



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association

**Student Government Association Senate
Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2021**

Open Forum

Rett Waggoner
President

Cole Callahan
Vice President

Stephen Sadie
Treasurer

Tyler Ward
Executive Vice President of
Cabinet Administration

Claudia Hubbard
Executive Vice President
of Communications and
Marketing

Michael Thomas
Executive Vice President of
Initiatives

Molly Boudreaux
Executive Vice President of
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- a. Heather Mann (she/her) – President of Spectrum
 - i. Ralph Brown Draugon Library 3035, Wednesday at 6pm: Coming Out Stories.
 - a. Great opportunity to learn what students have gone through and experienced.
 - ii. Trying to find ways to peacefully protest recent state legislature – bill prohibited doctors from providing treatment to minors in gender transition.
 - a. Writing letters to senators.
 - iii. Contact information can be found on Spectrum’s AUInvolve page.

Roll Call 7:40

- 1. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Approved.
- 2. Executive Officer Reports
 - a) Rett Waggoner — President
 - a. Currently in process of onboarding meetings with committee chairs.
 - b. Currently in the process of Director interviews.
 - i. After these are complete, the current Student Government Association administration will be complete.
 - b) Stephen Sadie — Treasurer
 - a. Currently working on two endowments and increasing them for outreach and retention scholarships.
 - i. Focused on minority and underdeveloped communities.
 - ii. Not coming from student activity fee.
 - c) Molly Boudreaux — EVP, Outreach
 - a. Review of last week’s Research Bootcamp:
 - i. Research and Benchmarking Request Form can be found on AUInvolve.
 - ii. Full surveys: expect a three week return.
 - iii. Benchmarking: expect a four week return.
 - b. Bootcamp 2: What is Benchmarking?
 - i. Benchmarking is the act of evaluating or checking something with a standard.
 - ii. Auburn evaluates itself with peer and aspirant institutions.
 - iii. A benchmarking report is a very lengthy, in-depth report that is typically used for large initiatives or when advocating for a large change.
 - iv. What can benchmarking look like in Senate?
 - 1. Look at institutions that are relevant in the given situation.
 - 2. Make sure to ask consistent questions for each institution assessed.



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- 3. Utilize resources such as websites, social media, etc.
4. If you are unable to find what you are looking for, contact Molly or Jordan.
5. Ensure to send emails that are professional and respectful, and send a follow-up email a few days after if you do not receive a response.
6. Address the purpose of the research and how you collected the information, as well as where Auburn stands on the topic.
7. Address differences and reasons for those differences, your recommendations, and why/why not you believe that this change would be effective at Auburn.

v. Adding a form to be used to request previous feedback and data.

- d) Tyler Ward - EVP, Cabinet Administration
a. Director interviews have finished, and the directors will be confirmed soon.
i. This is a good way to see who is being added to these roles.
ii. Start to partner with these new members in a few weeks.
e) Claudia Hubbard - EVP, Communications and Marketing
a. No report.
f) Michael Thomas - EVP, Initiatives
a. Late night dining will be in action in a few weeks.
i. Goal: first or second week of April.
ii. Important to promote this.
b. Safety Walk: if anyone has participated in this before, it would be great to have them as a site leader.
c. Teaching effectiveness committee:
i. Dr. Martin looks at evaluations from each semester.
ii. The minimum percentage of student responses necessary to evaluate feedback on a professor has decreased from 70% to 30%.
iii. Looking at ways to promote evaluation surveys and encourage participation.

3. College Reports

- a) At Large
a. Recently had a conversation with a friend from home that serves on Senate at Florida State University.
i. Auburn's Senate runs efficiently and provides more opportunities for involvement outside of weekly meetings.
b. Currently working on study space feedback; excited to see the information this gathers.
b) College of Agriculture
a. No report.
c) College of Business
a. Working to reopen dining option in Horton-Hardgrave Hall.
b. Great to be able to reopen this dining option for students.
c. Updated to Qualtrics Survey from Google Form survey in Link Tree.



