

**STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**  
**January 29th, 2019**

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:31pm and announced that the meeting may be filmed or audio recorded and may be available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with 85 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- Carroll
- Harris
- Haydar
- Kaur
- Pearce
- Ramos
- Zelin

**AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:**

- There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Majority Party Leader Brown Moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for First Generation Cabinet Director: Adrian Cruz by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown Moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendations for the Constitution Revision Commission as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown Moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendations of the permanent replacement seats by a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown Moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation of the open Judiciary Committee seat: Brianna Adan by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Hernandez Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1014: Funding for Gator Chess Club by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hernandez Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1015: Funding for Balkan Student Association by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hernandez Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1016: Funding for Lucha Latina by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hernandez Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1017: Funding for Pair-a-Dice Gaming by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Hernandez Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1018: Funding for Young Life College by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Chairman Hurdle moves to hear the approved absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hurdle moves to hear the failed absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- Majority Party Leader Brown:
  - Last week, due to unforeseen circumstances, a number of constitutional amendments and referendums were unable to be added at last week's meeting.
  - Will be petitioning to the Supreme Court to ensure clarity in this situation moving forward.
  - If anyone has any questions, find Majority Party Leader Brown at the end of the meeting.
- Senator Dormeus:
  - Wants to speak on what happened last week.
  - Understands that the incident was human.
  - Wanted to speak on the referendum regarding Virgil D. Hawkins and the Reitz Union.
  - Would like to advocate for honoring Virgil D. Hawkins on campus.
  - In lieu of Martin Luther King Day, wants to speak on why this referendum was created.
  - Virgil D. Hawkins was wrongfully denied admittance into the UF Law School in the 1940s.
    - Was instrumental in desegregating UF.
  - Will be working to get this referendum on the fall ballot.
  - "Words are whispers, actions are screams."
- Senator Witte
  - Expresses that Senator Dormeus addressed important points.
  - Wants to address a few issues with the Disability Resource Center.
  - As someone who is legally blind, Senator Witte uses the DRC quite frequently, as well do other senators within the chamber.
  - Chase Brannan, former Disability Affairs Cabinet Director, is now pursuing other things.
  - Would like to talk about pending referendum dealing with hiring learning specialists for the DRC.
    - These are people who are working with people interacting with the DRC on a daily basis.
  - A fee increase has been passed to alleviate the amount of patients in waiting at the DRC, but these new learning specialists have not been hired yet.
  - Seeing as though the University has approved the fee raise, thought it to be appropriate to push for these hires to actually happen.
  - Would like to get the learning specialists hired before finals season rolls around. DRC becomes overcrowded during exam season.

- Looking for co-sponsors. The more we can get behind this, the sooner it can be done.
- Senator Sneh Patel:
  - Wants to talk about Asian-American representation on the UF campus.
  - Believes that we should create inclusivity on the UF campus for Asian students.
  - Would like to create an Asian-American caucus in the Senate.
  - Black Caucus has already been created.
  - Without a caucus, Asian students are lacking the representation on campus.
  - Talk to senator Patel after the meeting if anyone is willing to work with them.
- Alfredo Ortiz
  - Had written a speech, but feels some things have been better coming from the heart.
  - Judiciary Committee Meeting last weekend went well.
  - This legislation was barricaded due to a scheduling error.
  - Hard work that other senators have put into amendment should not be put in vain due to the unforeseen circumstances.
  - Was in Puerto Rico recently. Heard there was a 40 year agreement to mandate the expenses for reparations to the places affected by the 2017 hurricane season.
    - This means that this will take 40 years to return Puerto Rico to its previous state before Hurricane Maria.
  - Feels that it is important to highlight that this 40 year agreement is part of the reason as to why Puerto Rican students are here.
  - Wanted to bring the students that have been affected by the hurricane, so that the chamber can see the faces of those who are going through the “storm after the storm.”
  - There can be no resilience when the students are still in “the deep end of things”.
  - Many Puerto Rican freshmen do not know about what they can do.
  - The UF administration is not being helpful in assisting these students.
  - For an example, they say that this waiver does not exist.
  - They say that students may be referring to the assistance offered to Puerto Rican students.
  - Thinks that it would be great if senators here are willing to approach Ortiz to work on a resolution that addresses the unfamiliarity with this waiver.
  - It is very important that these freshman have an answer on whether or not they will receive a waiver or any type of aid following Hurricane Maria.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
  - Expresses the disappointment in the incident that happened last week’s meeting.
  - Believes that the Senate meeting cancellation last week was “completely unacceptable.”
    - Says that at least 6 referendums would have been introduced if the meeting had taken place.
  - Thinks that “we can do better than that.”
  - This is not the first time that scheduling has gotten in the way of hearing new pieces of legislation.
  - Hope that we can work together, hopes that the majority party will be willing to cooperate in responding to the events that transpired this past meeting.

