



SGA Senate
Minutes
12 September 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MOMENT OF SILENCE
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. PASSING OF AGENDA
 - There was a motion to amend the agenda.
 - The agenda was passed as amended.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
 - There was a motion to amend the minutes.
 - The minutes were passed as amended.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
 - Voting and Swearing In of International Seat
 - Unfortunately, Senator Raisa has stepped down from Senate.
 - We have appointed Carmel to the International seat.
 - He says that he has always been passionate about impacting his community and ensuring student welfare on campus.
 - The appointment was approved. Carmel was appointed to the International seat by unanimous vote of the Senate.
 - Carmel took his oath to officially swear him into Senate.
 - Senate Rules Test
 - The members that were present took the Senate Rules Test. Results should be in today!
 - Report for Live Lions
 - Senator Vezina is giving everyone the report on the live lions in her shared governance committee.
 - This committee has been established to determine whether UNA will continue its tradition of keeping live lions here on campus.
 - We have a timeline for every step we complete in this procedure.
 - Standards have changed since the initial purchase of our lions back in 2002.

- The university does not have to be certified to receive lions – we must have lions first before we can become certified.
- Lions will have to come from a non-certified breeder.
- The university will not have room for more than two cubs. They will remain at a facility for the first two years of their lives before being transported to UNA.
- Once the enclosure is expanded and standards have been met, the University will be able to continue the tradition of keeping lions here.
- The total time to complete this project would be around 6-7 years.
- DIA Saunders where the enclosure would be if it were to double in size.
 - Senator Vezina maintains the enclosure would remain on campus.
- Senator Gilliland asks why UNA was not already trying to get certified while the lions were still living.
- Senator Miller asks if UNA has had an unethical history with the lions.
 - Senator Vezina does not have an exact answer for these questions, but she can direct everyone for the right point of contact for these questions.
- President Mardis maintains that this committee was just now established – this means that Senator Vezina will only be discussing the future lions, not past lions. If we want any past documents, we would need to look to university faculty.
- Senator Vezina says that the project could estimate to cost anywhere from 4.8 to 7.2 million dollars.
- Matthew reiterates that Senator Vezina is not a historian of past lions – she is only here to discuss the future of the live lions on campus.
- Chief of Staff Britton says that there are certain organizations on campus that are dedicated to fundraising for the lion habitat.
- President Mardis says that the money would have to come from donations, and it will not be coming from academics. Everyone is pretty set against the idea of using tuition for funding these lions.
- Treasurer Batchelor says that the estimated profit for these lions is small – this means that if the university were to continue this project, it would be out of tradition, not for money.
- Senator Elijah Winston thinks that we could be pouring more time and energy into something other than bringing back the live lions.
- Senator Mwaura thanks Senator Vezina for presenting this to everyone!
- Dr. Tammy says that this will be an ongoing project, and it will take while. This includes surveys, focus groups, and evaluating what this means for everyone. Not everything can be answered today.
- Vote on Alma Mater
 - Chief of Staff Britton says Senate will be taking a yes or no vote on if you think the alma mater should be changed. If you vote yes, you vote to remove the word dixie from the alma mater.
 - Senator Vezina asks for more clarification on the word “dixie.”
 - Chief of Staff Britton says that this we had dixie chicks, a dixie society, and its meaning now had nothing to do with the terminology at the time. In the alma mater, it is used more as a location rather than as an offensive term.

- Dr. Tammy says that this is more of a gauge from a student viewpoint as to whether we should continue pursuing this topic or not.
- Senator Miller says we should be mindful of how the words in the alma mater reflects the students we represent now.

STUDENT FORUM

- Kenneth Daves introduces himself. He is enrolled in a class that uses a third-party system for payment. He must pay to get his classwork on top of the tuition he is already paying. He is bringing this to Senate to see what can be done about this issue.
- Senator Strait asks what third-party system it is.
 - The third-party system is called Top Hat.
 - He does not have to buy a textbook, but he has heard that other people have had to buy the textbook in addition to the third-party software.
- Senator Miller asks how much the program costs.
- Senator Gilliland asks if the professor communicates through this third-party system or if the professor communicates primarily through CANVAS.
- Senator Mwaura asks if you can use financial aid through the bookstore, like with Pearson, to access this third-party system.
 - Vice-President McGinnis says that you cannot.
 - President Mardis thanks Kenneth for addressing this issue and says that he is not the only student that has brought this up.

VIII. OFFICER REPORTS

- President Mardis
 - She apologizes for being late! She was in a meeting.
 - Thank you to everyone who participated in the Meet Your Senators event!
 - She has not heard back from the city of Florence to ask about their parking deck.
 - The Campus Life and Athletics committee is rebranding due to SB-129.
 - Freshman Forum interviews went great! She got to sit in on them.
 - She is excited to have Carmel fill the International Seat in Senate.
 - We will resume to our in-person executive council meeting next week.
- Vice-President McGinnis
 - This week, she has been sitting in on the Freshman Forum interviews.
 - They finally had their first in-person chairs meeting! We went over the budget with the chairs, and we also went over ideas for this year.
- Treasurer Batchelor
 - 306 BBQ confirmed that we will receive 10% of all sales for our spirit night on September 19.
 - Confirmed Smile Bev Co. for the GUC parking lot on October 16.
 - Reserved four sandwich boards to protect parking spots.
 - DIA Saunders helped her in placing flyers in the residence halls.
 - She still has not heard back from Voodoo for a November spirit night.
 - She has been working with Chairwoman Rhoades trying to get airpods.
 - Submitted a photo request for the new members and justices.
- Secretary Kusz

