

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

July 28, 2020

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:00 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 78 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Daniel Baez
- Feraby Hoffman
- Karli Kimbrough
- Christy Louis
- Casey Mason
- Karen McGee
- Hannah Montgomery
- Bryan Momin
- Yanissa Rodriguez
- Madelyn Sarlo
- Alex Shoaf

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Kevin Scott:
 - Here with CAPS.
 - Expresses support for legislation urging UF to immediately stop the use of prison labor.
 - Shares his experience and story with prisoners and the abuse by guards.
 - Expresses that he believes there is no reason why the contracts are not being ended immediately.
- William Boose:
 - Graduated from UF in May of 2020.
 - Here as the co founder of CAPS and co author of the legislation asking UF to immediately end use of prison labor.
 - Petition CAPS started has thousands of signatures.
 - Lays out timeline of CAPS communication with UF concerning use of prison slave labor.
 - Feels it is embarrassing that judiciary delayed the hearing of this bill. What does it say about the system you are part of?.
 - Why is it up for debate to even pass this legislation?

- Salil Bavdekar:
 - The issue of use of prison labor is not an issue that should be up for debate.
 - “If you are a slave owner now, you would have been a slave owner then, until you end the use of prison slave labor now”
 - A resolution is the bare minimum the senate could do and there is no reason it hasn’t passed.
 - The job of senate is to represent the student body and they have made it clear where they stand on this issue by supporting CAPS.
 - Feels it is an embarrassment that they even have to convince the senate to pass this bill.
- Catalina Urrea:
 - Here representing Gator SALSA club.
 - States that herself and the club supports the legislation asking UF to end prison slave labor.
 - Asks senators to do what is morally right.
- Symphany Lindsay:
 - Here representing the Black Student Union as an ally and supporter of the legislation asking UF to end prison slave labor.
 - It is not just unethical and unmoral but paints the university in a bad light.
 - Here to urge them to pressure the university into ending contract immediately.
- Carolina Aguedelo:
 - Here representing POR Colombia and to show support for legislation asking UF to end prison slave labor immediately.
 - Expresses her feelings towards the issue and the legislation.
- Senator Solomon:
 - Expresses his feelings towards Judiciary delaying the hearing of legislation asking UF to end use of prison labor immediately.
- Nathan Molina:
 - Explains his luxury of choice and how they each have it as well and how they can use it to help individuals who do not have the same luxury.
 - Explains how the use of prison labor as punishment is wrong.
 - Asks them to take a recess and then come back and vote on the legislation.
- Claudia Tio:
 - Shares story about how her mom felt about her joining student government.
 - Talks about the budget that is being passed tonight, which she finds is confusing.
 - Expresses her feelings towards where budget is being allocated and how she feels it is being allocated to insignificant things considering the climate we are living in due to the pandemic.
 - Expresses her feelings on the reporting of sexual assault and how it is being made more difficult for victims of sexual assault to be supported and protected.

- Touches on mental health when it comes to student government.
- Mark Merwitzer:
 - Discusses his opinions on the budget being passed tonight and how it is failing the community.
 - Urges senators to lead with actions instead of volume of their voice by doing things such as passing legislation to have UF end the use of prison slave labor immediately and helping those that are struggling financially.
- Senator Utt:
 - Here to talk about a comment that was made at the judiciary committee meeting that was alarming to him.
 - Talks about how prison labor shows a large disproportion in numbers by the BIPOC community, specifically black males, who are often more likely to be used in prison slave labor.
 - Expresses his feelings towards the way the judiciary committee handles legislation and their lack of action towards civil rights.
 - Talks about how some senators reached out to the judiciary chair to see the legislation that they were going to hear and were denied.
 - States that he feels there is an issue with our judiciary committee due to lack of accountability and transparency with legislation they are hearing.
 - Continues to express his feelings concerning issues he feels have risen with the judiciary committee.
- Pia Molina:
 - Here to express support for the resolution asking UF to immediately end their contracts of use of prison slave labor.
- Senator White:
 - Lists student leaders who are black. And the small percentage of seats they hold.
 - Talks about his feelings towards Trevor Pope and how he feels that Trevor is helping the black student body.
 - Expresses his feelings towards the way the Judiciary committee has continuously mishandled legislation.
 - Describes his experience as a student leader and all the ways in which UF and student government is systemically racist.
 - Calls out multiple instances in which he has witnessed white privilege, seen incompetence amongst committee members/chairs and witnessed racism.
 - States that he is not confident in the direction in which the Gator party is headed.
 - Gives many facts on the ways in which Black women and men in America have been systemically oppressed and punished for the same things that those involved in Greek life never get caught for (such as use of marijuana).

