

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

July 7, 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 76 senators present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Glasserman:
 - Welcomes everyone back, mentions and expands on Branden Pearson issue.
- Senator Tio:
 - Apologized to Senator Faisal, asked people of senate to donate to a GoFundMe for her personal affairs, let everyone know she will be objecting to every nomination.
- Tre Popoli:
 - Explains the way that homophobia is detrimental and hurtful against LGBTQ+ community.
 - Expresses his feelings regarding Branden Pearson and the way the Gator party has handled the issues at hand.
- Senator Nelson:
 - Reminds the senate of their moral responsibility for the people, especially international students.
- Senators Kaighin and Traycik
 - Working on a resolution and special project and speaking out today to see if anyone is interested in helping.
 - Goal is to implement a print lab in Norman library.
 - They are both distract A senators.
 - Thought would be a beneficial thing to do during this time.
 - Talks about SG Print Lab in Reitz Union and the satellite locations such as Heavener, Correy Village, Newell, and Fifield.
 - To better serve distract A senators and those who commute to campus at the Norman parking garage would be beneficial to many.
 - Having another location further away from campus during COVID19 would help with precautions taken to slow the spread of COVID.
 - If interested in helping email them at Lindsay.kaighin@ufl.edu or ltraycik@ufl.edu
- Chairwoman Girschick:

- In light of transparency and knowing what she has been up to with others, she will be discussing how she has been going through the 800 codes and trying to make changes to make them better.
- One of the biggest ideas that Blake Robinson and Tyler Kendrick talked to her about was an audit and compliance committee.
 - The committee would be tracking membership through a swipe card system such as gator nights.
 - Hear all appeals from the budget committee and the travel grant sub committees. Which would help with any issues with appeals.
 - Will also help create more communication between senate and student organizations with feedback forms and knowing all the questions and complaints organizations may have.
 - Will create a two-way street of accountability by being able to track attendance and numbers of attendees at events.
- A base funding model where every student organization would get \$500 a semester if they are registered and funded by SG.
 - Thinks will get rid of issue where some organizations do not get funding and the \$500 can be used on anything the organization needs such as new technology, GBMS, events, etc.
 - Every organization will be secured funding.
 - The rest of funding will be first come first serve like the system in place now.
- Cooper Brown made a large change to the 800's codes by going through and making sure every definition was clear and concise due to how vague some of them are because it makes being on the committee difficult without the clarity.
 - He also created a \$50 per member for events so that would get rid of the \$5,000 cap per event allowing organizations to receive more funding if they have a very large event.
- Getting rid of the 40% food cap because she does not want to cut food funding because there was not enough room in the programming line. Feels organizations should not have to fill other lines to fill the 40% cap.
- Wanted to share to open the conversation with others due to her conversations with Cooper, TK, and Blake.
- If you have any questions, email her at her budget email.
- She wants to hear from organizations and others to hear any complaints or concerns.
- Senator Utt:
 - Congratulations to the Gator Party and the majority party.
 - On behalf of the minority party they lost due to the passing of the 200 codes and nomination of Branden Pearson.

- Currently, minutes state that Pearson won by a 66 to 14 margin. Claims this is false.
- Believes that there were at least 20 members of his party who voted no.
- Falsification of public record is a crime.
- Calling for an investigation why a false number was used on a senate document.
- Hopes that this is not a calculated move.
- During meeting he moved for a petition outlining Pearson's comments and character to be heard before the vote was heard. It was ruled dilatory by president Garner.
- Emphasizes Garner's decision to rule it dilatory instead of being willing to listen to the student body.
- Agrees it is time to move on. Time to listen to community and heal, to listen to BSU's commands and take action.
- UF Student Government is not part of the solution of racism on our campus, it is currently part of the problem. It is time we do what Pro Temp Brown said, to show that we can listen and fight for and promote the values of BSU.
- BSU wants reform to SNAP due to the two racial charged events that occurred this past year.
- Proposing a bill that will allocate more funding for SNAP to receive cameras and microphones in vehicles to help ameliorate the racially charged events.
- Nominating Branden Pearson tainted student government and every bill he passed by his implicit bias.
- Time to move forward, fight for justice, and put money where mouth is.
- Hopes people support his bill on both sides of the aisle.
- Isabella Garcia:
 - Does not understand why senate was cancelled the rest of summer A.
 - Finds it is suspicious since it was done right after a member of their party was called out for racist and homophobic comments.
 - Failed her bill supporting victims of sexual assault.
 - Shame on anyone who voted for him and on Kyle Garner for bending the rules to put him in a position of power.
 - Tired of the fake activism seen in senate. Posting a picture about Black Lives Matter on social media but then voting for someone who is racist, homophobic, and sexist is hypocritical.
 - Feels that if you bend your values for votes and power, you are disgusting.
 - The people she knows to be successful don't need to be tapped into some country club to be successful.
 - Those who pretend to care about minorities and those who are Hispanic, this is for you. As someone who comes from Venezuela, she knows corruption more than anyone. If you stay silent you are guilty.

