SENATE
student association

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 5, 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. Samuel Calvelage moved to amend the agenda to add a motion after the bylaws proposal. The motion was seconded and adopted, 21-0, with two abstentions.
   b. Jacob Koh moved to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted, 21-0.

III. Worship - Gabrielle Savoy
   a. Gabrielle Savoy reflected on Proverbs 3:6 and James 4:13-15, encouraging senators to trust God's direction rather than feel pressured to map out every part of their lives. She used Abraham's experience to illustrate God's faithfulness despite human mistakes.

IV. Committee Updates
   a. Mascot Management Committee - Samuel Calvelage
      i. The semester's schedule was fully planned. The committee highlighted the bear's appearance at the ERC futsal tournament.
   b. Bylaws Committee - Asher LeVos
      i. The committee met during the previous week and is continuing to review the Elections Manual.
   c. International Student Committee - Don Lloyd
      i. The committee is planning a December event and coordinating transportation and scheduling.
   d. Social Committee - Jordan Collazo
      i. The next Senate pop-up was scheduled for November 12, from noon to 2:00 p.m., following SA Convocation. Denny's drinks will be available, and constituents will have opportunities to submit proposal requests and concerns to senators.

e. Sustainability Committee - Isabella Dixon
    i. The committee is planning a pop-up to introduce its work, potentially near the end of this semester or the beginning of next semester.
f. Finance and Scholarship Committee - Jacob Koh
    i. Club appropriations had been sent out, and funds were reaching club accounts.
    ii. Scholarship forms have been completed, and promotional materials are being coordinated.
    iii. The committee met with Professor Sergio Bellino, whose background includes operations, supply chain, and food services, to discuss cafeteria efficiency following a concern raised by Diego Luna. Discussion points were identified for potential proposals to administration.

V. Project Proposal - Cottage Road Lighting - Sarah Chobotar - *First Discussion*
a. Chobotar proposed allocating $5,000 to install two additional lights: one along the main drive near the cottage mailboxes and one along the road past the storage trailer. Students had expressed safety concerns about insufficient lighting.
b. Plant Services and Campus Safety had already addressed some lighting issues. SA would be charged the actual cost if below $5,000; Plant Services would cover any amount above $5,000.
c. Staff consulted: Dennis Clifford, Director of Building Systems; Vinnie Schober, Associate Vice President for Financial Administration; and Shawn Haas, Associate Director of Campus Safety.
d. Adrian Mego moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
e. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed exact light placement, existing electrical wiring, narrow road shoulders, and whether installation could occur before or after winter break. Sarah Chobotar would follow up with Plant Services on placement and timing.
f. Isabella Fernandes-Hidalgo called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
g. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the November 12 meeting.**

VI. Project Proposal - Portable Whiteboards for Chemistry - Andrea Sabbatini Jason - *First Discussion*
a. Andrea proposed purchasing four portable whiteboards for $519.96 to provide additional study space in the chemistry library and surrounding department. The boards measure 48 by 32 inches and have adjustable height.
b. The chemistry floor has become an increasingly popular study area, particularly before exams, while whiteboard space remains limited. Portable boards could be used in the library, classrooms, hallways, and laboratories by students, professors, and research students.
c. Faculty consulted: Brent Hamstra, Chemistry Department Chair, and Heidi Olson, Chemistry Department Office Manager. Dr. Hamstra recommended signs reminding students to return boards to designated storage areas.

d. Isabella Dixon moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
e. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed the number of boards and their storage location. The boards would be stored along the hallway behind the chemistry library to keep walkways clear.
f. Don Lloyd called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
g. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the November 12 meeting.**

