

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020 – 1042**

**TITLE: 300 Codes Amendment**

**AUTHOR(S): Judiciary Chairman Franco Luis, Rules & Ethics Chairwoman Feraby Hoffman**

**SPONSOR(S): Majority Party Leader Gabriella Zlatanoff**

**CHAPTER 304 VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

304.1            The Student Senate and the committees of the Student Senate may only conduct virtual meetings in the event of a federal, state, or local state of emergency as determined by the University of Florida administration impacting the Student Senate’s ability to meet in-person.

304.2            Virtual meetings will be conducted in a manner consistent with Student Body Law.

CHAPTER 323 SENATE ATTENDANCE (73-150, 74-133, 75-182, 76-204, 76-206, 76-245, 77-118, 80-180, 81-112, 82-177, 82-122, 82-170, 83-111, 83-115, 88-133, 94-114, 97-108, 98-100, 98-119, 2000-146, 2002-128, 2002-159, 2004-127, 2005-123, 2006-125, 2007-144, 2008-118, 2008-129, 2011-117, 2012-102, 2014-111, 2015-109)

- 323.1 Student Senators are required to attend Student Senate meetings.
- 323.2 A roll call shall be made at the beginning and end of each Student Senate meeting. Absence from either a quorum call, roll call, or roll call vote shall constitute one half (1/2) absence. Absence from both roll calls shall constitute one (1) absence, provided that only one absence may be accumulated per meeting.
- 323.3 Upon accumulation of two (2) absences in the Fall or Spring term or one (1) absence in the Summer A or Summer B term, a Student Senator shall receive an attendance warning letter via e-mail.
- 323.31 Absences shall reset at the beginning of each new term. The Rules and Ethics Committee may take action on absences from the previous term within one month of the new term beginning provided the Student Senator has not been re-elected.
- 323.32 All Student Senators, whether elected or appointed, shall submit an affiliation form to the Senate President or Senate Secretary by the third meeting after the Student Senator's election or appointment, otherwise the seat may be declared vacant as provided by the Rules and Procedures.
- 323.33 During the Summer A and Summer B terms, if a Student Senator accumulates two (2) unexcused or three (3) combined absences (excused or unexcused) from the Student Senate, it shall constitute resignation by non-attendance. During the Fall and Spring terms, if a Student Senator accumulates three (3) unexcused or four (4) combined absences (excused or unexcused) from the Student Senate, it shall constitute resignation by non-attendance.
- 323.34 Upon resignation by nonattendance of a Student Senator, the Rules and Ethics Chairperson shall send a letter by email or standard post, ~~co-signed by the Senate President,~~ to notify the Student Senator of his or her resignation. The Rules and Ethics Chairperson shall notify the Senate President Pro-Tempore before the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting.
- 323.4 The Rules and Ethics Committee shall hear appeals from this chapter.
- 323.41 If a Student Senator wishes to submit an appeal of his or her resignation by non-attendance, the Student Senator must do so within seven (7) calendar days of postmark to the Rules and Ethics Chairman via email or standard post. Provided the Seat has not been filled, this deadline may be waived at the discretion of the Rules and Ethics Committee only in extenuating circumstances.

323.42 If a Student Senator appeals after having resigned by non-attendance, that Student Senator may be reinstated and up to two (2) absences removed for good cause shown, upon recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) of the Rules and Ethics Committee and majority vote of the Student Senate, provided such Student Senator has not been replaced in accordance with Chapter 340.

323.43 Failure to receive a warning letter after reaching two absences during the Fall or Spring term or after reaching one absence in the Summer A or Summer B term shall not be used as an acceptable argument in appeal.

323.44 Any newly elected Student Senator, whether elected for the first time or re-elected to the Student Senate will begin the term of office with "zero" absences.

323.45 The following guidelines shall be used for unacceptable reasons for absences from the regular Student Senate meetings.

