



SGA Senate  
Senate Minutes  
6 February 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- 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
  - There was a motion to pass the minutes are presented.
  - The minutes passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
  - Swearing In of New Senators
    - Ryan Huffman and Mallory Ebert were sworn in by Chief Justice Callahan, and are now official senators. Congratulations!
- VIII. STUDENT FORUM
  - The students did not have anything they would like to say.
- IX. OFFICER REPORTS
  - President Mardis
    - She would like to remind everyone to be respectful throughout our meetings and pay attention to everyone who is speaking. She reiterates that everyone should be respectful of one another.
    - Core 4 met with President Kits and administration last Friday. The meeting went well! She would like to commend the rest of Core 4 for doing a great job in the meeting. She will talk more about how the parking discussion went during open discussion.
    - She has been having her one-on-one meetings with the executive council and new senators.
    - She reminded everyone about the dates for CLEG.
      - On February 17, those who are attending will be having a CLEG bill presentation practice.
  - Vice-President McGinnis
    - Core 4 had a meeting with Student Counseling Services about a potential event partnership this semester. They will be bringing "Bring Silence Packing" to our university. The \$2500 we set aside for them from the student activity fee rollover fund will help to support this event. We also talked about the Paint and Process event coming up soon.
    - She has registered everyone for the campus cleanup event with FSL.
    - The Honors College reached out to see if we would like to collaborate on an event with our elections candidates.
    - She, along with the rest of Core 4, met with President Kits last Friday and it went great! She would like to brag on our Senate for the work that has been accomplished and what continues to be accomplished.
    - She reminded the Senate that we only have 9 meetings left! She encourages everyone to finish strong.
    - She also reminded the Senate not to be on their phones or devices during the meeting so that they are attentive and respectful.
    - President Mardis and Vice-President McGinnis met with SAAC president Beth Ann Tucker about collaborating on the SGA Lucky Lion Race.
  - Treasurer Batchelor
    - Preorders ended Friday for the Tee & Tote fundraiser. We sold 97 items and raised approximately \$1580 for the Endowed Scholarship! We sold 42 crew necks, 20 T-shirts, and 35 tote bags!
    - The tote bag sample came in if anyone would like to look at it after Senate. She changed the fonts on a few of the words where the lines got too thin. She placed the order, and the items should be ready by around February 21. The shirts that we ordered for our new senators
    - She confirmed a set time for 11AM to 2 PM with Boona's for their visit to campus on February 18. She reserved the parking spots and a-frames, and she is going to continue with advertising next week.
    - Lastly, she would like to remind everyone that Secretary Kusz sent out the January expense report with the minutes/agenda this week.
  - Secretary Kusz
    - She has no report as she is not here, but President Mardis reminded everyone to please RSVP for inauguration!

- Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger had her one-on-one with President Mardis.
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony has been having one-on-ones with the committee chairs.
  - The Pause for Paws event will be making a comeback this semester!
  - The Social committee is joining efforts to create a large event for the freshman class in April.
  - The Outreach and Philanthropy hot cocoa event will be taking place next week!
  - The Service committee is hosting a service relay that will be happening soon!
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger is making sure all members will attend the mixer next week.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
  - Our event at Trowbridge's is next week. She is paying the deposit this Friday to secure our spot.
  - She has been working with Chairwoman Rhoades on an outreach event to push SGA elections and the Lucky Lion Race. On February 13, SGA will be giving out valentines with treats and information on it.
- Chief of Staff Britton
  - She has been working on gathering information regarding the student activity fee. The deadline to hear from all budgets is next Thursday to allow for time to gather more information. So far, she has heard back from SOTA, the Food Pantry, and the school of the arts.
  - FSL director Anna Leigh Rossi is coming to our executive council meeting next week to present how FSL can be incorporated into the student activity fee.
- Historian Plunkett
  - The February Newsletter has been posted everywhere!
  - She has mainly been working on the Lucky Lion Race.
  - We received another sponsorship today.
- DIA Saunders
  - No report.
- Communications Director Sommer
  - She thanked everyone who helped with the Swag Wagon on Tuesday and asked for feedback.
  - She welcomed all of our new senators and let them know that she will send them an information survey.
  - She encouraged everyone to repost whatever we post to push our events.

