



SGA Senate  
Senate Minutes  
5 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 passed as presented.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
  - The minutes passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
  - Dr. Dean Ellis speaking to senate
    - She is speaking out her role at UNA.
    - She is the associate Vice President of Student Affairs, the Dean of students, and she also serves on the President's cabinet.
    - She is the executive director for university priorities.
    - She gets to cochair the bicentennial planning committee.
    - She says something important to remember is leadership is a skill, not the title you hold.
    - She loves to hear student opinions and what their qualities of leadership that they admire.
    - She says she values getting to know people because you can't lead people unless you know them.
    - She says nobody is ever ready to step into a leadership role.
    - She says one of her favorite quotes is "If you are trying to be a leader and nobody is following, you are just going on a walk".
    - She says speak up but do not speak early.
    - Dean Ellis says her biggest obstacle is letting her job take over her life. She says she had to learn where her priorities are.

- She says she feels confident in herself by being fully transparent when she is communicating with other people.
- She says it is hard to be a transparent person when she can't say everything because of rules and laws that she has to follow.
- She says making decisions are tough, but the best way is to gather all the information needed before making a decision.
- She says the best way to avoid burnout is to be involved in different ways that are not tied into her main workload.
- She says she took the time and what she admires in other people and accepted the mistakes she has made and worked to avoid making the same mistakes.
- Treasurer Hanback speaking for Lagrange
  - He has come to speak to us about Lagrange society and encourages everyone to apply and use your leadership skills.
  - He also goes over the qualifications of becoming a Lagrange society member.
  - He says the deadline to apply for Lagrange is March 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### VIII. STUDENT FORUM

- The student forum had nothing to present.

#### IX. OFFICER REPORTS

- President Rhoades
  - She is meeting with DIA Byrd with her one on one.
  - She is starting to order the stolls for graduation.
  - She is meeting with Dr. KC White and Mr. Matthew about going over logistics for the last shared governance executive committee meeting.
  - She helped with the Take What You Need event.
  - She helped with the elections table event.
  - Core Four met to go over everything for the rest of the semester.
  - She is going to send out an interest form for judicial interest form.
  - She attended the 5K sponsorship day and said it went well.
  - If you have any questions about elections, you can reach out the elections and recruitment committee.
- Vice-President Ballenger
  - She is done with all of her one on ones with chairs.
  - All of her chairs have talked about goals and updating Teams.

- She met with Jenn Berry about booking Bear Creek for SGA retreat.
- Blue Coast Burrito will be having a receipts bucket fundraiser for the last week of February.
- She has put in a graphic request for the Blue Coast fundraiser.
- Some of the past and new freshman forum advisors will be meeting to talk about different charges to add to their section of the Code of Laws.
- She got all the information for the Florence exchange club.
- Treasurer Hanback
  - He has been working on updating the budget.
  - He has been working on the 5K budget and revamping it.
  - He had a bicentennial planning meeting this past week.
  - At Founder's Day they got to hand out the first piece of bicentennial swag. They were able to use the bicentennial data for another part of campus initiatives.
  - He is working on the endowed scholarship selection committee.
  - He went to pick up some nametags from Florence Trophy company and we had not paid for other nametags from October.
- Secretary Plunkett
  - She has been working on agendas, minutes and absences.
  - She spoke about inauguration and what it is.
- Freshman Forum Advisors Ebert and Buford
  - They want to shoutout Senator Lachowicz and Secretary Plunkett for speaking to Freshman Forum.
  - Their social chair will be planning a new event.
  - They got a list of what Freshman Forum members would like to attend Higher Ed Day.
  - They are also trying to get more bills presented.
- Pro-Tempore Winston
  - Please attend the Valentines Mixer that is next Thursday.
  - She will be getting the décor for it soon.
  - She got a lot of good feedback from Freshman Forum and SGA about Pride Points.
  - She will be meeting with Mr. Matthew, President Rhoades and Vice President Ballenger about Pride Points.
  - She asks if you have any ideas for prizes let her know.

- She will be meeting with Freshman Forum about their end of the year event.
- She says she was able to attend the accessibility walk and said it was really beneficial.
- Chief of Staff Thomas
  - She says the Take What You Need event went well. Bag making also went well.
  - She says to make sure to show up for events that you sign up for and if you can't please find a replacement.
  - She met with Megan Dye about the victory flame.
  - She says everything is going well with the victory flame and that they will have a new victory light tower at the new stadium.
  - She says they are going to hold off on lighting it for all teams until next semester.
  - For the international grocery trip, they are naming it "Stock up with SGA" and it will be March 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - She sent out a graphic request for the grocery trip.
- Historian Holcomb
  - She says the newsletter has been added to the SGA website.
  - Summary cards have been added to the chambers.
  - She says campus groups has been updated as well.
  - She has been updating Teams regularly.
  - She has been getting things together for the annual report.
- DIA Byrd
  - She has been communicating with Dr. Ellis.
  - She has met with Dr. Bishop about SGA and the ambassadors do a student leadership panel.
  - She has a meeting with President Rhoades and Historian Holcomb.
  - She sent a proxy for her food service committee meeting.
- Communications Director Mwaura
  - She is looking at a logo for Chairwoman McMahan's initiative.
  - She says the food drive will not be happening this month, but Secretary Plunkett has an alternative idea.
  - She will be doing some reels soon.

#### X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman McMahan
  - She has been emailing back and forth with the Student Success Center.

