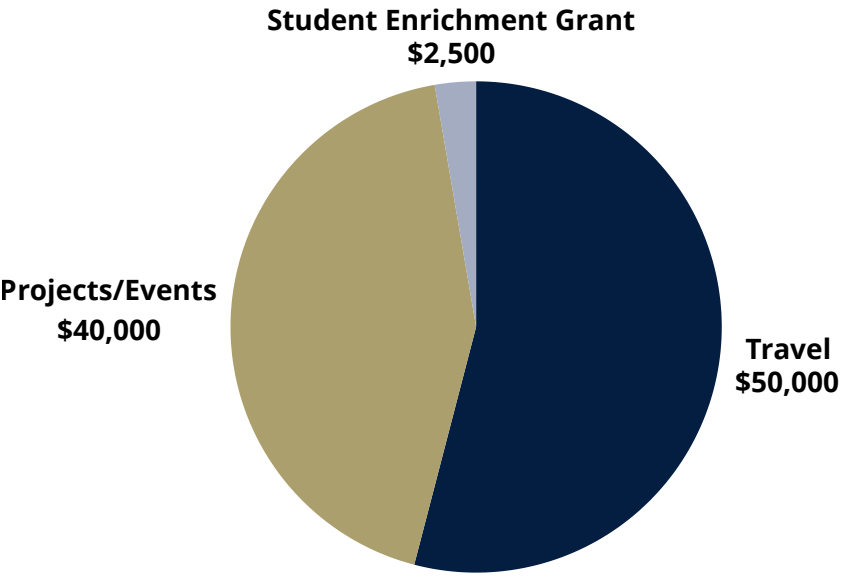
Student Org Allocations

Through the Undergraduate Activities Fund, USG has provided **$82,357.73** to student organization. They have provided funding for...

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

Additionally, the Unify UAkron platform fund has provided **$2,796.18** to student organizations and co-sponsored initiatives and functions that fall under the platform pillars of Academic, Professional, and Community Development





Allocation Data

- The total amount requested from USG through the UAF by student organizations was **$78,478.083.**
- There were **87 unique** student organization requests for UAF funding
- USG has been able to provide support to over **120 student organizations** through the course of the 2024-2025 academic year
- The Unify UAkron platform fund has provided **$2,796.18** to student organizations and co-sponsored initiatives and functions that fall under the platform pillars of Academic, Professional, and Community Development

FINANCIAL IMPACT - STUDENT ORGS

Allocations at Work

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) used UAF Travel Funding to attend WE24, the world's largest conference for women in engineering and technology, held in Chicago. This opportunity allowed members to network with industry professionals, attend professional development sessions, and explore career opportunities through one of the largest engineering career fairs in the country.



Student Leader Series

Student Leader Summit

The Student Leader Summit is an opportunity for student organizations to learn about funding opportunities and campus resources as well as connect and share ideas with fellow student leaders and organizations on campus. In Fall 2024, 30 student groups and 64 student leaders particpated.





At the Student Leader Showcase, student organizations have the opportunity to exhibit their achievements, events, and initiatives from the past year and compete in award categories to win money for their organization. In Spring 2025, 8 student organizations participated and a total of $1,000 of funding was awarded.

Student Leader Showcase

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 and Event Planning
- Finance and Budget Review
- 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 Unify UAkron Platform

The USG platform for the 2024-2025 academic year is called Unify UAkron. The three pillars of Unify UAkron are focused on supporting students in their academic, professional, and community development. This year, the work of USG will be centered around this platform and its values. The pillars are further explained below:

Academic Development:

- Ensuring students have resources to succeed in their academics
- Strengthening the relationship between students and the colleges

Community Development

- Working to build community among students
- Outreach to the greater Akron community

Professional Development

- Supporting student groups on campus (student orgs, athletics, greek life)
- Growing internship and career opportunities





EXECUTIVE BRANCH - COMMITTEES

The Executive Branch holds three committees that are open to any and every undergraduate student. These committees meet bi-weekly throughout the school year and work on specific goals to improve the student experience.

Campus Dining Experience (CDE)

CDE works to advocate for dining accommodations based on student concerns, pursue sustainable solutions on campus related to dining, and improve the dining structures on campus.

- Thanksgiving Giving Grams for dining employees
- Expanded weekend meal-swipe options
- Advising Aramark on restaurant ideas for Polsky
- Served on Aramark Student Food Committee

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee serves as a voice for underrepresented students and student groups on campus.

