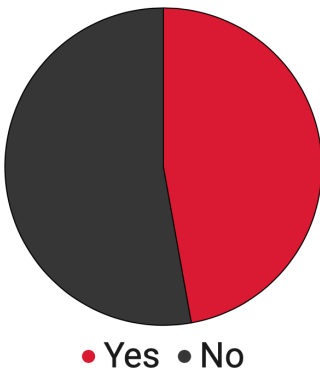


What's Your Opinion?

Is SGA doing enough to address the issues that matter most to students?

Out of 53 responses:
Yes -- 25
No -- 28



Message from the editors:

Happy holidays! We will see you in the new year!

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](#). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to [heraldopinion1921@gmail.com](#).

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

A student government not for students

CHRISTINA SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD



Christina Smith is a senior communication and history double major from Cabot, Arkansas.

Like the average Arkansas State University student, I never cared about the Student Government Association (SGA). It wasn't until they began to attack a passed housing scholarship that I realized that SGA has done nothing productive for the A-State student body in recent memory.

SGA has the power to make significant changes to our campus. So, why don't they?

The first ever SGA meeting I attended as a college student was their Feb. 13 meeting, where they were not only working to abolish SR 22/23 – 01 (a scholarship that would give financial assistance to those struggling to live on campus) but were also working to squash public support of the scholarship.

Eventually, after much deliberation,

they let those of us who came in support of the scholarship speak but, by that point, I realized that the A-State SGA was not serving the students, but rather themselves.

Our SGA has had every opportunity to work and fix any issues they may have had with the housing scholarship.

However, they voted to abolish it instead, with the condition that they would pass a new scholarship by the 2025/2026 election year, giving SGA an entire year to make a new scholarship.

SGA President Micayla McGowen expressed her support of this amendment. She said this amendment made sure "change happens."

It's ironic that only nine months later she said the same thing when they abolished that very deadline, which was literally made to ensure SGA makes a housing scholarship.

Senator Jackson Galloway was behind the abolishment of the original housing scholarship and a proponent of the deadline amendment. He said he had no interest in helping fellow Senator Louis Gonzalez, the senator who has been working tirelessly to form another housing scholarship.

SGA does not want to be held accountable for their actions, as nothing is forcing them to make a housing scholarship anymore.

They are also reluctant to use their budget to fund the housing scholarship

and instead want to push the responsibility of funding it on outside donors.

We, the general public and student body, do not know what SGA's budget is — as they are not champions in transparency.

What has stayed the same in the budget are the estimated \$27,000 salaries of the executive board of SGA, which seems to be more important to them than giving five students \$1,100 each so they can afford to live on campus.

Ultimately, our SGA is not interested in helping students. As a matter of fact, it seems that they aren't even interested in SGA itself.

At their Nov. 19 meeting, McGowen

commented on the lack of attendance from their senators to SGA meetings. If senators aren't showing up, they certainly aren't getting anything done.

At their final meeting of the semester on Dec. 3, SGA made no mention of any scholarships or resolutions.

It's time to ensure our student government works for the students and not just themselves and their resumes.

And for fellow A-State students and peers, I ask you to show up to the next SGA meeting and hold your elected senators accountable for their actions.

Lastly, SGA senators, I ask you to stop working to ensure your own stability and start working for those who elected you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA SMITH
A photo of SGA's Dec. 4 meeting.

A photo editor's advice: focus on taking chances

SHELBY RUSSOM
PHOTO EDITOR



Shelby Russom is a senior multimedia journalism major from

I didn't expect to be sad and regretful. As my time at Arkansas State University comes to an end, I'm left in an odd, limbo state. While part of me is beyond ready to move on to the next stage of my life, the other half mourns the idea of leaving behind the community I've surrounded myself with and the experiences I have had.

Getting older is such a strange feeling. I'm aware of it not only because of the changes in the faces of those around me, but in the way time has changed. The passing of time once felt so painfully slow. Now, it's passing a bit faster than I think I'm comfortable

with, leaving me with less time to take advantage of moments I regretfully pass up.

The next stage of my life is jam-packed full of questions: where will I end up? What will I end up doing? How will I continue to grow as a person?

"But I feel like my choice of major has pushed me so much closer to a person I can be happier being."

When you've spent the majority of your life in school, that's bound to happen.

Early in my college career, there were many days when I wanted so desperately to quit. I wanted to break every pencil in my home, destroy my laptop and just curl up in bed.

One thing I have learned though is my time was not wasted. I've had many nights where I was honestly sobbing over assignments that were due at 11:59 p.m. Those are nights I will not miss. But I feel like my choice of major has pushed me so much closer to a person I can be happier being.

I struggle with anxiety and self-doubt the way most people do. That, along with some other personality quirks,

made multimedia journalism seem like such a strange fit. I've questioned over and over again how I ended up deciding to spend years pursuing something my personality directly contrasted.

Nevertheless, I'm thankful for it. Without multimedia journalism, I wouldn't have found a love for storytelling and learning about people. I wouldn't have broken out of the shyness which held me back for so many years. I wouldn't have my friends at The Herald who have been such an amazing support system as well as an accountability partner.

To anyone considering, I would highly recommend joining The Herald or other organizations at A-State. Yes, there will be times when the workload is overwhelming, but the experiences you will have and the people you'll meet will make every ounce of that time worth it. Not only will it look good on a resume, but it will give you so many opportunities to create, explore and expand on the person you see yourself as.

Another bit of advice is to not wait. I regret pushing off joining the newspaper for so long. When you're in college it feels like you have so much time to do the things you want, but really that time

is short. Don't waste it being scared of commitment.

I will forever be thankful for the memories and experiences college has given me. Keep pushing through and try new things — you may end up being a better person for it.

This is Shelby Russom, photo editor, signing off.



Photo By Shelby Russom | Photo Editor
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Shelby Russom takes photos during the Community and Organization Fair.

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