



SGA Senate
Senate Minutes
13 March 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 was 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

- Trustee Jim Page
 - He talks about his time within the Student Government Association and how it impacted his academic career.
 - He comes to the Senate to talk about some things that were going on while he was a student here on campus.
 - He says that parking was an issue when he was a student, and parking is still an issue now on our campus.
 - When he was President of SGA, they passed a student referendum to build the parking deck and the student recreation center that we currently have now.
 - He encourages the Senate to continue actively participating in Higher Education Day every year.
 - He says that when he was a student at UNA, there was significant strife between faculty and administration.
 - He tells the Senate that as members of the Student Government Association, we have a unique opportunity to be surrounded by different individuals who challenge your ways of thinking.
 - He closes by telling the Senate that the work everyone is putting in is something that students who come after them will benefit from.

VIII. STUDENT FORUM

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

IX. OFFICER REPORTS

- President Mardis
 - She thanks Trustee Jim Page for coming to speak to the Senate.
 - She wrote President Kitts a thank-you letter for sponsoring some buses to attend the men's basketball championship.
 - The Lucky Lion Race has been officially rescheduled for April 19 instead of March 15.
 - We would like to see if we can provide another way of transportation for students at night besides SNAP.
 - We took some representatives to the Collegiate Legislature conference last weekend! She congratulates Pro-Tempore Fitz, Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger, and Secretary Kusz for their respective awards, and UNA for winning the Speaker's Cup for the second year in a row!
 - She has been working on ordering stoles for the executive officers when they graduate!
 - If you have any ideas you would like to be implemented in the next academic year, please let her know!
- Vice-President McGinnis
 - Last week, we hosted the Paint and Process event with Student Counseling Services. We had a great turnout for this event!
 - Her, along with President Mardis, Matthew, and Dr. Tammy, worked on reserving buses and vans for the men's basketball game this past Sunday.
 - She has been working with Chairwoman Hamilton on presenting legislation that will be voted on later in this meeting.
 - She has been coordinating and communicating with the Send Silence Packing volunteers for the event.
 - This morning, she met with the College of Business to discuss their presentation in Senate later on in this semester.
- Treasurer Batchelor
 - She would like to thank everyone who came out to support the Taco Mama spirit night on Monday.
 - She sent out the information for the Endowed Scholarship selection committee. Details will be finalized after spring break.
 - This week, she has been working with Freshman Forum to design some t-shirts.

- Secretary Kusz
 - She is finalizing the programs and presentation for inauguration.
 - She would like for everyone to have filled out the RSVP form by next week.
 - If you have been in SGA for at least two years and you are either graduating or not returning, please like the message in the GroupMe so that she can present you with your graduation cords!
- Freshman Forum Advisors Anthony & Ballenger
 - Their committees are working hard on their events as they are wrapping up before spring break!
- Pro-Tempore Fitz
 - We are having an end-of-the-year party on April 17.
 - We are rescheduling SWAG Wagon sign-ups because it is on the same day as Send Silence Packing.
- Chief of Staff Britton
 - No report.
- Historian Plunkett
 - She has just been working on details for the 5K!
- DIA Saunders
 - He would like to congratulate all our newly elected and re-elected SGA members.
 - He and Senator Gilliland will continue to be working on their constitutional amendment.
- Communications Director Sommer
 - Please repost the graphics that are posted on the SGA Instagram!
 - This week, she has been working with Chairwoman Rhoades on elections graphics.
 - If you need any graphics or anything posted during or after spring break, please let her know ASAP!

