



SGA Senate
Senate Minutes
24 October 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

- The agenda was passed as presented.

VI. PASSING OF MINUTES

- The minutes were passed as presented.

VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS

- Speaker Mayor Betterton
 - He came to the University of North Alabama in 1971. He was a music major.
 - He was the first-generation college student on his mother's side of the family.
 - His uncle went through the ROTC program at UNA, and his dad insisted that he come to UNA.
 - He believes this is a wonderful community, and he loves this university.
 - He urges everyone to continue to be involved in the community of Florence.
 - He has been involved with Habitat for Humanity, and the Red Cross Blood Drive.
 - He encourages everyone to get involved in numerous organizations.
 - The City Council of Florence has six standing committees. Each council member is a chair of one of these committees.
 - He has been fortunate to be involved in the discussion surrounding the new football stadium at UNA.
 - Chief of Staff Britton asks Mayor Betterton what his best advice would be for student leaders here on campus.
 - Mayor Betterton says to listen to everything you can. He also says that you will make mistakes, but you need to say sorry and move on. He says not to take anything to heart.
 - Vice-President McGinnis asks for advice for anyone who would be interested in going into politics.
 - Mayor Betterton says that you should not change who you are just so that you will be elected to office. He is mainly concerned with the city of Florence and how he can help its citizens. He just wants to offer services for the citizens who live in this community.
 - DIA Saunders asks how being elected to his position has changed Mayor Betterton as a person.
 - Mayor Betterton says that in this day and time, you must be careful about becoming cynical. He says it is important for him to not become cynical.
 - President Mardis asks if there are any ways that Senate can help the city of Florence.
 - Mayor Betterton says that we could help with the beautification of Florence by cleaning up trash around the city where people have been careless. He says that college students can also help by mentoring kids.
 - Senator Jada Winston asks Mayor Betterton who his favorite college football team is.
 - He says his favorite teams are UNA and Alabama. However, he says that he is not a big football person.
 - President Mardis asks if he can play any instruments or sing, since he was a music major.
 - Mayor Betterton says that he majored in voice, and he has sung at many events here at UNA.
 - He is very proud of his community. He says that his life has been enriched in so many ways when he has reached out to his community. He tells everyone to be engaged with the community around them.

VIII. STUDENT FORUM

- Our students did not have anything they would like to say.

IX. OFFICER REPORTS

- President Mardis
 - We are going to Collegiate Legislature this year!

- We would like to send some representatives to go participate.
 - Please let her know if you would like to participate. She will get together a list of everyone who would like to go.
- She has been doing one-on-ones with everyone on the executive council.
- She has met with Chairman Cantrell and Vice-President McGinnis to discuss budget rollover money.
- She congratulates the Student Welfare committee and the Academic Affairs committee for their event!
- Vice-President McGinnis
 - She has been making a list of events that would be good for Senate to accomplish.
 - She scheduled the Rules Test for the remaining senators who have not taken it yet.
 - She met with Chairwoman Rhoades to discuss the upcoming SGA elections taking place next semester.
- Treasurer Batchelor
 - We earned \$100 from Smile Bev Co! She has deposited that check to our Agency for Student Counseling Services. Once we have a list of their plans for the money, we will work toward a budget transfer.
 - The Taco Mama Spirit Night was earlier this week, and we raised \$88. She is working on getting that check mailed here to be deposited for the Endowed Scholarship. Our fundraising total so far is \$318.62.
 - She got more of the food truck posters printed and laminated for Nashville Hot coming up, and she has been working on getting the rest of the advertising completed for that.
 - She will send out the October expense report next week.
- Secretary Kusz
 - She is continuing to work on finalizing her documents for Past Officers Breakfast and uploading these documents into Teams.
 - She has begun looking at past documents for inauguration. She would like to start preparations for inauguration before the beginning of next semester.
 - She is also continuing to review the Code of Laws for any grammatical changes she can fix. This is a project that she will be taking on for the remainder of the academic year.
- Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
 - Freshman Forum is having a Halloween party next week, and will be having a costume contest.
 - The Student Welfare committee is going to begin working on their survey, and are planning a Pause for Paws event!
 - The Outreach and Philanthropy committee is working with SGA on the SGA 5K.
 - The Public Relations committee is working with Communications Director Sommer and Treasurer Batchelor to help create designs for the Endowed Scholarship fundraiser.
 - The Social committee wrote their first bill for funding the Halloween party, and it passed!
 - Their Freshman Leadership Conference is on November 22 from 3-5.
 - Alexandria Buttgerreit is coming to speak to them on November 6 about study abroad opportunities.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
 - She says there are enough people interested in Step Sing to compete.
 - She took her Rules Test today.
 - She wants to do a Friendsgiving event for the internal bonding event for November.
- Chief of Staff Britton
 - She is working on writing the resolution for the alma mater.
 - She attended the mandatory Step Sing meeting with Pro-Tempore Fitz.
 - The Safety and Emergency Preparedness committee met and talked about how often the blue buttons around campus have been used in the past 5 years. With the rise of cell phones, the need for these blue buttons has decreased. If you have any more questions about this topic, please let her know.
- Historian Plunkett
 - She will be presenting the November newsletter next week.
 - She will be presenting the fall annual report soon.
- DIA Saunders
 - Last week, senator sign-ups began for the RSO Outreach Initiative.
 - There are 22 members of Senate that are signed up to attend these RSO Outreach meetings.
 - He is creating a form to gauge the experience of the organizations and senators signed up for this initiative.
- Communications Director Sommer
 - She would like to give a huge thank you to the Budget Oversight committee for doing the first Swag Wagon on Tuesday!
 - She will be working with Senator Hanback and Senator Joyner on advertising for the SGA 5K.
 - She will be working with the Elections and Recruitment committee on graphics for SGA elections!

