



The University of North Alabama
Student Government Association
Senate Minutes
September 24th, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - Called to order at 3:30
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MOMENT OF SILENCE
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. PASSING OF AGENDA
 - Agenda passed as presented.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
 - Minutes were amended to say “Minutes” instead of “Agenda.” Passed as amended.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
 - No special business presented.
- VIII. STUDENT FORUM
- IX. OFFICER REPORTS
 - President Hanback
 - ◆ He is excited for the weather being cooler.
 - ◆ He spent a lot of this week working on legislation with Senator Pounders.
 - ◆ In review of the Rules Test, he believes that the rules test is essential for service in SGA but is essential to understand the government of SGA.
 - ◆ The legislation being presented this week makes the rules test not mandatory and taken at retreat.
 - ◆ Family weekend is coming up and there will be a video being filmed on Saturday.
 - ◆ Worked closely with Senator Fleming in drafting a resolution.
 - ◆ Looking forward to internal event tonight.
 - ◆ Thanks the senate for how they serve the study body every day.
 - Vice President McDonald
 - ◆ Helped train new freshman forum executive chair.
 - ◆ Reminds senate to stay respectful and stay on task.
 - Treasurer Woods
 - ◆ New budget goes into effect on October 1st.
 - ◆ Shoutout to Senator Pounders for his hard work.
 - Secretary McMahan
 - ◆ Catching up with absences.
 - ◆ Met with Laura Beasley from the Honors College to plan Past Officers’ Breakfast.

- ◆ Meeting with Mr. Matthew tomorrow.
- Freshman Forum Advisors Lachowicz and Chauncey
 - ◆ Appointed and approved committee chairs for Freshman Forum.
 - ◆ Thanks to everyone who was at committee meeting last night.
 - ◆ Communications Director Holcomb is coming to speak to the PR team.
 - ◆ Sign up for the big/little initiative!
- Pro-Tempore Ebert
 - ◆ Working on Swag Wagon.
 - ◆ Internal event is today at 6:30!
- Chief of Staff Vezina
 - ◆ Meeting with Freshman Forum Advisor Chauncey about freshman forum leadership retreat.
 - ◆ Getting vans ready.
 - ◆ Talked to Megan Dye about how to make football tickets free for students who are online.
- Historian Whisnant
 - ◆ Presenting first newsletter next week!
 - ◆ Waiting on legislation passed today to finish newsletter.
- DIA Winston
 - ◆ Pride Points is over and there were a lot of good numbers.
 - ◆ Had a meeting with the ROAR Access Center.
 - ◆ Talked about facilities about accessibilities.
 - ◆ Talked to Mr. Matthew about new projects.
 - ◆ For RSO outreach, trying to plan an event in late October or early November.
- Communications Director Holcomb
 - ◆ We finally have stickers!
 - ◆ Working on get more stickers and buttons.
 - ◆ Might be working with President Hanback to create an Ad Hoc committee to support local musicians.

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Powell
 - ◆ Met with Ms. Mills about partnering with the Student Success Center.
 - ◆ Senator Miller is working on stickers for Academic Affairs.
 - ◆ Working with Dean Brewton to do a collaboration event for finals season.
- Budget Oversight Chairman Huffman
 - ◆ 6 requests. Three got approved. Two got denied. One needed modification.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Zaharko
 - ◆ Counted the bags of candy and used the rest of her budget.
 - ◆ Got a quote for the homecoming flowers.
 - ◆ Emailed UPC about a collaboration with homecoming candidates.
 - ◆ Emailed ambassador programs to be apart of homecoming.
 - ◆ Sent media requests to Communications Director Holcomb for everything homecoming.
- Legislative Affairs Chairman Douglas
 - ◆ Shoutout to first day of fall weather!
 - ◆ Met with Freshman Forum Student Welfare committee.
 - ◆ Shoutout to Parker and Mae for being amazing!

- ◆ Meeting with Higher Education Partnership about Dreams to Reality next week.
- ◆ Working with Athletics for parking for Dreams to Reality.
- ◆ Working on getting food for Dreams to Reality since they now have a bigger budget!
- ◆ Finalizing inspiration questions to send out to speakers for the event.
- Philanthropy Chairwoman Gaertner
 - ◆ Tees and Totes is live!
 - ◆ Just ordered 48 tote bags.
 - ◆ Spirit nights are coming up as well as more food trucks coming to campus.
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Staggs
 - ◆ Working on transfer resource sheet.
 - ◆ Have transfer party in the GUC next Monday.
 - ◆ Talking about international grocery trip.

XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Parking and Traffic meeting tomorrow.
- Academic and Student Affairs meeting moved to push the ACT discussion back. The ACT will no longer be required to get admitted into UNA.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Appleby Safety Committee
 - ◆ Met with Senator Mayfield about the first floors in Appleby.
 - ◆ Looking to get more information to make the data look better before presenting it.
- Homecoming Committee
 - ◆ Had first meeting on Monday and it went well.
 - ◆ Trying to make homecoming happen and will keep meeting weekly.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- No old business presented.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- CAB 26-02: Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ Pro Tempore Ebert addresses the chambers and encourages debate on the bill and reminds the Senate that it is a constitutional amendment and it has to go through the student body. Suggests tabling the bills coming up and thinking about being thorough in making the decision to pass this amendment.
 - ◆ Advisor Jones addresses the chambers and explains the process of a constitutional amendment and how to pass the amendment through the student body. Tells senate that to table this would be this item in the old business section of the agenda.
 - ◆ Senator Pounders say that each bill to be passed after (Bills 26-46-48) will not be put into effect until.
 - ◆ Senator Huffman asks the writer of the bill about how the information tested in the Rules Test will be passed on.
 - ◆ The rules of senate will be presented during retreat and senators will have to do homework during retreat.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner says that we are elected by the Student Body to know the Code of Laws and she believes the Rules Test is needed as it shows that a senator knows and understands their role in senate.
 - ◆ Freshman Forum Advisor Chauncey says that she felt that most of the Rules Test was common knowledge and some of it felt important and so she supports the amendment.

- ◆ Senator Atkins says that a test forces people to study and cram and not know the material. The Senate Rules Test creates anxiety for senators.
- ◆ Chairwoman Staggs says that it would be more useful to create an amendment to maybe require the executive council and the chairs to take a sort of Rules Test to show that they understand it. She suggests tabling the bill.
- ◆ Treasurer Woods says that the rules test feels like a relic from the past and the Rules Test does not show that a senator knows the material, just that they studied it.
- ◆ President Hanback says that while the senate can amend the bill, he does not recommend adding content. Anything amended to the bill would have to go to the Judicial Branch.
- ◆ Senator Pounders says that getting rid of the bill and rewriting it would be alright.
- ◆ Communications Director Holcomb asks if there is not legislation that requires the SGA President and SGA Vice President to train the executive council.
- ◆ President Hanback replies that the common practice is to train the executive council and there is not a mandated meeting with every member of the executive council. If someone is not at the SGA retreat, then the SGA Vice President will meet with the new senator and train them.
- ◆ Communications Director Holcomb says that she is favor of this bill as it important to make guidelines to show that senators know the Code of Laws, it is unnecessary to take a Rules Test.
- ◆ Chairman Douglas says that this is a super important bill to pass. Reminds senate that this is a very important bill to show the student body. He asks if the study body will understand this.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald asks if there can be further context on the ballot for the student body.
- ◆ Advisor Jones says yes, that the ballot can show the importance of passing the bill and that the bill will have to be marketed a lot to the student body.
- ◆ Chairwoman Staggs asks the process to rework the bill.
- ◆ Advisor Jones answers that this bill would have a lot to do with the Judicial Branch and that other legislation will have to be passed to help the Code of Laws. He reminds everyone that it is taking away responsibility from the Judicial Branch.
- ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner asks if we leave this bill as it is will freshman forum have to have a senate rules test if they are indeed a branch underneath SGA?
- ◆ Vice President McDonald replies that the branch is only SGA in the SGA meetings.
- ◆ DIA Winston mentions that the main importance of SGA is that we are voted in by the students of the university and says that senate should pass this and legislation can be written later.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald says that a lot of people in this room are brand new to SGA and it might be easier for older senators, but it is scary for new senators and it might be people's first experience with SGA and it can be a negative beginning.
- ◆ Senator Turner asks if the bill were tabled, if the other bills have to be tabled or could we still pass the other bills.
- ◆ Advisor Jones says that it would be okay to pass the bills right now, but next year's senate will be out of compliance.
- ◆ Senator Pounders says that three of the bills have clauses in them, and they need the constitution bill to be passed.
- ◆ Advisor Jones says no and there would be no issue.

- ◆ Senator Turner asks if there is a concern with the students, could we also mandate a more hands on experience for the senators.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald says that there was discussion of having homework for new senators at SGA retreat.
- ◆ Advisor Chauncey says that DIA Winston made a good point and the Rules Test did not have any questions about Robert's Rules and instead of the Rules Test it should be like homework.
- ◆ Senator Miller says that as a freshman senator, and from a new senator's standpoint, she had no time to study for the test, and she says that it is important to know what we're doing, but a test is not important and it is not a true showcase of knowledge.
- ◆ Chairman Huffman moves to go into a vote.
- ◆ Division.
- ◆ Senate goes into a standing vote.
- ◆ The bill is passed.
- Bill 26-46: Original Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs asks if the Constitutional Amendment is to be worked on, she asks if this bill needs to be amended.
 - ◆ Senator Atkins says that she doesn't like that anyone who doesn't pass the test and has to appeal to senate.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner says that the next few bills need to be tabled.
 - ◆ Chairman Douglas agrees with Chairwoman Gaertner and suggests tabling the next few bills.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs moves to table the bill.
 - ◆ Bill is tabled.
- Bill 26-47: Senate Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ Chairman Huffman says that this bill follows what was previously passed in the constitution, and so debate is not worthwhile.
 - ◆ Senator Turner says she is confused why we are tabling these bills.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner says that she believes we should table this bill because there will have to be another constitutional amendment, and so these bills will make the senate out of compliance if the constitutional amendment is not voted in by the student body.
 - ◆ DIA Winston reminds the Senate that executive council members do not have to take the senate rules test because they have already been in SGA for at least a year and they know the Code of Laws.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs says that it is important that SGA executive council and the SGA executive officers take some sort of test and she thinks that the bill needs to be tabled.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs moves to table the bill.
 - ◆ The bill is tabled.
- Bill 26-48: Judicial Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs moves to table the bill.
 - ◆ The bill is tabled.
- Bill 26-49: General Knowledge Presentation
 - ◆ President Hanback says that context is important. These bills are not like the previous bills tabled. This bill has to do with the role of the Vice President in preparing new senators to become part of senate instead of taking the Senate Rules Test.

