SENATE
student association

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Southern Shoppe, Bietz 1st Floor

I. Attendance - Seven senators were absent; approved constituent representatives attended in their place. Quorum was present.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
   a. Isabella Dixon moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted, 20-0, with three abstentions.

III. Worship - Malcolm Maynes
   a. Malcolm Maynes drew on ROSALÍA's song "Reliquia," from the album *LUX*. He explained that the title means "relic" in Spanish and reflected on the song's imagery of leaving parts of oneself in different places. Connecting that image with Romans 12:1 and Galatians 2:20, he encouraged senators to live as active sacrifices that point others to Christ, leaving a lasting impact through their time and efforts. He closed with prayer.

IV. Committee Updates
   a. Mascot Management Committee - Samuel Calvelage
      i. The mascot is participating in Preview Southern activities and welcoming prospective students. Upcoming activities include assisting with scholarship giveaways.
   b. Bylaws Committee - Don Lloyd on behalf of Asher LeVos
      i. The committee is reviewing the Constitution and Elections Manual. Findings and further discussion will be shared at a subsequent meeting.
   c. International Student Committee - Andrea Sabbatini Jason on behalf of Don Lloyd
      i. The committee is planning an aquarium event for international students. RSVPs have been sent, and the committee is reviewing the budget and transportation arrangements.
   d. Social Committee - Gabrielle Savoy on behalf of Jordan Collazo
      i. The committee held a very successful drink giveaway with Denny's Drinks, drawing a long line of students. Additional social activities are being planned.

e. Sustainability Committee - Isabella Dixon
    i. The committee is planning a pop-up before the end of the semester to introduce its work and gather student feedback. A funding proposal follows later in the agenda.
f. Finance and Scholarship Committee - Sarah Chobotar on behalf of Jacob Koh
    i. The committee is working on scholarships and preparing for club appropriations for the next semester.
    ii. An audit of the Financial Vice President is scheduled for next semester.
    iii. More than $7,000 has been spent from project funds, with approximately $9,000 remaining.

V. Project Proposal - AdventHealth Hall Accessible Doors - Gabrielle Savoy - *First Discussion*
a. Savoy proposed that Senate submit a formal letter asking university administration to assess AdventHealth Hall entrances and consider installing ADA-compliant doors and automatic door-opening systems where appropriate. Students with disabilities or mobility limitations may have difficulty using the existing entrances.
b. Holly Gadd, Dean of the School of Nursing, endorsed the request and reported that nursing students had raised the concern. The proposal requests no Senate funding; installation costs and university approval remain undetermined.
c. Isabella Dixon moved to enter discussion on the proposed letter; the motion was seconded.
d. Discussion
    i. Savoy explained that the request arose through her nursing department outreach. Discussion also addressed whether it would advance an earlier campus automatic-door project; Savoy had not been aware of that work.
e. Isabella Dixon called the question; the motion was seconded and adopted, closing discussion.
f. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.**

VI. Project Proposal - AdventHealth Hall Water Bottle Filling Station - Gabrielle Savoy - *First Discussion*
a. Savoy proposed allocating $1,550 for a new standalone water bottle-filling station near the janitor's closet by the elevator in AdventHealth Hall. The existing drinking fountains do not provide convenient bottle filling, and Plant Services determined that the stone surround makes retrofitting them impractical.
b. The preliminary estimate includes the fountain and installation. Final equipment pricing and a detailed labor estimate have not yet been obtained. Savoy consulted Scott Brankshire of Plant Services and Holly Gadd of the School of Nursing.
c. Jaziel Soto moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
d. Discussion
    i. Senators asked whether the university had previously considered the project and how many fountains were available. Savoy said the building has two

existing drinking fountains and that the difficulty of retrofitting them had stalled earlier consideration.

ii. Senators asked about installation expenses, the nearest existing bottle-filling station, and whether the department could share the cost. Further clarification of costs and possible cost sharing was needed.

iii. Senators discussed the remaining project budget and how departmental initiatives fit within it. Leadership clarified that senators had been assigned departments to identify needs and that these proposals remained part of the project budget.

e. Andrea Sabbatini Jason called the question; the motion was seconded and adopted, closing discussion.

f. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.**

VII. Project Proposal - AdventHealth Hall Crosswalk Light - Gabrielle Savoy - *First Discussion*

a. Savoy proposed sending a formal letter to administration requesting a lighted pedestrian crosswalk on the road behind AdventHealth Hall. The request addresses pedestrian visibility and driver awareness at a crossing frequently used by students.

b. The estimated cost is $13,000 for equipment and $3,000-$4,000 for electrical work and installation, for a total of approximately $16,000-$17,000. The letter would request university funding; no Senate allocation is proposed.

c. Savoy consulted Holly Gadd and Vinnie Schober. She reported that administration is considering updated crosswalk systems across campus, including options with motion sensors.

