



**Elon University
Student Government Association
Minutes: September 10, 2026**

START TIME: 7:30pm

Executive Attendance:

- Ellie Agulnek
- Michael Swartz
- Tyler Mastrangelo
- Cayce Becker
- Oliver Keicher

Roll Call - Parliamentarian Davis

Open Forum

- John Dooley: Your voice matters in SGA. We had a task force across the implemented 42 recommendations and all of those recommendations were ideas that came from student voices. One of the biggest findings was the importance of wellness and wellbeing. And the taskforce that started 10 years ago is what has shaped the Slattery center. The fire pits were student recommendations. The AER requirement was led by students in order to get students to think about different perspectives. Later this semester we will have a dinner with senior staff and you all to discuss student perspectives in which SGA is invited but others on campus as well. Michael and I get together every other week to discuss things that students have questions about or concerns about. I also want to say thank you for your leadership and we appreciate you leading your peers in order to make Elon a better place.

Presentation

- Mentoring in Meaningful Relationships, Dr. Naeemah Clark

- Dr. Clark: I work with a lot of students at Elon. I have been here at Elon for 18 years. I have spearheaded the work on the AER requirement. And for the last 4 years I have been the Associate Provost of Academic and Inclusive Excellence.
- Dr. Clark: The mentoring initiative started 5 years ago to ensure that mentoring is woven into all parts of Elon.
- Dr. Clark:
 - Graduate Student Mentoring: Graduate mentoring
 - Peer Mentoring: Led by Tierza Watts whom wrote a great paper on developing peer mentors
 - Holistic/Faculty Advising: When you have that professor, they are helping connect you to resources, not solely classes
 - We learned that 7% of students have never met with their advisor. It tells me that 93% of students are meeting with their advisors. But the piece of the challenge is that faculty in certain departments have so many advisors making it harder to build personal and deep relationships. So one of the things we have decided to focus on is how to foster more holistic advising.
 - When you think about what is equitable and not just advising load, it is about who gives great mentoring and who doesn't. When you are not in those cohorts (ie. Honors, College Fellows), how do we facilitate that helpful connection with mentors to give those students who are not in those programs the same opportunities. How are we being mindful of different folks needs when we are thinking about mentorship needs? And also how do we create a sustainable model?
- Dr. Clark:
 - Student Persistence: Focused on finding the students that are falling through the cracks. 84% are graduating from Elon between 4-6 years. This committee is looking at the 16% that are not graduating. There is about 7-9% of students are leaving, the focus of this program is to figure out why those students are leaving and find ways to mentor those students.
 - Holistic Advising Phase 2: Taking the holistic approach from last year and rolling it out better this year
 - Mentoring for Recruitment: Mentoring and recruiting highschool students to come to Elon. How are we mentoring highschool students to come to Elon?

- Dr. Clark: [Presented statistics].
- Dr. Clark: Needs feedback on...
 - Three interconnected parts that align academic planning, career development, and purpose-driven reflection
 - Keeping your Elon 1010 professor for all 4 years
 - Having someone from SPDC help on the career and development side
 - Purpose:
 - Initial Thoughts:
 - Urteaga: I find that having one person although it may be difficult
 - Hart: Im in the Accelerated Business Program and the person in my area. I like the idea of career development because it allows someone who is knowledgeable about the career and internship side would be helpful
 - Schuermann: I like the idea of career development. Looking back at my time here, it has taken me a long time to try and figure out what I want to do, and as a senior I am still trying to figure it out. But it would have been helpful to have someone specific to help me navigate that.
 - Dr.Clark: The SPDC is great but have it woven it would be great.
 - Nunno: Outside of Elon 1010, having those career development seminars and make it required to discuss goals, standard, and has that changed and how can we help you to make that happen would be really helpful.
 - Dr. Clark: I would love for their to be coaching involved to help me navigate a plan and prepare for internships. But thinking about a coach could help build that readiness
 - Banker: I think having 3 different people would be extremely helpful because having 3 different perspectives on both the aspect of career and academic would be extremely valuable
 - Dr. Clark: Instead of making mandatory meetings with that 1010 advisor, attending events or

something together to have more informal check-ins
is something that may be helpful

- Reeves: I agree with Senator Hart when he said having just an Elon 1010 instructor who was not as knowledgeable which is no fault of her own but having another perspective would be beneficial to the students
 - Dr. Clark: Its like having 3 people holding you up to support a student
- Haspel: What happens for students i majors who have more specialized tracks in regards you can take this class or that class. As an education major is where my question comes from.
 - Dr. Clark: Its easier for a specialized track. In regards to student teaching, you are off campus but if the ed person is doing remote conversations. But it is up to the departments to think about how do we tailor our mentoring to the students.
- Winter: Why aren't students using their secondary advisors to help?
 - Dr. Clark: Most people whom have secondar
- Agulnek: What is one takeaway?
 - Dr. Clark:
 1. There is always effort to improve the student experience
 2. In regards to advising, think about the ways that you are not utilizing your advisors.
Think about ways to be more intentional with your advisors
- Academic Course Selection & Planning (Faculty Advising)
- Career Development Seminars
- A 4-year Arc for

