

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

May 28, 2019

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:00 pm 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 60 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Dubois, Garrit
- Espinosa, Maria
- Gant, Johnathan
- Iyamu, Raphael
- Nguyen, Spencer
- Pearson, Braden
- Perez, Mauricio
- Ragan, Rebecca
- Rush, Alana
- Shan, Kevin
- Smith, Charlene
- Wikan, Audrey
- Witte, Casey

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Dunson
 - Announces open seats for Summer A.
- Senator Meyer
 - Asks for a moment of silence for those who have given service to the United States.
- Joseph Andreoli
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Is in a transition of being “a senator and not being one.”
 - States that he is “speaking out” because he is “not afraid.”
 - Talks about his appointment to the Gators Going Green chair and how it was interrupted by the cancellation of last week’s meeting.

- States the music he listens to protest music from various movements in history to “prepare” for what he sees in the chambers.
- Sarcastically ‘thanks’ the Information and Communication committee for “livestreaming” the Senate meetings.
- States the definition of “gas-lighting.”
 - Notes the danger of the act, and the effect being unqualified candidates being appointed.
- Notes that students were in favor of democracy in Venezuela during meetings just this last spring.
 - “We can use some of that advocacy a little closer to home.”
 - Notes the presence of “power grabbing” in the chambers.
- Niccole Smith
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - States that she was the replacement senator for Senator Amrose and possible involvement within Student Government -- the appointment was later nullified.
 - States she talked about ideas for the summer term.
 - Speaks about her first experience in SG - talked about mental health legislation.
 - Wants to get people to get off their phones during meetings.
 - States how she was told to apply for the Senate seat despite being promised by Senator Amrose -- stated that she was told she was qualified for the position.
 - Friend reached out to make her the summer replacement.
 - States that there has to be a true discussion of senator replacements rather than dismissal during meetings.
 - States she witnesses the mockery of the application process.
 - Urges everyone to think about why they are here (a part of Student Government Senate).
 - Mentions the nullifications enforced by Senate President Shaw that the speaker felt was unjust.
 - Mentioned several programs involved under nominated chairs that were not mentioned on some applicants’ resumes.
 - States everyone should actually show they want change if they ask for it.
- Claudia Tio
 - Urges to decline executive nominations for STAR and Women’s Affairs chairs.
 - Shows presentation of a comment by Derlis Leyva; feels offended by the comment; states it is misogynistic and not inclusive.
 - Speaks on intersectionality -- states Mr. Leyva’s lack of understanding of misogyny does not make him qualified to handle a department that deals with racism on campus.

- Claims Chloe Parrish is unqualified -- states that she failed to include action plans on how to deal with sexism and sexual assault.
- Urges everyone to reject the nominations of Chloe Parrish and Derlis Leyva.
- Maya Levkovitz
 - Reading on behalf of Senator Diaz.
 - Inspire Caucus is rejecting the FLC executive chair nomination.
 - States she received an email this morning that contained two of the applications for the FLC chair.
 - Talks about an email involving a resume for the chair that has no experience, compared to one that had experience within FLC.
 - Urges everyone to keep the meeting focused on productivity and honesty.
- Senator Wilson
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Talks about silence related to Senate leadership involving approval of Summer Senate replacement seats.
 - Apologizes to the replacement senators whose positions were taken away.
 - Talks about her work experience and says the behavior she has witnessed so far would not be appropriate in the workforce
 - Re-emphasizes silence on legislation, voting, and public debate within Senate.
 - Asks everyone to think about if they truly care about anything they are voting on
 - Encourages Senators to stand up and speak about things they care about within Senate.
 - Talks about executive nominations.
 - Describes the position of the Press Secretary.
 - Describes the appointment for the Press Secretary position as having no experience related to public relations, writing, and working with media.
 - States that the Press Secretary position needs someone with skills of writing and experience in media or working with the media
 - States that another applicant had better qualifications for the job, but the former applicant was not chosen.
- Senator Bindi
 - Starts off by thanking Senator Meyer for the Memorial Day moment of silence
 - States visitation of war memorials during a trip to Washington D.C.
 - Talks about epiphanies he realized when visiting D.C.
 - Speaks on the duties of Senators -- states that the past few weeks have been a "disgrace" on those duties.
 - Apologizes to those who were not chosen as replacement senators who he believes should have been chosen as replacement senators

