

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

June 7th, 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 64 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Bertolett
- Bonnilla
- Damera
- George
- Hoerle
- Marzlock
- Quetant
- Riklan
- Soukup
- Talati
- Toro
- Vaknin

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Joseph Andreoli:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I introduced myself last week, and I am excited to work with you all if I am approved tonight.
 - I want to speak about the landscape that graduate students find themselves in right now.
 - This work would not have been possible without PhD student Shelly Gaynor.
 - She and others have compiled the stipend amounts of the graduate students.
 - They made charts and graphs with the results.
 - I bring this work up because on May 23rd, this made national news.
 - This work has been featured in *Nature Magazine* and *Science*.
 - The *Nature* article about graduate students struggling to make a living wage was released the same day as the *Alligator*'s article on the same topic.
 - Presents a chart that depicts the cost of living and the stipend that a student may get. In most locations, the cost of living is greater than the stipend.
 - At UF, for biology PhD students, the salary does not reach the cost of living.

- Why should you care?
- Graduate students are students like you, and they may be your friends, neighbors, or relatives.
- Think about your own futures and if you want to pursue further education.
- Lastly, I want to talk about how the educational experience you have all gained is affected by these salaries.
- Think of all the classes you have taken as a UF student. Think about the UF graduate student involvement in those classes, like graduate student teachers, assistants, and tutors.
- I know this for a fact because I was a grader for a class.
- John F. Kennedy had said, “A rising tide lifts all boats.” Think about your experience now, and think about how it can be improved if graduate students are making a wage closer to the cost of living.
- I have three asks of you:
 - 1. Connect with Graduate Assistants United.
 - 2. Apply for the three open graduate seats or talk to your friends about it.
 - 3. Please take a look at that website:
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-01392-w>
- I look forward to working with you all, and have a good evening.
- Senator Thomas:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I wanted to start off by formally introducing myself.
 - My name is Bradley Thomas, and I was just approved as a District B permanent seat.
 - I want to thank Pro-Tempore Green and the rest of the R&A committee for appointing me, and I thank the rest of the body for confirming me.
 - I am a fourth year political science and economics double major.
 - I hope to transfer into the masters program for economics.
 - When I'm not at senate, I'm a huge fan of music and reading philosophy.
 - I am up here today because I want to discuss my plans for senate.
 - I have worked with initiatives such as pedestrian safety and increasing bike paths and access around campus.
 - I would love to lend a hand to other senators, like if you need an extra pair of eyes for legislation.
 - Feel free to contact me using this QR code.
 - I'd love to help out with anything you guys are working on.
 - This university has shaped the person I am today, and I want to give back.
- Senator Stephens:

- We, the University of Florida student government, understand that our campus is located on the ancestral and traditional territory of the Seminole tribe of Florida and the Timucua tribe.
- We recognize the displacement and violence against indigenous people has led to severe plights for those today and in the past.
- Despite these circumstances, the indigenous communities across this nation have continued to stay connected with each other and with their cultural ways-of-life.
- We pay our respects to the elders and descendants of the past and present.
- We hope that the future generations of student government leaders continue to support indigenous sovereignty and culture within and beyond the University of Florida.
- I know that most of this chamber has witnessed the trial of Johnny Depp vs Amber Heard.
- We've heard it all: objection, lack of foundation, and hearsay.
- If you are looking for something that is more enjoyable to watch, then anyone should have gotten a seat at the Rules & Ethics special hearing that investigated Senate President Hartzog.
- While hearsay rang as objective truth, I watched as fallacy after fallacy was utilized to exonerate yourself from abuse of power.
- A Rules and Procedures section was used to say that the abuse of your power was valid.
- I guess that means when military officials enforce their platoons to engage in harming innocent citizens, that's okay, and it's not a war crime, since that power is prescribed to them by law.
- When teachers use their position to mentally abuse students, that's okay because they have the power to enforce their class procedures.
- The usage of the appeals to authority were not only disappointing, but it was pathetic and a true "waste of time" to the committee.
- The committee wasn't worried about that evidence. Instead, they conflated a lack of "collusion" by yourself when never mentioned within the evidence and that the concerns of reaching quorum was strategic.
- That's funny. Was it not the May 10th meeting where we confirmed seven permanent senators and thirteen Summer C replacements?
- Sounds to me that the issue of quorum could have been prevented considering less than ten senators weren't present afterwards.
- These arguments were malnourished, used, and abused tirelessly to falsely exonerate yourself from a committee which is filled with a partisan lean towards yourself.

