

SG Debate Script- Spring 2022

8:00pm – Welcome from Supervisor of Elections, Alexandra Stedman

Alexandra Stedman: Hi everyone, welcome to the 16th annual student government debate, hosted by me, the Supervisor of Elections. My name is Alexandra Stedman, for any of you who haven't met me yet, and if you ever need my contact information let me know. We will have that on the screen tonight. We look forward to providing a comprehensive debate featuring the two executive tickets vying to be your next Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer. I hope tonight is a valuable experience and that all members of the student body remember to participate in our student body elections, on February 22nd and 23rd . Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to thank a few people who were instrumental in this process:

- o Danie Adams, RyAnn Gavin, and the entire staff in SG Advising & Operations for their help in preparing for tonight.
- o Thank you to Action SG for agreeing to film tonight's debate so that it can be viewed by students who were unable to attend.

· Finally, I would like to thank and now introduce our moderator for this evening, Mr. Marna Weston.

- o Mr. Marna Weston is a 1994 graduate of the University of Florida receiving dual degrees in History & Telecommunication. As a UF undergrad, he was involved in campus and community activities. He received the City of Gainesville's highest award for diversity & multicultural awareness in 1991. He also served as President of the UF Speech and Debate team. Mr. Weston has served as moderator for many community debates including Accent Presents Governors Richard Thornburg & Michael Dukakis, an ACCENT Marijuana debate, and numerous SG Executive Ticket debates.
- o Mr. Weston serves or has served in a variety of campus positions including: Consultant to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, Administrative Assistant to UPWARD BOUND, UF Speech & Debate Team Alumni Coach, Instructor for Public Speaking in the Colleges of Agriculture, CLAS, and Warrington College of Business, and University Writing Program Instructor for the AIM Program.

8:02pm – Moderator welcomes candidates to stage & covers the rules of the debate

Moderator: Good evening. Well thank you Alexandra for that very generous introduction. I am Marna Weston and it is exciting to be here for another student debate where we will hear from campus leadership. Our candidates this evening, first to my immediate right, the presidential

candidate for the Gator Party Lauren Lemasters. The vice president for the party, Daniel Baddell, and the treasurer candidate Sierra Kantamneni. And now for the Change Party with their presidential candidate Gabrielle Adekunle, the vice presidential candidate Dayanna Peek, and their treasurer candidate Kenya Warner. It is my pleasure at this time in addition to welcoming you to tell you the rules of the debate.

1. Both campaigns shall be granted a maximum of 5 minutes to deliver an opening statement and 3 minutes to deliver a closing statement.
2. One candidate per campaign shall be chosen by the campaign to give the opening statement, and one to give the closing statement. This selected person may give both statements if the campaign so chooses. Any of the specified executive candidates are eligible to speak during this time.
3. Speaking order for the opening and closing statements will be decided by drawing from a hat, executed by the moderator shortly before the debate begins. The campaign winning the draw will decide to speak first or second in both the opening and closing statements. The campaign coming in second will speak during whichever position remains. We performed the draw a few minutes ago and Change Party won the draw. They chose to speak second in both the opening and closing statements. Gator Party will be speaking first.
4. The speaking order for the questions will go in alphabetical order by campaign name, and will rotate order for every question.
5. The campaigns will be provided with equal time to respond to each question. The time provided to respond to each question shall be two minutes. A one minute period will be provided for the rebuttal. And 30 seconds for a second rebuttal.
6. Questions will be asked to the campaigns as a whole, and the campaigns will have to decide which candidate will respond to the question. Once the chosen candidate begins to speak, no other member of the campaign is allowed to respond to the same question during the two minute answer period.
7. Rebuttal may be provided by a candidate other than the candidate who responded initially for any question.
8. Any candidate who goes over the time limit will receive a warning. Upon receiving a third warning, that candidate will be removed from the debate.

With the rules of the debate established and agreed to by both parties prior to the start of the debate, a final reminder that we ask the audience to hold applause until the end of the debate.

You have the honor of being in person tonight, but for the folks at home in the Gator Nation need to be able to hear from these candidates to decide who will win the election. So I would like to give you one last opportunity until the end to applaud for whatever side you want, as much as you want, right now.

No further interruptions please.

8:07pm – I now invite a representative from the Gator Party to give their opening statement.

Lauren Lemasters: Good evening Gators, my name is Lauren Lemasters and I am running to be your next Student Body President. I would like to start by thanking our moderator, Marna Weston, our Supervisor of Elections, Ali Stedman, Action SG, and our fantastic team at Student Government Advising and Operations for making this debate possible tonight. And thank you all for taking the time out of your Tuesday night to come hear about how Gator Party is committed to serving with you, for you.

I am joined tonight by my running mates, Daniel Baddell and Sierra Kantamneni. These individuals are nothing short of incredible. And, I am so excited for you to hear from them. Coming from Cuba at age 5, Daniel has drive and passion like no one else on this campus.

brief interruption due to technical issues.