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- d) College of Architecture, Design & Construction
 - a. Office hours have been finalized and sent out in emails.
 - b. Preparing graphics to post about office hours, and sending out Zoom link.
 - c. Releasing modality poll amongst College of Architecture, Design, and Construction students.
 - i. Professors are helping distribute this poll.
 - ii. Working on social media to distribute the poll.
- e) College of Sciences and Mathematics
 - a. Office hours finalized: Monday 9-10am, Friday 1-2pm.
 - b. Office hours to be held in Science Center Laboratory.
 - c. Student complaint about a midterm scheduled for 5pm on a Friday.
- f) College of Education
 - a. Office hours are held in the Haley Center on Thursdays from 11-12.
 - b. Many students thought that this Wellness Day was better than the last.
 - i. Many still frustrated with exams the day after.
 - c. Planning on meeting with the President and Vice President of school's council this week or next week.
- g) Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
 - a. Link tree has been updated with a Qualtrics survey.
 - b. Modality feedback: many students think that this semester is better than the last and like the online option.
 - i. Some students feel that online modality makes school feel like a chore.
- h) School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
 - a. Last Thursday: school council had a meeting with former Vice President, former President, incoming senator, incoming Vice President, and incoming President.
 - i. Spoke about roles, projects being finished, and projects for the upcoming term.
 - ii. Agreed to meet every other week in order to ensure a smooth transition.
 - b. During office hours, had an encouraging conversation with freshmen; focused on Senate and new ideas.
 - c. Feedback from survey sent out about three weeks ago: many people think the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences can be better promoted.
 - d. Students prefer communicating through email and anonymous surveys.
 - e. Many students prefer that office hours are moved from 11:15-1:15 to 7-9am.
 - f. Update on bird awareness:
 - i. Communicated with faculty who have noticed the issue and began to work on developing ideas.
 - ii. The problem is anticipated to grow in coming weeks due to a bird migration through Auburn.
 - iii. Spoke with professors and graduate students who have dealt with similar situations in the past.
- i) Graduate School
 - a. Invited senators to participate in a meeting with the president.
 - b. Nominations for graduate students are open to nominate themselves or someone else for a senate position.
 - c. Wednesday, March 17: Executive Board Meeting.
 - d. Graduate School Senate will meet on March 24.



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- j) College of Human Sciences
 - a. Trying to collect feedback on second Wellness Day.
 - b. Starting ambassador training on Monday.
 - c. Concern regarding an email from the College of Sciences and Mathematics referencing a racist organization.
- k) College of Liberal Arts
 - a. Spoke with school's council regarding looking into measures to better place students into internships.
 - b. Feedback and concern regarding an email from the College of Sciences and Mathematics that referenced a racist organization.
 - i. Upset with wording; wish it was presented in a different format.
- l) School of Nursing
 - a. Met about ideas for activities on the Wellness Day with Wellness committee.
 - b. Informal feedback indicated that instructors stayed true to their in-person delivery methods.
 - c. Some students indicated that professors go too long between switching Zoom and live classrooms when classes are held in adjacent lecture halls in-person.
- m) Harrison School of Pharmacy
 - a. Wellness Day survey feedback indicated that 60% of students rated the Wellness Day an 8 or higher out of 10.
 - b. Student feedback indicated that most students did not have assignments due on the Wellness Day or the day after.
 - c. Meeting with student council to review changes that can be made based on survey feedback.
 - d. Discussing future modality option; students have questions about the rest of the semester and the fall semester.
- n) College of Veterinary Medicine
 - a. Student feedback indicates confusion about the upcoming Wellness Day being on a Thursday.
 - b. Hosting an event throughout the week to remember what students have been through in the past year and the individuals affected.

