



SGA Senate  
Senate Minutes  
27 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 pass the agenda as presented.
  - The agenda passed as presented.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
  - There was a motion to pass the minutes as presented.
  - The minutes were passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
  - University Award Voting
    - Vice-President McGinnis explains to the Senate what the W.T. McElheny Award and the Senator of the Year awards are. These awards will be presented at the University Awards Gala.
    - The Senate voted on these awards.
- VIII. STUDENT FORUM
  - Our students did not have anything they would like to say.
- IX. OFFICER REPORTS
  - President Mardis
    - She tells the Senate that we will not be meeting next week, due to our attendance at collegiate legislature in Montgomery.
    - Please be on the lookout for information regarding the Lucky Lion Race since it will be taking place the weekend after.
    - She informs the Senate about UNA's plans moving forward in regard to athletics and NIL revenue plans.
    - She thanks the Senate for representing UNA well at Higher Education Day last week.
    - She met with the SNAP program to brainstorm ways that SGA can improve SNAP for the well-being of the students.
    - At the shared governance executive meeting last week, they evaluated the shared governance structure as a whole.
    - The Flor-Ala has been posting articles about SGA and what they are doing. Be sure to engage with their posts and articles!
  - Vice-President McGinnis
    - SSP will be coming to UNA to host an event, and SGA will be helping work it.
    - She has met with a potential speaker to present on leadership and diversity to the Senate soon.
    - She has been coordinating with certain members of SGA for the Paint and Process event on March 5. Please try to be there! It is a great resource for students on campus.
    - She is currently compiling survey answers from a health questionnaire that Core 4 completed a while ago.
    - She thanks all of the candidates and members who volunteered to work the SGA Candidates Breakfast.
    - She would like to go ahead and gather some volunteers for the rescheduled FSL Campus Cleanup happening on April 22.
    - She reminds the Senate that these next couple of months will go by really fast. She urges the Senate to remain active in their roles and continue to do what is expected of them.
  - Treasurer Batchelor
    - Our Taco Mama Spirit Night is coming up on Monday, March 10. This will be our last spirit night of the academic year!
    - She has been following up with the food trucks that will be at our Lucky Lion Race.
    - Today, she received the money that we earned from the Boona's food truck last week.
    - She has started working on compiling the endowed scholarship selection committee.
    - It is time to wrap up the Tee & Tote Fundraiser! She will let the Senate know what the total profit was from this fundraiser as she gathers this information.
    - She requests the Senate to help pack the t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags. You will get volunteer points for this!
  - Secretary Kusz
  - Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger

- The Service committee is planning to have their service relay on March 18.
- The Student Welfare committee is working on their Pause for Paws event on March 11.
- The Outreach and Philanthropy committee will be partnering with the Student Welfare committee on their event.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
  - She is gathering a group of members of SGA to go eat at the Taco Mama Spirit Night!
  - She is working on a relaxation themed event for the Senate in April.
- Chief of Staff Britton
  - She sent out an email last Thursday to review the documents that she sent out in an email last Thursday. If you have not filled this out, please fill this out as soon as possible.
- Historian Plunkett
  - The March newsletter will be out on March 1!
  - Our SGA member of the month is Chairwoman Hamilton!
- DIA Saunders
  - He thanks the executive council for being open and attentive with our speaker at their meeting two weeks ago.
  - He asked Senator Gilland (Bachelor Big Mike) to write a bill to help restructure the DIA position.
  - He encourages the Senate to continue to hold this organization in a high regard and look out for the students on campus.
- Communications Director Sommer
  - This week, she has just been posting graphics on campus. Please keep an eye out for these graphics and continue to repost them!
  - If you are a new senator, please be sure to fill out the About Me form that she sent in the GroupMe!
  - She will be meeting with Freshman Forum to go over their t-shirt designs and teach them how the graphic request form works!

#### X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Winston
  - Right now, their committee is waiting for everything to come in for their event next Wednesday.
  - She had her one-on-one meeting with Vice-President McGinnis this week.
  - Their committee will possibly be doing a table for Pride Points to market this initiative to more students.
- Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston
  - Allocations still has about \$1,000 left to give away to registered student organizations on campus.
  - They had 2 applications this week, and both were denied.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
  - On Monday, she emailed Becca Bush about potentially having a golden spring concert ticket to push the SGA elections initiative out to students.
  - She has been working on getting a camera to livestream the elections debates. Even if we do not get a camera, the livestream can still be done through a phone.
  - Matthew has been working on getting everyone's elections headshots up on the SGA website.
  - She has been working on legislation for the elections timeline and will be presenting it soon.
  - Tomorrow, she is meeting with Matthew so that they can go over the elections ballot. They will also be reviewing the elections debate questions.
  - The elections debate is Monday! Please come out to support and get to know the candidates.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
  - Thank you to everyone who came out to Higher Education Day!
  - Their committee is now going to go back to attending Florence City Council meetings.
  - She is working on a bill that will structure the position of vice-president.
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Thomas
  - Their committee had their Groceries and Galaxies event. It went really well!
  - They are looking forward to their events that will be coming up very soon to provide resources to students on campus.

#### XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- The AI committee is starting back up their meetings this semester. Now, they are taking a look at some specific charges in relation to the new AI policy that was created this past semester.
- The Academic and Student Affairs committee discussed reinstituting mandatory ACT and SAT score submissions upon admission to UNA. They are working on formulating questions to see how they are going to go about this issue.
- President Mardis requests that if any member of Senate is on a shared governance committee and has not met with their committee this year, to please let her know.
- The Homecoming committee took a vote on the Homecoming themes. They voted on what the Homecoming theme will be for this year! They will also be setting a date for some time in October.

#### XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5k
  - Their committee has a planning meeting on Monday. They are formulating a map for how the race will be run.
  - There will be a Health Services tent that will eliminate the cost of getting an ambulance for the race.
  - They have been coordinating with UNA PD to get everything they need for the event.
  - As of right now, we are looking at a \$700 profit from this event!

- We now have up to 11 sponsors and 7 donations for the race!
- Parking
  - We have refined our parking questions that we would like to put on the SGA elections ballot.
  - This way, we will be able to get student feedback on how they view parking currently on campus.
  - President Mardis proceeds to take the Senate through the parking ballot question by question. She encourages the Senate to provide comments, concerns, and feedback for the way these questions are structured.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz informs President Mardis to take the wording of questions 7 and 8 in mind when sending this out to the students in the SGA election ballot.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz asks how long it would take to build a new parking deck. She thinks that we should reword these questions so that upperclassmen are aware that a new parking deck will probably not be built before they graduate.
  - Senator Gilliland (Bachelor Big Mike) asks how this could apply to students who are only taking classes online.
  - Vice-President McGinnis reminds the Senate that the parking data was compiled based on students who take in-person classes on campus.
  - President Mardis will be sending out a revised version of these questions to everyone's email.
- Constitutional Compliance
  - Their committee has a lot of bills being written! There are three bills that will be presented in new business. Today is the last day for amendments to be passed, but they are still working diligently to write more legislation.

### XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to be presented.

### XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- CAB 25-01: Judicial Appointment Amendment
  - Senator Vincent will be bringing the first constitutional amendment of the meeting to the Senate floor. She is presenting the Judicial Appointment amendment.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz thinks this bill is a great way to ensure that students who want to stay involved in SGA are able to do so. This is a great way to keep people engaged and involved within SGA.
  - Vice-President McGinnis informs the Senate the timeline has been put in place to ensure that there is enough time for justices to be appointed.
  - There was a motion to pass the bill as presented. The motion was heard and seconded.
  - The Senate unanimously moved to pass the amendment as presented. Congratulations!
- CAB 25-02: DIA Amendment
  - Senator Gilliland (Bachelor Big Mike) will be bringing the second constitutional amendment of the meeting to the Senate floor. He is presenting the DIA amendment.
  - DIA Saunders informs the Senate that an issue with this position in the past is that there has not been much direction and structure to the position of DIA. He believes this bill would be a good plan of action for anyone who holds the position of DIA in the future.
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger reiterates to the Senate what DIA Saunders said about this position. She says that we want to see the DIA have a set plan for what they would like to do and have a structured way to go about this plan.
  - Senator Huffman thinks that having a structured plan for the DIA position allows us to hold this position accountable and ensure that things are getting done in this position.
  - Senator Mwaura asks what future events would look like with a more collaborated effort between the DIA position and the Student Welfare committee.
  - Senator Moore asks if the Code of Laws change that goes in conjunction with this amendment is currently being written and will be in compliance with this amendment. President Mardis informs the Senate that if this bill is written by next semester, they will be compliant with one another.
  - President Mardis tells the Senate that she thinks Senator Gilliland (Bachelor Big Mike) and DIA Saunders did a phenomenal job putting together and structuring this bill.
  - Senator Joyner asks if there are some ways to eliminate the vagueness of certain parts of the amendment. DIA Saunders encourages the Senate to lean on the discretion of the next SGA president to appoint the next acting DIA.
  - Senator Gilliland (Bachelor Big Mike) says that the purpose of the added sections in this amendment is to help alleviate some of the vagueness that was already in the Constitution. He, along with Chairwoman Thomas, believe that it is better to be vague in the Constitution and more specific in the Code of Laws.
  - Chairwoman Hamilton informs the Senate that we need to immediately begin work on adding sections to the Code of Laws following the passing of this constitutional amendment.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz says that if defining the position of DIA is something that you are really passionate about, you still have time to write bills in the Code of Laws before the next academic year gets here.
  - Chief of Staff Britton says that the vagueness in this bill allows the person who holds this position to interpret their role as they see fit and leaves room for creativity.
  - Senator Vezina believes that this bill encourages whoever holds the DIA position to think critically on their feet.
  - Senator Vincent thinks it would be a good idea to include a section detailing the creation of a specific event, so that whoever holds this position is held accountable for hosting an event on campus.
  - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony thinks its important to have creative freedom in planning events.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz brings an amendment to the floor to strike out a section of the proposed bill.

