



**Elon University
Student Government Association
Minutes: September 3, 2026**

START TIME: 7:29

Executive Attendance:

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

Roll Call - Parliamentarian Davis

Open Forum

Presentation

- Elon School of Engineering and Computing: Updates and Plans, Dean Walz
 - Started at Elon on June 30th
 - Dean Walz's office is in Innovation Hall
 - About Dean Walz:
 - B.S, M.S., Ph.D in chemical engineering
 - 6 years of industrial experience at a refinery
 - Dean of Engineering at the University of Kentucky for 4 years
 - President of Milwaukee School of Engineering for 9 ½ years
 - Purpose: To inform students about what he wants to do with the Elon School of Engineering and Computing
 - Short-term goal is to enroll 400 students
 - Presentation:
 - To instill in students the foundation of liberal skills in computer science and engineering

- 2 departments: Engineering and Computer Science
 - Mechanical Engineering is a new degree
 - Offers a degree in Computer Science and Cybersecurity (a technical track and a management track)
 - Minor in Game Design
 - Looking to add a biotech major
- Goals:
 - Growth
 - Develop collaborations across Elon
 - How do we build **across** programs?
 - Build external connections (ie., corporations, alums, other organizations) to foster philanthropy, senior design projects, internships, full-time job opportunities, study abroad positions/opportunities?
 - How do we get students involved?
 - Establish distinct majors
 - Develop and articulate our brand (how are we distinct?)
 - What is the brand of Elon?
- Questions
 - Chris Guider: I noticed you brought up collaborations. How do you plan to approach these collaborations? What do you plan to do?
 - Dean Walz: Example, Game Design there is a technical side and another side that could land anywhere. Fostering a college degree. Interdisciplinary degree program. How can we make degrees that
 - Akbar running for Freshman Senator: What are some events that you plan to promote this department, and how do you plan to see it grow?
 - Dena Walz: Open house on October 10th. On October 30th, there will be a launch event featuring high school students, alums, corporate partners, and speakers. Additionally, looking to high schools for external partnerships. The first group we need to get in touch with is high school teachers to say, 'hey, this new opportunity and school is here'. Although Elon may not be the first place they think of, I want it to be an option.
 - Camille Davis running for first year class president: Are you planning to see an accelerated program in the department?

- Dean Walz: We can see this happening, but not right now. So right now we are focusing on getting these new programs established and the recruiting process. Then, in phase 2, if we see an opportunity, we will proceed.
- Luke Kopacz: When you were talking about the branding of the school, in the world of business it is about connections. Where are we currently placing Engineering students, and do we have any plans to grow future connections with companies?
 - Dean Walz: I know we are sending graduates to full-time work opportunities. But I am trying to expand them beyond the region to other places. I plan to tell companies to try an Elon student.
- Carson Reeves: So, over the past few years, AI has been a severe threat to many disciplines. Do you have a plan, and if so, do you plan to contend with AI?
 - Dean Walz: AI is a transformative tool, and corporations are looking for students not just to understand AI generally but also to use it effectively in their field. For AI, how do we complement AI? But that will be a big discussion during planning week. It is a major topic of discussion amongst our faculty, and we need to come up with a consistent, unified approach to teaching and using it. At my former school, we aimed to teach students how to use AI in their discipline.
 - Ellie: What would one takeaway be for our students?
 - Dean Walz: We are a growing school, and if you have people you know who are interested in engineering, tell them to give us a chance
- Ellie: Thank you for an engaged discussion

New Business

- Appointment of Kiley Sherlock as a College of Arts & Sciences Senator
 - Kiley Sherlock, Class of '27. Interested because she served as Class of '27 Senator from first year until she went abroad and learned about small-scale community change. During her appointment, she engaged with the community. But now she is looking to engage more in her discipline (Environmental Science), and she goes to the events the department has
 - Was part of One Phoenix and wants to continue leading the charge on it, as she was on the committee last year.
 - Hart: What lessons that you learned abroad would you want to bring back?

