

**SGA Senate**

**Senate Minutes**

**19 September 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
5. **PASSING OF AGENDA**
   * **The agenda was passed at presented.**
6. **PASSING OF MINUTES**
   * **The minutes were passed as presented.**
7. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**
   * **Dean Ellis**
     + **SB-129 goes into effect October 1st.**
     + **She has been helping the campus adapt and adjust to this new law.**
     + **The law is mainly divided into divisive concepts and DEI programming.**
       - **DEI programming is defined as any program, class, training, seminar, or other event where attendance is based on an individual’s race, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation, or that otherwise violates the law.** 
         * **These types of programs cannot receive state funding or university allocations.**
       - **We have been reevaluating everything to make sure that we are in compliance with the law.**
       - **There are exceptions to these restrictions – we may teach divisive concepts, but we cannot compel assent. We cannot make someone say that they personally believe something.**
     + **She is willing to come speak to any organizations who may have questions about these changes.**
     + **You can explore proposed bills and bills that may be proposed in the future at the Alabama Legislature website.**
     + **We have not had to shut down any large programs or organizations here at University of North Alabama.**
     + **As we go forward, there will be more questions. Please always feel free to reach out to her with any questions or concerns you may have in the future!**
     + **Dr. Tammy would like to clarify that it is a bill as of right now, but as of October 1st it will officially become law.**
     + **President Mardis says that we have speakers come to us with this information so that we can go out and inform others about what we know.**
     + **We have a year-long strategic plan passed by the Board of Trustees last September. SGA will be a part of this plan. We must make quantifiable goals in order to look to the future to the next time we will be making a strategic plan.**
     + **She oversees Housing and Residence Life, as well as Disability Support Services, Student Conduct, the Food Pantry, Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion, and Military/Veterans. She is also overseeing Family Weekend this weekend!**
   * **Senator Rules Test Appeal**
     + **Senator Miller did not meet the 75% requirement for her Rules Test. This means automatic dismissal from Senate; however, you can choose to appeal to Senate. Senator Miller has chosen to appeal.**
     + **President Mardis moves to go into executive session. Senator Gilliland seconds this motion.**
     + **A motion was heard and seconded to move out of executive session.**
     + **Senator Gilliland moved to go into a vote. The motion was heard and seconded.**
     + **The appeal was not approved by the Senate.**
8. **STUDENT FORUM**
   * **Our students did not have anything they would like to say.**
9. **OFFICER REPORTS**
   * **President Mardis** 
     + **She met with the faculty and staff presidents.**
     + **She has a faculty member who will serve as her proxy for the Food Administration committee.**
     + **They talked about the ACT requirement. They removed the ACT requirement during COVID-19, but now they want to require everyone to at least take the ACT.**
     + **She still has not heard back about the parking deck in the City of Florence.**
     + **Make sure to share your ideas with the Ad Hoc committee for the SGA 5K!**
     + **We updated the Flor-Ala on the Live Lions Committee report.**
   * **Vice-President McGinnis** 
     + **She was in the Food Service committee meeting, and it went great.**
     + **Her and President Mardis are working on the details with Student Counseling services and food trucks.**
     + **Chairs went great! The committees are working on their ideas and spending the rest of their budget.**
     + **She is also doing one-on-one chairs meetings.**
   * **Treasurer Batchelor**
     + **She confirmed with 306 BBQ that we are still on for the spirit night tonight! It is from 4-9 P.M.**
       - **She plans to go tonight if anyone wants to join her!**
     + **We are confirmed for November 18th for a Voodoo Wings spirit night.**
     + **She is not presenting the budget today, because she is still trying to spend this year’s budget.**
   * **Secretary Kusz**
     + **She has been working on getting balloon decorations for Past Officers Breakfast.**
     + **She has ordered balloon centerpieces for the tables from Amazon.**
     + **She got the invitations sent out for the event to alumni and past officers!**
     + **She has ordered stress gavels for the event!**
     + **She encourages everyone who is planning on attending to RSVP if they have not already done so.**
   * **Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger**
     + **They sent out who made Freshman Forum! We have 35 delegates, and we are so excited!**
     + **They are working with Treasurer Batchelor and Secretary Kusz on t-shirts and name badges.**
     + **The Freshman Forum retreat will be Sunday! Communications Director Sommer will be coming to speak on clerk.**