- While I can go on and on, I think it is fair to conclude this: While you continue to play a blind game of chess within this chamber, don't forget that your check is knocking at the door—mate.
- Senator Liu:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I sit on the Budget & Appropriations committee.
 - I am giving public comment tonight to stress the importance of passing SSB 2022-1015.
 - This budget bill is more than 22.5 million dollars that funds over a thousand student organizations, as well as the Big 5 entities, which include Student Government, Rec Sports, the Reitz Union, and a couple others.
 - I want to give you all a couple of examples of how the passing of this bill will positively impact the lives of students.
 - UF has students from all sorts of socioeconomic statuses.
 - The Field and Fork Pantry is a pantry that all students have access to, and it lies within this bill.
 - The passing of this bill will allow students to continue to have access to the most basic necessities.
 - This budget also funds the Big 5 entities.
 - Student jobs are one of the main things I am passionate about.
 - Though I am not a student worker, I have numerous friends and mentors who are currently employed through one of our Big 5.
 - Our livelihood depends on these jobs.
 - If this bill does not pass tonight, you are putting the livelihoods of many students in jeopardy.
 - Please vote “yes” on the SSB 2022-1015.
 - Thank you, and go gators.
- Senator Shin:
 - Good evening, senators
 - I also currently serve on the Budget & Appropriations committee.
 - I am also here to discuss the significance of the SSB 2022-1015.
 - The funding for Rec Sports is in this bill.
 - Since sports and exercise are such a big part of student life, this bill needs to be passed so major cutbacks do not go through for Rec Sports and for its funding, as well as for the other Big 5.
 - If we want to prioritize the health and wellbeing of all students, we must pass this bill.
- Senator Kanfer:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am also here tonight to discuss passing SSb

- This budget is extremely important to student jobs and student organizations.
- One important amendment that is important to me is the increase in funding towards student legal services, as this will further serve the student body.
- The increase in funding for Newell Hall for much-needed renovations is also an amendment within this bill.
- It is critical that this bill passes first reading, since all the people who are relying on its funding will be at a loss.
- Please vote “yes” on SSB 2022-1015.
- Senator Cox:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I serve as the spring senator and as a member of the Budget & Appropriations committee.
 - Tonight, I am here to talk about SSB 2022-1015.
 - One important amendment is the amendment to Signature Events.
 - After this amendment, SAI is funding Signature Events.
 - Signature Events are campus events recognized by the Department of Student Activities & Involvement as having a significant impact or the potential to have a significant impact on student engagement at the University of Florida.
 - Signature Events promote a vibrant and diverse student experience that prepares graders to engage, transform, and thrive in an evolving global community.
 - By funding it through SAI, it gives student organizations another option for funding and allows them to create and maintain their own UF traditions.
 - For this, as well as countless other reasons, I urge you to pass SSB 2022-1015.
- Senator Schultz:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am one of the sophomore senators and a member of the Budget & Appropriations committee.
 - I am here to discuss passing SSB 2022-1015.
 - This budget is funding for the Big 5 organizations at UF, which are essential to improving student life.
 - Anyone paying attention knows that inflation is at an all-time high, and with that, students are struggling to have the basic necessities such as food, rent, and tuition cost.
 - This bill provides funding for thousands of student jobs.
 - This bill also provides funding for the Field and Fork Pantry, which is for students who are struggling with food insecurity.
 - UF senate is modeled off of the state and U.S. government.
 - As constituents to our own representatives, we rely on them to pass the budget each year so that our lives continue to work more efficiently.
 - As senators of this university, our job is no different.

- We must pass this funding for the Big 5 entities so that our university can continue to run efficiently.
- By voting “yes,” you are putting on the record that you support the student body and bettering students.
- Thank you, and go gators.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora:
 - Good evening.
 - I serve as the Vice Chair of the Budget & Appropriations committee.
 - I am here to talk about SSB 2022-1015.
 - This bill approves the budget of over 22 million dollars that will be given to the Big 5 entities.
 - The amendments have all the students’ best interests in mind, like necessary renovations and student jobs.
 - As a whole, this committee has viewed this bill in depth and met with multiple heads of departments in order to make sure that the money is best being used for students’ best interests.
 - If you have any specific questions, please contact Chairwoman Cat Giordano.
 - My fellow committee members have spoken and will continue to speak on the important aspects of this bill and why it needs to be passed.
 - I cannot stress the importance of passing SSB 2022-1015.
- Senator Durst:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I was recently appointed to the Budget & Appropriations committee, and my comment also concerns the passing of SSB 2022-1015.
 - I would like to emphasize the harm to student life that could be caused by not passing this bill.
 - Hundreds of student organizations rely on the funding that this bill provides.
 - Student organizations are the primary source of community for many UF students, and to deprive them of their funding would be to deprive them of their community.
 - This bill provides the funding for more than one thousand student jobs.
 - If you are aware of the current macroeconomic conditions, you will agree that now is not the time to toy with the job security of our constituents.
 - I urge you to consider the needs of your constituents and vote to pass SSB 2022-1015.
- Chairwoman Giordano:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am here to talk about SSB 2022-1015.
 - It is imperative that this bill passes tonight.