- Kiley: You're being placed in a different cultural context every 9 days, and I was able to adapt and engage with different people and use critical thinking to understand an issue and think critically on what the best solution would be. With that knowledge, I want to bring ideas and conversations that I hear across campus back into SGA to create change
- Ellis: I heard you were interested in One Phoenix; what is one of the big ideas you have?
 - Adapting to the new tailgating structure and showing faces at events will bring more faces. Moreover, I know traditions are big at Elon (ex., putting out flags for 9/11, which she has done before and wants to continue to be a part of)
- Haspel: Motion to discuss for 5 minutes
- Hart: Second
- Putman: She seems passionate, and I love her passion for One Phoenix
- Nunno: Knowing Kiley from my first year, she was one of the reasons I joined SGA, and she embodies SGA by wanting to bring change and get out there
- Benson: When I was One Phoenix chair, she was a valuable asset to my committee, and she attended meetings with me and helped participate in many events
- Haspel: I've known her since the beginning of first year. She is the embodiment of an Elon student and SGA, and I don't think there is anyone else
- Guider: This candidate has so much more experience than anyone in this room. Her service will be beneficial to SGA as a whole and the student body
- Benson: Dissolve minutes
- Urteaga: Second
- Navarette-Perez: Motion to question
- Arellano-Perez: Second

Executive President's Report - Michael Swartz

- Michael's Minutes, episode 1 is out
- Highlighting underhighlighted faculty and staff across campus
- We are so excited to work with new faces and continue to work with this time

Executive Vice President's Report - Oliver Keicher

- SUB x SGA Bingo at McKinnon
- 9/11 Flags: Before our business meeting, there is an opportunity to put out flags at Young Commons on Thursday, Sep 10th @6pm. On Friday, we will need help picking them up. The sign-up sheet is in the emails

- Updates:
 - Org Fair
 - Move in

Vice President of Finance's Report - Cayce Becker

- Organization Expenses Q1:
 - Requested: \$174,820.07
 - Approved: \$120,607.14
 - Spent: \$23,825.50

Vice President of Communication's Report - Tyler Mastrangelo

- SPDC Headshots- before next business meeting (6:30-7:15) Moseley 140
- Follow @elonsga
 - Stats presented from Elon's Instagram
 - Increase in followers
 - Lots of views and interactions
 - Not a great engagement rate

Speaker of the Senate's Report - Ellie Agulnek

- Bingo
- Please have your Geneva (BFF) notification on
- Name tags - complete the name tag form
- Explorations with Ellie
- Phone Number
- Office Hours

Senate Leadership Reports

- Ellis: Dimitri and I are planning something cool, and we need help, so reach out
- Arellano-Perez: Conversations and Coffee at Oak House, October 6th, 12:30-1:30 or 2:30-3:30. For all the sophomores in the room, text me if you want to assist with the Mardi Gras planning
- Gonzalez: Majors Fair on October 6th; Provost Meeting on October 12
- Haspel: Lots of people are running in the election right now. This may be the highest number of candidates this year. Also, please sign up for tabling for elections.
 - 36 candidates running
 - 33 candidates are first-year (For reference, there were 19 first-year candidates in the Fall 2023 elections)
- Benson: 36 candidates to help us spread the word about voting and campaign violations
 - Campaign Violations:
 - Mass email

- Large Facebook groups
- Chalking on brick, sidewalk
 - Can be anywhere where the sun and rain can reach it
- Ads on the Mosely Board
- More than one poster on a bulletin board
- Point of information: Chalk can be on the sidewalk where the sun and rain can reach it
- Guider: Mentorship form will be distributed today for someone on the senate to mentor an incoming first-year into SGA
- Thomas: Cultural hours, please get them to him

SGA Open Forum

- Benson: Trendiest senator - Arellano-Perez

Roll Call - Parliamentarian Davis

- Arellano-Perez: Adjourn
- Vislay: Second

END TIME: 8:27pm