- Chief of Staff Britton implores the Senate to not pass the bill with the amendment. She believes that we need this amendment to be defined in the Code of Laws.
- Pro-Tempore Fitz reminds the Senate that striking out this section of the amendment does not take any value away from the amendment.
- There was a motion to vote on the proposed amendment and the proposed bill. This motion was heard and properly seconded.
- The Senate moved to pass the amendment as amended. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-03: Inter-President Council Disassembly Act
  - Senator McDonald will be bringing the third piece of legislation to the Senate floor. She is presenting the Inter-President Council Disassembly Act.
  - She reminds the Senate that while this section has been in the Code of Laws, we have not utilized the Inter-President Council meetings since COVID-19.
  - Matthew informs the Senate that his role has now been reutilized and restructured to oversee registered student organizations. This now falls more under the realm of student engagement and leadership.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz gauged the interest of registered student organizations and found that not many RSOs wanted to see the Inter-President Council start back up again.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz moves to go into a vote. This motion was heard and properly seconded.
  - The Senate unanimously voted to pass this bill as presented. Congratulations!
- Resolution 25-01: Advocating for Parking
  - Senator Estrada, Senator Thomas, and Senator Vezina have written a resolution they would like to present to the Senate floor. This resolution was sponsored by President Mardis and Vice-President McGinnis.
  - President Mardis elaborated on sections of the resolution that were recommended by administration in the meeting with Core 4, President Kitts, and administration.
  - Chairwoman Thomas tells the Senate that this may have a lot of information, but we can all recognize that at the end of the day, the need for parking is there.
  - Pro-Tempore Fitz commends these presenters of this resolution for their hard work on formatting this.
  - Chairwoman Rhoades also commends the presenters of this resolution for their hard work!
  - Chief of Staff Britton moves to go into a vote on this resolution. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
  - The Senate unanimously voted to pass this resolution as presented. Congratulations!

#### XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- SSP Presentation and Sign-Ups
  - Vice-President McGinnis elaborates more on what SSP is, what the purpose of it is. This initiative encourages more conversation to be had for mental health awareness.
  - This event will be happening all day on April 1. She illustrates what exactly this event will look like, and how it will be hosted on our campus.
  - She asks senators to sign up and help out with this important event. If you are not working it, please go to it, share it with your friends, and interact with it!
- SWAG Wagon Sign-Ups
  - We need people to sign up for doing the SWAG Wagon on March 4. If you sign up and have not been golf-cart trained, Pro-Tempore Fitz will be sending you an email.

#### XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- He is proud of everyone for all of the hard work they have done and are continuing to do!
- Paint the Paws has a tentative date set for April 12, and everyone will be painting near the residence halls.
- He presents Camp L.E.O. to the Senate, which will be a leadership opportunity that will take place at the beginning of the academic year.
- He is working on bringing alternative breaks back to UNA.
- Tomorrow is the last day of Black History Month. Next month will be Women's History Month!

#### XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lucky Lion Race Registration Deadline – February 28
- Paint and Process – March 5 (4 PM – 5:30 PM @ GUC 200)
- Academic Affairs Tie-Dye Your Stress Away – March 5 (@ the Amphitheater)
- Taco Mama Spirit Night – March 10 (5 PM to 9 PM)

#### XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Our SGA members of the week are Senator Mwaura, Chairwoman Hamilton, and Secretary Kusz!

#### XIX. PEP

- Pep to all of the productive conversation today!
- Pep to all of the Ad Hoc committees!
- Pep to the Academic Affairs committee!
- Pep to Lucky Lion Race!
- Pep to the UNA Men's Basketball Team!
- Pep to Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger!

#### XX. ADJOURNMENT