- It provides funding for student jobs, many of which are a part of the Federal Work Study program.
- This bill is the livelihood of thousands of students here at UF.
- This bill funds student jobs, and many of us rely on these jobs to support ourselves through college.
- If this bill does not go through, we are doing the exact opposite of protecting these jobs.
- The 5% increase was vetoed by the Board of Trustees, so we have to work with what we have.
- That is why we are proposing a 0% increase in the amended budget.
- It is critical that this bill passes first reading.
- If it does not pass, the thousands of jobs of student workers will be impacted as a direct result of our inaction.
- This student senate is mandated with accomplishing one goal each year, which is creating and passing a budget.
- The tables and numbers have meanings behind them: student salaries, funding for student organizations, and funding for the essential resources that UF and the student body runs on.
- Please vote to approve SSB 2022-1015 to support our student workers and fulfill our responsibilities as student senators. Thank you.
- **Minority Party Leader Corbett:**
 - Good evening, senators.
 - As you know, I am the leader of the minority party, direct representative of Change Caucus, but tonight, I am Faith Corbett, a student at the University of Florida.
 - I want to address the evidence presented during the testimony delivered by Senate President Hartzog during the Rules & Ethics investigation, regarding her censure.
 - I want it to be clear that this is my account, recollection, and memory.
 - Hartzog begins with the timeline.
 - Following this, she explains that she, Olivia Green, and myself have all had a conversation regarding quorum for the May 10th meeting.
 - She then discusses text messages from the following week on May 18th, the day after the canceled senate meeting.
 - This information presented is true, but only to an extent.
 - She did ask me to speak with her, where she did describe that multiple members of Gator Caucus would not be here for the May 17th meeting.
 - Her next claim was that Pro-Tempore Green and herself had “decided to schedule the next meeting to be for May 24th,” demonstrating that this was a statement made to me, not coming from a line of questioning.

- She said that I did not make any comments disagreeing with this decision, but there was no question posed.
- The cancellation for the meeting was not conducted through R&A, for I would have been able to object to a motion.
- Instead, Green did not hold R&A and Hartzog made the unilateral decision in the May 10th senate meeting to cancel the next one.
- She then states that I agreed that it would not make sense to hold a meeting on May 17th if quorum could not be established.
- This was taken out of context.
- This agreement follows the line that we have to meet quorum this week to conduct new senators because if we wait until next week, we will still not have quorum.
- She fails to recognize that since she conducted a meeting and established quorum to induct twenty senators, then we would have had the capacity to meet on May 17th, which would have been led by other members of leadership.
- I simply agreed to that statement that we must meet quorum this week, but this agreement was made so that we would be able to meet quorum the next.
- It is the absolute bare minimum that we, as senators, conduct regular meetings.
- I would like to remind the senate of the following sentiment: Simply because one does not say no does not mean that I said yes.
- I was not only not given the capacity to make this decision, but I also saw no opportunity to oppose the decision made.
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- Addressing R&E, I would like to express that almost half of what was presented as evidence on behalf of Hartzog should have qualified as hearsay.
- Hearsay is defined as “out-of-court statements offered as proof of that statement.”
- In law, it is prohibited and disqualified as quantifiable evidence unless I were to have been there as subpoenaed.
- Considering most of Hartzog’s evidence took place either in-person communication and phone calls, I would have appreciated if the committee would have recognized rules and procedures in a court of law.
- I would have wished to be subpoenaed on my own behalf.
- I understand that the committee had no way of knowing Hartzog’s line of argumentation until the submission of her case, which did come out after the subpoenaed were made.
- I would have appreciated a call for either a re-trial or a motion to suspend the rules, subpoena myself, and then reschedule the trial.
- I understand that this is now all behind us.
- I found it appropriate to relay my account, since it had gone unaccounted for.
- From here, we are looking to move beyond actions to censure.

