SENATE
student association

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Southern Shoppe, Bietz 1st Floor

I. Attendance - All senators attended.
II. Adoption of the Agenda
    a. Andrea Sabbatini Jason moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted, 23-0.
III. Worship - Isabella Fernandes-Hidalgo
    a. Isabella Fernandes-Hidalgo reflected on Matthew 6:34 and encouraged senators to trust God, focus on the responsibilities of the present day, and take one day at a time.
IV. Committee Updates
    a. Mascot Management Committee - Samuel Calvelage
        i. The committee hired 10 additional employees, bringing the mascot team to 13. Orientation was held the previous Sunday, and the upcoming schedule was fully booked.
    b. Bylaws Committee - Asher LeVos
        i. The committee continued reviewing the Election Manual and prepared a proposal for presentation later in the meeting.
    c. International Student Committee - Don Lloyd
        i. The committee is planning an aquarium trip for international students in November.
    d. Social Committee - Jordan Collazo
        i. The celebrity look-alike contest was rescheduled to October 21. Promotional materials are being prepared, and senators were asked to encourage participation and sign-ups.
    e. Sustainability Committee - Isabella Dixon
        i. The committee met with Asher and plans to consult with agriculture personnel to develop a campus garden plan for administrative review.
V. Allocation Approval - Finance Committee
    a. Finance and Scholarship Committee - Jacob Koh
        i. Jacob Koh presented proposed fall club appropriations of $10,000 for 31 eligible clubs from an annual budget of approximately $15,000.

1. Allocation Requirements and Methodology
    a. Eligibility included a constitution, dues of at least $1, community service, fundraising, and declared spending plans. New clubs were exempt from prior-semester service requirements.
    b. The calculator assigns up to 45% to paid membership, 40% to participation, and 15% to minutes. Corrupted records prevented use of the minutes component this semester; it is expected to return next semester.
    c. Adjustments include 40% more for new clubs, 30% less for departmental funding or lower stated need, and 10% less for late applications. The two 30% reductions are not cumulative. The displayed method caps allocations at $1,000 before distributing remaining funds.
    d. Applications were due September 25, with a grace period through September 27 at noon. Fundraising, participation, and spending plans were rated 0-3; committee members abstained where they had conflicts of interest.
2. Discussion: Allocations are the maximum clubs may request; activities planned for a future semester do not count toward the current allocation.

b. Adrian Mego moved to approve the club appropriations presented through the finance calculator. A vote was taken, and the motion was initially announced as adopted.
c. A point of information clarified that the proposal must be voted on at the following meeting. **Final approval of the allocations was therefore deferred to the next Senate meeting.**

VI. Project Proposal - School of Music Water Fountain - Isabella Dixon - *Voting*
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. Discussion clarified that this project would replace the remaining outdated fountain; the other third-floor fountain had already been updated.
e. Isabella Fernandes called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
f. Isaac Lopez moved to allot $1,550 for the purchase of a new water fountain for the third floor of Mabel Wood Hall. The motion was adopted 23-0.

VII. Project Proposal - TV and Stand for the Southern Shoppe - Isabella Fernandes - *First Discussion*

a. Problem: The existing display is difficult to read during presentations and group events in the shared space, which serves student organizations, clubs, and departments.
b. Solution: Replace the current TV with a 92-inch display on a five-foot stand. A stand would preserve flexibility because the future layout and use of the space are uncertain and a permanent wall installation was not approved.
c. Financials: TV: $2,200; stand: $550; cables and miscellaneous expenses: $250. Total proposed cost: $3,000.
d. Fernandes consulted Dennis Negron, Joey Tolbert, and Gary Sewell. Sewell supplied the cost estimate.
e. A motion to enter five minutes of discussion was made and seconded.
f. Discussion: Addressed display options, relocation of the existing TV, and access and storage. The new TV would remain assigned to the Southern Shoppe; Fernandes would clarify access arrangements.
g. Diego Luna moved to extend discussion by 30 seconds; the motion was adopted.
h. The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.

VIII. Project Proposal - Pickleball Paddle Holder Racks - Isabella Fernandes - *First Discussion*

a. Problem and Solution: Fernandes proposed installing paddle racks at eight tennis and pickleball courts to establish a visible waiting order. Players would place their paddles or rackets in the rack to indicate who is next.
b. Financials: Eight racks at $49.99 each would cost $399.92. The project is being coordinated with Darin Bissell.
c. Samuel Calvelage moved to enter discussion on installing eight paddle holder racks on the tennis and pickleball courts; five minutes of discussion followed.
d. Discussion: The racks accommodate tennis rackets, and Bissell requested all eight courts be included. His department would coordinate instructional signs; no additional installation charge would be incurred.
e. Aaron called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
f. The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.

