

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
October 15th, 2019, Meeting 1

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 quorum was established with 52 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Espinoza
- Grant
- Heriveaux
- Maniti
- Manuszak
- Mills
- Patel, Maya
- Patel, Sneh
- Portugues
- Reineke
- Rush
- Wright
- Zelin
- Zlatanoff

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Vignesh:
 - PHD Student at UF in mechanical engineering.
 - Thanks chamber for allowing him to speak in the chamber.
 - Here to represent SKY, he is the Vice President.
 - Talks about stress and how stress rates are higher in college.
 - Mentions that having a good mind is important.
 - Has found a tremendous resource through SKY.
 - SKY's goal is to help students have the resources needed to learn how to manage stress through techniques and other techniques.
 - Here to invite everyone to the SKY Happiness Retreat on October 25-27.
 - SKY is on 40+ college campuses.
 - Feels it is his personal responsibility to invite everyone to come to the retreat.
 - Thanks everyone for having him in the chamber.

- Santiago Clavijo-Gomez:
 - Senate elect for District D.
 - Mentions how last week Senate did not meet quorum.
 - Talks about how tough it was for senate elects to have to wait to be certified.
 - Hopes that today the Senate can show up and decide on the right thing to do.
- Eric Marsh:
 - Talks about how important democracy is.
 - In middle school, he ran for student government. Tells the story of his campaign and election.
 - Talks about how the system worked at his middle school.
 - Ran for District D and won this fall.
 - Feels that it is not a well-functioning democracy at the University of Florida.
 - Feels that our Student Government is toxic.
 - “There are too many democratic deficits on this campus to talk about them in five minutes”
 - Feels that the way senate is set up does not set students up well to work in a democracy.
- Senator Bond:
 - Gives her goodbye speech.
- Lynn Lee:
 - New senator elect for district C.
 - Everyone here was voted in for a purpose.
 - Someone believed in you to vote you into the senate.
 - Wants to emphasize the importance of hearing each other out to help the student community.
 - Many students are disappointed in us and she wants that to change.
 - Feels there is a lack of professionalism.
 - Here to work together for the betterment of the community.
- Claudia Tio:
 - 320, amount of students that have trusted her to be in her seat and represent them.
 - Does not understand why students have to get up to public comment every week to ask them to be engaged.
 - Asks to start listening to students and organizations when they actually need things.
 - Wants a change from the chamber for senators to uphold to the standards they are elected into.
 - “You think my voice doesn’t matter because I challenge you.”
 - “How do you sleep at night?”

- Alfredo Ortiz:
 - Half the time he stands to speak at public comment he does not have anything planned.
 - Democracy is a lot more than showing up to the polls, or showing up for meetings to vote and leave.
 - Democracy is not a monopoly.
 - We believe that students know what they want and should get their say in things.
 - Good senators should be activists, organizers.
 - Activism can take a lot more intellectual approach. Such as brainstorming for ways to change the way that we think.
 - We are all here to do the same “vague, abstract” thing: to make the university better for all of us.
 - Rather than prevent things from happening, we are here to get things done.
 - Does not believe that it is the intention to prevent validation of election results, but it would be very possible to do it right now.
 - We are only three people away from not meeting quorum, so invites people to leave now if they are intentionally trying to stop the election results from being certified.
 - Excited to see what the senate can do with a new party and new senators. There is a lot of hope in this upcoming term.
 - Do not forget what we are here to do.
 - Appreciates the resolution condemning the use of student fees to pay for ACCENT speaker.
 - Wants the senate to recognize moving beyond resolutions, and instead look at ways to make changes for the better.
 - Feels there is a need to look at the codes deeply to see what needs to be changed.
 - Because there is not a majority, everyone has fair chances, and every one’s vote matters.
 - Take this to your advantage, “Don’t burn bridges; you’re going to need them.”
- Senator Hernandez:
 - Senator Hernandez gives her goodbye speech.
- Collin Solomon:
 - Solomon yields his time to Senator Garner.
 - Senator Garner:
 - Senator Garner gives his goodbye speech.
- Senator Amrose:
 - Believes we should all appreciate the goodwill of goodbye speeches.
 - We must keep track that we are people, not parties, but that is something that should be reviewed.
 - We should be respecting the positions we hold.

- Expecting a good amount of legislation to be coming through in the next few weeks.
- Everyone in Senate should have a jovial time.
- For the other side, “It is a constant battle.”
- Put people first, not parties.

*****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:

- Senator Amrose moves to suspend rule 14 of the Student Senate Rules and Procedures. That rule cannot be suspended. Senator Amrose moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, in the eyes of the chair, that motion fails.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORTS

- There were none.

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- John Michael Stratton Award:
 - Senator Bindi nominates Senator Chou.
 - Senator Chou accepts.
 - Senator Sandifer nominates Senator Garner.
 - Senator Garner accepts.
 - Chairman Girschick nominates Senator Freedman.
 - Senator Freedman accepts.
 - The winner of the John Michael Stratton will be presented at the end of the year banquet.
- Paul Clark Memorial Award: Most Outstanding Chairperson:
 - Senator Diaz nominates Chairwoman Girschick.
 - Chairwoman Girschick accepts.
 - Senator Gunby nominates Chairman Sandifer.
 - Chairman Sandifer accepts.
 - Senator Zlatanoff nominates Chairwoman Morris.
 - Chairwoman Morris accepts.
 - Senator Pearson nominates Senate President Pro-Tempore Dunson.
 - Senate President Pro-Tempore does not accept.
 - Senator Garner nominates Chairman Brown:

- Chairman Brown accepts.
 - Senator Pearson nominates Chairwoman Jones.
 - Chairwoman Jones declines.
 - Senator Jackson nominated Senator Hernandez:
 - Senator Hernandez accepts.
 - The winner of the Paul Clark Memorial Award will be presented at the end of the year banquet.
- Certification of Elections:
 - Supervisor of Elections Stephanie Siler:
 - Presents the results of this past election.
 - Senator Pearson moves to approve the election results by unanimous consent. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Open Permanent Seats:
 - Architecture
 - Vet-Med
 - Graduate (8)
 - Business
 - Education
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
- Open Committee Seats:
 - Information and Communication (2)
- Open seats will change for next meeting.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Brown wishes everyone a good evening.
- Gives thanks to various senators leaving the chamber.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the senators.
- Gives shout outs to multiple senators leaving the chamber.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Gives thanks to those who are leaving the chamber.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Morris welcomes the senators.
- Gives thanks to the senators who are leaving the chamber.
- Constituency was due when the gavel hit tonight.
- Absences restart at the beginning of the next meeting.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the senators.
- There are two open seats on the committee.
- Thanks the senators leaving the chamber.

SECOND READING

- There were none.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There were none.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.