

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

### **July 16th, 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 a quorum was established with 61 senators present.

#### **Not there for roll call:**

- Anderson, Zachary
- Bertolett, Corby
- Castro, Benjamin
- Charles, Kevin
- Dorneus, Michael
- Faubion, Jacob
- Gunby, David
- John, Che
- Kennedy, Michael
- Martin, Tim
- Ortiz, Alfredo
- Patel, Sneh
- Pearson, Branden
- Perez, Mauricio
- Wilson, Macey

#### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- Senator Amrose:
  - Mentions the possible reinstatement of former Senator Johnathon Gant.
    - Claims the R&E committee failed to approve his absence petition despite having a family emergency.
  - Talks about some of the initiatives that former Senator Gant and Senator Amrose worked on.
  - Reads off exactly what Gant said in his appeal.
  - Cites the Code 324.5 in the Student Senate Rules and Procedures.
    - Claims the R&E committee incorrectly read this code.
    - Wishes that the chamber delays this hearing, due to the false reading of the codes.
    - Claims the wrong call was made at the meeting.
  - Mentions that although certain senators were removed, their committee seats were not made vacant.
- Senator Jackson:
  - Recites words from a constituent of former Senator Gant expressing their disapproval of the failings of his petition for reinstatement.
  - Explains that the reasons Gant had to miss a meeting should at least be considered.

- Colin Solomon:
  - Welcomes the senators.
  - Speaks on the removal of former Senator Gant, and the failing of his petition.
  - Speaks on ethics and its connection to the removal of former Senator Gant.
    - The Rules and Ethics Committee holds a special place in the chamber, and it must be done correctly.
    - Claims that Gant's absence was not for a regular student Senate meeting, but for a special meeting instead.
    - Claims he saw each member empathizes with Gant, but it was never considered a reason for an absence.
    - "For the 12,000 people that voted for him, 'that's just not right'"
- Savannah Lai:
  - States she is an international student and an Engineering Senator.
  - Mentions the passing of doctoral candidate Huixiang Chen.
    - Requests a moment of silence to honor his life.
  - States that Chen left a note before his passing mentioning academic misconduct of his supervisors.
  - President Fuchs sent out an email regarding the investigation of Chen's death.
    - An investigation for ONLY academic misconduct was launched.
    - Graduate Assistants United (GAU) requests for a more extensive investigation to be held to take \_\_\_\_ into account.
  - Says we cannot disregard the loss of a student's life here at the university.
  - Will be working on a resolution that aims to deal with this initiative, and that the results of this resolution be made publicly for students.
    - Urges everyone to reach out if they would like to sponsor or contribute to this resolution.
  - Mentions resources we have on campus; CWC and U Matter We Care.
- Senator Bindi:
  - Thanks Lai for speaking beforehand.
    - Relates to these tough moments and urges those who may feel like they need help to check out the CWC or U Matter We Care.
  - Figured that this should be a process for new senators to go through this:
    - Mentions ways to be removed from the Student Senate.
  - Notes that in 2016, there were 99 Impact Senators, the lone independent Senator being Senator Chou.
  - States that unjustly being removed from Senate destroys the concept of democracy.
    - Coming together to impeach a senator has not been done, because of the respect for democracy.
  - States that the Impact senators respect democracy and refrain from conspiring to unjustly remove others from Senate.
  - Asks new senators to reevaluate the ways senators were removed.
- Niccole Smith:
  - Allows an audio clip and presentation to play regarding the previous R&E committee meeting; regards former Senator Gant.

- Expresses her disapproval of people in the room making conversation during the moment of silence for Chen.

***\*\*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)\*\****

### **SENATE ELECTIONS:**

Member at Large:

- There was a motion to open the floor for nominations. Approved.
  - Senator Bindi nominates Senator Jackson. Accepted.
  - Chairman Brown nominates Senator Garner. Accepted.
- There was a motion to close the floor for nominations. Approved.

### **Coalition Leader Jackson**

5 Minute Presentation:

- States she has worked hard to make sure that senators in the chamber has a voice.
  - Mentions those who she has worked for, including the legislation that has been drafted.
  - “Standing up for these unrecognized people and their contributions, can give so much hope and empowerment to this community.”
  - Does not want to “sit here and do nothing.”
- Mentions that she has worked on legislation that has been drafted that opposes proposed Title IX regulations.
- Feels comfortable saying that she embodies what being a Member at Large is all about.
  - Mentions all that she has represented and spoken with.

