

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

February 2nd, 2021

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 76 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Fenning**
- **Garcia**
- **Hartzog**
- **Labh**
- **Markatia**
- **Martinez, G.**
- **Pecora**
- **Rajagopal**
- **Rothenberg**
- **Sciabarassi**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Mitchell Reid:**
 - Introduces himself.
 - Wants to discuss UF's history with Aramark, who provides food services to UF.
 - Not a great company.
 - History with prison slavery and other human rights abuses, yet it is not well publicized.
 - Requires state prisoners to work on fields and package food, provides food to prisons that often have maggots and rats in them.
 - Local workers are paid less per hour than their off campus counterparts.
 - Aramark regularly covers up cases of sexual assault cases against managers and executives.
 - Food Aramark produces has been under pressure by the FDA by questionable practices.
 - Prison slavery, sexual assault, and food that includes maggots is not good.
 - Wants to see the UF student government take steps to distance UF from Aramark.
 - Wants the UF student government to not renew the Aramark contract and add the stipulation of Alachua Food Justice League contract.

- Many schools, including NYU, have cut off Aramark entirely and we would like UF to do the same.
- We should not support blatant human rights violations.
- Rachel Khoury:
 - Introduces herself as VP of the NAACP UF Chapter.
 - UF continues to use Aramark as the on campus provider, despite knowing the issues at hand.
 - Aramark has come under extreme scrutiny and has been accused of extreme health and sanitation violations.
 - Across the US, Aramark employees have been fired for drug dealing within prisons and sexual abuse.
 - This is part of a growing movement against the prison system that continues to pay cents on the hours or no money at all.
 - This labor is forced by private companies.
 - Slavery is illegal by the 13th Amendment, yet a modern-day version of slavery is occurring before our eyes.
 - Our coalition of organizations have organized around these issues and laid out their demands.
 - UF includes stipulations laid out by the Food Justice League and the criteria to negotiate for campus dining options.
 - Demand that UF specify in the upcoming negotiations that the chosen provider will not utilize prison labor in any way.
 - We should all be aware that we are complacent and contributors if we do not speak out against this issue at hand.
 - Asks the senate to pass a resolution that opposes the use of prison labor and human rights violations.
 - UF students will be engaging in the boycott until this is changed.
 - FSU has recently passed a resolution due to this issue through these organizations.
 - Negotiations for a new contract will be renewed this month, so we are pressed for time.
- Senator Sanchez:
 - Wants to bring attention to the Mccarty Initiative.
 - Everything except for one acre is to be replaced with a new educational building.
 - This nature preserve is easy to access for students and is a fantastic place for students.
 - The 2021 master plan plans to demolish all of it.
 - Environmental health should be at the forefront of UF values.
 - In the 2010 UF master plan, the Mccarty Woods were labeled as needing to be preserved and saved.
 - Now, a decade later, we plan to demolish?

- Look up @savemccartywoods on Instagram for more information.
- Dayanna Peek:
 - We need SG to step up to deter UF from renewing their contract with aramark.
 - We want the student government to speak on the students behalf.
 - Don't let your money go to a system that perpetuates racism.
- Oluwabusayo Oni:
 - Wishes everyone a happy first senate meeting of Black History month.
 - Hope you seek out equality and justice for minorities on a daily basis.
 - Introduces herself.
 - Hopes to speak on the atrocities with the UF contract with Aramark.
 - The renewal of the contract has a unique way for UF to address ethical sourcing and to become a leader in higher education.
 - The standards of our current contract are abysmal and contradict remarks on separating itself from the Florida Department of Correctional Offices.
 - Urges everyone to sign the blue Justice Petition.
 - Ask for more transparency in future contracts.
 - Please do not send money at the Reitz union or at any restaurants around campus.
 - Power of the purse.
 - Please feel free to reach out if interested.
- Blain Amde:
 - Current work with Aramark
 - Plays a video in regard to Aramark and their role in prison labor.
- Senator Utt:
 - Introduces himself.
 - Rise today out of solace and alarm with the current election process.
 - This group of senators saw the end of early voting.
 - There is a reason why the constitution says the Senate should be the sole certifier of election results.
 - If the UF elections are fraudulent then our title as senators means nothing
 - Wants to share disturbances with the current election supervisors.
 - This past election there were only 8 polling locations.
 - Today we have more students on campus, more COVID on campus, yet we are reducing voting options for students and reducing them to fewer polling places.
 - Between this spring and last spring, we have half of the polling locations, and COVID is in full swing still.
 - I am not a candidate in this election. It is about democracy.
 - The fact that this was gutted by the election committee is ridiculous.
 - Today I am launching an official impeachment trial against the Chair of the Elections Commission in his decision to gut early voting and his refusal to respond to emails sent by Senators asking for the reasons of this change.

- Calling on the Senate president Cooper Brown, to personally issue a subpoena to the Chair of the Elections Commission and force him to come and testify for his decision to end early voting.
- I will remind every member of the Senate that we took an oath to uphold the Constitution.
- We have an election Commission that refuses to enforce free elections.
- This is an affront to all of student government and democracy.
- If you cannot run a fair election, you cannot be the Chair of the elections Commission.
- Looks forward to the Senate to hold elected and unelected officials to the Constitution.
- We all have a part to play this.
- There is a reason Article 3 comes before Article 4 and 5.
- Senators were not able to get responses from the Chair of the Elections Commission.

*****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.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Leader Robinson moves to add the President's report by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Leader Robinson moves to add the Committee reports by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Leader Robinson moves to add the absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Leader Robinson moves to add the special rule to hear all absences as a block by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Groux moves to approve said block of absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Explains the issues with the Listserv and what happened with the agenda today.
- Sign up for a one on one if interested.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Zlatanoff welcomes the senators.
- Open Seats:
 - District D
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - Keys
 - Building Construction
 - Dentistry
 - Graduate (4)
 - Health and Human Performance
 - Medicine
 - Liberal Arts and Sciences (2)
 - Agricultural and Life Sciences

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman White welcomes the Senators.
 - The rollover bill is completely finished.
 - All funds will be disbursed to student organizations,

ALLOCATIONS:

- There were none.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Luis welcomes the senators.
 - The Judiciary committee will be meeting this weekend.
 - Please submit any and all legislation by 12pm on Friday.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Groux welcomes the senators.
 - The last day to complete your constituency and probation requirements is tomorrow.
 - There will be a Rules and Ethics meeting at 2pm tomorrow.
 - Fill out your voter records.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairman Kays:
 - Name tags are available, reach out to pick up.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Fineberg: Tomorrow there will be a Gator to Gator Cultivating your career amongst uncertainty. There will be UF alumni present.
- Senator Fleischer: The Women's Student Association is having another GBM this Wednesday, focused on women in incarceration.
- Senator Sanchez: Will add the form to save Mccarty in the chat.

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 8:00 pm.