1. "Regular meetings of organizations, clubs, committees, etc."
2. Studying or non-University of Florida sponsored review sessions.
3. Out-of-town trips not pertaining to approved Student Senate, Student Government, or University of Florida business, or trips not properly documented for employment interviews (out-of-town trips for reasons of unavoidable personal emergencies may be approved).
4. Regular employment schedules.
5. Regularly scheduled classes.
6. Graduate/Professional School entrance exam preparation courses. This includes but is not limited to LSAT, GMAT, GRE, etc. preparation courses.

323.46 Guidelines to be used for acceptable reasons for absences from the regular Student Senate meetings shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Death in the family
2. Exam, with proper authority signature (This includes but is not limited to professor, teaching assistant, and academic advisor.)
3. Illness
4. Car accidents
5. Acts of God

6. Academic commitments, with proper documentation

323.47 The Student Senate reserves the right to determine the validity of all excuses.

323.48 If a Student Senator believes that an absence should be recorded as excused, that Student Senator must submit an excuse no later than seven (7) calendar days following the absence.

323.5 Student Senators shall receive an attendance credit of one half-absence against past or future absences, provided that such Student Senator has not accumulated the number of absences that would constitute resignation by non-attendance:

1. When the Student Senate meets more than one time per week and said Student Senator is present at four (4) attendance roll calls during a week. This shall not exceed one full credit per semester.
2. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall deem a meeting or event deserving of an attendance credit and must be approved by the 2/3 vote of the Student Senate no less than one week prior to the event or meeting. There will be one half credit per event or meeting, not to exceed one full credit per semester.

323.6 Once a Student Senator has accumulated enough absences to constitute resignation by non-attendance, the Rules and Ethics Committee shall expunge one half-absence from that Student Senator's attendance record for every standing committee for which that Student Senator has attended 80% of meetings held in that term prior to that Student Senator's last absence from a meeting of the Student Senate, even if that Student Senator is not a member of that committee, so long as:

1. In the Fall and Spring terms, that standing committee has met at least eight times in that term prior to that Student Senator's last absence from a meeting of the Student Senate.
2. In the summer terms, that standing committee has met at least three times in that term prior to that Student Senator's last absence from a meeting of the Student Senate.

323.61 Only one half-absence may be expunged from a Student Senator's attendance record through this method per standing committee per term, with a maximum of one absence being expunged from a Student Senator's attendance record through this method per term.

323.7 The Rules & Ethics Committee may recommend to the Student Senate to expunge absences from a Student Senator's record by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

323.8 Absences, attendance credits, and waivers under this Chapter shall apply only

during the term in which they accumulate.

CHAPTER 324 STUDENT SENATOR ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (79-221, 81-155, 82-105, 82-139, 82-164, 82-165, 83-102, 83-200, 84-139, 87-163, 88-117, 88-134, 89-117, 89-118, 89-130, 90-126, 91-118, 92-101, 92-143, 94-114, 95-102, 95-102, 96-116, 98-104, 98-120, 99-122, 2000-146, 2000-154, 2002-143, 2002-158, 2003-122, 2004-122, 2005-118, 2005-140, 2006-112, 2006-131, 2006-132, 2007-105, 2007-105, 2007-144, 2008-124, 2008-140, 2010-122, 2012-100, 2014-100, 2014-11, 2015-109, 2019-114, 2020-100)

324.1 The timeline for completing constituency requirements shall be as follows:

1. There will be four (4) constituency periods coinciding with the four (4) academic semesters: Fall, Spring, Summer A, and Summer B.
2. Constituency periods shall be defined as follows:
  - a. The Fall constituency period shall begin on the first day of classes for the Fall academic semester and end on the date of the last Student Senate meeting of the Fall academic semester.
  - b. The Spring constituency period shall begin on the first day of classes for the Spring academic semester and end on the date of the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring academic semester.
  - c. The Summer A constituency period shall begin on the first day of classes for the Summer A academic semester and end on the date of the final Student Senate meeting of the Summer A academic semester.
  - d. The Summer B constituency period shall begin on the first day of classes for the Summer B academic semester and end on the date of the final Student Senate meeting of the Summer B academic semester.
  - e. The constituency periods shall be enforced and announced each term by the Rules and Ethics Committee.
  - f. Newly elected Student Senators must complete all constituency requirements for the constituency period in which they were elected.

