

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

**September 6th, 2022**

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:32pm 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 69 senators present.

#### **Not there for roll call:**

- **Ali, Alyssa**
- **Allen**
- **Barnett**
- **Brinkley**
- **Cruz**
- **Cuello**
- **Denault**
- **Gorelick**
- **Hanna**
- **Johnson**
- **Josephson**
- **Karim**
- **Knupfer**
- **Koukos**
- **Labrit**
- **Ramos**
- **Smith**
- **Weingart**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Senator Urbenz:**
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I had a constituent reach out to me and give concern about the judicial nomination.
  - The Federalist Society is a conservative organization that restricts women's rights to body autonomy.
  - The six U.S. supreme court justices overturn *Roe v. Wade* despite regards for public opinion. Further restricting the rights of gay marriage, interracial marriage and the use of contraception.

- The Federalist Society and their political mission should have no place in our Supreme Court.
- I urge you all to vote no.
- I am not opposing today's nomination out of political discrimination, but upon the discrimination felt by my constituents.
- Jessica Weber:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I do not condone the majority party's attempt to appoint a Federalist Society member into the supreme court.
  - I can not reasonably support a judge who does not defend my fundamental human rights.
- Senator Shoemaker:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Today, we will be voting on the new justice supreme court appointee.
  - I believe the supreme court justice should be honest, patient and above all open-minded.
  - We all have our own bias due to our own backgrounds.
  - I was very surprised to see the nominee had a background with The Heritage Foundation and The Federalist Society.
  - We have been fighting for abortion rights on campus.
  - We just passed a resolution supporting abortion pill vending machines and condemning the "Don't Say Gay" bill. Appointing this justice will be a contradiction to this body's actions.
  - These affiliated entities are massive proponents of lifting covid restrictions and placing restrictions on individual rights which go against this chamber's actions.
  - They also fight against transgender rights and even fought against pandemic restrictions.
  - I hope you can all vote tonight with a greater understanding of our students' sanity.
- Jonathan Stephens:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I would like to be reflecting on the apportionment bill last week.
  - I greatly appreciate Chairman Brinkman for addressing the concerns I had with the reapportionment bill.
  - I can recognize the difficulties of having such a close number to the constituencies of Spring 2022.
  - After speaking with the CALS administration regarding the education centers mentioned last week.
  - I was given preliminary data with over 300 students who were revealed in this area that were unaccountable in the data.

- Presents data.
- I challenge this chamber to give the constituents more support.
- I do want to redirect on a more pressing matter.
- You have the decision to vote on supreme court nominee Julia Van de Bogart.
- The nominee in question does have a long history of accolades and achievements.
- However the nominee is associated with three organizations that are alarming at best which include The Heritage foundation, The Federalist Society, and The James Madison Foundation.
- The values and beliefs of this nominee are not congruent with the legislation that has been passed in 2022.
- All 6 of the former justices were current or former members of the federalist society.
- These organization in particular The James Madison Foundation has championed bills such as the “Stop Woke Act” and the “Don’t Say Gay” bill which have been condemned by this chamber.
- I say all this to reach one point of reality we can not have our cake and eat it too.
- I refuse to make this an attack on conservatives as many of them contribute to the student experience just as much as on the left.
- However, these specific organizations use conservative representation to implement dangerous and frivolous actions onto students.
- And Madame President, I would mention to my ethnic, queer and friend colleagues who deal with the aftermath of these organizations.
- We cannot vote for this, and we cannot vote against our best interests.
- We all have the chance to hold these systems accountable for the damage they have done to ourselves.
- Today is a good day to vote for the right thing.
- Chairman Brinkman:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I would like to quote a couple things because I understand the underlying principle mentioned in public comment.
  - Which was Urbenz, Weber, Shoemaker and Stevens and a few that have not gone yet.
  - You said “You do not condone the appointment of a member of the Federalist Society” and Senator Shoemaker said that “Has significant background in The Federalist Society” Which is “ A conservative think tank”and that “She had extreme political affiliations.”
  - Senator Stephens, you said that “ she has a long history of accolades and accomplishments...” You said “We can not continue with the aftermath of this insidious organization and we can not vote for them”.