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Winston
 - Their committee had to move their Tie-Dye event to next Tuesday due to the weather.
 - Their committee has been talking about revitalizing Pride Points through CampusGroups.
 - Their committee submitted their "Did You Know?" graphic to Communications Director Sommer.
- Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston
 - Their committee had three requests, which were all rejected.
 - Their committee went over some manual changes that will be implemented at the next Senate meeting.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Rhoades
 - We had 576 votes across all the colleges we have across campus.
 - The constitutional amendments were all passed.
 - There was not a lot of voter participation this year due to many of the positions running unopposed this year.
 - She is still happy with all the results and all the feedback we received from this year's elections.
 - They are going to figure out who wins the giveaway prizes from the elections after this Senate meeting.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman Hamilton
 - Last week, they did not attend the city council meeting due to the threat of inclement weather.
 - They are working on getting food trucks for the rescheduled Lucky Lion Race.
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Thomas
 - Their event has been rescheduled for next Friday instead of Saturday due to the threat inclement weather.
 - They are working on more events and have some big things coming up soon!

XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- There were no articles of shared governance to be discussed.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- SGA 5k
 - We have officially rescheduled the Lucky Lion Race for April 19.
 - We will be having a preparation party the night before the big race.
 - They are looking at potentially reopening registration to get some more runners involved since there is now more time for people to join and participate!
 - They are also looking into getting new food trucks to be at the race! The ones that we currently had for Saturday will not be available for the new race time.
- Parking
 - 93.2% of students who took the survey believe that we need more parking on campus.
 - 68.75% of students said "yes" or "maybe" to potentially paying money to fund a new parking deck on campus.
 - 73.78% of students who took the survey believe that Lot O would be a good location to place a new parking deck. There are also some students who believe that Lot M would be a good location to place a new parking deck.
 - 55% of students from the survey would be willing to take an evening class if offered.
 - 61.45% of students who took the survey would be willing to take a Friday morning or afternoon class if offered.
- Constitutional Compliance
 - The last time their committee met, there was a lot of legislation being worked on. This legislation will be presented at today's meeting.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to be presented.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 25-04: Mandatory Event Clarification Bill
 - The first piece of legislation is brought to the Senate floor today by Chairwoman Hamilton. This bill is the Mandatory Event Clarification Bill.
 - Senator McDonald believes this bill is great and implores the Senate to pass it.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz moves to go into a vote on this bill. This motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The Senate unanimously voted to pass this bill as presented. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-05: Vice-President Planning Assignment Bill
 - The first piece of legislation to be presented on the floor today is presented by Chairwoman Hamilton. This bill is the Vice-President Planning Assignment Bill.
 - Senator Gilliland asks if this has traditionally been a job for the Vice-President. He implores the Senate to vote for this bill so that any candidates for the vice-president position know the duties expected of them prior to assuming office.
 - President Mardis thinks that the Senate should pass this bill, and she commends Chairwoman Hamilton for her hard work on this bill.
 - Vice-President McGinnis likes that the bill details that the other executive officers should help in planning this event.
 - This bill was unanimously passed by the Senate. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-06: Elections and Recruitment Elections Manual Bill
 - The second piece of legislation to be presented on the floor today is presented by Chairwoman Rhoades. This bill is the Elections and Recruitment Elections Manual Bill.
 - She explains that the purpose of this bill is to establish an official timeframe for establishing and editing the Elections manual to allow proper time to make any necessary amendments.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz asks how the dates for spring break are officially established. Chairwoman Rhoades explains that this was brought up in discussion. Matthew tells the Senate that spring break typically falls during the last week of March.
 - Senator Gilliland moves to go into a vote on this bill. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The bill was unanimously passed by the Senate. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-07: Historian Duties and Obligations Act
 - The third piece of legislation to be presented on the floor today is presented by Senator Vezina. This bill is the Historian Duties and Obligations Act.
 - Historian Plunkett elaborates on this bill by explaining that this bill can help supplement the work that the Communications Director currently does.
 - Senator Huffman asks why this bill uses the word relevant to describe certain information. He thinks the use of this word could be open for interpretation and could be interpreted differently by a different Senate.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz thinks the use of the word pertinent could stand in the place of the word relevant.
 - Senator Strait asks if Historian is an appropriate term for this position if we are not keeping track of previous history. Senator Vezina believes that this would still be an appropriate term because this position would be documenting things that are currently happening within SGA.
 - Vice-President McGinnis elaborates to explain that this position has already shifted in this direction, but we are now writing legislation to make this position accurately reflect that.
 - Treasurer Batchelor provides the Senate with her experience as her time as Historian two years ago.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz presents an amendment to change the word "relevant" to "current and/or pertinent."
 - Senator Gilliland asks which sections we will be amending.
 - DIA Saunders believes that changing the wording in all of these sections would be a good idea.
 - Chairwoman Rhoades moves to go into a vote on the proposed amendment.
 - The Senate votes to pass the amendment to this bill.
 - Senator Huffman asks how exactly the Historian will work in conjunction with the Communications Director.
 - Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger believes this bill is essentially modernizing the Historian role. This bill ensures that the work that Historian Plunkett is doing now will be continuing to happen.
 - Senator McDonald moves to go into a vote on this bill. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The Senate unanimously voted to pass this bill. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-08: Philanthropy Committee Foundation Act
 - The fourth piece of legislation to be presented on the floor today is presented by Senator Hanback. This bill is the Philanthropy Committee Foundation Act.
 - He would like to emphasize the importance of this bill and the legacy that it will leave behind. This bill will allow us as a Senate to firmly prioritize the amazing philanthropic efforts we have started over the last few years.
 - Chairwoman Rhoades loves this bill! She mentions how last year's Senate talked about the addition of a Philanthropy Committee, and she believes that this committee would significantly contribute to the future of SGA.
 - President Mardis elaborates on the evaluation of adding a Philanthropy Committee last year. She emphasizes the importance of what the Philanthropy Committee could do for years to come.
 - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony sees this as a collaboration opportunity between Freshman Forum and SGA.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz states that the optimal size for a productive group of collaboration between members is five members.
 - Senator Mwaura commends Senator Hanback for his hard work on this bill. She believes this addition would be great because it allows for time to be set aside for our philanthropic initiatives.

