

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
February 4th, 2020

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 66 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Alexander
- Blomely
- Douglas
- Lloyd
- Morris
- Phillipott
- Rajaei
- Skinner
- Urbanski
- VanDeGrift
- Wikan
- Wray

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Whitted:
 - Approached often about lack of graduate representation in Senate.
 - Asks who else is a Graduate Senator.
 - Would like to meet with graduates in the future to get more Graduate Senators in the chamber.
 - Notes there are many issues that graduates face that are not addressed.
 - Notes that some might have hearing issues and asks those to raise their voice when speaking.
- Senator Rush:
 - Her alongside Senator Gomez-Clavijo are the leaders of the first generation caucus.
 - Wants to get together and write legislation for first generation students.
 - Wants to get a move on that, alongside Hispanic Caucus leadership on the majority side.
 - States that Matthew Diaz is the leader for the minority caucus, and senators can reach out to him if interested.
 - In lieu in the tragedy earlier, asks those to keep up with their friends.
- Senator Kendrick:
 - Thanks everyone who attended the first ever Green Dot training for students.
 - The next available student leadership training will take place on March 9 at 1 pm.
 - Loves that Gator Nation responds to not only student life, but also human life.
 - Tonight, this Student Body must be responding to modern day slavery.

- It is astounding that today; people are still denied the human right of life.
- More trapped in slavery today than ever before.
 - 71% are women and girls, and 25% are children.
- Experts state that there are 100s of victims trapped in human trafficking in Gainesville.
- In 2018, US Attorney Frank William said that he prosecuted 18 sex traffickers in Gainesville alone in the last three years.
- Human trafficking is happening on our streets, in our homes, in our forests, in our parks.
- “You can choose to look away, but you can never get to say that you did not know.”
- One person trapped in slavery is too many.
- “End it Movement,” the goal is to end modern day slavery across college campuses, cities, and around the nation.
- We all need to do something.
- Asks for support for a resolution at UF.
- On February 13, 100,000s of people will mark their hands with a red “X” for the universal sign of freedom.
- Invites all senators to sign their hands with a red “X”, which will not only represent the political parties, but a global movement.
- The world will know that the Gator Nation did not pass the “swing of justice” by.
- Chairman Brown:
 - Presents a video regarding the “End It” movement.
- Pro-Tempore Sandifer:
 - Wants to give everyone a heads up of the motions he will be making during Amendments to the Agenda.
- Alfredo Ortiz:
 - Independent candidates last fall were intimidated so they would drop out of the election.
 - A police report was filed after an audio file was recorded.
 - The corruption that Mark exposed was not the only one.
 - Notes that former Senator William Zelin exposed the Inspire Party in a goodbye speech.
 - He should have known that those who intimidated before would intimidate him again when he made a third party.
 - Talks about a bill that was proposed regarding “anti-intimidation.”
 - The law never went into effect, which would prevent intimidation during elections.
 - The spread of misinformation resulted in the disbandment of the third party.
 - We live in a system where third parties are not viable.
 - People will not look at candidates the same.
 - Third parties and independents do not get recognition due to them “splitting votes.”
 - There is an existence of groups that only look down upon other small parties.
 - “You have the power to change that.”