324.2 In order to fulfill constituency requirements, all Student Senators must complete the following with proper documentation, as defined in 324.23:

1. For Professional School Senators:
  - a. In the Fall and Spring, Professional School Senators can attend one (1) meeting of an academic organization related to their respective college or one (1) Student Government event, or complete (1) hour of tabling per constituency period. Any combination of these requirements will be acceptable, so long as a total of three (3) requirements are completed.
  - b. In Summer A and Summer B, Professional School Senators must complete any two of the requirements listed in 324.2(1)(a).

2. For Graduate Senators:
  - a. In the Fall and Spring, Graduate Senators can attend two (2) Graduate student organization meetings or special events, or complete one (1) hour of tabling per constituency period. Any combination of these requirements will be acceptable, so long as a total of three (3) requirements are completed.
  - b. In Summer A and Summer B, Graduate Senators must complete any two of the requirements listed in 324.2(2)(a).
3. For College Senators:
  - a. In the Fall and Spring, College Senators must attend one (1) meeting of an academic organization related to their respective college or one (1) Student Government event, and one (1) Student Government-funded event, and complete two (2) hours of tabling per constituency period.
  - b. In Summer A and Summer B, College Senators must complete two different requirements listed in 324.2(3)(a).
4. For On-campus Senators:
  - a. In the Fall and Spring, On-campus Senators must attend one (1) IRHA meeting or special event, one (1) respective Area Government meeting or special event, and one (1) Student Government event or Student Government-funded event, and complete two (2) hours of tabling per constituency period.
  - b. In Summer A and Summer B, On-campus Senators must complete two different requirements listed in 324.2(4)(a).
5. For Family Housing Senator(s):
  - a. In the Fall and Spring, Family Housing Senator(s) must attend two (2) Mayors Council meetings or special events and one (1) Student Government event or Student Government-funded event, and complete two (2) hours of tabling per constituency period.
  - b. In Summer A and Summer B, Family Housing Senator(s) must complete two different requirements listed in 325.2(5)(a).
6. For District Senators:
  - a. In the Fall and Spring, District Senators must attend one (1) City or County Commission meeting, one (1) Student Government-funded organization event (excluding IRHA), and one (1) Student Government event, and complete two (2) hours of tabling per constituency period.

- b. In Summer A and Summer B, District Senators must complete two different requirements listed in 326.2(6)(a).
  - 7. For Freshman and Sophomore Senators:
    - a. In the Fall and Spring, Freshman and Sophomore Senators must attend one (1) meeting of an academic organization related to their respective college, one (1) Student Government event, and one (1) Student Government-funded event, and complete two (2) hours of tabling per constituency period.
    - b. In Summer A and Summer B, Freshman and Sophomore Senators must complete two different requirements listed in 327.2(7)(a)
- 324.21 Legislative Intent: In 324.2(1)(a) and 324.2(2)(a), it is provided that Graduate Senators and senators representing professional schools may complete any combination of the listed requirements. Graduate Senators and senators representing professional schools are the only senators who may fulfill constituency requirements by completing two of the same requirements. The distinction is made, because there may be insufficient opportunities available for Graduate Senators and senators representing professional schools to fulfill each requirement.
- 324.22 For the purpose of constituency requirements:
1. Student Government-funded organizations are those that receive funding through the Budget & Appropriations Committee.
  2. ACCENT and SGP meetings or special events do not count toward the fulfillment of constituency requirements.
  3. Senators can only attend one meeting or special event of a particular organization per constituency period.
  4. An SG event is one hosted by, or in partnership with, either the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branches of Student Government.
  5. All events must be open to the public and may not be an exclusionary meeting of an organization, such as, for example, one solely for executive board members.
  6. The Senate Secretary can, upon request, provide a list of all Student Government-funded organizations.
- 324.23 Appropriate documentation for the fulfillment of constituency requirements shall be as follows:
1. Student Senators must fill out the constituency requirement form provided by the Rules and Ethics Committee.
  2. The constituency requirement form shall be submitted no later than one week following the meeting or special event or any other such requirement.