- Senator Strait asks how many senators are currently serving on each committee. She then asks if there is a specific requirement detailing how many members should be serving on each committee. The only committee that details how many senators should serve on that committee is the Budget Oversight Committee.
- Senator Strait asks if Senator Hanback can elaborate on seeking initiatives across the campus community. Senator Hanback says that this bill definitely leans more towards the campus community at UNA.
- Senator Vezina commends Senator Hanback for his passion and dedication in writing this piece of legislation.
- Chairwoman Hamilton believes this bill is missing a few key aspects, such as the compensation for the chair, and she feels that these aspects should be addressed. Senator Hanback addresses these concerns.
- Treasurer Batchelor believes that the budget, and the payment of the chairs, will be voted on at the first meeting of the fall semester by the new Senate body next year.
- Chairwoman Thomas would like to applaud Senator Hanback for the work he has done on his bill. She thinks the addition of a Philanthropy Committee is a great idea and really highlights the direction that the Senate has been moving towards in recent years. She believes organizing and adding this committee is an excellent idea.
- One of the students in Student Forum asks how exactly the Philanthropy Committee would go about organizing large-scale philanthropy events and large-scale fundraisers.
- There has been an amendment that has been brought to the floor. The Senate will now move into discussion onto the proposed amendment to this bill.
- President Mardis thinks that Chairwoman Hamilton has brought up some good concerns to the Senate, and she implores the Senate to think seriously about these points.
- Senator Moore moves to go into a vote on the amendment. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
- The amendment to the proposed bill has officially passed.
- Senator Strait asks how large a "large-scale" profit-focused initiative would be. Senator Hanback believes that this would be hard to define but believes this could be measured more by effort than by outcome.
- President Mardis believes it might be best to table this bill and pass it with the official salaries for the chairs that will be decided on during the next Senate.
- There has been an amendment that has been brought to the floor. The Senate will now move into discussion onto the proposed amendment to this bill.
- The Senate will now move to go into a vote on the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously by the Senate.
- There was a motion to extend the Senate meeting time by thirty minutes. The motion was heard and properly seconded, as well as unanimously passed by the Senate.
- Chairwoman Rhoades moves to go into a vote on this bill. This motion was heard and properly seconded.
- The Senate voted to pass this bill as amended. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-09: SGA Communications Team Enhancement Act
 - The fifth piece of legislation is brought to the Senate floor by Senator McDonald. This bill is the SGA Communications Team Enhancement Act.
 - Senator McDonald elaborates on this bill by explaining that this will help the Communications Director with their current role.
 - Senator Moore believes that it would be smart to pass this bill in conjunction with the bill that was passed earlier.
 - Freshman Forum Advisor Ballenger elaborates on the overall purpose of this bill.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz moves to go into a vote on this bill. This motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The Senate unanimously voted to pass this bill as presented. Congratulations!
- Bill 25-10: Funding SGA End-of-the-Year Party Bill
 - The last piece of legislation is brought to the Senate floor by Pro-Tempore Fitz. This bill is the Funding SGA End-of-the-Year Party Bill.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz further elaborates on her reasoning for the allocations she proposed in her bill for this party.
 - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony asks if there will be options for individuals who require dietary restrictions. Pro-Tempore Fitz elaborates on this and says that an amendment can be brought to the floor to supplement this query.
 - Freshman Forum Advisor Anthony implores the Senate to vote on this amendment. The amendment was voted on by the Senate and unanimously passed.
 - There was a motion to pass this bill as amended. The motion was heard and properly seconded.
 - The bill was unanimously passed by the Senate as amended. Congratulations!