- She has been working on the invitation graphic with Thea to get it sent out to past officers, the executive council, and Deans.
- She encourages everyone to attend Past Officers Breakfast!
- She reminds everyone that they are allowed four absences a semester, and to email her if they cannot attend an event or meeting.
- Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
 - Interviews have been going great! We have had them on Monday and Tuesday, and we'll have some on Saturday as well.
 - We are talking about an SGA and Freshman Forum mixer with Pro-Tempore Fitz.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
 - She met with the Freshman Forum advisors to plan our bonding event for September!
 - This is a great chance for Freshman Forum to get involved with SGA early on to improve retention and keep everyone more engaged.
 - She met with Communications Director Sommer on Friday to figure out more details on the Swag Wagon.
 - She submitted our Homecoming details to UPC.
- Chief of Staff Britton
 - She is looking into allergen QR codes for dining hall menus.
 - She thanked everyone for coming to Meet Your Senators!
 - The votes came back for the Alma Mater – the majority vote was no. This means that we are trying to move forward with singing it with dixie in it.
- Historian Plunkett
 - She wants light purple fabric and gold on the corkboard outside!
 - If you want anything added, please email her!
- DIA Saunders
 - We have gotten four new sign-ups for the RSO Outreach Initiative.
 - We have about 26 RSOs signed up in total.
 - We will begin speaking to everyone in October!
- Communications Director Sommer
 - Her and El submitted a document for their swag wagon plans.
 - She has posted the homecoming and spirit night graphics.
 - She will start posting headshots and group pictures soon.
 - If you have taken any SGA-related photos, please upload them in the PhotoCircle.

IX. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairman Hester
 - We have some meetings scheduled with professors to interview them and see what they want from us.
 - Getting with Communications Director Sommer for tiny mics!
- Budget Oversight Chairman Cantrell
 - They had their first meeting on Tuesday.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
 - Shoutout to her committee members because they are doing amazing!
 - Thanks to Communications Director Sommer for doing so well on all of the Homecoming graphics!

- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
 - We need to investigate the overflow light because that light is funded through the University, not through the city of Florence.
 - We are rewriting legislation to allow Legislative Affairs to attend city council meetings.
 - Come with us to the city council meeting next week!
 - We are going to use our leftover money for UNA gear.
- Student Welfare Chairman Holcombe
 - No report.

X. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Parking committee met for the first time.
- Safety committee will be meeting next Wednesday in the chambers at 3.
- Food services is meeting tomorrow at 10.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz says that we need to continue to push on appealing parking tickets as a committee instead of having one person making the decisions.

XI. AD HOC COMMITTEES

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- Inter Presidents Council
 - President Mardis says that the Inter Presidents Council was established so that everyone could state what they are doing. Pro-Tempore Fitz would be the person leading these meetings.
 - It is still in our Code of Laws, so we either need to start this back up or we need to get ride of it completely.
 - Senator McDonald thinks that this would be a good thing to keep so we can all learn more about each other and their organizations.
 - Chairman Holcombe thinks it's a good idea to have, but some people may not – he asks if maybe there is a way to make this optional.
 - Chairwoman Hamilton thinks that with the RSO Outreach Initiative, there may not be as much of a need from SGA to continue the Inter Presidents Council.
 - Chief of Staff Britton asks if there have been any complaints concerning the lack of having the council present.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 24-15
 - Vice-President McGinnis would like to remind everyone of the parliamentary procedure that was discussed earlier this year at retreat.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz is presenting Bill 24-15: Funding Falling for Freshman Forum.
 - We have to spend the money before October 1.
 - Chief of Staff Britton thinks this bill is an amazing idea! She thinks we should pass this bill as presented today.
 - Chairwoman Hamilton thinks we should pass the bill as amended. We only need one case of Dr. Pepper, not two.
 - Senator McDonald makes a motion to amend the bill. Chairwoman Hamilton seconds.
 - Chief of Staff Britton moves to pass the amended bill. Senator Joyner seconds.

XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- There were no articles of open discussion.

XV. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- October 10, we will have people coming to talk about class rings! They are giving away one free class ring.
- Make sure to be aware of the weather this weekend.
- We are having a volunteer fair scheduled for this Monday!
- Our first preview day is coming up!
- If you are interested in volunteering for Family Weekend please let him know.
- There was a mural unveiling at the Library today!
- Dr. Tammy would like to shout out Chief of Staff Britton for all of the hard work she is putting in to her events.
- Dr. Tammy wants to see a huge Rock the Vote event!
- She says the area by the Game Room is being repainted to rebrand the university.
- It is hard to see the artwork by our students go, but it can't be permanent. We are going to be doing artwork inside the Game Room instead of outside the Game Room. She wanted to explain why the artwork will not be there anymore.
- Be mindful of bringing up concerns to the group chat! Use it as an opportunity to conduct business.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Healthy Lions Council Application
 - President Mardis says they are looking for students who are interested in mental health and student welfare. They are trying to reboot the organization, so the time commitment is not strenuous.
- Elijah made the men's volleyball club team!
- Please go repost the homecoming nomination date, and the graphic with the other deadlines!
- UNA's Got Talent – September 17
- 306 BBQ Spirit Night – September 19

XVII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

XVIII. PEP

- Pep to Chairwoman Rhoades and her committee.
- Pep to Communications Director Sommer for her graphics.
- Pep to Senator Vezina for her Live Lions Report!
- Pep to Student Forum!
- Pep to Senator Elijah Winston for making the men's volleyball club team!
- Pep to Chief of Staff Britton for the alma mater!

XIX. ADJOURNMENT