- Expands on all the ways in which he has personally felt the effects of a systemically racist foundation and expresses his disappointment in lack of representation and action.
- Urges UF to tell the truth behind their motives and history and is in disbelief that legislation was delayed urging UF to end use of prison slave labor effective immediately.
- Senator Wilder:
 - Silence is compliance.
 - It is important to point out that UF's number 7 ranking means nothing if they are also ranked #1 for the use of prison slave labor.
 - Does not want the power that senators hold with their voice be forgotten.
 - By stating silent and doing nothing you are complacent.
- Senator Sahil Patel:
 - Greets senators.
 - Here to talk about the legislation which judiciary postponed indefinitely urging UF to end the use of prison slave labor effective immediately.
 - Expands on how postponing legislation indefinitely ultimately kills a piece of legislation.
 - Those being exploited by this labor are humans and should not have to wait a whole year for UF to end contracts.
 - The decision that the Judiciary made regarding legislation does not represent the ideals of the chamber or student body.
 - Proposes the action of judiciary not being able to oversee legislation moving forward due to their failure to make unbiased rulings towards legislation.
 - Urges legislation concerning civil rights to be put on the floor for there to be transparency and accountability and for the public to see the way the chamber feels towards civil rights.
 - Asks that the legislation urging UF to end prison labor immediately be open for a vote tonight.
 - Expresses how voting no to motions made tonight showcase how they are part of the problem America is facing with racism.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer:
 - Expresses his feelings towards the way that the legislation urging UF to end the use of prison slave labor immediately was handled.
 - Feels they are making a big mistake.
- Isabella Garcia:
 - Expresses her feelings towards senators who claim to be student leaders but show no actions to represent minorities and civil rights.

- Talks about her opinions and feelings towards the topic of ending use of prison slave labor effective immediately and how it is the senates duty to use their authority to make a change.
- Senator Chou:
 - Feels the chamber must talk about the issue of racism and tokenization in the chamber to try and fix them.
 - Feels that he has seen constant waves of students who step into join senate and then leave when they see the racism in the system.
 - Although he agrees a diversity committee is a good idea, he mentions what was said during the BLM presentation where committees must be action orientated to be effective.
 - Talks about the recent streak of undesirable behavior seen by the Judiciary committee.
 - Addresses the budget being passed tonight and how he agrees with Mark Merwitzer stance.
 - Feels we need to revisit rent relief.
 - Feels that the senate has to say something about the way the AOC was treated by Ted Yoho.
 - Talks about electronic voting due to many polling locations saying they will not host elections due to COVID19.
 - Is extending another offer for them to do the right thing by helping him with his legislation about electronic voting.
- Senator motions for a 5-minute recess by unanimous consent. Approved.

ROLL CALL:

Senate reconvened and quorum was re-established with 78 senators present.

*****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.
- Senator Solomon moves to remove Thomas Wildermuth from the Judiciary committee.

1st Round of Con:

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff: Senator Wildermuth knows the rules and is an asset to the team and removing him would not bring justice.
- Chairman Luis: Senator Wildermuth knows the rules and procedures well and has helped me a lot during my time on this committee. It would be a loss to remove him.

1st Round of Pro:

- Senator Utt: Is typically against removing someone from a committee based on their personal beliefs and ideas, but he is against someone using their position of authority to

have other people conform to their own beliefs and ideas. If someone wants to pass legislation concerning civil rights issues they should be allowed to.

