



**SGA Senate
Senate Minutes
12 February 2026**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - Called to order at 3:30 PM.
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- V. **PASSING OF AGENDA**
 - The agenda was passed as presented.
- VI. **PASSING OF MINUTES**
 - The minutes was passed as presented.
- VII. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**
 - Senator Lachowicz speaking about Higher Education Day
 - He goes over what Higher Education Day is and why is it important.
 - He goes over the itinerary for the trip.
 - He goes over the key people that SGA will need to know that will be at Higher Education Day.
 - He goes over talking points to help with talking to legislators.
- VIII. **STUDENT FORUM**
 - There was nothing said during student forum.
- IX. **OFFICER REPORTS**
 - President Rhoades
 - She met with DIA Byrd and that was her last one on one.
 - She met with Bishop Alexander about more information about the Alma Mater.
 - She met with Pro Tempore Winston and Mr. Matthew about Pride Points.
 - Mr. Matthew and Dr. K.C. White and her met to talk about the policies shared in the shared governance executive committee meeting.

- She met with Chairwoman McDonald, Senator Anthony and Chief of Staff Thomas with the Alma Mater.
- She sent an email to Ms. Juliette to get stoles ordered for Core Four for graduation.
- She met with Chairwoman Strickland and the information she has gathered for her accessibility initiative.
- She received an email from a communications student, and she will be recording our senate meeting on March 5th.
- She attended a 5K purchasing meeting to figure out with what to get for the 5K.
- She emailed senators who will need to take the rules test.
- She sent an email to everyone who helped with the audit and gathering more information for it.
- **Vice-President Ballenger**
 - She heard back from the lady from Bear Creek, and they will be out of our budget for retreat, so retreat will be at Earle Trent.
 - She sent emails to her chairs about how much is left in their budget.
 - She met with some senators and delegates about creating different charges for Freshman Forum.
 - She goes into different ideas that were brought up in the Freshman Forum meeting, such as strengthening different positions.
 - She attended the Florence Exchange club meeting and she talked to Josh Bowling who wants to start a Florence Exchange Club at UNA.
 - She reminds everyone that the bus will be leaving at 5:15 AM.
- **Treasurer Hanback**
 - He says the budget is completely updated.
 - He goes over the current budget and what it looks like currently.
 - He also went over the 5K budget sheet.
 - He will be taking checks for the 5K sponsorships to Student Accounts.
 - He sent out endowed scholarship invitations for senators and delegates to be on the selection team.
- **Secretary Plunkett**
 - She has been doing her regular duties.
 - She has been looking at some Code of Laws changes.
 - She attended the Freshman Forum Code of Laws meeting.

- She is going to resend the RSVP form for inauguration.
- **Freshman Forum Advisors Ebert and Buford**
 - They attended the Freshman Forum Code of Laws meeting.
 - They have been thinking about changed the Code of Laws on the set up of Freshman Forum meetings.
 - They have a Constitutional Amendment that will be presented.
- **Pro-Tempore Winston**
 - She says that the Valentines Mixer is tonight.
 - She met with Mr. Matthew and President Rhoades about ideas for Pride Points.
 - She will be attending the Freshman Forum Social Committee meeting to help them with an end of the year event.
 - She is starting to plan a March event.
- **Chief of Staff Thomas**
 - She has the vans reserved and request form submitted for the Stock up with SGA event.
 - She is going to see if Housing and Residence Life will want to partner with the grocery trip event.
 - She emailed Student Counseling Services about meeting with them to see if they would be willing to do an online booking service to book with the counselors.
 - She met with Chairwoman McDonald about auditing the executive and chair positions for a constitutional compliance initiative.
 - She met with Senator Anthony and President Rhoades about the Alma Mater.
- **Historian Holcomb**
 - She has been gathering information for the March newsletter and the Annual Report.
 - She is planning on presenting the newsletter in two weeks.
- **DIA Byrd**
 - She met with President Rhoades about ideas for her position.
 - She met with Chairwoman Vezina about rules for campaigning.
 - She then met with Senator Hanback.
- **Communications Director Mwaura**
 - She says please only email or campus groups her for graphic requests. She also says to be as detailed as possible.
 - She would like to do some vlogging for Higher Education Day.
 - She says Historian Holcomb has been helping her with graphics.

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- **Academic Affairs Chairwoman McMahan**
 - She has been updating Teams.
 - They posted a video for the library raffle.
 - Senator Ashkar and Senator Powell will be filming a reel.
 - She is wanting to do an event with the library.
- **Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston**
 - They had two requests. One was approved and one required modification.
- **Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Vezina**
 - She says thank you to everyone who reached out to do the pre campaign meeting.
 - She has been looking at marketing information in the GUC that she is giving to the candidates.
 - The SGA debate will be on March 2nd.
 - Senator Youngblood has been working on a script for an Instagram reel.
 - Senator Woods has been emailing Laura Beasley about more information for the candidate breakfast.
- **Legislative Affairs Chairwoman McDonald**
 - They have been planning still for Higher Education Day.
 - She sent out an email about all the information for Higher Education Day.
 - She will be handing out sweatshirts for Higher Education Day.
 - They will be going shopping for the snacks for Higher Education Day.
 - She sent out a rough outline for how the shopping will go.
 - She has requested the p-card.
 - Freshman Forum Advisors Ebert and Buford will give out the rest to Freshman Forum.
 - Senator Byrd has been working on a survey for an after Higher Education Day review.
 - City Council meets next week.
- **Student Welfare Chairwoman Strickland**
 - She met with President Rhoades about the accessibility initiative.
 - They have been working on the accessibility routes.
 - They plan on writing some legislation to clean up their section of the Code of Laws.
- **Philanthropy Chairwoman Gaertner**

