

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
July 23rd, 2019

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:01 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 63 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Bertolett, Corby
- Bhakta, Sharan
- Blomely, Emily
- Charles, Kevin
- Coakes, Cameron
- Espinosa, Maria
- Faubion, Jacob
- Freedman, Austin
- Holman, Andrew
- Jesurajan, Jessica
- O'Meara, Christopher
- Ortiz, Alfredo
- Ragan, Rebecca
- Shaw, Libby
- Staviski, Peter

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Joe Andreoli:
 - Reads a recent article from the Independent Alligator, "Letter to the Editor: The truth about Pearson and the Impact caucus."
- Senator Amrose:
 - Greets the senators.
 - Wants to speak about the agenda, and the basic principles of democracy.
 - Notes that one side of the chamber is almost empty.
 - Claims many Inspire Party senators were removed for "petty" reasons.
 - Notes that despite understanding circumstances, senators choose to not vote in a specific favor.
 - Claims the Impact Party voted to have senators removed for illegitimate reasons.
 - "You vote in favor of the steam-roll."
 - Asks senators, "Why do you do what you do?"
 - States that senators who were appointed to permanent seats were not voted by students in the first place.
 - Notes that this is "anti-democratic."
 - Wants to speak in regards to the new budget that is being proposed.
 - Not on Budget: proposed bill does not say that SG will add a blue light.
- Collin Solomon:
 - This past weekend, the Replacement and Agenda Committee met, and after seven applications and three interviews, Solomon was not selected as a District D senator.
 - Reads an essay written for the Replacement and Agenda Committee Meetings.
 - Decided to extend the essay for this past week's meeting. Reads the additions.

- “This senate looks completely different from what I voted for.”
- Niccole Smith:
 - Greets senators
 - First generation Latinx student, and started the Latinx caucus despite not being a senator.
 - States how she grew up not feeling properly represented.
 - Notes how she applied for senate seats four times, yet never received the position.
 - Notes she saw senators scroll through social media while others were speaking during public debate in a previous meeting.
 - Wanted to make an effort to understand what is going on.
 - Believes she embodies the quality of persistence.
 - Notes the experience that makes her the right choice to serve the student body, including advocating on a national level.
 - Feels disappointed when she is told she does not have the qualifications to be a senator, yet has qualifications on a national level.
 - Disapproves of the way senators act during meetings.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi:
 - Makes a metaphor that compares broken headphones to how the Student Senate is.
 - Notes that the Impact Party holds the majority of the senate, and won the executive positions.
 - States that the Inspire Party cannot stop the Impact Party’s legislative agenda.
 - Believes that senate cannot work in a lopsided fashion; feels that Inspire Party’s suggestions go in one ear and out the other with Impact Party.
 - Is against putting things into blocks on the agenda.
 - States that Robert's Rules of Order says that only identical points of topic are able to be heard as a block.
 - States that the Majority Party Leader wants to hear everything in a block because he is “afraid of a filibuster.”
 - States that the Senate has skipped debate 37 times.
- Ben Lima:
 - Here to address something that has been recently demonstrated again.
 - Asks senators to take a moment to look at the agenda: “Is there a fair representation?”
 - The Replacement and Agenda committee is by concept, “an antithesis to democracy.”
 - Finds problems with how the Replacement and Agenda Committee is elected.
 - Notes that a majority dominated party picks candidates that will align with the majority party.
 - Notes that many qualified applicants have been denied for those who are less qualified.
 - Desires structural change.
 - Urges the majority party to follow the correct procedures.
- Coalition Leader Wilson:
 - Coalition Leader Wilson gives her goodbye speech.
- Ashley Grabowski:
 - Is always unsure what to speak about, based on the volume things to bring up.
 - Addresses the rights of the public.
 - Feels that the words people decide say during public debate is abused.
 - Not liking what people say is not a reason to silence people.
 - Explains the Florida Sunshine Laws.
 - Mentions comments made by a senator on social media.
 - Urges senators to take their position more seriously.
 - Mentions Senator Wikan’s alleged embellishment of a resume to be placed on a committee.
 - Claims that the Impact caucus defended Senator Wikan’s “lie.”