- You have the ability to make third parties worthwhile.
- Laws can be passed to go into the next election.
- What has been done to him is unlawful and needs to be dealt with now.
- Only fought for by one senator.
- We need an Ad-Hoc Committee to discuss this issue in the codes.
- Senator Oni
 - On January 29, we lost a fellow gator.
 - Denise Griffiths was a senior at the University of Florida.
 - She was an advocate for peace, love, unity and inclusion.
 - Extremely active student here at UF.
 - She worked to make sure that this campus was inclusive for all races and ethnicities.
 - A friend described her as a bright that shined light in every room she walked in.
 - Calls on the university to advocate for this and draft a resolution in her honor.
 - In order to honor her legacy, she advises to unite and advocate for her.
 - Will be writing a resolution, contact her after the meeting.
- Senator Bindi:
 - Thanks the senators that have spoken on different topics so far tonight.
 - This is the great thing about this chamber and public comment.
 - We can talk about things that we want to do.
 - Real reason was to come up and talk about the Problem Solvers Caucus' initiatives.
 - Held a brief meeting before the senate.
 - First idea was to come up with a way to include Gator Closet with graduating students with availability of caps and gowns.
 - Also thought of focusing on sustainability on campus and will be reaching out to administration and sustainability majors, spearheaded by Senator Galleano.
 - If anybody wants to be involved with the problem solvers caucus, do not hesitate to reach out.
 - "The more ideas, the more the Senate can conquer."
- Senator Faisal
 - Will be appealing his expulsion tonight.
 - Explains what constituency events off campus students must be attending.
 - Was put on probation for not doing it in the previous semester.
 - He did not complete the four required meetings during the fall, but he did 3 extra events that he thought he needed to do.
 - Noticed that he incorrectly completed the required documents as evidence that he was there.
 - Faisal did not get a response when he emailed the Chairwoman Morris about the issue.
 - Speaking in public comment to ask senators to vote to appeal to him.
- Mallika Jain
 - Was recently senator for Graham until fall of 2019.
 - Was not able to receive accurate responses on her status with constituency.
 - Ran for a spot with the majority party.
 - Tells the senators a little about herself.

- Notes the inexperience of the Rules and Ethics Committee.
- Was working on a resolution that is remembering the two-year anniversary of the Stoneman Douglas shooting in Parkland.
- If you would like to sponsor the resolution, email Mallika Jain.
- Senator Solomon
 - Recognizes Mallika Jain’s hard work while on Senate.
 - Is working on a resolution that is remembering the two-year anniversary of the Stoneman Douglas shooting.
 - Reach out to Senator Solomon or Mallika Jain if you want to support the legislation.
- Senator Zimmer:
 - Discusses the expulsion of Senator Faisal.
 - Shows a light on the impact he has already made in the chamber until this point.
 - Faisal has contributed greatly to projects that benefit the student body.
 - Has a strong work ethic and has a unique voice in Senate.
 - Is a new and fresh voice in the chamber.
 - The next generation of student leaders is often discussed in the chamber; Faisal embodies this idea.
 - His voice and experience is valuable.
 - Asks why the Senate would expel one who has already made such an impact.
 - Senator Faisal is facing expulsion for a simple mistake.
 - “Don’t silence such a bright and promising voice in the Chamber.”
- Senator Karim yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Attlesey yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Muralidhara yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Jackson yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Chou:
 - Has a variety of things to bring up in the chamber.
 - Thanks Cooper Brown for joining Kognito and encouraging other senators to also join.
 - Mentions that the Constitution states that a “State of the Campus” report must be given in the term.
 - Noticed that in the Murphree area there are still books waiting to be picked up.
 - Notes the system of constituency having a “funny place” in his heart.
 - If there is any fault towards anyone, perhaps it should be on R&E. We should give the benefit of the doubt to a senator.
 - Treat others the way you want to be treated.
 - “It’s a clear path to take.”

*****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 was none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendation for the Associate Justice position: Kyle Soch by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2020-1000: 300 Code Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- There was a motion to strike the Senator Faisal from the “Expulsions under appeal” section of the agenda. Objected.
- Pro-Tempore Sandifer moves to strike Mallika Jain from the Rules and Ethics Committee Recommendation for expulsion on the agenda by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Pro-Tempore Sandifer moves to strike Maria Espinoza from the Rules and Ethics Committee Recommendation for expulsion on the agenda by unanimous consent. Approved.

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Dunson welcomes the senators.

