

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

March 15th, 2022

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:30pm 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 84 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Ali**
- **Kemeny**
- **Machado**
- **Mikhaylov**
- **Smith**
- **Varidin**

- **Quorum was reached for the city commission meeting.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Shoemaker:**
 - Introducers herself as a newly elected senator.
 - I want to discuss the RTS bus app and the several problems associated with it.
 - Reads negative comments about the app and addresses that the current app has one star on the app store.
 - Discusses various issues with the app: lack of clarity, pop up ads, and the app crashing.
 - Says that previous apps were better.
 - Presents petition to improve app.
 - Also wants to discuss extending library hours.
 - Informs students about studies done with UF libraries.
 - Goes over Newell Hall's lack of resources.
 - Gives examples of other colleges with 24/7 libraries.
 - Wishes to gather data on what the student body wants.
- **Senator Corbett**
 - Introduces herself.
 - Wants to have a reflection on the first Member-at-Large position election held in previous meeting.
 - I realized that his reflection was more about you and your voices, not necessarily me.

- She realizes that her qualifications were not the concern of Gator Party.
- Within political parties and affiliations, it seems almost a requirement that you vote how your superiors do.
- I have voted against my own party the most out of the people in this room.
- I feel like this means I am strong-willed and entitled to use my voice and vote for what I feel is most reasonable.
- I have always made my caucus aware about why I vote against them and give justification. I have shown that I vote objectively and do what I feel best represents the body.
- I am asking you to take the role of senator seriously, rather than being a puppet in a theater.
- You have the responsibility to be held accountable for your voice and for your actions to your constituents.
- It is your name tied to your vote, not your party.
- Imagine the power that the Senate has.
- How permanent is your tie to your party?
- Like the question asked of me in the Member-at-Large election, how can your role be used objectively and non-partisanly?
- Senator Santiago:
 - Introduces himself to the Senate.
 - Wants to work on a resolution that condemns the recently passed HB 1557 / SB 1834.
 - Wants to condemn the “Don’t Say Gay” bill which will affect hundreds of thousands of queer youth in Florida, as well as future Gators.
 - As a gay person myself, I know that if this was law during my time in high school, I know that I would have struggled to survive.
 - We should stand up for LGBTQ+ students alongside other Florida universities, such as UCF and FSU, which have already passed resolutions to condemn the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. We should join them.
 - I am also interested in forming an LGBT+ caucus within the Senate to discuss LGBT+ issues around campus and seek ways to address them.
 - I invite anyone who is interested in this caucus to please reach out to me after this meeting, via email, or through a google form that will be sent out via the List Serv.
 - You do not have to be a member of the LGBT+ community to join the caucus, allies are welcome.

City Commission:

Open Public Comment:

- There were none.

*****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 Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Gabi Zlatanoff for the open Student Government Institute agency head position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER ELECTIONS:

- Senator Gorelick nominates Senator Corbett. Senator Corbett accepts.
- Senator Carreno nominates Senator Pierre. Senator Pierre accepts.
- Senator Corbett- 5 minutes presentation:
 - I would use the Member-at-Large position to be a vessel of communication for students, not just a title.
 - I have tried to be a vessel for senators and be transparent.
 - I have worked with past members who were on R&A, even when I was not in a position to be on that committee.
 - One of the ways I was able to do this was relay information as the Reitz Union liaison, whether that was through Senate President Groux or during Public Comment.
 - I also gauged interest in legislation within the Reitz Union and outside.
 - I would like to make a change to the Member-at-Large position to enhance it and make it a more communicative vessel.
 - I would like to communicate what happens in R&A. There is little transparency to the student body unless we look or ask for explanations.
 - Decisions on logistical backing would no longer be hidden. I want to bring transparency to this committee within this position of power.
 - I have shown that even without a seat on R&A, I have worked well with my positions.
 - Being able to meet physically and have honest conversations would be more proactive than having one-on-one meetings with President Hartzog and Pro-Tempore Green.
 - I would much rather have the support of all of you behind me.
 - I pride myself in all that I have accomplished.
 - I would speak to you and for you on the committee.
 - Thank you, and Go Gators.

