

Student Government Association

Minutes for meeting held Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by President Abby Stovall. Attendance was taken and a quorum was established. The minutes for the meeting held on October 22nd, 2025 were approved.

Special Order of Business:

- **Mr. James Blankenship** – speaking on behalf of Career Services; *see pages 5 and 6*

Student Open Forum:

- *Update from last week:* The HVAC system in the Science Building will be completed by the end of Thanksgiving Break
- SGA is working towards projects that will enhance student experience; a QR code survey was distributed prior to the meeting to gauge which projects should be prioritized
- **If you have suggestions that were not options on the survey, please send them to the SGA e-mail!**
- The two most popular choices were ice machines for the residence halls and a campus mini golf course; other choices on the survey included updated North Tower lobby equipment, an outdoor study area, and additional mindfulness spaces
- There is a concern that things the campus actually needs aren't being given priority over leisure activities like mini golf; functional elevators were given as an example of a need
- A suggestion was made to create study lounges for every academic department in the building where most of that department's courses are taught
- Food stamps/EBT for November have been delayed due to the federal government shutdown; SGA will be organizing a food drive to ensure that the food pantry is well-stocked for students relying on food stamps
- The Student Veterans Association will be putting out a list of what they would like to see more of in the food pantry; easy snacks were given as a big need, but canned food and bigger meals are also needed for students with families
- The food pantry is located in the Student Center game room, with another one in the library; while the locations of campus and local food pantries can be found under "Student Basic Needs" on Concord's website, there seemed to be a need to better communicate this
- 24/7 boxes to accept donations will be set out by the Student Veterans Association
- SGA could get a list of needs from local off-campus food pantries

Officer Reports:

Faculty Executive Board Representative – Ms. Zoey Shamblin

- Ms. Shamblin attended the FEB meeting on October 27th, where handicap accessibility was discussed; the general feeling is that Concord is ADA-compliant, but not ADA-friendly
- Dr. Meighen gave a report on student census/enrollment data:
 - We are up on students by 3 percent
 - Transfer and returning student enrollment is up; transfer enrollment gains is likely because of football
 - Hope that “Two States, One Rate,” where Concord is extending in-state tuition to Virginia residents, will increase freshman enrollment
- The University is looking at modifying the first week of classes in the fall so that classes start on either Tuesday or Wednesday instead of Monday
- Our Provost, Dr. Huffstetler, is retiring; the search for his replacement is ongoing

Board of Governors Representative – *Mr. Garon Wiseman*

- As a reminder, Mr. Wiseman’s office hours are on **Fridays from 12 to 1 PM**; anyone with concerns to bring to the Board of Governors is welcome to stop in!

Judicial Liaison – *Mr. Ben Bailey*

- The 1st Student Court was *finally* held on October 23rd
- The next court meeting will be on October 30th

Ombudsman – *Ms. Maren Boblits*

- Ms. Boblits addressed some concerns from students at the CUSAC meeting
- One of these concerns was centered on the Counseling Center not being inclusive of all students in their services
- The e-mail that has been the subject of concerns was not sent out for political purposes, but because multiple students had approached faculty that social media content had disturbed them
- Another concern requesting a cooler be placed in the Student Center was addressed; it was noted that a similar cooler used to be in place and was not widely used

Parliamentarian – *Ms. Elena Chamness*

- As a reminder, Ms. Chamness’s office hours are on Mondays and Thursdays

Secretary – *Mr. Brian Strickler*

- Mr. Strickler has once again updated the paddles; please notify the Secretary if your organization is in need of a paddle
- **Please fill out the excusal form if you or your organization is unable to attend the Senate meeting!**

Business Manager – *Ms. Kenzie Franson*

- Ms. Franson reminded the Senate that her office hours are **from 12 to 1 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- Ms. Franson will be adding 45 minutes to her office hours on Thursday, October 30th to work on timecards
- The budgetary request presentation that was supposed to be given at the October 22nd meeting will be given at a later date

Vice President – *Mr. Matthew Atwell*

- Mr. Atwell has started working on Spring Fling activities; if you have any suggestions, please forward them to Mr. Atwell during his office hours, which are **12 to 1 PM on Mondays and 11 AM to 12 PM on Wednesdays**

President – *Ms. Abby Stovall*

- President Stovall announced that Dr. Meighen will be speaking at the Senate meeting on November 5th to share projects she has been working on
- There will be an interim legislative session at Pipestem this weekend; there will be legislators on-campus on Sunday, November 2nd, **so please be courteous!**

Committee Reports:

Budgetary Commission – *Ms. Kenzie Franson*

- There has yet to be a budgetary request from a student organization this semester

Philanthropy – *Mr. Matthew Atwell*

- Mr. Atwell will announce the November Philanthropy Event at the November 5th Senate meeting

CUSAC – *Ms. Maren Boblits*

- CUSAC members need to be checking their e-mails as their next meeting will likely be the week of November 3rd

Technology – *Mr. Brian Strickler*

- The Technology Committee will be meeting on Thursday, October 30th at 8:40 in the morning; SGA webpage improvements will be the main focus

Unfinished Business:

- *No unfinished business*

New Business:

- *No new business*

Announcements:

- **Alpha Psi Omega** - (*Mr. Ryan Johnson*) APO is sponsoring a “ghost tour” of the campus starting at 7 PM on October 29th in the Ballroom. Their next general meeting will be on Monday, November 3rd at 5 PM
- **Hopper-Turing Society** - (*Emilio Bosma*) The Hopper-Turing Society is starting a multi-week career-prep workshop. At 6 PM on Tuesday, November 4th, they will start by discussing the different career opportunities available with a computer science degree. The following week (the week of November 10th), they will be working on resume writing.
- **Aramark** - (*Ms. Linsey Umberger*) There will be “Meatball Mania” in the cafeteria for lunch on October 30th. On October 31st, pumpkins will be judged for the decorating contest. For dinner on Monday, November 3rd, there will be craft night appetizers.
- **Mr. Colton Lively** – On Wednesday, November 5th, there will be “Clearly You Crystals” from 10 AM to 2 PM. The craft allows you to get a picture engraved into a crystal.
- **Ms. Anna Hardy** - “Creepy Cabaret” will be taking place in the main auditorium at 7 PM on both October 29th and 30th

Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM

Brian L. Strickler, Secretary

Presentation by Mr. James Blankenship

Given on behalf of Career Services

Upcoming Career Fair:

- There will be a career fair on November 12th in the Ballroom

Services offered by Career Services:

- **You are here to one day get a job!**
- Career services can help with mock interviews, job shadowing, and interviews

Tips:

- Employers' main complaints about Concord students are 1. bad resumes and 2. no work history
- If possible, get a part-time job while you're at Concord

Contacting Career Services:

- The Career Services office in Student Center room 211
- Mr. Blankenship is available through e-mail
- Appointments can be made through Handshake, accessible through the myCU app (click on the "Student Employment" button).

Internships:

- Southern Highlands just bought the large building across from the Princeton post office on Mercer Street; this will be a good source for careers and internships in the future
- Internship opportunities can be found at the upcoming career fair

Mock Interviews:

- Career services is able to bring in people from specific fields to tailor mock interviews to specific jobs

Student Employment/Handshake:

- All on-campus jobs are supposed to be posted through Handshake
- Your Concord single-sign-on account will get you into Handshake

Resumes:

- Will be required for all on-campus jobs
- Mr. Blankenship can give feedback on resumes
- Be cautious about using AI, as it's obvious when AI was used to write a resume
- Never use the same resume twice; try to tailor it for whatever job you're applying for