



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Southern Shoppe, Bietz 1st Floor

- I. Attendance - One senator was absent; an approved constituent representative attended in their place. Quorum was present.
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Adrian Mego moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted, 23-0.
- III. Worship - Sarah Chobotar
 - a. Sarah Chobotar used belaying in her rock-climbing class as an illustration of trust and support. She referenced Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and Psalm 37:23-24 and encouraged senators to remember the support available through friends, family, and God.
- IV. Housekeeping
 - a. Asher LeVos reviewed points of order for Senate discussion.
 - i. Stand and project your voice when making a motion, asking a question, or speaking during discussion.
 - ii. Be recognized by the chairs before speaking during discussion.
- V. Committee Updates
 - a. Mascot Management Committee - Samuel Calvelage
 - i. The committee has met twice and is working to increase the mascot's use and visibility at campus events.
 - ii. Hiring information will be shared with senators. The mascot performer rate is \$15 per hour, and the handler rate is \$10 per hour.
 - b. Bylaws Committee - Asher LeVos
 - i. The committee is developing a significant bylaws proposal and has met with the chairs, senators, and Dr. Dennis Negron. A proposal is expected at the next Senate meeting.
 - c. Finance and Scholarship Committee - Jacob Koh
 - i. The committee met with Advancement to review the distribution of scholarship funds.
 - ii. Steve Miller confirmed \$6,770 is available for the International Student Scholarship and \$2,559 for leadership scholarship funds.

- iii. Club appropriation applications are due Friday, September 25, at noon. The committee has reviewed approximately half of the submitted applications and plans to complete its review on Monday before meeting with Dr. Negron.
 - d. International Student Committee - Don Loyd
 - i. The committee held its Welcome Back Party the previous Thursday, with strong attendance and a giveaway.
 - ii. The committee is considering another event for international students, with an aquarium trip among the options being explored.
 - e. Social Committee - Heaven Robles
 - i. The committee's first event will be Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m. on the Promenade. Event information will be shared in Teams, and senators were asked to help promote it.
 - f. Sustainability Committee - Isabella Dixon
 - i. The committee is researching the feasibility of establishing a garden on campus and is continuing conversations with campus personnel and administration.
- VI. Project Proposal - SJC TV Studio Intercom System - Isabella Dixon - *Voting*
 - a. Dixon reviewed the proposal to replace the School of Journalism and Communication TV studio intercom system. The current system is more than 10 years old; two headsets are completely broken, the main hub does not function properly, and crew members frequently work without headsets.
 - b. The system is used for SAU News, Ignite, and other productions and events. Approximately 80-90 students use the system each year, as frequently as three to four times per week.
 - c. The proposed replacement is a Hollyland Solidcom SE Pro 9S nine-person wireless intercom system. With the academic discount, the corrected total is \$1,165.59. Southern is tax-exempt, and shipping is free.
 - d. The project was endorsed by Stephen Ruf, Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, and Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith, Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication.
 - e. A motion was made to amend the proposed allocation from \$1,273.40 to \$1,165.59. The amendment was adopted.
 - f. Discussion addressed whether the School of Journalism and Communication should share the cost. Aaron moved to allow Dr. Negron to speak; the motion was adopted. Dr. Negron noted that unspent Student Association funds remain restricted for student purposes and encouraged Senate to use available funds appropriately rather than preserve them unnecessarily.
 - g. The question was called and adopted, closing discussion.
 - h. Jacob Koh moved to allot \$1,165.59 to the School of Journalism and Communication for the purchase of the new intercom system.
 - i. **Vote: The motion was adopted, 20-0, with three abstentions.**

VII. Project Proposal - Cultural Flag and Hand-Held Pole Resource - Ainsly Acevedo & Caleb Morales - *First Discussion*

- a. Acevedo and Morales proposed establishing a permanent Student Association resource of 30 cultural flags and 30 six-foot aluminum hand-held flag poles for use by student organizations at cultural nights, international events, parades, worship programs, and multicultural celebrations.
- b. The proposed flags are embroidered 5 x 8 ft polyester flags from Flags Importer at \$19.95 each (\$598.50 total). The 30 poles are \$22.95 each (\$688.50 total), for a subtotal of \$1,287.00 plus applicable shipping.
- c. The proposal was endorsed by Byard Parks, Sandra Araujo-Delgado, Alexis Grentz, and Marco Swaisgood.
- d. The proposal requested \$1,287.00, plus applicable shipping, for the purchase of 30 embroidered cultural flags and 30 six-foot aluminum hand-held flag poles.
- e. A motion was made to enter discussion; the motion was adopted.
- f. Discussion focused on how the initial countries were selected, whether the United States and additional European and other countries should be included, using student nationality and cultural organization input to determine the collection, the restrictions on borrowing existing OMM/ERC flags (not a possibility), storage, and the possibility of expanding the collection beyond 30 flags.
- g. Isabella Dixon moved to extend discussion by two minutes; the motion was adopted. Samuel Calvelage later moved to extend discussion by an additional two minutes; the motion was adopted.
- h. **The proposal will return to Senate for a final vote at the next meeting.**

VIII. Project Proposal - School of Music Water Fountain - Isabella Dixon - *First Discussion*

- a. Dixon proposed replacing the outdated water fountain on the third floor of Mabel Wood Hall with a standard water bottle-filling fountain. The location is on the same floor as choir and serves a high volume of students.
- b. The estimated cost is \$1,550, including ordering and installation charges through Plant Services.
- c. The proposal was endorsed by Kurt Miyashiro and Peter Cooper. Dixon also consulted Scott Brankshire and Vinnie Schober regarding ordering and installation.
- d. Don moved to enter discussion on the \$1,550 proposal; the motion was adopted.
- e. Discussion addressed the condition of other fountains in Mabel Wood Hall, water-pressure concerns on the second floor, and whether more than one fountain would need replacement.
- f. Adrian called the question; the motion was adopted and discussion ended.
- g. **The proposal will return to Senate for a final vote at the next meeting.**

IX. Introducing New Senator

- a. Maxeen introduced herself as a freshman nursing major from the Philippines.

- X. Announcements
 - a. Apparel
 - i. Senator sizes have been collected. Shirt and jacket brands are being selected; shirts are intended to have a fitted cut, while jackets may have a more relaxed fit.
 - b. Proposal Hunt
 - i. Senators who have not started a proposal were asked to place their names on available proposal ideas and to continue contacting their assigned departments to identify student needs.
 - c. President Check-Ins
 - i. Senators were instructed to use the booking link to schedule a one-on-one check-in with the Executive Vice President during the following week.
 - d. Constituent Emails
 - i. The constituent assignment list has been updated to account for new senators. Senators should use the updated list, include Samuel's mascot hiring link and Heaven's event information, send constituent emails within two days of the Senate meeting, and copy the Senate chairs.
- XI. Adjournment
 - a. Samuel Calvelage moved to adjourn. The motion was adopted unanimously.
 - b. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Matthew DeOliveira

Executive Secretary

Student Association

Southern Adventist University