



SGA Senate  
Senate Minutes  
31 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
  - There was a motion to amend the agenda.
  - The agenda passed as amended.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
  - The minutes were passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
  - There was no special business to be presented.
- VIII. STUDENT FORUM
  - The students present did not have anything they would like to say.
- IX. OFFICER REPORTS
  - President Mardis
    - Happy Halloween, everyone! Be safe and have fun.
    - She went with Senator Gilliland to present the resolution to Dr. Roy S. Stevens.
    - We did make progress with opening Lot M to the students. However, they did not give us a specific date on when this lot will be open, so we are waiting on advertising for this.
    - She has been having one-on-one meetings with the executive council.
    - Please let her know if you would like to attend the Collegiate Legislature Conference in March!
  - Vice-President McGinnis
    - The Healthy Lions Council would like to have an event during finals week.
    - She is going to be putting together event ideas for next semester, as we only have three Senate meetings left this semester.
    - She encourages everyone to plan for the spring, as it will get here quicker than you think.
  - Treasurer Batchelor
    - She has emailed everyone the October expense report.
    - Taco Mama has venomed her our earnings, so she deposited that check on Monday.
    - She made a post in the Shoals area food truck Facebook group that we are looking for food trucks for next semester, as well as the 5K. So far, 13 vendors have expressed interest.
    - She met with Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger and Communications Director Sommer to determine the timeline for the t-shirt/sweatshirt/tote bag fundraiser. She plans to present the fundraiser at the last Senate meeting of the semester.
    - She placed a request to schedule a spirit night at Buffalo Wild Wings, so she will report on that once she knows more.
  - Secretary Kusz
    - She has begun looking at files and ideas for inauguration coming up in the spring.
    - She will be working on capitalization errors and grammatical changes to the Code of Laws for the remainder of the academic year.
    - Please be sure to email any bills or items you would like added to the agenda no later than 5 PM on Tuesdays, or 8 AM on Wednesdays at the absolute latest.
  - Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
    - Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger had her meeting with President Mardis today.
    - The Freshman Forum Leadership Conference is November 22 from 3 – 5 PM.
    - They had their committee meetings yesterday, and they had a Halloween party after.
    - The Social Committee is working on a Movie Night.
    - The Student Welfare Committee is working on a Pumpkin Affirmations table in the Olive lobby.

- The Service Committee is going to be writing cards for the Florence nursing home.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
  - Our November event will be a Friendsgiving event, assuming that the bill she has submitted today will pass.
  - She sent out a Step Sing form in the group chat. Please fill this out by November 5<sup>th</sup>!
- Chief of Staff Britton
  - She passed on the information from the Healthy Lions council to Vice-President McGinnis.
  - She has scheduled her one-on-one meeting with President Mardis for next Thursday.
- Historian Plunkett
  - She will be presenting the November newsletter in new business.
- DIA Saunders
  - He is looking forward to the SGA RSO Initiative meetings coming up soon.
- Communications Director Sommer
  - She met with Senator Joyner, Senator Hanback, and Senator Mwuara concerning 5K graphics, and she is working on a post for the event that will be up soon.
  - She met with Treasurer Batchelor and Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger to set t-shirt/sweatshirt/tote bag deadlines.
  - She met with Freshman Forum yesterday to check in with the Public Relations committee.

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairman Hester
  - No report.
- Budget Oversight Chairman Cantrell
  - No report.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
  - She made everyone Halloween goodie bags!
  - She would love for everyone to come out to the SGA interest meeting next semester, either to speak or if you are running.
  - They are going through the elections manual to see if any changes need to be made.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
  - They are writing an end-of-the-semester report.
  - They are beginning preparations for Higher Education Day.
  - They are also working on finalizing plans for the Dreams to Reality mixer with legislators.
- Student Welfare Chairman Holcombe
  - Their committee went through the student feedback they received from their event last week.
  - They are beginning preparations for the spring.

XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- There were no articles of shared governance.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5K
  - They have reviewed graphics and media ideas.
  - Senator Joyner had a brief meeting with Matthew about sponsorships for the 5K.
  - She is currently in progress working on getting the timing figured out, as well as getting in touch with the police department.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to be presented.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 24-20: Funding Friendsgiving
  - Since Pro-Tempore Fitz is not here, Chairwoman Rhoades will be presenting this bill.
  - Chief of Staff Britton believes this bill is a great idea. She thinks that this is a really fun idea, and she encourages the Senate to vote in favor of this bill.
  - President Mardis moves to amend this bill to add that the funding will come from the miscellaneous line in the SGA budget.
  - Chief of Staff Britton moves to pass the bill as amended. Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger seconds.
  - November Newsletter
  - Historian Plunkett is presenting the November newsletter in Senate.
  - Everybody loves it. The Senate thinks it looks great!
- Bill 24-21: Dreams to Reality Hors d'oeuvres Act
  - Senator Vezina is bringing the next bill on the agenda to the Senate floor.
  - Senator Mwaura asks how many people are expected to attend the event.
    1. Senator Vezina believes that all of Senate will be there, 16 legislators, 8 executive council members, Dr. Tammy, Matthew, and President Kitts.
  - Chairman Cantrell asks if the water will come in bottles, or if there will be big jugs of water.
    1. Senator Vezina believes that there will be big jugs of water that will be supplied to everyone.

- Chief of Staff Britton asks if there is money that can be pulled through the Legislative Affairs committee, that can alleviate the amount of money that is being pulled from the miscellaneous line. She asks if there is any other committee that would be able to contribute to the funding of this event.
  1. Treasurer Batchelor would also like to point out that Higher Education Day has not happened yet, which means we do not know how much money we can spend in the Legislative Affairs committee.
- President Mardis urges the Senate to review this bill and see if this is a good use of our miscellaneous fund.
- Senator Mwaura asks if the Legislative Affairs committee is planning more events in the future, and asks if there has been any alternative plans made for food.
  1. Senator Vezina does not think they are planning any other events, other than Higher Education Day and Collegiate Legislature. Senator Vezina does not think there should be any alternative food options.
- Senator Joyner thinks that this is a good use of our money, so long as people are committed to attending this event.
- Chief of Staff Britton asks how many legislators were reached out to.
  1. Senator Vezina says that they have reached out to 16 legislators. She believes that all 16 legislators will be in attendance.
  2. Matthew says that the Higher Education partnership is the program that reaches out to the legislators.
  3. Chief of Staff Britton thinks this event should happen, and should be amazing, but that these legislators are busy and that we should not plan this event in the fall but push it back to the spring.
  4. Matthew says that he has a separate budget he could pull from, but that the event can no longer be pushed back to the spring.
- Senator Mwaura asks what time of day this event will take place.
  1. President Mardis says that this will be taking the place of Senate.
- Senator Mwaura asks if we will be extending invitations to Freshman Forum.
  1. Vice-President McGinnis says that we will try to reach out to legislators and other key city council members first.
- Senator Joyner asks how long this planned mixer was known about.
  1. Vice-President McGinnis says that it was mentioned during the summer. However, this mixer has fallen through in the past, so it was not set in stone that it was being put on.
- Senator Joyner asks why invitations were sent out before the bill was passed. The timeline does not match up.
- Chairman Cantrell makes a motion to go into a vote. The motion is heard and properly seconded.
- There was a unanimous vote to pass the bill as presented.

XV.

#### OPEN DISCUSSION

- West Hawthorne Safety Concerns
  - President Mardis brings up the concerns of a student who believes that West Hawthorne Street is unsafe for driving up and down that hill. This is because there are cars parallel parked on the hill.
  - Senator McDonald thinks it would be a great idea to have more signage on this street.
  - Chairwoman Rhoades also feels that we would receive backlash for taking away more parking.
  - Senator Elijah Winston asks how many parking spots we would lose by painting the curb yellow.
  - Chief of Staff Britton says that the trash truck uses this road, because the Olive dumpster is located on this road.

XVI.

#### ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Paint the Paws was this past weekend!
- We are looking at having a block party with HRL on Covington Street.
- Be safe tonight at Halloween!
- There is a 1Table Event in downtown Florence happening soon.
- The NPHC Step Show is tomorrow!
- Election Day is Tuesday! Get out and vote!

XVII.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11/12 – Nashville Hot (10:30 AM – 2 PM)
- 11/18 – Voodoo Wings Spirit Night (5 – 9 PM)
- 11/21 – Speaker Jim Page (Senate Meeting)

XVIII.

#### SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Our SGA member of the week this week is Senator Gilliland!

XIX.

#### PEP

- Pep to Chairwoman Rhoades!
- Pep to everyone who participated in Paint the Paws!
- Pep to Senator Vezina and the Legislative Affairs committee!
- Pep to Friendsgiving happening soon!
- Pep to President Mardis and Senator Gilliland!
- Pep to Student Forum!
- Pep to Freshman Forum!
- Pep to Historian Plunkett!
- Pep to Matthew!
- Pep to everyone and their costumes!

XX.

#### ADJOURNMENT

