



SGA Senate  
Senate Minutes  
23 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 amend the agenda.
  - The motion was heard and properly seconded.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
  - There was a motion to pass the minutes as presented.
  - The motion was heard and properly seconded.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
  - Voting In of a New Chair
    - Our former Budget Oversight chairman has decided to step down for the remainder of this semester. This means that we need to fill this position with a senator from this committee.
    - Multiple people working with this committee have recommended Senator McCuiston to step up and fill this role.
    - The Senate unanimously approved Senator McCuiston to this position. Congratulations!
  - Bicentennial Planning Committee Proposal
    - If there is anyone who is not graduating within the next two years and is interested in serving on this committee, please reach out to President Mardis. She will be appointing two students to serve a two-year term on this committee.
- VIII. STUDENT FORUM
  - Our student forum did not have anything they would like to say.
- IX. OFFICER REPORTS
  - President Mardis
    - She, alongside with the rest of Core 4 and Chairwoman Rhoades, have been conducting interviews to fill three general Senate seats that have opened up this semester.
    - We will be voting on three new appointments at our Senate meeting next week.
    - The Flor-Ala came to our meeting last week, and they are writing articles on some of the projects SGA has been working on.
    - She is proud of all the Ad Hoc committees and all the hard work they have been putting in.
    - If you have any questions about running for any positions in the upcoming SGA elections, please let her know!
  - Vice-President McGinnis
    - We will be ordering everything for the new senators as soon as possible.
    - We are going to be meeting with SCS to discuss a potential partnership sometime next week.
    - The Budget Oversight committee had 3 modifications for allocation requests, and only 1 denial.
    - She met with Chairman McCuiston to train him for his potential role of Budget Oversight chairman.
    - She met with Chairwoman Thomas and Chairwoman Winston for their one-on-one meetings today.
    - Please push out the International Outreach initiatives to everyone you can! We want high participation for these events.
  - Treasurer Batchelor
    - She has been working with various committees to help them purchase items for some upcoming events.
    - She attended a presentation for a potential food catering option on campus today.
    - She is coordinating potential dates with the Cheese and Chicks food truck.
    - We are currently at 37 items ordered for the Tee & Tote fundraiser! Please push this out as much as you can.
    - The preorders for the Tee & Tote fundraiser end next Friday. She has been working on potential initiatives in order to engage Senate in selling items for the fundraiser!
  - Secretary Kusz
    - If you have not already, please fill out the SGA Inauguration RSVP. She needs everyone to fill this out ASAP!
    - She is finalizing the script for inauguration.

- She has been working on putting together an order for nametags for our new senators. She hopes that they will be here by next week's meeting.
- Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
  - They are working on an internal event for Freshman Forum.
  - The Outreach and Philanthropy committee would like to have a hot chocolate event in the GUC.
  - The Service committee would like to have a scavenger hunt hosted for the freshman class.
  - The previous Student Welfare committee chairwoman spoke to the current Student Welfare committee about how to push out a survey to students on campus.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
  - She reached out to the presidents of various organizations to partner with them on events this semester.
  - She has two bills that she will be presenting in new business. One of them will fund our Valentine's Day party, and one will be funding the winter retreat that will be happening tomorrow.
- Chief of Staff Britton
  - No report.
- Historian Plunkett
  - Next week, she will be presenting the February newsletter.
  - She has been working on sponsorships for the Lucky Lion 5k.
- DIA Saunders
  - He is still actively looking for senators to partner with him to write legislation for his position.
  - He partnered with Pro-Tempore Fitz to seek out organizations that we can collaborate with this semester.
- Communications Director Sommer
  - The 5k flyers have been finished and ordered!
  - We did our first "Did You Know?" story on Instagram today!
  - She has been working on some things for the SWAG Wagon.
  - She is currently trying to fix the Instagram layout, since the new update has changed the format.

