

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

### **November 17th, 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 a total of 78 senators present.

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

- **Garcia**
- **Geis**
- **Lordi**
- **Martinez, A.**
- **Potthast**
- **Scheur**
- **White, W.**
- **Wildermouth**
- **Wolfgang**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Senator Sanchez:**
  - The rules and procedures amendment has major changes in it that were not overviewed by the committee.
  - Rule 14 was not addressed in the meeting.
  - All bills, resolutions would only be able to be offered by SG officials under this amendment.
  - Many resolutions are often written by students, not SG officials or even senators.
  - These students have undertaken a great amount of research so their voices are heard.
  - Bills on the website show the contributions added on by students and staff.
  - There could be a serious plagiarism issue if a student has to go through a senator in order for it to be written and brought to the senate.
  - The message is “ That you don't care what students have to say”.
  - It is important that there are many records for future and past students to look at what we have done.
  - Restriction on future legislator should not be made now.
  - This was brought to the judiciary meeting over the summer.
  - There are some good changes, but the amendment today is not okay.
  - Distinction between effectiveness and advantageousness.
  - We should operate in a manner to involve the student body.
- **Grace Shoemaker**
  - Read over the rules and procedures amendments and found that many revisions are very hurtful.
  - Part B ruled to make a 11:59pm Monday deadline for public comment.

- Many of these amendments make no sense and attempt to silence the student body voice.
- You will see a decrease in student representation if this amendment passes.
- Those with mental health will be impacted by this amendment.
- Public speaking anxiety affects about 73% of the population. By making a harsher deadline, many students may skip out on speaking.
- This amendment will create issues for the Senate president and secretary.
- Was able to speak in Orlando during public comment, where she only had to show up 30 minutes prior to the meeting.
- To attempt to push back students is absurd and should not be allowed to pass.
- Colin Solomon
  - Introduces himself.
  - Connected to students he represented through various means.
  - Was threatened with lawsuits in June and gaslighted by multiple members of student government.
  - The Gator Party has shown cruelty towards himself.
  - The legislation on the senate floor today is aggressive to organizations such as his own.
  - For 60 years members of the community were able to cosign on code revisions.
  - Wants to make it impossible for students to make a change on their campus.
  - Reasoning is based on the U.S. Senate.
  - Employed by the US Senate, and can tell everyone in UF senate it is not the same.
  - The leadership would be proportional if it was anything like US Senate.
  - Student Government is simply a pipeline for local or state positions.
  - Student organizations make the real changes on campus.
  - You have no concern for the health and wellbeing of others.
  - Fail this amendment. If you want to make a change, reach out to students.
  - Write legislation that helps local communities.
  -
- Senator Driscoll
  - Hopes to pass bill 1064 tonight.
- Shawn Zimmer
  - Introduces himself.
  - Hopes to speak on the rules and procedures amendment, which is similar to a bill that failed over the summer.
  - During the summer a bill identical to this was failed by both parties.
  - Hopes to educate those that are new to this bill on why it received such great opposition.
  - The first issue is the change in public comment deadline. It is there to limit the amount of people who speak.
  - R&A typically meets Sunday to set the agenda, and it is not released until Monday.
  - This is not sufficient time to decide whether or not a student wants to speak.
  - Many government entities allow public comment request until the call to order.
  - Has faith in senate president to not overstep his power.