* **Pro-Tempore Fitz**
  + **She sent out a form for working on the banner in the GroupMe.**
  + **Our location for Falling for Freshman Forum will be in the Office of Student Engagement.**
  + **Chief of Staff Britton**
    - **She has been working alongside Dr. Tammy and other organizations on the Rock the Vote event.**
    - **She has the spreadsheet made and will send it out once she confirms collaboration.**
    - **She has been working with Inflated Dreams on lots of red, white, and blue decorations for the event!**
    - **Her next step on the Alma Mater is going to Dean Ellis to inquire why we have stopped singing the alma mater.**
    - **She went to the food service committee as a proxy for President Mardis last week. They just hired a new marketing person, so she is going to let them settle in before she asks about designs and graphics.**
    - **She worked with Chairwoman Rhoades for flyers for voter registration!**
  + **Historian Plunkett**
    - **She is still working on the bulletin board.**
    - **The rough draft of the October newsletter is due next week. If you want something important on there, please let her know! She will be presenting it next week.**
  + **DIA Saunders**
    - **They have had 27 sign-ups for the SGA RSO Outreach so far.**
    - **They will be starting these meetings in October. We have had to follow up on some to get clarification on location.**
    - **He will be working on a spreadsheet to determine who will be speaking to certain RSOs.**
  + **Communications Director Sommer**
    - **She has been working with Academic Affairs to get their tiny mic videos uploaded on Instagram!**
    - **She is working on voting registration graphics.**
    - **She is going to start posting Meet SGA Monday next week!**
    - **She is going over the SGA Swag Wagon Concept.** 
      * **We will be using the Student Engagement golf cart once a month to promote SGA and hand out merch to students!**
      * **Each committee would take over the golf cart, once a month, to promote their initiatives and events! They can also do Tiny Mic videos!**
      * **She wants to always have at least 3 SGA members on the Swag Wagon.**
    - **Matthew says that we should make sure to adhere to the golf cart safety guidelines and procedures.**
    - **President Mardis says there needs to be some kind of uniformity, but you can still incorporate whatever you committee wants to do with it!**