- Claims that the Impact caucus broke the rules when they could not “get their way,” says they did not earn those seats.
- Mentions the altering of meeting minutes.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Minority Party Leader Bindi moves to suspend the special rules placed on the Agenda by the Replacement and Agenda Committee by a roll call vote. In a standing vote of 9 to 53, this will be heard by standing vote.
 - In a standing vote of 9 to 54, that motion fails.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi moves to remove the Judiciary Committee Seat from the block via roll call vote, in a standing vote of 9 to 54, this will be heard by a standing vote.
 - In a standing vote of 9 to 54, that motion fails.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to hear the approved absences as a group by standing vote.
 - Point of order. Minority Party Leader states that the R/A Committee can only add special rules to the agenda. The parliamentarian states that this is not explicitly stated.
 - Minority Party Leader Bindi moves to appeal the decision of the chair by roll call vote. In a standing vote of 9 to 54, this will be heard as a standing vote.
 - In a standing vote of 9 to 54, the chair’s decision is sustained.
 - In a standing vote of 54 to 9, all approved absences will be heard as a group.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi moves to remove Summer Replacement: District D from the special rules. The parliamentarian rules that because the suspension of the special rules has already failed, no further motion can be made to alter the special rules. This will not be heard.
 - There was a motion to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote of 9 to 54, this motion will be heard via standing vote.
 - In a standing vote of 8 to 54, that motion fails.
- Senator Pearson moves to adopt the agenda by standing vote. In a standing vote of 54 to 8, that motion passes.
- Senator Wilson moves to request a quorum call.
- Not there for roll call:
 - Bertolett, Corby
 - Bhakta, Sharan
 - Blomely, Emily
 - Charles, Kevin
 - Coakes, Cameron
 - Espinosa, Maria
 - Faubion, Jacob
 - Freedman, Austin
 - Holman, Andrew
 - Jesurajan, Jessica
 - O’Meara, Christopher
 - Ortiz, Alfredo
 - Shaw, Libby
 - Staviski, Peter

Quorum has been established with 64 senators present.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORT(S):

- There were none.

SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore.
- Would like to thank Senator Wilson for her time on R&A.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

All recommendations will be heard as a block per special rules.

- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to call the previous question.
 - In a standing vote of 43 to 8, that motion passes.
- In a standing vote of 43 to 8, the Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendations are approved.
- Point of order. Senator Amrose states that the reason for abstention must be professed past it being merely “a conflict interest.” In the eyes of the chair, these abstentions suffice.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Replacement & Agenda:

- Member at Large Garner welcomes the senators.
- Open Permanent Replacement Seats:
 - Building Construction
 - Dentistry
 - Education
 - Graduate (5)
 - Veterinary Medicine
- Open Summer Replacement Seats:
 - Architecture
 - Law
 - Liberal Arts & Sciences
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy
 - District B
 - District C
 - District D (2)
- Open Committee Seats:
 - Budget and Appropriations

Minority Party Report:

- Minority Party Leader Bindi:
 - States why Minority Party objected the motions that were made during the meeting, and during the Replacement and Agenda Committee.
 - Notes the danger of implementing special rules.
 - Says it stifles debate and discussion
 - Says discussion has not been had 38 times.
 - Gives reasoning as to why Minority Party Leader Bindi voted for or against certain applicants.

- Notes that unique experience matters what “you do with it.”
 - States various problems with interviewing and deliberating applicants through Replacement and Agenda committee meeting.
 - If anyone would like to apply for something, speak to Minority Party Leader Bindi.
- Coalition Leader Wilson:
 - Shares the same sentiments as Minority Party Leader Bindi.
 - Wants to share reservations with the selection of applicants by the Replacement and Agenda Committee.
 - Feels that Colin Solomon is more qualified to be a senator than most people in the chamber; believes he is the ideal senate candidate.
 - Does not approve of the way the Senate works and states “this is not how it works in the real world.”