XV.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- CampusGroups Contract
 - Matthew is describing the potential CampusGroups contract that has been drawn up to the Senate.
 - He is presenting this to the Senate so that everyone may think about it, and so that the Senate can take an informal vote on these proposals next week.
 - Senator Strait asks how long the previous contract term was put in place for.
 - Pro-Tempore Fitz asks how everyone feels about their personal experiences with CampusGroups.
 - Treasurer Batchelor elaborates on her time at UNA before CampusGroups was implemented, and states that CampusGroups has made events more user-friendly for students.
 - Senator Mwaura asks if any percentages will be changed as a result of this proposal.
 - Chairwoman Rhoades asks what would happen if the Senate would not approve this proposal for CampusGroups. Matthew elaborates on his confidence in CampusGroups and the abilities that the platform can perform.
 - Chairman McCuiston thinks the user-friendliness of CampusGroups is essential to campus life here at UNA.

- Matthew recommends that we vote in favor of the CampusGroups five-year plan.
- A student in Student Forum asks if there has been a student survey done to vote on this proposal. He recommends that there is a student survey sent out so that there is peer feedback on this proposal.
- There was a motion to table this discussion. This motion was heard, properly seconded, and passed by the Senate.
- SWAG Wagon Sign-Ups
 - The Senate signed up for new SWAG Wagon times on April 8, instead of April 1.

XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- He has been working with some of the chairs to streamline the manuals for their respective committees.
- He would like to congratulate everyone who ran in the election and cannot wait to see the momentum they will all be carrying into next year.
- He would like to remind everyone about Camp LEO that will be happening before the next school year!
- He tells everyone to be safe on their spring break! Also, be safe with all of the inclement weather coming up.
- If you would like to sign up for Light the Fountain, please let Dr. Tammy know.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senate PowerPoint Night – March 20
- Send Silence Packing – April 1
- Cheeztah Chicks Food Truck – April 3

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Our SGA member of the week this week is Bachelor Big Mike!

XIX. PEP

- Pep to everyone who ran in elections!
- Pep to Matthew!
- Pep to our philanthropic efforts!
- Pep to everyone who stayed for Senate
- Pep to the Elections and Recruitment Committee!

XX. ADJOURNMENT