Thank you everyone for your patience. Daniel has drive and passion like no one else on this campus. He has a unique talent for creating spaces where everyone knows they belong and will see a need and then stop at nothing until innovative solutions are put in place to address it. Daniel currently serves as Cabinet Chair overseeing our Transition Division and creating a culture where Cabinet not only creates events, but implements programs and fosters community where needed. He was the first ever First Generation Affairs Cabinet Director and in that role founded the First Gen Living Learning Community through Student Government. He has also served as a leader and mentor within the Hispanic Student Association. As Student Body Vice President, I know Daniel will continue to work towards improving the lives of every student at UF with his passion and leadership.

Sierra Kantamneni has experience across multiple branches and understands Student government funding at all levels. I'm pretty sure when you look up powerful in the dictionary, her name comes up. Sierra has a heart for underserved communities at UF and shows it in how she perfectly blends her leadership with her ability to listen and respond in direct action. Sierra served on the Budget and Appropriations committee in the Senate, approving funding for the Big 3, now Big 5 entities. She serves as Chief of Staff to Student Body Vice President Maniti, approving SARs and helping Cabinet Directors understand how to request funding for their initiatives. Sierra is also a member of Gamma Eta, a chapter within the Multicultural Greek Council, where she serves as Executive Vice President and she has promoted community service through her involvement in the Indian Students Association. As your Treasurer, she will bring with her a wealth of knowledge about the role and a readiness to guide our student organizations

as they navigate this complex process. Nobody on this stage is more prepared to be your Student Body Treasurer than Sierra.

Throughout my time here, I've seen that UF is a place with so many opportunities to thrive. Early on I decided it would be my mission to make a difference where I could. When I began committing my time and energy to experiences that I truly cared about, I was led to years of involvement within our Executive Branch. UF has given me an unbelievable college experience. But I am running for Student Body President because I know there is more work to do. In the over 100 year history of our student government, there have only been 8 women in this role. It is time and I do not take lightly the responsibility that comes with this. I will work to make every Gator's experience full of growth, celebration, and a sense of community.

My route to standing before you today is unconventional, but my student experience has prepared me to take on the responsibility of Student Body President. As Chief of Staff to our current Student Body President I have spent each day improving the function of our Executive branch. I know exactly what the role of Student Body President entails. I have experience overseeing Agencies, creating and approving SARs, and working with administration and across different areas of campus life. I dedicated my student experience to improving yours. Before becoming Chief, I was the Greek Affairs Cabinet director, where I had the experience of working with each of the four Greek councils to bring our community together. I not only know the ins and outs of working in Student Government, I know how to get things done.

Our vision for the University of Florida is based on experience. Each member of our ticket is directly involved in the role they are running for and has already shown their ability to excel in the Executive Branch. And our platform is not just a list of hollow words, it is a promise we intend on keeping, with you, the students. We will ensure that our goals and objectives reflect what the students want to see, and what we know can be accomplished. Throughout this debate, we will show you that we care about the well being of all Gators and have the experience to deliver on what we set out to do. We look forward to laying out our vision for you. Thank you and Go Gators.

Moderator: Because we had a slight little oopsie and with Gator tradition, we are giving the candidate from the Change Party, Gabrielle Adekunle, the opportunity to come to the microphone to speak, and she has decided to speak from the podium. And so now we will hear from the representative from the Change Party, Gabrielle Adekunle.

8:12pm – I now invite a representative from the Change Party to give their opening statement.

Gabrielle Adekunle: Good evening to everyone in attendance tonight. I want to start by thanking you all for being here and thank our organizers for putting this event together. Being here tonight is a great first step towards being involved. The ignatian of the student body is what holds SG accountable, and now more than ever that is exactly what we need when we have been failed time and time again. Lack of proper education on discrimination and sexual assault prevention, continuous apathy toward accessibility on campus, The lacking of proper representation by the

majority party. The list goes on and on. Change party has worked around the clock to right these wrongs and this has been continuously shown throughout our actions.

We are not just a party that speaks on social justice, equity, and representation, we are a party that shows it. In our time in senate with our only 8 senators, we have successfully passed four pieces of legislation that increase the power of your voices as students, push for 24-hour libraries, address sexual assault prevention measures, and outlines our commitment to environmental concerns. In the same time, the Majority party has passed 9 pieces of legislation, many of which were rules changes designed to limit your ability as students to participate in SG. The Gator party has stated time and time again at previous debates that they have made a contract with their students to uphold their platform points. And yet, this is a contract that is always violated. This year, the contract that they are offering is more lackluster than any other, especially considering all of the extra time they took to supposedly gather ideas from the student body. In contrast, our party has heard from the students and what they need, and we have an executive ticket that has experienced it firsthand.

My name is Gabrielle Adekunle, I go by they/she pronouns, and I am running to be your next Student Body president. I am currently the president of two student organizations at UF, the undergraduate American medical women's association, which addresses disparities in the health field, and Take Action Florida, a social justice organization that I created that focuses on making activism easily accessible for a variety of social issues. I understand the importance of each student's involvement at the University firsthand, and I've gone throughout the processes of creating spaces for students to do just that. I also proudly serve as the minority party leader for change and represent the District D area as one of their many senators.

Our Vice President candidate, Dayanna Peek, understood the need for space on campus for queer youth, and created a unique path to found the Lavender LLC. As an RA, Dayanna has forged a truly special connection with the residents and amplified their concerns treating each resident with the respect and decency that they never find in SG. Above all, Dayanna is an activist in both our UF campus and the Gainesville area and has been instrumental in ensuring justice at our university.

