



SGA Senate  
Senate Minutes  
15 January 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - Called to order at 3:29 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MOMENT OF SILENCE
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. PASSING OF AGENDA
  - The agenda were passed as presented.
- VI. PASSING OF MINUTES
  - The minutes were passed as presented.
- VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS
  - Mrs. Cindy Conlon speaking to senate
    - She is here to talk about Starbucks.
    - The contract is up to renew it and it can be renewed for up to 10 years.
    - The management system does not line up with their management system.
    - After the contract is renewed the only way, you can use dining dollars at Starbucks is by the counter.
    - If they go to a proudly serve Starbucks, they can put whatever food they want in there.
    - It will not be like café Leo, since there is more foot traffic.
    - They can sell UNA branded cups instead of the Starbucks cups.
    - The pricing will be flexible since they do not have to pay a royalty fee.
    - Some of the pastries will be there but they will have new food items.
    - There are also some issues with Starbucks and the card systems in other universities.
    - They can add gluten free options if UNA owns it.

- Communications Director Mwaura suggests still doing rewards and other things like that.
- Senator Huffman says to survey students for Starbucks vs. another brand of coffee.
- People prefer to keep the proudly serve for familiarity reasons.
- Dr. Tammy Jacques speaking to senate
  - She is talking about Light the Fountain.
  - This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Light the Fountain.
  - Some of the things that are planned are the lapels pins and the t-shirts. She says she has ten food trucks coming. She will be talking to ROTC about getting the rock wall, and the game room is doing cotton candy. There will also be tons of giveaways.
  - She wants the opinions of SGA on how to make it fun.
  - They will have videographers, a drone show, fireworks, and more fun things.
  - The senate gave a lot of different and fun ideas to have at Light the Fountain
- Swearing of new senators
  - Chief Justice Kusz swears in Senator Youngblood and Senator Miller!

VIII. STUDENT FORUM

- There was nothing presented during student forum.

IX. OFFICER REPORTS

- President Rhoades
  - She met with Mr. Matthew about the classroom audit information.
  - She met with Chairwoman Strickland about accessibility that her and her committee will be working on this semester.
  - She has a meeting with Kendra White about the audit.
  - She is helping plan a meet and greet.
  - If you have any more ideas for Light the Fountain, let core four or Dr. Tammy know.
  - She did an informal vote to see if we want to do a giveaway at Light the Fountain and senate would like to participate.
- Vice-President Ballenger
  - Chair one on ones will be happening soon.
  - She went to the foreign exchange meeting this week and she says that Florence would like to have a foreign exchange club.
  - Everyone should have door access to the chambers.

- Chairman Moore stepped down and Senator Gaertner is the new chair.
- Treasurer Hanback
  - The budget is updated.
  - The 5K is coming up and he says the philanthropy meeting has been planning things for the 5k and they are adding a fun run.
  - Constitutional compliance will be meeting.
  - They are talking about doing a survey for the Starbucks information.
- Secretary Plunkett
  - She has been doing her regular secretary duties.
  - She went over the appeal process during her report and where to find it in the Code of Laws.
- Freshman Forum Advisors Ebert and Buford
  - Freshman Forum has their first formal meeting.
  - They did update teams for Freshman Forum.
  - They have an open chair in the Outreach and Philanthropy committee.
  - Student welfare got their survey information back.
- Pro-Tempore Winston
  - Valentine's day mixer will be February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM.
  - There will be no more game night.
  - Pride points will start the day of the 5k and end on Light the Fountain.
  - She talked to Miss Evans at Listerhill about pride points.
  - The food drive will be in February.
- Chief of Staff Thomas
  - She is sending an email about the victory flame to athletics.
  - President Rhoades has some new ideas to add to the email regarding the integration into the new stadium.
  - She's been updating her teams.
  - Her Take What You Need event will be February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Historian Holcomb
  - She is brainstorming what to do for the February newsletter and the annual report.
  - If you have any ideas for the newsletter let her know.
  - She's helping Communications Director Mwaura with graphic requests.
- DIA Byrd

- Dr. Ellis will be speaking February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- She is planning a culture and conversations event so students can come speak about their experiences.
- Communications Director Mwaura
  - Secretary Plunkett and Historian Holcomb will be helping her with 5K materials.
  - She will be meeting with Susan Greer about dining options.
  - She is in touch with Alabama's SGA about their dining dollar exchange.
  - Constitutional compliance will be meeting.

