

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

May 24th, 2022

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:02pm 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 65 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Bonnilla**
- **Cable**
- **Johnson**
- **Locascio**
- **Mbua**
- **Pecora**
- **Quetant**
- **Riklan**
- **Skinner**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Faisal:
 - I have been here since Fall 2019, and I have been involved with Student Government the whole time in some capacity.
 - I love senate, and I still love senate. I meet amazing people and work with amazing people and watch them try to do amazing things.
 - We spend hours writing legislation, having meetings, and discussing how we can make a change on campus.
 - One thing I have not enjoyed is when the majority party pushes their will on the student body.
 - I have watched senators get expelled for common mistakes, and I have watched the majority party change the rules to confirm a member into a leadership position, which resulted in a poor outcome.
 - The reason why I bring this up is because the majority party makes mistakes.
 - We're all human and we all make mistakes.
 - The majority, if not all, of the time, the majority party never apologizes for their mistakes.
 - The censure investigation that was submitted is all about innocent until proven guilty.
 - We are aiming to hold SG accountable.

- If the minority party isn't here to check the majority party, what are we doing here?
- Change caucus was acting on this because of the complaint of a constituent.
- I call on my other constituents in CLAS to look at this investigation with the utmost respect and the utmost integrity because everybody just wants to know the truth.
- When we all came here to senate, we took an oath to our student body.
- What I am asking you here today is to uphold that oath, remain honest, and focus on the truth.
- In America, it is innocent until proven guilty, not otherwise.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett:
 - Change caucus serves to establish grounds regarding accountability and transparency.
 - I speak on behalf of my caucus, but we act on behalf of our constituents and in the best interests of the student body.
 - Considering the concern of a constituent arose, it is our duty to recognize that concern and comply with all parties involved.
 - As a public relations student, I have learned that an organization's ethics is dependent on leadership's demonstration of ethical actions.
 - Change caucus will move forward with an investigation censure.
 - We will be an advocate for ethical, rules-based investigations.
 - We request that these claims are respected and are treated with utmost seriousness and priority.
 - I would like to remind this legislative body that “innocent until proven guilty” is utilized in all cases.
 - Until there is a fair and ethical conclusion, we will continue to make this presumption.
 - As the minority party, we are meant with countless barriers.
 - We expect that the majority party works not only with us, but also in compliance with the rules of the senate and of the university. And we expect them to act within the students' best interests, especially considering constituents who have voiced their concerns.
 - Change caucus would like to call on the Rules & Ethics committee to have fact-based, nonpartisan, and substantial questioning.
 - The minority party would also like to ask for full transparency from the committee in terms of carrying out the investigation, this including procedure.
 - Our interests in the investigations are purely this: to seek and find the truth.
 - Thank you, and go gators!
- Senator Stephens:

- I'm going to keep this simple: If you can't answer technical questions correctly, you shouldn't really be in the committee. If you fit any of those criteria, please step down and withdraw your recommendation.
- Chairman Brinkman:
 - The complaints that have been brought against Senate President Hartzog have been unfounded, and these claims are also disgraceful to any reasonable observer of the facts.
 - I would like to address the rights the Senate President reserves.
 - The University of Florida Student Body Constitution Article III Section 6 reads in full: *The Student Senate shall have the power to... determine the time and place of its meetings, provided that it meets once every two school weeks.*
 - Rules and Procedures Rule III 1d in part: *The President of the Senate may cancel a regular meeting set by the Replacement & Agenda Committee at their individual discretion. The President of the Senate must cancel a regular meeting at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the regular meeting.*
 - What does all this mean? It means a few basic operating procedures:
 - 1. The Student Senate has a leeway in determining its own schedule.
 - 2. We must meet once every two school weeks.
 - 3. We vest the power of cancellation in the office of the Senate President.
 - 4. Cancellations must be provided 24 hours before the start of the meeting.
 - 5. Most importantly, the Senate President is allowed to make unilateral decisions about when meetings should take place, and it is up to her volition to exercise the power for reasons which she chooses. It is up to her individual discretion.
 - It is important that everybody listening is aware that Senate President Hartzog's decision to cancel the meeting was well within her rights, and she did not violate any rules by making this decision.
 - She did not make a mistake because canceling the meeting was well within her authority to do so.
 - There is no need to apologize for a legitimate action that she took under her authority.
 - What she did was nowhere out of her jurisdiction.
 - Thank you.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to approve Senator Talati for the open Information & Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to recommit the Rules & Ethics candidates to the Replacement & Agenda committee. Seconded. The motion was ruled dilatory.
 - Chairman Brinkman moves to call a recess by unanimous consent. Objected. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
 - Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 65 senators present.
 - **Not there for roll call:**
 - **Bonnilla**
 - **Cable**
 - **Johnson**
 - **Locasio**
 - **Mbua**
 - **Pecora**
 - **Quetant**
 - **Riklan**
 - **Ruedas**
 - **Skinner**
- Senator Santiago moves to refer the R&E seats to the Replacement & Agenda committee. Seconded. The motion was ruled dilatory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Good evening senators.
 - I hope you are all doing well this summer term.
 - I am excited to announce our next senate intramural team!
 - My office hours are Monday-Friday. I will be there from 3pm-5pm everyday, but on Tuesdays I will be there almost all day.
 - Please come by and ask questions or talk about your projects!

