

Weekly USA Meeting Minutes



October 23rd, 2025 / 3-4:30pm PM / JMB Student Center

1. Call to Order

Mission Statement: *The members of the United Student Association (USA) are committed to nurturing our community by fostering a comfortable and supportive environment. We advocate for the needs and interests of the diverse student body at South Seattle College. We strive to accomplish this commitment by promoting and encouraging self-development, community involvement, and culture sensitivity.*

Land Acknowledgement: *We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.*

[reflection]

2. Facilitator: Judas Iscariot

3. Roll Call

- **President** Judas Iscariot — Present
- **Vice President** Hussen NurHussen — Present
- **Communication Officer** Vacant—
- **Issues & Concerns Officer** Khang Thach— Present
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer** Fella Bryant — Present
- **Sustainability Officer** Leila Le — Present
- **Marketing Officer** Angel Aragon Madrigal — Present
- **Treasurer** Sabreen Hussien — Present
- **Advisor** Monica Lundberg — Present

- **Ground Rules:**
 - **One person talks at a time**
 - **Tackle problems, not people**
 - **Limit distractions**

5. Approval of Minutes

(N/A)

6. Scheduled Guests

- Alex (Co-President) & Charlotte (Co-President) and one additional representative from the AFT Washington union will discuss the concept of a “**progressive furlough**” at Washington’s community and technical colleges.

7. Guests Concerns & Issues

Key Points

- A furlough is a **mandatory unpaid time off** for employees, used by institutions to reduce salary and associated costs. For example, the Seattle Colleges district has proposed that full-time classified, and exempt employees take up to **12 furlough days** in FY2026, and faculty are scheduled for **7 non-instructional furlough days**.
- The speakers will cover how such furloughs impact not only faculty and staff but also students:
 - Some programs become limited or unavailable (for example, summer classes in welding were affected).
 - Teachers may become overworked or burnt out, harming teaching quality.
 - Budget stress may lead to fewer support staff (e.g., facilities & maintenance), resulting in issues like insufficient upkeep (e.g., dirty bathrooms).
- They negotiated a union contract last summer and specifically addressed furloughs in bargaining more recently. They will explain how the contract language plays out for staff and student services.
- For the region of the three-college Seattle Colleges district (including South Seattle College):

- Although the student enrollment is similar to some universities, community colleges receive **less funding per student** under state funding formulas due to being categorized differently (as a “community college” rather than “university”).
- For FY26, South Seattle College has a net budget reduction of about **\$2.6M** ($\approx 5\%$ of its FY25 budget) as part of district-wide cuts.
- Because of funding constraints and budget freezes (e.g., hiring freezes, equipment purchases freezes) the risk of furloughs or program/position cuts increases.
- The term “progressive furlough” might refer to structured/uniform furloughs across classifications (rather than the alternative of large layoffs or service reductions), aiming to spread the burden but still raising serious concerns about long-term impacts on quality, access, and equity.

Why It Matters to Students at South Seattle College

- As students, you’re directly affected by changes in program availability, instructor workload, and support services. When faculty or staff are stretched thin or programs are cut, **student experience and outcomes suffer**.
- Being at South Seattle College (which serves as a key institution for the local community), cuts and furlough pressures pose a greater risk to access, especially for first-generation, low-income, and non-traditional students.
- Understanding these labor and budget issues helps you, as student leaders in the United Student Association advocate more effectively for student needs.

Officer Agenda Items

1. **President:** Judas Iscariot

- **Met with Dr. Brown for my first 1:1 meeting of the year**
- **Attended meetings with library to get a feel for the spaces there so we can plan an event/program called Otter Homeroom**
- **Presented to Scott Méxcal’s classes all Monday, three total, to spread word of USA and Pizza with the President**
- **hosted Pizza with the President (will edit)**
- **Presented to Horticulture students about USA to bring more focus to prof tech**

- **Attended Tenure Committee Training to prep for the tenure committee board**
 - Judas met with Dr. Brown for his initial one-on-one meeting of the academic year to discuss upcoming goals and initiatives. He also participated in meetings with the Library team to assess potential spaces for the forthcoming *Otter Homeroom* program, which is being developed to provide an inclusive and supportive environment for students in response to growing interest. On Monday, Judas delivered presentations to three of Scott Méxcal's classes to promote the United Student Association (USA) and the Pizza with the President event. The event was highly successful, attracting a strong turnout and fostering meaningful engagement between students and leadership. On Thursday, October 23, Judas presented to the Horticulture students, aiming to increase awareness of USA and strengthen outreach to professional-technical students. The presentation was well received, resulting in six new student followers immediately afterward. Additionally, Judas attended Tenure Committee Training in preparation for his service on the Tenure Committee Board.

2. **Vice President:** Hussen NurHussen

- **Finalizing Voter Drive**
- **Hiring Committee meeting**
- **Training for the Voter Drive**
 - Hussen finalized preparations for the upcoming Voter Drive, with the last day to register set for November 4. He met with The Washington Bus via Zoom on Friday, October 24, to coordinate voter engagement efforts. Yesterday, he attended a Hiring Committee meeting. And, on Saturday, October 25, the committee concluded the hiring process and officially announced the new Communications Officer. Hussen also helped organize training sessions for the Voter Drive, which are open to all and will be conducted one-on-one over the next two weeks. In addition, he joined Judas for a series of class visits to promote student engagement and campus involvement.