IX. Bylaws Proposal - Bylaws Committee

a. The Problem:
    i. The committee reported that Senate's application and interview process had not complied with the Election Manual's student-election requirement for the last 10 years. It raised concerns about selection by three leaders and unequal representation through academic departments.
b. Solution
    i. Hold Senate elections in the second week of the fall semester and organize representation by residence, with approximately one senator per 100 students.
    ii. The presentation's Q&A described commuter seats as being filled through interviews.

c. How We Got Here
    i. The committee argued that residential districts would make representation more consistent and that fall elections would account for enrollment changes, housing moves, and transfers occurring after winter elections.
    ii. Leadership clarified that elections are already required in the manual; residential districting is a proposed change, although it has been used in the past.
d. The committee consulted Dennis Negron, Lisa Hall, and Adrienne Royo.
e. Proposed Election Manual Text
    i. **The exact proposed wording, including the district list, is reproduced in Appendix A** from slides 41–42 of the meeting presentation.
    ii. Leadership clarified that the exception allowing applicants to serve outside their district applies to filling vacancies, rather than to ordinary district elections.
    iii. The presentation outlined a possible election process: obtain 20 district signatures, submit an application and résumé, receive approval to run, campaign, be elected by the district, and potentially attend a Senate training weekend.
f. Diego Luna moved to enter five minutes of discussion on the Election Manual changes presented by the Bylaws Committee; the motion was seconded and discussion began.
g. Discussion
    i. Senators asked whether the manual could authorize the existing interview process. The committee favored elections to give constituents a direct voice in selecting representatives. Leadership relayed Dr. Negron's explanation that earlier leaders had shifted to appointments for greater control over selection.
    ii. Current senators would finish their terms, with implementation after winter semester. Senators discussed a training weekend and a period without seated senators at the beginning of fall; detailed scheduling remained to be developed.
    iii. Diego Luna moved to extend discussion by five minutes; the motion was adopted.
    iv. Senators questioned whether enough candidates could be recruited and campaign within the first two weeks, citing low participation in recent SA elections. The committee said campaigns would focus on each district's approximately 100 students, with applications and interviews available for unfilled seats.
    v. Senators raised concerns about managing numerous district elections and technical problems. Leadership said Student Development would oversee elections, with Senate leaders assisting. Email outreach would inform students of the opportunity to run.

vi. Diego Luna moved to extend discussion by another five minutes; the motion was adopted, 22-1.
vii. Some senators questioned whether residential districts would improve representation, citing stronger classroom connections and Senate's existing campus-wide projects. The committee argued that similarly sized districts would avoid imbalances between large and small majors and represent students across academic programs.
viii. Supporters said elections could increase student involvement and connect constituent budgets to residence-hall activities. Concerns included concentrating opportunities in particular halls, excluding more qualified candidates elsewhere, and relying on freshmen unfamiliar with campus needs.
ix. Existing freshman eligibility requirements would remain. If a district produced no eligible candidate, the proposed interview process would fill the vacancy.
x. Diego Luna moved to extend the meeting by five minutes, to 8:05 p.m. The motion was adopted, 16-7.
xi. Adrian Mego moved to extend discussion by five minutes. The motion was adopted, 18-0 with five abstentions.
xii. Senators warned that elections could favor popularity over qualifications, commitment, and work performance, emphasizing interviews' value in assessing candidates. Leadership said candidate standards and vetting, committee placements, and chair interviews would remain, and inadequate performance could still lead to termination.
xiii. The committee acknowledged favoritism could occur under either system but favored distributing selection beyond three leaders. Senators could propose amendments for discussion at the next meeting.
xiv. Jacob Koh moved to table discussion until the next meeting. The motion was adopted, 17-2 with four abstentions.
xv. The proposal was presented for initial discussion and will return for a vote at the following meeting, in accordance with the regular proposal process.

X. Adjournment
a. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m., before the agenda items: new senator introduction and announcements were reached.

Matthew DeOliveira
Executive Secretary
Student Association
Southern Adventist University

Appendix A — Proposed Election Manual Text

Presented for initial discussion October 8, 2026; voting scheduled for the following meeting. Wording and numbering reproduced from "Senate Meeting 10-8," slides 41–42.

1. The SA Senate Elections will take place in the second week of the fall semester, with the exact timeline to be specified by the SA Faculty Advisor in coordination with the current Executive Vice President, Parliamentarian, and Executive Secretary.

Section 5 – SA Senate Districts

1. SA Senate districts shall be divided based upon residence and shall be approximately proportional to 100 students per district with representation from one senator per district.
    a. The following districts may be slightly altered if the district population fluctuates significantly or if a given housing area is not in use.
    b. In cases where no candidate runs in a district, the open senator position must go to an application-based process where interviews are held by the current Executive Vice-President, Parliamentarian, and Secretary.
        i. Interviews must be open and must consider eligible freshmen.
        ii. This policy must also apply in cases of termination or resignation.
        iii. The applicant does not necessarily need to reside in the district they apply for, but, in application processes, this determination will be made at the discretion of Senate leadership.

The districts for elections shall be as follows:

1. Talge 1st floor
2. Talge 2nd floor East (2400, 2500)
3. Talge 2nd floor West (2100, 2200, 2300)
4. Talge 3rd floor East (3400, 3500)
5. Talge 3rd floor West (3100, 3200, 3300)
6. Talge 4th floor East (4400, 4500)
7. Talge 4th floor West (4100, 4200, 4300)
8. Thatcher 1st Floor
9. Thatcher South 1st Floor
10. Thatcher 2nd Floor
11. Thatcher South 2nd Floor
12. Thatcher 3rd Floor
13. Thatcher South 3rd Floor
14. Thatcher South 4th Floor
15. Mountain Cottages
16. Village Proper (Ash, Willow, Birch, Poplar)
17. Village Proper (Dogwood, Magnolia, Maple)
18. Village Proper (Red Bud, Oak, Hickory)
19. Village Proper (Spruce, Elm, Cedar)
20. Stateside (Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Virginia), Winding Creek, and Laumere Court
21. Spalding
22. Commuter
23. Commuter
24. Commuter