



**SGA Senate**  
**Senate Minutes**  
**16 January 2025**

**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 pass the agenda as amended.
- The motion was heard and seconded.

**VI. PASSING OF MINUTES**

- There was a motion to pass the minutes as presented.

**VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- **Singing Mandy and Mia Happy Birthday**
  - The Senate wished Vice-President McGinnis and Treasurer Batchelor a Happy Birthday and sang for them. Happy birthday to them!
- **Student Retention Council Presentation**
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz is a part of the Student Retention Council on behalf of the University of North Alabama.
  - She explains to the Senate that the Student Retention Council is a group of students from across the state that raises awareness surrounding the opportunities that Alabama provides post-graduation.
  - She then goes on to highlight the quality of life that Alabama offers. Alabama offers numerous outdoor recreation opportunities, hosts numerous heavily anticipated festivals each year, and has a rich history.
  - Alabama ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country in terms of cost of living.
  - She showcases promising career opportunities, such as thriving Alabama industries and notable employers.
  - Innovate Alabama is an organization that is dedicated to supporting growth and development in Alabama through job creation and resource allocation.
  - She lastly highlights the Higher Education Partnership and provides contact information for anyone in the Senate who wants more information and would like to find ways to join.
  - She provides a survey for the Senate to fill out to see the likelihood of students staying in Alabama after graduation.

**VIII. STUDENT FORUM**

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

**IX. OFFICER REPORTS**

- **President Mardis**
  - The executive council went through our Senate goals during their meeting this week and highlighted the key things we would still like to work on, in addition to some new goals that were created.
  - She has been spending a lot of her time getting everything coordinated for CLEG. If you are participating in this, please stay behind after the meeting today.
  - Please tell everyone you know to sign up for the SGA 5K!
  - The City of Florence has decided to paint the curbs beside the road on West Hawthorne Street. This will hopefully minimize the number of accidents that have happened on this street.
  - For all our new senators, she will be providing an orientation link that is required for them to participate in.
- **Vice-President McGinnis**
  - She got the contract in the works for the Senate Retreat at Earle Trent next year.
  - She checked in with the Student Welfare committee, and they will be having more international service events soon.
  - They had their first chairs meeting, and she is excited to see what they will do this semester.
  - Core 4 met during their office hours and went over some of the awards that will be given out to SGA as a part of the University Awards Gala.
  - Throughout the meeting, when people are talking or giving a presentation, please be attentive and respect everyone during this time.
- **Treasurer Batchelor**
  - Update on the fundraiser – we have currently sold 25 items!

- She emailed the UNA Director of Alumni Relations, and he is helping push this fundraiser out to the alumni.
- After a suggestion made by Pro-Tempore Fitz, she will be getting a sample of the tote bag to display in the Student Engagement Center to help promote the fundraiser.
- She did a chairs budget training earlier this week with Chairwoman Winston.
- **Secretary Kusz**
  - For those of you who do not know, our SGA Inauguration ceremony will be on April 23 at 5:00 PM in the GUC Performance Center!
  - The inauguration RSVP is now up on CampusGroups. She needs everyone to fill this out, so please do this as soon as possible.
  - She will be working on coordinating the script and ordering the awards over the next couple of weeks.
- **Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger**
  - Senator Ervin presented the Higher Day Education presentation to Freshman Forum.
  - The Outreach and Philanthropy committee is having a hot chocolate bar.
  - The Service committee is planning a scavenger hunt during Easter, and they would like to collaborate with SGA on this event.
  - The Social committee is planning on having a Valentine's Day event.
- **Pro-Tempore Fitz**
  - On February 13, after our meeting, we will be having a rager with Freshman Forum!
  - The chambers have been reserved for January 24 for an SGA retreat. It will be from 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM.
- **Chief of Staff Britton**
  - She will be doing a deep dive over the next week to learn more about the student activity fee, and see what percentages may need to be changed or adjusted.
- **Historian Plunkett**
  - She has been working on sponsorships for the SGA 5K.
- **DIA Saunders**
  - He had his one-on-one with President Mardis, and it went well.
  - He is going to find out how SGA can be of better use to our student groups on campus through the RSO Outreach Initiative.
- **Communications Director Sommer**
  - This week, she has been working on graphics for the SGA 5K.
  - She has also been working on social media marketing for elections coming up.
  - She has been working on some other ideas that will be discussed in open discussion.