- ◆ Chairman Douglas says that he agrees with President Hanback that having the formality of mandating a presentation of the Code of Laws, etc. is a good thing to have in the future even if the student body doesn't vote to abolish the senate rules test.
- ◆ Chairwoman Staggs says that she approves this bill as she knows there is a lot of work to do with amending the constitution, she thinks this bill is a great and very general for the future.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald reminds the senate that it is always having something in the Code of Laws.
- ◆ Senator Henderson says that she is in favor of this bill as she had to have special training because she was not at senate retreat.
- ◆ Chairman Huffman moves to go into a vote.
- ◆ The bill is passed.
- Bill 26-50: Officer Training
 - ◆ Advisor Chauncey says that this bill is great, as it provides mandatory training for executive council members.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs moves to go into a vote.
 - ◆ The bill passes.
- Resolution 26-03: Commendation for the Office of First Year and Retention Initiatives
 - ◆ Historian Whisnant says that the Senate should vote to pass this resolution as ROAR was an amazing experience and impacted the lives of a lot of freshman students.
 - ◆ President Hanback asks if his grammar is correct. He also says that he is working with Communicators Director Holcomb to create a new template for the resolution.
 - ◆ Advisor Jones suggests some changes to the resolution to make it clearer and easier to read.
 - ◆ Senator Smith says that regarding the wording, she would change the wording from "to campus" to "on campus."
 - ◆ Vice President McDonald suggests an amendment.
 - ◆ Senator Fleming says that as a freshman she supports this resolution as ROAR Days did a lot to make her feel at home at UNA and she wants to commemorate that.
 - ◆ Chairman Huffman asks to suspend the rules for a moment.
 - ◆ Advisor Jones says the senate cannot do that because of secretary purposes.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs asks if this resolution just about the freshman class and the First-Year Retention Office.
 - ◆ President Hanback explains what ROAR is and its importance this year, especially coming up to the bicentennial.
 - ◆ Advisor Jones says that the office is new and it is looking at the how to keep students involved and help them find their home at UNA.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs if the resolution should include something about transfer students.
 - ◆ Advisor Jones says that the transfer office is still finding its feet and this resolution is just about freshman.
 - ◆ Vice President McDonald says there is an amendment on the floor.
 - ◆ Senator Fleming excepts the amendment.
 - ◆ Senate goes into debate about the amendment.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner says asks if transfer students should be included in the resolution.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs says that it would be beneficial to not approve the amendment and to rework the amendment to include transfer students.

- ◆ President Hanback says that he specifically chose to feature the bicentennial class in the resolution and just include freshman.
- ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner moves to go into a vote on the amendment.
- ◆ The amendment is not passed.
- ◆ Senate goes into debate upon the resolution.
- ◆ An amendment is presented.
- ◆ Amendment is approved.
- ◆ The senate goes into a vote on the resolution.
- ◆ The resolution is passed.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Kilby Fall Festival Sign Up Sheet
- President Hanback reminds senate to review the legislation before senate. He shoutouts everyone who presented bills.
- Pro-Tempore Ebert encourages the Senate to debate, but be respectful and take the time to really talk things out to make sure legislation that is passed is sound.
- Secretary McMahan reminds the senate to look over legislation she sends out before senate meetings every week.

XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Matthew says that with Code of Laws, they are rules but they are also guidelines and it is the power of the senate to know that.
- He reminds everyone who is signed up for "Stuff a Lion" to wear their SGA t-shirts.
- He reminds the senate to CC him on emails, especially with deans and directors.
- This Saturday, UNA is wearing white for the football game!
- Shoutout to Ellie Vezina for working with Athletics and representing SGA very well.
- Mr. Matthew gives fun fact of the day about UNA history about La Grange hall being burned down.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SGA Sunset Social – September 24th 6:30-8:30pm.
- Making History Together – September 24th 7pm at Norton Auditorium
- UNA Family Weekend – September 26th
- SGA Transfer Party – September 28th, 9-11am
- Study Abroad Fair – September 28th, 11-1
- Dr. Ellis Speaking to Senate – October 1st
- UNA Preview Day – October 9th, 10-12:15

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Is Parker Lachowicz!

XIX. PEP

- Pep to everyone here!
- Pep to Nick!
- Pep to healthy debate!
- Pep to freshman forum!
- Pep to Family Weekend!
- Pep to Tees and Totes!
- Pep to the resolution!
- Pep to the weather!

- Pep to Gilly for the stickers!

XX. ADJOURNMENT