Captain Sasser, University of Florida Police Department:

- Tonight is the last presentation discussing sexual battery.
- Invites guest speaker to speak to the senators.
 - Serves as the Title IX coordinator here at UF, which acts as the first line of defense.
 - Welcomes an opportunity to have a conversation.
 - If information is brought to him, he is open to a conversation.
 - A determination after a conversation has been had will be made.
 - The goal is always safety.
 - What is those to know is that there is no “Have to”, only what is best for the community and what is best for the harmed party.
 - Title IX covers many behaviors.
 - Pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence, bullying: Title IX deals with all of these types of sexual harassment.
 - His office is institutionally and federally mandated to investigate these issues.
 - The office does not get enough people coming for help.
 - Wants to at least offer the opportunity to help.
 - Let others know that the Title IX office is always there to help.
 - Most people are fearful of diving into Title IX, hopes tonight is the beginning of a rebranding for our services.
 - Understands why this may be complicated or difficult for the harmed party.
 - Thanks to the chamber for his time.
 - Asks to look on the Title IX website to learn more.
 - Promises to respond.
- Captain Sasser invites another guest to speak:
 - Primary aim is to help students in crisis or distress.
 - The goal of the presentation tonight is to learn about Care Area programs and services.
 - The Field and Fork Pantry is newly renovated and is available for any students or faculty that may have trouble putting food on their table.
 - Volunteers are always welcome.

- Medical Withdrawal Petition Process:
 - This is available for students to petition to withdraw or drop classes due to medical issues.
- U Matter We Care Ambassadors:
 - A group of students who offer peer support in spreading awareness about the U Matter, We Care Initiative.
- Non-Clinical Case Management:
 - One on one individual engagement with students.
 - Coordinate care and communication through referral services.
 - Contribute to productive communication with student and their programs.
 - Able to utilize knowledge to guide students in a successful direction.
- Recognizing Signs of Distress:
 - Emotional/Mental.
 - Environmental.
 - Financial.
 - Intellectual.
 - Occupational.
 - Physical.
- Do not hesitate to reach out to UMatter@ufl.edu
 - There is someone monitoring the email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Connecting Students to care:
 - Distress.
 - Medical Experiences.
 - Campus Partners.
 - Well-being Checks.
- Senate President Dunson asks Senators to rise and thank Captain Sasser for the speakers she has brought in and the way she has empowered everyone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Open Permanent Seats:
 - Agricultural & Life Sciences
 - Dentistry
 - Education
 - Engineering
 - Graduate (4)
 - Journalism
 - Liberal Arts and Sciences (3)
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Sophomore
 - District A
 - District D
- Open Committee Seats:

- Allocations (2)
- Judiciary
- Rules & Ethics

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Brown welcomes the Senators.
- Is waiting on signatures for Operational and Travel Bills.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the Senators.
- Congratulations to Senator Potthast for being approved to be on the committee.
- Hearing requests are done for the Spring 2020 semester.
- Will reach out to Senators when the request for Fall 2020 opens.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Pearson welcomes the senators.
- Next meeting will take place next Wednesday.
- All legislation is due next Monday by noon.
- Reviews a presentation on Safety for UF Safe Rides.
 - Majority of Safe Rides are currently not covering where most students live.
 - Working to allocate additional funding that will provide UF Safe Rides for almost all of Gainesville.
 - The recommendation put forward was to increase the surface area of where UF Safe Rides is covered.
 - Ensures that the majority of students will be able to take advantage of the service.
 - The goal is to launch the new UF Safe Ride map by this fall.
 - A lot of time and effort has been put into this program.

RULES & ETHICS:

Expulsions:

Member at Large Hoffman moves to approve the recommendation for expulsion of Senator Rodriguez by standing vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.

Member at Large Hoffman moves to approve the recommendation for expulsion of Senator Rajaei by standing vote. In the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.

Expulsions under appeal

Procedures, Chapter 3__ of the Student Body Codes:

5 minutes of presentation from Senator Faisal:

- Begins presentation with background on himself, including him going to school in Saudi Arabia for a time.
- The Rules and ethics community was very harsh and extremely confusing.
- English is not Senator Faisal's language.
- Finds it painful that Chairwoman Morris never responded to Senator Faisal, until being noticed for his hearing.