- Will be reaching out for help in writing anything to make up for what was unable to be heard.
- Hopes that whatever we do can be just as effective.

***\*\*If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from [senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu)\*\****

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

### **SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Murphy welcomes the senators.
- Thanks Senator Brown for creating this petition.
- Election cycle has begun. Refrain from wearing party apparel in the SG office.
- Thanks to all Senators who came out to the MLK Day of Service.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Shaw welcomes the senators.
- No interviews happened this past week.
- Open Seats:
  - Medicine
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Graduate/Family Housing
- All seats due this Friday, February 1st at 12:00pm

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Continuing to reach out to all different organizations to ensure they have been contacted.
- Budget hearings are coming up.
- Asks senators to be a resource to the organizations on how to build a budget.
- Wants to make sure that there is no gap between peers and the committee.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Hernandez welcomes the senators.
- There are many more requests in the queue.
- Office hours will be tomorrow from 10:30am-12:00pm

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Congratulates on Senator Adan for being appointed to the committee.
- Legislation will be due to the Judiciary email this Friday at 12:00pm.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairman Hurdles welcomes the senators.

- Committee will be meeting this Friday at 3:00pm
- Keep going to constituency events.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes senators.
- Sent an email today regarding tabling dates for February and March.
- Reminder to like, share, and comment on every post you see on any SG social media account.
  - Information that is coming out is very important.
- New senator orientation will likely be next meeting before 7:30pm.

### **SECOND READING**

There were none.

### **FIRST READING:**

There were none.

### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

There were none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Adler
  - Homecoming and Gator Growl applications are now out.
- Chairwoman Dunson:
  - Hungry Movement: Host two free lunches at 11:45am and 12:45pm every day this week.
  - Events at 7:00pm.
  - Breakdown of what Christianity is.
- Senator Beltran:
  - HSA and AASU is having a First Generation Panel.
  - Thursday in Reitz Room G330 at 6:30pm.
  - Cuban Students Association is taking donations to go toward the damages done by the tornado in Havana, Cuba this past week.
- Senator Longland:
  - Wishes Senator Martin a happy birthday.
- Senator Calvin:
  - Next Wednesday, February 6th is the Absentee Ballot request deadline.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
  - Student Organization fair will be tomorrow and the day after 10:00am-2:00pm on Reitz North Lawn.
  - There will be an organization waiting list as well for empty booths.
- Senator Perez:
  - Talks about the tornado in Havana, Cuba that Senator Beltran discussed.
  - Four people died, and hundreds were injured.
  - Cuban American Association will be pledging donations this Thursday.

- If you are having complications with the time/place of the event, reach out to Senator Perez.
  - Social media post is reaching thousands of people throughout Gainesville. Encourages senators to like and share the post.
- Senator Diaz:
  - Florida Political Review info session this Thursday at 6:30pm in Matherly 04.
- First Generation Cabinet Director: Adrian Cruz
  - Introduces himself.
  - First Generation Panel.
  - Thursday in Reitz Room G330 at 6:30pm.
- Senator Lima:
  - City of Gainesville Election will be held on March 19th.
  - There will be a mayor and city commissioner being elected in this election.
- Pro-Tempore:
  - Asks senators to correctly fill out voter record.

**ROLL CALL:**

- A motion to use voting records for final roll call by unanimous consent. Approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.