- International Lounge Dedication
- RooClusive Space Refresh
- Black History Month Highlight
- United We Stand
- Cultural Night

Mental Health Task Force (MHTF)

MHTF is a dedicated task force committed to advocating for mental health across campus. Additionally, they collaborate with other organizations on projects that promote mental wellness and awareness.

- World Suicide Prevention Day in collaboration with ZAB
- Held monthly Mental Health Mondays
- Self Care Pop-up in collaboration with the Dean of Students for finals week









JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch consists of an appointed group of Justices including 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 with UAkron Park and the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards to benefit the student body at the University of Akron.



Elections Board

During elections season, the Judicial Branch transforms into the Elections Board, the governing body that oversees the USG elections process, election materials, and voting verification. The Elections Board ensures a fair and friendly competition that aims to provide the best representative for the study body.

Fall Election

- Elected two (2) First Year Senators
- Had a 0.6% increase in voter turnout from last years' Fall Election
- Held a run-off election for the first time due to a tie and retained 2/3rds of voters

Spring Election

- Elected five (5) Senators and the President & Vice President
- Had a 4.7% increase in voter turnout from last year and a 1.9% decrease from the last contested Presidential race (2023)
- Heard two Elections Grievances





JUDICIAL BRANCH

Grievances

- The Judicial Branch hears alleged violations of the governing documents and the election rules
- This year, the Judicial Branch heard two (2) Elections Grievances and one (1) Constitutional Grievance - a 300% increase from the previous year
- The Judicial Branch reviewed and amended the Grievance Process and will be reviewing the document yearly



Recordskeeping

- The Judicial Branch organized all JB records and implemented an overview document for locating records
- They will be continuing this project in other folders housed in the USG Teams
- The Judicial Branch has begun a project working with the University Archives to improve student organization records



Newsletter

- Began a monthly newsletter to advertise USG activities and promote transparency. This year, they successfully published two (2) newsletters
- A records coordinator has been incorporated to increase records keeping of events and projects
- Judicial Branch also uses this perspective to assist in the creation of the Annual Report

Advocacy

Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards

- Tabled alongside during Alcohol Awareness week
- Leadership presented to the incoming class at Know the Code
- Justices presented the Student Code of Conduct at the First-Year Seminar
- All Justices are trained to serve on the Student Hearing Board

UAkron Park

- Faciliated two parking townhalls and advertised parking satisfaction survey



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



The Legislative branch consists of numerous elected members, including:

- Senate Chair
- Vice Senate Chair
- Senators At-Large (7)
- College-Specific Senators (5)
- Off-Campus Living Senator
- Residence Hall Senator
- First-Year Senators (2)
- Senate Clerk

Senators pursue projects and write legislation that serves to benefit the undergraduate student body. They work in committees and within their represented demographic to turn ideas into reality to benefit the University of Akron students. Additionally, senate leadership congratulates newly established student organizations and provides them with critical insight about funding and resources.

Senate Committees

Academic Policy and Student Success (APSS)

APSS aims to establish connections between students, staff, and administration. Members work to distribute academic and financial information as well as promote and advocate for the student experience.

This year, APSS has pursued...

- Brightspace Survey, Tabling, and Legislation
- End of Course Evaluation Tabling in the Fall and Spring

Student Engagement (SE)

SE's purpose is to create a campus environment that builds community and enhances the experience of undergraduates by working with student organizations.

This year, SE has pursued...

- Starship Robot Survey
- Health & Safety Survey
- Co-sponsored SR 01-24-25 legislation

Facilities, Amenities, Services and Transportation (FAST)

FAST looks to advocate for the safety of students and enhance the on-campus student experience through housing, parking, transportation, and various other services on campus.

This year, FAST has pursued...

- FAST Accessibility Tours
- Origin of SR 01-24-25 & SR 02-24-25
- Board Games in Bierce Library
- Met with UAPD and UAkron Park

LEGISLATION

SR 01-24-25: Vehicles Driving on Campus Walkways

Resolution to place and enforce speed restrictions on campus, including additional signage to prevent personal vehicles from blocking walkways and driving at unsafe speeds. This resolution was approved and forwarded to relevant campus departments for further action.



SR 02-24-25: Pride Flag Display

Resolution to create a permanent installation of the Pride Flag in the Jean Haber Tower Student Union to serve as a symbol of the belonging of all identities on campus. In collaboration with LGBTUA, the resolution was in response to the removal of the 8 Pride Flags previously displayed in the Student Union Concourse.