- Hopes that Trevor Pope is listening. Feels that he should issue an apology.
- Calls out multiple senators who were insensitive and disrespectful.
- Does not understand how people who can sleep at night knowing they vote this way.
- Working on a resolution with Senator Faisal to help international students, reach out if you would like to help.
- Senator Solomon:
 - Does not think people understand how hard it is to be here at the moment.
 - Would appreciate if people could at least turn on their cameras so he would feel heard at least once.
 - How many have you been told you were going to be sued for defamation?
 - Questions how many times people have had to stand before the chamber and defend themselves against a lawsuit. His count is two. Him and Senator Wilder.
 - *inaudible from 35:22-35:33*
 - Has been called multiple hurtful and derogatory names.
 - The amount of respect he has for anyone who voted for Pearson is through the floor because they had the opportunity to vote no and they did not.
 - They gave a homophobe and racist a position of power, the least they could do is apologize but no one has.
 - Mentions how a president of a big nine org ran for the seat Branden Pearson resigned from and despite their qualifications was turned away.
 - It is a slap to the face to do what they are doing.
 - Part of him wanted to come to senate tonight and resign because of how hurtful it is to be here and pretend to have to respect for others.
 - Was told he was worth nothing and that is words are worth nothing. Especially now as people are laughing at him.
 - He only received one text message after last senate meeting apologizing.
 - Hopes that people have a religion because he does not understand how people sleep at night doing what they do to others.
 - Had 28 days to write about how he felt and could only come up with a sentence and it wasn't in English. Feels that he does not know what to do anymore.
 - Asks Kyle Garner to create a diversity ad hoc committee and the Gator caucus to apologize.
 - The vote was 49 to 24, 60 people did not say yes.
 - If you have to cry through your vote for him why are you there?
 - The university will not forget. If you do not apologize to him, hopes they apologize to the other big nine.
 - How can you sit in these positions of power and act like a God?
 - You will have to answer to this for the rest of your lives.
- Senator Wilder:

- It has been 28 days since he called out Brandon Pearson's homophobic and racist comments.
- Has only been apologized to once since everything happened and Gator party has released no statement or apology since.
- Calls out how Trevor Pope did not make a stand against the allegations and mistakes made.
- Feels he is going insane because what he cares about is just human decency.
- Does not feel comfortable in chamber anymore.
- Does not want to be in a chamber where people are complacent.
- People do not care because it does not affect them.
- Hopes people who voted for him feel remorse and guilt.
- You cannot teach people empathy.
- Senator:
 - Tried to write speech but couldn't.
 - Asks Kyle Garner to go to next speaker so he can switch microphones to be heard better.
- Senator Zimmer:
 - Senate messed up.
 - Hopes those in the chamber will own up to the mistakes.
 - Does not understand why the rules were changed to conform to a homophobe and racist.
 - Just because you may not understand firsthand systematic oppression or what it feels like to be powerless it does not mean you can't stand up.
 - Either you believe those who are calling out the issues or the perpetrator, you can't do both.
 - We have to look back and see where we went wrong.
 - Look at what happened Saturday, where a qualified individual was turned down for a position.
- Senator Chou

*****If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu*****

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Senator Solomon moves to amend minutes to read that the vote for Branden Pearson for Internal Agency Head were 49 to 24 to 1 by unanimous consent.
- Senator Solomon moves that the change.org petition that had 1,700 signatures be added to the minutes in its entirety by unanimous consent.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to remove Akash Patel from the open permanent replacement seats block by unanimous consent.
- Senator moves to reinstate and remove ½ absence of Matthew Rodriguez and Tyler Visuvasam by unanimous consent.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORTS:

- There were none.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Hopes everyone had a great summer break and reflect.
- Will be voting for a delegate and an alternate delegate.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to open the floor for nominations for faculty senate.
- Senator Tio nominates Senator Tio.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer nominates Senator Patel.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff nominates Senator LaRue.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to close the floor for nominates for faculty senate.
- Senator moves to allow nominees three minutes for presentation by unanimous consent.