- Senator Solomon: Echoes Senator Utt's sentiments and opinion. Feels that having a senator vote against a bill that would help end the use of prison labor after a fellow black senator shared how he feels about the topic is wrong.

2nd Round of Con:

- Senator Wildermuth: does not understand why he was singled out amongst the other five members of the committee who also voted no.

2nd Round of Pro:

- Senator White: Wildermuth is not representative of the senate chamber. Feels that he is not qualified on the topics he tries to speak on yet used extremely powerful language at the meeting Friday concerning the topic. Tells Wildermuth that this is not about other people, it is about the way he has personally made other senate members feel uncomfortable.
- Senator Chou: If he knew the rules, he would have known the ways Chairman Luis did not abide by some of them previously which made things messy.

In a roll call vote of 30 to 47 that motion fails.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senate President Garner reads, and screen shares the Student Senate Bill asking UF Administration to immediately terminate the use of prison slave labor.
- Senator Groux moves to approve the absence excuse for Lee-Ann Tanza by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Groux moves to approve the absence excuse for Thomas Wildermuth by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Luis moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2020-1038: Resolution Supporting the Artificial Intelligence Partnership at the University of Florida by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Luis moves to approve *inaudible*
- Senator Luis moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2020-1037: Resolution Addressing the Implementation of Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training Within the Four University of Florida Greek Councils by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator White moves to discharge the legislation asking UF Administration to immediately terminate the use of prison slave labor. Motion is ruled not sustained.
- Senator Solomon moves to appeal the decision of the chair. Motion ruled out of order.
- Senator White moves to suspend rule XIV. Motion ruled out of order.
- Senator moves for Judiciary committee meeting minutes from May 31st be read aloud. In a roll call vote of 49 to 30 that motion fails.

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to approve Gabriella Hernandez for the Internal Affairs position by unanimous consent. Motion is objected.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to approve Alex Dominguez for the Assistant Treasurer position by unanimous consent. Motion is objected.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to approve absence excuse for Senator Groux by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Solomon moves to vacate the chair for the rest of the meeting. In a roll call vote of 56 to 23 that motion fails.
- Senator motions to rescind decision made by committee to postpone the legislation urging UF administration to immediately end the use of prison labor. Motion ruled out of order.
- Chairwoman Girschick moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2020-1035: Gender Neutral Wording Act – 800 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Girschick moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2020-1039: Hitchcock Field and Fork Support – 800 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Faisal moves to appeal decision of the chair made against Senator Sahil Patel as his third warning. Motion objected. In a roll call vote of 53 to 24 that motion fails.
- Senator Nelson moves to appeal the decision of the judiciary committee to indefinitely postpone the legislation urging UF administration to immediately end the use of prison labor. Motion ruled out of order.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORTS:

- There was none.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Garner greets the senators.
- Reminds chamber that everyone is a student first before they are a senator and reminds people to remain respectful.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Internal Affairs Nominee: Gabriella Hernandez:

5 Minutes Q+A:

- Chairwoman Girschick: what are some ideas you have for this position and what are you most excited for?
- Gabriella Hernandez: Talks about her idea sheet and the trust building section. Feels that everything that happened with prior chairperson broke the trust between many students and she wants to fix that. Talks about idea of doing a round table discussion with UF administration. Wants to be transparent and held accountable and having town hall meetings. Aiming for communication of what they are doing. In terms of diversity and inclusion, she listed some trainings that could help get the ball rolling. Touches upon training on how to be an ally for the LGTBQ+ community and how to learn more about the MCDA. Also wants to work on how to help and protect victims of sexual assault and

talks about ways she wants to help with that. At the end of the day, trainings can only do so much, it is crucial to reach students. Wants to work on how to provide mental health services for students virtually due to COVID19 and remote learning.