- a. The Rules and Ethics Committee may review the completed constituency requirements weekly at its regular meetings.

324.24 The Rules and Ethics Committee reserves the right to verify completion of constituency requirements with the organization's President or with representatives from the City and County Commission, as well as the representatives from the organizational meetings.

324.3 Replacement Student Senators shall complete constituency requirements as follows:

1. Student Senators appointed prior to the first meeting following the Fall or Spring elections must complete all constituency requirements for that period.
2. At least one (1) constituency requirement will be removed from the total constituency requirements of Student Senators appointed after the first two meetings of the term. The deduction will be calculated by removing one requirement for every two weeks after the first meeting of the term and will be rounded down (i.e., if a Student Senator is appointed after three weeks, it will count as two weeks or if appointed after seven weeks it will count as six weeks.)
3. Replacement Student Senators appointed in the Summer shall complete constituency requirements as follows:
  - a. All Student Senators appointed during or prior to the fourth week of the Summer A or Summer B term must complete all Summer constituency requirements.
  - b. All Student Senators appointed after the fourth week of the Summer A or Summer B period must complete one (1) point of constituency, excluding Student Senators appointed on the final Student Senate meeting of the period.

324.4 Constituency requirements will be enforced by the Rules and Ethics Committee as follows:

1. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall hold a meeting following each constituency period to determine each Student Senator's compliance with constituency requirements (see 324.2.)
2. If the Rules and Ethics Committee should determine that a Student Senator is not fully compliant with constituency requirements from the previous term, that Student Senator shall be placed on probation according to the following procedures:
3. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall hold a meeting following each constituency period to determine each Student Senator's compliance with constituency requirements (see 324.2.)
4. If the Rules and Ethics Committee should determine that a Student Senator is not fully compliant with the constituency requirements.

- a. A majority vote of the Rules and Ethics Committee should determine that a Student Senator is not fully compliant with her or his constituency requirements.
  - b. Immediately following a determination of noncompliance, the Rules and Ethics Chair and the Senate Secretary shall serve the Student Senator, through standard post, placement in that Student Senator's mailbox, or an e-mail a notification of probationary status and the requirements thereof.
  - c. A copy of this notification shall be on file in the office of the Senate Secretary.
5. All terms of probation must be sufficiently completed within the first fifteen (15) school days of the first Student Senate meeting of the subsequent constituency period within which the Student Senator is acting in the role.
6. The terms of probation shall be as follows:
  - a. Complete the remaining requirements for the constituency group (see 324.2). which shall be in addition to, and not counted towards, the statutorily prescribed constituency requirements.
  - b. Complete one additional event concurrent with the Student Senator's constituency group.
7. If the Rules and Ethics Committee shall determine that a Student Senator is not in compliance with the terms of probation after the constituency probation period ends, that Student Senator shall be considered to have failed probation. Failure of probation shall constitute resignation by non-compliance. removed from the Student Senate.
8. Upon resignation by non-compliance of a Student Senator, the Rules and Ethics Chairperson shall send a letter by email or standard post to notify the Student Senator of his or her resignation. The Rules and Ethics Chairperson shall notify the Senate President Pro-Tempore before the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting.
9. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall hear appeals from this chapter.
10. If a Student Senator wishes to submit an appeal of his or her resignation by non-compliance, the Student Senator must do so within seven (7) calendar days of postmark to the Rules and Ethics Chairperson via email or standard post. Provided the Seat has not been filled, this deadline may be waived at the discretion of the Rules and Ethics Committee only in extenuating circumstances.
11. If a Student Senator appeals after having resigned by non-compliance, that Student Senator may be reinstated upon recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) of the Rules and Ethics Committee and majority vote of the Student Senate, provided such Student Senator has not been replaced in accordance with Chapter 340.