Next, we have our lovely treasurer candidate, Kenya Warner. It has always been her mission to make those around her feel cared for. Kenya has worked on breaking down the barriers of access for finances for every student and has personally helped me as a student organization leader to understand the processes of my organization's funding better. Kenya, much like Dayanna and I, has been an advocate for justice in our community through funders and work for establishing a mental health space on campus for every student, regardless of income. Kenya has incredible ideas that I cannot wait to see come to fruition that would break down both the financial and technical barriers of access that many org leaders face.

Angela Davis once said, “I’m no longer accepting the things that cannot change, I’m changing the things that I cannot accept.” This is true for me, the rest of our executive ticket, and the entire team of change makers that we have behind us, which includes students that have already worked on legislation for our party in the past. First up, we have the Students against discrimination Act, which will codify into our general statutes, holding people accountable for discrimination based on race, gender, sexuality, disability, political views, and more. A situation as such has occurred to our graduate student, Sankalp Gilda, should never go without consequence.

Next, we have the Internet Voting accessibility act, which will allow secure voting at any location that is secure and private and make up for the inaccessible voting processes that we have in place. Third, we have the Keystone Event Funding Act, which will ensure that no student organization will be left behind due to lack of proper funding. The list does not end here. So do not be fooled, when Gator Party says they’re with you and that they’re for you, you should ask with who? And for who? Because it isn’t our student body, and we will use the rest of this debate to show you exactly why and introduce you to the movement we’ve ignited with Change.

8:17pm – Our first question is for the CHANGE Party: At the start of the Spring semester, President Fuchs announced his plans to step down at the end of the year. If elected, what would be the most important characteristic you would advocate for in the next President of the University of Florida?

1. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Gabrielle Adekunle: The next most important thing that I will look for in our Student Body President, sorry, in our President for the University, would be ensuring somebody that would be dedicated to these processes that would be in place to break down these barriers of access for all. As I’ve stated multiple times before, we have a lot of discrimination at UF based off of race, based off of gender, based off of sexuality, based off of a lot of different things, and we need somebody that will be committed to ensuring that these will not occur. Someone similar to Fuchs and the way that he fought for our professors, for their academic freedom, someone who would fight for us, someone who would fight for Sankalp Gilda, and that’s what I will be looking for and ensuring and choosing the next President of the University.

- a. Gator Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Lauren Lemasters: The first thing I would look for in our next University president is someone who always puts the students first. This university president is likely going to shape the campus for the next decade, and if selected to be on a search committee for this university leader, I would look for someone who embodies the core values that President Fuchs has put in place, such as tradition of excellence, inclusion, stewardship, and community. I would work to be a strong

representative for all students and form a relationship with this university leader based on cooperation and respect.

b. Change Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Gabrielle Adekunle: It is important that we have a University President that will fight for us and I've just seen time and time again that there have been processes put in place where that has not occurred, and this is something that I would ensure we would be able to have, using my seat on the Board of Trustees. I would be able to properly fight for us on behalf of every student.

8:22pm – Our second question is for the GATOR Party: In 2020, the University released its list of six central values: excellence, discovery & innovation, inclusion, freedom & civility, community, and stewardship. When reflecting on these core values, which is at the forefront for your party and what, if any platform points, would promote these core values?

2. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Daniel Badell: Coming from a country where freedom of speech was quantitatively used for political purposes, I understand more than anyone how scary it is to be in a place where freedom of speech is being threatened. One of our core values is freedom and civility, I think that we need to take that seriously. As an administration, we are committed to promoting safe spaces for students to continue to engage in dialogue. In fact, this year we held an LGBT time with the LGBTQ affairs cabinet, and coffee conversations to ensure that minority individuals at this university will continue having safe spaces for freedom of speech. As an administration we are going to continue to push for events like this and various areas of the student body that are identities and their experiences. Student government cabinet executive agencies are strategically placed to protect and advocate for our free exchange of ideas, and we will ensure that students will continue to freely express themselves no matter what threats come from the state legislature.

a. Change Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Dayanna Peek: So as we've heard, Gator Party, they claim to be diverse and inclusive but this is not the case. Gator Party has purposefully left graduate students out of the loop by not filling vacant graduate seats. On February first, Gator Party posted a Black History Month graphic, which states that Black History Month does not just promote diversity, it celebrates diversity. Black History Month is not a celebration of diversity, it is about Black people. Gator party has failed multiple pieces of legislation that will better represent the student body, most importantly creating a diversity and inclusion committee in September 2020. And failing online voting, which is biased towards students that are online, studying abroad, or not cleared for campus. Gator party is not diverse or inclusion, and they are not fit to represent the student body.

b. Gator Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Sierra Kantamneni: I want to be clear, one of the utmost priorities of Lauren, Daniel, and I is inclusion. There's multiple ways that we plan to do this, primarily through organizations and student body leaders that we uplift and empower within these positions. I think it's kind of disrespectful when there is a literal individual who has made strides with diversity and inclusion through numerous actions. Including diversity and inclusion training at the Senate retreat, student wide coffee conversations, redefining what STAR is, she's right here, and she's done so much, and will continue to.. TIME

8:26pm – Our third question is for the CHANGE Party: Which cabinet division will be the highest priority for your administration and why?

3. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Dayanna Peek: So, the first thing that I would like to do once I am elected to office is focus more so on the diversity division as well as disability affairs. I want to work with the Marston Science library, work with the Steven O'Connell Center to increase access and increase ADA compliance. Most facilities on campus are not accessible to students that are wheelchair bound. The other thing is that I would like to work with the LGBTQ+ affairs cabinet and collaborate with the Big Nine to increase inclusive and intentional programs to better represent the students, and this would include a campus-wide trans day of remembrance. Through my power as the student body vice president, I would also like to work with the health affairs cabinet and ensure that there is a representative for the health affairs and ensure that there is a representative to best represent mental health affairs. So, this includes appointing a better individual to represent those concerns. Through this, we will work on large-scale projects, which will include utilizing the Reitz union and utilizing these spaces that are empty and creating a hub for the CWC to better increase access to those that are facing mental health crises.

a. Gator Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Daniel Badell: As vice president, I think it's incredibly disrespectful to prioritize one division over another because there are students there from various communities across the university, and we have to ensure that we not only emphasize one student, but that we emphasize every single student across the Student body. That being said, working with the Big Nine, long term initiatives, and continuing our cabinet programming are going to be essential to this administration. We have made incredible strides to reform the cabinet and offer flexibility with directors, and build onto initiatives for students, such as the first-generation LLC, or working on the student success center. Some of the biggest challenges that cabinet faces this upcoming year is ensuring that students who are nontraditional to this university continue to have a space on this campus, and most of the time those students are left out. Transfer students, PACE students, first generation students, and that embodies many other minority students on campus. I said once and

I'll repeat again, we cannot prioritize one division or one affair over another. Every student on this campus deserves a representative.

b. Change Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Dayanna Peek: I want to mention that the current grad seat for cabinet is unfilled currently. The Gator Party is not making any strides to fill positions in the cabinet currently, and I want to clarify that I was asked what I would like to first focus on. Change party focuses on equity and social justice that include representation. Our platform represents all students, and we have platform points ranging from accounting all the way to veterinary medicine. We also voice our hurries and our senators, and our... TIME

8:31pm – Our fourth question is for the GATOR Party: The Student Senate has maintained multiple open Senate seats for graduate or professional seats over the last year. The graduate and professional students at UF comprise approximately 30% of the student body. What steps would you take to ensure graduate and professional students are represented and could you share one of your top platform points related to graduate or professional students.

4. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Lauren Lemasters: Although graduate students are part of our student body that have nontraditional student experiences, their experience is equally important as any other gator. This next year, UF is working to provide sponsored off campus housing for graduate students. And, one of our platform points that, is one of my favorites, is working with Transportation and Parking services to provide a dedicated bus route from these campus locations, from these off campus locations, to campus, to make sure that our graduate students have a convenient and safe route that they can rely on. As a member of the board of trustees, I will work to represent all graduates and work with the graduate student council to know what they want to see, besides the bus route. I will also be a graduate myself next year, so I will be able to discuss with my peers how I can best represent them. I can use the activities and service fees that they pay to ensure that we are including graduates when we think about the student experience.

a. Change Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Gabrielle Adekunle: I serve within the Replacement and agenda committee within senate, which makes sure that students who interview get chosen or not. When we have grad students come in and specifically apply for these roles they were denied. The reason that we have an off-campus location for grad housing is because Maguire village is being torn down, and that is because we did not have the proper representation in Senate because of blockings from the majority party. We have already had two applicants that came in who were denied. While I am currently working on a graduate bill of rights, as well as our platform point is to provide grad student relief. We actually have platform points that are set here for students, and also working with the

president of Maguire village housing right now and we are putting these processes in place. We are the reason there are graduate students in Senate at this moment. We were the ones that were pushing for it, and we are the reason that they're there. They chose to affiliate with us when they came in.

b. Gator Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Lauren Lemasters: We understand that some of the graduate housing is being taken away, which is why we are taking a proactive approach and making sure that these students have a service that is addressing this issue. As student body president, I will ensure that these graduates are heard and be a strong representative for them in all spaces where they can have a seat at the table.

8:35pm – Our fifth question is for the CHANGE Party: The University of Florida recently landed on the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education's (FIRE) list of 10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech in 2022. If elected, what would your administration do to promote free speech on campus? And how would you balance first amendment protections against the desire of some students to restrict certain speakers from campus?

5. - You have 2 minutes to respond.