- Makes Robert's rules non binding.
  - Will break senate in ways that the bill has not perceived.
  - I have written many bills none were without a sponsor.
- Minority Party Leader Seaberg:
  - Written solely by the members of the majority party.
  - Hopes to act in a bipartisan manner with the majority party, but this amendment did just the opposite.
  - I will primarily speak on the issue on public comment.
  - Wants constituents to be able to come publicly and express concerns to the senate.
  - This legislation now requires all requests to be done before 11:59 pm on Monday.
  - Simply making a deadline an hour before senate would be reasonable.
  - This chamber could be held liable for silencing students.
  - Restricts those who have evening activities on Monday.
  - Those with anxiety or mental illness may suffer from this ammendment, which would result in unfair discrimination.
- Senator Lin:
  - Hopes to speak against the rules and procedures amendment tonight.
  - Wants to focus on the less talked about amendments.
  - The third amendment is especially untimely, as it would force senators to meet in person during a pandemic.
  - The senate should be able to decide where and how we will meet.
  - Points of order and information all have rational proposition, as they seek to ask for more information and make sure everyone is well informed.
  - Under amendments to rule 7.
  - Committee would be able to hear candidates in a block, which would make it difficult to separate qualified candidates from unqualified candidates.
  - Under amendments to rule 17 this would eliminate coalitions as a whole.
  - There are some worthy amendments in this bill.
  - This bill does not give enough time to students to decide whether or not they want to speak in public comment.
  - This bill gives too much power to the Senate president.
  - Allowing student's voices to be heard is a major piece of what senate is about.
  - Unfortunately the negatives in this bill outweigh th positives.
  - Senate defeated a version of this bill in the summer before the incoming super-majority.
  - Urges senators in the majority parter to not be afraid to vote no on this amendment today.
- Julia Collins:
  - Introduces herself as an "average student".
  - When she stops to talk to parties in Turkington, she listens.
  - Throughout the years she has learned that student government should properly represent her.
  - Though small the minority party senators are good people.
  - If you pass your current version of this amendment, you would take away the right for students to be heard.
  - Equal representation should be upheld in this student senate.

- Senator Lea:
  - Introduces herself.
  - Wishes to share her grievances on the bill
  - The creation of a diversity and equity inclusion liaison is much necessary, as well as a calendar that is equal to all religions.
  - This will bar students from co-authoring, authoring, and sponsoring resolutions.
  - Senators will be the only people to sponsor legislation.
  - The proposed changes will revise the public comment ruling to be due by midnight the night before senate.
  - How is this restriction necessary ?
  - Gator party has the super majority in this chamber, so why must they change a permanent bill?
  - Urges all students to take note of which senators urge to skip the debate.
  - The silence should be telling.
  - Expresses her gratitude to former senators Bruce Glasserman and Mohammed Faisal for bringing the issue of religious holidays exceptions to the senate chamber during the summer.
  
- Jake Shannin:
  - Wants to discuss the transformative breakthrough on base funding and thanks the senators for the change.
  - The bill today threatens these reforms.
  - This bill gives monarchy to the senate president.
  - Will lose charter if a monarchy forms.
  - This would affect base funding.
  - 40 percent of our current budget is on food.
  - All the funding bills will be at stake without the passing of this bill.
  - We need to pass amendments 1-7 by unanimous consent.
  - These are more than performative.
  
- Sahil Patel:
  - Introduces himself.
  - Is concerned about his rights being violated by the bill.
  - This bill failed over the summer for a reason.
  - Stipulates that only student government will be able to author bills.
  - Why would we restrict public comment accessibility.
  - Isn't anything more important than listening to your constituents.
  - What is the reasoning to limit outside ideas?
  - Most legislation that is passed is useless, and most of the important bills passed involved student help.
  - Is a student more knowledgeable than an entire committee of experts.
  - All of you should be asking yourself about these questions.
  - Bills must be accepted to their entirety.
  - What kind of leader doesn't come up with their own opinions?
  - Urges wanna be leaders to vote no on the rules and procedure amendment.
  - Stand up for democracy.
  
- Senator White:

- Is resigning from the senate this evening.
- Is not proud to have his name on many of these resolutions and wishes he had a good time in student government.
- Joined the senate on recommendation from Vice-President to make an impact.
- Used to debate throughout high school and won at Harvard.
- Going out to midtown and not wearing masks is inherently killing people. People have families they need to go home to and you are affecting them.
- Our student leaders have not been good examples during the pandemic.
- UF still does not have mandatory testing.
- Irony of vice-president fighting for equality in front of President Obama.
- If President Obama knew what happened in our student government, he would not have allowed Lauredon to open for him.
- Diversity inclusion liaison is not what is needed.
- Policy needs to be passed. There are two distinctions-- there can be workshops but it is just a show. On the other hand, you can pass policy.
- Programming is not enough to show real change.
- Senator Sciabarassi:
  - Here to speak on proposed change to the power of the Senate President.
  - The senate president is elected to ensure that rules are enforced, but he is not elected to create his own rules and undermine fair representation.
  - An inherently partisan position should not have power of non-partisan rules
  - A non partisan operating set of rules is necessary.
- Senator Utt:
  - Rises out of disappointment and shame.
  - A bill that power grabs is a shame to this institution.
  - How could you sign your names to this bill?
  - The words spoken in public comment matter.
  - We were all chosen to be here and it matters how we govern ourselves.
  - When students read the dirtiness of our politics on the Alligator they lose trust in politics.
  - Urges senators who have not read the bill to press the pause button.
  - It matters.
  - Hopes to touch on the online meetings provision, which will discriminate against students that have pre-existing conditions.
  - There is no reason to mandate in person senate meetings.
  - This bill cannot pass if we care about the senate.