- We appreciate your willingness to work with us.
- I look forward to seeing how we collaborate and communicate with each other for the remainder of summer.
- I thank you for your time, your understanding, and your opportunity to allow me to come speak.
- Thank you, and go gators.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairwoman Giordano moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1015: Amended Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Activity and Service Fee Budget by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Asuncion moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1019: Resolution Celebrating 50 Years of Women’s Athletics at the University of Florida by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the bloc of absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1016: Exclusionary Offices Amendment- 100 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1017: Gender Neutral Wording Act Volume 2- 400 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1018: Resolution Advocating for the Expansion of Composting Stations Across Campus by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1009: Resign to Run Act by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1020: Senate Meeting Modernization and Reform Act of 2022 by unanimous consent. Objected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Good evening, senators.

- I want to first start by giving a large congratulations to Chairwoman Giordano and the entire Budget & Appropriations committee for their work in passing the amended fiscal year budget.
- This rings close to my heart because I was the original author of Fiscal Year 2022-2023, but it appears that my baby was not loved as much as I loved it by the Board of Trustees.
- I am grateful for the work the Budget committee has done in making sure that this bill was amended and with students first.
- Thank you all for coming out to Meet-Your-Senator Day!
- If you were not able to come, I have a reminder that we will be having another one this Thursday, June 9th, from 4-5pm in Turlington Plaza.
- This is the last SG event opportunity.
- For everyone that's been tabling, please make sure to submit your constituency.
- Reach out to Chairwoman Thompson with any questions.
- I am here to announce our Summer B partnership with Gator Days.
- We will be having a joint event on June 28th from 11am-2pm on the Reitz North Lawn.
- This is a great opportunity to meet our new constituency, the Summer B freshmen.
- Finally, always come visit and hang out with me.
- Text or email me if you want to set up a meeting.
- Whatever I can do to help any of you moving forward into Summer B, please let me know.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - We will have a meeting on Sunday at a time and place to be determined.

Open Summer Replacements

- Summer C:
 - Murphree
 - Graham
 - Building Construction
 - Education
 - Law
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy
- Open Permanent Senate Seats:

- District E
- District C
- Graduate and Family Housing
- Graduate (3)
- Tolbert
- Dentistry
- Sophomore
- If you have any questions, please email me at senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu .

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Brinkman:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Please submit all legislation to judiciary@sg.ufl.edu by noon on Friday.
 - We will be meeting this weekend at a time and place and location to be determined.
 - Feel free to email me or come up to me after the meeting if you have any questions.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Giordano:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Presents SSB: 2022-1015.
 - When President Hartzog was chair, she introduced the budget, but a 5% increase was not approved.
 - That is why it was amended.
 - Cuts were made in certain places in order to not cut the amount of student jobs, since minimum wage has been increasing.
 - Explains the changes in funding within the Reitz Union.
 - Sorority and fraternity life funds stayed the same.
 - Student Activities & Involvement had a budget increase.
 - Money was moved from SG to SAI to fund the Signature Events program.
 - A lot of the main difference is in group budgets for organizations.
 - The rest is just programming individual line items to account for change in salaries.
 - I want to thank everybody on my committee for being so diligent with this.
 - I am forever grateful for them and their efforts.
 - I want to thank everyone again for approving this.
 - Email me if you have any questions at budget@sg.ufl.edu .

RULES & ETHICS:

- Senator Thompson:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - We will be meeting at a time and place to be determined.
 - Please keep submitting constituency.
 - Make sure to submit it within seven days of the event.
 - The June 9th SG event will be the last one.
 - You should be getting an email by tomorrow night with your midterm constituency update.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu .

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Last week, I mentioned senate merch, which is still in the works.
 - Hopefully you'll be able to order it within the next week.
 - The next is the mentor/mentee form, which is still open. Please sign up!
 - The Why-Senate-Wednesday form is there for those who would like to be featured on the Instagram.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at info@sg.ufl.edu .

FIRST READINGS:

- Chairman Brinkman moves to call the previous question on Student Senate Bill 2022-1020: Senate Meeting Modernization and Reform Act of 2022. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1020: Senate Meeting Modernization and Reform Act of 2022. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

SECOND READINGS:

- Chairman Brinkman moves to call the previous question on Student Senate Bill 2022-1009: Resign to Run Act. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1009: Resign to Run Act. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Asuncion: I appreciate the blue ponchos when it's raining.
- Senator Stephens: Thank you to all the Gator and Change senators who sponsored my bill. I know bipartisanship seems so difficult in these chambers, but I am glad with what we have been able to accomplish. I have to announce and recognize that the more we continue to keep previous questioning in bills, the more we cannot understand the true legislative intent. I think that is concerning to our constituents, and I want us to recognize that at the end of the day, while we may agree on the bill, that does not necessarily mean that the public agrees on the bill. The structure of the bill may create issues in the future.

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 8:02pm.