

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

March 22nd, 2022

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:32pm 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 83 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Allen**
- **Cruz**
- **DiBari**
- **Flores**
- **Kemeny**
- **Locascio, Shannon**
- **Quetant**
- **Smith**
- **Weston**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Gorelick:**
 - Speaking in public comment today in relation to the Don't Say Gay bill, of which a resolution condemning the bill passed in the Judiciary Committee on Sunday.
 - Gives details on the modifications of the resolution.
 - The second modification that was taken out was one of the "Whereas" clauses, which details UF's troublesome past with its queer community.
 - Wonders why the clause was removed by the Judiciary Committee.
 - No one reached out to compromise with or even notify the authors.
 - This is history of the LGBTQ+ history, which is being removed by the Judiciary Committee.
 - The action reeks of a historical ignorance that has been sweeping across the U.S., becoming more personal by the fact that it happened in our senate.
 - Let me be clear, I have immense pride in going to UF.
 - I love this campus and city, as well as the people I've met.
 - Simultaneously, I'm not blinded by that pride to understand the painful past that UF has in many regards.
 - The Johns Committee forced the expulsion of dozens of professors and students in the 1950s and 60s.

- One professor attempted suicide after an hour and a half of questioning on his sexuality.
 - Investigators were granted by UF administrators to force the UF medical center personnel to disclose patient records for the sole purpose of finding out whether or not a person was queer.
 - All of this history is being shamefully ignored and pushed aside with the removal of this clause.
 - The Don't Say Gay bill is a return to forum, where teachers are forcibly by law to tell parents regarding their child's sexuality.
 - I can think of nothing so eerily similar to that of the Johns Committee.
 - I want to address this part of our history.
 - You will see the true devastation that the Johns Committee brought upon the LGBTQ+ community.
 - If you have any sense of respect towards the LGBTQ+ community, I urge you to vote in favor of the amendment and reinsert the clause.
- Mohammed Faisal:
 - Introduces himself.
 - Here to talk about the amendment that was just spoken on.
 - When I was a senator, this video was presented to me and I think it is appropriate that we share it once again.
 - Faisal presents the video "How Florida Legally Terrorized Gay Students."
 - Senator Partridge:
 - Presents the video "How Florida Legally Terrorized Gay Students."
 - Senator Panish:
 - Presents the video "How Florida Legally Terrorized Gay Students."
 - Aron Ali-McClory:
 - Introduces himself.
 - I have had to come face to face with the oppressive history of UF's and this state's history.
 - One of the most egregious instances of discrimination happened during the 1960s.
 - Many queer citizens were wrongly subjected to a witch hunt, known as the Johns Committee.
 - The state legislature has meddled in the educational institutions to harass queer students based on false premises.
 - They have claimed to act in favor of parental rights.
 - I had the pleasure of sitting down with the brother of a professor who committed suicide as a result of the actions of the Johns committee.
 - I grew frustrated that nothing has been done, not even an apology or memo has been given by the state.

- Families were ruined, careers were derailed, and lives were lost.
- We cannot continue to pretend that we are doing better for ourselves when we do not examine the bleeding wounds of our university.
- We cannot continue to pretend that we are doing better for ourselves and our communities when we do not examine the scarring and brutal past that our University has.
- It is important to note that no formal apology has ever come out of this University.
- The famous quote “Those that don’t learn history are doomed to repeat it” applies to this situation.
- If we proclaim that our younger peers should not be targeted by the legislature, we should also acknowledge the past when we did not do the same.
- This resolution to condemn the Don’t Say Gay bill should recognize the Johns Committee to show how this event and the Don’t Say Gay bill are intertwined.
- Jonathan Stephens:
 - I want to first thank the Judiciary Committee for passing the resolution condemning the Don’t Say Gay bill.
 - I want to reaffirm my deepest regards for the Change caucus for opening their doors for myself and other constituents in the writing process for this resolution.
 - With the positives comes frustrations with the splicing of this resolution, primarily with the taking out of the “Whereas.” clause.
 - Immediate reactions could be skeptical or scared, but I want to analyze the Judiciary Committee’s steps they took.
 - I want to analyze the initial and latter aspects when botching this legislation.
 - They use five steps:
 - 1. Constitutionality: This clause has been framed on constitutional principles. Check.
 - 2. Clarity: It is clear that UF has contributed to the Johns Committee, as seen in the clause. Check.
 - 3. Legality: There are no legal conflicts that would be considered inaccurate or liable that would need to be taken up with a court. Check.
 - 4. Format: This legislation fulfills the desired structure and function as aforementioned by the rules and procedures.
 - 5. Implication: The ideas or interpretations not explicitly mentioned in this clause are nowhere to be discovered. The only inferences that can come with this clause would be that much of the Don’t Say Gay bill doesn’t have the same language that compares queer people to pedophiles (which it does). Check.
 - It is clear that this clause has no present conflict with the Judiciary Committee in any shape or form.