- a. ~~The Student Senator shall be summoned to appear in front of the Rules and Ethics Committee for the purpose of determining whether that Student Senator should retain office.~~
  - b. ~~Immediately following this hearing, the Rules and Ethics Committee must determine whether it will recommend expulsion.~~
  - c. ~~If a majority of the Rules and Ethics Committee shall vote to recommend expulsion, then such recommendation shall be placed on the agenda of the Student Senate meeting most immediately subsequent to such recommendation.~~
  - d. ~~Recommendations for expulsion shall be placed on the agenda and heard during the weekly report of the Rules and Ethics Committee.~~
  - e. ~~A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate shall then be sufficient to authorize the expulsion of a Student Senator, who has not submitted a valid request for appeal, for noncompliance with these provisions, and no expulsion shall be effective without such authorization from the Student Senate.~~
  - f. ~~Any Student Senator recommended for expulsion by the Rules and Ethics Committee may appeal their expulsion to the floor of the Student Senate which may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, override the recommendation of the Rules and Ethics Committee.~~
    - i. ~~The Senate President Pro Tempore shall make an announcement concerning the vacancy of an expelled Student Senator's seat, and the Replacement and Agenda Committee shall hold interviews to fill such vacancy unless the expelled Student Senator submits a declaration of intent to appeal the expulsion.~~
    - ii. ~~An expulsion by reason of noncompliance with the stipulations of these provisions shall become effective immediately upon the conclusion of the Student Senate meeting at which the expulsion is either announced to or affirmed by the Student Senate.~~
    - iii. ~~All valid requests for appeal must be submitted by 12 PM Local Standard Time on the Monday before the Student Senate meeting at which the expulsion recommendations will be heard.~~
    - iv. ~~All valid requests for appeal must include the following components:
      - 1. ~~a brief personal statement communicating the arguments the Student Senator shall use to support the appeal,~~
      - 2. ~~the date and time the appeal was submitted,~~
      - 3. ~~the signature of the Senate Secretary verifying the appeal was submitted properly and on time.~~~~
    - v. ~~Once a valid request for appeal has been properly and~~
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~~satisfactorily submitted, the appeal shall be placed on the agenda of the Student Senate meeting occurring most immediately subsequent to valid receipt of such appeal.~~

~~1. Appeals shall be placed on the agenda to be heard during the weekly report of the Rules and Ethics Committee.~~

~~2. The appeal shall be heard according to the following format:~~

~~a. First, the expelled Student Senator shall have five (5) minutes to present and support an appeal.~~

~~b. Next, the Rules and Ethics Chair shall have five (5) minutes to present and support the findings of the Rules and Ethics Committee.~~

~~c. Then, the expelled Student Senator shall have three (3) minutes to rebut the statements of the Rules and Ethics Chair and to present final summation of her or his reasons for appeal.~~

~~d. Finally, the Student Senate shall vote on the appeal.~~

~~g. Should the Rules and Ethics Committee determine that expulsion should not be sought, the committee must recommend alternative resolution and the Rules and Ethics Chair must communicate this recommendation in the weekly report.~~

12. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall be responsible for posting an update of the fulfillment of constituency requirements monthly and must communicate the status of constituency requirements to the Student Senate at least once a month, during the weekly Rules and Ethics Chair report.
13. If unforeseen circumstances arise, the Rules and Ethics Committee may grant exceptions to these requirements as approved by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the Student Senate.



CHAPTER 340 VACANCY REPLACEMENTS (Origin unknown; 68-132, 68-138, 72-108, 72-166, 72-193, 73-221, 76-135, 76-201, 76-202, 77-206, 81-112, 82-101, 82-118, 81-121, 82-166, 83-123, 84-134, 84-166, Fall Election 1985 Initiative passed 340.72, 86-155, 86-156, 87-138, 87-159, 90-133, 90-151, 91-119, 94-114, 94-122, 98-100, 98-114, 2000-136, 2001-138, 2005-126, 2006-101, 2007-118, 2008-138, 2015-109)

