

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
January 7th, 2020

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:33 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 71 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Chou
- Davis
- Espinoza
- Freedman
- Glover
- Kanouse
- Lai
- Lima
- Longland
- Lovesky
- Marsh
- J Martinez
- Miller
- Orban
- Pepple
- Rodell
- Shaw
- Shoaf
- Singleton
- Tio
- Wyche

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mark Merwitzer:
 - Presents about what he envisions within the UF campus.
 - Major steps he wants towards his goal.
 - 700 codes: do not allow for equality for minorities.
 - Suppress ideas from minorities.
 - Minority parties are unable to campaign at all times.
 - Given only a small window of time, specific places they are allowed to campaign.
 - Campus free expression act:
 - Issue with these codes, went to the student supreme court.
 - Wants views to be spoken without going through a supervisor.
 - “No election without codes addressed.”
- Senator Amrose:
 - Presents a video educating the chamber about the “Johns Committee.”
- Senator Jackson:
 - Presents a video educating the chamber about the “Johns Committee.”
- Senator Solomon:
 - Presents a video educating the chamber about the “Johns Committee.”
- Senator Barocas:

- Wanted to give a better history of the Johns Committee than anyone else could have by showing the previous video.
- Asking the University for an apology for the Johns Committee.
- The video does not scratch the surface of UF's involvement with Johns Committee.
- Resolution was tabled originally due to concerns.
- In the second reading, the bill was not taken off the table, despite Chairman Pearson's efforts.
 - Reasoning was that it was "more important to get to impeachment resolution that day."
- All members of the Judiciary Committee were contacted after this meeting, and all but one did not respond to this.
- Has been two months since this was asked of the committee.
- Will be spending the semester addressing concerns of the committee.
- The first concern was that an apology would be bad press, counter: apology would generate good press.
 - Provides example that confirms a "good media narrative" for apologizing for such actions.
- The second concern is that it is not relevant to the student government.
 - Enough students today that are directly concerned about this topic/ subject.
- The final reason was the view that it was not our responsibility to take a response for these actions.
 - Inconclusive history, living victims to this day that are still afraid of this university and state.
 - If one is asking what an apology can do, it's that there are living survivors that could benefit from this.
 - An apology is still necessary, must acknowledge the baggage associated with the university itself.
- Pride for the university is hollow if the baggage is not acknowledged with it.
- Senator Bindi:
 - Thanks the senators and everyone that has worked on the Johns Committee Resolution.
 - Wants to make a speech welcoming all back into a new break, and a new decade.
 - Wants to take the reflections from last year and learn for this coming year.
 - Points to the idea of the New Year Resolution.
 - Wants to not only be better this year than last, but better this decade than last decade.
 - Wants to hold voters and senators accountable this coming decade.
 - We must fight for liberty and justice for people from all walks of life.
 - We are all humans, most importantly.
 - We are the leaders of the UF student body and the future leaders of the US government.
 - 71 senators present today, but we still have a very powerful voice.
 - Let's use that voice to make this university and world a better place.

*****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 the block of the Replacement and Agenda.
- Committee Recommendations for the Elections Commission by unanimous consent. Approved.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Invites Captain Sasser down to speak:
 - Introduces herself as the Liaison for the University Police Department.
 - Workshops in the coming three weeks in response to concerns about sexual battery.
 - These workshops will be discussing these things, as well as the judicial process.
 - Will leave business cards for senators to take.
- Invites Darcie Burde from RecSports.
 - Provides a presentation for Green Dot.
 - Green dot is a program launched at the University that focuses on the prevention of sexual assault and stalking.
 - The aim of this program is to mobilize a force of bystanders.
 - Wants the senators to participate in skills- based practice.
 - Wants to establish an intolerance to violence across campus.
 - Thanks the senators for the invitation to speak about Green dot.
 - Required for all senators to attend a bystander training, which will take place on Sunday, January 26th from 10:30am-2:30pm.
 - Faculty and staff are already aware of the Green dot program.
 - If you are unable to attend this training, there are other dates available, which can be found on RS connect.
 - Senators can register on RS connect.
 - Encourages the senators to take photos with green dots around campus where they feel safe.
- Invites James Tyger from Student Government Advising and Operations.
 - Presents a presentation regarding Public Records.
- Pro Tempore Sandifer will be discussing open seats in his report.
- “No one has ever done anything great with half of their heart.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Office Hours:
 - Monday: 1:00-4:00pm.
 - Tuesday: 4:00-7:30pm.
 - Wednesday: 1:00-4:30pm.
- Open permanent Senate Seats:
 - Education.
 - Graduate (2).
 - Medicine.
 - Nursing.
 - District B.
 - District C.
- Open Committee Seat:
 - Budget and Appropriations.
 - Information and Communication.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Brown welcomes the Senators.

- Receive roll-over funds. Will begin hearings once again for operational and travel requests.
- Looking to start this Friday, if not they will begin early next week.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the Senators.
- Hearings will be likely Friday and Monday.
- Will notify all organizations within the next two days.
- Office hours: Wednesday from 10:00am-2:00pm.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Pearson welcomes the senators.
- Committee met this past Sunday.
- Will email a committee time soon for this week.
- Asks members to meet after the meeting.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Morris welcomes the Senators.
- Reminds senators that absences do not go away between semesters.
- Clarifies issues regarding senators on probation.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the Senators.
- Announcement regarding name tags and polo's.
- Mentor/Mentee reveal will be next week.
- Tabling dates for the semester will be sent out by the end of the week.

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Jackson: Gator Nights are this Friday, "Roaring into the 20s".
- Senator Barocas: Tomorrow at 6:30pm in the Chamber, there is a College of Republicans and College of Democrats debate.
- Senator Solomon: IRHA meetings on Mondays at 5:15pm, new email to be sent with updated times.
- Senator Bindi: This is the last week to apply to Florida Cicerones. Applications close this Friday at 12:00pm. Spring Forum is also this Thursday from 6:00pm-9:00pm.
- Senator Maniti: Kickoff event for Asian Kaleidoscope month is taking place this Sunday at 6:30pm in the Reitz Ballroom.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.