

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
August 27th, 2019

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:30 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 67 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Adan, Brianna
- Bhakta
- Blomeley
- Brown
- Calvin
- Cordover
- Cornair
- Dhaliwal
- Evans
- Haffey
- Herman
- Honeycutt
- Levy
- Longland
- Matei
- Miller
- Mills
- Patel, Shaan
- Prieto
- Rodriguez
- Scurry

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Bryn Taylor:
 - Treasurer of the Florida Swing Dancing Club, a club that has been teaching swing dancing for the past 30 years in Gainesville.
 - Workshops are hosted where international dancers teach and participate, welcome for anyone to attend.
 - Have created a community where spaces for a classic dancing style are to be welcomed.
 - Here tonight to speak in support of the proposed reserve transfer for organizations.
 - Over the summer she attended all the budget meetings and was excited about the changes coming.
 - Restates what she was told at meetings and shared with other committee members.

- Was not able to be added to Docutraq in time.
- Walks through timeline of budget requesting.
- August 7th: Taylor was informed that all but one event has been denied for funding.
- Due to how budget request was processed, they have to have entry pay to fund events.
- Faced with the possibility of cancelling various events.
- Feels reputation will be tarnished if they have to cancel.
- Budget was shrunk from \$5700 to \$260.
- Something must be done to fix this.
- Is hoping things go back to how they were.
- Will Boose:
 - Representing Gator Salsa Club. Introduces other committee members.
 - Members range from freshmen all the way to PHD students. Notes the diversity of the club.
 - They host free dance club every Monday and Thursday.
 - States that they have received generous funding in the past from SG but this year, they received only enough to put on one event.
 - Disagrees with the definition of a “General Body Meeting” in the codes.
 - States how GSC as club still holds a meeting twice a week, despite it not fitting the definition of a GBM, it is still a meeting.
 - Talks about him and the e-board dealt with each timeline and deadline to the exact detail and urges the chamber to come up with a solution.
 - Asks to support a reserve transfer or come up with an alternative solution.
 - Announces that every Monday and Thursday they have dance classes, and invites everyone to come out and try it to learn about other cultures.
- Sebastian Georgiev:
 - Introduces himself as the President of University Film Society.
 - Felt they were fooled by the outdated website regarding funding.
 - Once they found out the way funding worked, it was too late.
 - Looking back on it, it was a mistake joining Student Government.
 - Feels they cannot do much with the club anymore.
 - Without much money, events to orient new students are not going to be able to take place.
 - Feels disappointed about lack of funding.
 - States that students need an outlet to discover relationships when new on campus.
 - Creativity is something very important in the Arts Department at UF.
 - Hoping that the reserve transfer goes through.
- Fiona Pashollari:
 - Representative and Vice President of the Florida Swing Dancing Club.
 - For the past two years, has had the privilege of meeting friends through this club
 - Notes what the club has done for Pashollari ever since being involved.
 - Restates the University of Florida mission statement.
 - States that the Florida Swing Dancing club reinforces and abides to the University’s mission statement.
 - Hopes to secure funding in order to have events.

