



SGA Senate
Senate Minutes
13 February 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 agenda was passed as amended.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
 - The minutes were passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
 - Lagrange Announcement
 - Chief of Staff Britton would like to speak to the Senate about Lagrange Society applications.
 - She informs the Senate about the opportunities they can be a part of as a member of the Lagrange Society.
 - Senator Gilliland asks how the Lagrange Society differs from various ambassador groups at the university.
 - Senator Hardin asks if you can pick when your specific on-call hours are.
 - Vice-President McGinnis asks what the application process looks like.
 - Chairwoman Rhoades asks when applications close. Matthew informs the Senate that it closes midway through March.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz asks if you can lose points. Chief of Staff Britton informs here that you cannot lose points.
 - Senator Kalambo asks how the Lagrange Society impacts students directly. Chief of Staff Britton replies that the Lagrange Society is all about recruitment and showing future students how great our university is.
 - Justice Ivie Scott informs the Senate about other various opportunities that are available to Lagrange Society members.
 - Chief of Staff Britton says there are about 30 to 40 members on the Lagrange Society every year. She also informs the Senate that returning members are not guaranteed a spot every year.
 - She thanks the Senate for allowing her to come speak to everyone and said that if anyone has any more questions for her, to please reach out to her!
 - Senate Pictures
 - The Senate will be taking updated pictures with our new spring semester senators!
 - The Senate took updated group photos, executive council photos, committee photos, and new headshot photos.
 - Special shoutout to Senator Mwaura for taking these pictures for us!
 - Voting In of 2025-2026 Student Court
 - Vice-President McGinnis explained how the judicial appointment process works to the Senate.
 - She explains the duties and responsibilities of the judicial branch.
 - President Mardis has nominated Secretary Kusz for the Chief Justice position.
 - Vice-President McGinnis has nominated Pro-Tempore Fitz for a justice position.
 - Vice-President McGinnis has also nominated Senator Estrada for a justice position.
 - Treasurer Batchelor has nominated Senator Gilliland for a justice position.
 - Secretary Kusz has nominated current Justice Ivie Scott for a justice position.
 - All of the justice appointments were voted in by the Senate. Congratulations!
- VIII. STUDENT FORUM
 - Our students did not have anything they would like to say.
- IX. OFFICER REPORTS
 - President Mardis
 - She encourages the Senate to come out to the Valentine's Day party after our meeting.
 - She congratulates the new justice appointments.
 - She released the parking statement to our social media to maintain transparency with students on campus in coordination with the Flor-Ala.
 - Some students have brought up concerns with the SNAP program we currently have on campus in relation to parking. She is actively working on brainstorming improvements to this issue.
 - She has been helping out with putting together the Lucky Lion Race.

