

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

July 12th, 2022

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:04pm 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 59 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Bertolett**
- **Borland**
- **Clark**
- **Cox**
- **George**
- **Graham**
- **Hoerle**
- **Knupfer**
- **Marcus**
- **Mia**
- **Mullaney**
- **Oh**
- **Partridge**
- **Shin**
- **Stephens**
- **Vaknin**
- **Vazrala**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Leach:**
 - Good evening senators.
 - I serve as the Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Student Union.
 - Coming from an area where Jews only make up 1% of the population, I have been subjected to and seen countless acts of antisemitism.
 - I have been the subject of blatant antisemitism.
 - I want to focus on the less obvious forms of antisemitism that are becoming an increasing issue in the world.
 - Under Student Senate Bill 2019-1057: Resolution Standing Against Antisemitism, antisemitism is defined using the United States Department of States definition, “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred

toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

- Contemporary examples of antisemitism include denying Jewish people the right to self-determination and denying Israel’s right to exist.
- Israel is the only country designated as a democracy in the Middle East.
- Despite these facts, the country faces unparalleled criticism.
- Anyone who is openly Jewish on social media is subject to onslaughts of “Free Palestine” comments.
- The only common denominator is that Israel is a Jewish-majority nation.
- Of course the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a big deal, but there is a difference between being critical of policy and being critical of existence.
- This conflict is such a deeply complex and multifaceted issue that scholars years to even come close to fully understanding.
- Talking about this issue is in no way antisemitic, but unfairly turning it into a one-sided issue, ignoring facts, and holding Israel to standards that no other country is kept to is absolutely unjust and antisemitic.
- As senators, it is our job to fight all forms of hate on campus and protect all of the students and our constituents.
- I hope this chamber continues to fight all forms of antisemitism no matter how vague or broad.
- There’s always room for growth and advocacy here, and I urge you all to reach out to resources on combatting antisemitism.
- Thank you for your time.
- Senator Andreoli:
 - Good evening senators.
 - I want to talk to you about a resolution I’ve been working on that concerns accessibility to contraceptives.
 - The FDA approved the use of EC (emergency contraceptive) with no age restrictions.
 - EC works best as soon as possible.
 - The glaring problem I see at UF is that the Student Health Care Center Infirmary and Pharmacy hours are closed for observed holidays and have limited hours preceding the holidays.
 - On the weekends, the building is closed for 43 hours, and during the Summer C semester, the building is closed for 64 hours.
 - This is an important issue to address because the use of EC is time-sensitive.
 - Why not have an outdoor EC vending machine? It would be 24/7, and there is a precedent for having these types of vending machines.

- After the Covid-19 pandemic, UF business services made masks and hand sanitizer available in vending machines.
- EC vending machines should be located in Turlington Hall Breezeway.
- This location captures the most potential customers within a quarter mile.
- I would love for you to email me if you want a copy of the resolution to sponsor or author.
- I have been taken aback by the decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson*, and I've been trying to do my part in this body.
- I ask you all to do your part, as well.
- Senator Faisal:
 - Good evening senators.
 - I want to ask everyone in this chamber if they've done enough for their constituents.
 - An 800 code amendment has been sent out to a lot of leadership and student organizations.
 - The Food Security Act has a goal of providing one \$15 meal credit throughout one shift for every student worker whose wage is funded through Student Government.
 - If you work at the Reitz or Rec Sports, you would get one free meal throughout your shift.
 - This would help fight food insecurity here at UF, which is a massive and increasing issue.
 - We think that it is our job as senators and our jobs to our constituents to at least give this bill the time of day.
 - If anyone wishes to read our bill and wants to voice any comments or concerns, please reach out to me.
 - This is a bill that will affect every single constituent and for every single constituency.
 - Whether it is positive or negative feedback, please give some feedback. Thank you.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Senator Santiago moves to have the minutes reflect that his roll call vote motions did not pass by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to approve the bloc of absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1024: Student Senate Secretary Clerical Intensification Amendment by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

- External Affairs Chairman Noah Fineberg:
 - Good evening senators.
 - We just got a huge update on traffic safety and road construction.
 - There were a number of tragic incidents over the past couple years. which supercharged the folks involved in making this decision to come together to help prevent further tragedies.
 - Signal retiming, FDOT road reclassification, new safety signage, pedestrian signal upgrades, “No right turn on red” sign upgrades, speed tables, reduced speed limit, and more have been accomplished over the past year and a half.
 - Additionally, there are more plans to manage traffic flow and make everything safer, especially for pedestrians.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at externalaffairs@sg.ufl.edu .

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I have a lot of really exciting announcements!
 - I have our concrete plans with our joint event with IRHA.
 - We will be able to table inside dorms, making us very accessible to the students.
 - On July 18, we will be in Springs from 1pm-3pm.
 - On July 19, we will be in Jennings from 2pm-4pm.
 - On July 20, we will be in Lakeside from 4pm-6pm.
 - This counts as tabling for your constituency requirement.
 - Pro-Tempore Green and I will be traveling to South Carolina to participate in the SEC Exchange, so we will not be having office hours Thursday or Friday.
 - As it is Big 5 season, we will be holding senate at Southwest Recreational Center.
 - 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:

- Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - Congratulations to Douglas and Lindsey for being officially confirmed. Welcome to senate!