Gabrielle Adekunle: I would like to point out that we had a senator this year who wrote a resolution condemning the acts taken against the professors for limiting their freedom of speech. That was blocked and denied in Judiciary by the majority party to even be heard on the senate floor. As president, I will work with the board of trustees to ensure that our freedom of speech is never limited. We have already been doing so, and we have already been blocked multiple times. This is not okay. It's important that everybody is entitled to free speech. We have been working on multiple pieces of legislation that have allowed students to come into public comment and ensure access to them within student government. Time and time again your voices have been denied, and time and time again we have worked to reinstate them. This will be no different. In my position, I will be doing exactly what I'm doing now, talking to admin, I will be making sure that every student will be able to have their voice heard.

a. Gator Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Daniel Badell: I think it's not okay for the opposing party to sit here and lecture us on what we should do for freedom of speech. As the only person sitting on this stage that came from a country where freedom of speech was threatened, and my mom was literally kicked out of school for it. The best way to protect freedom of speech for students is to create a safe space that will encourage the exchange of ideas and we've done that within our administration, and we will continue to do that. We've provided spaces for this speech with coffee conversations with STAR,

with LGBTQ affairs, with the budget cabinet. I've said this once and I'll say it again: coming from a country where my mother was kicked out is unfair to sit here.

b. Change Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Gabrielle Adekunle: Just to clarify, when I speak, I am not speaking to a certain individual I am speaking about Gator party as the majority party blocking us as a whole. I know that there are individuals who are here who are entitled and are working to create free speech places on our campus, and I would love to work with those individuals as we have already shown that as a caucus we are capable of doing. I'm specifically speaking about the times that we have been blocked trying to do exactly what they're asking us to in their question.

8:39pm – Our sixth question is for the GATOR Party: Student Government currently allocates over \$1.4M annually to student organizations. As you are likely aware, student organizations must adhere to the 800 codes related to funding their events. What, if any, changes to the 800 codes would your administration advocate for?

6. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Sierra Kantamneni: As treasurer, I will make it a point to build off of the work that has been done by treasurer Mompremier. There are related to the funding process that require institutional knowledge and action. I personally will make it a point to prioritize a specific aspect of the 800 codes, in which I plan to ask the student senate to raise the current fee cap. Right now, it is \$5 per student organization's head count. Currently, that's just not feasible. With rising costs, organizations both large and small are struggling. Food is an aspect of student organizations that draw students to general body meetings and they're running out of money. So, I will plan to ask the student senate to raise that due to rising costs and ensure student organizations have stronger retention rates of its members. With that being said, currently on the SG website there are not many resources for student organization pertaining to the funding process. Having permanent resources like an 800 codes cheat sheet so organizations within the funding process will be able to have an excellent resource for student orgs, and in an accessible manner so organizations large and small can have a successful and as smooth process as possible. I would also conduct round table discussions with the Big Nine to ensure that their understanding of the budget process is as successful as possible. Additionally, this year marks the first year of the SAI signature events and initiatives. And though I do not directly hold the success of that, I want to help student organizations as much as possible. And I will help transition alongside them. Each of these goals by Lauren, Daniel, and I offer a specific vision for student organizations, which is their success, in whatever capacity that may be. And I'm here to do all that I can to ensure their success.

a. Change Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Kenya Warner: As student body treasurer, I understand that 800 code cheat sheets are not what it takes to supply these organizations and presidents and treasurers with the information that they need. As far as docutraq goes, there is no question that is simple for the students and their needs. I've had a firsthand look inside of docutraq, and what stands out to me is the lack of efficiency and navigational issues within the platform. It's been said in the past that the Gator party, and even on their current platform, will work to fix docutraq. But what has been done already? They have been in charge of the treasury for the past five + years and are well aware of the current issues of the platform, yet have done little to nothing to improve it. Even the current treasurer of Gator party stated in her debate that she plans to transform docutraq during her term when elected. As we can all see the platform still has the same crucial issues and same lack of efficiency as it did last year. I have plans to work with UFIT services to find the best possible solutions and improve accessibility... TIME

b. Gator Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Sierra Kantamneni: The entirety of the opposition's response to that question underscores the fact that they have no idea how the budget process actually works. Treasurer Mompremier has made tremendous strides; she's just done it technically behind with the actual code of the docutraq website. It's not an action yet, but it's going to be done. She spent the entirety of her term working on it. When I said I would make it a point to build off of what treasurer Mompremier has done, I was not lying. Gio has worked so hard to ensure that that website is more accessible, and I will only continue to do so. She has made great strides for the program, and I will only work off of them. And I... TIME

8:44pm – Our seventh question is for the CHANGE Party: Reflecting on the many services that Student Government currently provides. Which service do you wish students knew more about and how would your administration work to raise awareness?

7. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Dayanna Peek: Something that I'd work on as Student Body vice president is increasing awareness of the cabinet and what they actually do. Most students on this campus are not aware of this role in student government and the intricacies of it. So, as I've said before, I would like to work with officials, especially through Marston science library, so the dean of the Marston science library, and have her collaborate with disability affairs to create accessibility. Something else that I'd like to do is work with Russel Froman, the title nine coordinator, and advocate for gender neutral bathrooms, and make it more accessible as this would benefit all gators, especially those that identify as transgender like me. I have prior experience in working with administration and stakeholders in order to achieve gender equality and specifically do my role in Lavender LLC, UF's first gender neutral housing option where I am currently a special RA over. So,

through my role as student body vice president, I will increase visibility of the cabinet and increase collaboration between my cabinet and big nine organizations through programs and large-scale projects.

a. Gator Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Lauren Lemasters: As Chief of staff this past year, I've been able to see all the different things that student government provides for our students. And one of the biggest things I've found is we not only work on big issues, like fighting for more funding with the CWC or working to increase safety around campus, we do a lot that helps the day to day as students. So one service I wish more students knew about and took advantage of is our SG printing lab, that is something that as Chief of Staff I've gotten a ton of emails about students wanting free printing and making sure that that is running smoothly. Additionally, one of our platform points is to provide menstrual products within residence halls, and that's another example of the day-to-day things that we're gonna make sure gets done for students.

b. Change Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Dayanna Peek: I'd like to note that the platform point on free and available menstrual products in residence halls is not feasible. This is because it conflicts with the 800 codes that Gator party fully supported and implemented. The 800 codes expressively prohibits SG funds on single use items. This is not feasible.