#### X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Winston
  - These past two weeks, they have been continuing to restructure Pride Points.
  - They have been brainstorming events for midterms coming up soon.
  - They have been talking about pushing out a student survey related to academics.
  - She had her one-on-one meeting with Vice-President McGinnis today.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
  - She talked to Chairwoman Winston about Pride Points, since she chaired the Academic Affairs committee last year.
  - She has been submitting graphic requests to Communications Director Sommer. Please push out these graphics!
  - Please speak to all your classes about SGA elections and remind everyone that the Declaration of Candidacy is now open!
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
  - Their committee has submitted purchase orders for the food they will be getting for Higher Education Day.
  - The Higher Education Partnership has requested that someone wave the Higher Education Day flag when we go!
  - We are going to have lunch with key legislators at this event, which is very important!
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Thomas
  - They have been nailing things down for their event that is next Friday. Please share this event to your stories and social media so that more people hear about this event!
  - They have been talking about future events and how they can move forward this semester.
  - She had her one-on-one meeting with Vice-President McGinnis today.

#### XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- The Multi-Cultural Advisory committee is going over different terms associated with DEI.
- The AI Task-Force committee has been working on a proposal for the past year, and the proposal has now been approved!

#### XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5k
  - Senator Hanback has been reaching out to various organizations to find more runners to participate in this event.
  - Please remember that in addition to sponsorships, we also need runners!
  - The committee has been working on finding some colored power for the event.
  - Senator Joyner is working on drafting an email to various outreach organizations.
  - If you have a business you would like to visit to inquire about a sponsorship, you need to bring them an informational sponsorship packet.
  - All the information about sponsorships and registration is now up on the UNA SGA website!
  - Be in the GUC parking lot this Saturday at 10 AM if you would like to group up with everyone before we begin visiting potential sponsors.
- Parking

- There was an official statement posted on the SGA Instagram today regarding parking. President Mardis thanks this committee for all the hard work they have been putting in.
- Constitutional Compliance
  - Senator McDonald will be heading this committee.
  - If you are on this committee, be prepared to write legislation! If you do not know how to write legislation, joining this committee would be a great place to start.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to be presented.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Funding Winter Retreat/Lock-In Bill
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz is presenting this bill to the Senate to request funding for the SGA Winter Retreat happening tomorrow!
  - President Mardis thinks this bill is a great idea, and she believes it will help make this retreat so much fun!
  - Chairwoman Hamilton moves to go into a vote. Senator Joyner seconds this motion.
  - The bill was unanimously passed by the Senate. Congratulations!
- SGA x Freshman Forum Valentine's Day Party
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz would like to rent out Trowbridge's for two hours for our Valentine's Day party this year. We would be there for two hours, and everyone would get an ice cream cone!
  - She thinks this would be a great way to change up the scenery, and for everyone to have a good time.
  - Chairwoman Hamilton thinks this would be a great idea, and she fully supports it.
  - Senator Gilliland asks why we do not have an exact price for this event. Pro-Tempore Fitz explains that the price will depend on the amount of people who decide to attend.
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony says that Freshman Forum is really excited for this event. Please pass this bill!
  - Chairwoman Hamilton moves to go into a vote on this bill. Senator Hanback seconds this motion.
  - The bill was unanimously passed by the Senate. Congratulations!

