

LGT1101: How to Write Legislation

PREPARED BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE



Judiciary Committee Overview

- Reviews all non-budgetary bills, resolutions, and constitutional amendments submitted to the Senate.
- Reviews the qualifications of all executive nominations to the judicial branch.
- Reviews the constitutions of any student organization requesting special allocations or requesting or again receiving an annual budget.
- The Judiciary Committee shall, before every fall general election, submit to the Senate legislation regarding the apportionment of the Senate.

Writing Your Legislation

Bills and Resolutions

- **Resolutions:** a resolution expresses a sentiment but does not mandate action on behalf of the Senate.
- **Bills:** a bill may or may not express a sentiment, but it always mandates action on behalf of the Senate.

Why write a resolution?

- To express your view on a current event/issue
- For projects
 - Before: enhances the argument for a project when working with administration
 - After/close to: shows that the student body supports the project being completed

Resolutions: How Do They Work?

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION [YEAR]-[the number after the four digit number of the last resolution]

TITLE: Student Body Resolution [addressing, commemorating, recognizing, etc.] [your issue, project, etc.]

AUTHORS: Name(s) [the names of your co-authors, if any]

SPONSORS: Name(s) (the names of your sponsors)

Resolutions: Whereas Clauses

WHEREAS, foundational information for your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, supplemental information for your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, additional information about your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, explanation of the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, support for the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, solid proof for the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, any important times or dates to
consider in your resolution; then,

Resolutions: Whereas Clauses

- No specific amount of whereas clauses are required
 - General rule of thumb, 5-8
- Each whereas clause should be only one sentence
- Whereas clauses can be viewed more like building blocks
 - Introduce
 - Why is it important/relevant?
 - Important Facts/details

Resolutions: Whereas Clauses

- Use citations whenever possible
 - Citations ensure your points are fact
 - Citations may include university press releases, newspaper articles, past SG documents, and anything else that reflects the information in the whereas clause
- After each “WHEREAS,” the following word is lower case
- After each whereas clause, end it with “; and,”
 - End the last whereas clause with “; then,”

Resolutions: Therefore Clauses

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a basic principle behind your resolution.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a more fundamental principle behind your resolution.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the core of your resolution and encourages everyone to act in accordance with the spirit of this resolution.

Resolutions: Therefore Clauses

- The conclusion and goal of the resolution which expresses sentiment of the Student Senate, and does not need citation
- This is what Senate votes on
- Each therefore clause should express some opinion of the Student Senate
- There is no minimum number of therefore clauses needed
 - There should be fewer therefore clauses than whereas clauses
 - Three (3) is a good rule of thumb, but write what is necessary to communicate your point

Resolutions: Therefore Clauses

- The first therefore clause should begin “**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate”
- The second therefore clause should begin “**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate”
- The final therefore clause should begin “**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate”
- If the second therefore clause is the final therefore clause, use the formatting of the second therefore clause
- For each therefore clause following the second but before the final, use the formatting of the second therefore clause
- Following the introduction, each clause will read “[supports, condemns, appreciates, etc.] [issue or topic, sentiment, point of the resolution]”

Proviso

- *Italicized*
- Where the resolution gets sent
- Think of people who this resolution affects
 - Dean of Students, Vice President of Student Affairs, student organization presidents, department directors, etc.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to anyone who you feel should receive a copy of your resolution once it is adopted by the Senate.

Good vs. Bad Clauses

Good

WHEREAS, the American Civil Liberties Union believes that, especially at universities, limiting free speech is not the appropriate response to biased speech, but rather the appropriate response is encouraging open conversation; and,

Bad

WHEREAS, limiting free speech is not the appropriate response to biased speech, but rather the appropriate response is encouraging open conversation; and,

Why? Because whereas clauses should share information and facts, not opinions

Good vs. Bad Clauses

Good

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes free speech as an unalienable human right which shall not be infringed upon by national, state, city, or university policies.

Bad

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports free speech.

Why? Because therefore clauses express sentiment and should be impactful in wording

Good vs. Bad Clauses

Good

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to utilize resources such as U Matter We Care, the Counseling and Wellness Center, the Bias Education and Response Team, Students Taking Action Against Racism, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs in order to build an educated and educating response to discriminatory acts.

Why? Because therefore clauses should be specific and worded in a way that best supports students

Bad

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to utilize campus resources.

Bills

- Formatted similar to resolutions
- Mandates action
- Usually consists of an addition to, revision of, or elimination of current Student Government governing codes

Bills

- Start with a similar structure

STUDENT SENATE BILL [YEAR]-[the number after the four digit number of the last resolution]

TITLE: Applicable to what is being changed or the intent (e.g.-
800 Code Revisions)

AUTHORS: Name(s) [the names of your co-authors, if any]

SPONSORS: Name(s) (the names of your sponsors)

Bills

- Copy codes in their exact form
- Strike through what is being removed
- Underline text that is being added

Example

721.1 The Elections Commission shall consist of six (6) members. The Student Body

President shall nominate two (2) law students. The Student Senate President shall nominate two (2) law students. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall nominate two (2) ~~law students who have completed at least one (1) full year of law school.~~ The student senate shall be notified of nominations no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the senate meeting at which the nominee will be presented for confirmation. The nominations will be presented to the Student Senate for approval by a 2/3 vote. Members shall serve staggered one-year terms, so that one (1) of the nominees of each branch ends his or her term after each election.

The Legislation Process

The Legislation Process

1. Write and proofread the piece of legislation
2. Send it in to judiciary@sg.ufl.edu by noon two days prior to the next Judiciary Committee meeting
3. Present the legislation at the Judiciary Committee meeting
4. If approved, it will be added to the agenda by the Replacement and Agenda Committee and heard at the next Senate meeting

Emily Dempsey
850.339.4584
judiciary@sg.ufl.edu

