

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

February 25th, 2020, Meeting 2

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 10:36 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.

Chief Justice Walsh swears in the new senators.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with 85 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Baez
- Cutler
- Jones
- Lima
- Louis, Christy
- Mason
- Murshid
- Silva
- Truman
- Wilson
- Xu

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Tio:
 - Three weeks ago, she left the Inspire party.
 - Although the Inspire Party says it is because she lost the party election but that is not true.
 - States her claim that Inspire is rampantly sexist. Tells experience where she was shut down during a debate, but a male was given extended time.
 - Claims that Inspire plays dirty and puts politics above students. Tells story about sexual assault legislation which she wrote and was done ineffectively.
 - States that she was told by Zachary Amrose that legislation for proportional representation in senate is more important than legislation advocating for greater representation for the Asian American student organization.
 - Inspire cares more about ruining people than legislation.
 - She has been accused of sexual assault twice and then silenced.
 - She reported it to the Title 9 and was told that Inspire was most likely trying to smear her political campaign.

- States that Inspire cares more about silencing people.
- Urges for those who are affiliating with Inspire to make the right decision and leave Inspire the way she did.
- Senator Karim:
 - Newly elected Deputy Minority Party Leader for the Inspire Party.
 - Is saddened to be up here today to talk about sexism and mental health.
 - Talks about her experience being baker acted and has a lot of experience with mental health.
 - It is the first year in her life where she does not need to take medication to feel normal.
 - As a woman of color, she has faced lots of racism and sexism.
 - When she saw Senator Tio she saw a similar woman of color.
 - Time was extended in running for party elections, and other males were not.
 - Being a female was celebrated by her caucus and she felt empowered.
 - States that Senator Tio was not in the room during the discussion she is claiming to have been shut down in.
 - Claims that she has reported Senator Tio's behavior to Title IX and does not want to use mental health as an excuse for her.
 - Does not feel it is okay to blame behavior on mental health.
 - Is confused that Senator Tio is claiming about the Inspire Caucus since she was given multiple leadership roles.
 - Feels she was only doing her duty as a mandatory reporter.
- Senator Attlesey:
 - Feels sad and terrified to be speaking up front especially about a heavy topic such as sexual assault.
 - Is a feminist, is coming up here to say that he has had his experiences with Senator Tio and that is all he can speak on.
 - Speaks on his experience he has had with Senator Tio about rewriting the Inspire Party Constitution.
 - Notes he was dumbfounded after being told he was acting “incredibly sexist.”
- Senator Nelson:
 - Yields his time to the chair.
- Senator Lima:
 - Was not in attendance.

*****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:

- There were none.

SENATE ELECTIONS

There will be a five minute presentation period followed by a five minute question-and-answer period.

Senate President

- Senator Solomon moves to open the floor by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Bennett nominates Senator Garner.
 - Senator Garner accepts.
- Senator Solomon nominates Senator Chou.
 - Senator Chou accepts.
- There was a motion to close the floor by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Garner:
 - Senate experiences: member at large, replacement and agenda committee member, budget committee member, and District C senator.
 - Has served as the state president for Florida FFA, President and Treasurer of Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council.
 - Invites people to office hours to talk about how to put actions into effect.
 - In senate, you can use your voice to enact change.
 - Wants to evolve the mentor-mentee relationship.
 - Wants to implement the 2x2 program which encourages quality time outside of chamber.
 - Feels it is imperative that Senators are aware of the issue's students want to see changed on our campus.
 - Wants to continue bringing in speakers that can add to the education of senators.
 - This chamber needs to promote bipartisanship.
- 5 minutes of question and answer:
 - Senator Solomon: Would you promise to the senators in this chamber tonight that you will stand and uphold the promise to replace senators if needed?
 - Senator Garner: yes
 - Senator Kendrick: Can you expand more on the programs you want to implement in the Chamber?
 - Senator Garner: Touches on his idea of "Two by Two" program, to create interpersonal and personal relationships. Also plans to continue the speaker series that Emily Dunson began.