- Senator Chou moves to extend question and answer time for Gabriella Hernandez by 5 minutes. Motion is objected. Motion to object is rescinded, 5 minutes approved.
- Senator White: Asks her why she didn't speak up when former Student Body President Michael Murphy had Donald Trump's son come to campus when she is talking about multiple ideas on how to support minority communities and how to be an ally.
- Gabriella Hernandez: States she did speak up about that and how it made her feel but that it was not her job to tell people how to feel or think towards the matter. Believes she did her part by speaking up and making her statement on how she was not on board with the decision.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff: Asks her to talk about previous experiences that will directly translate to this role.
- Gabriella Hernandez: Talks about work she is currently doing with faculty and administration on rolling out a different welcome week due to COVID19, so she is building these relationships through planning this programming. Feels her relationships with faculty and staff will help her achieve many of her ideas. Also served in the chamber for a year and as MLP, she got a look into how to manage people.
- Senator Utt: Do you think there is a problem with racism and transphobia in this chamber? And if you do what will you do to distinguish yourself amongst that?
- Gabriella Hernandez: Will not sit there and deny that there is a problem. It is important to listen to people critiquing you. Talks about how educating other people is the first step. People hate being wrong, but those conversations need to occur for change. She does not tolerate those things and she wants to be an effective ally for communities that she does not identify with. Mentions ways in which she has tried to learn to be an effective ally for minority communities. Her job is to educate others as a leader.

Round One of Con:

- None.

Round One of Pro:

- Senator Shoaf: Has worked with her in many roles on campus and feels she has one of the best work ethics he has ever seen. There is no doubt in his mind she is the best person for this position.
- Senator Utt: Feels that the candidate is extremely thorough and qualified and would be great for the position. Commends her on her answers.
- Senator: Feels she is super qualified and lists multiple ways in which her experiences in other areas make her qualified for this position.
- Minority Party Leader: Appreciates that Gabi came to answer questions and listen to them. Highlights how having a debate is healthy and helps make informed decisions. Is excited to have Hernandez back in the chamber and wishes her good luck.

- Senator Kaighin: Speaks on Hernandez’s character and why she exemplifies qualities needed for this position.
- Chairman Kays: Echoes what Senator Kaighin says.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown moves to approve Gabriella Hernandez for the position of Internal Affairs Agency Head by unanimous consent. Approved.

Assistant Treasurer Nominee: Alex Dominguez:

5 Minutes Q+A:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown moves to table the nominee Alex Dominguez for Assistant Treasurer position by unanimous consent. Motion is approved.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown moves to recommit Alex Dominguez to the replacement and agenda committee by unanimous consent. Motion is approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Brown greets senators.
- Announces open seats.
- Reminds everyone to be wearing a mask, washing hands, and urges everyone to be reading Dr. Mull’s email.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer gives minority report.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Girschick greets senators.
- Will be showing budget bill during first reading. Reminds everyone of how the process is conducted.

ALLOCATIONS:

- No report.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Louis greets the senators.
- Judiciary will be meeting Sunday. Legislation due Friday.
- Email him any questions.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Senator Groux greets senators.
- Reminds senators to turn in their voter records.
- Email chair with any questions.

- Apologizes for any mispronounced names.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairman Kays greets senators.
- Thanks everyone who came to senate retreat. It was the most number of senators that have come to a retreat in a long time.
- Will be sending a thank you to PJ Jones, if you want to add anything, email it to him.
- Next week, livestream equipment will be completely installed in the senate chamber. Unfortunately, it probably will not be used in the fall but will be there moving forward.
- Email him any questions.

FIRST READINGS:

- Student Senate Bill 2020-1036: Funding for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Activity and Service Fee Budget.

5 Minutes Presentation:

- Chairwoman Girschick:
 - Committee has been working for this for the past two weeks and outlines the long process it took to create this.
 - Goes through bill. Goes through and explains different lines found in bill that were altered and why they made that change.
- Senator Chou moves to extend presentation time by 5 minutes by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Explains proviso and why it is a benefit such as helping work on projects that have not been done in the pass. Highlights what Student Body president Pope has been working to help students.
 - Expands on the rest of the bill and how it is a benefit to students.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer moves to suspend the rules and extend presentation time by 5 minutes. Motion is objected.
- Senator Chou moves to extend presentation time by 3 minutes by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman continues to run through budget bill and explain changes and the reasons for the change.