Open Summer Replacements

- Summer B:
 - District C
- Summer C:
 - Lakeside
 - Graham
 - Building Construction
 - Education
 - Law
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy
 - Veterinary Medicine
- Open Permanent Senate Seats:
 - Freshman
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - Graduate (2)
 - District E
 - Dentistry
 - Tolbert
 - CALS
- The application closes Friday, and we will have a meeting on Sunday at a time and place to be determined.
- 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 15th.
 - We will be meeting at a time and place to be determined this weekend.
 - 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.

- Presents Student Senate Bill 2022-1026: Funding for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Activity and service fee budget.
- The budget and appropriations committee has been working diligently over the past few weeks in preparation of the Funding Model for FY 23-24.
- On Thursday and Friday, the committee and I met with each of the Big 5 entities in first hearings. There, we were able to deliberate and ask questions to the directors of each entity to hear what their main priorities and concerns were regarding Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
- On Monday morning, the committee went through a similar process in second and third hearings, and made any adjustments necessary for the bills completion. Tonight, I am going to present to you SSB 2022-1026 “Funding for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Activity and Service Fee Budget.”
- The committee is proposing a 3% increase to the A&S fee, which gives over \$675,000 in additional funds to be allocated among the Big 5. All 5 of the Big 5 entities saw increases in their line items dedicated to student, graduate, and full time salaries. This is due to the Florida Amendment that was passed in 2020 that will annually raise the minimum wage by \$1 until 2026, when the minimum wage will reach \$15.
- Each entity had the ability to ask for a full 3% increase, but Student Government, Student Activities and Involvement, and Sorority and Fraternity Life asked for increases less than the full 3%. This was to allow for additional funding to go towards the other two entities, RecSports and Reitz Union, who are impacted the most by mandatory wage increases.
- Because three of the entities came in under the 3% total increase, the committee had \$158,010.00 to reallocate to RecSports and Reitz Union. When asked during first hearings what they would do with additional funding, both directors of RecSports and Reitz Union stated that they would prioritize student jobs.
- Additional funds for these two entities would help mitigate some of the budgetary constraints and pressures felt by the minimum wage increase. So, during 2nd and 3rd hearings, the committee allocated this \$158,010.00 between the two entities.
- The process was a proration between the two organizations, where RecSports obtained 53% of the additional funds and Reitz Union obtained 47%; RecSports gained a \$83,908.00 increase in their personnel line, and Reitz Union received a \$74,102.00.
- As a committee, we deemed that prorationing would be the most fair way to reallocate this \$158,010.00. The personnel line item in RecSports totals to \$5,840,512.00, and the personnel line item for Reitz Union totals to \$5,157,971.00, which accounts for the additional funding.
- At the end of the proposed 3% increase section, you will notice a proviso that states the following: “If the proposed 3% increase to the Activity and Service Fee

budget for FY24 is not approved through the entirety of the required process before 5:00pm on April 25, 2023, then the following 0% budget will be enacted for Fiscal year 2023-2024.” This means that if, on the second to last day of classes of the Spring 2023 semester, the 3% increase of the A&S fee has not been approved or formally denied, the 0% increase budget (presented by each of the Big 5 entities to the committee in 1st hearings) will go into effect.

- This 0% increase under the proviso acts as a safety net, and it provides the entities with knowledge of what their FY24 will look like without the 3% increase. It gives the Big 5 entities the ability to know their budget months in advance rather than waiting until a few weeks before FY24 begins. This proviso gives the Big 5 entities the ability to plan for the future, rather than wait for it.
- Under the proviso, you will see the detailed 0% budgets. Without the increase, most entities still increase the salaries line items, but they must do so by reducing programming, preventative maintenance, and other areas of their budgets.
- This continues to prioritize student jobs while continuing to enhance the student experience, and reflects the Big 5 director’s commitment to the students here at the University of Florida.
- I would like to thank Senators Pecora, Schultz, Kanfer, Liu, Damera, Cox, Shin, and Durst for their determination and hard work on this bill.
- Once again, I believe that this bill prioritizes the interest of all students here at the University of Florida. If you have any questions, I will be holding office hours this Thursday, July 14th from 2:30-4:30PM in the SG Conference room.
- Email me if you have any questions at budget@sg.ufl.edu .

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Thompson:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - We’re nearing the midpoint of the term, so we need to start doing our constituency.
 - Expect an email about events.
 - Our technology hero Senator Jacob Kanfer has done it again!
 - He has created a program that tracks constituency.
 - Yields time to Senator Kanfer:
 - The program will email you what you have completed and what you have yet to complete.
 - I am going to make the code openly available, so if anyone is interested in code they can take a look at it.
 - We are meeting Friday afternoon at 1pm and 2pm, and we have a meeting next Tuesday at a time and place to be determined.

- If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu .

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The mentor/mentee reveal will be next week at 6pm in the outside area of the Reitz.
 - Last week, I sent out a tabling spreadsheet for you to sign up.
 - All tabling is in Turlington from 9am-3pm Monday-Friday, and you have until August 2nd to complete that.
 - 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 Santiago: The deadline to register for primaries is July 25th, so make sure to register to vote.
- Senator Corbett: Our caucus meeting ended up deciding that we will go to *Minions: The Rise of Gru* after this meeting adjourns. If you are interested in tagging along, please do so. Dress code is business professional.
- Senator Andreoli: The restoration event will be Sunday, July 17th at 9am.
- Senator Faisal: I think there's only one showing at 10:10pm. Meet us there!
- Pro-Tempore Green: If you have any friends that want to apply for the seat, they have to take one credit in either Summer A, Summer B, or Summer C.
- Senate President Hartzog: Please be cognizant of filling out your voter record.

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 7:53pm.