X. CHAIR REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Chairwoman McMahan
  - They want to do something to promote academic resources.
  - They are having a reel film day about study tips.
  - Senator Powell finished her video.
  - She submitted a budget request form.
- Budget Oversight Chairman McCuiston
  - They had eight requests. Two were approved, four requested modifications and two were denied.
  - They are taking suggestions about the budget manual.
- Elections and Recruitment Chairwoman Vezina
  - She had a meeting with Mr. Matthew about upcoming elections and the timeline.
  - She got to review the Declaration of Candidacy form, and that will open on February 1<sup>st</sup> and end on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - The mandatory campaign meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Legislative Affairs Chairwoman McDonald
  - They have a City Council meeting coming up.
  - Senator Lachowicz and Senator Anthony and Chairwoman McDonald are going.
  - They talked about how they are using their Higher Ed Day money.
  - She wants to get the chair from the academic committee from the House of Representatives to speak at senate.
  - Senator Lachowicz is going to do a presentation for Higher Ed day to freshman forum.
  - She also went over plans with new senators about Higher Ed day.
  - For debating a bill, we need to keep in mind common courtesy for people speaking.
- Student Welfare Chairwoman Strickland

- They did a lot of brainstorming at their meeting for accessibility.
- She went over ideas with President Rhoades
- They want to push around a wheelchair or walk around to find non-accessible spots on campus. If you are interested let her know.
- Philanthropy Chairwoman Gaertner
  - 5K website is live.
  - Registration is live.
  - There will be a 1-mile fun run and the 5K.
  - She met with Mr. Matthew about the website.
  - Sponsorship day is January 24<sup>th</sup>.

XI. SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Athletics will be meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> and Senator Barnett needs a proxy.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Constitutional compliance
  - There will be a meeting today at 5:15.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- Alma Mater
  - Chairwoman McDonald thinks we should write a resolution to change it and offer suggestions.
  - There is a Shoals Music society that could help with this.
  - Senator Anthony says it would be great to have a group of SGA members gather information for this before a resolution.
  - Senator Lachowicz says that the university can come out with a statement to say we do not condone any discrimination against anyone.
  - Communications Director Mwaura suggests that we use the information that was gathered last year.
  - Treasurer Hanback says he would love to see more UNA specific language included in the alma mater.
  - Communications Director Mwaura says this could be a great thing to partner with the rebranding.
  - There is a Muscle Shoals heritage museum that is connected to UNA. That would be a good place to start.
  - President Rhoades can form an ad hoc committee for this.
  - Senator Moore believes that if we try to change it that it may bring more problems than it would solve.
  - Historian Holcomb says that an ad hoc should be formed.

- Chief of Staff Thomas also says that an ad hoc committee should be formed but there is also a lot of research already started.
- The UNA band changed their name because it had the word "dixie" in it.

#### XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Bill 26-01: No Contact Bill
  - This is to focus more on group efforts like attending Florence City Council meetings, Higher Ed day and SLUAC.
  - Chairwoman McDonald gives more information as to why they are changing this. It is hard to get in touch with different representatives. They can get with representatives better with the Higher Education partnership.
  - Senator Moore asks if there is a requirement in the Code of Laws about attending city council meetings and there is.
  - Senator Sharma asks if they would lose anything if we did not send letters, and the author of the bill says she is not sure but having this bill does not state that they do not have the ability to.
  - The bill passes.
- Bill 26-01: Valentines Mixer Funding Bill
  - Senator Huffman asks if there were more than 50 people, and people said there were not more than 50 people last year.
  - There was an amendment on the floor to change the total to \$325. The amendment was passed.
  - The bill passes with the amendment.
- Voting on mandatory 5K date
  - The date for the 5K is March 7<sup>th</sup>. The rain date is March 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - The time frame for this would be 7 AM to 1 PM.
  - The 5K is now mandatory.

#### XV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- SGA Spring 2026 Apportionment
  - We went over the apportionment for SGA elections.
  - Mr. Matthew gave us some population data for all of the different colleges.
  - The apportionment passes.
- Sponsorship Day sign ups
  - People signed up to help.

#### XVI. ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Everyone should have access to chambers door.
- Freshman forum survey data has been used in a work group already.

- Student Welfare committee, there is a wheelchair.
- He's doing research on where Kilby budgeting comes from. They need updated furniture.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sponsorship Day – January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Miss UNA – January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Mayor Ron Tyler speaking to senate – January 29<sup>th</sup>
- Take What You Need event – February 5<sup>th</sup>
- Higher Education Day – February 19<sup>th</sup>
- If you are in Phi Eta sigma scholarships opened today.

XVIII. SGA MEMBER OF THE WEEK

- Chairwoman McDonald won senator of the week.

XIX. PEP

- Pep to Chairwoman Gaertner!
- Pep to Treasurer Hanback!
- Pep to Light the Fountain!
- Pep to Chairwoman McDonald!
- Pep to possible ad hoc committee!
- Pep to the presented bills!

XX. ADJOURNMENT