Non-Debatable Technical Q+A:

- Senator Nelson: Do you know why the sorority and fraternity affairs budget was doubled?
- Chairwoman Girschick: Yes. As an SEC school we have a very low student to faculty ratio when it comes to sorority and fraternity affairs which is not good and this year the budget allowed for us to make a change about that to allow for employees in that division to not be overworked.
- Senator Utt: Can you talk about the revenue side of the budget?

- Chairwoman Girschick: Yes. Of course, I am not a pro when it comes to this. But according to the Reitz staff they believe that with everything going on they believe the hotel will be less booked because of people's cautions with traveling.
- Senator Trejos: Can you explain why the budget stayed the same?
- Chairwoman Girschick: Yes, there was a 0% increase because we felt it was the right thing to do. To stay with the times, we felt that it was the best move considering we will not know how COVID19 might affect us. Trying to be realistic.
- Senator: Can you explain how the projects were chosen?
- Chairwoman Girschick: Asked big 3 for priority list so they could know what they needed from us and what the student body needed.
- Senator: Can you explain what the overhead fee is and how it pertains to students?
- Chairwoman Girschick: Yes, it goes towards many things through campus such as UFPD, marketing, and other areas. Pope wanted to make sure there was not any double dipping.
- Senator Nelson moves to extend q+a time by 5 minutes by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator: Why did you choose to go into second hearings for this?
- Chairwoman Girschick: Explains how they wanted to pick something that would benefit students.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer: Echoes what Senator Nelson asked about sorority and fraternity affairs increase in money allocated.
- Chairwoman Girschick: We have been told for a few years how they needed more funding for this division and how increasing funding could help the department and benefit students.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer: Was there any consideration given to give a line for rent relief?
- Chairwoman Girschick: Gives answer.
- Senator Utt: Did we spend less or run a deficit? What was the net change for this fiscal year?
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer moves to extend q+a time by one minute by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Girschick: With all the big three's, there is no revenue from SG or Rec Sports from the A&S fee but there is from the Reitz Union. Explains why the A&S fee was lowered for Reitz due to deficit.

Round One of Pro:

- Senator Nelson: Thanks, Girschick for breaking it all down. Thinks it is a great bill, feels it should pass.
- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to call previous question on Student Senate Bill 2020-1036: Funding for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Activity and Service Fee Budget by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Majority Party Leader Zlatanoff moves to pass Student Senate Bill 2020-1036: Funding for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Activity and Service Fee Budget by unanimous consent. Approved.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Nelson: Brings up legislation he is presenting to judiciary concerning elections and asks for sponsors. Will be writing a bill as Senate President Garner suggested concerning issues between judiciary and legislation.
- Minority Party Leader Zimmer will also be writing legislation to make changes about bringing failed legislation to the floor, reach out if you want to help write it. Thanks, Girschick for her presentation.
- Senator White: Apologizes for comments that might be emotionally charged during time in the chamber. Wants to see action.
- Senator Chou: Brings up legislation he is working on and invites anyone who wants to help or sponsor to reach out to him.
- Senator Kantamneni: Thanks Girschick and reminds everyone it will be Senator LaRue's birthday tomorrow.
- Senator: Thanks, Girschick and Wynton White and all committee members on Budget.
- Senator Utt: Talks about legislation he is working on. Will be continue trying to discharge legislation.
- Senate Pro Temp Brown: Thanks Budget committee and Girschick.
- Senator Trejos: Thanks Budget and Girschick. HSA is having hygiene kit drive due August 1st, email HSA to get involved.
- Senator Glasserman: Reminds everyone of voting deadlines.
- Senator Rodriguez: Happy Birthday to Kays. Talks about legislation about asking UF to end prison labor use.
- Chairwoman Girschick: Thanks committee for hard work.

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Nelson motions to use voter records as final roll call by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.