



The University of North Alabama

Student Government Association

Senate Minutes

October 8th, 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
 - Agenda passed as presented.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
 - Minutes passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
 - Dr. Johnson Speaking to Senate.
 - ◆ Came to ask feedback of SGA regarding the academic honesty policy.
 - ◆ Explained what the current academic honesty policy is. There is no timeline of the honesty process. It is a tedious procedure, and there are different processes across different departments. It is in the best interest of the university to ensure that students are getting credit for work they've honestly completed.
 - ◆ She proposes that if a faculty member believes a student has committed an act of dishonesty in their class, they will fill out an online for detailing the concern. The system will automatically email the student, and the student has 3 business days to respond either with evidence that they did not cheat, or that they want to schedule a meeting with the faculty member. After meeting with the student, or reviewing the student's submitted evidence, the faculty member will make a determination and enter their course-level sanction into the form, which notifies the student and the Office of Student Conduct. The Office of Student Conduct will review the student's academic integrity history to determine if university-level sanctions are warranted.
 - ◆ Dr. Johnson says that students are protected through an appeal process. To appeal, a student must write a letter of appeal stating their case, within 3

business days. Appeal requests are reviewed by the Associate Dean of the College in which the course resides. Students can appeal for the following reasons: there was a procedural error that affected the outcome, the determination was not supported by a fair and objective evaluation of the available information, new information that was unavailable during the original process, and lastly sanction is not appropriate based on the nature of the violation or the student's academic integrity history.

- ◆ She notes that underneath the new Academic Honesty Policy, students are allowed an advisor in a non-participatory role during a meeting with the faculty.
- ◆ She opens the floor for SGA members to share their thoughts related to the new Academic Honesty Policy.
- ◆ Advisor Jones asks if the form is sent by the faculty. Dr. Johnson confirms.
- ◆ Advisor Jones asks if the faculty have a time frame to reply to a student.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson says that there was some discussion, but they decided against it.
- ◆ Senator Turner asks if students withdraw from a course, if the form is still filed.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson confirms.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald asks about the appeal process.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson explains the role of the associate deans in the appeal process.
- ◆ Chairwoman Staggs asks if the associate dean is the professor, who looks at it in their stead.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson explains someone else would look at it.
- ◆ Senator Pounders asks if it has to be an in-person meeting.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson says no. It can be an online meeting.
- ◆ Advisor Jones says that if an extra person is in the meeting, if they have to complete a form before the meeting.
- ◆ Senator Turner asks that for the in-person meeting, if it has to be made known that the student can voice record, etc. and if the student would have to submit a form.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson asks if state law makes it so someone has to ask to record and says she'll have to ask the university attorney.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson says this whole process vary by department and faculty member.
- ◆ Senator Turner asks if it would be ok to have a list of proof or evidence that can be brought forth by the student.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson thinks it would be ok for SGA to create a list from the students that is a "how to" guide for the students on the appeal process.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald says that she worries that students will give the proof to the instructor, but the instructor would ignore it.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson says that everything is recorded in the system.

- ◆ Chairwoman Gaertner asks how this new appeal process would work for group projects.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson says it depends on the situation. If each student brings forth proof of their part of the work, then the instructor can determine the case.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson says this process is growing and a lot more faculty are reporting students because they finally understand the system.
- ◆ Dr. Johnson thanks SGA for having her and for sharing their thoughts.
- Swearing in of new senators.
 - ◆ Chief Justice Thomas swears in Senator De Saram, Senator Metcalf, and Senator Bena.

VIII. STUDENT FORUM

- Freshman Forum Delegate Reeves introduces himself.
- Freshman Forum Delegate Grace Brackett introduces herself.
- Freshman Forum Delegate Mary Christenson introduces herself.
- Freshman Forum Delegate Ellen Brewer introduces herself.
- Freshman Forum Delegate Baron Smith introduces himself. He talks about his committee's first event.
- Freshman Forum Delegate Madelyn Robinson introduces herself. She encourages SGA to come to their Pie a Delegate event.

IX. OFFICER REPORTS

- President Hanback
 - ◆ Scheduling one-on-ones with exec members.
 - ◆ Parking deadline on game weekends has been moved to 5pm.
 - ◆ Met with Chairwoman Zaharko about Appleby Safety Committee.
 - ◆ Dr. Tammy spoke to exec on Monday about SGA sponsoring Light the Fountain this year. SGA would give \$10,000 this year, then factor in giving money every year into the Code of Laws.
 - ◆ Attended the Bicentennial Kickoff luncheon today.
 - ◆ There has been some cross walk discussion for Wood Avenue.
 - ◆ Weather Update: the university is monitoring the weather for this weekend and will be in operation Orange this weekend.
- Vice President McDonald
 - ◆ Contacted Chief of Justice Thomas about scheduling Rules Test.
 - ◆ Communicated committee placements with new senators.
 - ◆ Asked that Chairman Douglas write a bill to protect senators.
 - ◆ She asks that SGA let her know if they need help with legislation.
- Treasurer Woods
 - ◆ Shoutout to Senator Pounders for reposting information about the upcoming constitutional amendment.
 - ◆ Nothing else to report.