- Senator Bennett: How do you plan to establish a mentor mentee program that is founded on positivity?
- Senator Garner: Believes that mentor mentee relationships are important to forming friendships and allowing us to know how to help one another. It is important that we are each other's support system.
- Senator Zimmer: Can you touch on pieces of legislation that you championed to be passed while in senate.
- Senator Garner: Focused more of his time on the Budget Committee which took up a lot of his time. He has not written his own legislation but has worked closely with legislation through the Budget committee. Was also able to fund agricultural teachers with over 1 million dollars to aid with FFA.
- Senator Kim: Can you talk about your roles on the Budget and Replacement & Agenda Committee?
- Senator Garner: Worked on the Replacement and Agenda committee, and in that role he gave each application careful thought to see who would be best in that role and that allowed him to make the best decision.
- Senator Chou:
 - States prior leadership experience that qualifies him such as being on disability ad hoc committee, being a fourth term senator, working on the RTS Advisory Board.
 - Lists some accomplishments that have happened under his leadership, such as organizing 100s of meals to be donated to the Field and Fork pantry.
 - Asks people what they have done to hold leadership positions.
 - Feels that major reform needs to occur such as removing the cap on standing committee size, making constituency meaningful and inclusive, monthly 1 on 1s, senate dinners, and senate project line.
 - Wants to lead the senate in a better direction and get rid of the fierce competitiveness within the chamber. Opportunity is endless.
 - Talks about some suggestions for some proposed bipartisan ad hoc committees for code revisions.
- Five Minutes of Questions and Answers:
 - Senator Solomon: How will you work with the Big 9 Organizations to build better collaboration?
 - Senator Chou: I would reform the 800 codes and make sure that organizations can get enough funding.
 - Senator Nimer: Can you talk about some code changes you want to see?
 - Senator Chou: I believe most of it is common sense. I think it's weird that as a senator, you can't see what organizations are spending money.
 - Senator Patel: Can you talk more about the Senate Project Line?

- Senator Chou: The senate makes the budget, so I suggest we allocate more to the senate and a bit more power, rather than giving all of the money to the executive branch.
- Senator Bennett: What have you done in your four terms to create relationships across the aisle?
- Senator Chou: One on one talks with members from both Gator Party and Inspire. We craft legislation together and can work on both sides.
- Senator Nelson: Are your major reforms necessary as a Senate President and not just a Senator?
- Senator Chou: It is most important to have the leadership in order to make this happen.

In a roll call vote of 55 to 29, Senator Garner has been elected Senate President. Chief Justice Walsh Swears in Senate President Garner.

Senate President Pro-Tempore

Senator Solomon opens the floor for nomination by unanimous consent.

- Majority Party Leader Bennett nominates Senator Brown.
 - Senator Brown accepts.
- Senator Nimer nominates Senator Clavijo Gomez.
 - Senator Clavijo Gomez accepts.
- Senator Brown:
 - Has found friendship, admiration, and mentorship for many people in senate.
 - Served for three years on three committees, including Judiciary, R&A, and Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 - Has been on leadership for the Budget & Appropriations Committee since June of 2018, and eventually chaired the committee.
 - Explains the responsibilities of the Senate President Pro-Tempore but wants to do more than what is required.
 - Serving on leadership and committees has helped him learn how to better serve the senate.
 - Wants to be a friend and mentor to everyone.
 - His term as Senate Pro-Tempore would not be about him, it would be about you as a senator, and this chamber as a family and family means standing for everybody.
- Five Minutes of Question and Answer:
 - Senator Solomon: Last year you voted against all Inspire replacement seats for the summer. How you will you foster bipartisanship.

- Senator Brown: Bipartisanship is important in the chamber and he feels that he has been bipartisan in his nature by meeting with people outside of the chamber. Conversation is where bipartisanship starts.
- Senator Kim: What is your vision for this chamber and why should we vote for you?
- Senator Brown: This past year has become so divisive. We should all be able to have conversations even if we disagree. Assures that he cares and wants the senators to accomplish their platforms.
- Senator Hoffman: How do you plan on outreaching to graduate and professional students since we often have vacancies in these seats?
- Senator Brown: We need to meet these students where we are at. We should table and outreach at the places they go to for their everyday lives. We should also look at graduate students that are already involved on campus.
- Senator Zimmer: How would you promote a __
- Senator Brown: It is my job as chairman of the replacement and agenda committee to make sure procedures are being followed so that every applicant gets looked at and discussed, that is how he plans on ensuring that all voices get heard.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett: How will your experience of our governing documents help you be Senate President Pro-Tempore?
- Senator Brown: Serving in leadership in committees has helped him become very familiar with the codes as well as the rules and procedures.
- Senator Patel: How will you make sure that there is diversity on committees?
- Time concluded.
- Senator Clavijo-Gomez:
 - Has served as the Minority Caucus Leader and the current Minority caucus Leader.
 - Has been a proud gator since the beginning.
 - Wants to increase minority voices and representation amongst the committees.
 - Does not want to look at parties wants to look at qualifications.
 - Finds it hard to believe that R&A would rather have no graduate representation than to allow an Inspire member.
 - Will be pushing for tabling.
 - Wants to make sure that the spreadsheet I&C sends out has the location where senators should be going to reach the most students.
 - Pushing for R&A to be earlier, so agenda can be sent out earlier.
 - Wants resumes for replacement and agenda recommendations to be sent out to the senate to make sure we are picking the most qualified leaders.
 - Wants to really emphasize people of color to be in leadership.
- 5 Minutes of Question and Answer:

- Senator Solomon: How did you practice bipartisanship during your time on the R&A Committee?
- Senator Clavijo-Gomez:
- Senator Hoffman: What makes you a better candidate than Senator Brown?
- Senator Clavijo-Gomez: Candidate Brown has great qualifications, but I have them as well.
- Senator Nelson: What is your plan to make sure that the information for those who apply for senate is not leaked?
- Senator Clavijo Gomez:
- Senator Gatos: How would you make sure that every voice is being heard?
- Senator Clavijo Gomez: Wants to make sure every candidate gets 5 minutes discussion evenly. If there is any dispute on a candidate, I believe they should be discussed as much as possible.
- Senator Marti: How will you outreach to graduate students when graduate seats are constantly open?
- Senator Clavijo-Gomez: Believes retention is very important.
- Senator Zimmer: How will you combat the feeling of minority leaders feeling scared to speak up?
- Senator Clavijo Gomez: Wants to make sure the minority members have a voice?
- Senator Nimer: You mentioned that it is very hard for minorities to have a seat on committees, how do your experiences help you change that?

In a roll call vote of 66 to 20, Senator Brown has been elected Senate President Pro-Tempore. Chief Justice Baker swears in Senate President Pro-Tempore Brown.

Member at Large

- There was a motion to open the floor for nominations by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Patel nominates Senator Gatos.
 - Senator Gatos accepts.
- Majority Party Leader nominates Senator Kaughin:
 - Senator Kaughin accepts.
- Senator Gatos:
 - Has been Senate Minority Leader, a District D senator for two terms, has been a part of R&A committee, and I&C committee, as well as 800 codes revision.
 - Also served as the BRASA president, SAI I-Team president, currently serves as the VISA treasurer.
 - Talks about the responsibility of those on the replacement and agenda committee.
 - Talks about his extensive qualifications for this position.
- Five Minutes of Question and Answer:

- Senator Solomon: You have been quoted in the Alligator as wanting to be bipartisan, how will you do that?
- Senator Gatos: Is hoping to remain as unbiased as possible, creates guidelines that will ensure that interviews will remain unbiased.
- Senator Rodriguez, Matt: Will you be here this summer?
- Senator Gatos: No
- Senator Patel: As a graduate student, what kind of perspective can you offer?
- Senator Gatos: graduate students are incredibly busy, and he understands what graduate students go through on a daily basis.
- Senator Nelson: You just mentioned how busy graduate students are, do you have the capacity to do this position?
- Senator Gatos: Most definitely, having served in the chamber before I know what it takes to be in leadership here and he knows that he can fulfill that.
- Senator White: You talked a lot about what you have done in the past, what are some things you would like to do in this role?
- Senator Gatos: Wants to create a detailed interview guide, define a set of standards, and incorporate a feedback report for interviewing.
- Senator Hoffman: Are you aware of the recent changes that have been made within the replacement and agenda committee recently?
- Senator Gatos: Time
- Senator Kaighin:
 - Shares her past experiences that would qualify herself as a member at large for this term, specifically involving ethics.
 - She has provided a unique perspective on the amending of the 800 codes.
 - Worked with the chairperson of the R&A committee to keep the 300 codes up to date and as relevant as possible.
 - Ready to remain unbiased in these positions.
 - Would continue to encourage Green Dot training and hopes to adequately serve students at UF.
- Five Minutes of Question and Answer:
 - Senator Hoffman: How would you think without bias and objectively?
 - Senator Kaighin: Thinks her experience on the Rules & Ethics Committee is very unique. Hearing excuses and absences are all anonymous which allows committee members to make a real decision on the matter at hand. Being around a team in sports, you must select the most qualified individuals in order to succeed.
 - Senator Singleton: How has your experience on the Rules and Ethics Committee helped you prepare for this position?
 - Senator Kaighin: In rules and ethics, names are kept anonymous, which has helped her remain unbiased and is able to directly apply them to the R&A committee.

- Senator Solomon: How do you think you are more experience with Senator Gatos:
- Senator Kaighin: I have had a lot of experience both outside and inside the chamber. Uses the Gators of Tomorrow as an example of preparing herself for being ready for the Replacement & Agenda Committee.
- Senator Kendrick: How has being a member at large benefit you in this position?
- Senator Kaighin: Her involvement both inside and outside of the chamber allows her to be ready for this position.
- Senator Faisal: time concluded.