Budget & Appropriations:

- Chairman Brown welcomes the senators.
- Committee has spent lots of time together during budget hearings over the weekend.
- Will be presenting Student Senate Bill 2019-1071 later.

Allocations:

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the senators.
- Committee met on Monday; approved and denied over 100 requests
 - Heard over 100 requests.
- Will be meeting tomorrow.

Judiciary:

- Senator Meyer welcomes the senators.
- Congratulates the new Judiciary members.
- Working on a meeting that will probably take place next week.

Rules & Ethics:

- Chairwoman Morris welcomes the senators.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to approve the approved absences as a block by standing vote. In a standing vote of 64 to 0, that motion passes.
- Chairwoman Morris moves to approve the failed absences on July 2nd: Benjamin Castro by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Probation emails have been sent out.
 - You have until August 7th to satisfy probation requirements.
- Constituency events coming out later this week.
- Tracker will be shown next Tuesday.

Information & Communication:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the senators.
- Congratulates the newest addition to the committee.
- Thanks Coalition Wilson for the time she served on the committee.
- Final intramural basketball game this week, tomorrow.
- Meet Your Senator day on Thursday in Burlington.
- Update emails will be sent out tonight or tomorrow.
- Hopes everyone is staying healthy.

FIRST READING:

Student Senate Bill 2019-1071: Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Activity Service Fee Budget

- 5 minutes of presentation:
 - Presented the budget in detail last week.
 - Talks about what the amendments made were about.
 - Yields for questions pertaining to the budget.
- 5 minutes of non-debatable technical questions:
 - Senator Meyer: Can you go into where the money for increases came from?
 - Senator Brown: The increase came from an influx in credit hours. This 3 percent increase is not a rate students pay for.
 - Minority Party Leader Bindi: Is there any funding towards the CWC in this budget?
 - Senator Brown: I would direct that question to President Murphy.
 - Senator Portugues: Can state why there was a \$30,000 increase in the SG Projects line?
 - Senator Brown: The 30,000 dollar increase is for specific projects, including a personal headshot booth machine for student access.
 - Senator Kendrick: How will additional funds increase the program for SAI?
 - Chairman Brown: Cites Nancy Chrystal-Greene's presentation, regarding the implementation of many initiatives and resources.
 - Senator Ragan: Do you know if the budget accommodates live streaming?
 - Senator Brown: Deferred. Not a known fact.
 - Senator Garner: With there being a 70,000 dollar increase, do you see room for growth for those student organizations?

Senator Amrose moves to expand the question and answer period by 5 minutes by unanimous consent.

- Senator Brown: Absolutely.
- Senator Amrose: Given the budget we currently have, do you anticipate that there will be enough money for every organization who requests funding for their operational budgets?
- Chairman Brown: Operational budgets are funded by approval, and approved on proration once they exceed their budgets.
- Senator Trejos: Can you talk about the \$40,000 increase within Student Legal Services?
- Senator Brown: Reflective of overall salary increases. Looking forward to seeing the new renovations of the building. Feels that increases in programming could increase student legal services.
- Chairwoman Girschick: Notes a removal of funding from the forensics line, can you elaborate on why this was removed?
- Brown: forensics line is a student organization. Wants all student organizations to go through the same process for receiving funding.
- Senator Wikan: Can you speak on the specifics of the operational budget line of RecSports?
- Chairman Brown: Electrics under SW Recreational Center are not up to proper code. This funding will update these facilities. This is RecSports number one priority.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi: Do you know of any changes in the budget to include live streaming?
- Senator Brown: No.