5 Minutes of Questions:

- Senator Ragan: How can you ensure that you will be unbiased and fair for deciding seats and other things on the committee?
- Senator Jackson: States that she has worked in positions that have allowed her to be unfair and unbiased; is a manager and has worked as a head of student organizations.
- Chairman Sandifer: I recall that you have walked out on a couple meetings, how do you feel that you qualify for this position?
- Senator Jackson: States that she has a moral obligation to herself and her mental health; had to leave a meeting due to interactions with Student Body President Murphy.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi: What have you done in Senate that shows bipartisanship?
- Senator Jackson: Has founded a caucus alongside an impact senator, and mentions her work on legislation.
- Chairwoman Morris: Do you feel as though you have treated every senator in the Senate student body with the utmost respect?
- Senator Jackson: States that she feels as if she has treated each senator in the chamber with the “most respect” she could offer.
- Senator Amrose: Can you talk about your experience in the Replacement and Agenda Committee?
- Senator Jackson: I have applied for many different positions and have attended many meetings.

- Senator Patel: How do you think that a Member at Large can help you?
- Senator Jackson: Member at Large should be someone that students can access and speak to easily.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi: What is the most important quality for a Member at Large?
- Senator Jackson: Being able to remain unbiased and staying fair and making decisions.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi: What does R&A stand for?
- Senator Jackson: “Replacement and Agenda.”
- Minority Party Leader Bindi: What are the responsibilities of R&A?
- Senator Jackson: States the roles and duties of the Replacement and Agenda Committee.
- Senator Amrose: Have you ever set the agenda for a student organization or something similar before?
- Senator Patel: How will your past experiences affect your position as Member at Large?
- Senator Jackson: Having experience in setting an agenda, and other experiences has allowed me to learn to always be unbiased.
- Senator Ragan: What do you think Member at Large means in the context of R&A?

### Senator Garner

#### 5 Minutes of Presentation:

- States that he hopes everyone is having a great summer so far.
- Served as the 2017-2018 Florida FFA State President
  - This experience has served as a way to develop into true leader.
- States roles in the Budget & Appropriations Committee, and the Replacement & Agenda Committee as a Coalition Leader.
- Commits to himself that the Senate will have the most qualified and committed senators.
  - Believes he has developed a strong understanding for duties of being a senator since being a senator for a year now.
- States that through prior experiences, he has developed a skill set to evaluate candidates.

#### 5 Minutes of Questions:

- Chairwoman Jones: How has your experience outside of student government prepared you for this role?
- Senator Garner: Spoke about a specific example with the FFA.
- Senator Ragan: Can you talk about a time when you stood up for something, despite it being unpopular?
- Senator Garner: I was on the Agricultural Life Sciences Council and had to evaluate how to allocate funds effectively.
- Chairman Brown: Can you talk about your time on the Budget and Appropriations Committee?
- Senator Garner: Had to sit through a variety of hearings to “understand” the University of Florida, was able to learn about organizations and resources offered to students.
- Senator Amrose: States that former Impact affiliated Members at Large have denied or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Senator Garner: I commit myself to perform my duties to the best way possible. The answer is yes.
- Senator Zlatanoff: How have you developed the ability to being unbiased on this committee?

- Senator Garner: Stated that he had to look through applications under the College of Agriculture and used his unbiased nature in order to assign roles to those who were best qualified.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi: Can you give multiple examples in this Senate chamber when you have been bipartisan?
- Senator Garner: Mentions his time on the Budget Committee, as well as his interaction with senators in the chamber.
- Chairman Sandifer: How would you describe your leadership style through your past experiences?
- Senator Garner: My leadership style is a supporter leadership style. Ensuring students can have the ability to do things independently and can grow on their own.
- Chairwoman Girschick: What brought about your interest in becoming a Member at Large?
- Senator Garner: Believes that service plays a large role.

Roll call vote:  
Put this in after.

