

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

June 28th, 2022

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:00pm 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:

- **Ali**
- **Allen**
- **Dort**
- **Gaines**
- **Gomez**
- **Hoerle**
- **Knupfer**
- **Koukos**
- **Skinner**
- **Toro**
- **Vazrala**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Alfredo Ortiz:**
 - I'm going to speak about abortion, so consider this a trigger warning.
 - I am here because I'm working on some legislation that I hope y'all pass.
 - The court's ruling introduces a public health crisis that will affect many students.
 - Since many students cannot afford emergency expenses, this bill will cover 50% of student out-of-pocket expenses related to some pregnancy-related healthcare services.
 - The leftover funds may be used to cover the expenses of students enrolling their children with Baby Gator.
 - This is something I believe that the Senate should consider on behalf of the thousands of students who this affects.
 - If you hold a seat on the Judiciary committee, please reach out to Senator Santiago for a preliminary review.
 - You can only produce substantially similar legislation once per semester.
 - It would be a shame if the student body is deprived of a full senate discussion on the question due to an issue with legality, constitutionality, clarity, format, and implication.

- As you know, these are the only five criteria by which the Judiciary committee may review legislation legally.
- Sometimes, to achieve the impossible, you must attempt the futile.
- Senators if you do not try now, I don't know if you ever could.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - As of Friday, June 24th, I have felt angry, afraid, alone, and I've ultimately been numb.
 - What's more, there are more of me.
 - There are others who feel similar and are lost.
 - Today, I wish to talk to y'all not only about the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, but also in terms of what this truly means for us as senators.
 - Sexual and reproductive health is always presented as a taboo topic.
 - But it is one of the most important curricula to prepare us for the real world.
 - No matter where you stand in today's conflict, you should look towards increasing the knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and the information and resources out there for everyone.
 - Today, both as Minority Party Leader and Women's Caucus Co-Leader, I present to you the opportunity to be a voice of awareness and information.
 - My co-leader, Catherine Giordano, others in the chamber, and I are looking for collaborators on a piece of legislation.
 - Presents a QR code for those who wish to collaborate.
 - The intent of this resolution is to serve as a resource document.
 - On top of this, I ask that you all truly utilize this piece of legislation by amplifying its message.
 - For any organization or person you think that needs this information, please list them in the proviso.
 - I would like to provide for those who are lost and give them some direction.
 - In the end, you do not have to be afraid, and you are not alone.
- Senator Stephens:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I would be very immature to not recognize the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case.
 - To those in this room who have a uterus and felt like your rights have definitely been infringed, I am sorry.
 - I apologize for the ignorance in the courts, and I recognize the importance of bodily autonomy.
 - If you need someone to talk to, please reach out to me.
 - Moving on from that, I want to recognize that there was a lot of pomp and circumstance last semester.

- We got some resolutions done and a couple code changes, but nothing really substantial.
- I am excited to announce that on Friday at the latest I am putting up fifteen pieces of legislation, the majority of them being code changes, like voting rights and expanding responsibilities.
- For many of you who have received an email, you have gotten bills that I am looking to put up, though I am also looking to put up a couple more.
- If anybody is interested in that information, please reach out to me.
- The resolutions only go so far, and we have to think about policies in pragmatic ways to make a difference for the campus.
- The door is open, and I am excited for a lovely and healthy Summer B.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Senate President Hartzog yields time to Executive Branch Liaison Senator Vaknin:
 - Presents a QR code for signups for SG events.
 - I am here for y'all as a resource.
 - If you have any ideas of collaboration or questions for any bills or resolutions.
 - I hope a bunch of you can show out!
 - Senate President Hartzog yields time to UFPD Liaison Senator Ghozali:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Some of you requested that I talk to UFPD about the construction happening, and I am happy to say that the construction on Museum Road is set to be completed on August 25th.
 - The Hume Hall area will still be closed until December.
 - UFPD is increasing patrols on campus.
 - In addition, we have some information about suicide prevention.

- There is a rollout of the national suicide prevention hotline, which connects one to a community crisis center.
 - We're expecting it to come out on the GatorSafe app on July 16th.
 - Next week, we're having a Q&A with UFPD.
 - I'm happy to say that we will be having Dr. Sixby coming in, who is working with the department on mental health and how it relates to UFPD.
 - We are also working on getting a tour worked out for the UFPD headquarters and possibly having a meeting in their chambers.
 - Here are some future initiatives:
 - Scooter helmet promotion
 - Reitz Union office/booth
 - Please reach out if you have any questions or want to help out on any of these initiatives.
- First and foremost, welcome back senators!
 - One quick update to my office hours, my Tuesdays have changed to 1pm to 3pm.
 - I want to thank everyone for coming to today's event!
 - I am also very excited to announce our joint event with IRHA in the works.
 - I wanted to echo the remarks of Minority Party Leader Corbett and Senator Stephens about the recent supreme court ruling. I am always here for a resource.
 - Whatever you need, please email me, text me, or stop by.
 - If you have any questions or anything to say, please email me at senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu .

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

Minority Party Report

Senator Faisal:

- I went to the R&A committee meeting last Sunday, and it felt like a giant waste of time.
- In a 58 minute meeting, nothing was decided upon, other than the fact that Majority Party Leader Pecora was “not thoroughly impressed by any of the applicants.”
- Now we are missing multiple senators that could have been filled in that meeting.
- I do not have the confidence that R&A will fill it again.
- In R&A, I heard candidates giving various ideas, but it was all deemed terribly unimpressive.
- Jack Knupfer, who has a summer seat, brought more ideas for an interview for a permanent seat, but now his application was unimpressive.
- What changed? Did you consider a Summer A seat a seat that you can just put anyone in? Did he become less qualified as he served these past weeks?

- In my eyes, if someone is good for a summer replacement seat, they're good for a permanent seat.
- I want to apologize to one of the applicants, who had a terrible night and morning yet still managed to make it to the interview, only for their interview to be seen as unimpressive.
- I felt annoyed that the committee discussed your health conditions more than your application.
- I feel like they disrespected your time and your passion.
- I am sorry that you did not get a fair process in the application.
- The next issue I have with the committee is unconstitutionally denying someone from an interview.
- The UF Supreme Court said that you must give an interview to an application regardless.
- Previously when Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett talked about a District E applicant not living in that district and therefore not being qualified, she was told that we cannot make those decisions, but this time the committee did make the decision.
- I am still confused by the reasoning of why she was disqualified because the constitution states that if a permanent senator is not taking classes in the summer, they shall be replaced until they return to campus.
- Lastly, I would like to remind everyone in the senate that we represent roughly 61,000 students.
- I have been involved with Student Government for four years, and I still have yet to see this chamber do anything for graduate students.
- Graduate students are the reason we have such a high rank.
- They do not have the time to apply four times.
- When a graduate student has the time to apply, we should respect their time and understand that it is being disrespectful by not deliberating on them.
- My last question: Why is an unimpressive interview the reason to table every single seat?
- In the past, the Majority Party has brought up ideas and discussion on candidates that did not mention that same idea in their interview, which means they sourced either their application or their resume.
- The decisions were made based off those things.
- Do we consider them based on their applications or resumes as well as their interview, or do we listen to majority phone call interviews and call it boring?
- All I ask is that the committee makes a new excuse because this one has gotten old.
- I'm sorry to everyone the committee has disrespected.
- Thank you, and good night.

Replacement & Agenda Committee Report

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - I would like to say that I loved having you in R&A, but I am going to go over some things that were incorrect.

- Julia Berry was offered an interview, was on the phone, but she was not able to be qualified for the seat because if she was to be confirmed, she would be eventually kicked out by not attending as well as not taking classes until the fall.
- When you take an eligibility check, you have to take, for the summer, at least one credit, which she was not taking, therefore not passing the eligibility check.
- Regarding the graduate seats, as I have stated before and stated again, everyone who comes to an interview is not only respected, but they are heard and deliberated over.
- I don't feel like I have to justify my committee, but I will because they are hard workers and actually care about the things they do.
- I don't think that it's very respectful for you to say that we were being disrespectful.
- I said right before deliberations that if you had anything to say at this moment please say it.
- That being said, I appreciate you guys and thank you for your report.
- The seats will be open around the morning, and they'll close on Friday.
- The interviews will be on Sunday at a time to be disclosed.
- Please come on out; we'll hear you and support you.

Open Summer Replacements

- Summer B:
 - District C
- Summer C:
 - Lakeside
 - Murphree
 - Graham
 - Building Construction
 - Education
 - Law
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy
 - Sophomore
- Open Permanent Senate Seats:
 - Freshman
 - Medicine
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - Graduate (2)
 - Tolbert
 - Dentistry
 - CALS
- 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 by noon on Friday, July 1st.
 - The next judiciary meeting is going to be on July 3rd at noon at a place to be determined.
 - Feel free to email me or come up to me after the meeting if you have any questions judiciary@sg.ufl.edu .

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Giordano:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The Budget & Appropriations committee has been hard at work, with Big 5 next week, which will be public noticed soon.
 - Email me if you have any questions at budget@sg.ufl.edu .

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Thompson:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - I have a very big announcement: all but one senator fulfilled their constituency.
 - Congratulations and thank you for your hard work! Please keep that up in Summer B.
 - Senate President Hartzog and I are working on a constituency tracker.
 - One seat is open for Rules & Ethics, so please apply.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu .

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The first mentor/mentee form closes this Friday.
 - The Information & Communications committee is going to start pairing next Tuesday.
 - The last day to order the senate t-shirt is next Tuesday.
 - I'll be sending out those links again tonight.
 - We are still working with UF IT to get the general SG merch through.

- 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:

- Minority Party Leader Corbett: I am not tech-savvy, and I did not realize that the document I made you guys join makes you request access. If you would like to join, please come up to my laptop after we adjourn. Feel free to reach out to me before Friday to collaborate with us on that.
- Senator Stephens: I am working on a provision to implement a senate technician, and I think that Senator Kanfer would be the perfect candidate.
- Senator Santiago: If anybody wants to work on the legislation mentioned during public comment with me, please reach out to me.
- Senate President Hartzog: Please turn in your voter record even though we did not vote on anything tonight. You will get a half-absence if it is not turned in.

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 7:45pm.