- **She went to the 5K budget purchase meeting, and they talked about what they need to buy for the 5K.**
- **They have a new event.**
- **Blvd Nutrition is doing an extension on their spirit day.**
- **She has walked the 5K route.**
- **They will be closing the registration for the 5K on February 25th.**

XI. **SHARED GOVERNANCE**

- **President Rhoades has a shared governance executive committee meeting next week. They will be going over all the different committees and what is needed.**
- **Communications Director Mwaura says they will not be having an emergency safety and preparedness meeting this month.**

XII. **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

- **Constitutional compliance**
 - **They said to please be mindful of what all is on the docket.**
- **Alma mater**
 - **They have received responses about gathering more information about the Alma Mater.**
 - **They are still contacting different places in the Shoals to gain more information before they start forming a memorandum.**

XIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- **There is no old business presented.**

XIV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **CAB 26-01: Freshman Forum Qualification Revision Amendment**
 - **This constitutional amendment is to adjust the qualifications for Freshman Forum.**
 - **This is to clear up any issues of who is eligible for Freshman Forum.**
 - **Senator Looney thinks it is a great idea because they had to turn down so many great candidates for Freshman Forum because they had to many credit hours.**
 - **The bill passed.**
- **Bill 26-07: Academic Affairs Committee Representing All Act**
 - **This is to change the Code of Laws to how many people are in the Academic Affairs committee.**
 - **They are also adding another qualification that each member of the committee should represent a different college on campus.**
 - **Senator Vincent suggests a different wording for a certain part of the bill.**

- Chairwoman Vezina asks if each member has to represent a different college. The author says yes.
- Senator Huffman asks if each member's major has to be in each college and the author says yes.
- **Bill 26-08: Bridging the Gap Act**
 - This bill is to give accountability to the Academic Affairs committee to have another role on campus.
 - Chairwoman McDonald asks if there needs to be a clause at the end of section two of this bill. We have passed bills like this before.
 - This bill passes.
- **Bill 26-09: Salaries to Scholarships Act**
 - This bill is to change the language in the Code of Laws to change the word "salaries" to "scholarships" since scholarships cannot be taxed.
 - This bill is to keep us in compliance with the Code of Laws.
 - This bill passes.
- **Bill 26-10: All Good Things Must Come to an End Act**
 - This is to put an end time for senate meetings.
 - Historian Holcomb says this is a great bill and this is great clarification.
 - Senator Huffman asks if you have to apply a reason to extend senate. The authors say no.
 - The bill passes.
- **Bill 26-11: The Attendance Accountability Act**
 - This is to add a penalty to members who leave early from SGA meetings.
 - Three early departures will count to one absence.
 - Chairwoman McDonald says the bill is a great but that it is communicated well that we are here from 3:30-5:30 PM. It is also hard to pass bill when we do not have a full forum.
 - Senator Looney asks if you can get a formal excuse from senate and the author says it would work the same as the tardy system. Senator Looney also says he fully supports this bill.
 - Pro Tempore Winston says that we should trust senators who are leaving early. She is not in support of this bill.
 - There is an amendment to this bill to change "failing to return prior to the official adjournment of a meeting" to "failing to return prior to the official end time of a meeting".

- **President Rhoades says the amendment is great and this clarifies if you have to leave early after a meeting is extended past the regular time.**
- **Senator Moore says he is fully in support of this amendment.**
- **The amendment passes.**
- **Senator Faulkenberry thinks it is a great bill, but a university excuse should be added to this bill.**
- **Senator Lachowicz says that the absences are gone over by judicial, and they will appeal any university excuses.**
- **Vice President Ballenger says that if you run for SGA then you need to be dedicated to SGA. This is for accountability purposes, and you can present all absences to judicial.**
- **Freshman Forum Advisor Ebert says this is a great bill for accountability.**
- **This bill passes.**
- **Bill 26-12: Freshman Forum Announcement Act**
 - **This bill is to take out the section that says that Freshman Forum shall be announced at a UNA home football game.**
 - **Senator Looney says it's a great bill.**
 - **This bill passes.**

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- **Giveaway for Light the Fountain**
 - **Ms. Jessie has given us another avenue on another giveaway for Light the Fountain.**
 - **President Rhoades also says Dr. Tammy would like us to give out keychains.**
 - **Secretary Plunkett goes over the cup option.**
- **Senator Barnett discusses the state of the Sheffield Mayor after his medical emergency. He says it would be great for SGA to send a get well soon card.**

XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- **He says we are in the heat of campaigning season, but we still have work to do within the current senate.**
- **He says winter break is next Friday.**
- **He wanted to share his perspective between involvement and engagement. He says you can be involved but not actively engaged.**

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SGA x Freshman Forum Mixer – February 12th**
- **Higher Education Day – February 19th**

- **College of Business Slim Chickens Spirit Night – every Thursday in February**
- **SGA Debate – March 2nd**
- **Campaigning closes – March 9th**
- **Gilly’s band is playing in Huntsville February 20th.**
- **Senator Faulkenberry’s mom is in the hospital so keep her in your thoughts.**
- **Battle of the Bands is Monday.**
- **UPC is tailgating on Sunday for the basketball game, and it will be nationally televised.**

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- **Senator Lachowicz won SGA member of the week!**

XIX. PEP

- **Pep to debate!**
- **Pep to Miss UNA!**
- **Pep to Freshman Forum members!**
- **Pep to Valentines!**
- **Pep to Seahawks!**
- **Pep to themed Senate!**

XX. ADJOURNMENT