d. Maxeen Steile Palad moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.

e. Discussion

i. Senators raised concerns about campus accessibility and suggested communicating federal accessibility obligations to administration. They also asked whether the city could help fund the crossing; it was clarified that the road is private.

f. Isabella Dixon called the question; the motion was seconded and adopted, closing discussion.

g. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.**

VIII. Project Proposal - Sustainability Committee Pop Up - Isabella Dixon - *First Discussion*

a. The Sustainability Committee proposed allocating up to $600 for water bottles, reusable grocery bags, cookies, and associated supplies for a pop-up. The event would introduce the committee, promote sustainable living, and collect feedback on future initiatives.

b. The committee announced December 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as the planned event time, outside the Bietz Center or cafeteria. Students completing a survey would have an opportunity to win an Owala water bottle.

c. The proposal includes 150 customized reusable bags, with a maximum quoted cost of $264.09 including expedited production and shipping, as well as cookies, poster

boards, and incidental supplies. The committee has consulted Alexis Grentz and Alejandro Robles.

d. Jaziel Soto moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
e. Discussion: No questions were raised.
f. Samuel Calvelage called the question; the motion was seconded and adopted, closing discussion.
g. **The proposal will return for a final vote at the next meeting.**

IX. Project Proposal - Cottage Road Lighting - Sarah Chobotar - *Voting*

a. Chobotar presented the proposal to allocate $5,000 for two additional lights: one along the main drive near the cottage mailboxes and one along the road past the storage trailer. Students have expressed safety concerns about insufficient lighting.
b. Plant Services and Campus Safety have already addressed some lighting problems. Senate would be charged the actual cost if below $5,000, and Plant Services would cover costs above that amount. Chobotar reported that installation could be completed by the end of the semester.
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. Isabella Dixon moved to enter discussion on allocating $5,000 for the specified additional lighting at the Cottages; the motion was seconded.
e. Discussion
    i. Senators questioned whether the university should cover a student safety improvement. With approximately $9,000 remaining in project funds, allocating $5,000 would leave about $4,000 for the next semester.
    ii. Senators asked whether additional project funding could be used. Leadership said this required further discussion with administration and offered to bring more information to the next meeting.
    iii. Senators considered installing the lights and seeking reimbursement or requesting university funding through a letter. Leadership explained that the proposal could be amended or deferred for further research.
    iv. Senators noted that a previous pothole letter had led to repairs, while a cottage parking request remained unresolved. Chobotar offered to explain Senate's remaining budget to staff and request greater university funding.
    v. Samuel Calvelage moved to extend discussion by two minutes. The motion was seconded and adopted, 16-0, with seven abstentions.
    vi. Senators also asked about adding a letter to the proposal. The chair clarified that an amendment to include a letter would be germane and that consideration could instead be deferred until more information was available.
f. **Andrea Sabbatini Jason moved to table discussion until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and adopted, 23-0.**

X. Project Proposal - Portable Whiteboards for Chemistry - Andrea Sabbatini Jason - *Voting*

a. Andrea Sabbatini Jason presented the proposal to purchase four portable, double-sided whiteboards for the chemistry department for $519.96. The height-adjustable boards measure 48 by 32 inches. The displayed cost includes tax-exempt purchasing and free delivery.
b. The chemistry library and surrounding floor are increasingly popular study spaces, especially before exams, and whiteboard space is limited. The boards could be used in the library, classrooms, hallways, and laboratories.
c. Faculty consulted: Brent Hamstra, Chemistry Department Chair, and Heidi Olson, Chemistry Department Office Manager. Dr. Hamstra recommended signs reminding students to return the boards to designated storage areas.
d. Maxeen Steile Palad moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
e. Discussion
    i. Discussion clarified where the boards would be housed. Sabbatini confirmed that they would be stored in the chemistry library.
f. Isabella Dixon called the question; the motion was seconded and adopted, closing discussion.
g. **Isabella Dixon moved to contribute $519.96 toward the purchase of four portable whiteboards for the chemistry department. The motion was seconded and adopted, 23-0.**

XI. Project Proposal - Cultural Flags and Storage - Ainsly Acevedo and Caleb Morales - *Voting*

a. Acevedo and Morales presented the proposal to expand a permanent Student Association cultural flag collection available to campus student organizations. The collection would support cultural celebrations, parades, worship programs, and other events without relying on borrowed flags.
b. The presentation listed 63 additional 3-by-5-foot embroidered polyester flags at $4.95 each and two wheeled storage containers at $49.99 each, totaling $411.83 before applicable shipping and taxes. Thirty reusable six-foot aluminum poles had already been purchased. The proposed countries are listed in Appendix A.
c. The proposal was endorsed by Byard Parks, Sandra Araujo-Delgado, Alexis Grentz, and Marco Swaisgood.
d. Gabrielle Savoy moved to enter discussion; the motion was seconded.
e. Discussion
    i. Leadership clarified that the pending main motion was the proposal as amended at the previous meeting to allocate $800 plus applicable shipping and taxes. That amendment had not constituted final approval of the project.
    ii. A senator noted that the displayed country list contained 62 countries although the proposal specified 63 flags. The presenters acknowledged that the quantity had not been updated.