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairman Hester

- Yesterday was their big event. Their committee along with the Student Welfare committee had a great turnout!
- Budget Oversight Chairman Cantrell
 - He is not here, so Senator Estrada is presenting his report.
 - Their committee did the Swag Wagon this week.
 - They have bouncing around ideas for the allocations manual.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
 - This week, their committee is getting back into the swing of things, starting with planning the interest meeting for SGA elections.
 - She will be submitting graphic requests for SGA elections to Communications Director Sommer soon!
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
 - She would like to give a huge thank you to everyone for being so attentive to Mayor Betterton!
 - Their committee spent quite a lot of time on preparing the gifts for him.
 - Their committee is also beginning preparations for Higher Ed Day. They are beginning preparations for the sweatshirts Senate will be wearing to the event.
 - On November 14, we will be having an hors d'oeuvres type mixer with some important legislators we will get to talk to.
- Student Welfare Chairman Holcombe
 - Thank you to both the Academic Affairs committee and the Student Welfare committee for working their event!
 - They had 14 responses for student feedback. This gives their committee opportunities to network and get good qualitative feedback.

XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- The Academic committee meeting has been cancelled this month, because they do not have anything they need to discuss.
- The Parking committee has sent the students an appeal to vote on.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5K Committee
 - The 5K committee met before Senate.
 - Their committee is beginning with marketing for the event, registration, and gathering sponsors.
 - The goal is to have at least 100 people running in the race.
 - Please put the date in your calendar and plan to be there!
- Parking Committee
 - The parking request was successful! Lot M will now be available to residential students during construction.
 - The parking committee will meet again on Monday.
 - Research is being conducted on the amount of parking pressure placed on campus at specific times of the day.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to be presented.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 24-18: Mandatory Training Removal Act
 - Senator McDonald is presenting the first bill on the Senate floor at this meeting.
 - Chairwoman Hamilton thinks it's a great idea. She thinks it is very well written.
 - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony asks if this legislation was written regarding the new bill that was just passed.
 - Senator McDonald affirms the question. She says it was written in response to the bill that was passed.
 - Senator Gilliland moves to go into a vote. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The Senate unanimously votes in favor of this bill. It passes.
- Bill 24-19: Trainings Removal Act
 - Senator Gilliland is presenting the second bill on the Senate floor at this meeting.
 - Senator Gilliland says that the purpose of this bill is to remove the mandatory portion of the training.
 - President Mardis knows that the training is important. However, they are just removing this portion in the Code of Laws first, then adding additional legislature to include training of some capacity.
 - Chairwoman Hamilton moves to go into a vote. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The Senate unanimously votes in favor of this bill. It passes.
- Resolution for Dr. Roy S. Stevens
 - Senator Gilliland is also presenting the resolution for Dr. Roy S. Stevens.
 - President Mardis thinks this resolution is great, and that the Senate should pass it. She commends Senator Gilliland for all of his hard work, and for demonstrating initiative.
 - Chairman Holcombe moves to pass the resolution. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The Senate unanimously votes in favor of this resolution. It passes.
- Kilby Halloween Sign-Ups

- The opportunity has been presented for Senate to sign up for an opportunity to hand out candy to the Kilby kids on Halloween! They will be coming to the office of Student Engagement.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Step Sing
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz would like to speak on Step Sing. She attended the Step Sing meeting earlier this week. This year, if you drop out after registering, you must pay a \$150 fine.
 - There are no rules stating that your team can only consist of members from your own organization.
 - To keep our numbers from getting too low, and so we don't have to pay money, she proposes that we hold auditions for people not affiliated with Senate to participate in Step Sing.
 - Chief of Staff Britton says that as of right now, we are not even signed up to participate in Step Sing. She says that by opening up participation to students outside of SGA, we are allowing students to participate who may not have had an organization to participate in Step Sing with.
 - Senator Strait asks where the funding for props and costumes would come from.
 - President Mardis thinks it could be beneficial to have a second vote within Senate.
 - The Senate believes that SGA should do Step Sing, and that we should include other students on the Step Sing team as well.

XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Paint the Paws is this Saturday!
- Halloween is coming up next week. He says to be aware of the costumes you are wearing.
- The Flor-Ala has written a special article with Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony!
- Keep in mind that you can have fun with SGA! It is not just all work and no play.
- If anyone is interested in joining focus groups for leadership development, please let him know.
- He lives by the philosophy that you are a collection of your own experiences. View everything as a learning opportunity!
- Make sure to differentiate with involvement and engagement in whatever you do.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11/12 – Nashville Hot (10:30 – 2 PM)
- 11/18 – Voodoo Wings Spirit Night (5 – 9 PM)

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Our SGA member of the week is Secretary Kusz!

XIX. PEP

- Pep to Communications Director Sommer!
- Pep to Senator Gilliland!
- Pep to Chairwoman Hamilton!
- Pep to Academic Affairs and Student Welfare!
- Pep to Senator McDonald!
- Pep to Senator McDonald, Senator Strait, Chairwoman Hamilton, and Senator Hanback for participating in the Paint the Paws event!

XX. ADJOURNMENT