VII. Project Proposal - Cultural Flags and Storage - Ainsly Acevedo and Caleb Morales - *First Discussion*

a. Acevedo and Morales proposed expanding a permanent SA cultural flag collection for student organizations. The proposed purchase included 63 additional country flags at $4.95 each ($311.85) and two storage containers at $49.99 each ($99.98), totaling $411.83 before applicable shipping and taxes.
b. Countries were selected using international students' home countries, cultural club memberships, and broader student representation. Thirty reusable poles had already been purchased. The remaining flags would be purchased together following approval.
c. The proposed flags are 3-by-5-foot embroidered polyester flags with grommets for indoor and outdoor use. The reusable poles are lightweight, six-foot aluminum hand-held poles. Two wheeled Sterilite containers, each 15.5 inches high by 52.5 inches wide by 20 inches deep, would hold the flags and disassembled poles.
d. The proposal was endorsed by Byard Parks, Sandra Araujo-Delgado, Alexis Grentz, and Marco Swaisgood.
e. The countries displayed in the proposal are reproduced in **Appendix A**.
    i. The collection would support cultural nights, parades, worship programs, and other campus events and could expand as student organizations identify additional countries.
f. Diego Luna moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
g. Discussion
    i. Questions addressed container dimensions, previous flag and pole purchases, changes in flag prices and sizes, and the 63 additional flags proposed. Senators discussed whether additional poles would be needed for cultural events.
    ii. Jacob Koh moved to extend discussion by three minutes. The motion was adopted, 15-3.
    iii. Discussion continued concerning pole quantity, storage location, and pole prices. Senators were asked to seek constituent and cultural club feedback on whether the existing 30 poles were sufficient.
    iv. **Samuel Calvelage raised the possibility of amending the pending motion to increase the proposed amount from $600 to $800. Following clarification, the proposal was treated as a formal amendment and received a second.**
    v. **The amendment was adopted, 10-6, with seven abstentions.**

vi. Senate proceeded with consideration of the original motion as amended. The allotted discussion period subsequently concluded.

h. **The amended proposal will return for a final vote at the November 12 meeting.**

VIII. Bylaws Proposal - Elections Manual Alignment - Ainsly Acevedo - *First Discussion*

a. Ainsly Acevedo presented a proposal to align Article I, Section 4 of the Elections Manual with the Constitution's provisions for appointment by Senate executives and academic-department constituencies.

b. The motion presented was: "I move to amend Article I, Section 4 of the SA Elections Manual so that SA Senators are appointed by the SA Senate executives, as provided in Article VI, Section 6.3 of the SA Constitution, rather than chosen by general election, and so that each senator's constituency is based on academic department, consistent with Article VII, Section 2."

c. Aaron Hanson moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.

d. Discussion

i. A question of whether the consultation process under Bylaws Article V, Section 2 had been followed was raised. Leadership stated that Dr. Negron had been consulted, and the parliamentarian had been informed.

ii. Senators asked whether the Constitution grants constitutional authority to the Elections Manual and whether the proposal would stop at aligning the documents. Acevedo explained that the goal was to begin with the Constitution before considering further changes.

iii. Calvelage raised a potential conflict of interest in senators confirming future appointments. Acevedo stated that this specific concern had not yet been addressed.

iv. Discussion turned to whether the Constitution should explicitly take precedence over the other governing documents. The parliamentarian explained that amendments must be germane to the pending proposal.

v. **Samuel Calvelage moved to extend discussion by five minutes. The motion was adopted, 18-3.**

vi. Senators asked whether the proposed change would resolve noncompliance with the Elections Manual and who would benefit. Acevedo emphasized consistency among the governing documents. Discussion also addressed differing interpretations of constitutional authority and practices at other universities.

vii. **Samuel Calvelage moved to extend discussion by three minutes. The motion failed, 7-15.**

viii. Calvelage cited Article I's purpose of expressing student interests and promoting student rights and questioned whether removing student elections would conflict with that purpose.

e. **The allotted discussion period concluded. The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting on November 12.**

IX. Amended Agenda Item - Motion Concerning Senate - Samuel Calvelage
   a. Calvelage addressed Senate regarding student representation and the importance of preserving students' right to elect their senators.
   b. **Calvelage moved to dissolve Senate and incorporate the relevant committees under the rest of SA.**
   c. **The motion received no second and was not considered further.**