Old Business

- Approval of May 7 Minutes
- Approval of September 3 Minutes

New Business

- Swearing in of First Year and School of Engineering and Computing Senators

- Class of 2030 President: Colby Rubin
- Class of 2030 Treasurer: Josh Patte
- Class of 2030 Senators: Lily Bratić, Josh Cooper, Elise Jones, Michele Meyer, Safia Rahman, Bailey Williams
- School of Engineering and Computing Senators: Elijah Jackson and Mike Williams
- 2026–2027 Priorities, SGA Executive Council
 - Swartz:
 - Agulnek: Priorities guide what SGA is doing and what we want to do through the term. Everything that we do and say is for each person within SGA, what we do in Mosely 215 and what we do outside of this room as well. The Dean of the School of Engineering came last week. This was done in order to facilitate opportunities for students in that school to be represented.
 - Becker: When students come to us, how can we connect them to places around campus
 - Keicher: Focusing on town hall that I help organize. How do we connect the local community to spaces in the community where they are not normally part of those conversations and spaces?
 - Swartz: Elon is a community and fostering connections across campus is essential to driving the senate and the upcoming term
 - Agulnek: Fostering a relationship with athletics in different capacities. One Phoenix has been working on that and trying to bring the fun and energy to the new tailgating
 - Becker: The opening of the Slattery Center. Being that support to students during the opening of that building
 - Keicher: What is your role as a committee member? How do we ensure effectiveness as a committee member? How do committees shift to the evolution of the university's standards and regulations?
 - Agulnek: A lot of what SGA does is not just inside the room but it is also outside of this room as well. Use your networks and use the people you know to take information out, but also bring information into the Senate
 - Mastrangelo: You all are the powerhouse behind SGA. Ensuring that we are keeping alumni connected, but ensuring that you all understand how to talk and describe SGA
 - Swartz: Trying to facilitate connections and networks between Queens campus so that SGA can model the relationships that students have at Queens campus. The

merger is still developing but we are hoping that this year we set the standard and framework for the Queens campus

- Keicher: Even though the exec team put this together, we looked at feedback from the Spring to shape these priorities. However, if there are new things, come talk to us so that we can hear your vision and align them to your thoughts and visions
- Sherlock: I am looking at the second priority and they are restructuring their club sports so it can be interesting to see how we can foster that relationship
 - Dean Gregory: There will be a lot of attention, time, and money dedicated to club sports so it is important that we think about how to foster that relationship
- Approval of the Acorn Fund Manual & Presentation of Timeline (Cayce Becker)
 - Becker: SGA has two grants that supports student projects on campus. For example, YAPA received the Acorn Grant that is \$5000. Micro grants open in the fall but run for the entire year in which are \$2000. This manual that I am showing you is used each year, but there have been some changes made in order to be congruent with campus culture now. I am going to show you the changes that are made:
 - There is a transition meeting between finance chairs
 - The finance board will decide who they will invite in for a pitch night
 - Acorn Fund Promissory Note: an agreement to follow the guidelines of the grant
 - The last part are things that we have been doing but it was not written down. We require those who receive the grant to write a report on how they used the first half of the money and how it supported their project and once that is completed then they receive the other half
 - Urteaga: The Elon Feature is required. But are they allowed to remain anonymous?
 - Becker: Yes, that is allowed. But usually that is not the case
 - Urteaga: Do you think it is necessary to add something to say something if they do not wish to be publicised?
 - Guider: Does it have to be product based only or can it be service based?
 - Becker: It can be both. If it for-profit then it is taxable. If it is a non-profit then it is non-taxable
 - Davis: Question regarding clarification on taxing
 - Becker: If it for-profit then it is taxable. If it is a non-profit then it is non-taxable
 - Gonzalez: Are we able to see the projects that have been done?

- Becker: I do not think it is publicized but I can create something for you all to see
- Reeves: I have a couple of clarifying questions. I saw that the funds cannot be used for a donation. So I work at a Title 1 school. Can it be used for schools?
- Becker: The money has to be used by the student leaders to help the school
- Dean Gregory - Point of Information: In order to vote you must remain in the room to be apart of the vote
- Becker: Acorn Fund Timeline Presented:
 - September 21: Info Session 1 (5-6) - Belk Library 102
 - September 22- Applications for Acorn Fund and Micro Grant Open
 - September 30 - Info session 2 (12-1pm)
 - October 8 - Info Session 3
 - October 12 - Acorn Fund Application Close
 - October 20- Application Review
 - October 28 - Pitch Night
 - October 30 - Decision Night
- Sherlock: Are the microgrants open during solely during the academic year?
- Becker: Yes in order to have reports on what the student is doing
- Hart: Who is on the review board?
- Becker: The 4 non senate reps sit on the finance board and finance chair

Executive President's Report - Michael Swartz

- Michael Minutes, please send your ideas to Tyler and myself if you have any
- Questions for Dr.Dooley
 - Please let me know if there is anything you'd like me to share or ask
- Welcome New Senators! It is okay not to have it all figured out. Everyone sitting next to you are here to support you. Think about what these roles mean to you. Enjoy this and have fun! And always remember why you're here and who put you here