There was a motion for a roll call vote. In a standing vote of 56 to 23 that motion fails. In a standing vote of 51 to 30, Senator Kaighin has been elected as Member At Large.

Member at Large

- There was a motion to open the floor by unanimous consent.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett nominated Senator Jee.
 - Senator Jee accepts.
- Senator Solomon nominates Senator Turner.
 - Senator Turner accepts.
- Senator Jee:
 - Honored to be serving as District C Senator
 - Has a passion for student government and is committed to making Student Government better.
 - His passion is to serve those around him.
 - Greatly involved with UF and the surrounding committee and has learned how to become an effective leader.
- Five minutes of Question and Answer:
 - Senator Kendrick: Can you talk about a time you had to remain unbiased?
 - Senator Jee: Tells a story he experienced as a wrestling coach at Gainesville High School and how that has helped him look at a person strictly through their qualifications.
 - Senator Trejos: Can you tell us why you are able to serve on the R&A Committee?
 - Senator Jee: As a head coach of a high school wrestling team at the age of 19, he has had to learn time management, professionalism.
 - Senator Solomon: Can you please list all the committees of the senate and the number of seats on each?
 - Senator Jee: Recites all committees in the Senate. Notes that he doesn't know the number of members per committee but can name the members of the Replacement & Agenda Committee.
 - Senator Baez: How has your time in ROTC shaped you for this experience?

- Senator Jee: Has prepared him well for the role. Leadership and cooperation are two key takeaways from ROTC.
- Senator Labh: What has made you want to run for this position?
- Senator Jee: Time concluded.
- Senator Turner:
 - Gives a story about herself being in 4th grade during a career fair. When asked what she wanted to be, she said she wanted to be the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
 - Believes in the ability to reach the impossible and make life better for every student on this campus, which is why she wanted to run for senate and now become a Member at Large.
 - Has had the honor of serving under the board of directors in a nonprofit called Not My Generation.
 - Raised 1000s of dollars at the nation's capital.
 - Serves as the recruitment lead and as a member of the mock trial team.
 - Hopes to meet with senators in one on one meetings.
- Five minutes of questions:
 - Senator Marti: How will you remain bipartisan on the committee?
 - Senator Turner: Did not run for a party or to pick sides, ran to represent students and do what is best for the student body.
 - Senator Nelson: Wouldn't you want to make sure you are knowing the candidates well in order to decide for a seat?
 - Senator Turner: Absolutely. I'm not looking to follow the mayor's lead; I want to meet all of the senator's individual.
 - Senator Solomon: What would you do to work with the Gator Party to make sure all students are represented well?
 - Senator Turner: Excited to work with everyone, understands everyone here is committed and doesn't see an issue.
 - Senator Hoffman: What qualities will you look for in open chair seats?
 - Senator Turner: Wants to talk about set qualifications
 - Senator White: What experience do you have that will allow you to make decisions regarding new senate seats?
 - Senator Turner: Serves the director of Not my Generation for a National Non-Profit.
 - Senator Karim: In the past, despite having multiple graduate seats open, the replacement and agenda committee has rejected qualified applicants, how would you counteract that?
 - Senator Turner: Believes it is unreasonable, as long as there are applications that fit the qualifications the seats should be filled.

In a standing vote of 51 to 31 Senator Jee has been elected as the second Member-At-Large.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Thanks everyone for the opportunity of serving as Senate President.
- Liaison positions he will be appointing are:
 - Cabinet Branch Executive
 - Police Department
 - Reitz Union
 - Recreational Sports
 - Student Activities and Involvement
- Descriptions will be sent out via ListServ.
- Senator Chou asks him about Ad Hoc committee and Senate President states he is open to talking about it with Senate Leadership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Brown welcomes the senators.
- Open Permanent Replacement Seats:
 - District B
 - District D
- Open Committee Chairperson Seats:
 - Budget and Appropriations
 - Judiciary
 - Allocations
 - Rules and Ethics
- Open Committee Seats:
 - Allocations (2)
 - Judiciary (2)
 - Rules and Ethics (3)
 - Information and Communication (6)

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- There is no report.

ALLOCATIONS:

- There is no report.

JUDICIARY:

- There are two open seats, feel welcome to apply.
- We will be getting back to work soon.

RULES & ETHICS:

- There is no report.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- There is no report.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

SECOND READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Solomon: No IRHA next week, following week will be a long meeting.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 AM