X. Executive Proposal - Giving Day - Alejandro Robles - *Voting*
   a. Robles presented the previously discussed proposal to allocate $200 from project funds for donuts or other sweet treats during Giving Day activities on November 10-11. Students would interact with senators and record brief thank-you messages for donors.
   b. Jordan Collazo moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
   c. Discussion
      i. No questions were raised/discussed.
   d. Ainsly Acevedo called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
   e. **Adrian Mego moved to allocate from project funds a budget of $200 for donuts or other sweet treats for Giving Day. The motion was adopted, 22-0.**

XI. Project Proposal - Rock Wall Holds and Equipment - Samuel Calvelage - *Voting*
   a. Samuel Calvelage reviewed the proposal to replace broken and lower-quality climbing holds and increase the available variety. The slides illustrated pockets, pinches, slopers, crimps, and jugs. Additional holds would support more routes, safer climbing, and cleaning.
   b. The itemized estimate included seven packs totaling 38 holds: two 5-Hold Lava Jug Packs, two DT Pinches 3 packs, one Simple Bumps 1 pack, one Granites - Medium #2 pack, and one 10-Hold Crimp Pack. Holds totaled $507.79 and stainless-steel bolts totaled $34.52, for $542.31 overall. The proposed allocation was up to $600.
   c. Staff consulted: David Rodgers and Mike Harris.
   d. Samuel Calvelage moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
   e. Discussion
      i. No questions were raised/discussed.
   f. Don Lloyd called the question; the motion was adopted, closing discussion.
   g. **Adrian Mego moved to allocate up to $600 toward new rock wall holds and equipment. The motion was adopted, 21-1.**

XII. Project Updates - Bietz Catering Kitchen and Pickleball Courts
   a. Bietz Catering Kitchen
      i. The proposed location was Room 2602 on the second floor of the Bietz Center, near Student Development. Preliminary estimates were approximately $25,000 for equipment and $65,000 overall; these were estimates, not a funding request for approval.

ii. Planned equipment included refrigeration, heated holding, prep tables, sinks, shelving, and storage racks. A dedicated washer and dryer for linens was also proposed, separated from food preparation areas. The washer and dryer had not yet been priced into the estimate.
iii. Vinnie Schober had reviewed the proposal, and Southern's in-house architect was preparing room measurements and drawings. Joey Tolbert shared her earlier vision for the space and recommended dedicated laundry equipment and a visit to the fourth-floor catering kitchen in the Ruth McKee School of Business.
iv. The project team had toured the McKee catering kitchen. Next steps were to receive the architect's drawings, assess electrical and plumbing requirements, and refine the budget before returning to Senate.
v. Samuel Calvelage moved to enter discussion. The motion was adopted, 16-1.
vi. Discussion was opened briefly; leadership noted the limited time remaining for announcements.
vii. **Aaron Hanson called the question; the motion was adopted, 16-2, closing discussion.**

b. Pickleball Courts
i. The remaining project update was deferred to the next meeting because of time constraints.

XIII. Announcements
a. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m., in place of the November 19 meeting.
b. Senators who signed up for Vespers were asked to meet with Robles after the meeting.
c. Senators may book appointments with the Executive Vice President for Senator 1:1.
d. Senators were reminded to submit their meeting minutes by Sunday at midnight. Leadership stated that repercussions would apply to late submissions.

XIV. Adjournment
a. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Matthew DeOliveira
Executive Secretary
Student Association
Southern Adventist University

Appendix A — Countries Listed in the Cultural Flag Proposal

Country names reproduced from slide 28 of the November 5 presentation.

NOTE The cost proposal specifies 63 flags; the displayed list contains 62 country names.

Antigua and Barbuda; Australia; Bahamas; Bangladesh; Bermuda; Botswana; Burundi; Cameroon; Canada; China; Egypt; Ethiopia; Fiji; France; Germany; Ghana; Guadeloupe; India; Indonesia; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Kenya; Laos; Lebanon; Madagascar; Malaysia; Micronesia; Myanmar; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Poland; Portugal; Zambia; Romania; Russia; Rwanda; Samoa; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Africa; South Korea; Sri Lanka; Taiwan; Tanzania; Thailand; Tonga; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States; Vietnam; Zimbabwe.