Senator Amrose moves to extend questions and answers by another 5 minutes by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Senator Amrose: How can organizations get funding if there is no special request line anymore?
- Senator Brown: Has answered that question with the organization, cites the definition of "event" in the 800 Codes. All equipment and more would be requested through event requests.
- Senator Jackson: Can you explain the admin fee and why it was denoted in red ink?
- Senator Brown: This reflects an amendment to the bill.

- Jackson: Have you been in contact with the Reitz Union liaison regarding the Reitz Union expenses?
- Chairman Brown: I have not, but will schedule a meeting soon.
- Senator Amrose: Has there been any communications to combat sexual assault on campus?
- Senator Brown: Student Body President Murphy did not explicitly state it in his budget presentation.

Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to introduce the amendment to the legislation by unanimous consent. Approved.

Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to call the previous question by standing vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.

In a standing vote of 62 to 0, the amendment is adopted.

Three Rounds of Con-Pro Debate:

- First Round of Con:
 - Senator Amrose: Does not think that many things have been thought of when drafting the budget, including blue lights, live streaming, and more.
 - Senator Jackson: Agrees with Senator Amrose. States that there is nothing that mentions live streaming in the budget.
 - Minority Party Leader Bindi: Shares the concerns of the previous two senators.
 - Coalition Leader Wilson: The lack of live streaming funding is very concerning, as well as communication with the Reitz Union.
- First Round of Pro:
 - Chairwomen Girschick: States there is some funding that has not been allocated yet; therefore, it could potentially go towards live streaming.
 - Majority Party Leader Pearson: A lot of resources that handle things like sexual assault support and others are handled by the special projects fund in the Student Body President's discretion.
 - Senator Garner: Takes a moment to show appreciation to the Budget Committee and Senator Brown for their work on the new budget.
 - Senator Amrose: Takes a moment to appreciate the things that didn't change on the budget. Understands the removal of the forensics line, and adding \$70,000 for organization funding.
- Second Round of Con:
 - Senator Amrose: There's good stuff in here, and appreciates the committee's efforts, but is concerned with the process of approving the budget.
 - Minority Party Leader Bindi: Would like to see specific, codified things for separate areas; discretionary funding should change.
 - Coalition Leader Wilson: While many initiatives are under the discretion of the Executive Branch, but discretions can change. Would like to see specific funding. There are separation of powers for a reason. We must make things happen as a Senate, as the Executive Branch does not have to do these things.
 - Senator Jackson: Expresses concern for the live streaming aspect of the budget, especially since it is something that is required to do during meetings.
- Second Round of Pro:
 - Chairwoman Morris: Thanks Budget Committee and Chairman Brown. Likes the additional funding to ACCENT and SGP. Appreciates the speakers and various events they offer to the public.

- Senator Trejos: Appreciates the efforts of ACCENT and the funding given towards this organization.
- Chairwoman Jones: Thanks the committee for their efforts. Believes that this budget has gone through tirelessly to make sure that the budget serves the student body.
- Senator White: Believes we are putting the students first through the efforts of this new budget. Commends the \$30,000 dollars added to the SGP projects.
- Third Round of Con:
 - Senator Amrose: Finds the elimination of the lobbying line unfortunate. Wants the senate to reconsider this decision. Is unsure why \$5,000 of awards is allocated.
- Third Round of Pro:
 - Majority Party Leader Pearson: The increase in facility funding and 10 year maintenance plans will ensure a cutting edge trajectory for decades.
 - Senator Kendrick: Has been working along with the Budget Committee to the best of ability to work with the funding of the A/S fees. Dealing with the obstacles graduate students face through the new budget.
 - Senator Wikan: Builds off of Senator Kendricks comments. Was able to see the impact made on the students when drafting this budget.
- Final Round of Con:
 - Senator Amrose: There are a lot of things that are not on this budget, including campaign points during the election season. Mentions the comments regarding a few specific programs like ACCENT and SGP, but no comments for other programs.
 - Coalition Leader Wilson: States the budget is good; however, there are issues. Money allocated towards music played at events could be allocated elsewhere; a blue light is more important than a concert for example.
 - Senator Amrose: Points out the elections line, and how lots of money is being spent on refusing to implement online voting.
- Final Round of Pro:
 - Senator Garner: RecSports is expanding their services that they are offering to students; adjusting and expanding equipment and making sure they are ADA certified.
 - Majority Party Leader Pearson: RecSports is doing wonderful things with funding for their programs, including the sports clubs line increase. Re-emphasizes the point that the Student Body President has a discretionary special projects line to use. Mentions the projects finished by former Student Body President Green in the last term.
 - Chairwoman Girschick: There are many increases in marketing, and finds it very nice to reach students more so through outreach and advertising.
 -