- There was a five minute question and answer period.
- Senator Pierre- 5 minute presentation:
 - Introduces herself as a sophomore senator.
 - In high school I had multiple leadership roles that have allowed me to gain leadership experience at a young age.
 - Since coming to the University of Florida, I have become involved in various clubs and organizations.
 - I am most proud to represent the sophomore class within Senate.
 - I will be a voice for the Student Senate and R&A committee.
 - Both my parents were first generation college students. They have taught me how to persevere and be able to learn and grow as a person.
 - I understand the difficulties that minorities in the student body face.
 - Having this perspective is essential for a Member-at-Large because it helps you better understand incoming senators.
 - I have always had a goal to impact the lives of people I was around.
 - Wherever there was a need at my high school, I found a way to fulfill it.
 - A big part of being a leader is critical thinking and the ability to problem solve.
 - The UF community and family is unmatched, and I hope to work with you and for you.
 - I believe that there is more work to do that we can and will do.
- There was a five minute question and answer period.
- In a standing counting vote of 67 to 11, Senator Pierre has been chosen for the Second Member-at-Large.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Yields time to Mayor Poe report.
 - Thanks the senators for hosting, this used to be a regular tradition but since COVID we have not been able to do this.
 - Wishes to do this every semester, moving forward.
 - Wants to collaborate and work on issues together.
 - I first want to acknowledge the folks here that represent the city: general manager, fire chief, chief of police and chief operating officer, assistant chief police officer, department of mobility.
 - These folks are here to help and serve.

- I want to address the senator with concerns for the RTS app. We are aware of these issues and we understand the level of dissatisfaction, the vendor assured that they are updating the app.
 - We are working with the vendor, and they will be rolling out updates to improve the app.
 - We will look to move forward with a new vendor by this summer if there are no updates.
 - The roads of concerns most pressing to students are University Avenue and 13th street, although we have these issues city-wide.
 - Committing to a Zero-Vision strategy, to eliminate all deaths.
 - This includes pedestrians, bikers, car drivers, etc.
 - Efforts are ongoing, and our Director of Mobility is the best person to talk about this.
 - We need to continue and rebuild the statewide support we've seen for Florida Not One More.
 - This is no longer a Gainesville issue, it is statewide.
 - We need funding for necessary street improvements, and advocacy is working. This has been a call to action all over Florida.
 - The advocacy is working.
 - I am disappointed that a certain funding bill is not being signed into law by the governor.
 - We have the design plans in place to add safety standards to these government-owned roads, we simply need the funding.
 - We want to collectively take action.
 - Wishes for Student government to pass a resolution of support.
 - This is no longer a local issue.
 - A few days ago, there was another death at University and 13th.
 - This shockwave of trauma is spread to classmates, students, family, and more.
 - We need your help, and we are determined.
 - We need the larger community support and your voice supporting the 60,000 people that represent the Gator Nation.
 - This would serve as a large message to Tallahassee.
- Invites Melissa McCreedy to speak on the RTS app
 - We have been working closely with the vendor, who is in charge of the wifi on buses as well as the app.
 - This is more than just an app, as it provides wifi for buses.
 - We have been reaching out to other vendors and university students.

