



# CHEAT SHEET: SENATE CONFIRMATIONS

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Betsy DeVos, Donald Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education, was confirmed by the Senate Tuesday after a drawn-out war with Senate Democrats. DeVos, a notable donor to the Republican party for years, ignited a firestorm during her initial Senate confirmation hearing. She was grilled by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) — and performed poorly, according to many experts in the field.

One critique of DeVos was that she and her family were unfamiliar with the struggles of the average American, such as Federal Student Aid programs. A final vote for her will be held Tuesday afternoon. Senate Republicans voted against a filibuster of DeVos, while Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Monday that for the good of the country, DeVos should not be nominated.

"The American people are speaking in one loud voice against this nominee. I've had people come up to me and say 'I voted for Donald Trump, but I want you to vote against this nominee,'" kicking off the lengthy, final debate over DeVos," Schumer said.

DeVos's nomination is one of many that will be tightly debated on Capitol Hill in the coming week. Attorney

general nominee Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-A) and Health and Human Services pick Tom Price are both awaiting battles in the full Senate. While he noted the division of party lines is common,

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**CHUCK SCHUMER**  
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER



President Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos pose after he nominated her for Secretary of Education.

Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky) said it is only halting the Senate from progress.

"It seems this gridlock and opposition has far less to do with the nominees actually before us than the man who nominated them," McConnell said Monday. "The Democratic leader and his colleagues are under a great deal of pressure from those on

the left who simply cannot accept the results of a democratic election. They're calling for Democrats to delay and punt and blockade the serious work of the Senate at any cost."



Betsy DeVos speaks during her confirmation hearing.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Retired music professor dies

Malvin Newton Artley, a retired music professor credited with shaping Elon's string instruction program, died Feb. 4 at the age of 95. He joined the Elon University faculty in 1965, and during his time here, he founded the Elon College Orchestra and was its first conductor. He also organized a student chapter of the National Association for Music Education before retiring in 1986. He continued to teach after his retirement and was awarded the Elon Medalion in 2001.

### Lumen scholar seeks to improve public health

Justin Morin '17, an economics and finance major and recipient of the Lumen Prize, began sorting through the medical data of more than 60,000 individuals to examine the relationship between a person's income and health. The \$15,000 scholarship Morin received as a part of the Lumen Prize will help him with this research as he tries to discover how an individual's economic status could correlate to the likelihood they will be hospitalized.

## SGA town hall meetings continue after 1st semester

**Diego Pineda**

Photo Editor  
[@diego\\_pineda19](https://twitter.com/diego_pineda19)

When SGA town hall meetings began in fall 2016, Elon University Class of 2018 Vice President Morgan Bodenaarain was hesitant of the number of students attending and the overall effectiveness of these meetings. She knew reaching out to different parts of campus would be hard and did not know what to expect.

But the town halls began to grow, and Bodenaarain has noted that they are now overflowing with students — more coming from the student body than from the Senate.

To her, this shows that the student body cares about the work SGA does.

"I think that's awesome because not only do students get a chance to hear or see who is on the Senate, but we get a chance to hear what students are actually thinking," Bodenaarain said.

These meetings have opened dialogue within the student body and have dealt with topics that affect the community such as freedom of speech, Fraternity and Sorority Life and President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration.

"Having this space where you can come and not just hear your thoughts being reflected back at



Members of the student body participate in SGA's town hall Feb. 2

you, but you can hear what other students are thinking, is really important," Bodenaarain said. "You can hear what other students are thinking that are not in your circle."

Dean of Student Health and Wellness and SGA Faculty Advisor Jana Lynn Patterson believes the town hall meetings allow the student body to engage in dialogue on different issues in an environment that might not otherwise exist.

"It gives people a chance," Patterson said. "We don't have opportunities for students to come together to just talk ... in a place that

is somewhat safe — even though we don't agree with one another — [and where] people know that they're going to be respected and that they're gonna be heard."

Besides the open communication, these meetings have also allowed the SGA Senate to hear from students and get their perspective.

"I want people to come and see what SGA can do and see how they can use SGA," Bodenaarain said. "I think that's so important because we are representatives and we wanna do what you guys want."

From this, students not only learn about SGA's role on campus,

but also are able to play an active role. These town hall meetings sometimes result in the drafting of legislation, which the SGA sponsors, and students in attendance can provide their input.

As numbers continue to increase at these meetings, there is still room for improvement for the upcoming semester and the new Senate.

Patterson said she would like to see "more diversity of thought."

"I was more taken back that there were not a lot of people who had differing opinions than the one we did on freedom of speech," Patterson said.

### 'On the Edge of Apocalypse' Feb. 9-11

Eleven scholars from the U.S. and Canada will participate in a symposium Feb. 9-11 to discuss end-of-world theories from different cultures. The event is the first of the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society's "On the Edge" program, which will host a bi-annual symposium.

### Construction begins for new parking lot

Elon University has begun construction on a new parking lot next to the McMichael Building. The 165 new parking spaces will be used to accommodate Love School of Business expansion plans, according to Dan Anderson, Vice President of University Communications.

Construction on Sankey Hall will eliminate several spaces in the McMichael lot. The new parking lot, which will be accessible to faculty, staff and visitors, should be complete by the end of the spring semester.