Three minutes of Final Privilege:

- Thanks the chamber for a well throughout debate.

There was a motion for a roll call vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.

Roll call vote:

Amrose, Zachary	Abstain
Anderson, Zachary	Y
Anwar, Sulaiman	Y
Barenholtz, Houston	Y
Bean, Walker	Y
Bennett, Madeleine	Y

Bertolett, Corby	Absent
Bhakta, Sharan	Absent
Bindi, Nikolas	Y
Blomely, Emily	Absent
Brown, Cooper	Y
Bucci, Natalie	Y
Castro, Benjamin	Y
Charles, Kevin	Y
Coakes, Cameron	Absent
Dormeus, Michael	Y
Dougan, Skye	Y
Ducoat, Kyra	Y
Dunson, Emily	Chair
Espinosa, Maria	Absent
Faas, Mary	Y
Faubion, Jacob	Absent
Fernandez, Aidan	Y
Freedman, Austin	Absent
Gagnon, Emily	Absent
Garner, Kyle	Y
Gessner, Joshua	Y
Gettleman, Carly	Absent
Girschick, Sam	Y
Glover, Jackson	Y
Goel, Nandini	Y
Grant, Kylie	Y
Greenwald, Michael	Y
Gunby, David	Y
Heera, Sean	Y
Holman, Andrew	Absent
Hoppens, Parker	Y
Isleib, John David	Y
Jackson, Kristen	Abstain
Jesurajan, Jessica	Absent
Jon, Che	Y
Jones, Meryl	Y
Karpinski, Zachary	Y
Katare, Annika	Y
Kendrick, Tyler	Y
Kennedy, Michael	Y
Kim, Da Ey "Esther"	Y

LeMaire, Jacob	Y
Loy, David	Y
Madden, Mary Claire	Y
Maroun, Evan	Y
Martin, Tim	Abstain
Meisner, Michael	Y
Meyer, Nick	Y
Mills, Aaron	Y
Morris, Abby	Y
O'Meara, Christopher	Absent
Ortiz, Alfredo	Absent
Patel, Maya	Y
Patel, Sneh	Y
Pearson, Branden	Y
Perez, Mauricio	Y
Portugues, Anthony	Y
Ragan, Rebecca	Y
Reineke, John	Y
Rush, Alana	Y
Russel, Logan	Y
Sandifer, Will	Y
Scurry, Daziah	Y
Shaw, Libby	Absent
Singleton, Stephen	Abstain
Spence, Sydney	Y
Staviski, Peter	Absent
Townsend, Thomas	Y
Trejos, Kevin	Y
White, Wynton	Y
Wikan, Audrey	Y
Wilson, Macey	N
Wolf, Steven	Y
Wright, Noah	Y
Zlatanoff, Gabi	Y

In a roll call vote of 57 to 1, Student Senate Bill 2019-1071: Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Activity Service Fee Budget has been approved in first reading.

SECOND READING

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Zlatonoff:
 - If anyone has an event regarding constituency, let her know
- Senator Amrose:
 - Graduate Students United needs student support, especially Student Government; consider helping them.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.