- Vice-President McGinnis
 - She congratulates the new judicial branch.
 - She thanks the Senate for cooperating with her to make sure our new pictures got done, and thanks Senator Mwaura for taking the pictures!
 - She encourages the Senate to support Student Counseling Services and come out to their event on March 5!
 - She has been working on coordinating supplies for the event as well.
 - The Student Welfare committee has graciously offered to help finance this event.
 - The Honors College reached out to her to create a collaborative event with Senate to push SGA elections. We will also be pushing the Lucky Lion Race at this event!
 - She has reached out to Dr. Bryd in the college of business to present to the Senate sometime in the near future.
 - The FSL Campus Clean-Up has been postponed due to the weather. Please stay safe in the inclement weather! As soon as she knows when the event will be rescheduled, she will let everyone know.
 - She met with Chairwoman Thomas and Chairwoman Winston for their one-on-one meetings.
- Treasurer Batchelor
 - She has confirmed the parking spots for the Boona's Food Truck happening next week.
 - She also proxied for Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger for the IOP committee.
 - She will be putting together the Endowed Scholarship selection committee very soon.
 - She has been working with Chairwoman Winston on getting
- Secretary Kusz
 - She has been continuing to work on her inauguration preparations.
 - She has been working on creating a running slideshow and programs for the ceremony.
 - She completed the food order for the event with the help of Dr. Tammy.
 - She is looking at a potential seating arrangement that would have tables set up for the event.
 - She encourages everyone who has not filled out the RSVP for inauguration to do that as soon as possible!
- Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
 - Freshman Forum was invited to participate in the Paint the Paws event taking place soon.
 - The Social committee is planning a Cookout with Freshman Forum event in April.
 - The Outreach and Philanthropy hot chocolate event was today, and it went great!
 - The Student Welfare committee will be bringing back the Pause for Paws event this semester, and they are working on their freshman student survey.
 - The Service committee will be having a service relay event coming soon!
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
 - She would like to thank everyone who volunteered at the Valentine's Day table!
 - She expects everyone to be at Trowbridge's event taking place tonight!
- Chief of Staff Britton
 - She is presenting a rough draft of the Student Activity Fee to the Senate.
 - She is going to bring up some questions during open discussion about the student activity fee.
 - She hopes to have a finalized version of the Student Activity Fee by our next meeting taking place in two weeks.
 - She is going to be having multiple meetings over the next couple of days to finalize these budget changes to the Student Activity fee.
 - Senator Gilliland asks if the \$9 increase would take place all at once, or if it would gradually go up over the course of multiple semesters. Chief of Staff Britton answers that the \$9 increase will take place all at once.
- Historian Plunkett
 - She has been mostly working on various projects for the Lucky Lion Race.
 - They have been receiving a lot of sponsorships so far!
- DIA Saunders
 - The executive council will be having Dr. Pat Sanders give a presentation at their meeting next week.
- Communications Director Sommer
 - This week she has been working on creating graphics and posting them to social media.
 - She asks the new senators to fill out the form she sent out in GroupMe so she can post everyone on Instagram.

X.

CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Winston
 - She congratulates all our newly appointed justices!
 - She has been meeting with various professors to gain more insight on the future of our Pride Points initiative.
 - Their committee meeting this week went well, and their committee is looking forward to their Tie-Dye event happening soon. She also met with Treasurer Batchelor to order the shirts for this event!
- Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston
 - Their committee had two applications to go over this week – 1 was approved, and 1 was denied.
 - Their committee will be beginning to go over potential changes to the handbook.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
 - Congratulations to all our new justices that have been appointed!
 - She has been meeting with the candidates who had to miss the mandatory candidate meeting.
 - She sent out a big email with a PhotoCircle link to all our candidates so that the students can see who they will be voting for in this upcoming elections cycle.

- She has been working with Vice-President McGinnis on putting together the Honors Student Breakfast.
- She thanked everyone who volunteered to work the Valentine's Day table.
- Today, in their committee meeting, their committee will be going over the elections manual.
- Their committee's "Did You Know?" was submitted to Communications Director Sommer.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
 - Please send your university excuses to your professors so that your absence will be excused while at Higher Education Day.
 - Please stay after Senate to pick up your Higher Education Day sweatshirts!
 - Please look over the presentation that has a list of important legislators that we will be meeting next week. Be sure to represent our university well!
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Thomas
 - Today, she had her one-on-one meeting with Vice-President McGinnis.
 - Their committee meeting went great this week! They are finalizing their international event for this month.
 - Their committee is brainstorming ideas for a potential midterms event.
 - Their committee will be taking 24 students to Huntsville for shopping in March!

XI.

SHARED GOVERNANCE

- The IOP committee met this Monday to divide scholarship amounts among qualified applicants.
- The Food service committee will be meeting tomorrow.
- The in-person shared governance executive committee will be meeting next Monday.
- The homecoming shared governance committee will be deciding on a Homecoming theme for this year.
- The Safety and Emergency Preparedness committee will be meeting next Wednesday,

XII.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5k
 - This week, Senator Hanback submitted the proper forms needed for the 5K.
 - Yesterday, he got in touch with all schools within a 30-mile radius to see if their cross country teams to sign up.
 - We currently have 25 runners signed up to participate!
 - He appreciates all of the work that everyone has put into making this race happen.
 - President Mardis encourages everyone to continue pushing for additional runners and sponsorships for this event.
 - Historian Plunkett says that we should actively push to exceed our sponsorship goal.
- Parking
 - This committee met on Monday to curate the question format for what questions will be asked in the elections ballot.
- Constitutional Compliance
 - Their committee has a lot of members working on various bills to be presented.
 - These bills will be presented before the SGA elections ballot is sent out.