Faculty Senate Delegate Nominee Presentations:

- Senator Tio:
 - States that she will probably not win but will make people feel bad for not picking the most qualified.
 - Has worked with the faculty senate before unlike other nominees.
 - Graduate assistants can also sit in the faculty senate and she has experience with working with graduate assistants due to her position on exec.
 - Feels she would be a great voice for graduate assistants.
- Senator Patel:
 - Long overdue that the student senate gets representation in the faculty senate and a delegate gets picked since it was supposed to be done by May 1st.
 - Wants to look out for student senates best interest within the faculty senate.
 - The faculty senate makes decisions that directly impacts students such as what degree options to keep or get rid of, curriculum, and academic regulations which is why a strong presence is important in their chamber.
 - Although this position is non-voting, he would still have debate privileges. He would be a voice for students and bring weekly reports to student senate.
 - Wants to facilitate communication between student and faculty senate.
 - Believes he is currently showing that he is not afraid to speak publicly or debate.
 - Has shown initiative by being the one to prompt this reelection.
 - Will always strive to do more than what is expected of him.

- Senator LaRue:
 - When she saw this opportunity, she felt like it was a great way to be a voice for the student senate and to open communication between the faculty and student senates.
 - Feels motivated to work for the senate and be a voice.
- Senator Patel moves to add two minutes of pro-con debate per nomination by unanimous consent. Motion is objected.
 - Roll call vote on previous question. Roll call vote of 51 to 26, that motion fails.
- Roll call vote for Faculty Senate Delegate 51 for LaRue, 27 for Patel and 1 for Tio, LaRue has been approved.

Alternate Faculty Senate Delegate:

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to open the floor for nominates for the alternate faculty senate delegate by unanimous consent.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer nominates Senator Solomon.
- Senator Tio nominates Senator Tio.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff nominates Senator Allen.
- Majority Party leader Zlatanoff moves to close the floor for nominates by unanimous consent.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer moves to adding three minutes to presentation of each alternate faculty delegate nominee. Motion is objected. In roll call vote of 51 to 27 that motion fails.
- Roll Call Vote for Alternate Faculty Senate Delegate: 27 for Solomon and 52 for Allen. Senator Allen has been approved.
- Senator moves to suspend senate rules to allow Senator Sarlo to vote on previous motion due to technological difficulties by unanimous consent. Motion passes.
 - Senator Sarlo votes yes to allowing three minutes of presentation for alternate delegate nominees.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Senator Solomon moves to open the floor to nominates for the open District D seat. In a roll call vote of 53 to 26 that motion fails.
- Senator Solomon motions to call the previous question. In a roll call vote of 75 to 4 that motion passes.
- Senator Faisal motions to approve the open permanent graduate seat, Regan Dabbs by unanimous consent. Motion is objected.
- In a roll call vote of 78 to 1, Regan Dabbs is confirmed.
- Senator motions to suspend the rules and add a special rule to hear the remainder of the open permanent graduate seat recommendations as a block and vote as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.

- In a roll call vote of 80 to 0, all three replacements are approved.
- Senator Patel moves to approve Richa Bhasvar for the open summer replacement business administration senate seat by unanimous consent. Motion passes.
- Senator Tio moves to approve Matthew Wolf for the open summer replacement seat for District B by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Open Permanent Senate Seat: District D Recommendation Presentation

- Akash Patel:
 - Wants to join UF Senate because he wants to represent the UF community that has done so much for him.
 - Believes it is important for minority students to be represented by minorities.
 - Knows what it is like to be unheard.
 - Believes that as a transfer student he will be an advocate for that community.
 - Currently is treasurer of ISA.
 - Familiar with the 800 codes and his leadership with ISA have shaped him as a leader.
 - Despite not having prior student government experience, he knows he will step up to the call.

Open Permanent Senate Seat: District D Recommendation Q + A:

- Senator Utt: Did anyone tell you to apply for this position or help you on your application?
- Akash Patel: Yes, I was looking for ways to get involved with student government and someone told me to apply to senate and I filled out the application by myself.
- Chairwoman Hoffman: How has your time in leadership with ISA helped prepare you for this role?
- Akash Patel: Through many internships and roles I believe I have been prepared to be an effective leader. Some of the skills is being able to use my time wisely so that I can do all my responsibilities and do them to the best of my ability. Another skill I have is that I make sure things are complete. I also work well with other students and team members. I also take comments and considerations well and communicate well with others. My communication skills will help me a lot and I think all my skills together will help prepare me for this role.
- Senator Utt: Candidate said that someone told you to apply, who was that?
- Akash Patel: Neal Patel
- Senator Kays: What ideas do you have that help your constituents?
- Akash Patel: Having places like Marston library provide financial calculators to help students who have to take Finance have access. Also helping increase the lightening in certain areas.