- Cole Korsog:
 - President for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.
 - Group dedicated to the professional development of Chemical Engineers at the University of Florida.
 - Mentions awards won by the organization.
 - The recent budget shortage causes multiple facets of their club to be harmed.
 - Mentions the various events that have been hindered because of budgeting issues and benefits that students have gained from them.
 - Amount of funding AICE gets directly impacts the amount of guest they are able to host.
 - Funding from SG also helps to host other students to present research.
 - With SG money, the organization also increases their chances to win awards at competitions.
 - Funding also helps students meet teachers.
 - Club tries to give as many outreach opportunities as possible.
 - Notes a K-12 outreach program for schools in the area.
 - Notes partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
 - Continues to list opportunities and programs within AICE.
 - States that they strongly rely on SG funding for many of their events.
- Lili Tzou:
 - Current President of the aKDPPhi chapter at the University of Florida.
 - Here to express how the changes in budget have affected herself and her organizations she is involved in.
 - States mission of SG noted off SG website.
 - Feels that recent changes in funding skews the mission of SG.
 - Notes that many organization leaders are unable to tell members that they are unable to throw specific events.
 - States some students have been feeling negative feelings of stress due to funding changes.
 - Talks about her organization's impact on students and the community.
 - \$5,600 were raised for a welcome event in light of the budgeting problems.
 - Over 1,000 people were present on Friday for the event.
 - Donations are not a sustainable solution.
 - Notes comments made about "cancelling our culture" at a previous meetings.
 - Hopes that those elected are transparent and find a way to help represent the students.
 - Asks to "do your jobs."
- Amye Francis:
 - Current events coordinator for Florida Swing Dancing club.
 - Talks about more of the impacts because of the budgeting problems of organizations on campus.
 - Mentions the success of the organization in recent time.
 - After learning about the new budget, leadership asked if they could host another large event, she started planning two large events.
 - Mentions dancers from around the country and state being planned to come to Gainesville.

- She made sure she confirmed she could put on two events with her budget, before reaching out to companies to host.
- Noted that all budget requests except for one were denied. Was forced to close registration.
- Has had to reach out to the instructor from Orlando, alerting him of the budget change.
- Irfan Kovankaya:
 - President of Students Organized for Syria.
 - Not a general fan of Student Government, but is here because of two boys, 12 and 14 years old.
 - Mentions a promise he made to the two young boys, that he would do everything he could to change the lives of young kids like them.
 - Here because “our work as a student organization matter,” as well as others on campus.
 - Here asking everyone to support the reserve transfers.
 - Not here to yell or bother people, he invites everyone to join the family.
 - Welcomes those wanting to “join our family” by making “our work possible.”
 - Invites everyone to join them by helping them with the funding they need to make a difference.
 - Only care he has is that everyone comes together because the work everyone does is too important.
 - Believes everyone is capable.
 - Does not believe that there is anything that this body cannot do, but hopes that there is the political will to do something.
 - Urges everyone in the chamber to find their political will to help with the reserve transfers.
- Amy LiWamwa:
 - President of the Catholic Gator Association.
 - Every week during the first week of classes, Catholic Gator Association puts on events to invite and welcome students to their church.
 - Disappointed in regards to the budgeting for events. Missed the deadlines for budget requesting, and the events budget has already been exhausted.
 - States that currently they are receiving zero funding from SG, which they desperately need to run many events.
 - Hopes that a solution has been found, and appreciates all measures made to find one.
- Minority Party Leader Bindi:
 - Notes that senators must be “listening to constituents.”
 - Shifts gears talking about the future.
 - Speaks to the future of Student Government, as well as the electorate, which is changing.
 - Mentions the changes of the 2020 fall and spring Reapportionment.
 - The changes to the electorate can happen only when it is actually representing it.
 - States that we need the population data to confirm that changes to fall 2020 would represent the population accurately.