iii. Gabrielle Savoy moved to amend the main motion as amended at the previous meeting by striking $800 and inserting $411.83, retaining applicable shipping and taxes. The amendment was seconded and discussed.
iv. Samuel Calvelage moved the previous question on the amount amendment. The motion was seconded and adopted, closing debate on that amendment. The chair then proceeded with the main motion as amended a second time, reflecting $411.83 plus applicable shipping and taxes.
v. Samuel Calvelage moved to amend the twice-amended main motion by striking 63 flags and inserting 62 flags. The amendment was seconded.
vi. Andrea Sabbatini Jason moved the previous question on the quantity amendment. The motion was seconded and adopted. The chair then proceeded with the main motion as amended a third time, now specifying 62 flags.
vii. The chair announced a further five-minute discussion period. Senators discussed whether the dollar amount should be reduced to reflect one fewer flag. Leadership clarified that unused funds would return to project funds.

f. Samuel Calvelage moved the previous question on the main motion as amended; the motion was seconded and adopted, closing discussion.
g. **Gabrielle Savoy restated the main motion, as amended at the previous meeting and twice further amended at this meeting, to allot $411.83, plus applicable shipping and taxes, to Student Association for the purchase of 62 embroidered cultural flags and necessary storage containers to establish a permanent cultural flag resource for Southern Adventist University student organizations. The motion was seconded and adopted.**

XII. Bylaws Proposal - Elections Manual Alignment - Ainsly Acevedo

a. Ainsly Acevedo addressed the proposal to align the Elections Manual with the Constitution regarding the selection of senators and academic-department constituencies. She explained that the proposal sought consistency between Senate's practices and its governing documents.
b. Following conversations and further discussion, Acevedo favored reviewing the Constitution first and then revising the Elections Manual to match. She also emphasized continued service to students and stronger constituent involvement while that review proceeds.
c. Acevedo emphasized that her aim was to preserve meaningful student representation and bring Senate’s practices and governing documents into alignment. She encouraged senators to strengthen constituent involvement while the Bylaws Committee’s review continues alongside Senate’s regular work.
d. **Acevedo withdrew the proposal. No final vote was taken.**

XIII. Project Updates - Pickleball Courts & Bietz Kitchenette

a. Ainsly Acevedo moved to allow Alexis Grentz to address Senate. The motion was seconded and adopted. Grentz clarified that the additional project funding should be called the Project Plus Fund rather than the contingency fund.

b. Pickleball Courts
    i. Andrea Sabbatini Jason presented the update. Demand remains high, and the current cost discussion concerns four additional courts. Building more courts together could reduce repeated site preparation costs, although expanding to eight would require additional grading.
    ii. The February 2024 estimate for four courts and associated site work totaled approximately $137,407-$140,407. The September 2026 quote for four lighted courts is $121,067; with related site costs, the projected total is approximately $151,000-$154,000.
    iii. Athletics and intramurals are unable to cover construction at present but would provide ongoing maintenance. Senate funding and donations remain under consideration. A previous potential donor had expressed interest subject to conditions involving eight courts, and updated donor information is being sought through Advancement.
    iv. Temporary alternatives include pickleball lines on tennis courts and portable rolling nets. Contacts listed include Darin Bissell, Ellen Hostetler, Judy Sloan, Troy Walker, and Vinnie Schober.
    v. The update does not result in a motion for allocating construction funds.
c. Bietz Kitchenette
    i. No update was presented.

XIV. Announcements
a. Senators have $100 per semester for constituent activities and may pool funds. They should use their fall allocation and report spending.
b. Senators were asked to attend the December 3 town hall during convocation, from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. Constituents were also invited.
c. Winter semester schedules are due to the Executive Secretary by December 3, copying the Executive Vice President and Parliamentarian.
d. Senators with approved proposals should meet with the EVP and Jacob Koh after adjournment to finalize account numbers, payment arrangements, and letters.
e. Constituent emails are due Sunday night. Senators must attach the minutes as a PDF and check that the attachment works.
f. Senators were reminded to prepare clear motions and amendments before speaking.
g. The next and final Senate meeting of the semester is December 3.

XV. Adjournment
a. Isabella Dixon moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Matthew DeOliveira
Executive Secretary
Student Association
Southern Adventist University

Appendix A — Countries Listed in the Cultural Flag Proposal

The following 62 countries appear on slide 57 of the November 12 presentation. The flag quantity in the motion was changed from 63 to 62 during the meeting.

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.