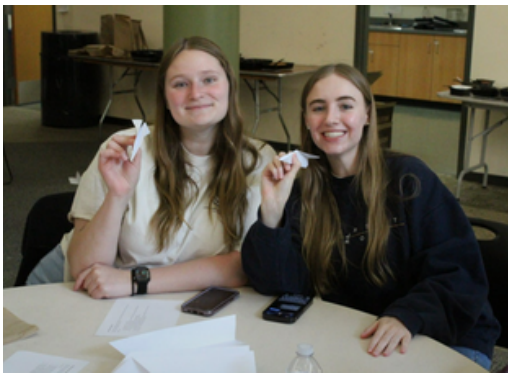
SR 03-24-25: Brightspace Initiative

Resolution for all classes to have a Brightspace page with an updated syllabus and to enforce that all courses are available for students at least four days prior to the start of the academic semester. This resolution was backed by a survey sent to all students that showed students would feel more prepared for their classes with earlier access to their syllabi and Brightspace pages.



ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Academic Development is one of the central pillars of the Unify UAkron platform. Examples include:
  - Warming Up for Finals
  - Restful Minds (Mental Health Mondays)
  - International Lounge Dedication
- In addition, the Academic Policy and Student Success (APSS) Committee has worked to improve academic transparency and access by advocating for initiatives like the Brightspace Legislation, which requires syllabi to be posted before the semester begins.
- These efforts reflect a campus-wide commitment to enhancing students' academic experience and fostering meaningful connections between students, faculty, and support services.



















COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Community Development is the second pillar of the Unify UAkron platform, aimed at strengthening connections between students, campus, and the greater Akron area. Key initiatives included:
  - Akron Art Museum
  - Bridging Campus and Community with Mayor Malik
  - Downtown Akron Partnership Small Business Series
  - Akron Rotary Club
  - Cultural Night
  - United We Stand
  - Women's Empowerment Summit
  - USG x BEC Spirit Week
  - Campus clean-ups



















PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Professional Development is the third pillar of the Unify UAkron platform, focused on building student leadership, career readiness, and access to professional opportunities. Events and initiatives provided students with hands-on experiences, networking opportunities, and practical skill development to support their future careers. Key initiatives included:
  - Social Media in the Workplace
  - Ohio Student Government Summit
  - Student Leader Summit
  - Student Leader Showcase



















SHAPING THE FUTURE

2025-2026 Student Body President Madilyn Shaw and Student Body Vice President Bethel Tsige



Being presented with the opportunity to serve the Undergraduate Student Body as the President and Vice President is a task that we seek to take on with great ambition. With these titles also comes the great responsibility and the duty to adequately serve the Student Body in an influential, meaningful, and impactful way. With this, we are thrilled to begin our new administration under the All4UA platform for the 2025-26 academic year.

The All4UA platform was created with one central thing in mind: you. Looking at the many different student perspectives, we created this platform with an ambition to adequately impact as many students as possible. The platform has four key identifying pillars, which include Amplifying Academic Opportunities, Enhancing the Community, Expanding Personal Growth, and Empowering the Student Perspective.

We want to also commemorate the work done by Grace DeWitt and Elena Kozma with UnifyUAkron platform. With their hard work and foundation of ideas, we intend to progress some of these ideas, as well as build off and create new ones. We strive to achieve All4UA's four pillars by reaching out to students directly and fulfill these needs through projects and initiatives that align with these pillars.

Lastly, we want to take the time to thank everyone for the chance to represent the Undergraduate Student Body. We are looking forward to creating a welcoming and inclusive campus for all. But this isn't just about us; it's about all undergraduate students. Enhancing the experience of students takes the efforts of us all. We want to encourage everyone to get involved in different sectors of campus, and to use your voice to share your opinions or concerns. In doing so, we can all strive to help shape the future for the students at the University of Akron and beyond.