3. **Diversity and Inclusion Officer:** Fella Bryant

- **Meeting w/ Dr. Brown**
- **Student Dev Day**

- **Movie Night**
- **OTR Media Club**
- **Erin Jones**
 - Fella met with Dr. Brown on Thursday morning, October 23, to discuss matters related to transparency and communication - a concern that has shifted from students to staff. He is continuing preparations for Student Development Day, with a particular focus on engaging South students. Fella is also organizing a Movie Night scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, which currently has six RSVPs. The final run for this event is planned for Monday, October 27. In addition, he is preparing for the launch of the OTR Media Club, which is expected to officially open in the Winter Quarter. Fella also plans to invite Erin Jones (she/her), one of the CUSP Keynote Speakers, to speak at an upcoming USA meeting.

4. **Sustainability Officer: Leila Le**

- **Meeting with Dean Mayra.**
- **“Ban The Bottle” campaign.**
- **Finalize the Food Lifeline volunteer list and sign them up.**
- Leila met with Dean Mayra, Dean of the Library, to discuss Mei’s tenure process and ensure she clearly understands the observation procedures and expectations. This is Mei’s final quarter of observations, making it an especially important period. Dean Mayra plans to formally connect Leila with Mei so they can begin the observation process. In addition, she received an email from Monica regarding the “Ban the Bottle” campaign; however, as information is still limited, she plans to gather more details and develop a plan later. Leila also finalized and submitted the Food Lifeline volunteer list on Friday, October 16, confirming a total of six volunteers, and is looking forward to the upcoming event.

5. **Marketing Officer: Angel Aragon Madrigal**

- **Set up a meeting with Ty**
- **Fella Event Poster all over school**
- **Tenure Review**
- **Hiring Committee**
- **Voter Reg Poster**

- **Email Scott Mexcal**

Angel rescheduled his meeting with Ty to next week and assisted with the Pizza with the President event. His tenure review is in the Automotive Department, though he has not yet met with the department chair. Fella's event poster has been completed and posted around campus. Angel also finished the outline for the Voter Registration poster, which only needs the date added before finalizing. Additionally, he emailed Scott Méxcal about including an otter drawing on the ballot, a design opportunity for student artists in a paid position.

6. **Treasurer: Sabreen Hussien**

- **Met with Dean Dennis about the S&A Fee Committee**
- **Created the Agenda for the week**
- **Updated the Budget Spreadsheet**
 - Sabreen met with Dean Dennis to discuss matters related to the S&A Fee Committee. She also created the agenda for the week and updated the budget spreadsheet, reviewing it with all officers during the meeting to ensure everyone is informed and up to date on the current financial status.

7. **Issues and Concerns Officer: Khang Thach**

- **Post-event reflection**
- **Survey data analysis**
- **Tenure Committee Meeting**
 - Khang conducted a post-event reflection following a successful event attended by 32 participants, with donuts running out by 1:30 PM. One student provided positive feedback, noting that the event felt very comfortable. Khang also completed survey data analysis and presented his findings at the USA meeting. However, only 14 students completed the survey, limiting the accuracy and representativeness of the data. Moving forward, the goal is to have at least 200 students participate to ensure more reliable insights.

8. **Advisor: Monica Lundberg**

- **Club Endorsement process**

- **Faculty Tenure Committee**

- Monica worked on the club endorsement process and provided guidance regarding faculty tenure committees.

Are you ready for the SFRA?

Starting with Winter Quarter registration, a **Student Financial Responsibility Agreement (SFRA)** will be required for students to review and sign prior to registering for classes at North Seattle College, Seattle Central College, South Seattle College, and all community and technical colleges across Washington state. This agreement:

- Explains your financial responsibilities for paying college-related costs.
- Helps colleges follow rules about things like late payments and collecting overdue bills.
- Makes financial processes simpler and more consistent at all colleges.
- Meets state and federal regulatory and legal requirements.

The SFRA will be located in your student account in ctclink, where you manage your college-related tasks. By signing it, you show that you understand your financial responsibilities as a student.

Learn more by scanning one of the QR codes below.



Requirement Prior to Registration

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Next Meeting: October 30th, 2025

Committees

Committee	Officer	Meetings Held
USA Bylaws (Winter Quarter)	Chair Hussen	TBD

USA Budget (Winter Quarter)	Chair Sabreen	TBD
Student Fee Committee	TBD Chair Sabreen	TBD Advisor Dennis
Strategic Advisory Council, Former College Council	TBD Hussen/Judas	TBD Contact Chair Christa Zink
Safety Committee	Leila	TBD Contact Bryan Jellum
Faculty Tenure: Library	Fella	TBD Contact
Faculty Tenure: Auto Tech	Angel	TBD Contact Chair Ferdinand Orbino
Faculty Tenure: Auto Tech	Hussen	TBD Contact Chair Ferdinand Orbino
Faculty Tenure: Art	Judas	TBD Contact Chair Mayra DeLanda
Faculty Tenure: Library	Leila	TBD Chair Mayra DeLanda
Faculty Tenure: ISS	Khang	TBD Chair Eileen
Faculty Tenure: Psychology	Sabreen	TBD Chair Eileen

USA Weekly Tabling Schedule – Fall Quarter

Mondays: Leila, 1-2pm, Judas 1-3pm

Tuesdays:

Wednesdays: Hussen, 11-1pm

Thursdays:

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:00PM

Agenda and Minutes by: Nhi Nguyen Xuan Le