Round One of Pro:

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff: I was in R&A for Akash's interview and was impressed. He is familiar with the 800 codes and his ideas were great. His idea about the calculators are tangible and would do great for students.
- Senator Kays: I would just like to say that I was recommended by someone in the Inspire party to apply to be in Senate and now I am affiliated with the Gator party so I would like to say that it is ridiculous to bring that up to try and paint that as a con against him.

Round One of Con:

- Senator Solomon: I find it very troubling that when we have a prospective candidate for a position who wants to represent minorities like the candidate from the big nine you guys all voted against them. Then you misgendered them today.
- Senator Tio: F*** the Gator Party. You are all queer-phobic and if you are affiliated with the system in any way you are homophobic. Mr. Patel by being affiliated with the Gator party is homophobic and I do not want anyone who is homophobic serving in senate.

Round Two of Pro:

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff: It is not fair to hold it against Akash Patel that he reached out to friends involved with student government to try and apply to senate. He has experience and great ideas therefore he is qualified for the position.
- Senator Trejos: As a treasurer of a big nine org, seeing Akash wanting to get involved in senate is very exciting. Seeing him want to get involved in an area that directly affects the funding of big nine orgs is great.
- Chairman Kays: One thing we are constantly looking for is representation from funded organizations.

Round Two of Con:

- Senator Utt: Sorry that I am trying to actually do this when I know this is a joke for most of you. Stating that Akash Patel; is on exec for a big nine org when the other candidate who has applied, Hernandez, is the president of a big nine, doesn't logically make sense. We are not supposed to be evaluating if he is qualified, he is, we are supposed to be determining if he is the best candidate.
- Senator Patel: Disagrees with Senator Utt that asking someone who recommended them is okay. States he believes Akash is super qualified but is not more qualified than the president of a big nine organization.

Round of Final Privilege:

- Akash Patel: Stating that I am homophobic is not fair, you do not know me. I will state that Black Lives Matter, Black Trans Matter, LGBTQ+ lives matter.

Roll Call Vote:

- In a roll call vote of 61 to 24, Akash Patel is approved.

Allocations Committee Seat:

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer moves to approve Shannon Locascio for the open Allocations committee seat by unanimous consent. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown greets senators.
- Announces all the open seats.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer gives minority report.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Girschick greets senators.
- Tomorrow from 8-11 rollover hearings start.
- Friday 8-11 they will be continued.
- Friday at 1 PM the Reitz Big 3 hearing.
- Monday at 8 AM is the Rec Sports hearing.
- Monday at 1 PM is SG.
- All of it is public noticed on website.
- Senator Tio, Senator Nelson, and Minority Party Leader Zimmer asks questions about revisions she mentioned earlier during public comment.
- Senator Kendrick talks about the idea of the audit and compliance committee.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairman Reineke greets senators and congratulates Senator Locascio.
- Committee heard over 100 requests yesterday for rollover funding.
- Second round is Thursday.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman L greets senators.
- Will be reviewing legislation tomorrow at 1 PM, if you need the link email him.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Hoffman greets senators.
- Highlights that the reason Chairwoman Morris repeated votes was to have it on record.
- Fill out your voter record correctly and if you have questions email her

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairman Kays greets senators.
- Senate Retreat will be bringing PJ Jones.
- Will be continuing post about Big 3 on social media. Encourages them to share.
- A campaign about physical and mental health will be rolled out.
- Missing seats will be posted on Facebook.

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

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BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Solomon: thanks those who have apologized to him.
- Senator Wilder: for anyone who is a new senator reach out to me if you are interested in working with LGBTQ+ caucus.
- Senator Tio: Thanks to everyone who donated to noodles go fund me especially Solomon. Please submit confessions to @ufsgconfessions. There is an R&E meeting tomorrow, come out. Gator Party is homophobic.
- Senator Nelson: once reopening plan comes out Friday this week, if we are going back on campus, I am writing a resolution on not having classes on election day. If anyone wants to sponsor that reach out to me.
- Senator Chou: *inaudible*
- Senator: Deadline to register to vote by Monday July 20th. To request a vote by mail ballot is August 18th.
- Senator Utt: Reminds everyone about his bill about SNAP, reach out to him if interested.
- Senator Patel: Working on legislation, first one is a constitutional amendment. Second one is a rules and procedures amendment. If interested, reach out to me. For those just elected, congratulations.
- Senator Faisal: Working on a resolution about new ICE policy to help international students. If interested, email us.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown: lists all the roll call votes.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer: Inspire caucus is interested in working on legislation. If there is any interest in writing legislation and need help or support, email me.

ROLL CALL:

- Minority Party Leader Zimmer motions to use voter records as final roll call by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.