Executive Vice President's Report - Oliver Keicher

- Report on Past Events:
 - College Coffee Tabling
 - Tabling in Moseley for Elections
 - Elections Results on Medallion Plaza
 - 9/11 Flags
- Future Events:
 - 9/11 Flags Pick Up (Tomorrow at 5pm)
 - SGA Challenge Course (Optional but encouraged)
 - Sat. 9/19 11:30-2:30

- Tailgate with us! (Sat 9/19 @4pm)
- Retreat Reminder
 - Questions:
 - Difo Rojas: How do we inform you of dietary restrictions?
 - Keicher: Email me
- SGA Funded Events
- Questions:
 - Goldstein: How many?
 - Keicher: 3 are required

Vice President of Finance's Report - Cayce Becker

- Q2 request due Sept. 19th
- Org Names:
 - Organizations with 'Elon' in their name received an email to remove 'Elon' from their name. That email came from Elon University legal team and NOT SGA
- Overall Budget Breakdown:
 - Total Budget: \$440,000
 - Comes from the student activity fee in their tuition, just a portion of it
 - SGA Budget: \$62,000
 - Internal: 47K
 - External: 15K
 - Honorary Orgs: \$37,500
 - Remaining: \$340,500 to allocate across the 4 quarters
 - Quarter One Breakdown:
 - Requested: \$171,238.57
 - Approved: \$120,488.77
 - Remaining for FY: \$220,011.23
 - \$73,337
 - Over \$5000 (Q1) - \$40,566.72
 - Greek Dance: \$25,800
 - \$6.450 per quarter
 - Please Clap! Terry Withers: \$8,114
 - CCM Beach Retreat: \$6,652.72
 - Organization Expenses Q1:
 - Requested: \$174,820.07
 - Approved: \$120,607.14
 - Spent: \$23,825.50

- Questions:
 - Reeves: The amount requested, is it what SGA gave or what organizations requested?
 - Becker: It is what SGA is saying we will give as the maximum

- Upcoming Events

Vice President of Communication's Report - Tyler Mastrangelo

- New motion system
- If you took a headshot, those will get to you shortly
- If you are interested in being on the Instagram, let me know!

Speaker of the Senate's Report - Ellie Agulnek

- Welcome new senators
 - If you missed the new senator orientation, please let Ellie know
- YAPA Winners
- 2 Takeaways and 2 Questions
 - It is our responsibility to take in information and take out information. You have space to write down your thoughts on the back of the agenda. Use that space to facilitate conversations between your constituents and peers
- Explorations with Ellie
- 3123997326
- Name Tags:
 - Navarette Perez: pronouns on placards
- Questions:
 - Davis: When are we expected to receive the name tags?
 - Agulnek: When everyone completes the form

Advisor's Report - Dean Gregory

- In this space, you can call me Dean Gregory, but in other informal spaces, if comfortable, please call me Whitney
- My purpose and goal is to help you be effective in your own role. Whatever it is you want to advance within your role in SGA and even outside of your role and possibly off campus, I am here to support you
- Mental health is extremely important
- The Center for Design Thinking coined 'The Tiny Task' that takes less than 2 minutes. I invite you to participate in a 'Tiny Task' and reach out to someone and tell them something that they did that you are grateful for
- Question:
 - Urteaga: I heard that scooters are being banned

- Dean Gregory: We are looking at new avenues to place new guidelines and stipulations around scooters. Other schools

Senate Leadership Reports

- Guider: Mentor/Mentee program
- Arellano Perez: October 6th, Conversations and Coffee (Time TBD)
- Thomas: I will be sending out the cultural hours form soon. You need 4 for this quarter, so be on the lookout
- Benson: Please let me know and Senator Haspel know any feedback regarding elections
- Gonzalez: The majors fair has a new name, and the fair will be from 4-6 pm in the Koury Alumni Gym
- Puttman:
 - Tennis all weekend
 - Volleyball on Friday and Saturday
- Ellis: If I sent you a text that I needed your help soon, please trust the process

SGA Open Forum

- Capel: Please be sure to register to vote. You can go to Elon Votes to get registered. Civic Engagement Ambassador positions are open, and applications are due Sep. 13th
- Winter: I work with Student Involvement as an intern; if you have any questions regarding org management, please let me know. Office hours M/W 11-1:30 pm in Student Involvement
- Guider: Guiders Guide to Campus Safety needs ideas. As first-year senators, what information do you think will be useful for your class to know? Any resource, especially campus safety-related, please let us know!
- Keicher: If you have not gotten a new shirt from athletics, there are extra shirts available in the SGA office
- Navarette Perez: Any events regarding culture, identity-based, religion, etc., please let me know
- Gabriele: The New Elon Chapter of Elon 34, suicide and mental health club. Interest meeting Wednesday at 6 pm

Roll Call - Parliamentarian Davis

- Sherlock: Adjourn
- Capelle: Second

END TIME: 9:37pm