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

- Homecoming Theme
 - President Mardis encourages the Senate to brainstorm potential Homecoming themes for next year.
 - Senator McDonald would not like another gold or celebration theme.
 - Senator Hanback encourages a Lucky Lion Homecoming theme!
 - Matthew informs the Senate that we could center this Homecoming around this year being our last year playing at Braly!
 - President Mardis needs to submit our ideas tomorrow, so if you have any ideas between now and tomorrow, please feel free to reach out to her.
 - Senator Hardin thinks that having a theme about campus traditions would be fun!
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz believes that we could do something in remembrance of our campus lions.
 - Senator Moore thinks the theme should be Purple Legacy! No sign of gold anywhere.
 - Senator Hardin suggests "Purple Reign," like purple rain!
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz asks what the odds are of hard launching a new live lion at Homecoming this year.
- Student Activity Fee Proposal
 - Chief of Staff Britton encourages the Senate to ask questions about the Student Activity Fee, and a potential proposal to raise this fee.
 - Chairwoman Winston asks if the proposal involved would be incorporating FSL into the Student Activity Fee. Chief of Staff Britton responds that Ms. Anna Leigh Rossi came and presented the idea to the executive council, and then after further discussion, the executive council decided to table this proposal.
 - Chairwoman Hamilton asks why the School of the Arts had a huge chunk of their budget cut from the Student Activity Fee. Chief of Staff Britton replies that they are not spending the entirety of their budget, as well as not using the money they currently have for their allocated purposes. She informs the Senate that they receive additional money from their educational, operating, and in-state budgets.
 - Matthew informs the Senate that in addition to their allocated budget, the School of the Arts students also request money from the Student Allocation process.

- Senator Strait asks if there were any groups that received a significant increase in funds. Chief of Staff Britton replies that UPC would be receiving a significant increase.
- Senator Moore asks if there is any documentation stipulating that these organizations have set items, they must use their budget on. Chief of Staff Britton replies that she will be looking into this over the course of the next few days.
- President Mardis thinks that maybe we could look into decreasing the budget that the game room receives. She believes that they already have a large pool of money to pull from.
- Matthew says that 60% of the Student Activity Fee falls under his realm of expertise. He tells the Senate that if they have any questions or concerns about the Student Activity Fee, they can reach out to him.
- Chairwoman Rhoades motions to table this discussion. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
- Vice-President McGinnis encourages the Senate to reach out to Chief of Staff Britton regarding any potential questions or concerns about the Student Activity Fee,
- DIA Position Change
 - Senator Gilliland speaks to the Senate about potentially renaming and changing the position of DIA.
 - President Mardis believes that the Senate is an appropriate space for the DIA position and does not support changing the position and duties of the DIA position. She would like the students to know that we as a Senate value this position.

XVI.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Matthew clarified some certain lines of the Student Activity Fee for the Senate. He will be attending a conference that will be potentially combining CampusGroups to your student account.
- This Monday is Admitted Students Day!
- This month is Black History Month! He encourages the Senate to check out these events.
- He encourages everyone to submit their nominations for awards, as these nominations will be closing soon.
- Please be on time for Higher Education Day!
- UPC will be putting on their very first Cupid Shuffle tonight! Come out and support after our event!

XVII.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Valentine's Day Party at Trowbridge's – 2/13 @ 6:30 PM
- Boona's SGA Food Truck – 2/18 @ 11 AM – 2 PM

XVIII.

SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Our SGA member of the week this week is Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger!

XIX.

PEP

- Pep to Senator Mwaura for taking our photos!
- Pep to Secretary Kusz and all the new justices who were sworn in!
- Pep to the Valentine's Day table!
- Pep to Pro-Tempore Fitz and Chief of Staff Britton!
- Pep to Chief of Staff Britton for presenting the student activity fee!
- Pep to Pro-Tempore Fitz for her Trowbridges event!
- Pep to everyone who participated in Step Sing!
- Pep to President Mardis!
- Pep to Core 4!

XX.

ADJOURNMENT