- It is comical that the silent commencement occurred as Brinkman moved to adjust the original resolution.
- Complicity surely looks good on all of you.
- If this whole process has made you uncomfortable, then guess what, welcome to the world of the queer American.
- The American who is taken out of classes and shoved into UF basements and interrogated like a war criminal. The American who wants to love others unconditionally, but experiences hate and discrimination at the hands of institutions. The American whose authenticity isn't worth the purity of cisgender, heterosexual "caucacity."
- Senate President Hartzog, I call on you and these leaders to acknowledge the transphobia and homophobia that has and continues to go on within these halls.
- This, yet again, is the bare minimum.
- Let's see where you all stand and see if this body is with you and for you.
- Rey Arcenas:
 - Introduces himself as a queer student at the University of Florida.
 - The first time I was called a homiphobic slur was at UF.
 - Anti-queerness runs deeper than slurs and insults.
 - I applaud the Senate for taking steps to condemn HB 1557 and SB 1834.
 - This bill is the most blatant homophobic bill that would pass by DeSantis, and we must remember the history of the queer community.
 - The Johns Committee destroyed lives.
 - Many members of the LGBTQ+ community committed suicide and are no longer here with us today to talk to, but we need to acknowledge their history.
 - We have the opportunity to right this historical wrong.
 - By acknowledging history, we can make history.

*****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:

- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to hear the replacement and agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to approve the block of replacement and agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to divide the question for Student Senate Bill 2022-1006: Project Reorganization (PRO) Act to remove Chapter 233: Internal Affairs first and the rest of the bill second by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to approve amendment one of Student Senate Bill 2022-1005: Resolution Condemning the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to approve amendment two of Student Senate Bill 2022-1005: Resolution Condemning the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to approve the block of absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves to approve the failed absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

Treasurer- Elect:

- Introduces herself to the senate and reflects on her times at senate.
- An extra special shoutout to Madame President Hartzog. I am so proud of you.
- I will be discussing the revisions made to the office of the treasurer that will be passing later tonight.
- The amendment calls for the removal of the student accountability agency.
- Every student officer should have access to the information they need as they apply for money.
- However, after extensive conversations, it is seen that this accountability should be given to the Treasurer to enforce.
- SGAA helps organizations with leaders, and that is one of the jobs that falls on the Treasurer.
- The treasurer's office will be equipped with a better staff.
- All communication will be much more streamlined and efficient.
- This code revision will enhance the treasurer's office.
- This code also allows the treasurer to have a direct relationship with the officers of student clubs.
- I want to emphasize that this revision was done with the consent and approval of the SGAA.
- I sincerely hope I have your support.
- If you have any questions, please direct them to sierrakantamneni@ufl.edu .
- Thank you all for your time.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Summer replacement forms will be sent out via the Listserv right now. This form is also available on the SG website.
 - The form is currently available on the SG website, but after speaking with our advisor, there is one small tweak I want to make to it, since it does not have a section that will indicate that you will not be in senate over the summer and wish for the R&A committee to give you a replacement.
 - I want to bring the greatest amount of clarity to you as possible moving forward with this process.
 - In order to remain a sitting senator throughout the summer course, you must be enrolled in at least one credit for the summer.
 - It is okay for you to leave for the summer and come back, but you need to let me and the secretaries know.
 - Every senator needs to complete the form by April 6th, and there are three options.
 - You can indicate that you are remaining for the summer and are enrolled in at least one credit hour.
 - You can indicate that you are not remaining a senator this summer, but you have a replacement to be added unto your seat.
 - If you choose to pick your replacement, they must meet the qualifications that represent your seat.
 - You can indicate that you will not be returning for the summer, and I will be adding that to the form tonight, that you would like R&A to fill your seat.
 - Please start asking around if you need a replacement.
 - For any clarifications questions regarding your eligibility, please direct that to Jackie Philips's email: jacquelinphil@ufl.edu .
 - The first game of dodgeball is tomorrow at SW Rec at 7:30pm. Please come!
 - Please come visit me for a one-on-one conversation.
 - We will be having no senate next week. We will be representing UF at a conference this weekend, so R&A will not be able to meet.
 - We are hoping to organize a senate social, and there are more details to come.
 - I am going to yield some time to UFPD liaison Senator Ghozali and Minority Party Leader Adekunle.
 - Senator Ghozali:
 - Over the next few months, I will strive to create an active and open relationship with the senate and our police.
 - I need your help. It's important to me that I properly represent the senate how you want them to.