- We appreciate that statement because that is exactly what the judiciary committee looked at on Friday.
- Pretty clearly here, you support this justice on the basis of her accolades and accomplishments, but not on her political affiliation.
- Page 3 of the UF constitution you will find that discrimination is prohibited against student political affiliation.
- If you vote against this nominee on the basis of political affiliations this is in violation of the constitution and you are at risk of impeachment.
- Chapter 306 states that an impeachable defense is malfeasance.
- Provides definition of malfeasance.
- Violating the Constitution knowingly could be defined as malfeasance and could be grounds for impeachment.
- And I would like everyone to remind that if you do get impeached there is the possibility of disqualification from future office.
- I would like everyone to know this before going in to vote tonight.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I'm here to voice my grievances with multiple operations
  - Firstly with the R&A framework of conducting interviews.
  - Rule 12 Vacancy Replacement Section 1 The Replacement and Agenda Committee will interview all applicants and may recommend to the senate whoever they deem best fit for the seat in a fair and unbiased manner.
  - The chair did not consider Jonathan's application and interview but did consider his actions in the real world.
  - We should consider their sentiment and how that determines applicants.
  - How can you say that you care about biases and actions in the real world existing outside of paper. Yet, still allow an application to prevail in today's agenda.
  - The Federalist Society sounds prestigious and honorable.
  - Reshape American policy by funneling students into jobs and clerkships in hopes that they will accomplish their political agenda.
  - Known to have been involved with the recent overturn of *Roe v. Wade*.
  - It's not about political affiliations for me. It's about the impact of the trends we have seen from some groups.
  - There is a clear and stark difference between political discrimination and demonstrating concerns for policy making tracks.
  - You claimed that we were able to be impeached by choosing to vote down this nominee on the premise of political discrimination.
  - We're not supposed to voice why we are voting.

- The terminology is expelled on that basis so should Pro-Tempore Green for explicitly demonstrating bias against Jonathan Stephens When it comes to our students and senators you have proven time and time again that.
- Prioritizing your political agenda.
- As you built systems that remove accessibility to resources for certain students.
- Instigate the idea that communities in marginalized groups should be stripped down.
- You decide to hire Joey Bada\$\$ for an SG event.
- Which is ironic to say the least, considering the content of his song lyrics.
- The senate continues to fault the student body that we were meant to serve.
- Senator Santiago:
  - It is unfortunate that I have to be up here speaking about this, but I am.
  - We see a continuation of the conservative stream of political organizations.
  - I attended the Judiciary meeting last friday.
  - One thing that they didn't mention was The Federalist Society affiliation.
  - Not just so they are affiliated with the association but they are the junior president of the society.
  - I don't have to go into what the federalist society is since everybody else talked about it.
  - These groups are actively harming the fabric of this nation.
  - It is a shame that they are infiltrating the student government.
  - There is a trend in diminishing student rights.
  - The Federalist Society is not just trying to take over our country, but also our student government.
  - I hope that members of this body vote against confirming this nominee.
  - Really think about the message you send to those watching if you vote for this nominee.
  - And to respond to Chairman Brinkman that we are violating the discrimination clause of the UF constitution.
  - I could argue that your committee is discriminating against members of my party by constantly moving to postponing indefinitely the legislation that we submit or for R&A constantly rejecting members of the minority party for committee assignments despite their qualifications.
  - Don't throw around these threats knowing that they are not going to come into fruition.
  - Vote your conscience, don't try to threaten anyone.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:**

- There were none.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to add Student Senate Bill 2022-1031: Student Organization Fundraising Accounts - 800 Codes Revision to second readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to add Student Senate Bill 2022-1033: Legislative Branch Exclusionary Offices Amendment - 100 Codes Revision to second readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to add Student Senate Bill 2022-1035: Senate Reapportionment Act of 2023 to second readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent.

