



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association

Student Senate Meeting Minutes October 14, 2024

Open Forum

- Hogan, ROTC: problems with ROTC block seating because of how people stand on the wrong bleacher
 - POW MIA seat intentionally left empty - how can we keep this empty moving forward?

Roll Call at 7:41pm

I. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approved.

II. Reports of Officers

- A. Jack Hilton, President

1. University Senate this week
2. Sustainability Event tomorrow night
3. Freshman impact
4. Office Hours: Tuesday from 2-5

- B. Will Goodner, Treasurer

1. Continuing progress toward financial guidance counselors
2. Budget has been made for SGA ring revenue

- a. Reach out if you have any questions

- C. George Turner, EVP of Outreach

1. Hey Day on Wednesday
2. Meeting with Auburn Global on Wednesday
3. Last voter registration drive was last week.

- D. Forrest Ann Watson, Chief of Staff

1. Join the PhotoCircle and add photos to be posted to the Instagram
2. Cabinet at the Rec tonight

- E. Thomas Treadwell, EVP of Initiatives

1. Dr. Han MCAT meeting recap

III. Reports of Standing Committees and Liaisons

- A. Senator Marino, Academic Affairs

1. No report.

- B. Senator Inman, Budget and Finance

1. No report.

- C. Senator Laney, Code of Laws

1. Rank choice voting coming across the floor tonight
2. Nursing and Business constitution updates coming soon

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3. *Motion to move PSSB: 24-1014-01 and PSSB: 24-1014-02 from Future Orders of Business to Current Orders of Business*

- a. *Approved.*
- D. Senator Peter, Access, Engagement, and Opportunities
 - 1. Looking at past enrollment numbers in the campus career closet.
 - 2. Looking at going to the executive student council.
- E. Senator Jones, Student Affairs
 - 1. Meeting with the Med Clinic last week - numbers are up
- a. Self Scheduling rolled out in February, speeds up process and helps Med Clinic
 - 2. Thank you for Inked Tacos feedback, working to make changes
- F. Senator Zellner, Executive
 - 1. Come to one Senate Exec meeting.
 - 2. Feedback- someone couldn't find Auburn Answers website
- G. Ashley, Honors Congress
 - 1. Honors Congress hosted Family Dinner for the month
 - 2. 2nd Info Session for Study and Travel Trips for Spring 2025
 - 3. Chess Tournament Thursday
 - 4. Kreher Nature Center Enchanted Family Forest Event Volunteers
 - 5. Cater Talk Upcoming
 - 6. 58 Honors Courses now available to view on Tiger Scheduler
- H. Hawkins, BSU
 - 1. No report.
- I. Hogan, ROTC
 - 1. Presentation - How to identify different branches of ROTC based on uniform
- J. ISO
 - 1. Social hour on Friday at 4 pm
 - 2. Transportation opportunities

IV. Current Orders of Business

- A. PSSB: 24-1007-01
 - 1. *Approved.*
- B. PSSB: 24-1007-02
 - 1. Senator Jones: Why was Miss Auburn not like this last year?

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a. Senator Yohn: The referendum only applied to Major Candidates. The student senate in April 2020 changed it to say Executive Officers, rather than all major candidates. There is not a great record of why this happened. Before this, Miss Auburn was included because the Code said Major Candidates not Executive Officers

2. Senator Jones: Has there been any feedback since it was changed in 2019, that students want this change to rank choice voting?

a. Senator Yohn: When candidates from the same organization are nominated, students feel like these races become very competitive because with the way the system works now, whoever gets your vote first gets your vote. It creates a more aggressive election atmosphere. Students want these candidates and their campaigners to interact better with students and not harass them. It allows students to rank people or make the choice not to rank people.

3. Senator Troutman: Is there any correlation between voter turnout and this system?

a. Senator Yohn: It is hard to tell because of the recent elections with unopposed candidates. We have not had many elections with 5 people to rank. Can't say for sure if ranked voting will yield higher voter turnout. Recent numbers have not been a great sample to look at.

b. Jamie: In Spring 2019, voter turnout was 39% and 38.8% after the change

4. Senator Inman: All these examples haven't changed from which person gets the most votes?

a. Senator Yohn: This allows students to use their voices and feel as if they are making an impact. Think about it as an instant runoff rather than a physical runoff.

5. Senator Inman: Is there a way for people to rig this system?

a. Senator Yohn: The only way would be by encouraging someone to rank a candidate 5th, but it would not be advantageous for a candidate or their campaign to do so. According to the code, you are not allowed to slander other candidates or tell other people how they should vote. If people are breaking the rules, E-Board should look into that.

6. Senator Inman: Can the rules be broken to be rigged?

a. Senator Yohn: The system cannot be rigged.

7. Senator Troutman: If you go around telling people to put a candidate last, this is something that will go against you.

8. Senator Jones: To be clear, we are voting on changing Miss Auburn and Miss Homecoming to include a run-off race. I have not heard student feedback while I have been at Auburn.

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There is no need for a run-off because there is no specification of a percentage needed to win.

a. Senator Yohn: This is a way to make the election more positive and not have people berating people on the concourse.

b. Senator Jones: If the issue we are trying to fix is berating this is not the bill to fix this.

c. Senator Yohn: This does not fix the entire system, but it will make a step in the right direction. There are no cons to this change.

9. Senator Laney: I think the issue of berating would be fixed a little by this process. There is nothing in the code as of now that says they must get 50% of the vote. So with rank choice voting, you have to appeal to a majority of students across campus which means that it will be someone who is liked by the highest number of students across campus.

10. Senator Zyriek: If this bill passes, do you see something happening in the code that says Miss Auburn and Miss Homecoming would need 50%?

a. Senator Yohn: Changing the language to "Major Candidates" would solve this. It would set up the system we have discussed and create that requirement.

11. Senator Zellner: Will students know that the voting system changed?

a. Senator Yohn: There was a link to a video explaining ranked voting attached the first time we used this system.

12. *Approved.*

C. PSSB: 24-1014-01

1. Senator Inman: Who made this?

a. Senator Laney: This was a collaboration between myself and Laine Martin.

2. *Approved.*

D. PSSB: 24-1014-02

1. Senator Jones: Why did COSAM not gain an additional Senator and CADC did?

a. Senator Laney: There was a note that said the 2 highest decimals get the extra senator.

b. Senator Jones: Is that in the code or is that precedent?

c. Senator Laney: Precedent.

2. *Approved.*

V. Future Orders of Business

A. PSSB: 24-1014-03

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1. Senator Zellner: So we are still keeping the package?
 - a. Senator Hilliard: Yes, we're just changing this so that it is more standard.

Announcements

- *Next week our Senate meeting will be held at the Edge.*
- *You may come in Business casual.*

Adjourned at 8:26pm

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