Fall 2024 Members

Executive Branch

President - Grace DeWitt
Vice President - Elena Kozma
Chief of Staff - Olivia Lane
Deputy Chief of Staff - Isaac Machar
Director of Finance - Matt Howell
Deputy Director of Finance - Isabella Ackerman
Director of Project Management - Bryanne Webster
Director of Project Management - Sarvesh Sudhaharan
Project Manager - Jessica Greene
Project Manager - Forest Pence
Project Manager - Lana Tamin
Project Manager - Grace Salvatore
Director of Events - Maggie Mahaney
Event Coordinator - Julie Muller
Event Coordinator - Brian Nguyen
Event Coordinator - AJ Stewart
Director of Communications - JoAnna Shafer
Social Media Curator - Maya Allooh
Social Media Strategist- Nathan Flint
Social Media Curator - Irene Garcia Cruz
Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Makayla Minard
Deputy Director of LGTBQ+ and Gender Equity - Ashley Cosgrave
Director of Community & Campus Outreach- Natalie Gardner
Deputy Director of Community Outreach - Nick Senko
Deputy Director of Campus Outreach - Reese Walter
Health and Safety Officer - A.J. Ruffin-Stcyr
Greek Life Liaison (IFC) -Isaac Bee
Greek Life Liaison (PHC) - Brynn Lewis
Greek Life Liaison (NPHC) - Selena Spencer
Director of Membership Development - Dylan Leipold

Judicial Branch

Chief Justice - Sam Stillion
Executive Justice - Gwen Bushen
Associate Justice - Emma Barna
Associate Justice - Kristin Groen
Associate Justice - Mia Papatonis
Associate Justice - Audrey Reimer
Associate Justice - Madi Shaw

Advisor

Brandon Alexander

Legislative Branch

Senate Chair / Senator At-Large - Cam Feezel
Vice Senate Chair / Senator At-Large - Ali Winters
Senator for the College of Engineering and Polymer Science - Kylie Cameron
Senator for the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences - Clayton Breon
Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences- Nathan Parish
Senator for the College of Business - Marshall Knapp
Senator for Off-Campus Living - Nick Raymond
Senator for the Williams Honors College- Marina Nichols
Senate Clerk- Megan McCracken
Senator At-Large - Ian Clark-Kelley
Senator At-Large - Hania Rahman
Senator At-Large - Jeremy Sanfrey
Senator At-Large - Genevieve Shelton
Senator At-Large - Leah Schuhart
First Year Senator - Hayley Smith
First Year Senator - Noah Sterns

Spring 2025 Members

Executive Branch

President - Grace DeWitt
Vice President - Elena Kozma
Chief of Staff - Olivia Lane
Deputy Chief of Staff - Isaac Machar
Director of Finance - Nick McCracken
Deputy Director of Finance - Mason Dexter
Director of Project Management - Sarvesh Sudhaharan
Project Manager - Jessica Greene
Project Manager - Forest Pence
Project Manager - Lana Tamin
Director of Events - Maggie Mahaney
Event Coordinator - Julie Muller
Event Coordinator - Brian Nguyen
Event Coordinator - AJ Stewart
Director of Communications - JoAnna Shafer
Social Media Curator - Maya Allooh
Social Media Strategist- Nathan Flint
Social Media Curator - Irene Garcia Cruz
Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Makayla Minard
Deputy Director of LGTBQ+ and Gender Equity - Ashley Cosgrave
Director of Community & Campus Outreach- Natalie Gardner
Deputy Director of Community Outreach - Nick Senko
Health and Safety Officer - A.J. Ruffin-Stcyr
Greek Life Liaison (IFC) -Isaac Bee
Greek Life Liaison (PHC) - Grace Salvatore
Greek Life Liaison (NPHC) - Selena Spencer
Director of Membership Development - Dylan Leipold

Judicial Branch

Chief Justice - Sam Stillion
Executive Justice - Gwen Bushen
Associate Justice - Peter Evans
Associate Justice - Kristin Groen
Associate Justice - Mia Papatonis
Associate Justice - Audrey Reimer
Associate Justice - Madi Shaw

Advisor

Brandon Alexander

Legislative Branch

Senate Chair / Senator At-Large - Cam Feezel
Vice Senate Chair / Senator At-Large - Ali Winters
Senator for the College of Engineering and Polymer Science - Kylie Cameron
Senator for the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences - Clayton Breon
Senator for the Williams Honors College - Scott Spears
Senator for Off-Campus Living - Nick Raymond
Residence Life Senator - Melody Martinez
Senator At-Large - Ryan Kasik
Senator At-Large - Ian Clark-Kelley
Senator At-Large - Hania Rahman
Senator At-Large - Genevieve Shelton
Senator At-Large - Leah Schuhart
First Year Senator - Hayley Smith
First Year Senator - Noah Sterns