

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
October 22nd, 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 quorum was established with 78 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Anderson
- Ceesay
- Karimi
- Lovesky
- Orban
- Pepple
- Rajaei

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Wilder:
 - District C senators.
 - Wants to talk about a time when a member of the body tried to silence someone from speaking. That someone was him.
 - He came to speak on preventing sexual harassment.
 - Points out reasons why he feels that Branden Pearson should not be given the Business school senate seat.
 - Urges that the Business senate seat be given to anyone except Branden Pearson.
- Senator Tio:
 - Urges the senate body to open the floor nominations for the open Business senate.
 - States that she feels Kristen Dryver is perfectly qualified.
 - Lists experiences and qualifications that she feels makes Kristen Dryver qualified for the position.
- Senator Garcia:
 - Newly elected District C senator.
 - Spoke to many students who felt disappointed by Student Government.
 - Invites all senators to start doing the work they promise their consistency.
 - Does not care what side of the aisle you sit on, wants all senators to step up to do work.
 - Lists reasons she opposes Branden Pearson's nomination for Business seat.
- Senator Lima:

- Yields his time to the chair.
- Senator Hernandez:
 - Yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Amrose:
 - References quote from Senator Chou about being able to come back to this campus twenty years from now and being able to look back and say hey I did that.
 - Talks about how when he became a senator, one of the first things he did was fight for blue lights on Fraternity Row.
 - States how not every Senator is as lucky as he was to write legislation.
 - Points out an elephant tusk displayed at the entrance of Marston. Feels that we as a University should not be displaying and celebrating poaching acts. Wants to write legislation to remove it.
 - The easiest thing to do as a senator is write legislation to represent the students who voted you in.
 - You do not want to look back and look at your legacy here and regret the choices you make.
 - Feels that if you vote Branden Pearson in tonight, it will be a decision you look back on and regret.
 - “You know that if you were not in his same party, you would not be voting for him.”
 - Urges all senators to please consider the reasons why you are voting him in.
- Senator Chou:
 - Talks about how he does not want to wear a helmet when he rides his bike so that he could forget his memory of Branden Pearson.
 - Points out multiple reasons why he feels that Branden Pearson should not be given the Business senate seat.
 - Mentions that he feels Branden Pearson is the most toxic person he has ever met.
 - States statistics on sexual assault.
 - Is willing to fight for whichever other candidate ran for the Business seat over Branden Pearson.
 - “Are you going to fight with your heart and conscious? You have the chance to do what is right.”

*****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 Hernandez moves to approve Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the open permanent Senate seat Architecture: Audrey Phillipott by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the open Budget and Appropriations Committee Chair Seat: Cooper Brown by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the open Allocations Committee Chair Seat: Sam Girschick by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the open Rules and Ethics Committee Chair Seat: Abigail Morris by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the open Information and Communications Committee Chair Seat: Meryl Jones by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Dunson welcomes the senators.
- It is flu season; please know that UF offers free flu shots. Take care of yourself.
- Email Senate President Dunson at senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu.
- Office Hours:
 - Monday: 10 AM - 5 PM
 - Tuesday: 4 PM - 7 PM

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Senator Lima makes a motion to open the floor for nominations.
 - With a standing vote of 47 to 32, that motion passes.
- Senator Lima nominates Kristen Dryver.

Branden Pearson:

First Round of Con:

- Senator Solomon: Would not want to work with someone who has openly been homophobic, transphobic, and more.
- Senator Jackson: If the very presence of someone makes me want to cry, how can they possibly represent the student body?

First Round of Pro:

- Senator Hernandez: Explains Senator’s Pearson’s qualifications and why he was recommended for the open seat.
- Senator Morris: Knows that Senator Pearson is qualified for the position.

Second Round of Con:

- Senator Jackson: No one said he was not qualified. We said that he is someone who erases people's identities both inside and outside of the chamber. The fact that I said that right in front of you makes it clear that you are not listening to me. All I am asking is that you listen to us.

Second Round of Pro:

- Senator Morris: He has already worked on projects for the Business students without even holding the position which is what we want in a leader.
- Senator Brown: Speaks on time working with Branden Pearson and lists qualifications that

Third Round of Con:

- Senator Chou: To be very brief, he is qualified, but his actions have completely disqualified him. He is not a man.
- Senator Solomon: It does not matter how many qualifications or

Third Round of Pro:

- Senator Brown: Wanted to speak on his character. Provides great mentorship for young students for both those in the chamber and not. His willingness to wanting to bring younger senators into the process

Final Round of Con:

- Senator Nimer: Just because you have not been personally hurt by Branden Pearson's actions does not mean that his character has not caused harm to others. Please step out of your privilege for one second and think about the effects
- Senator Lima: Asks what qualifies one as a senator.
- Senator Solomon: Speaks on Senator Pearson's character.