- After asking for apportionment data, Majority Party leader Pearson was suggesting to request it via PRR.
- Feels that the data is necessary to support the bills.
- Asks who has the population data for UF students in Gainesville.
 - Was expecting at least one person to have the population data.
- Asks for those who do not have population data to not vote in favor of reapportionment.
- Wants to move legislation to next week so everyone can vote informed.
- Perry Muferson:
 - Was not in attendance.
- Christian Ortega:
 - President of Florida Swing Dancing Club.
 - Switches the topic back to the budget problems in Student Government.
 - Notes that Ortega is generally a shy and quiet person.
 - Talks about how he had a deep fear of dancing, and when he came to UF he wanted to change that.
 - Credits the Florida Swing Dancing Club for helping him develop as a human being.
 - Fell in love with the dance style from the 20's, 30's, and 40's.
 - Has made many new friendships and relationships across the state due to this club.
 - Seeing the impact of one student organization, Ortega is sure that he is not the only one impacted by one organization.
 - Club has only received \$300 for the budget which will not help them fund all their events and workshops.
 - Lack of funding will not allow the opportunity for students to develop, like Ortega has.
 - Asks for the reserve funding to be passed for wonderful opportunities to happen.
- Daniel Townsend:
 - Newly elected President for Society of Composers Inc.
 - Was happy to hear about the funding and opportunities students are able to apply for. But the rug has been pulled out from under him.
 - Here representing SCI and the college of the arts.
 - States the benefits of the events that they put on for the community.
 - Has had to cancel events because of the funding problem.
 - Budgeting for the spring has been difficult, due to the amount of time in advanced needed to plan events with people across the country.
 - Feels that the budget change has crippled the college of the arts, which benefits their society, and ultimately the University.
 - States that relationships have been damaged because of their need to cancel events and cancel on guests they were going to host.
 - A reserves transfer is not enough, but it is at least a help.
 - Urges the University to not cut the arts out of budgeting like the rest of the nation has.
- Mason Mellott:
 - Was not in attendance

- Kelsey Seber:
 - President of Gator Gaming.
 - Hear to speak over lack of budget funding.
 - Chose to come to UF because of Gator Gaming.
 - Talks about the popularity of their club and the events they have.
 - By no means is the organization a small one.
 - “GatorLan,” their annual event, normally has over 1,000 attendees.
 - Notes that the organization does not have a lot of time to make the event happen, due to the lack of funding by SG.
 - eSports teams cannot compete in many competitions due to lack of travel budgets.
 - Seber did not fight for four years for this position for everything to fall apart.
 - Thanks everyone for allowing her to speak.
- Justin Lahman:
 - Social Media Coordinator of the Gator Anime Club.
 - Hear to express concern and disbelief over lack of funding for Gator Anime Club.
 - Notes their event, SwampCon, and its popularity on both a university front, and national front.
 - Had over 4,000 attendees at their event last year.
 - Wants to maintain SwampCon to be as accessible as possible, and that relies SG funding.
 - Due to the change in allocation of funds, the SwampCon budget has been cut by 23%.
 - Missing nearly a quarter of their budget will harm their event.
 - It takes more than two months to plan SwampCon and they cannot wait until spring to receive funding.
 - Loathes to see how fellow officers and club members stress to make “the impossible happen.”
- Senator Amrose:
 - Commends those that have come from the public to speak to their representatives.
 - One of the authors of the reserves transfer, alongside Senator Chou.
 - Over 100 student organizations have come to him stating that they were not going to receive funding.
 - Here to talk about another reserves transfer submitted to the Senate Executive Committee, but nothing has happened. The committee has not met over the last month.
 - Notes Senate President Shaw voting against on a tiebreaker, regarding a resolution urging for the instalment of a blue light on campus.
 - States that the blue light reserve transfer could have possibly helped people in the past month but it has not been worked on.
 - Does not know if organizations’ events will be funded.
 - Not sure if this issue represents a care for all the people in the chambers.
 - “You each have the right to vote,” and nothing is stopping you from voting in your conscience.
 - Feels that the chamber does not respect students or some people in the chamber.