4. Committee Reports

- a) Gavin McElroy – Academic Affairs
 - a. Decided on 5 projects to focus on:
 - i. Modalities
 - ii. Issues with payments for different lockdown browsers
 - iii. Assignments from different websites to be posted to Canvas
 - iv. Mid-semester reviews for professors
 - v. Rentable laptops for students
- b) Reese Lisenby – Budget and Finance
 - a. Next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 16 at 6pm in the Melton Student Center 2222-2223.
 - b. Last week: went through budget process in depth.
- c) Kyla Mathner – Code of Laws and Rules
 - a. Committee meeting at 11:00am on Tuesday, March 16 over Zoom.
 - b. Looking into projects:
 - i. Finalizing Code of Laws timeline
 - ii. Revising aspects of school's council
 - iii. Implementing absence policy



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- d) Brandan Belser – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - a. Started to separate into projects; looking to help students and reach those of lower income.
 - b. Reviving campaign about sexual assault awareness.
 - c. Working with graduate schools.
 - d. Working with housing.
 - e. Excited to be branching off.
- e) John David Mathews – Student Affairs
 - a. Committee meeting time changed to 5:15-6:15pm on Thursdays.
 - b. Benchmarking other institutions with regards of how to use sentinel testing.
 - c. Tiger Dining provides free meal vouchers for those that get sentinel tested.
 - d. Late night dining option:
 - i. Food truck parked between Lambda Chi Alpha house and 320 West Magnolia building from Thursday – Saturday.
 - ii. Hours of operation are being determined.
 - iii. Different dining option each week.
 - iv. Will use Grubhub.
 - e. Meal plans officially released today; designed to give parents reassurance that their child can eat the entire semester.
 - i. Will be put on first e-Bill so that they can be paid for by scholarships and grants.
 - ii. Still one of the least expensive meal plans in the Southeastern Conference.
 - f. Goal of making Central Dining / “The Edge” a place to hangout as well as eat.
 - i. 9 different food zones.
 - ii. Will be open from 7am-10pm.
 - g. Tiger Dining released an article about meal plans that can be found by searching “AU Tiger Dining” in Google, clicking the first link, and clicking the top right corner.
- f) Graf Sullivan – Executive Committee
 - a. Every senator is required to attend one Executive Committee Meeting per semester.
 - b. Meetings are at 7:45am on Fridays.
 - i. Email Graf if you are attending in-person.
 - c. Continuing to meet with small groups.
 - d. When collecting feedback, try to be interactive with students.
 - i. Many people do not understand SGA.
 - ii. Important to talk with people one-on-one.
 - e. Working on concourse hours for next week.
 - f. Move to change PSSB: 21-0322-01 to a current order.
 - i. Vote.
 - ii. Motion carries.

5. Liaisons

- a) Honors College – Luke Owens
 - a. Confirmation Presentation
 - i. Honors College Mission Statement.
 - ii. 1827 Honors College students at Auburn, and 410 Honors Congress members.
 - iii. Honors College structure: 4 executive positions and 4 chair heads.



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- iv. Strongly feel that the Honors College and Congress deserve their own voice.
 - v. Barriers in the past include lack of accountability and no voting seat in Senate.
 - vi. Milestones and aspirations include recruitment efforts for incoming freshmen members, creating a positive culture, emphasizing student involvement.
 - vii. Collaboration with Honors Serves, Diversity in Honors, SGA.
- b. Gathering feedback using Qualtrics and open forum at meetings.
 - c. Honors College Formal: March 20th
 - d. Voting on committees this week and designing a philanthropy event.
 - e. Created a formal contract for leadership members.
- b) Black Student Union – Donovan Evins
 - a. Confirmation Presentation
 - i. Constituency: BSU was founded in 1983, and has over 1000 members.
 - ii. Weekly meetings are on Wednesdays at 5pm.
 - iii. Motto: Unity through education.
 - iv. How their purpose is achieved: multifaced organization including a cabinet with multiple branches, and General Assembly meetings.
 - v. Safe place for students to express themselves.
 - vi. Their constituency feels as though they are not being advocated for (make up about 6% of campus).
 - vii. Have partnered with Auburn University Dance Marathon and Beat Bama Food Drive.
 - viii. Milestones and goals: general resolution regarding absence of black students on campus, and a response to recent email referencing a racist organization.
 - c) Student Veterans – Liyah Stewart
 - a. Recent switch has been made so that anyone can join the organization, not just former veterans and family members.
 - d) Freshman Committee – Megan Watkins
 - a. Formal analysis of freshman committee campus resources feedback.
 - i. 58 responses; all freshmen.
 - ii. 81% did not know what Auburn Answers is.
 - iii. How can Auburn Answers be evolved through branding?
 - iv. 81% said they were aware of campus resources.
 - a. Most popular: Instagram, Tiger Dining Instagram
 - b. Most popular student organization: University Program Council
 - v. Instagram needs to be made more interactive in order to better promote resources.
 - vi. Other resources acknowledged: Miller Writing Center, study rooms, bike share, guide apps, War Eagle Supply Company, Auburn Answers.
 - vii. Suggestion to improve apps to one centralized app.
 - viii. Considered this as a positive opportunity to see where change can be made,
 - ix. Further consideration: Camp War Eagle was online, and First Year Experience did a great job with this.
 - a. Consider ways to fill the gap if this year's orientation is online again.
 - x. Willing to sit with others in office hours to see freshman input.