In a roll call vote of 55 votes for Senator Garner, to 6 votes for Coalition Leader Jackson, Senator Garner has been elected Member at Large.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:**

- There were none.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Chairwoman Morris moves to strike the approved absence on 5/14/19: Nicholas Meyer by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to strike the failed absence on 5/14/19: Nicholas Meyer by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Amrose moves to strike John Gant from failed absences.
  - There was a motion for a roll call vote. In a standing vote, that motion fails.
  - In a roll call vote of 7 to 56, that motion fails.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to hear all approved absences as a block by unanimous consent. Objected.
  - Chairwoman Morris moves to hear all approved absences altogether by standing vote.
    - Point of Order: Senator Bindi states “blocks” are not allowed in Robert's Rules of Order. Because this block follows the same criteria to the chamber, the chair rules that all approved absences can be heard together.
  - In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to hear all failed absences all together, at the same time by standing vote. That motion passes.
  - In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to hear all reinstatements all together, at the same time by a standing vote. That motion passes.

## **STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORT(S):**

- There were none.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Replacement & Agenda:**

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Hopes everyone enjoyed the past Tuesday off.
- Open Permanent Replacement Seats:
  - Agricultural and Life Sciences
  - Building Construction
  - Dentistry
  - Education
  - Graduate-01
  - Graduate-02
  - Graduate-04
  - Graduate-05
  - Graduate-06
- Open Summer Replacement Seats:
  - Architecture
  - Law
  - Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Pharmacy
  - District D-01
- Open Committee Seats:
  - 5 Judiciary seats
  - 1 Budget and Appropriations seat
  - 1 Information and Communications seat
- Congratulates Senator Garner.
- Went to Athens, GA with Senate President Shaw for the annual SEC Exchange in order to talk with other student governments within the SEC.

### **Minority Party Report:**

- States that an R&A meeting was not held due to not meeting quorum this past week.
  - The problem with this is that there is not a Judiciary Committee that is able to meet quorum.
  - We do not necessarily have to approve all open seats at once, but rather a case-by-case basis.
- This week at R&A, claims that they put Senator Gant as a failed absence.
- Welcomes Senator Garner to R&A.

### **Budget & Appropriations:**

- Chairman Brown welcomes the senators.
- Displays a presentation for the 2020-21 budget.
- Found there was an excess in credit hours, which allowed for a three percent increase.

- Network support line: increase free printing initiatives on campus; add more locations on campus.
- Discussed making Senate more project based. Funds will increase by \$30,000.
- \$70,000 in funds will be added for student organizations on campus.
- RecSports
  - Committee was able to tour all the facilities.
  - Speaks on the 10-year plan RecSports has implemented.
    - Initiative to make sure students have the best equipment and facilities at all times.

**Question(s):**

- Senator Amrose: Believes the Uber Safe Rides program was cut from 50% to 25%; given this, did the executive branch see any more need to give money to this program?
- Chairwoman Jones: Uber Safe Rides program is not funded by Student Government. Former Student Body President Webster worked with TAPS to secure this.

**Allocations:**

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the senators.
- Meeting will be next week.
- Currently working through the new 800 Codes.
- Congratulates Senator Meyer on being the newest vice-chair.
- Also appointed Senator Freedman as the Allocations-Information and Communications Liaison.

**Judiciary:**

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Judiciary committee will be meeting this week.

**Rules & Ethics:**

- Chairwoman Morris moves to approve the approved absences by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to approve the approved absences by standing vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to approve the failed absences by standing vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to approve the reinstatement of former Senators Wikan, Singleton, and Wright by standing vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.
- Congratulates Senator Zlatanoff.

**Information & Communication:**

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the senators.
- One open seat on the committee. Please reach out with questions.
- The IM basketball team won last week. Will play tomorrow at 9:30pm.
  - Anyone interested, come out.
  - Counts as a constituency event.
- Senate Retreat will be this Saturday, July 20th from 4:00-6:00pm at Lake Wauberg.
- Meet Your Senator Night, next Thursday, July 25th in Turlington at 10am.

- Opportunity for senators to meet active constituents.
- I&C will be meeting this week.
- Will send out tabling sign-up.

**FIRST READING:**

- There were none.

**SECOND READING**

- There were none.

**BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Caucus Leader Jackson:
  - Gator Nights on Friday night from 7:30 PM-1:30 AM.
- Chairman Brown:
  - Congratulates Senator Wynton White for becoming Vice Chair.
- Senate President Pro-Tempore Dunson:
  - Because reinstatements were approved, the Agricultural Life Sciences Sophomore-03 and District E permanent seats are no longer open.

**ROLL CALL:**

- There was a motion to collect final roll call via voter records by unanimous consent.  
Approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.