SENATE
student association

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Southern Shoppe, Bietz 1st Floor

I. Attendance - One senator was absent. Quorum was present.
II. Adoption of the Agenda
    a. Jacob Koh moved to amend the agenda to add club appropriations approval after committee updates. The motion was seconded and adopted.
    b. Andrea Sabbatini Jason moved to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted, 22-0.
III. Worship - Isabella Dixon
    a. Isabella Dixon shared a time capsule she made at age 11 and opened on her 20th birthday. She reflected on how her childhood expectations compared with the responsibilities and uncertainty of adulthood. Drawing on Isaiah 46:4, she encouraged senators to remember that they remain children of God through every stage of life and can trust Him to carry them through the future. She closed with prayer for wisdom, efficiency, and decisions that glorify God.
IV. Social Committee Chair Confirmation
    a. Jordan Collazo stepped out for consideration of his confirmation as Social Committee chair. A motion to confirm him was adopted, and he was invited to return.
V. Committee Updates
    a. Mascot Management Committee - Samuel Calvelage
        i. The semester schedule has been arranged. Forrest attended Southern Union Camporee, and the committee continues coordinating hiring and staffing.
    b. Bylaws Committee - Asher LeVos
        i. The committee reviewed the Election Manual proposal scheduled for a vote and will continue reviewing the manual this semester.
    c. International Student Committee - Don Lloyd
        i. The committee is continuing to plan an aquarium trip for international students in November.

d. Social Committee - Jordan Collazo
    i. The October 21 celebrity look-alike event was a success, generating 15 student proposal submissions through the QR code. Samuel Calvelage and Heaven Robles won the contest.
    ii. The next pop-up is planned for November 12, from noon to 2:00 p.m. on the promenade, with Denny's drinks.
e. Sustainability Committee - Isabella Dixon
    i. The committee is planning a pop-up to introduce its work and is reviewing costs. It met with campus agriculture personnel and is preparing a campus garden proposal for administrative consideration.
f. Finance and Scholarship Committee - Jacob Koh
    i. The committee met Monday to review scholarship details and coordinate application questions with Student Activities.
    ii. The previously prepared club appropriations would be considered for final approval as the next agenda item.

VI. Club Appropriations - Finance and Scholarship Committee - *Voting*
a. Jacob Koh reviewed the proposed $10,000 in fall club appropriations.
    i. Asian Club had been incorrectly marked ineligible in the displayed records; the error was corrected, with an allocation of $560.
b. **Diego Luna moved to approve the club appropriations as presented. The motion was adopted, 22-0.**

VII. Executive Proposal - Giving Day - Alejandro Robles - *First Discussion*
a. Robles proposed allocating $200 from project funds for donuts or other sweet treats during a Giving Day collaboration with Advancement. Students would interact with senators and record brief donor thank-you messages.
b. Isabella Fernandes-Hidalgo moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
c. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed the quantity and source of treats, the event dates, and cost sharing.
    ii. The pop-ups are planned for November 10 and 12, with six to eight senators needed. The proposed $200 would cover Senate's half of the shared expense across both dates; Advancement would cover the other half. Unused funds would remain available in the project budget.
d. Jacob Koh called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
e. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.**

VIII. Project Proposal - Rock Wall Holds and Equipment - Samuel Calvelage - *First Discussion*
a. Calvelage proposed purchasing additional and replacement climbing holds and equipment to increase route variety and improve safety and cleaning. David Rodgers helped research the equipment and costs.
b. The itemized estimate totaled $542.31. The proposed allocation is up to $600 to allow for additional charges.

c. Jacob Koh moved to enter five minutes of discussion; the motion was seconded.
d. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed equipment selection, included hardware, and consultation with full-time personnel.
e. Don Lloyd called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
f. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.**

IX. Project Proposal - TV and Stand for the Southern Shoppe - Isabella Fernandes-Hidalgo - *Voting*
a. Fernandes-Hidalgo reviewed the proposed 92-inch TV and adjustable five-foot stand for the Bietz Southern Shoppe. The display would improve visibility for meetings and events in the shared space.
b. The proposed cost totaled $3,000: $2,200 for the TV, $550 for the stand, and $250 for cables and miscellaneous expenses. She consulted Dennis Negron, Joey Tolbert, and Gary Sewell.
c. Adrian Mego moved to enter five minutes of discussion; the motion was seconded.
d. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed the TV brand and whether a new TV would be purchased. The brand was not confirmed; the proposal was for a new purchase.
e. Jacob Koh called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
f. **Jacob Koh moved to install a 92-inch TV and five-foot stand in the Bietz Southern Shoppe. The motion was adopted, 21-1.**

X. Project Proposal - Pickleball Paddle Holder Racks - Isabella Fernandes-Hidalgo - *Voting*
a. Fernandes-Hidalgo reviewed the proposal for eight paddle racks, one for each tennis and pickleball court, coordinated with Darin Bissell. The quoted cost was $49.99 each, totaling $399.92.
b. The parliamentarian clarified that a returning proposal could proceed directly to discussion because it had been introduced at the previous meeting; a motion would precede the final vote.
c. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed use of all eight courts, compatibility with tennis rackets, signage explaining court rotation, and potential injury risks from rack placement. Fernandes-Hidalgo stated that the rack measurements accommodate tennis rackets.
d. Don Lloyd called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
e. **Aaron Hanson moved to install eight pickleball paddle holder racks on the tennis and pickleball courts. The motion was adopted, 17-5.**

