



Senate Meeting Minutes
September 25th, 2023

I. Call to Order Matt Matthews

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance Levi Spiers

III. Moment of Reflection Adam Sawyer

IV. Roll Call Victoria Verbrane

~~Senator Alejandra Weir~~

Senator Alexis McGehee

Senator Autumn Smedley

Senator Bailey Milburn

Senator Rosemary Matthews

Senator Ethan Savario

Senator Kyle Hidalgo

Senator Levi Spiers

Senator Oluwateniola Adenuga

Senator Sabrae Nasset

Senator Victoria Verberne

Senator Zachary Poche

Senator Alex Soule

Senator Abigail Wilson

Senator Adam Sawyer

14/15 senators present, quorum has been met.

V. Approval of Minutes Matt Matthews

Minutes stand approved.

VI. Guest Speaker Chief Michael Beckner, Director of University Police

I like to come twice a semester to keep y'all up to date and for y'all to ask questions. I would like to start with the Lion Safe app. Within the first half of school, we have had almost 200 users on this app. We have had 21 chats with dispatch to tell them their problem. We have had seven people tell us incidents, one actually solving a crime. There are only 25 police officers and 600 in a resident hall so y'all's eyes are nice to have. We did auto 101 a few weeks ago as outreach. We had a really good turnout and will do it again. We also did coffee with the cop and RAD. Upcoming: we will do a class on free speech, what to say and why. We are breaking down laws so that people understand what everyone can say and how to avoid confrontation. This will happen tomorrow in conference room 222 at 5:30. We will have space dogs for homecoming week the Thursday before the football game in support of this year's theme. We had an accident in friendship circle this past weekend at the tailgate as I am sure you all heard about. Please get with fraternities and sororities to talk about being responsible. Crimes on campus are lots of bikes being stolen. We have a few out that we can track if they are stolen to try to catch the person stealing them. The other issue is online problems. You do not know people online, so please do not trust these people texting you. Everyone is out and about again, getting back involved. I have turned in a paper on scooters to Dr. Wainwright. The facts are that campuses are about 50/50 in the United States allowing/not allowing these scooters. I think that we should make a bike/scooter lane to allow them. I think that they should be stored safely to prevent fire hazards, but I do believe that these should be allowed on campus. I will hopefully be back sometime in November. My door is always open so come see me if you need anything.

VP Matthews: How are the motorcycles treating y'all?

Chief Beckner: These are wonderful! We think that they are easier for us and they make it easier for students to approach us. For those of you that do not know, we got these at a discounted price and we would love to have some more.

VII. Reports

A. SGA President: Lacey Johnson

Swipe out hunger went live today. Go through the SGA website and educate yourselves on everything. If you find mistakes, please let us know. I will also be testing you all because yall are resourced and I want to make sure that you are educated. The bus trip has no one signed up except Big 3. We are all excited, but I do not see anyone signing up. This will be a good game, so please try to go. Shirts and polos will be ordered this week. We will send a sign up genius to set up and help for career fair. This looks good on you. We will be tabling tomorrow for the bus trip. Has anyone helped with career fair before?

Senator Poche: They will have students helping tag students backpacks for check in, helping students with pictures, and even helping with vendors. These are usually hour-long slots which is very accommodating to us.

B. SGA Chief Justice: Aaliyah Muhammad

Chief Beckner's free speech event: we really want people to be there. This can give you lots of answers. SGA representatives would look really good for us. Voter registration drive is this week on Tuesday (tomorrow) from 12-2. We have an inside and outside location.

C. SGA Advisor Dr. Taneshia Drake

Swipe out hunger is really important so please have people sign up. The tabling applications for gumbo ya ya close on October 9th. The speech event is a great event to prepare you for free speech alley. Homecoming pictures were today and it was lots of fun!

D. Internal Affairs Chair Bailey Milburn

The following bills were reviewed last week:

FA23-10

This bill was referred to the senate favorably in its original form for the following reasons:

- i. Rayden was very prepared, shows willingness and determination.
- ii. Rayden listed plenty examples of experience in the field of leading and helping others.
- iii. Rayden holds numerous leadership positions in his community.

FA23-12

This bill was referred to the senate favorably in its original form for the following reasons:

- i. Jade is very passionate about making change for the safety on campus.
- ii. Jade is an education major, which is a department that the senate does not have any representation in.
- iii. Jade has experience with working with the community through Lions Connected and the parish library.

FA23-13

This bill was referred to the senate favorably in its original form for the following reasons:

- i. Austin has a plethora of experience from different areas across campus.
- ii. Austin wants to continue to be involved in graduate school.
- iii. Austin has held leadership positions in Lions roar and theta chi, is responsible and accountable.

E. Appropriations Chair Levi Spiers

FA23-14

This bill was referred to the senate favorably in its original form for the following reasons:

1. Providing funding will establish a reliable funding source for the Pantry.
2. With an increase in student need for free groceries, the Food Pantry will need an increased amount of income to accommodate.

3. Sponsoring the Food Pantry will uphold the promise that the Student Government Association uses its funds for the benefit of the students.