X.

#### CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Winston
  - Their committee met on Tuesday and talked about Pride Points. They will be meeting with the other group who made apps for the university. They talked more about the upcoming student survey.
  - They will be having an event March 5 from 2 PM to 4 PM at the Ampitheater. It will be a tie-dye event. They are working on sourcing what's needed for that. They have filled out the graphic request form.
- Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston
  - He did not have anything to report, but Vice-President McGinnis said they had a good meeting based off his chair report.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
  - The Declaration of Candidacy has been extended until this Sunday at 11:55 pm.
  - Some changes may need to be made to the timeline due to the change.
  - Their committee also worked on the debate script in their meeting. Once declaration is closed, they will work to edit whatever is needed.
  - Senator Joyner is working to see if someone from the communications department can livestream the debate.
  - Senator Strait made the sign-in sheet for the mandatory meeting.
  - Chairwoman Rhoades also made the presentation for the mandatory meeting.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
  - Their committee is still working on Higher Education Day.
  - We are not reaching out to legislators to sit with us for lunch this time.
  - They are going to send out thank you letters after.
  - The sweatshirts for the day of are in Vice-President McGinnis's office. The custom signs are in.
  - The day before the event, they will be purchasing the items and presenting them to Freshman Forum
  - She went over the Higher Education Day schedule with everyone.
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Thomas
  - The Strike Out with Student Welfare event went well.
  - Their committee has reserved the vans for their next international event.
  - They plan to take 28 students to that event and take them grocery shopping.
  - She reached out to the Alabama Space and Rocket Center to ask about a group tour. She thanked everyone on her committee for being so diligent and flexible.

XI.

#### SHARED GOVERNANCE

- The Student and Academic Affairs committee met last week over zoom to see if their committees chair will be changed and if they have any ideas for the future.

XII.

#### AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5k

- Senator Hanback met with Sg. Kirby from UNA PD about submitting an event form for the 5K, and he suggested reserving the UNA PD instead to save a lot of money. He also talked about how and where to reserve parking spots.
- He also mentioned the flash sale, 35 to 30 dollars, happening right now to encourage runners to sign up. Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger is reaching out to FSL to encourage participation. As of today, we have 13 runners.
- President Mardis talked about a potential 5K partnership with SAAC: they agreed to handle the water stations (set up, provide water, etc.). They will get volunteer hours for that. She is also going to reach out to UNA Athletics and tell them they can get points for the Lion Cup if they run.
- She also reached out to ambulance services, which will estimate \$105 per hour. However, paramedics are closer to \$50 an hour.
- Senator Joyner submitted a script for advertising the Lucky Lion Race in Step Sing.
- SAAC provided Historian Plunket with their logo. She has been working on getting everything into Teams. Senator Luna went to Alabama Outdoors today.
- The Senate talked about encouraging athletic trainers to be there.
- We still need to determine if we will have a rainout day. There are not many date options available.
- Parking
  - They will be having their next meeting on Monday, February 10 at 5 PM. She encouraged people to join their committee.
- Constitutional Compliance
  - They had their first meeting last week!
  - 5 assignments are out, including position clarifications (Communications Director, DIA, Historian), and the committee is looking into adding a philanthropy committee and striking the interpresidents council.