Senate President Hartzog calls a five-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Senate President Hartzog concludes recess at 8:11pm.

Senator Santiago calls for a quorum call.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 61 senators present.

#### **Not there for roll call:**

- **Ali, Hanna**
- **Ali, Alyssa**
- **Allen**
- **Barnett**
- **Brinkley**
- **Corbett**
- **Cruz**
- **Cuello**
- **Denault**
- **Gorelick**
- **Hanna**
- **Johnson**
- **Josephson**
- **Karim**
- **Knupfer**
- **Koukos**
- **Labrit**
- **Montes**

- **Panish**
  - **Partridge**
  - **Santiago**
  - **Ramos**
  - **Urbenz**
  - **Smith**
  - **Weingart**
- 
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to suspend the special rule by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Julia Van De Bogart for the Supreme Court nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
  - Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the approved absence for Senator Ali by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the approved absence for Senator Gray by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the approved absence for Senator Pearce by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Chairwoman Girodano moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1031: Student Organization Fundraising Accounts - 800 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1033: Legislative Branch Exclusionary Offices Amendment - 100 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Chairman Brinkman moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1035: Senate Reapportionment Act of 2023 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
  - Senator Cox moves to approve the executive nomination for the Career Connections Advisory Committee for Branyon Skinner by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH:**

**SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Hartzog:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I want to start off by saying that we got a Gator win on Saturday!
  - I hope you all had a fun and safe weekend.
  - I have an update to my office hours.
  - They're going to be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00pm.
  - Please come visit me in my office.

- If you have any questions or anything to say, please email me at [senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu) .

### **REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to call the previous question on Julia Van De Bogart for the Supreme Court nomination. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Julia Van De Bogart for the Supreme Court nomination. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

### **REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:**

- Senate Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I will mention again that the Replacement & Agenda committee does not politically discriminate.
  - I'm going to address Minority Party Leader Corbett's comment on Jonathan Stephens.
  - I abstained from the vote, like how I have abstained from every vote in my entire time as President Pro-Tempore.
  - In regards to her comment that I said to not focus on the real world but on the application, I was not talking about Jonathan Stephens.
  - I was saying that when we are focusing on applicants throughout the interview process, we should only focus on what they say in the meeting as opposed to the real world.
  - We approve the seats based on the interview and the application.
  - I have no other way to say it.
  - If you have any questions, please come to me.
  - Email me, text me, call me, come to my office hours.
  - I hope that this is the last time I have to explain this because I want to be able to help you guys.

### **Open Permanent Senate Seats**

- District B
- Graduate and Family Housing
- Graduate (5)
- Dentistry
- Tolbert
- District A
- District D (2)
- Beaty

## Open Committee Seats

- Judiciary (1)
- Rules & Ethics (3)
- Information & Communications (3)
  
- If you have any questions, please email me at [senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu) .

## **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Brinkman:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - The legislation is due September 9th
  - We will be meeting this weekend in a time and place to be determined.
  - Clarifies voter record.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [judiciary@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:judiciary@sg.ufl.edu) .

## **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Giordano:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Not much from our committee right now since we're in our lull period.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [budget@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:budget@sg.ufl.edu) .

## **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman Thompson:
  - Good evening, everyone.
  - If you're on probation, you have one week to do constituency.
  - We will be meeting next Tuesday at 6:30pm in the SG Conference room.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [rules@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:rules@sg.ufl.edu) .

## **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Funai:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - The link is broken unfortunately, which is really annoying.
  - I've had it done on my end.
  - I sent out the link to the tabling form, and the tabling dates are September 12th, 13th, and 14th.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [info@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:info@sg.ufl.edu) .

## **FIRST READINGS:**

- There were none.

**SECOND READINGS:**

- There were none.

**BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- There were none.

**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 8:28pm.