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Claire Borland for CLAS Summer C Replacement seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Claire Borland for CLAS Summer C Replacement seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to call for a division of the house. The motion was ruled dilatory.

- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Dawson Geller for Jennings Summer C Replacement seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Dawson Geller for Jennings Summer C Replacement seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Jack Knupfer for Freshman Summer A Replacement seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Jack Knupfer for Freshman Summer A Replacement seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Bianca Barrios for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Bianca Barrios for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to call for a division of the house. The motion was ruled dilatory.
- Senator Mia moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Kaela Albury for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Kaela Albury for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to call for a division of the house. The motion was ruled dilatory.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett makes point of order that Chairman Brinkman's motion was dilatory due to an ongoing investigation. That motion was ruled dilatory.
- Senator Santiago moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Samantha Sparks for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Samantha Sparks for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Mason Solomon for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Mason Solomon for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.
- Senator Faisal makes point of order that the senate is approving people that will be investigated. That motion was ruled dilatory.
- Senator Faisal moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Lilliana Clark for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Lilliana Clark for the Rules & Ethics committee seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.

- Chairman Brinkman moves to call previous question on Julia Haley for the Judiciary committee seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Julia Haley for the Judiciary committee seat. Seconded. In a voice vote, the ayes have it and that motion passes.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - This has been the most interesting senate I've experienced.
 - I would like to explain in full specificity what goes on in R&A
 - In the committee, there is the Majority Party Leader, the Minority Party Leader, two Members-at-Large, Senate President Pro-Tempore, and Senate President.
 - In these meetings, I allow deliberations for every single candidate.
 - It does not matter what party they are in, I sent affiliation forms after they have already been set to be confirmed.
 - When Bianca Barrios, Kaela Albury, Samantha Sparks, Mason Solomon, and Lilliana Clark applied to senate, they were not in any party. They were UF students, as well as Jack Knupfer, Claire Borland, and Dawson Geller.
 - They came as a student, and they deserve the same amount of respect and the same amount of fairness when it comes to their deliberation in their interviews.
 - More than just technical questions, we look at the caliber of the student, not only in senate but in a committee if they are to apply.
 - There was no ill intent on the actions that were done today, but I want to preface that nothing was done out of unfairness.
 - In all these interviews, Faith Corbett did not mention unfairness, and she did not deny that we gave everyone a fail and equal trial in weeks past.
 - If you have any questions, please come to my office hours, which are around 11am-2pm.
 - You can email me at senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu .

Open Summer Replacements

- Summer A:
 - District C
- Summer C:
 - Murphree
 - Graham
 - Infinity
 - Building Construction
 - Education
 - Law
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy

- Open Permanent Senate Seats:
 - District D (2)
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - Graduate (3)
 - Tolbert
 - Dentistry
- Open Committee Seats:
 - Information & Communication (2)
 - Budget & Appropriations (1)
 - Judiciary (3)
- These seats will open directly after senate and will close at noon on Friday.
- You are welcome to come to the R&A meetings; they are open to the public.
- I love being the R&A chair, I love everyone on the committee, and I love people who come in.