8:48pm – Our eighth question is for the GATOR Party: Your platform advocates to expand a student task force to work on DEI related issues with UF administration. Can you expand on your goals for this work and why you ultimately chose to include it on your platform?

8. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Sierra Kantamneni: We placed this on our platform because members of our party have served on this task force and have seen the firsthand impact that it can have on diversity, equity, and inclusion. I can testify that the challenges with being a person of color at the University of Florida are immense. We sit on this stage today because we love UF, well at least enough to lead it, but some students can't stay here because it's so lonely and difficult. As a ticket, the people we appoint will actively advocate for all voices on campus to ensure adequate representation for all gators. Positions and associations that the multicultural affairs cabinet and student taking action against racism were founded specifically to engage with minority communities across all of campus. STAR specifically has made great strides in implementing that within our student body. From its gala institutes to coffee conversations, to the first ever diversity and inclusion training at UF Senate's retreat, STAR is a primary example of politically informed and

passionate individuals can truly make an impact. Divisions within our executive cabinet also exist, such as our multicultural affairs cabinet having open conversation with the institutes, to our national coming out day event, hosted by LGBTQ+ affairs. The impact that we as leaders can have on the students can be tremendous. Make no mistake. One of the utmost priorities of Lauren, Daniel, and I is diversity and inclusion. Our administration plans to bring these priorities in numerous actions. Redefining bridges to not just be limited to high school, but across all of Florida, to increasing STAR's engagement with student organizations through the STAR certification initiative. We also plan to have round table discussions with the Big Nine, as they are the organizations and leaders that are cultivating spaces of safety and empowering students and faculty. Once again, we do not take diversity, equity, and inclusion lightly. It is one of our core values, it is one of my core values, and I plan to see that come to fruition, should I be elected.

- a. Change Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Gabrielle Adekunle: Gator party has shown time and time again that they are not committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. When you have continuous blocking of underrepresentation within our Senate by not allowing grad students to be properly represented, you cannot sit there and state that as a party you will be able to implement this statement. And in addition, I have noticed that the diversity, equity, and inclusion training seem to go to the people that want it. The people that we need to be having that training for are the people who do not want it. Those are the people that we need to reach out to because they are a part of the problem. They are a part of the issue. I personally would love to learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and I know that I have more to learn, but it is the people we need to strategically talk to and have them have that education to make our campus a better and more equitable place for everybody involved.

- b. Gator Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Sierra Kantamneni: As someone who has been a student at this university for almost three years, I can testify that being a student of the 7.25% has spoken for itself. There are students that need more access to diversity and inclusion training, there are some students who need it, just period. But that being said, there are initiatives put in place that are upheld and in order to create. Whether it's the STAR training for all organizations, mandatory diversity and inclusion training for members of Greek life, to just reaching out as a student body treasurer and official that prides herself in diversity and inclusion. I want to make diversity and inclusion training... TIME

8:52pm – Our ninth question is for the CHANGE Party: Your platform advocates for expanded blue light kiosks and general lighting to overall increase safety. Can you expand on your goals for this work and why you ultimately chose to include it on your platform?

9. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Gabrielle Adekunle: Throughout my time at UF, one problem has occurred, time and time again, and that is when the amount of people that I know that have been sexually assaulted on our campus. It seems like I know more people that have than people that have not, and when I talk to the student body and I gather all these responses, what we found and what we made was a list of demands. This included nine specific demands related to sexual assault prevention on our campus, and blue lights were one of the number one thing that students wanted. It makes you feel more safe, it makes you feel more secure, and we specifically had a protest and a resource information march to talk about these things, that I was able to be able to take action and change. In the past, Emily Hyden was able to lead a march on blue lights that was able to get us four more on Fraternity Drive, and now the time has called for the student body to ask for them once again. There are too little. If you ever walk in that area, if you have ever just walked around the Reitz area and tried to notice where the blue lights on campus are, you'll find that they are far and in between, and it is simply just not enough. We deserve a campus where we are able to walk around at night. We deserve to be able to feel free and to feel safe at a place where we are paying all of the same tuition.

a. Gator Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Lauren Lemasters: The issue of sexual assault on our campus is one that our ticket takes seriously and personally, as I have a survivor sitting to my left, who has advocated for more sexual assault resources on campus, and as a ticket, we're going to make sure the solutions to be put in place are sustainable and ones that all students, whether traditional or non can use. This past year, as Chief of Staff, I have seen the Nightlife Navigators pass out more drink coverings to individuals, as well as increasing lighting on campus. As Student Body President, I will promote resources like GatorWell sexual assault prevention training, green dot training required for all SG officers, improving the student experience through a student experience app, where all students have access to mobile blue lights, to resources such as the No More Initiative, and can easily know how to report a sexual assault and also how to support those around them who they know have experienced it. It's something we take seriously, and our cabinet is also going to address.