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6. Current Orders

- a. PSSB: 21-0315-01 Harrison School of Pharmacy Senator Confirmation
 - a. Graf Sullivan
 - b. Approval of Ashleigh Neese, *Harrison School of Pharmacy Senator*.
 - c. Vote.
 - i. Motion carries
- b. PSSB: 21-0315-02 Definition of EVP of Cabinet Administration
 - a. Graf Sullivan
 - b. Addition of Role of Executive Vice President of Cabinet Administration to list of Responsibilities of Executive Officers.
 - c. Vote.
 - i. Motion carries.
- c. PSSB: 21-0315-03 Change of Executive Secretary to EVP of Cabinet Administration
 - a. Graf Sullivan
 - b. Further definition of the role of EVP of Cabinet Administration; transferring part of Executive Secretary role.
 - c. Vote.
 - i. Motion carries.
- d. PSSB: 21-0315-04 College of Human Sciences Schools Council Vice President Confirmation
 - a. Graf Sullivan
 - b. Approval of Lucile Duncan, *College of Human Sciences Schools Council Vice President*.
 - c. Vote.
 - i. Motion does not carry.

7. Future Orders

- a. PSSB: 21-03022-01 Support Staff Confirmation
 - i. Approval of Taylor Edwards, *Executive Secretary of the Student Senate*
 - ii. Approval of Jett Davis, *Technician*
 - iii. Approval of Kaylie Ward, *Parliamentarian*
 - iv. Vote next week.
- b. PSSB: 21-0322-02 Honors College Liaison Confirmation
 - i. Approval of Luke Owens. *Honors College Student Senate Liaison*
 - ii. Vote next week.
- c. PSSB: 21-0322-03 Black Student Union Liaison Confirmation
 - i. Approval of Donovan Evins, *Black Student Union Liaison*
 - ii. Vote next week.

Announcements

- a) Cole Callahan, Vice President
 - i. Thanks for being here; well prepared and well-versed.
 - ii. Continually impressed with participation.
 - iii. Appreciate respect and integrity that everyone treats others with.
 - iv. Looking forward to legislation, and speaking about this in reports.
- b) Pearson Brown
 - a. BOX: SGA's digital storage system.
 - i. Later tonight or tomorrow: will give access to specific folders on BOX.
 - ii. Good tool to store and collaborate; can work simultaneously.
 - iii. Do not delete anything in BOX; there is unlimited storage.

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- b. Advisor's Three Points: A Few Keys to Writing Impactful Student Senate Legislation.
- i. Set then meet deadlines.
 1. Determine when you hope for legislation to pass, then work backwards
 2. Hold yourself accountable to this; take steps to reach this.
 - ii. End with a clear "ask".
 1. Provide direction with the resolutions.
 2. Give the administrator a clear direction to what students want.
 - iii. Always remember of the big picture.
 1. This room: 0.11% of all Auburn students.
 2. 99.89% of Auburn students are not in this room.
 3. How are the senators serving those not in the room?

Adjournment 9:12