- She has talked to Communications Director Mwaura about Code of Laws changes.
- She has been working with Senator Powell about a logo.
- Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston
  - They had a paper meeting because there was one request, and it was approved.
  - They sent a media request form for allocations.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Vezina
  - She said they had a great turnout for their pre-campaign meeting.
  - She said thank you to everyone who is setting up makeup meetings.
  - Senator Woods has been reaching out to different RSOs about coming to speak about elections.
  - They have finalized the SGA debate date which will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Cole Honors Campaign Breakfast will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - She says thank you to all who helped with the future senator's table.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman McDonald
  - Senator Anthony and Senator Lachowicz attended the City Council meeting.
  - Higher Ed Day sweatshirts are in.
  - Senator Byrd made a questionnaire for after Higher Ed Day.
  - Senator Lachowicz presented a presentation about Higher Ed Day to Freshman Forum.
  - She updated the Code of Laws today with the new bills.
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Strickland
  - She has been working on the accessibility project and hopefully getting a resolution out about it soon.
- Philanthropy Chairwoman Gaertner
  - Sponsorship day went super well.
  - She got the flyers in for the 5K.
  - The Blue Coast Burrito fundraiser is coming up.
  - Blvd Nutrition fundraiser day went well.

#### XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- President Rhoades attended the Light the Fountain committee meeting, and they went over day of logistics.
- President Rhoades attended the food service committee about all the information from Starbucks.

- The shared governance executive committee will be taking over the Starbucks decision.
- Chairwoman Gaertner went to the athletics meeting and they talked about pay rates for all the different sports. They are working on recruiting for Flag Football. They will be doing a ribbon cutting soon for the new baseball field.
- Communications Director Mwaura says that the strategic planning committee has not met but they got sent a document for the final version of the refund policy.
- Chairwoman McDonald says the readmissions and undergraduate study committee will be meeting and she will need a proxy.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Constitutional compliance
  - They have a bill that will be presented.
- Alma mater
  - Chairwoman McDonald went through the Teams from former Chief of Staff Britton's folder.
  - They are working on dividing up different information for people to contact.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- There is no old business presented.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 26-06: Executive Session Reformation Act
  - This bill is to clean up the executive session portion of the Code of Laws.
  - Senator Anthony says it's a great bill and that the author has done her research.
  - Mia asks for clarification on being in executive session and voting after executive session.
  - Communications Director Mwaura says it's a great bill and the author did a lot of research.
  - Chief of Staff Thomas further explains the need of this bill and further explains what executive session is.
  - This bill passes as presented.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Giveaway for Light the Fountain
  - SGA will be doing a giveaway for Light the Fountain.
  - Mr. Matthew goes over a potential item that we could give out for Light the Fountain.

- He says we could potentially get clear crossbody bags and get SGA branded socks as well.
- They said this could be a cheaper option than the blankets, but we are still looking into the blankets.
- We are looking at giving out 100 items to giveaway.
- There was an unofficial vote to do crossbody and socks vs. blankets and most people would rather do crossbody and socks.
- People are liking the idea of giving away the crossbody bags and socks separate.
- President Rhoades will be doing a sign-up sheet with helping with the giveaway for Light the Fountain.
- Mr. Matthew says they are pricing out different options for the giveaway.
- Vice President Ballenger suggests that hoping next week or in a couple weeks to do a themed senate.
- Freshman Forum Advisor Ebert reminds everyone to use the SGA camera.

#### XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- He reiterates Chief of Staff Thomas's point about not missing events.
- He says to please keep the chambers clean.
- The projector in the chambers is having technical difficulties.
- Mia has offered herself if you would like to talk about elections.
- He will be working on Higher Ed Day excuses.
- He says we are in elections season, and if you are interested in booking a table for campaigning. Be aware when you are campaigning.
- He is fully aware of the conversations on yikyak this past week and he asks that we as leaders do not contribute much to the drama and negativity.
- He says if you are leading and there is no one you are taking a walk. If there is one person, you are a leader and you are making a difference.
- He says Happy Black History month to everyone. He says to please attend the Soul Food expo.
- February 11-26<sup>th</sup> athletics and counseling services will be doing a mental health matters month.
- International Eating Disorders alliance and they will be doing a fashion show on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Miss UNA – February 7<sup>th</sup>
- Declaration of Candidacy closes – February 8<sup>th</sup>

- Campaigning starts – February 9<sup>th</sup>
- SGA x Freshman Forum Mixer – February 12<sup>th</sup>
- Higher Education Day – February 19<sup>th</sup>
- College of Business Slim Chickens Spirit Night – every Thursday in February
- SGA Debate – March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Vice President says to encourage people to apply for SGA.
- Chairwoman Gaertner says Slim Chickens spirit night March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Blue Coast Burrito fundraiser last week of February.
- Taco Mama spirit night is April.
- Communications Director Mwaura encourages people to repost Instagram posts.
- Mr. Matthew says he will be putting his phone number in the groupme if you need to contact him.

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Grace Anthony and Hannah Call won SGA member of the week!

XIX. PEP

- Pep to Senator Hanback!
- Pep to Senator Looney!
- Pep to Mr. Matthew!
- Pep to Senator Woods!
- Pep to Vice President Ballenger!
- Pep to Senator Lachowicz!
- Pep to the 5K!
- Pep to people who attended the sponsorship day!
- Pep to Alma Mater ad hoc committee!

XX. ADJOURNMENT