1. **CHAIR REPORTS**
   * **Academic Affairs Chairman Hester**
     + **They are working on their Tiny Mic highlight on Instagram.**
     + **They are thinking of doing an event related to midterms.**
     + **They are working on an event with Student Welfare.**
     + **Senator Murray met with some people regarding scholarship opportunities.**
   * **Budget Oversight Chairman Cantrell**
     + **They had their meeting on Tuesday – they had 1 approval, and 3 denials.**
     + **They would like to hear ideas for how they should use their budget.**
   * **Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades**
     + **Their committee met before today’s meeting. They got everything for the drawing they want to do for everyone who votes in Homecoming.**
     + **She is working with Thea to get some graphics up for out-of-state voting, absentee ballots, and more voting information.**
     + **So far, they have had 8 nominations. Nominations close in 3 days! If anyone has any questions or concerns, please come to her.**
     + **They are talking about things to do with the rest of their budget. They cannot get buttons in because they will not come in time.**
   * **Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton**
     + **No report.**
   * **Student Welfare Chairman Holcombe**
     + **They are going to have a self-care kit event at the Amphitheater.**
     + **Tomorrow he is meeting with Kayla Flippo to learn how to bridge the gap between international students and students from here.**
2. **SHARED GOVERNANCE**
   * **The food service committee met. Chartwells has a new marketing director.**
   * **The safety preparedness committee met last week. They meet monthly. They are promoting campus safety. Every UNA policeman has a red card and a green card. If they have a red card and scan it anywhere, it automatically locks all the doors on campus. They also have a green card that automatically opens every door on campus.** 
     + **They will active shooter training.**
     + **Chief of Staff Britton wants to promote the Florence Police Department app.**
     + **The athletic committee is meeting tomorrow.**
     + **Budget planning committee is meeting tomorrow.**
3. **AD HOC COMMITTEES**
   * **Please send your availability into the 5k Ad Hoc committee.**
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
   * **There was no old business.**
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
   * **There was no new business.**
6. **OPEN DISCUSSION**
   * **Resolution Discussion**
     + **Dr. Roy Stevens is celebrating his 100th birthday this year!**
     + **Senator Gilliland would like to see if everyone supports writing a resolution in honor of him.** 
       - **He will present it, and it will be signed by us, the Board of Trustees, the President, etc.**
       - **He has not done a bunch of research yet; he wanted to get approval from the Senate first.**
     + **Senator Vezina thinks this is a great idea!**
     + **This resolution must go across a lot of desks before it is approved. Chairwoman Hamilton wonders if it will get approved by the time his birthday arrives.** 
       - **Dr. Tammy says that this usually just goes to the executive board, etc.**
     + **Chief of staff Britton thinks that his is a good idea, regardless of the timeframe.**
   * **Swag Wagon Dates**
     + **We would like to do the same day every month, since we will be doing this once every month.**
     + **We want to focus on this semester. We need to communicate with UPC to make sure they are not using the golf cart at those same times.**
     + **She was thinking we could do Thursday since Senate already meets on that day, but she would like to hear everyone’s thoughts.**
     + **Vice-President McGinnis asks the chairs if they have any say, since this concerns their committees.**
     + **Chairwoman Hamilton says she does not see the point in doing the same day each month.**
     + **President Mardis thinks a consistent date might make it easier for everyone to plan ahead.**
     + **Communications Director Sommer asks if the first Thursday of October and November from 10-12 would work for everyone.**
     + **Chairwoman Hamilton says that 10-12 is a class time. This may be better for representation, but people may not be able to work it.**
     + **Matthew says to keep in mind that some people may not have classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**
   * **Mane Card Discussion**
     + **Senator Elijah Winston had someone ask if there is a way to purchase a Mane Card.**
     + **Senator Strait says that when she transferred, she was told UNA does not use physical cards anymore.**
     + **Senator Elijah Winston states that his roommate said he would be willing to pay for a physical Mane Card.**
     + **Senator McDonald says that as far as she knows, you can go to OneStop and get a card for free.**
     + **Every phone can scan up to 24 hours after it dies!**
     + **You cannot have a physical card if you already have a card on your phone. However, you can go in and change which card is active and which card is not.**
7. **ADVISOR’S REPORT**
   * **Matthew wants to commend everyone for today’s meeting!**
   * **He wants to shoutout everyone who has volunteered their time for Family Weekend this weekend!**
   * **Budget Oversight has allocated a lot of money so far!**
   * **Make sure you are taking time for yourself during Homecoming.**
   * **Mane Month wraps up this weekend – we had about 130 programs!**
   * **Dr. Tammy and Matthew had training with the judicial board. Allie Mills advises the judicial board.**
   * **Dasha is going to be stepping in to support the Freshman Forum advisors.**
   * **There are at least 3 feedback boxes on this campus. We have received quality feedback and Matthew will be directing it to SGA.**
   * **Everyone is doing a great job in SGA, their involvement, and in their classes!**
   * **He is always willing to write a recommendation letter.**
   * **He will be working with Freshman Forum and the freshman senators to get them to the Higher Ed day conference this year!**
8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Healthy Lions Council Applications**
  + **This is a great opportunity for anyone who is passionate about the mental health and overall wellbeing for students. President Mardis encourages everyone to apply if they feel led to.**
* **306 BBQ Spirit Night – September 19**
* **Falling for Freshman Forum – September 26**
  + **It will be in Student Engagement after our meeting. It’s not required, but please let Pro-Tempore Fitz know if you are coming.**
* **Homecoming – October 12**

1. **SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK**
   * **Our SGA member of the week is Senator Vezina!**
2. **PEP**
   * **Pep Treasurer Batchelor for the 306 BBQ Spirit Night!**
   * **Pep Communications Director Sommer for the Swag Wagon presentation!**
   * **Pep Chairman Hester for making the pickleball team!**
   * **Pep to the Elections and Recruitment committee for all their hard work!**
   * **Pep to Chief of Staff Britton for voter registration!**
   * **Pep to Senator Gilliland for the resolution discussion!**
   * **Pep to everyone for Homecoming nominations!**
   * **Pep to everyone who helped with Freshman Forum interviews!**
   * **Pep to Secretary Kusz for getting merch from the bookstore with President Mardis!**
   * **Pep to Dr. Tammy!**
   * **Pep to our SGA advisors for being there for us!**
3. **ADJOURNMENT**