- States legislation related to the amount of votes needed for approval of executive chair nominations.
- Inspire Caucus will be rejecting the appointment of Justin Geels?? For the Innovation Academy.
- States the purpose of the Innovation Academy chair's duties.
- Does not believe this person is credible enough to represent the Innovation Academy due to lack of experience and IA representation. Also applies to a lack of experience with Student Government.
- States the applicants' intentions and ideals verbatim.
- Hashaam Shafiq
 - Speaking on behalf of Emily Heiden.
 - States she is the sole applicant available for the FLC executive chair.
 - States that not one person of Senate leadership was involved in her interview.
 - Feels that her qualifications were not cared about
 - States that Student Body President Murphy offered a make-up phone call interview.
 - States that she had extensive experience yet was still not offered the chair seat.
 - Feels that there was a bias in President Murphy's decision
 - Stated she searched through public records and could not find an official application for the current executive chair position. A resume was instead sent 38 days after the deadline for the position.
 - Feels that the positions are not given out based on merit
 - Feels that Austin is not qualified and would not even know the pillars of the FLC organization if he was asked, stating irony that he was chosen.
 - Claims she has called Student Body President Murphy 5 times and switched office hours in order to not be in contact with her.
 - Calls on Senators to discourage a block approval for the executive chair nominations.
- Devon Philip
 - Explains the purpose of FLC.
 - Explains the core component of FLC is the people and the connections made.
 - States how the chairperson "carries the people with them" after involvement with FLC.
 - States the duties/purpose of the FLC chairperson.
 - Asks senators to put themselves in the shoes of the FLC vice chair position for a minute.
 - States that the FLC chair is looked upon to have major experience within FLC; opposite of what the candidate has.

- Claims that the candidate is not qualified for the FLC chair.
- States that “FLC would not be FLC” if the current applicant is approved due to lack of experience.
- Hannah Fektel
 - States that she withdrew her application for her chair due to corruption within Student Government.
 - States FLC council made a tremendous impact on her as a person
 - States that this impact was created due to the directorship team under FLC.
 - States that the backbone of FLC is served by the chair.
 - Claims that FLC falling apart will have an effect on Student Government.
 - States that the candidate for FLC does not “love FLC” as he was never involved within FLC.
 - States that the bylaws for executive chair nominations call for the applicant to be involved as an executive position within that organization -- the applicant was never even involved.
 - Encourages Senators to vote with their conscience and not simply vote because they can.
- Kaylin Kleckner
 - Desires to define what the FLC chairperson position is not about.
 - States that the chair position is not about “harsh words” and “unfair actions” relating to “integrity and personal values”.
 - Reminds Senators that their duties are for the student body -- “They are the priority”.
- Matthew Biser
 - Reading on behalf of Miranda Ferguson.
 - States she was extremely disappointed for the nomination of the current application for the FLC chair.
 - Claims the candidate’s application was 38 days late and directly sent to the president's email.
 - Claims that selecting this individual shows complete disregard to the organization as a whole.
 - States that she has “critical concerns” for the future of FLC.
 - States that as an alumni, she will consider against donating to the University as she sees the use of the funds as possibly wasted by Student Government.
 - Asks everyone to consider the points she has emphasized
- Melanie Halom
 - States she was a member of FLC this past year.
 - Expresses her awe with FLC and the selection process.

- States that she “could see why” her class of applicants were chosen for FLC.
- States the most important thing about FLC is the people in the room.
- Ensures that it is impossible for someone to replicate the FLC class unless they have been involved.
- Arman Tabassion
 - States that he was a member of FLC this past year.
 - “It’s the people” - FLC phrase; foundation of what he has to say
 - States that it is important for the chairperson of FLC to have experience within the organization -- worries since the considered applicant does not have this experience.
- Shaun Shiwmgangal
 - Discusses why his FLC experience has impacted him personally and why he does not agree with the decision for the FLC chairperson.
 - Explains the aspects and facets of FLC.
 - Emphasizes the importance of the leadership team for FLC.
 - States that the current chairperson is not qualified
- Sauvas Ferekides
 - States that he is an “alumnus” of FLC’s 2018-2019 class.
 - States he joined FLC to gain leadership skills.
 - Re-emphasizes that the applicant for the FLC chair has not “lived” what FLC is.
- Jack Rummler
 - States that he was involved as a director in FLC.
 - Concerned with the appointment of the current chairperson.
 - States an experience with a friend that stated his 2 years experience gave much credit to his own performance within FLC.
 - Doubts the current candidates leadership for the FLC chairperson position.
- Virginia Howell
 - Served on SG in two different agencies.
 - Expectation that the chair of FLC has a basic knowledge that being in FLC has a personal effect on the members of FLC.
 - Believes that Student Government can “do good”.
 - Calls on the current chairperson to deal with the extensive network of FLC alumni.
 - States that the nomination was not chosen “by the people”.
 - Encourages Senators to deny the nomination for the FLC chair.
 - Thanks everyone for showing support regarding dismissal of the nomination for the FLC chair.
- Tripp Jones