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

- Parking Data Presentation
  - President Mardis begins this presentation by summarizing the parking memorandum that was sent to administrators.
  - Chairwoman Thomas, Senator Vezina, and the rest of the committee worked very diligently on this.
  - President Mardis also highlighted a concern that a student presented in student forum in this memorandum.
  - Most of what was discussed was the data from the office of institutional research which shows how many spots we have on campus for commuter students. President Mardis proposed the solution of a parking deck in lot O. When formulating this solution, she made sure to factor in financial considerations.
  - After summarizing the parking memorandum, President Mardis then presented PowerPoint from the OIR.
  - She thanked the OIR for the time they spent on this big project.
  - President Mardis then walked the Senate through the addendums.
  - After she went over the addendums, President Mardis then proceeded to discuss the meeting that the SGA officers had with President Kitts, Mr. Evan Thornton, and Ms. Cindy Conlon.
  - In this meeting, the administration detailed how they have been trying to improve walkability and create smaller gravel lots when available.
  - They are looking to further connect the west campus to the main campus, so it's not so disconnected. They even talked about adding some dining options over there! They are making efforts in the right direction.
  - They also talked about how they would NOT impose a charge for students on parking, unless it comes from the students first. The students will have to push that issue if that is what is wanted. We don't have the money to buy the capacity at large.
  - Mr. Thornton mentioned adding two two-floor decks instead of one three- or four-floor deck. He also talked about a grant for a new engineering building, and they are looking to add some parking beneath it.
  - Moving forward, Mr. Thornton is willing to work with us on a survey to push out during the referendum vote to see students' thoughts on parking, and if they would be willing to financially contribute. We have the data to support us, so we can now start outwardly advocating for this.
  - Vice-President McGinnis added that we will push for parking through an official resolution, even if the student feedback is not willing to pay.
  - Senator Gilliland asks if they are planning to do anything to compensate for the new stadium infrastructure.
  - President Mardis comments that the parking on the street will be better than at Braly. She says that the administration is aware it's an issue. Vice-President McGinnis mentioned more about using the parking deck downtown in Florence for game days.
  - Chief of Staff Britton asks how far down they plan to go on the new tailgate spot if they are blocking off Pine Street, which means a lot of the street parking may be impacted. She also spoke about access to the third floor of the parking deck. She said their goal is to try and not have to get students to move their cars. She also asked if ticketing may start happening on game days.
- Valentine's Day Sign-Up
  - On February 13, we will have a table set up by the Ampitheater to pass out valentines and information about elections and the SGA 5K. This will be from 10 AM to 12 PM. The location is booked, and we have volunteers who have signed up.
- Chairwoman Winston asked if the Senate needs a cheer list for Higher Education Day.

- Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger asked the Senate if anyone can fill in for the IPO meeting on February 10 from 2 PM to 3 PM. Treasurer Batchelor volunteered to proxy for her.

XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- He talked about bringing back the Paint the Paws committee and asked if people would like to volunteer.
- Nominations for the awards gala close on February 24. He is hoping to receive more nominations and will be reaching out to people to serve on the committee.
- He asks the Senate to consider their involvement in Light the Fountain this year! He asks the Senate if SGA would like to do a table or activity where students can meet their new representatives on SGA. He encourages the Senate to talk about this in open discussion next week.
- He reminds the Senate leave SGA better than it was found, as we are almost done with this Senate.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Step Sing – 2/6 – 2/8
- Valentine's Day Party at Trowbridge's – 2/13 @ 6:30 PM
- Senate Pictures – 2/13
  - Dress Code: Business Professional
- Boona's SGA Food Truck – 2/18 @ 11 AM – 2 PM
- Robert Aderholt's congressional internship applications are now open!
- Repost elections and make sure to keep spreading the word! Make sure you are also continuing to push the 5K!

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Gracyn Thomas won Senator of the Week.

XIX. PEP

- Pep to Treasurer Batchelor and the Tee & Tote fundraiser!
- Pep to the Parking ad hoc committee!
- Pep to the Lucky Lion Race!
- Pep to the Academic Affairs committee!
- Pep to everyone who filled in for Secretary Kusz today!
- Pep to Senator Ervin!
- Pep to Pro-Tempore Fitz!
- Pep to everyone participating in Step Sing!
- Pep to Core 4!
- Pep to our two new senators!
- Pep to Matthew for surviving the flu!
- Pep to Vice-President McGinnis!
- Pep to President Mardis for her presentation!

XX. ADJOURNMENT