b. Change Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Gabrielle Adekunle: I have spoken to the Title IX coordinator many times in his office. I have also had multiple different plans of actions to ensure that sexual assault is something that does not happen as often as it does on our campus. One thing in the past was that there were free drinks and coasters available within GatorWell. Those are now to where you have to go and pay for them. That is never okay. We need to expand upon those resources and focus on that as well. Our Treasurer candidate Kenya Warner... TIME

8:56pm – Our tenth question is for the GATOR Party: As we hopefully transition from a pandemic to an endemic, many students feel they have “missed out” on a quintessential college experience. What, if any, role do you believe SG has in working to provide that experience and if elected, could you highlight one or two ways your administration would work to elevate the student experience.

10. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Lauren Lemasters: As one of the students who has been affected by Covid-19 and who has gone through so many different transitional periods, one thing that I see time and time again is that when there’s transition, there’s opportunity, and so, one of the things that our administration really prides is making sure that students see those opportunities that we have coming out of the pandemic. We want to not only prioritize issues that are important to students, like mental health and safety, we want to prioritize the student experience. We are working with the athletic association, we will when we get into office, to provide shakers at the football games to just emphasize that tradition, as well as providing class rings for our juniors so that they remember their time at UF. Additionally, as we come out of this pandemic and it seems like everyday something’s changing, we want to make sure at SG events, students feel safe and comfortable to come and mingle. That’s why we’re going to implement a sticker system with different stickers so that if you feel comfortable sitting by someone or having your mask off, you can have a green, and then if you would rather have your mask on, stay socially distant, you won’t. We really are looking at what the students want and want to make sure that the rest of their college experience is cared for.

a. Change Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Kenya Warner: In enhancing the student experience, we have to prioritize the mental health of our students. We all attend a Top 5 university. With Top 5 status, comes Top 5 problems. Funding for the CWC has been a widely discussed issue and one that’s not an overnight fix. I have spoken directly with CWC representatives, and they’ve said themselves that they don’t have enough staff and they don’t have enough counselors and they need more funding for their counselors. I will promote an at least 150% expansion of the CWC counseling staff, with at least a 15% pay raise. I also plan on creating a task force in order to accomplish a free group counseling and relaxation station on campus so that students will have a designated place to unwind and to be free of the stress with attending a Top 5 university.

b. Gator Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Lauren Lemasters: Mental health is definitely something that students coming out of this pandemic, we’d be focused on. This past year, serving on the local fee committee, I was a part of

the group that had an initial proposal of the health fee increase approved, and as Student Body President, we'll continue to push for that approval to come actually to fruition and be fully approved throughout the multi-step process. Additionally, we're going to advocate for full funding of the consultation and resource team within the CWC.

9:00pm – Our eleventh question is for the CHANGE Party: As the potential leaders for a branch that typically has hundreds of involved students, what do you consider to be your top strength as a leader? And how would that translate to your term leading the executive branch?

11. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Gabrielle Adekunle: My top strength that I would consider as a leader is fighting for each student individually. I have served as a leader on campus, elected into multiple different positions as a president or the top leader of an organization. This would be able to smoothly transition into a president position. I have been president of two student organizations in my time here, as I have stated I have also been the minority party leader to our caucus. I have also worked as a SNAP supervisor. One of the big things that I actually do want to do is focus on SNAP. When I hear a lot of the ideas on how to optimize this service at UF, they're often not feasible. Spending my time within that position, I know what it takes, and what it takes is focusing on those students as workers. They do not have the current rights, and they will leave those positions because they will not be able to retain them because it is not a sustainable job. We need to improve those working conditions for those students. I have been in multiple different positions at this university where I have spoken on behalf and created different initiatives to work for our students, and I will do the same as president.

a. Gator Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Lauren Lemasters: My top strength as a leader that I implement in everything I do and will implement as Student Body President is my ability to bring students alongside my initiatives, and really lead alongside them, not just above them. I want to be someone who truly leads with you, as cheesy as the campaign slogan "Lead with Lauren" might seem, and makes every student feel like they can really reach their full potential at UF. That's something I've shown as Chief of Staff, being directly involved in our over twenty agencies, making sure that the purposes of those agencies come to fruition.

b. Change Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Gabrielle Adekunle: As a student leader, I have had to go through each of the positions within my organizations and to work on all of the things that they have done, as well. I know what it takes to have the communication to be able to speak to people, to focus on their mental health, to

see how they're doing as individuals, and do everything that I can to help. I am always here for our students, and you can go and ask any one of the students that work with me. I know that as a leader, it can seem sometimes that we are above you, but I know that the best leaders are the ones... TIME

9:05pm – Our twelfth question is for the GATOR Party: We always hope the debate provides opportunities for students to understand some of the different goals and visions from the various candidates. However, there are also times where it can highlight some of the similarities. So, as you reflect on the Change Party Platform, is there one platform point that you agree on?

1. – You have 2 minutes to respond.

Lauren Lemasters: One platform point that I agree on with the Change ticket is their meal prep and vending machines. I think that food insecurity is a big issue on our campus, and especially with the pandemic, it's just shown over and over again that we want to be providing for our students and helping make their student experience better, and I really like that platform point.