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- SGA 5k
  - Senator Joyner is asking for support in the form of mandatory participation at the SGA 5k, happening March 15.
  - There are a lot of aspects of this race that needs to be considered. She moves to go into a vote to make participation for the 5k mandatory. Senator Hanback seconds this motion.
  - President Mardis says that this would mean that attendance is required in any capacity, even if you decide to run the race. If you are not there, it will now count as a mandatory absence.
  - The motion was passed by the Senate. This will now be a mandatory event for the Senate.
- SWAG Wagon
  - The SWAG Wagon will no longer be done by individual committees anymore. We will now just be taking sign-ups for everyone to participate!
  - The sign-ups are currently being held for February 4, March 4, and April 1. If anyone is available during these times, please volunteer to participate.
  - Communications Director Sommer will be sending out a checklist for anyone who participates.
- Justices Discussion
  - Every year, new justices are appointed to the judicial branch of SGA. These are seasoned members of SGA who understand the documentation process and governing documents of SGA.
  - If this is something you feel that you would be interested in, please reach out to everyone in Core 4. We will be appointing these justices the week before Higher Education Day, on February 13.
  - You need to be impartial and unbiased in this role.
  - If you are the Chief Justice of the judicial branch, you will have important duties such as sending appeals and swearing in new senators. As chief justice, you administer the rules test to all senators in the fall semester, and new senators coming in during the spring semester. You also may be required to attend the Senate retreat in the fall.
  - The judicial branch meets once a month and is usually ran on a case-by-case basis.
  - The judicial branch also has their own advisor separate from the SGA advisors that advise Senate.
- Philanthropy Committee
  - We currently have five standing committees in Senate. Treasurer Batchelor does a lot of work with the endowed scholarships and food truck initiatives. Senator Joyner and Senator Hanback have been doing an amazing job heading the SGA 5k. President Mardis proposes that SGA adds a sixth committee, the Philanthropy committee, to combine these efforts into a joint force.
  - There needs to be a lot of legislation written for this committee, and she believes this is something that our current Senate should seriously consider.
  - Senator Hanback offers some statistics about committees that he has compiled through reading the Constitution and the Code of Laws.
  - Senator Gilliland thinks it would be a great idea to have a philanthropy committee. His only question is where we would find the money to pay the new chairperson of that committee. Treasurer Batchelor provides insight into the SGA budget and believes that it would be possible to pay an additional chair.

- Pro-Tempore Fitz thinks this is a good idea because this would shrink the size of committees and allow the senators serving on these committees to be more engaged in their work.
- Senator McDonald thinks that having a philanthropy committee would channel different creative outlets and allow senators to get more work done.
- President Mardis explains that the endowed scholarship is our main philanthropy initiative every year, and the current administration has chosen Student Counseling Services for our other philanthropic efforts.
- Treasurer Batchelor thinks that it is crucial for this committee to exist so that the philanthropic efforts we have made this year are able to be carried over into the future.
- President Mardis believes that the 5k is another big event like the Lucky Dip that the Senate would be able to provide for students at UNA.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz thinks we should keep the legislation surrounding their duties flexible, so that it does not necessarily have to be a 5k every year. However, the Philanthropy committee would still host a huge event for the students. Chairwoman Hamilton echoes this sentiment.
- Treasurer Batchelor clarifies the issues surrounding the budget and how the budget would be distributed for this committee.
- Chairwoman Hamilton moves to go into an informal vote.
- The Senate moves to begin writing legislation to add a potential philanthropy committee starting next year.

XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Make sure you are advertising the SGA Tee & Tote fundraiser, as well as the SGA 5k!
- The SGA Declaration of Candidacy is now open! Make sure you are participating and filling out this candidacy form before the deadline closes on February 3.
- Make sure you are nominating faculty, staff, and fellow students for awards at the University Awards Gala. This deadline closes on February 24.
- If you are a new senator, please send Matthew your headshot so that he can update the SGA website.
- Miss UNA is this weekend! Please come out and support everyone, including Chairwoman Rhoades, who is participating!
- Dr. Tammy says that we will be putting together a committee to select the recipient of the R. L. Potts award. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let her know!

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SGA Winter Retreat – January 24
- Miss UNA – January 25
- Tee & Tote Fundraiser Preorders – January 31
- Declaration of Candidacy Deadline – February 3
- Valentine's Day Party – February 13
- Boona's Food Truck – February 18

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Our SGA member of the week is Communications Director Sommer!

XIX. PEP

- Pep to Chairwoman Rhoades!
- Pep to the Lucky Lion Race!
- Pep to Historian Plunkett!
- Pep to Vice-President McGinnis!
- Pep to Communications Director Sommer!
- Pep to Chairman McCuiston and Senator McDonald!
- Pep to Mallory!
- Pep to Pro-Tempore Fitz!
- Pep to the winter retreat happening tomorrow!
- Pep to Matthew!
- Pep to exec!
- Pep to our comms student!
- Pep to the Valentine's Day party!
- Pep to Chairwoman Thomas!
- Pep to Dr. Tammy!
- Pep to Senator Hanback!

XX. ADJOURNMENT