- States that the past FLC chair he worked with had worked significantly hard by this time this past year in order to facilitate a good experience.
- Says the position requires passion that only the members of FLC can attest to.
- Colton Heath
 - Speaking on the behalf of Max ??
 - States that the speaker was personally apart of FLC and would be “overwhelmed” if he had not joined.
 - States that it takes a “special person” to create and facilitate a program for FLC.
 - States the current choice of the FLC chairperson is not qualified for the position
- Senator Berrocal
 - Welcomes the senators and thanks those that came to speak about FLC.
 - Read a speech by one of the constituents.
 - Speech discusses the LGBTQ+ community at UF.
 - States that the executive chair nomination for LGBTQ+ cabinet head “does not know us, and we do not know him”.
 - States that the LGBTQ+ community has “fought too many tireless hours to accept this”.
- Nathan Quinn
 - States he is the current PSU president; his second term.
 - Starts by reading email he sent earlier today about concerns for the current appointee for the LGBTQ+ cabinet head.
 - States the current LGBTQ+ cabinet director applicant has no experience within the LGBTQ+ community at UF.
 - Feels that the current appointee does not have the necessary investment to succeed in being the cabinet director.
 - States the qualifications for another candidate and claims that the qualifications for her application was unfairly considered.
 - States that he had to search the current appointee up on Facebook, which surprised him considering he is in his second year as PSU president.
 - States that “we” need people who “understand us”.
 - States that he feels like they need people who are willing to fight for the LGBTQ+ community and represent them.
- Kristen Jackson
 - States she is a member of the LGBTQ+ Affairs caucus.
 - States she is here to elaborate on the email she sent this morning.
 - States that the bill related to respecting identity was not added to the agenda due to the chairperson not “responding until it was convenient for him”.
 - Speaks on “rainbow capitalism” and defines the term.

- States that encouraging rainbow capitalism doesn't actually help the Queer community.
- Addresses people's lack of effort to address the deeper issues within the LGBTQ+ community.
- States that people will come along and benefit off of communities without actually benefiting their cause.
- States that it would be a disservice for someone who has little experience with the LGBTQ+ community to be appointed.
- States that by not choosing someone who has major experience within PSU is disgusting.
- States that the person up for nomination with the LGBTQ+ cabinet is not qualified.
- "Consider the voices of the people who you are voting for"
- Senator Amrose
 - States that he appointed a replacement senator and is "not supposed to be here".
 - States he paid for a course in order to represent his students.
 - States that the applicant for Nightlife Navigators is unqualified for the position.
 - States that the experience of the candidate is "underwhelming".
 - Speaks on the Twitter account during the term, which only had four tweets.
 - Feels that the Director of Promotions has been failing in his duties.
 - Concerned with a lack of emphasis on sexual assault within the candidate's application.
 - Claims the candidate neglects to improve the safety of students from sexual assault
 - Calls upon Senators to reject the nomination for Nightlife Navigators.
 - Recommends everyone to take into consideration that there are other agencies in student government that have budgets that are able to make considerable changes; says people from these other agencies need to step up.
- Dylan Alhacy
 - Speaking on behalf of Rebecca Ragan.
 - Desires to speak about executive appointments relating to the Veterans Affairs chair.
 - States that her family is heavily involved as Veterans.
 - States that the resume of the applicant chosen was possibly even in violation of election laws.
 - Does not believe the most qualified applicant was chosen.

- Mentions another candidate who she feels is more qualified due to the person's experience and status as a veteran.
- States that she "cannot believe that someone who is not a veteran is not considered fit for the job".
- Believes that Student Government is not upholding democracy to the highest standard.
- Senator Dormeus
 - States the Inspire Caucus will be opposing the Finance and Affordability Cabinet director nomination.
 - States the role of the director.
 - States that the applicant for the directorship should have an action plan and experience within the field.
 - States that this year's appointment gave only two lines in what she plans to do with her appointment.
 - Feels that he would be a better selection due to his experience and major, which is Finance.
 - Claims she used broad statements rather than elaborating on her plans for the position.
 - States that the nominee has no "meaningful interest relating to Affordability".
- Senator Gant
 - Speaking on the nominations for FLC and Diversity Affairs.
 - Reiterating the arguments of these senators he is speaking about.
 - Asks "what are the jobs of Senators?".
 - Claims that the constituents have made everyone's job easy.
 - States that over 20 FLC representatives made contact or spoke during public debate showing their displeasure of the current nominee.
 - States that the course of action at this point is pretty clear considering multiple senators spoke out against the nomination of the current candidate.
 - States the nominee for the Agency Head of Diversity Affairs has no prior experience with diversity or involvement with "multiple minority and ethnic groups around campus".
 - States that the experience for Diversity Affairs can only be obtained by "doing it a lot".
 - Urges everyone to vote "no" in favor of the current candidate.
 - Begins to comment on the Senate body by stating that certain aspects of the Senate are related to power mechanics and illegitimacy.
- Senator Patel