***\*\*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:**

- There were none.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Senator Utt moves to strike from the agenda the 2020-1064 Rules and Procedures bill. Seconded.

- Majority Party Leader moves to call previous question. Seconded. In a raising hand vote of 54 to 13, the previous question has been called.
- In a raising hand vote of 14 to 62, that motion fails.
- Chairwoman Groux moves to approve the absent petition for \_\_\_Se

## STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT REPORT

- Gabriela Pombo from Students Taking Action Against Racism:
  - Delivered updates about what Students Taking Action Against Racism has been doing during the semester
- Matteo Hayder from Chomp the Vote:
  - Hopes to update senators on what they've been doing, especially during this election season and throughout these changing circumstances.
  - There was a question as to whether people would turn out due to the pandemic however we still had high turnout in voters.
  - Students have stayed engaged in a variety of ways.
  - Our programming and goals to bring the engagement to students.
  - Was able to educate students on the process of voting and how to fill out the census.
  - Partnered with groups across campus to increase voter registration and voter turnout.
  - Launched an initiative to raise awareness in voter registration within club ambassadors.
  - Hosted the commission on the status of women in the state of Florida.
  - Worked with Accent to bring senators to speak on civil engagement.
  - Worked with HSA to bring civil engagement members on the importance of voting.
  - Proud that the student body president and his team helped with our initiative.
  - Work will continue, even after election season.
- William Thames from Nightlife Navigators
  - We recently got our staff together and now we are looking into alcohol awareness week.
  - Hopes to educate student on ways to stay safe during these times.
  - Working with UFPD and next semester will be looking into our helmet safety week.

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

- Senate President Brown welcomes the senators.
  - The class cohorts form was recently sent out via email.
  - Feel free to reach out for a one on one.

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

- Majority Party Leader Robinson motions to call previous question on Jake Siegal. Seconded.
  - In a raising of hand vote of 61 to 6 the previous question has been called.
  - Raising hand vote of 70 to 0. Jake Siegal is confirmed.

- Majority Party Leader Robinson motions to call previous question on Kendall Renning.
  - Motion to call the previous question
  - In a vote of 62 to 5 the previous question was called
  - In a vote of 72 to 0 Kendall Renning has been approved
- Majority Party Leader Robinson motions to call previous question on Kyler Gray.
  - In a vote of 71 to 3 the previous question has been called
  - In a vote of 67 to 0 Kyler Gray has been approved

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Zlatanoff welcomes the senators.
  - Open Committee Seat:
    - Budget
  - Open Permanent Seats:
    - Graduate and Family Housing
    - Dentistry
    - Graduate (4)
    - Medicine
    - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
    - Construction
  - Please do not forget your voter record.

#### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman White welcomes the Senators.
  - Working on the budget bill.
  - We have an open seat for the committee.

#### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Luis welcomes the senators.
  - There is no report tonight.

#### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman Groux welcomes the senators.
  - Created a google form to help with constituency.
  - Feel free to email me for any questions.
  - Also don't forget to turn in voter record.

#### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairman Kays welcomes the senators.
  - Please fill out the mentor/mentee forms.
  - Don't forget to fill out the class cohort form.
  - Working on Senator Headshots.

#### **MINORITY LEADER REPORT:**

- Minority Leader Seaberg:
  - The R&A meeting lasted five minutes, yet one of the most controversial pieces was not discussed during the meeting.
  - The amendment makes a mockery of this chamber and the student body.
  - This chamber often calls previous question. This senate discourages debate.