- His entire constituency was completed; all that was required of him was completed.
- Had difficulty applying to the University of Florida from Saudi Arabia.
- One of two students to make it to the United States in his graduating class from Saudi Arabia.
- Wanted a chance to prove someone that just got lucky.
- Asking the senators in the chamber to let him “be a senator.”

5 minutes of presentation from the Rules and Ethics Committee vice Chair, Senator Hoffman:

- Recites a statement from Chairwoman Morris.
 - Recites the constituency requirements for the fall term.
 - Senator Faisal did not submit forms correctly or on time.
 - Senator Faisal was sent a probation email that Senator Faisal never responded to.
 - Gives a timeline of what happened during the previous semester as well as his probationary period.
 - The Rules and Ethics committee chose a process that involved 1 minute of Faisal to state his case, with a built in question and answer period.
 - Notes that the question and answer period was extended twice.
 - There were almost 2 months where the Senator could have reached out to the Rules and Ethics chair.
 - The R&E committee unanimously voted to request the expulsion of Mohammed Faisal.

3 minutes of rebuttal:

- First, in the Chairwoman’s speech she stated that the wrong documents were submitted. Senator Faisal has already acknowledged this.
- States that he read the email wrong, English is hard for me to understand.
- 11:54:00 was the exact time that was given to accomplish this task.
- Agrees that he was late to sending the email, but it was not impossible.
- States that one minute of speaking is unfair; you should have the right to state your case.
- Senator Faisal considers the Senate body a family.
- Has a lot more to give the Senate.
- Wants to be given the chance to be the best senator he can be.
- Asks the senators for another chance.

There was a motion for a roll call vote. Seconded. In a standing vote of 28 to 36, that motion fails. In a standing vote, in the eyes of the chair, Senator Faisal remains a senator.

- Vice-Chair Hoffman welcomes the senators.
- If you have any questions regarding the constituency requirements, please reach out to the chairwoman.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the Senators.
- Committee will be meeting in the coming week.

FIRST READINGS:

- There was none.

SECOND READINGS:

- Student Senate Bill 2019-1000: 300 Codes Revision:

There was a motion to call the previous question by standing vote. In a standing vote, in the eyes of the chair, that motion passes.

In a standing vote, in the eyes of the chair, Student Senate Bill 2019-1000 passes.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There was none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Kendrick: Presents a thank you note to Captain Sasser for conducting workshops over the weeks this semester.
- Senator Solomon: Reminder that IRHA meetings are at 5:15pm every Monday in the Senate Chamber. Wishes former Senator Mallika Jain a happy birthday.
- Senator Longland: If anyone needs help with exams like the GMAT, contact Senator Longland.
- Senator White: Gators Going Green met with the head of sustainability at UF, wants to work with the office of sustainability to draft a bill.
- Senator Barrocas: Next Monday, the College of Democrats is hosting a debate.
- Senator Bindi: If anyone has any ideas of working bipartisan, reach out to the Problem Solvers' Caucus.
- Senator Nimer: __ Appreciation month, all events count as constituency, encourages senators to reach out if they have a question.
- Senator Faisal: Thanks the senators and apologizes for anyone that he might have caused a headache. Wants to help his constituents and students.
- Senator __: Working on a resolution from Denise Griffin's death last week, feel free to reach out if you would like to help draft the bill.
- Senator Jackson: Gator Nights is hosting a TV themed night full of student short films, the Joker, and more.
- Senator Garner: This Thursday is the Agricultural Life Sciences meeting. Dress professionally and bring your resume.
- Senator Maniti: Asian Kaleidoscope month is ending. There are two more events: _ and _
- Senator __: Tomorrow ISU and ISA are hosting a GBM.
- Senator Lima: There is an upcoming Gainesville election. Deadline to register and vote is on February 18.
- Senator Jackson: Requests that you speak as loud as possible during announcements and all senate meetings.
- Senator __: If you are interested in learning about sustainability, please reach out to her.
- Pro-Tempore Sandifer: Announces two more open permanent seats.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.