X. **CHAIR REPORTS**

- **Academic Affairs Chairwoman Winston**
  - Their committee talked about restructuring Pride Points to make them clearer and more concise.
  - They are making sure that all their files are organized within Teams.
  - They are brainstorming some ideas for midterms and finals coming up in a few months.
- **Budget Oversight Chairman Cantrell**
  - They had their first committee meeting on Tuesday.
  - They did not have any denials for allocations at this meeting!
- **Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades**
  - The Declaration of Candidacy is now open, so if you plan on running, do not forget to fill this out.
  - After their first brief meeting last week, their committee has decided to continue meeting after Senate.
- **Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton**
  - Senator Ervin presented the Higher Education Presentation to Freshman Forum. They have had 11 delegates sign up so far.
  - She submitted a purchase request for everyone to eat breakfast on the day of the event to Treasurer Batchelor.
- **Student Welfare Chairwoman Thomas**
  - They had their first meeting on Tuesday.
  - They discussed their International Outreach initiatives.
  - The first event that they will be hosting is a bowling event at Lauderdale Lanes on January 31.
  - They briefly discussed doing more tables to get their committee more visible to students this semester.

XI. **SHARED GOVERNANCE**

- The Multi-Cultural Advisory committee will be having their first meeting next week.
- The Parking committee is having a meeting on January 21.
- The Safety and Emergency Preparedness committee met yesterday. They talked about the preparations made for the snow day, as well as the fire that took place in Rivers Hall.
- The Food Service committee will be meeting tomorrow.
- The International Programs committee will be meeting tomorrow and will be reviewing the applications for everyone that is applying for study abroad program.
- The Live Lions committee will be meeting next week.

XII. **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

- **SGA 5k**
  - Senator Hanback would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the process of helping with the SGA 5K.
  - They have laid the groundwork for this, and now they are preparing to begin the marketing for this event.

- Their two main objectives now are to find runners and find sponsorships for this event.
- Historian Plunkett is presenting what the sponsorship packet will look like to any business who would like to participate, as well as businesses she believes would be good places to contact.
- She has prepared a script for anyone who is going around to businesses asking for their participation in this event.
- Senator Gilliland asks if sponsors must be from the Florence area. Senator Joyner says that these sponsors can come from anywhere.
- President Mardis encourages everyone to go out next Saturday and ask businesses to sponsor the 5K!
- Senator Hardin asks if there is a specific timeline for that Saturday. Senator Joyner replies that they will be willing to work on the flexibility of timing so long as they can get participation in going around to businesses.
- Treasurer Batchelor has a few updates. Smile Bev. Co. declined to participate, but she is coordinating with Cheese and Chicks, as well as other sponsors. She is also coordinating with the Freshman Forum Outreach and Philanthropy committee.
- Senator Gilliland asks if there is a plan in place if the SGA 5K is rained out on the actual race day.
  - It has not been discussed yet, as of right now.
- Matthew says that the SGA 5K website is now up, and sponsors can be referred to the website to make their payments online.
- Chief of Staff Britton asks if churches can provide sponsorships, or if sponsorships are only just geared towards businesses. Sponsorships are open to everyone.
- **Parking**
  - President Kitts responded to the memorandum that was sent to him. Core 4, Dr. White, and other important administration will be meeting with him to go over this.
- **Constitutional Compliance**
  - There have been some ideas floating around surrounding some constitution changes that need to be made before elections begin.
  - There are some changes being proposed to the structure surrounding positions such as historian and DIA.
  - If you are a senator, and you want to gain writing experience, President Mardis highly encourages you to join this committee.

XIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- There was no old business to be presented.

XIV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- There was no new business to be presented.