- States the well-being of the environment should be one of the biggest concerns right now.
- States that over the past 5 years, the Earth has seen the hottest temperatures on record.
- States that each and everyone of us can do something to make sure the Earth is more sustainable for us to live on.
- States that the time for action is now.
- States that he is creating the Environmental Caucus within Student Government.
- Hopes to start environmental projects around Gainesville through Environmental Caucus.
- Encourages those to reach out to him if they are interested in helping out around campus.
- Senator Lima
 - States that Senators have votes that he hopes “you all take seriously”.
 - Talks about how we “got here”.
 - Mentions multiple Senators’ action as “immoral and unjust”.
 - Mentions actions of Senators Shaw and Dunson that have “paved the way” for nominations to be approved tonight.
 - Urges senators to vote the way they truly believes is ethical, moral, and just.
 - Emphasizes that special rules could be removed and that candidates could be discussed individually in order to truly asses candidates.
- Colin Solomon
 - Feels that multiple applications were glossed over, including his own.
 - Congratulates the replacement Senators.
 - Talked about his involvement within Student Government; included slating and writing of legislation.
 - Stated that Senator Mackintosh gave him permission to overtake his seat for District D while he was not taking classes over the summer.
 - Stated that this seat was nullified by Senate leadership -- reapplied immediately.
 - States that he brought multiple ideas and perspectives into his interview as a replacement senator.
 - States that Senator Grabowski as the only one who had “fought for him”.
 - States that there were a few people willing to fight for him.
 - States that Senator Pearson deliberately ignored his applications and efforts.
 - Praises Senator Morris for giving critical feedback on his application.
 - Says that two of the viewers of the livestream, his mom (who knows nothing about SG) and a friend, viewed it as corrupt.
- Carson Young

- Served as an executive position on last years' FLC board.
- Wants to talk about the reason why he feels the FLC nominee is egregious and unqualified.
- States that AT LEAST the FLC position should be separated from the block and evaluated individually.
- Urges everyone to vote to suspend the "special rules of order".
- Urges Senators to listen to the non-partisan people who came.
- Hopes Senators do not vote what is best for their political careers -- instead vote for their conscience.
- Minority Party Leader Grabowski
 - Serving as the Minority Leader for the SG Senate.
 - Claims leaders in Student Government have been breaking constitutional law.
 - Claims people in this chamber say they care about abiding by the Student Government constitution but only do so when it suits them.
 - Claims that Senator Shaw never addressed her concerns regarding the nullification of the replacements.
 - States the Student Government Constitution is very clear about choosing a summer replacement.
 - Claims that Senator Pearson listed off names for approval without any means of discussion.
 - States that applications are routinely treated mundanely within Student Government.
 - Claims that Senate leadership nullified nominations in order to diminish Inspire leadership within Senate.
 - Claims they are willing to support nominees who aren't qualified
 - Points out all the appointed agency committee heads that the Inspire Party will vote to block.

*****If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sq.ufl.edu*****

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Minority Party Leader Grabowski motions to overturn all of the special rules of the agenda.
 - Motions to approve this motion by issuance of a roll-call vote. Seconded.