Minority Party Report

Minority Party Leader Corbett:

- Seeing that the minority report shares similarities with the dissenting opinion reports, I want to express why I disagree with the actions of the R&A committee.
- I feel like it is owed to all of you because it is confusing and overwhelming.
- It is important to me that we fill each and every seat.
- Our committee is underperforming by having these open seats, as compared to previous years.
- The committee deflected this fact.
- Members demonstrated that they were disappointed and unimpressed with the interviews.
- Yet R&A continues to grant seats to people who could not answer technical questions.
- They attempted to degrade those of you who may have been interviewed unopposed prior to this meeting by saying, “Usually when one person applies, the interview is not good.”
- I have and will continue to offer an objective stance in R&A.
- In this past meeting, I have motioned for the approval of members of the majority party and those who are unaffiliated over all members of my caucus.
- After the R&A meeting on May 8, I was disappointed to hear from Oscar that committee seats were tabled.
- As a reason, they wanted to give the opportunity for summer replacements and newly seated senators who applied.
- Senate was canceled, which means R&A was canceled.
- I expected to leave that meeting with all of those seats filled.
- When we had met and they decided that they are going to table at least half of the remaining seats, I feel obligated to voice their faulty reasoning.
- I would like to discuss some of the rhetoric and precedents set by this committee.

- Chairman Brinkman sent a precedent to table seats when it ran unopposed.
- Spring R&A committee at first followed this precedent, yet they have been unable to follow through.
- After discussing with the open permanent Graduate and Graduate and Family Housing seats, I was talked down to because “I am serving on this committee for the first time,” which is inaccurate.
- I will not be degraded on my abilities to follow trends, or in this case, challenge them.
- The rhetoric of one applicant being the causation for a tabled seat honestly did start to make sense, until they decided to fill the Freshman Summer C replacement seat, which had a singular applicant.
- I wish I could have heard more in your interview for what you could have done for the freshman class specifically.
- More or less, you were a decent applicant.
- I can only wish that the offer of running unopposed was granted to the two other individuals who have not only continued to apply for the open seats, while also acknowledging that one of these individuals is the mayor of Graduate and Family Housing who was voted upon by constituents.
- Also, the graduate who came in and had a plan for legislative action that was dictated by means of research and thoughtfulness.
- One of the recurring themes I heard at this committee was that more than half of you are unqualified.
- I think this response falls flat.
- First, when deliberating, especially on summer replacements, I expressed the idea that it is your opportunity to learn and grow.
- I am sorry to those of you who had applied that the committee could not see your potential.
- Secondly, they threw this rhetoric out the window when they decided to put up Julia Haley for the open Judiciary committee seat.
- Considering she applied for all the open committees, I was hoping to see her in Information & Communication, to which she has applied six times in a row now.
- She appeared well-qualified for that seat, but instead, members of the majority party moved to place Julia in Judiciary, the one committee where she could not answer technical questions and instead replied with “I am unsure about the five criteria, but that is something I can learn in the committee.”
- I cannot express to you my frustration with R&A to disregard others who came in with the mindset to learn, while the chair made the statement that she wanted individuals to “act, not learn.”
- To me, being a summer senator is a great way to expose yourself to student government.
- I will continue to ask you to expose yourself to the integral parts of student government and that you continue to apply to seats.