- a. Change Party – You may now have a 1 minute rebuttal

Dayanna Peek: I agree with the Gator Party on free STD testing, self-defense, and safe sex materials during sexual health awareness week. However, one thing that I would do to improve this is to make this all year round, not just during sexual health awareness week.

- b. Gator Party – You may now have a 30 second rebuttal

Sierra Kantamneni: Sexual health is wealth, so the more STD testing, the better. I concur with that. I think essentially that resources like that would rather be more of a proactive than reactive measure to some divisions around campus, so thank you for including that.

9:10pm – At this point that now concludes the question portion of the debate. We will now move into closing statements.

9:13pm – GATOR Party you now have 3 minutes for a closing statement.

Daniel Badell: Thank you to everyone for joining us here. We gave everyone answers to some of their most pressing questions about the state and future of our campus. Tonight, we highlighted how we will use our extensive experience inside and outside of Student Government to accomplish our goals for YOU the student body.

It is clear that there are stark differences between us and our opponents. Initiatives on the opposition platform never see the light of day after elections end. It is not because they have a minority in Senate, it is simply because they do not do anything with the positions they do have.

Our opponents' campaign on buzzwords that mislead the student body. They would have you believe that they are the ones who want to provide free printing paper or work to improve the distribution of your Activity & fee dollars. What they conveniently fail to mention is that these are things that have already been accomplished. I am surprised they are not embarrassed by their own party's platform.

Our opponents do NOT deliver on their platform year after year and why you may ask? They don't deliver because it is not politically convenient for them to do so. It is far easier to throw stones at a glass house, then actually be productive and get things done.

Being Vice President is about more than just the title, it is about leadership development, effective programming, and being able to work with the University administration to accomplish initiatives. My advocacy has led to real results like the development of the First-Generation LLC and working on food insecurity initiatives that also support our local farmers.

There is no one more qualified on this stage for student body president than Lauren herself. Serving as Chief of Staff to Cooper, she knows the ins and outs of student government. She has also served in cabinet, so she is well versed in everything from event programming to fostering a greater sense of community on campus. With all of the transition going on in our university this year, this is no time for our leaders to have to overcome a learning curve. It is time for experienced, principled leadership and no one is more prepared to lead us as Student Body President than Lauren herself.

Sierra has served on the budget and appropriations committee in the senate and currently serves as the treasurer for student government cabinet. Her extensive experience at various stages of the budget process leaves no argument as to who is the most qualified candidate on this stage.

Gator is the party that students have trusted, do trust, and will continue to trust to deliver real results for you, the students. When we are elected on February 22nd and 23rd, some of what we will accomplish includes:

1. Our plan to create a student life app which will serve as a hub, integrated with notable events occurring throughout campus and easy access to resources for mental health, safety, and security.
2. Providing a grant through the office of the Treasurer for free and accessible menstrual products in dorms.
3. And, expanding a student task force to advocate for minority retention and inclusion for faculty and students with relevant stakeholders.

We've spent this campaign listening to you and hearing your thoughts. Our platform is a reflection of the promise of our campaign: to be with you, for you. When you go to the polls next week remember who has put your priorities and listened to you first. On Feb 22 & 23, Vote Gator Party!

9:16pm – CHANGE Party you now have 3 minutes for a closing statement.

Dayanna Peek: From the Combahee River Collective, a black, feminist, lesbian organization, “If black women were free, it would mean that everyone else would have to be free, since our freedom would necessitate the destruction of all the systems of oppression.” We are black. We are queer. We are femme. These identities are vital parts as to how we identify, but oftentimes, these multifaceted identities work against us in complex ways, creating intersectional barriers that are deeply personal and unique experiences to us.

The nuance of carrying multiple marginalized identities comes with that ability to understand the disadvantages and the complexities behind systems of oppression that disenfranchise members of our student body, through exclusivity, the lack of proper representation and funding. We are able to lend an intersectional lens and properly assist groups that come from marginalized communities and ensure that they truly feel helped by their leadership. Change Party is founded upon the ideals of social justice, equity, and representation, and we are here today to bring about long-term, tangible developments that uphold these pillars. We will advocate for victims of sexual assault.

We will expand accessibility for disabled students. We will ensure that this university will be a home for all who enter. Throughout this debate, we have proven to the student body why we’re best fit to take on these roles of Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Our commitment to this campus, the student body, and the betterment of the Gainesville community go far beyond what’s done inside SG, and our track record for creating better student experiences speaks for itself. Leadership isn’t just about the conglomeration of resume titles and press releases. Leadership is about listening to those who deserve it, investing within the community, and speaking the truth, even if it is impossible.

Gator Party claims to be with you, but the system was never made for you. It was never made for anyone. When your voice isn’t being heard, it’s not by administration, it’s not by the student body, it is by the system, which props up individuals like the ones across from us. We cannot allow their reign to continue any longer. Gators, change is inevitable, but not without your vote. Vote for Gabrielle Adekunle, Dayanna Peek, Kenya Warner, and all of our amazing Change-makers on February 22nd and 23rd. Thank you.

9:19pm – Event ends. Thank everyone for attending and encourage them to vote on February 22nd and 23rd.