F. Student Life Chair Lucien Nasset

Last week we went over the people with periods initiative. We decided where we are going to be putting the feminine products. We will put two in Fayard's first floor, in cate, one in Garrett, one in Clark, and the union first and second floors women's restrooms. We also went over the investiture, which I will go over more next week. We also talked about the homecoming tailgate and hope to make more progress on that tomorrow. Please make this meeting if you can.

G. Senate Chair Matt Matthews

We have jumped over half-full as of last week. We are getting close to a full senate. I am sitting on the investiture committee and will be having lots of information as we go. We have our first grant coming through next week, and we will be seeing more of them soon. It is also important to go to any events that you can but remember that you are a student first.

VIII. Programs

A. Question of the day Victoria Verberne

How many senators are there currently? (15 senators)

Senator Soule earns an outreach point.

B. Grants Matt Matthews

I am going to talk specifically about where we find grants.

1. Look up SGA grants SELU and click first link
2. There are four grants:
 - a. Travel Grant: Provide for students that may be traveling for school. You can get \$500 for 1-2 people and \$1000 for 3 or more people. This pays for travel to certain conferences. Ex. mission trips and conferences
 - b. Capital outlay: this is a committee for campus beautification. An example is preservation for friendship oak. These are big projects to help students around campus.
 - c. Departmental Grant: Funds departments for things they may need. An example was pipettes for the biology department.
 - d. Organizational Grants: Works the same as any other grant, but is specifically for money needed for particular organizations.
3. If someone needs these, just have them follow the links to the grant application. From there it will be reviewed by our GA.

Senator Matthews: Can organizations that we are in apply for grants?

VP Matthews: Yes, you would just have to abstain from the vote. An example of this is the honors grant that was passed last semester. There is no shame in referring someone to us if you do not know the answer.

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. FA23-09 A bill to appoint Ella Hunter to the Student Government Association as Senator at Large

Still in Internal Affairs.

- B. FA23-10 A bill to appoint Rayden Riley to the Student Government Association as a Justice

Applicant: Good evening, I think that I would bring lots of experience and can improve what you are building upon and approve our institution as a whole.

Senate chair opens floor for discussion.

Senator Hidalgo: What do you think we can build upon?

Applicant: Incoming students and helping them to settle in more easily, especially as far as where things are on campus.

Senator Matthews: What is your classification?

Applicant: Freshmen.

Vice President Matthews: Will you please tell us a little bit about your prior leadership experience?

Applicant: I was in SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). This gave youth information on drugs, alcohol, and safety. I also was in soccer, which shows lots of

teamwork. I counsel in a camp geared to furthering the education of youth and give them a better understanding of why school is important and what it can do for your future. My grandmother created this.

Senate chair calls for vote on this bill.

14/14 Senators vote aye, bill is adopted.

C. FA23-11 A bill to appoint Zoe Jackson to the Student Government Association as a Senator at Large

Still in Internal Affairs.

D. FA23-12 A bill to appoint Jade Dimartino to the Student Government Association as a Senator for the College of Education

Applicant: I think that I would be a good addition, I am passionate and flexible (as far as my appearance goes. I also offer a new perspective on students such as myself that have different cultures. I offer a perspective of students who are not always represented.

Senate chair opens floor for discussion.

Senator Nasset: So you are wanting to support counterculture. Is there anything you see on campus that you'd like changed?

Applicant: I would like awareness programs and accountability programs to hold people accountable. I would like to create a safer campus culture as far as with sexual assault and roofieing.

Senate chair calls for vote on this bill.

14/14 Senators vote aye, bill is adopted.

E. FA23-13 A bill to appoint Auston O'Brien to the Student Government Association as
Director of Financial Affairs

Applicant: I think that I would be a good addition as I have lots of experience. I am currently a graduate student. I helped to run lions roar and my fraternity. I am responsible and organized and I am willing to help as much as I can. I am good at behind the scenes roles and feel this would be perfect for me.

Senate chair opens floor for discussion.

Senate chair calls for vote on this bill.

14/14 Senators vote aye, bill is adopted.

F. FA23-14 A Finance Bill to Sponsor Stocking the Food Pantry

We are currently facing a challenge in keeping our pantry stocked. We need to find a consistent way to keep this pantry stocked as the demand for this service has grown. Here are four reasons that you all should invest in this food pantry:

1. Fulfilling basic needs
2. Academic Success
3. Mental and emotional well-being
4. Building a stronger community

By passing this bill, you are investing in the school and the welfare of your peers. Let

us show that we stand together and support those in need. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your consideration and consideration.

Vice President Matthews: I would like to amend this bill to change point A. from saying "Items on their Amazon wishlist" to saying "Items for food pantry".

Senator Spiers: Would the price change in Section III?

Vice President Matthews: No, this is just making the verbage vague to give a bit more flexibility.

No objections to the amendment; the amendment will be made.

Senate chair opens floor for discussion.

Senate chair calls for vote on this bill.

14/14 Senators vote aye, bill is adopted.

X. New Business

A. FA23-15 A bill to Appoint David Fender to the Student Government Association as a Senator for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Referred to Internal Affairs.

XI. Announcements and Remarks

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 P.M.