- Notes “Rebranding” with the same “leadership, beliefs,” and others, is not serving students.
- Kelcey Hernandez:
 - Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Filipino Student Association.
 - “Death Talent Jam” is a dancing competition, and is one of the largest events for Filipino and other students across the entire Southeast United States.
 - Due to not receiving funding for this event, they are needing to find other ways to get funds for their event.
 - Student organizations should not be paying mistakes that SG has made.
 - Due to mistakes, the organization has been forced to cut the progress that has been made by Hernandez’ predecessors.
 - Her and her members have been working for months to put this event together.
 - The mistakes made by SG affect not just her organization but also the legacy built throughout the last 27 years.
 - Urges SG to fix the mistakes they have made.
- Alfredo Ortiz:
 - Tells a story that after signing up for public debate.
 - Glad to see some familiar faces before summer started.
 - Here to talk about a few things.
 - Talks about a letter to the editor sent to the Alligator that was not published.
 - Summarizes letter that he wrote.
 - Formally apologizes to senators that he doubted about changing their party.
 - Talks about reapportionment of Senate Seats.
 - Realized that there are problems with how the constitution outlines apportionment.
 - Notes problems with the proportioning of the senate seats, and notes that there should be changes in the future.
 - Talks about productivity of the Senate.
 - Realizes that out of 100 senators, not many senators write legislation.
 - Raises the question “why are we here?”
 - Does not want to think of Student Senate as a bench warming senate.
 - Urges people to write legislation.
- Senator White:
 - Felt that joining Senate would be the way to set legacy for the present and future.
 - Humbled to be elected by the student body, and selected as vice-chair of the Budget Committee.
 - Wants to launch a new party in the next few weeks to cast a larger vision.
 - Learns that all of Senator White’s hard work has been stolen by the Inspire Party, stealing a name to a party, and attempting to force White to affiliate with the minority party.
 - Notes that Student Government has a diversity problem.
 - Feels that everyone agrees that diversity has to be grown in the chamber, and minorities need a platform to be uplifted.
 - Is ready to work alongside a coalition of unaffiliated workers.
 - Proud to announce that senators will have a voice with the Gator Coalition.
- Senator Lai yields her time to the chair.

- Maya Levokovitz yields her time to the chair.
- Niccole Smith yields her time to the chair
- Senator Chou:
 - Thanks everyone who spoke during public comment.
 - Feels that many do not understand the depth of the SG budget crisis.
 - Invited many people to come here today for senators to understand the seriousness of this budgeting process, and believes that this message has been delivered.
 - Feels that student life at the University of Florida is falling apart.
 - Feels that the University of Florida is being harmed due to the budget.
 - Notes that there is \$4,000,000 in a reserve fund, waiting to be used.
 - His reserve transfer moves \$400,000 into the fall semester and \$400,000 into the spring semester.
 - Wants to follow procedure carefully. Wants to adhere to legality.
 - Wants to re-emphasize that there is no current short term solution for the budget crisis.
 - Asks if senators are willing to “do nothing.”
 - Wants students’ support.
 - Points out that organizations want something to be done, anything.
 - Feels that student organizations came to call us in, not call us out.
 - Asking for support on the reserve transfer.
 - Email Senator Chou in order to support.
 - Asks for transparency.
 - Lack of transparency is what got everyone into this mess.
 - Student organizations this week are still finding out that they do not have funding.
 - Urges people to be transparent.
 - Asks everyone to do their part in finding a solution.

*****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:

- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendations for Agency Head, Victoria Dougherty by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for the Elections Commission, Noah Liebling by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Sydney White by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendations for Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Catherine Lopez by unanimous consent.

- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for the Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Anneke Klip by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for the Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Michelle Nelson by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for the Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Grant Spears by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Sofia Mingote by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Abigail Moritz by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Pearson moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Jasmeen Randhawa by unanimous consent.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORT(S):

- Student Body Treasurer Guitierrez:
 - Had a conversation with Senator Chou.
 - Both were able to illustrate that party politics gets in the way of things.
 - One on one interactions remind him that these people are here to help the student body.
 - Shares that students have been to Treasurer Guitierrez' office, often in tears, sharing what can't happen in this budget.
 - Talks about the perseverance and rigor of our students that are doing everything they can to continue running their clubs and events.
 - Was unable to attend the PSU events, but congratulated PSU President Nate Quinn on a fantastic event that he saw through social media.
 - Sad to see the changes tearing the fabric of what the University is.
 - Here to let everyone know that he hears you, he sees you, and invites people to come to his office to meet with him.
 - Office Hours tomorrow are 11:00am-4:00pm.
 - Thanks the chamber.

SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT:

- Senate President Shaw welcomes the Senators.
- There will be no campaigning during meetings, and no party affiliated clothing is allowed in the office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Dunson welcomes everyone back.

