

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

June 14th, 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 67 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Bailey**
- **Geller**
- **Pierre**
- **Riklan**
- **Sakata**
- **Sparks**
- **Watts**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Athay:**
 - Good evening, senators.
 - We are amidst a global crisis.
 - As of now, we have 7 years, 38 days, 1 hour, 38 minutes, and 37 seconds, according to the climate clock, until the earth rises in global temperature by 1.5°C.
 - A rise in 3°C would result in catastrophic, irreversible effects, including prolonged heat waves, more extreme weather events, extinction of species, reduced accessibility to drinking water, and many more.
 - The University of Florida emits 367,464 metric tons of greenhouses, 75% of which coming from the built environment.
 - The built environment includes building, distribution system for water and electricity, and transportation systems.
 - Seeing how most of our carbon emissions stem from the building sector, it is more than reasonable to target this section to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Currently, the Office of Sustainability is working on a revised climate action, along with a 10-year plan to lower emission.
 - While the gator nation is making great strides, there's always room for improvement.
 - Other universities, like the University of Massachusetts, are combatting the climate crisis by going carbon-neutral and using renewable energy.

- A smart person learns from their own mistakes and accomplishments, a wise one learns from others.
- Let's be wise and learn from our counterparts.
- We, the student senate, have the opportunity to act now.
- It is our duty to implement real change that will affect the current status of our climate.
- Supporting Student Senate Bill 2022-1022: Resolution Supporting the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency not only affects our current generations, but those to come.
- As the University of Florida Student Senate, let us make these strides towards a cleaner environment for our current gators and those gators to come.
- Let's act now before it's too late.
- As always, go gators.
- Senator Andreoli:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I would like to first start out by thanking you all for confirming me.
 - I would like to thank the R&A committee, as well as Member-at-Large Pierre Minority Party Leader Corbett.
 - I would also like to thank Chairwoman Funai for hearing my ideas at her meeting.
 - Now, I'd like to read a statement from one of my constituents, GAU Chief Bargainer Esteban Rodofili.
 - Senator Andreoli reads Rodofili's statement.
 - I apologize for not making it in person.
 - I wanted to bring you an update on the situation of stipends and current negotiations.
 - The minimum stipend for GAs is \$21,303.33 for 12-month appointments.
 - Since September 2021, we have been negotiating with UF to increase the minimum to that of other public universities.
 - The University of Michigan and University of Georgia have high rankings and pay their GAs more.
 - We have also tried to persuade the university to increase the minimum in view of the growing living costs in Gainesville.
 - Unfortunately, we have not been able to persuade the university to increase the minimum beyond the inflation.
 - If we convert the current minimum stipend amount from 2017 in the CPI inflation calculator to May 2022 dollars, the equivalent is \$25,473.87.
 - The last proposal of UF included an increase of the minimum to a lower amount, essentially a pay cut.
 - Last fall, we conducted a survey with more than 1,000 GAs on stipend a living conditions, and the survey revealed that there are numerous GAs

who cannot buy sufficient groceries and have to utilize Field & Fork Pantry, food stamps, etc.

- You can email us organizing at ufgau.org
- We want UF to have a better minimum stipend.
- We want to hold UF to its promise of fostering diversity by guaranteeing that respective graduate students don't have to come from an affluent background in order to pursue an academic career.
- We want to make sure that any of you who want to become graduate students don't have to go through the situations the survey revealed.
- Thank you.
- I have three action items to help graduate students as well as GAU:
 - 1. Make a public comment at the Board of Trustees meeting.
 - 2. Presents QR code to attend Zoom meeting for bargaining session.
 - 3. Attend a protest at Tigert.
- Thank you so much for your time, and I look forward to working with all of you.
- Senator Asuncion:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I would like to first begin with thanking my caucus.
 - In addition, I would like to thank my Minority Party Leader, Faith Corbett.
 - I would like to thank Senate President Hartzog and Chairwoman Giordano for supporting me when writing my legislation.
 - I really liked sitting here with y'all every Tuesday.
 - I am proud of my two bills that passed, and I hope to see the sentiments expressed in those resolutions come to fruition.
 - I am thankful to the Judiciary committee for reviewing these two bills and advocating for them to be passed.
 - Senator Stephens and I really look forward to making tangible change with you all.
 - I hope this means that those who voted to pass those bills really wanted to affect change.
 - In the next couple of months, I urge you all to act on the sentiments proposed in my bills and to reach out to one of us to get more involved.
 - As senators, we have a duty to pass legislation that will benefit the student body.
 - Furthermore, many of us made promises to our constituents during campaign season to make senate for accessible to the student body.
 - I am thankful for Deputy Minority Party Leader Faisal and Senator Stephens who took it upon themselves to livestream the meetings.
 - Frankly, I find it a shame that there's no link on the SG website that allows students to watch the weekly meetings.
 - Rule XI states that we should have been livestreaming from the start.