- Secretary McMahan
 - ◆ Met with Chief Justice Thomas about better communication between SGA and the Judicial Branch.
 - ◆ Sent out paper invitations for Past Officers' Breakfast.
 - ◆ Presented to Freshman Forum yesterday about etiquette and being a good representative of SGA inside and outside the Senate chambers.
 - ◆ If you need an event posted on Campus Groups, please ask her or Gilly to help you a week in advance!
 - ◆ Picked up nametags today for new senators and Freshman Forum members.
 - ◆ Attended homecoming meeting.
 - ◆ Will be sending out a form for possible questions of the day next week.
 - ◆ If you are going to be absent from Senate, please email her. Don't message on GroupMe!
- Freshman Forum Advisors Lachowicz and Chauncey
 - ◆ Welcomes Freshman Forum members in Student Forum.
 - ◆ Sending out another poll to schedule the big/little reveal.
 - ◆ Nametags came in for Freshman Forum!
 - ◆ Freshman Forum passed two bills yesterday. They tabled a bill, and one bill passed as amended.
 - ◆ Freshman Forum voted on their t-shirts.
 - ◆ The Social Committee is planning a Halloween costume event, and another committee is planning Pie a Delegate.
 - ◆ Working on homecoming banner!
- Pro-Tempore Ebert
 - ◆ The homecoming banner is done!
 - ◆ Sending email to Mrs. Johnson about everything discussed in senate!
 - ◆ Swag Wagon is happening next week!
- Chief of Staff Vezina
 - ◆ Had a meeting with Caroline Vance about international relations. They want to plan more winter events for international students.
 - ◆ Presenting to Freshman Forum next Wednesday.
- Historian Whisnant
 - ◆ Started looking into Fall Report.
 - ◆ Looking into creating a history of SGA leading up to SGA's 100th birthday in 2031.
 - ◆ Going to be scheduling a meeting with UNA's archives to start researching.
- DIA Winston
 - ◆ Pride Points is over! 100 students won. Over 4500 students participated in Pride Points this year.

- ◆ Waiting for the ROAR access center to finish their renovations to continue the partnership.
- ◆ Looking for RSO outreach opportunities possibly in the spring.
- ◆ Shoutout to Mae for helping her get Freshman Forum members a part of the Bicentennial video.
- ◆ Shoutout to Brianna for presenting her bill.
- Communications Director Holcomb
 - ◆ Working on media requests.
 - ◆ Has a post coming out about elections.
 - ◆ Shoutout to Academic Affairs for using her buttons!
 - ◆ Starting “Meet SGA Mondays” on Instagram.
 - ◆ Talked to exec about a design Owen Beasley made to create keychains.
 - ◆ Getting in contact with Megan Dye about the design.
 - ◆ Scheduled a one-on-one meeting with President Hanback.
 - ◆ Schedule a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Matthew on Thursday to go over Code of Laws, etc.
 - ◆ Meeting with Pro-Tempore Ebert to make sure Swag Wagon has everything it needs.
 - ◆ Thank you to Treasurer Woods and Senator Pounders about sharing the constitutional amendment on Instagram!

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman Powell
 - ◆ The midterm event went very well.
 - ◆ Shoutout to Gilly for the buttons and stickers.
- Budget Oversight Chairman Huffman
 - ◆ Had seven requests. Five were accepted. One was rejected. One needed amendment. Sent out 6500
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Zaharko
 - ◆ Homecoming nominations closed!
 - ◆ There are 29 homecoming candidates!
 - ◆ After elections, the committee is going to look over the manual to improve it for next year.
 - ◆ Asks that SGA report things they hear, either positive or negative about SGA during homecoming.
- Legislative Affairs Chairman Douglas
 - ◆ Higher Ed Day is now February 25th.
 - ◆ Had a Zoom meeting with the Higher Ed partnership.
 - ◆ Almost a month away from Dreams to Reality! It’s 3:30 on November 12th.
 - ◆ Reviewing Dreams to Reality speeches.
 - ◆ He is presenting a bill today! Secretary McMahan sent it out.