Final Round of Pro:

- Senator Wikan: He has created a sense of community and comfort. Feels that he is someone who stands up for individuals and their beliefs.
- Senator Hernandez: Branden Pearson has stood for communities of all backgrounds. He has come to multiple Hispanic-Latinx events and worked hard to learn more about different communities.

Kristen Dryver:

First Round of Con:

- Senator Hernandez: Kristen Driver is a great person and has really great experience under her belt, but she feels that compared to the other candidate, she was a bit under qualified.

First Round of Pro:

- Senator Solomon: The roles no longer state that they need to be most qualified, but rather the "best suited." Thinks that Dryver should be given a chance in the chamber
- Senator Tio: Dryver is the only one who cares and has advocated for mental illness resources. She is the only one who spoke on representing a need that I have.

Second Round of Con:

- None.

Second Round of Pro:

- Senator Tio: Regarding the argument that she is unqualified, she is absolutely qualified, and has a connection with this campus.
- Senator: Has heard from multiple people that it is nice to see a fresh face. How can we afford room to grow for her when she can't get the seat in the first place?
- Senator Nimer: Time expired.

Third Round of Con:

- Senator Hernandez: I did not say she was unqualified, I said she was less qualified.
- Senator Jones: Kristen Dryver is not present at this meeting, while Branden Pearson is. It is clear to see that she is not.

Third Round of Pro:

- Senator Nimer: Many people are throwing around the word "experience" and I think it is important to remember that not every person is handed
- Senator Jackson: Time expired.

Final Round of Con:

Senator Hernandez: Wants to appeal the motion of the chair of opening the floor to nominations. That motion is not timely.

- Senator Hernandez: My argument is not that she is not qualified, it is that she is less qualified.
- Senator Morris: Kristen Driver is not here, if she wanted to be in the senate today, she would be here. Only around six people sat in on her interview.

Final Round of Pro:

- Senator: It is important that we remember how we pick people. It is not a valid point
- Senator Diaz: Criticisms that are being used against Dryver are not fair.
- Senator Nimer: It is not fair to say Kristen Dryver is not here, her name is not on the agenda. She had no idea this was going to happen. Branden Pearson is doing the bare minimum.

Senator Amrose motions to use roll call votes. With a vote of 51 to 27 that motion fails.

In the eyes of the chair, the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the open business senate seat: Branden Pearson is approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Please get the flu shot if you haven't, take care of yourself.
- There are some open permanent senate seats:
 - Education
 - Graduate (8)

- Medicine
- Nursing
- Vet Med
- There is an open committee chair seat for Judiciary Committee.
- There are some open committee seats:
 - Budget & Appropriations (1)
 - Allocations (1)
 - Judiciary (5)
 - Rules and Ethics (2)
 - Information & Communications (2)

MINORITY PARTY LEADER:

- Disagreed for the recommendations made by the R&A committee for Branden Peason.
- Appreciates everyone who spoke in the debate today.
- Feels that it is a real shame we did not hear all the applicants for the committee seats.
- The argument of not having a diverse application pool is not a valid argument when you have more applicants applying to the positions but still stating
- Wants more respect for the work done in advertising open seats.
- Thank you for hearing him out, please reach out to him at blima@ufl.edu if you have any questions.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Brown welcomes the Senators.
- Thanks everyone for voting him.
- Wants to have a more open line of communication. Not just with the Senators but also with committees.
- Chairman Brown and Chairwoman Girschick will be hosting a 800 finance codes training before Senate. His vision is to help prepare them to have conversations with those outside the chamber about those new processes.
- Will be starting budget hearings soon, please relay the information to those you may know applying.
- Has one open seat, encourages anyone to apply.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the Senators.
- Thanks everyone for voting her in as the Allocations chair.
- Has one open seat.
- Reinforces the idea and vision they have to host an 800 codes training.
- Encourages people to have the rules and procedures pulled up during meetings to follow along.

JUDICIARY:

- There is no report.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Morris welcomes the Senators.
- Showcases the constituency chart. Will email it out.
- Asks senators to please send pictures as PDF's.
- She has two committee seats, encourages people to apply.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the Senators.
- Will be sending out an email about tabling soon. Be on the lookout.
- Has two committee seats open, encourages anyone with questions to email her at info@sg.ufl.edu

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

SECOND READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Jackson: "Gatornights Fright Night" is this Friday. Invites everyone to come.
- Senator Solomon: Constituency event is this week for various on campus housing areas.
- Senator Ragan: Concerts are happening every day this week, encourages senators to come.
- Senator Nelson: Is writing a resolution UF's recent rise in the
- Senator Rush: Tomorrow in Turlington her organization will be meeting. Her sorority is giving out a \$250 to international students, reach out and refer anyone that qualifies.
- Senator Amrose: (Inaudible).
- Senator Patel: Event is happening on Sunday.
- Pro-Tempore Sandifer: Explains how to fill out the Voter Record.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.