- It's easy to sit here and listen to our peers, but I urge you all to fulfill your duties to your constituents by actually putting up impactful legislation.
- Furthermore, I hope we are all given the same amount of information that allows us to think independently and understand that we don't have to vote with our bloc.
- This especially means to stop moving to previous question, which will block debate and hinder our understanding on why we should or shouldn't pass legislation.
- Despite my dissenting view, I know there will be change.
- I want to leave you all with one last sentiment: Remember to put in the work to create tangible change on the campus, put up legislation you feel passionate about, and think independently.
- Thank you, and go gators.
- Senator Faisal:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I wanted to say thanks to everyone in the chamber since this is the end of the Summer B semester.
 - I finished my last exam, so I am ready for my vacation.
 - I wanted to echo a little bit of Senator Asuncion's goodbye.
 - I hope in the next semester we can see more bipartisanship.
 - Overall, I wanted to say that this semester was very hectic, but I hope next semester is better and has a lot more communication in this chamber.
 - Go gators.
- Senator Stephens:
 - June 11, 2022 was the day of the March of Our Lives protest.
 - I remember that day clearly.
 - There were all types of people there.
 - I was really blessed to be able to walk with Senator Asuncion that day and fight for the betterment of the world, one without gun violence.
 - I want to go back to the resolution about memorializing the lost lives in Uvalde, Texas.
 - One part of the clauses caught my attention: Therefore, let it further be resolved that the University of Florida Student Senate will continue to stand with students, families, and teachers around the nation, as well as the victims affected by the shooting.
 - What was invigorating to me was that us protesters were all passionate about ending gun violence.
 - I recognize that some of us may have issues with accessing or attending these events.
 - However, did you send donation links to your family members or close relatives who could give?

- Did you repost any resources or protests that were going on during that period?
- Did any sort of entity within student government present any sort of reflection of that issue publicly, besides this resolution?
- Have you truly been committed to any efforts, or did you feel that this was enough, a document?
- However, I saw reposts of Greek life functions, TikToks, and a senate kickball announcement.
- For many of us, life goes on, but at the end of the day, these kids, families, friends, and teachers will always replay the scenes of horror time and time again.
- We made the promise to advocate for students who have been personally affected by mass shootings.
- Have you truly been committed to any efforts of advocacy for victims of gun violence?
- Did you feel that it was enough to produce this document?
- It is ridiculous to call ourselves servant leaders of the public when we fail the students who have witnessed gun violence within our country.
- I shouldn't have to be making this public comment because this shouldn't happen.
- Do better. These actions aren't clerical or extraneous; they are the bare minimum of servant leadership.
- Thank you.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to remove Jackson Grieser from the Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to strike Jackson Grieser from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1021: Amendment Awareness Act- Rules and Procedures Amendment by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1016: Exclusionary Offices Amendment- 100 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1017: Gender Neutral Wording Act Volume 2- 400 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1022: Resolution Supporting the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I just wanted to say that since this is our last senate for Summer A, thank you all for serving and showing up.
 - For our senators leaving us tonight, your service has been incredible to these chambers, and I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.
 - Next week, we will not be having senate, as it is a university summer break.
 - Enjoy the week off, and get some rest after these finals.
 - Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 28th.
 - If you have any questions or anything to say, please email be at senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu .

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to call the previous question on the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - Congrats to everybody who was just confirmed!
 - There is no R&A meeting this weekend, but applications are open through the break.

Open Summer Replacements

- Summer C:
 - Lakeside
 - Murphree
 - Graham

- Building Construction
- Education
- Law
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Open Permanent Senate Seats:
 - District E
 - Freshman
 - Medicine
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - Graduate (2)
 - Tolbert
 - Dentistry
- Open Committee Seats:
 - Rules & Ethics (1)
 - Information & Communications (1)
- 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, June 24th.
 - The next judiciary meeting is going to be on June 26th in room 2350 at 12pm.
 - 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.
 - Thanks for passing that through second reading.
 - I am really proud of my committee and the work they have done.
 - Not a bunch from us right now, but Big 5 is coming up soon.
 - Email me if you have any questions at budget@sg.ufl.edu .

RULES & ETHICS:

- Senator Thompson:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - Constituency was due one minute ago.

- R&E meets tomorrow at 12pm to go over constituency and absences, and we're meeting in the SG Conference room.
- If you are placed on probation, you will be getting an email as soon as possible.
- Enjoy your week of break!
- If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu .

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Presents first wave of senate merchandise.
 - The t-shirts will go straight to your mailbox.
 - We are working with UF IT to get the rest of the senate merch out.
 - We're hoping that it will be released in the first week of Summer B.
 - The Why-Senate-Wednesday form and mentor/mentee form are still open, so please apply.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at info@sg.ufl.edu .

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Stephens: June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day. I will be resubmitting my amendments to put in a land acknowledgement act. I have spoken to many people on both sides of the aisle. I want us to recognize that we should be taking action and not just words.
- Senator Santiago: Happy summer break and have a good one!
- Pro-Tempore Green: There is one more seat open, District E. You can find what district you are in on the SG website.
- Senator Gerzenshtein: I am leaving, but I look forward to working with everyone still behind the scenes.
- Senator Andreoli: If you are a graduate senator, please come up to me after the meeting.

- President Hartzog: I am sending out a sign-up link for our event with Gator Days, which counts as an SG event. Specifies additions to voter record.

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 7:38pm.