

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

**March 17th, 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 87 senators present.

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

- Askin
- Fu
- Hagan
- Hutchinson
- Kim
- Iannone
- Lima
- Lloyd
- Russell
- Skinner
- Smiley
- White, Sydney
- Wilson

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Senator Nimer:
  - Greets the senators.
  - Addresses that she has never graduated in the senate chamber before tonight, and now it is too late, as she is a senior.
  - Hopes that everyone is staying safe and healthy.
  - A lot of people are discouraged, as they didn't realize this was their "last" event.
  - Wants us to recognize that anything we do may be our last, and to seize opportunity.
  - Hopes everyone is taking the guidelines to heart.
  - Things will be rough and uncertain.
  - What's stopping us from seizing the day?
  - So much good could come out of this period if we adjust our mindsets.
  - We can take this time to create fulfillment and happiness.
- Senator Clavijo-Gomez:
  - Wants to talk about the first gen caucus that he is now leading.

- The first gen caucus is now run by senator Marti and Senator Clavijo-Gomez
- Defines a first-generation student as anyone whose parents did not attend college.
- A google form will be sent out after the meeting via email.
- Senator Wilder:
  - He has seen good humanity come out of this break, such as practicing social distancing and recommending books/movies.
  - Finds himself getting devoured by the hysteria.
  - The LGBTQ+ caucus is starting up, will send an email out with a form on more information.
- Senator Faisal:
  - Greeted the senators.
  - Addressing the issue of the epidemic, specifically on UF.
  - There are currently 52,000 students on campus.
  - A petition was sent out 5 hours ago and has already received out of 13,000 signatures.
  - Urges the campus to create a pass/fail class rather than a letter grade.
  - There are different time zones, lack of internet/connection, data caps on internet providers.
  - Alachua county closed their public libraries and other counties may follow.
  - Other universities have made the semester optional, as it is much more difficult to get all As.
  - Please reach out to Senator Faisal if you are interested in working on this.
- Assistant Minority Party Leader Karim:
  - Shows the senators her pet cat.
- Senator Zimmer:
  - Wanted to discuss the unprecedented events that are occurring.
  - Make sure you are checking in on yourself, family members, and friends.
  - Reach out to Senator Zimmer if you need help.

***\*\*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:**

- Minority Party Leader Solomon moves to replace Senator Solomon with Minority Party Leader Solomon by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Minority Party Leader Solomon moves to replace Senator Karim with Assistant Minority Party Leader Karim by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Tio moves to strike the word “assault” and add “harassment” from Tio’s remarks by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Senator Tio moves to strike the phrase “political campaign” from Tio’s remarks by unanimous consent. Approved.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Evan Begley for the open District B seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Samantha Girschick for the open Budget and Appropriations Chairwoman seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Chase Reineke for the open Allocations Chairman seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Seth Longland for the open Judiciary Chairman seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Ferraby Hoffman for the open Rules and Ethics Chairwoman seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve David Kays for the open Information and Communication Committee Chairman seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Jadelyn Fleischer for the open Budget and Appropriations Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Sierra Kantamneni for the open Budget and Appropriations Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Blake Robinson for the open Budget and Appropriations Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Sydney White for the open Budget and Appropriations Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Shruti Labh for the open Allocations Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Faith Allen for the open Judiciary Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Ramon Martinez for the open Judiciary Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Noemi Galeano for the open Rules and Ethics Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Rani LaRue for the open Rules and Ethics Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Olivia Potthast for the open Rules and Ethics Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Jadelyn Fleischer for the open Information and Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Elizabeth Hartzog for the open Information and Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Sparsha Muralidhara for the open Information and Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Kevin Trejos for the open Information and Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Lainey Williams for the open Information and Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Bennett moves to approve Shawn Zimmer for the open Information and Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Objected.