- To address R&E in specifics, there should be no fear, Senate President Hartzog, Chairman Brinkman, or any other fellow of the Gator caucus because, put simply, if you are innocent, the facts should point this way.
- We ask that we reconsider the members of R&E, although that did not pass, and considering we are acting in the context of both an ethics and censure investigation, we don't see any wrongdoing in this line of thought.
- We had wished to establish a committee who will act in terms of fact.
- I will continue to ask everyone in this room to continue to apply to every committee, whether you are Gator, Change, or Independent.
- I see you, I hear you, I value you.
- When considering running for party leader, one of my biggest philosophies was to keep my senators engaged.
- I cherish my caucus, but I also cherish all of you.
- I especially cherish the new senators who come in with excitement, with new thinking, with the deadlines that they face. They are passionate.
- If you have ever felt that you are interested in applying for a committee seat, please reach out.
- If you have ever been denied a committee seat, I challenge you to do it again.
- Who knows? You may be the next Julia Haley after applying for the sixth time.
- Thank you, and go gators.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Brinkman:
 - Judiciary committee will have a meeting sometime this week at a time and location to be determined.
 - Please submit all legislation to judiciary@sg.ufl.edu by noon on Friday.
 - I wanted to say that summer can be a tough time with many things going on, so I appreciate everyone bearing with us as we go through this period.
 - I'm excited for summer, and I'm glad to work with all of you.
 - Thank you, and go gators.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Giordano:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The Budgets & Appropriations committee has been doing a lot.
 - The signing of the Summer B/Fall 2022 budget bill for student organizations will be signed first thing in the morning, sent off to Student Body Treasurer Kantamneni to be signed, then sent off to Dr. Mull for review, and then sent to the senate listserv.

- Also, we have the amended budget for fiscal year 2022/2023 hearings on Tuesday, and keep an eye on listserv for the detailed time and schedule.
- Apply for budget! We have a seat open.
- I hope everybody is having an amazing summer and that school is going well.
- Email me if you have any questions at budget@sg.ufl.edu .

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Thompson:
 - Good evening.
 - It is very disheartening to see what's going on.
 - I hope we can move forward with respect and communication.
 - As chair, I serve as an unbiased member on the committee.
 - My decisions on those ethics do come from my committee as a whole.
 - I'd like to thank the R&A committee. I trust your judgment, and thank you for all that you do.
 - In regards to the investigation, R&E just met quorum tonight, so we have not been able to have a meeting up until now.
 - We will plan a meeting as soon as possible.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu .

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - I have some tabling instructions for the new senators who have never tabled before.
 - If you are the first shift of the day, you will head to the SG office, and by the secretary's desk, there is going to be two buckets made for you, which will contain the senate tablecloth, some merch things to hand out, and two QR codes to check in and check out.
 - Every senator must check in and check out for their tabling shift.
 - You must take a picture and send it to the website for constituency within seven days or it will not count.
 - I emailed the tabling sheet a few weeks ago, but I will email it out again.
 - Also, the "Why Senate Wednesday?" form is available for those of you who want to be featured on the Instagram.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at info@sg.ufl.edu .
 - Thank you, and have a great night.

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chairwoman Thompson: I forgot to address regular business! With constituency, we have not been able to meet, so once R&E meets, we will be able to create an updated constituency calendar, which we can all use to finish out Summer A. I will also be presenting on the R&E in the coming weeks about what we do, expectations, attendance, and constituency. Regular business will be back to normal as soon as we meet.
- Senator Vaknin: I could not get through the conclusion of this meeting without addressing the rude and disrespectful behavior that was seen today, and it has nothing to do with politics, fairness, or investigations. We have things like public comment so everyone has a fair opportunity to get up, speak, and share their ideas. We're all here to share different ideas, and that is the beauty of this body. To see people be mocked, laughed at, and interrupted for sharing their opinions is extremely disheartening, and it is something I have never witnessed during my time in senate. I implore everyone to evaluate how they're acting in and out of this chamber. I hope you can all work on that and be more inclusive, like you all tend to preach here.
- Senator Stephens: In relation to some of the craziness today, today is actually the first day in a very long time that we are live streaming senate. I believe that this is a great step forward in being more transparent. I know that some committees are supposed to have this responsibility, but obviously, there have been some difficulties with that. Taking this into our own hands was the most important thing, and I'm excited to continue this program.
- Pro-Tempore Green: I truly apologize for anyone who was approved today and felt like they were disrespected. You are valued and you deserve the role that you got. To the entire senate: Please apply and know you will receive a fair and valued opinion. Congrats, Julia Haley. You had an amazing interview. I apologize for what has happened today. Applications open tonight. Come to Replacement & Agenda!
- Senator Santiago: There is an RTS advisory board meeting tomorrow if any of you wish to join me.
- Senator Cox: I want to tell everyone that let's all have a great rest of the week and get home safe.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.