- Open Permanent Replacement Seats:
 - Building Construction
 - Dentistry
 - Education
 - Graduate (6)
 - Veterinary Medicine
- Open Committee Seats:
 - Budget and Appropriations (4)
 - Allocations (5)
 - Judiciary (3)
 - Rules and Ethics (5)
 - Information and Communication (5)
- Talks about the implementation of Senate one on ones. Will be resending information to sign up.
- Will let everyone know when applications are open.

MINORITY PARTY REPORT:

- Notes that R&A was “boring.”
- Brought up executive nominees.
- Did not want to move forward with some nominees due to some miscommunication.
- Notes that the Internal Affairs nominee did not apply to be a chair of Internal Affairs, but rather this person applied for Action SG.
 - Feels that people will get “whatever position R&A feels like giving them.”

Budget & Appropriations:

- Budget committee will be meeting soon to hear line transfer items that have been sent to SG Finance.
- Email the chair at Budget@sg.ufl.edu

Allocations:

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the organizations for coming to speak.
- Tells people to email her with any concerns and lets people know that she wants to hear the students concerns.
- Wants to make a solution to this problem either right now or for the future.
- Really appreciative that people came out tonight to speak on budget issues.
- There are five open seats for the committee, invites people to apply.

Judiciary:

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Wants to give context about what was stated earlier on data for reapportionment.
- Has not received any emails or questions regarding reapportionment data until walking into the chamber at 7:25 pm.
- Reapportionment data is given to Chairman Sandifer by the registrar.
- Invites people to email him and to support the legislation.

Rules & Ethics:

- Chairwoman Morris welcomes the senators.
- If you are a fall senator, constituency needs to be done by the beginning of the first meeting after elections
- Will be emailing out constituency requirements.
- There are many open committees open.

Information & Communication:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the Senators.
- Has five open seats on her committee, invites people to apply.
- Will be sending a document for tabling sign ups sometime soon.
- Invites people to email her at info@sg.ufl.edu with any questions.

FIRST READING:

- Student Senate Bill 2019-1091: Resolution Celebrating the Life of Huixiang Chen, Expressing Concern for Conditions Surrounding his Passing, and Requesting Reforms in Relevant University Practices
 - Chairman Sandifer moves to approve by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Student Senate Bill 2019-1092: Fall 2020 Reapportionment
 - Chairman Sandifer moves to call the previous question on Student Senate Bill 2019-1092: Fall 2020 Reapportionment by standing vote.
 - Point of order, Minority Party Leader Bindi notes that calling the previous question infringes on minority party rights. Senate President Shaw rules that Chairman Sandifer's motion is not in motion.
 - In a standing vote of 53 to 20, that motion passes.
 - In a standing vote of 53 to 17, that bill passes.
- Student Senate Bill 2019-1093: Spring 2020 Reapportionment
 - Chairman Sandifer moves to call the previous question on Student Senate Bill 2019-1093: Spring 2020 Reapportionment.
 - There was an objection to the consideration of the question. In a standing vote of 16 to 53, that motion fails.
 - In a standing vote of 53 to 18, that motion passes.
 - In a standing vote of 54 to 17, that bill passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Jackson: Come to Gator Nights on Fridays.
- Senator Gators: Invites people to the UF Business College Council's Business Bash this Thursday 5:00-7:00pm in the Reitz Grand Ballroom.
- Senator Jesurajan: Indian Student Association's first General Body Meeting is August 29th at 6:00pm in TUR L005.
- Senator Rush: Hispanic Latinx meeting in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Wednesday.
- Senator Heriveaux: BSA event will be this Friday in the Reitz Grand Ballroom.
- Senator Amrose: Slating for the upcoming elections are on Thursday, Friday and Tuesday.
- Senator Cordover: September 4th is the UF to Israel Pre-Registration social at 7:00pm.

- Senator Bond: YLC director apps are due August 29th and small group leader applications are out until September 5th.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.