

MINUTES

Undergraduate Student Senate September 29th, 2026 6:30pm Squires Auditorium

Present – Lindsay Ricci (presiding), Gavin O'Brien, Arthava Shashank Kokane, Saira Junnarkar, Jungwoo Choo, Dominick Scozzafava, Robert Waugh, Estee Ruiz, Dawson Bell, Parth Mehta, Gianna Colangelo, Mejd Hutchison, Sreev Arun, Mira Morales, Matthew Wagner, Temima Enitan, Nyima Kijera, Delisia Hart, Milani Reid, Brady Nast, Mitchell Keller, Cody Duggins, Tanvi Aggarwal, Sanjam Saini, Sarah Tchuma, Liam Nagy, Carson Knowles, Maya Farrar, Anna Huang, Xan Whitt, Iris Williams, Daniel Cherkasskiy, Kyra Moore, Keagan Clark, Eden Enwiya, Jordan Kim, Rachel Mustapha, Ben Soltis, Chloe Fitzner, Aisha Kijera, and Jeril Antoney.

Absent: Chi Pham, Symonie Kargbo, Amogha Bangalore, Justin Broughman, Nina Nelson, Owen Tabler, Aryan Adhikari, Owen Yeatman, Lauren Meyers, Alessandro Buzzalino, Amelia Peura, Abigail Caldow, Ruun Samatar, McKenna Corrado, Reuben Monyo, Keiana Mason, and Ansleigh Toone.

Guests: Heather Wagoner, Noah Fox, Kat Nelson, Meghan Kuhn, Patrick Clark, Frederick Smith, Declan Hawthorne, Annalise Richardson, Haley Frederic, Rita Zing, Gabriel Sabarre, Ella DeStefano, Marc Divitto, Ollie Dorman, Adam Gamble, Gabe Daniels, Sophia Pereira, Danielle Hartless, Jason Eudy, Julian Richardson, Saniyah Brooks, Avery Mumford, Cady Shenk, Arnav Kulkarni, Genevieve Campos, Tanya Inaganti, Keely Hannon, and Mac Babbs.

Lindsay Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 15th, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve September 15th, 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None.

4. New Business

None.

5. Reports

- President Report – Lindsay Ricci
- Upcoming Speakers:
 - Dr. Davidson, the Assistant VP and Dean of Students, is coming to the USS meeting on Monday, October 13th.
 - Carl Harris and Chris Bateson are coming to the USS meeting on Monday, October 13 to present on Hokie AI.

- Carrie Cox, the Senior Director of Auxiliary Services, is coming to the USS meeting on Monday, October 13 to present on parking.
- Milkshake Mondays:
- On November 11th, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, with the Dean of Students.
- Opportunity for Office Hours Points:
- Lindsay discussed new opportunities for Senators to obtain office hours, including attending Milkshake Mondays.
- VP of Inclusive & Strategic Affairs – Saira Junnarkar
- Town Hall Summit Updates:
- Plans to expand the Blacksburg Transit were discussed.
- An upcoming Downtown Retail Incubator opens October 11th at 11:00am next to Red Door.
- Volunteer opportunities for Blacksburg Parks and Recreation were discussed.
- Opened the floor to see if Senators would be interested in a PAD meeting outside of the normally scheduled USS meetings. Many Senators and guests raised their hands showing interest
- Displayed a QR code for Senators interested in tabling for National Voter Education Week to fill out.
- VP of Administration – Jungwoo Choi
- The content calendar and request form are being finalized.
- Requested new Senators to check their emails for the upcoming USS onboarding on Saturday, October 3rd.
- Interim VP of Issues & Policy – Gavin O'Brien
- Went over his and Arthava's meeting with Dr. Keene in which they discussed the student experience at football games.
- Explained that his term as Interim VP is coming to an end and discussed next steps for the new VP of Issues & Policy
- Kat Nelson – USS Advisor
- Congratulated the newly elected Senators.
- Provided an update that official election results will be shared both on social media and Student News Monday of next week.
- Accountability and Attendance
- Outlined that in order to be marked present for a meeting, Senators must be seated for at least 50% of the meeting.
- Further explained that Senators have a maximum of four absences.
- Outlined the process of reporting technical difficulties with forms and Teams.

6. Presentation

Flock Cameras

Police Chief Mac Babbs, Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD), presented on Flock Cameras.

Chief Babbs provided an overview of Augmented License Plate Readers (ALPR/Flock) and how they fit into Virginia Tech's Safety Framework. He then went into detail on the history of ALPRs and why it has become so prevalent across the nation.

Chief Babbs opened up on how the department could have been more transparent with the rollout on campus and how law enforcement can struggle to explain the full technological capabilities of ALPRs. He went further to explain how law enforcement uses data from Flock and how data is stored, added context on what hackers would see if they were to access the data on Flock

Cameras, how VTPD owns the data and offers feedback to Flock on how their technology can serve them better, the way in which different state agencies have access to the data on Virginia Tech's Flock Camera, and the relationship Virginia Tech has with other localities within the New River Valley regarding access to Flock Camera data.

Chief Babbs then cleared up common misconceptions of what ALPRs are not while explaining what they really are. He highlighted the lawfulness of the technology while also providing examples of where Flock could have been useful in solving or even preventing certain crimes from occurring.

Chief Babbs explained the safeguards around the technology which help prevent it from being misused by those in power. These safeguards include legislation within the Code of Virginia, VTPD's policy on use, audits that occur on the system, and Flock's own efforts.

Chief Babbs went over VTPD's utilization of the cameras and the successes they have seen from it. These successes include identifying and charging a stalker on campus, locating a stolen vehicle, and locating a missing individual along with others.

Chief Babbs discussed how VTPD is handling outreach and transparency with the presence of Flock Cameras around campus and how they seek to engage with the community on this topic.

Lindsay then opened the floor for questions.

- One Senator brought up a situation that occurred last winter on campus and asked how Flock can address this scenario better than other forms of surveillance. Chief Babbs responded explaining that all other cameras gather the same information except a key component that Flock Cameras can track.
- Another Senator asked how Flock Cameras can better benefit the student population that doesn't have a car on campus over facial recognition technology. Chief Babbs explained that facial recognition technology is illegal and how there is not a known search feature that allows Flock to look up the images of individuals. The Senator then asked for clarity on the types of cameras being used on campus in which the Chief answered with the Falcon type.
- A Senator asked if Chief Babbs is aware of the "Deflock America" plan on Halloween and inquired on VTPD's plan to combat the potential mass removal of cameras across campus. The Chief answered that removing Flock Cameras is illegal and expressed that he hopes it isn't something that actually occurs.

Lindsay closed by directing any other Senators that still have questions to reach Chief Babbs through his email address.

7. Other Items

- Policy Resolution Process and the Shared Governance Website
- Arthava explained how policy resolutions are put into place and the resolution flow chart.
- Arthava then went over the Shared Governance Website and important resources for Senators to be aware of on the site.

- New Senator Oath of Office
- New Senators and the new Vice President of Issues & Policy swore the Oath of Office to confirm their roles.
- Activity – Senator Type Groups

8. Public Forum

- Lindsay brought attention to post it notes for Senators to post their questions for the upcoming guest speakers
- A Senator raised a question about Dining coming to a USS meeting. Lindsay explained that the meeting would be occurring with Rob's committee next Monday.
- Arthava highlighted the interest form for Shared Governance Commissions/committees to new Senators.
- Lindsay displayed a QR code to an Issue Area Word Cloud that displays which issues areas Senators are interested in.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.