XI. Election Manual Proposal - Bylaws Committee - *Voting*
a. Proposal Scope
    i. The committee presented the proposed changes for a final vote. Samuel Calvelage emphasized that the proposal addressed election timing and districting, rather than whether Senate elections should occur. The proposal set

elections in the second week of the fall semester and established residential districts with approximately one senator per 100 students.

ii. The proposed text, including the district list and vacancy provisions, is reproduced in Appendix A.

b. Discussion

i. Senators asked why the election process had changed in prior years, how they could propose revisions, and whether fall elections would delay budget approval. The committee explained that the proposal clarified existing election provisions and moved elections earlier in the semester. Written recommendations could be submitted to the Bylaws Committee.

ii. A senator questioned whether residential districting conflicted with the Constitution's academic representation provisions. The parliamentarian explained the committee's reliance on the Election Manual for election procedures. In response to a question about submitting proposals directly, the committee indicated that senators could propose governing-document changes.

iii. In response to a question about past election practices, the committee stated that Dennis Negron had described past elections conducted by housing district.

iv. **Isabella Dixon moved to allow Alexis to speak. The motion was adopted.**

v. Alexis reminded senators that the proposed language could be amended. The committee reiterated that the pending proposal concerned election timing and districting.

vi. A senator questioned how elections could be required when the Constitution provided for appointments and challenged the committee's approach of revising the Election Manual first. The committee referred to appointment provisions for unfilled seats; the parliamentarian explained the committee's reliance on the more detailed election provisions.

vii. **Jordan Collazo moved to extend discussion by eight minutes. The motion was adopted, 22-0.**

viii. Discussion continued concerning discrepancies between the governing documents. The committee acknowledged a discrepancy and explained its decision to proceed using the Election Manual. Senators continued to question that interpretation.

ix. A senator relayed constituents' preference for academic representation. Senators raised concerns about student engagement, email voting, campaign opportunities, and low turnout. The committee described district elections and possible candidate statements, while leaving detailed logistics to the faculty advisor and executive leadership.

x. **Isaac Lopez moved to extend discussion by eight minutes. The motion was adopted, 22-0.**

xi. In response to questions about what would happen if the proposal failed, the committee stated that no written policy had changed and that it could recommend that future leadership follow the existing Election Manual. The committee clarified that three seats were proposed for commuters.
xii. A senator questioned whether residential representation duplicated the work of residence-life leaders and favored academic connections. The committee explained that housing districts were proposed following consultation with Dennis Negron.
xiii. Ainsly Acevedo proposed an amendment providing for senator appointments through an application and interview process and representation by academic department. The committee explained that it could not be considered because it did not pertain to the contents of the pending proposal concerning elections, districting, and timing. The committee advised that Senate could bring the matter forward as a separate proposal at a future meeting.
xiv. Aaron Hanson cited Article 14 in questioning the relative authority of the governing documents. The parliamentarian interpreted its reference to predecessors and formerly used associated documents as referring to previous documents.
xv. Senators raised concerns that residential districts would favor underclassmen and inadequately represent upperclassmen. The committee explained that the districts were intended to reflect approximately one senator per 100 students. Discussion also addressed whether housing adequately reflected students' identities and interests.
xvi. **Ainsly Acevedo moved to extend discussion by eight minutes. The motion failed, 6-7, with nine abstentions.**
xvii. Adrian Mego suggested a housing committee as an alternative means of addressing residential concerns and encouraged senators to evaluate the proposal as a whole.
xviii. **Samuel Calvelage moved to extend discussion by two minutes. The motion was adopted, 11-5, with six abstentions.**
xix. A senator questioned the relationship among the governing documents. The parliamentarian described the Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Manual as serving different purposes. Discussion also addressed academic areas not represented under the current arrangement. The differing interpretations of the documents remained disputed.
xx. **Samuel Calvelage moved to extend discussion by two additional minutes. The motion failed, 4-8, with ten abstentions.**

c. **Adrian Mego moved to accept the changes to the Election Manual as presented by the Bylaws Committee. The motion was seconded and failed, 2-19, with one abstention.**
d. **The proposed changes were not adopted.**

XII. Announcements
   a. The Executive Secretary will send a sign-up sheet for the Giving Day collaboration.
   b. Senators were asked to include the forthcoming poster in constituent emails.
   c. Constituent lists have been updated.
   d. Senators were asked to sign up to staff the SA booth during November 6 Vespers programming.
   e. The Executive Vice President will be out of the office the following week. Biweekly one-on-one meetings will resume the week after, with sign-up information to follow.
   f. The Giving Day proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.
   g. The rock wall proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.
   h. Updates concerning the pickleball courts are planned for the next meeting.
   i. The Bietz kitchenette will be discussed at the next meeting.
   j. Committee chairs were asked to submit meeting minutes.
   k. Senators were reminded to arrive early for Senate meetings.
   l. Constituent emails are due Sunday evening, October 25. Although the Bylaws provide for emails within two days of Senate and possible penalties, the deadline this year is Sunday evening to accommodate Sabbath observance. Senators should not send emails or clock in from Friday sundown through Sabbath sundown.

XIII. Adjournment
   a. At 7:59 p.m., Samuel Calvelage moved to adjourn. No vote on the motion was completed before the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.; the motion was therefore not adopted.

Matthew DeOliveira
Executive Secretary
Student Association
Southern Adventist University

Appendix A — Proposed Election Manual Text

Proposed changes considered October 22, 2026, and not adopted. Wording and district list reproduced from the October 22 meeting presentation, slides 48-49.

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