- 340.1 A Student Senate seat shall be vacant when the incumbent Student Senator:
1. Fails to maintain the legal qualifications for office (SB Statutes 732.2) except for Student Senators who, during the summer, are not enrolled and instead invoke SB Statute 309.2.
  2. Representing a living area fails to maintain residence in that living area, except where non-residence is unavoidable due to the temporary closing of that living area.
  3. Representing a college or school transfers from that College or School; but transferring from Undergraduate Freshman Class or Undergraduate Sophomore Class shall not cause the seat to be vacated. (Article III, Section 2(b))
  4. Submits a written resignation to the President of the Student Senate.
  5. Is expelled from the Student Senate, in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 330.
  6. ~~Is expelled from the Student Senate for failure to complete constituency requirements, in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 324.3~~ Fails to meet the constituency requirements in Chapter 324.
  7. Fails to meet the attendance requirements in Chapter 323.
  8. Fills or continues to hold an office in the Judicial or Executive branches of Student Government in violation of Chapter 130.
  9. Fails to register for summer course work at the University of Florida in either Summer A, B, or C, or any combination thereof.
- 340.11 Definitions
1. Vacancy: A vacancy in the Student Senate shall occur upon the resignation, removal, expulsion, or impeachment of a Student Senator or upon the abandonment of the seat by the Student Senator.
  2. Replacement: Replacement of a Student Senator is the filling of a vacated Student Senate seat.
- 340.12 Exceptions shall be provided for in the Senate Rules & Procedures.
- 340.2 For all Student Senate seats vacated under the provisions of 340.1, the Replacement and Agenda Committee shall be responsible for declaring such seats vacant at two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Student Senate, in which] quorum has been established before a recommendation may be made by the R&A Committee, except for Summer Replacements, which will require only one declaration.
- 340.21 Vacant seats shall be advertised in conspicuous locations by the Information and Communication Committee, as per the Senate Rules and Procedures.

- 340.3 No person shall serve through the next regular election as a replacement Student Senator, unless said Student Senator has qualified for candidacy in a Student Government election during the intervening time period preceding the Student Senator's application for consecutive replacement seat.
- 340.4 A sitting Student Senator may not be nominated to fill a vacant seat without resignation of the current seat.
- 340.5 Any person previously elected or appointed to fill a Student Senate seat may not be nominated to a vacant seat prior to the conclusion of that person's latest elected or appointed term of office, unless the vacant seat is of the same class (Fall or Spring) of Student Senate seats as the seat last held by the person seeking nomination. This does not apply to Summer Replacement Student Senators as described in 309.22.
- 340.6 Nominees must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Senate at a regular Meeting, and shall assume all rights and duties of office immediately upon such approval.
- 340.7 Vacancies which occur during the Summer Term will be filled in accordance with this Chapter and Chapter 322, except for provisions in Chapter 340.2.
- 340.8 If, at any time, a number of vacancies occur simultaneously such that quorum would be unattainable to approve vacancy replacements, within a reasonable period of time after accumulation of said total vacancies, the Senate President shall announce that a joint meeting of the Student Senate Executive Committee and the Replacement and Agenda Committee will be convened no earlier than seven (7) and no more than fourteen (14) calendar days succeeding said announcement, for the purpose of interviewing and appointing replacements for said Student Senate seat vacancies until enough vacancies are filled so that quorum is attainable.
- 340.81 Quorum for the joint meeting pursuant to 340.6 shall be a majority of the combined membership for the Replacement & Agenda Committee and the Senate Executive Committee – duplicate members notwithstanding.
- 340.82 The Information and Communication Committee shall be responsible for actively publicizing the situation listed and procedures pursuant to this Chapter.
- 340.83 At the joint meeting of the Student Senate Executive Committee and the Replacement and Agenda Committee, the Senate President Pro-Tempore shall preside and shall direct interview and appointment procedures.
- 340.84 Upon publication of the situation set forth in 340.6 and of all Student Senate seat vacancies in the conspicuous locations listed in the Senate Rules and Procedures, and upon consideration of applicants, the joint meeting of the Student Senate Executive Board and the Replacement and Agenda Committee under 340.6 shall make appointments to fill Student Senate seat vacancies. Said appointments shall take effect immediately upon notification of appointees and proper public notice of

appointment.