- Philanthropy Chairwoman Gaertner
 - ◆ Slim Chickens is today!
 - ◆ Donut NV is coming up as well.
 - ◆ Tees and Totes is still live.
 - ◆ Soak a Senator is coming back!
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Staggs
 - ◆ Going to be launching a “Being Kind” campaign.
 - ◆ Looking more into accessibility project.
 - ◆ Presenting a bill about accessibility and adding that to Student Welfare’s Code of Laws.

XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Nothing was presented from Shared Governance.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Appleby Safety Committee
 - ◆ Met with Director of Facilities. Emailed all CPH presidents and their facilities directors.
 - ◆ A solution has been made and will be presented soon.
- Homecoming Committee
 - ◆ Met on Monday and finished the banner!
 - ◆ Starting to work on Skit and the float.
 - ◆ Shoutout to Mark for helping to build the float.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- Bill 26-46: Original Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ The bill was tabled.
- Bill 26-47: Senate Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ The bill was tabled.
- Bill 26-48: Judicial Rules Test Revision
 - ◆ The bill was tabled.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 26-52: Revised Appeal Act
 - ◆ Chairman Douglas explains that this bill will help with the appeal process while SGA waits for the Constitutional Amendment to pass.
 - ◆ Senator Pounders say that this is a great bill. He says that it is better to go to Judicial. He says SGA should vote for this bill.
 - ◆ Senator Turner asks if Judicial members would have to be present when it is announced.
 - ◆ Chairman Douglas says that it would only be presented to Judicial.
 - ◆ Treasurer Woods suggests SGA vote yes on this bill.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs says that any other appeal get sent to Judicial so this bill is great.

- ◆ Senator Pounders asks if “simple majority” includes the Chief Justice.
- ◆ Vice President McDonald says that any appeal process the Chief Justice is the tie breaker.
- ◆ Chairman Douglas says that this is a good thing to have in place.
- ◆ Chairwoman Staggs moves to pass the bill.
- ◆ Chairman Huffman seconds.
- ◆ The bill is passed.
- Bill 26-53: Pride Points Award
 - ◆ DIA Winston explains that every year, Pride Points needs money in order to give their winners prizes. She explains what Pride Points is.
 - ◆ Chairman Huffman moves to pass the bill.
 - ◆ Chairwoman Staggs seconds the bill.
- Bill 26-54: SGA All Access Act
 - ◆ Freshman Forum Advisor Chauncey says that this bill is great and specifies what the Student Welfare committee should do in the future.
 - ◆ Senator Pounders says that a meeting does not go by that accessibility is not talked about. Accessibility is a part of Student Welfare and so this is a very important update to the Code of Laws.
 - ◆ Freshman Forum Advisor Chauncey moves to pass the bill.
 - ◆ Senator Turner seconds.
 - ◆ The bill is passed.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Bigs/Littles Details
 - ◆ When the Freshman Forum delegates get their nametags, they will also be given a letter from their Big. Please turn their letter in by Tuesday.
 - ◆ There is also a GroupMe for SGA Bigs.
- Homecoming Tabling Sign Up Sheet
 - ◆ SGA signed up for times to help with the homecoming tabling event.
- Vice President McDonald asks that people post on CampusGroups, and to reach out to Secretary McMahan to put them on the agenda.
- Senator Pounders suggests that SGA not table the last two bills, but instead not pass them. But pass the third bill.

XVI. ADVISOR’S REPORT

- ◆ Has been working on homecoming elections! Photos of the candidates will be on the ballot this year!
- ◆ Emailing Elections and Recruitment with a sample ballot this weekend.
- ◆ Ready Education, the company that oversees CampusGroups, asked Mr. Matthew to present about how SGA uses CampusGroups to allocate funds for the university RSOs.
- ◆ Met with some SRM about their class project.

- ◆ Reminds SGA to use the SGA logos on flyers.
- ◆ Purchasing card was hacked.
- ◆ Be aware of the weather this weekend!
- ◆ Fun fact for this week: in the 60s or 70s there was a women's SGA.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- UNA Preview Day – October 9th, 10-12:15
- Homecoming Court Elections Rd 1 – October 12-14th
- Homecoming Court Elections Rd 2 – October 19th-21st
- Swag Wagon – October 12-16th
- Dr. Price speaking to Senate – October 15th
- Battle of the Bands – October 15th, 6pm in Norton Auditorium
- Homecoming Spirit Challenge – October 19th-23rd
- UNA Homecoming – October 24th
- Dr. Ellis Speaking to Senate – October 29th

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Is Ana Kathrine Whisnant!

XIX. PEP

- Pep to everyone!
- Pep to the homecoming banner!
- Pep to Mark!
- Pep to nominated homecoming court members!
- Pep to Mallory!
- Pep to Mr. Matthew!
- Pep to Mrs. Johnson!

XX. ADJOURNMENT

- Senate adjourned at 5:20