- I would like you all to fill out this survey so I can better represent and advocate for you all with UFPD.
 - Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help advocate for your objectives concerning the UFPD.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle:
 - Introduces herself to the senate. The Change caucus will be adding an amendment to the Student Senate Bill 2022-1005: Resolution Condemning the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill for Jonathan Stephens, who helped us write this resolution.
 - We want him and his efforts to be represented.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - Open Permanent Seats:
 - Tolbert Area
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - District A (2)
 - District D (2)
 - Graduate (2)
 - Open Committee Seats:
 - Judiciary (2)
 - Budget and Appropriations (1)
 - Rules and Ethics (2)
 - Information and Communications (3)
 - These seats will close at noon next Friday.
 - Tabling will start soon. One initiative I had was putting open seats on paper and passing them out, and I still plan to do this to increase participation.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Brinkman:
 - All legislation is due on Friday at noon, and please submit all the legislation to judiciary@sg.ufl.edu .
 - We will be meeting this week at a time and location to be announced.
 - There are several amendments to tonight’s agenda.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Giordano:

- Explains the situation that occurred yesterday with operational and travel requests.
- UF IT servers completely crashed at 9am, and the website was down for over an hour.
- We made the executive decision to move the operational and travel request by at least 24 hours to ensure that all students are able to receive funding.
- I sent out multiple emails to SAI organizations and other listservs to get the word out.
- There was a second email that went out detailing when the operational and travel requests will reopen.
- They will reopen March 23rd at 9am.
- We will now rely on google servers instead of the UF server, which will be able to handle this much better.
- We have been working with UF IT to update our servers.
- Base funding closes on March 28th at 4pm.
- If you have any questions, email budget@sg.ufl.edu .

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Thompson
 - A reminder to get your constituency in as soon as possible since the end of the semester is coming up.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - I am excited and honored to be serving in this position.
 - If you have any new ideas, I will be happy to take in your consideration.

FIRST READINGS:

- Chairman Brinkman moves to move into consideration of amendments by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- We will now move into 2 minutes of presentation by the authors.
 - Senator Gorelick and Minority Party Leader Adekunle:
 - This amendment was a vital piece of this legislation, for the conditions under the Don't Say Gay bill are tied to this resolution.
 - I would also like to include that none of the five judiciary members mentioned it to them, which would be common courtesy.
 - If you didn't write the bill, you have no right to modify it.
 - I encourage all of you to vote in favor.
- There were two minutes of pro-con debate.

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to call the previous question on amendment two. The eyes have it and the motion is agreed to.
- Majority Party Leader moves to fail amendment two. That motion is objected to the consideration of the question.
 - In the opinion of the chair, the nays have it. The motion does not pass.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to fail amendment two. The eyes have it and the motion is agreed to.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1005: Resolution Condemning the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill to have the authors of the legislation express gratitude to its student writer Jonathan Stephens in the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves to call the previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1005: Resolution Condemning the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- The PRO Act:
 - There was a five minute presentation on the PRO Act by Chairman Brinkman.
 - There was a five minute non-technical questions and answers period.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to call the previous question on the PRO Act by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the PRO Act bill by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Corbett:
 - I wanted to explain that I had a conversation with Majority Party Leader Pecora where she said that, while the majority of senators would be voting “no” on the amendment, she will be looking forward to write an entire, more specific piece of legislation talking about LGBTQ+ discriminatory practices done by governments and how we can work on condemning those.
 - I want to open the conversation with all of you after senate to talk about ways you want to be involved with that piece of legislation.
- Minority Party Leader Adekunle:

- The sustainability office is hosting an event on April 6th if you would like to volunteer.
- Senator Santiago:
 - I want to announce my co-chair for the LGBTQ+ caucus is Senator Fernandez.
 - I can't wait to see what initiatives that we work on.
- Senator Shoemaker:
 - After last week's city commission meeting, and since they would like for me to write a resolution, I was wondering if anybody wanted to help out, sponsor, or co-author.
- Chairman Brinkman:
 - Clarification on the voter record.
- Senator Fernandez:
 - I want to inform you about constituency opportunities that are happening this week.
 - I would like to thank Senator Santiago for appointing me as co-chair for the LGBTQ+ caucus.
 - If you have any questions that you would like to bring to the caucus, please contact him or me. My email olivia.fernandez@ufl.edu .

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Thompson moves to use voter record as final roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.