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

- Student Body President Trevor Pope:
  - Greet the senators.
  - Wants to make it a point to attend the Senate regularly and issue a report each week.
  - Announcement: The new Chief of Staff is Virginia Howe, invites her to speak.
    - Virginia: Introduces herself and describes her experience at UF so far.
    - Feel free to email [vhowell@ufl.edu](mailto:vhowell@ufl.edu) with questions or concerns.
  - Executive branch applications are currently open, which includes judicial branch positions, cabinet chairs and directors, secretaries, and agency heads.
  - Tell your friends and reach out to others to create a more qualified administration.
  - Nominations will go to the senate floor on April 14th.
  - Any senator that has finance experience should reach out in regard to improving the 800 codes.
  - Finally, Student Body President Pope wants to address COVID-19.
  - Understands the tragedy of no graduation, but we should believe in UF's administration.
  - The administration is working hard to find a remedy to graduation.
  - Michael Murphy is taking the lead on interacting with the administration.
  - Hopes to spread the University's message as much as possible.
  - Once he is sworn in, Pope hopes to create a link on the Student Government website where students can submit their questions and comments so that the students have an advocate on their behalf.
  - Believes it is incredibly important for the Student Body President to be involved in the task force with the COVID-19.
  - You are able to reach out to [presidentelect@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:presidentelect@sg.ufl.edu) .

### **SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Wants to provide an update for the senators.

- Understands this is not desirable, but ultimately, we are in these positions for a reason and hopes to continue serving the students of UF.
- Thanks the senators for being lenient during this time.
- Wants to announce the liaison for this term:
  - Cabinet Executive Branch: Suzanna Barna
  - University Police Department: Faith Allen
  - Reitz Union: Kevin Marti
  - Rec Sports: Angelo Sciabarassi
  - Student Activities and Involvement: Blake Robinson
- If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Pro Tempore Brown and Senate President Garner.

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

There was a motion to open the floor to nominations for the open Information and Communications Committee Seat as Shawn Zimmer. Seconded. In a roll call vote of 82 to 1, that motion passes.

There was a motion to call the previous question. Seconded. In a standing vote of 84 to 1, that motion passed.

In a standing vote, in the eyes of the chair, Shawn Zimmer is approved.

There was a motion by Senator Nelson to amend 324 section 9, given the unforeseen circumstance of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting inability of Senators to complete constituency requirements, by unanimous consent. Approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Brown welcomes the senators.
- Open Permanent Seats:
  - District A (2).
  - Budget and Appropriations (2).
  - Allocations.
  - Judiciary.
  - Rules and Ethics (4).
- Forward your voter record to [senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu) . Please CC [senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu) , as well as [senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu) .
- Make sure to check up on your friends.

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Girschick welcomes the Senators.
  - Greets the senators.
  - Excited to work with you all throughout the semester.
  - Please reach out to her if you have any interest or ideas in regards to revising the 800 codes revision.
  - Travel requests will open up next week.
  - Reach out to her if you need anything.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairman Reineke welcomes the senators.
  - Thanks everyone for voting him in as chairman of allocations.
  - Take care of your health.
  - Email [creineke@ufl.edu](mailto:creineke@ufl.edu) to set up a zoom meeting.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Longland welcomes the senators.
  - Thanks everyone for voting him in as chairman of the judiciary committee.
  - There is one open seat for the committee.
  - Reach out to [seth.longland@ufl.edu](mailto:seth.longland@ufl.edu) with questions or concerns.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman Hoffman welcomes the senators.
  - Greets the senators and thanks the senators for approving her as the Rules and Ethics Chairwoman.
  - If you need anything, please reach out to her.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairman Kays welcomes the Senators.
  - Thanks everyone in this digital chamber for approving him as the new Information and Communication Chairman.

### **FIRST READINGS:**

- There were none.

### **SECOND READINGS:**

- There were none.

### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Minority Party Leader Solomon: For everyone keeping up with IRHA, there are no more IRHA meetings in person for the semester. If you have any questions or want to join the online meeting, reach out to him.
- Senator Oni: Wants to send out the student government group chat from last semester, she will send out the link via chat:  
[https://web.groupme.com/join\\_group/55120188/KtSwFYP9](https://web.groupme.com/join_group/55120188/KtSwFYP9) .
- Senator Zimmer: Wants to second the Faisal in regard to the pass/fail
- Senator Marti: Encourages Senators that are first gen to reach out to join the first gen caucus.
- Pro Tempore Brown: Reminder to all senators- please type into the online voter record and indicate which way you voted.

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.