- We are pulling together possibilities if this does not give us hope by the summer.
 - We are actively working on it and are very aware of the challenges.
 - Vision-Zero was adapted in 2021 and has a lot of funding.
 - For 13th and University in particular, we have worked alongside FDOT and UF to create designs from the concepts that passed, as well as adding speed tables and adding visible speed limit warnings and signs.
 - Worked with FDOT to help with streetlights, crosswalks, etc.
 - We are actively working on a number of fronts to make these changes.
 - We want to design these roads for people rather than cars.
 - The roads have to do a lot, as well as support a lot. We are prioritizing the people.
 - Mayor Poe continues to present.
 - One of these difficulties with adding updates to roads is that these are not state owned roads—these are owned by the state or federal government.
 - We want to prioritize people and safety rather than the throughput of automobiles, since throughput leads to unsafe conditions.
 - Commissioner Santos
 - There will also be protected bike lanes through the Vision-Zero passing.
 - Wants to address the RTS app issues.
 - Doesn't believe that the current app will work.
 - I would ask that you all continue to push the city commission for change.
 - Wants senators to come to meetings and reach out to the city.
 - Would like to extend an invitation for the student government to join the April 7th city commissioner meeting. Seconded by City Commissioner David Arreola.
- There was a question and answer period between the Mayor and City Commissions and the Student Body Government Senate.
- Senate President Hartzog begins her report.
- Thank you to each senator for electing me into this position.
- Affiliation forms have been sent by Pro-Tempore Green, and they need to be completed by the start of next week's meeting.
- These MUST be filled out by next Tuesday prior to the meeting.
- I have appointed my liaisons for the term.
 - Reitz Union: Senator Corbett
 - Recreational Sports: Senator Unland
 - UFPD: Senator Ghozali
 - Executive Branch: Senator Vaknin
 - Student Activities and Involvement: Senator Fernandez

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Senator Pierre
- Please visit me for a one-on-one in my office. I would love to continue conversations that were started tonight.
- Gabi Zlatanoff will be serving for the entire term.
- The housing fair will be this Friday, which counts as an SG event (counts for constituency!). This serves as a get-to-know your senator event. I encourage you all to come out.
- This counts as the constituency requirement for city commission meetings for senators elected in the fall.
- I have the GroupMe link for the Senate dodgeball team.
- I hope other senators will join the league and play!
- If you want to reach out to me through my email, I would like to start working on the resolution that Mayor Poe had mentioned. I would like as many senators as possible to ensure we demonstrate our commitment to campus and road safety.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
- Thank you to the city commissioners and the mayors that came out tonight, it was great to hear from you.
- There will be an R&A meeting this Sunday.
 - Open Permanent Seats:
 - Tolbert Area
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - District A (2)
 - District D (2)
 - Graduate (2)
 - Open Committee Chairs:
 - Judiciary
 - Budget and Appropriations
 - Rules and Ethics
 - Information and Communications
 - Open Committee Seats:
 - Judiciary (3)
 - Budget and Appropriations (4)
 - Rules and Ethics (2)
 - Information and Communications (3)

- All of these seats will close at NOON on Friday, and interviews will take place on Sunday.
- I encourage you to apply to these seats.
- Please reach out to me if you have any questions.
- I will set my exact office hours soon, but I will be there beyond those set hours as well.

JUDICIARY:

- Senator Harkins:
 - If you have legislation to submit, they are due this Friday at 12pm to the judiciary email.
 - We will be meeting this week on a day and location to be determined.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Senator Giordano:
 - Yesterday, base funding opened up.
 - This will close on March 28th and takes place through docutraq.
 - This is not first come first serve.
 - Monday, March 21 at 9:00am, the operation event and travel request form will open.
 - This IS first come, first serve.
 - My recommendation is to be on this site as soon as it opens, as funding closes very quickly.
 - If you have any questions, please reach out through email.
 - Check <https://sg.ufl.edu/resources/budget/> to get a walkthrough for the steps to apply to base funding as well as the operational event and travel request.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Senator Fernandez:
 - Keep doing your constituency and turn it in on time.
 - The R&E committee will meet this week at a date and time to be announced.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Senator Vaknin:
 - I hope the new senators had an information orientation today.
 - If you have questions please email: info@sg.ufl.edu

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Santiago: If you would like to come by to join the LGBTQ+ caucus or sponsor the resolution, please come by after.

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Fernandez motions to use the voter record as final roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.