

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

### **February 11th, 2020**

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:31pm 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 65 senators present.

#### **Not there for roll call:**

- Diaz
- Garner
- Jackson
- Longland
- Martinez
- Nimer
- Oni
- Portugues
- Rodriguez
- Singleton
- Whitted

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Senator Whitted:
  - Not in attendance.
- Senator Nimer
  - Not in attendance.
- Mark Merwitzer:
  - Was not selected as the District A Senator.
  - Wants to wish Jadelyn Fleischer the best of luck in being the District A Senator Replacement recommendation.
  - Not mad, just disappointed.
  - On February 8th, the Inspire Party framed Alfredo Ortiz.
  - Will defend Alfredo Ortiz in that he is the most ethical person he has worked with.
  - Inspire party should be ashamed of themselves.
  - Notes that they have won in doing something unethical.
  - Asks to start discussing things that actually matter to students.
  - Inspire party focuses on unethical and petty accusations.
  - Statements Inspire makes are not followed.
  - Submitted PRR's on "who is representing me."
  - Had every right to receive these records, but they cannot adhere to Florida Public Law.
  - Deserve to know the truth about party officials yet Inspire blatantly lied about Amrose's resignation.

- Received a PRR from Chairwoman confirming that former Senator Amrose resigned after being investigated for not supplying a livestream in a previous meeting.
- Facebook post by Inspire dragged Alfredo Ortiz through the mud.
- This behavior needs to stop.
- “Hold yourselves to the same standards that you hold Gator Party to.”
- Because of these failures, Mark is endorsing gator party tonight.
- Please address this toxic culture.
- Coming out here to do the right thing and hold themselves to a higher standard. Asks that regular students are not dragged through the mud.
- You are all elected representatives, and he is disappointed with the issues at hand.
- Larry Schwandes:
  - Used to work in the soil and water science department.
  - Comes here tonight to talk about the “211” number.
  - 211 number was mandated by the federal government and is funded by the county government.
  - It is for someone who is “down and out” and has nowhere to stay, and does not have any food to eat.
  - Also includes other features, such as suicide prevention.
  - There are 100 cards here to learn more about the number.
- Senator Karim yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Tio yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Zimmer yields her time to the chair.
- Senator Wilder:
  - Defending a transphobe makes you transphobic yourself.
- Senator Solomon:
  - Announcement regarding the Stoneman Douglas resolution.
  - Will be working on the Marjory Stoneman Douglas resolution.
  - Reach out if interested in helping.
- Senator Attlesey yields his time to the chair.
- Senator Muralidhara yields her time to the chair

***\*\*If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from [senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu](mailto: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 open District A Replacement seat: Jatelyn Fischer. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for the open District D Replacement seat: Esther Kim. Approved.

- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for the open Judiciary Committee seat: Marcus Nelson. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for the open Rules and Ethics Committee seat Annabelle Groux Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for the open Allocations Committee Seat: Franco Luis. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for the open Allocations Committee Seat: Ramon Martinez. Objected.

### **OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT:**

- This Thursday is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.
- Senator Kendrick reached out to Sarah to lead an initiative regarding the day.
- Will be tabling from 11:00am-2:00pm, asking senators to come out and wear red and put red “X’s” on students’ hands.
- Post on your social media to spread awareness and get excited about it.
- Asks to come for at least a part of the three hours of tabling.
- Very prevalent in the Gainesville community.
- Diversity Week is March 16th-20th.
- Sexual Assault awareness week is April 13th. Please let the exec office know if you have any ideas, come to office hours and email at [vicepresident@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:vicepresident@sg.ufl.edu)

### **SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

- There will be no Senate next Tuesday.
- Encourages senators to take care of themselves and watch over each other’s mental health going forward.

### **REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

There was a motion to open the floor to for nominations for the open Allocations Committee Seat. Seconded. In a standing vote of 20 to 43, that motion fails.

Allocations: Ramon Martinez:

There was a motion to call the previous question. Seconded. In a standing vote of 47 to 19, that motion passes.

In a standing vote, in the eyes of the chair, Ramon Martinez is approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:**

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Sandifer welcomes the senators.

- Open Permanent Seats:
  - Agricultural and Life Sciences
  - Dentistry
  - Education
  - Engineering
  - Graduate (5)
  - Journalism (2)
  - Liberal Arts and Sciences
  - Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Sophomore
  - District B
  - District C
  - Grad Family Housing
  - Graham Area
- All seats that are going to be elected are not going to have interviews.

#### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairman Brown welcomes the Senators.
- Bills for rollover funds were sent out to all senators two days ago.
- If you have any questions, please reach to Chairman Brown.
- Email [Budget@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:Budget@sg.ufl.edu).

#### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the Senators.
- Rollover funding bills have been sent out.
- Everyone who is in allocations, please come to the front of the chamber after the meeting.

#### **JUDICIARY:**

- No Report.

#### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- No Report.

#### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the Senators.
- After senate, there will be a quick picture for senators with red “X’s” on their wrist.
- If you attend the event on Thursday, please send photos to be featured on social media.

#### **FIRST READINGS:**

- There were none.

#### **SECOND READINGS:**

- There were none.

#### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Douglas: Has authorized funding for two new SNAP Vans.
- Senator Ragan: There is a concert at 6:30 pm Friday near Century Tower.
- Senator Barocas: This is the 100-year anniversary of Women's Suffrage. There will be a presentation at 4pm tomorrow (Wednesday).
- Senator Solomon: IRHA this Monday is cancelled.
  - Next week, February 20th, the "tear the wall down" campaign will take place.
- Senator Karim: Gator Nights is going to be this Friday. The theme this week is Valentine's Day.
- Senator: African American studies is having a two-day event next week.
  - Next weekend the first minority caucus meeting will be taking place on February 26th.
- Majority Party Leader Hernandez: Southern Smash is happening tomorrow in Turlington from 11:30am to 1:30pm and a lecture that evening. It is an effort to encourage women to be who they are.
- Senator Cordover: Friday at 6:30 there will be a vigil for the Stoneman Douglas 2-year anniversary. President Fuchs will be in attendance.
- Senator Kays: Encourage senators to volunteer for Project Makeover. You can volunteer as a group or individual.
- Chairwoman Girschick: Plans to begin a finance quorum. An email will be sent out to the senators.

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.