### **FIRST READINGS:**

- Student Senate Bill 2020-1064
  - Majority Party Leader moves to suspend rule 6 to hear the amendments before the bill by raise of hands . Seconded.
  - In a raising hand vote of 59 to 11, that motion passes and rule 6 is suspended.
- Senator Utt moves to add a period of debate for 5 minutes on each side by raise of hands.
  - In a raising hand vote of 11 to 57, that motion fails.
- Majority Party Leader motions to make a special rule to unsuspend rule 6. Seconded.
  - In a raising hand vote of 65 to 7 that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader moves to suspend rule 6 1.F to hear the amendments before the bill by raise of hands . Seconded.
  - In a raising hand vote of 59 to 13 rule 6 1.F has been suspended.
- Senator Utt moves to add 2 minutes of pro and con debate from both sides and 2 minutes of non debatable technical questions. By raise of hands. Seconded
  - In a raising hand vote of 44 to 31 that process has been added.
- Majority Party Leader moves to call the previous question by raise of hands
  - In a raising hand vote of 56 to 14 the previous question has been called
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to fail amendment one. Seconded.
  - In a raising hand vote of 50 to 17 the amendment fails.
- Majority Party Leader moves to call the previous question on amendment 2 by raise of hands
  - In a raising hand vote of 54 to 13 the amendment fails.
- Senator Utt moves to approve amendment 2 by raise of hands. seconded.
  - In a raising hand vote of 14 to 57 that motion fails.
- Senator Utt moves to add a special rule that states that previous questions can not be called on the previous question. Seconded
- Senator Utt moves to use a roll call vote on the previous question by raise of hands.
  - In a raising hand vote of 12 to 58 that motion fails
- Senator Utt moves to add a special rule that states that previous questions can not be called on the previous question. Seconded
  - In a raising hand vote of 12 to 57 that special rule will not be added.
- Senator Utt moves to call the previous question on amendment 2. Seconded
  - In a raising hand vote of 60 to 13 that amendment fails.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question on amendment 3 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a vote of 61 to 11 that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to fail amendment 3 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.



- In a raise of hand vote of 57 to 12 that amendment fails.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question on amendment 4 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hand vote of 55 to 11 the previous question has been called.
- Senator Utt moves to approve amendment 4 by a raise of hands vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hand vote of 12 to 57 amendment 4 has not been approved,
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to fail amendment 4 by a raise of hands vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hand vote of 57 to 12 amendment 4 has been failed.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question on amendment 5 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hands vote of 56 to 13 the question was called.
- Senator Utt moves to approve amendment 5 by a raise of hands vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hand vote of 14 to 54 that motion fails.
- Majority Party LEader Robinson moves to fail amendment 5 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hand vote of 53 to 15 amendment 5 has been failed.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question on amendment 6 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hand vote of 53 to 11 the previous question was called
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to vote on amendment 6 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hands vote of 14 to 58 amendment 6 fails.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question on amendment 7 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hands vote of 57 to 12 the previous question was called
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to vote on amendment 7 by a raising hand vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hands vote of 16 to 52 the amendment fails.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question.
  - Objected by Senator Utt
    - In a raise of hands vote of 14 to 57 that motion fails.
- Majority Party Leader Robinson moves to call the previous question by raise of hands vote. Seconded.
  - In a raise of hands vote of 51 to 15 the previous question has been called.
  - By a raise of hands vote of 52 to 13 this bill has been approved
- Senator Utt moves for a 15 minute recess.
  - In a raise of hands vote of 9 to 58 that motion fails.
- Chairman Luis moves to call previous question on 2020-1065 Resolution Addressing the Need for the UF Office of the University Registrar to Adopt an Electronic Transcript Service by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - In a raising hand vote of 71 to 0, that resolution passes.

## **SECOND READINGS:**

- There were none.

**VETOED LEGISLATION:**

- There were none.

**BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Utt: That was disappointing, and wanted to be able to provide a reason for denying the bill. Meeting in person would discriminate against students at home with potential disabilities.
- Senator Lea: Will be stepping in as co-chair for LGBTQ plus caucus invited any LGBTQ plus or allies to join caucus.
- Minority Party Leader Seaberg: Published for the first time in the Alligator newspaper.
- Senator Saini: Thank you for adopting the resolution, hopes to see action in the near future.
- Senator Kantamneni: ISA is holding a meeting this Thursday at 6pm.
- Senator Saini: Sikh student association having an event on Saturday

**ROLL CALL:**

- There was a motion to use to complete a final roll call vote by unanimous consent.  
Approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.