- With a vote of 16 to 44, the motion passes.
- Motion is rescinded.
- Minority Party Leader Grabowski motions to overturn the special rules of the Agency Head nominations.
 - With a vote of 17 to 45, the motion fails.
- Minority Party Leader Grabowski motions to recommit the applications for the Executive Branch nominations to Student Body President Murphy.
 - Senator Sandifer moves to call the previous question. Seconded.
 - Senator Grabowski moves to call for a roll-call vote. Seconded.
 - With a vote of 17 to 44, the motion fails.
 - Pro/Con Debate:
 - 1st Round of Con:
 - Senator Sandifer
 - Stated to respect the confirmations of Senate leadership.
 - 1st Round of Pro:
 - Minority Party Leader Grabowski:
 - States the lacking qualifications of nominated positions.
 - Senator Patel
 - States that constituents have given their opinions on their beliefs and they should overturn these positions.
 - Second Round of Con:
 - Senator Gant
 - States we should reconsider the vote and affirm those nominations that are “legitimate” and veto the ones that are not.
 - Minority Party Leader Grabowski
 - Emphasizes that recommitting votes is not going against Student Body President Murphy; it simply asks him to reconsider.
 - 2nd Round of Pro:
 - Minority Party Leader Grabowski
 - Emphasizes that nominations will not be against Student Body President Murphy, just to be reconsidered.
 - Senator Jackson
 - States that FLC and Women Affairs chairs are not being properly represented by nominating these chairs.
 - Motion to recommit the Agency Head positions. Seconded.
 - With a vote of 15 to 47, the motion fails.

- Senator Amrose motions to reconsider. Seconded.
 - Pro/Con Debate:
 - 1st Round of Con:
 - Senator Ortiz
 - States that an Executive Branch is needed for Senate.
 - Senator Sandifer
 - States that the Minority Party is known for reconsidering questions.
 - 1st Round of Pro:
 - Senator Lima
 - Stated that the Student Body President wasted the time of applicants as he already had a “hand-picked” list.
 - Senator Stein
 - Calls the approval of these nominations as a “disgrace”.
 - 2nd Round of Con:
 - Senator Gant
 - Encourages a bipartisan effort to not affirm appointees as a block; to confirm those that are agreed and debate about the ones which are disagreed.
 - 2nd Round of Pro:
 - Senator Wilson
 - Mentions silence of voting senators
 - Senator Grabowski
 - Mentions removal of block voting to reconsider the minds of the constituents
 - Senator Amrose moves for a roll-call vote. Approved.
 - With a vote of 14 to 48, the motion fails.
- Senator Grabowski motions to recommit the FLC executive chair nomination specifically.
 - Pro/Con Debate:
 - 1st Round of Con:
 - 1st Round of Pro:
 - Senator Ortiz:
 - Believes senators should take their constituents seriously and vote as a bipartisan effort.
 - Senator Berrocal:
 - States that senators are “blatantly ignoring” the plights of their constituents
 - 2nd Round of Con:

- Senator Gant:
 - Believes that by doing this, the other seemingly unqualified applicants may be overlooked.
 - 2nd Round of Pro:
 - Minority Party Leader Grabowski motions for a roll-call vote. Approved.
 - With a vote of 25 to 36, the motion fails.
- Senator Grabowski motions to reconsider. Approved.
 - Senator Amrose motions for a roll-call vote. Approved.
 - With a vote of 28-34, the motion fails.
- Senator Sandifer motions to approve the Agency Head nominations as a block by a roll-call vote. Seconded.
 - Senator Sandifer rescinds his previous motion.
- Senator Grabowski challenges Senate President Shaw's motion. Seconded.
 - Senator Grabowski calls for a roll-call vote. Approved.
 - With a vote of 14-48, the motion fails.
- Senator Morris motions to end Amendments of the Agenda.
 - After a vote of 48 to 14, the motion is approved.
- Senator Grabowski motions to suspend Rule 3 to vacate the chair. Approved.
 - After a vote of 15 to 45, the motion fails.
- Senator Lima motions for a quorum check.
 - With 62 senators present, quorum is re-established.
- Senator Sandifer moves to call the previous question, block approval of Agency Heads.
 - After a vote of 46 to 6, the motion is approved.
 - Senator Sandifer moves to approve the Agency Head nominations as a block by roll-call vote.
 - After a vote of 46 to 6, the motion is approved.
- Senator Sandifer moves to call the previous question, block approval of Cabinet Chairs and Directors.
 - After a vote of 46 to 5, the motion is approved.
- Senator Patel calls for a quorum check.
 - With 52 senators present, quorum is re-established.
- Senator Sandifer moves to approve the Cabinet Chair and Director nominations as a block by roll-call vote. Seconded.
 - After a vote of 47 to 2, the motion is realized to not have quorum.
 - A motion is made for the meeting to adjourn.
 - After a rising vote, the motion is approved.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- There were none.

FIRST READING

- There were none.

SECOND READING

- There were none.

VETOED LEGISLATION

- 2019-1046: 200 Comprehensive Code Revision

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There were none.

ROLL CALL:

- Quorum was not able to be established with 49 senators. Meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 pm.