XV. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- **"Did You Know?" Presentations**
  - Chief of Staff Britton says that this is one of the ideas brought up during the executive council meeting earlier this week.
  - The idea behind these presentations is to inform the student body of facts about campus, scholarships, and other resources that they may not have already been aware of.
  - This is simple, engages our social media, and informs students about the opportunities available for them.
  - She proposes this idea to the Senate and asks for suggestions on this idea.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz thinks this idea is fire.
  - Chairwoman Hamilton asks if all five committees would present a fact every week. Chief of Staff Britton replies that every committee would post a fact each week.
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony tells the Senate that there are fourteen weeks left of school.
  - Senator Strait feels that doing all the facts in one Instagram post would be an information overload to students. She thinks they should be more spread out.
  - President Mardis encourages everyone to use facts that help students and cannot be found anywhere else (ex. the UNA website).
  - Senator Gilliland suggests posting one fact every day. Chief of Staff Britton replies that the Instagram algorithm does not particularly favor that format for marketing promotion.
  - Senator Vincent likes the idea of having each committee post each week.
  - The student forum offers their opinions on this idea.
    - One student says that she would not swipe through all the slides in one post.
    - Another student says that constantly posting facts every week may potentially crowd the Instagram feed.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz says that if we choose to post stories instead of actual posts, we do not need to do a bunch of facts all at once.
  - There is a motion to go into a vote. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
  - We will be posting these facts once a week using Instagram stories.
- **Campus Wide Clean-Up**
  - A campus wide clean-up is another goal that we had created in the beginning of the year.
  - The executive council decided that they would like to promote the FSL Campus Clean-Up on February 15.
  - Senator McDonald thinks that this would put less stress on SGA to put on this event ourselves.
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony asks if Freshman Forum can participate. Vice-President McGinnis thinks this would be a great idea.
- **FDOC Event Discussion**
  - The executive council talked about how the FDOC Event went last week.

- We need feedback regarding this event and were thinking about potentially making this event bigger.
- Senator Joyner would like this event to be bigger! This would push the Senate to make this a mandatory event. Her only concern is senators forgetting to work their tables with it being the first event back on campus.
- Senator Hanback believes that making this event bigger could help with student engagement.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz proposes that we do a bigger event in the GUC, instead of the Lucky Dip. This is something that we could potentially think about.
- Senator Mwaura believes that we should do tables that are not in the academic buildings.
- Senator Gilliland believes that we could call the event The Lucky Sip (props to Matthew)!
- President Mardis reminds the Senate that the Lucky Dip takes a lot of planning. She wants everyone to keep in mind that we would need to have someone in charge of it, and they may not want to necessarily help plan it over winter break.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz says that we can involve other organizations and complete the planning before the university closes for break.
- President Mardis and Senator Mwaura believes that this could be the responsibilities of potentially the Student Welfare committee, historian, or DIA.

XVI. **ADVISOR'S REPORT**

- Congratulations to our new chairs and new senators!
- We have MLK Day on Monday, so we will not be having classes!
- Across all 82 students in SGA, the average overall GPA is a 3.6! Congratulations!
- If you are involved in an RSO, your RSO can win the Lions Cup at the University Awards Gala.
- You also can nominate faculty and staff for an award!
  - All the award deadlines are due on February 25.
- Endowed scholarship applications will be due in March.

XVII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Miss UNA – January 25
- Speaker Jim Page at Senate – January 30
- Tee & Tote Fundraiser Preorders – January 31
- Declaration of Candidacy Deadline – February 3
- Higher Education Day – February 20

XVIII. **SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK**

- Our SGA member of the week is President Mardis!

XIX. **PEP**

- Pep to everyone planning Higher Education Day!
- Pep to the birthday girls!
- Pep to Communications Director Sommer!
- Pep to Historian Plunkett!
- Pep to Chief of Staff Britton!
- Pep to Pro-Tempore Fitz!
- Pep to the Student Retention Council Presentation!
- Pep to everyone who provided their input in open discussion!
- Pep to everyone who volunteered for Founder's Day!
- Pep to our student forum!
- Pep to our new senators!
- Pep to Chairwoman Thomas!
- Pep to everyone and their good grades last semester!
- Pep to our advisors!

XX. **ADJOURNMENT**