

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
September 13th, 2022

Senate President Pro-Tempore Green called the Senate meeting to order at 7:31 pm 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 61 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Allemand**
- **Allen**
- **Barrios**
- **Brinkley**
- **Cruz**
- **Cuello**
- **Denault**
- **DiBari**
- **Ghozali**
- **Gorelick**
- **Graham**
- **Gray**
- **Harkins**
- **Hartzog**
- **Jafry**
- **Karim**
- **Pearce**
- **Smith**
- **Soukup**
- **Stevenson**
- **Toro**
- **Verville**
- **Watts**
- **Weiner**
- **Welsh**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Urbenz:**
 - Good evening, senators.

- I am going to start by giving some context on why I want to be on I&C because I do not think that is clear.
- The recent behavior in R&A has been extremely heartbreaking, personally hurting my feelings.
- For reference, due to the codes, this is what I&C is supposed to do: Organize a senate social, orientate senators, plan the senate retreat, public relations, and post information.
- The committee said that I had no recent experience on my resume.
- “Yes, she made a graphic that I&C uses and all the experience she has pertains to another role” I am curious as to what role that is. “ I am looking for a candidate who has actual experience within the committee” But will that seat ever be filled if you are looking for someone who has already served on it?
- The chair spoke over the minority party leader at least 6 times as per the recording.
- I sent in this graphic and a proposed solution to some of the different postings we have *presents on-screen data*.
- I was critiqued for having my last experience with a company and not on campus. My last experience was specifically on campus, leading social media graphics and promotional events.
- I mentioned in my interview that I had 7 years of experience, and the first opportunity was through self-employment, something that is often left out of the resume due to how long it has been.
- My experience in my resume makes me qualified for a seat on I&C.
- Presents graphics that are being used on Instagram.
- I was specifically credited on Instagram for the creation of this graphic.
- Specifically, I have brought up ideas to have events in Lake Wauburg and Paynes Prairie.
- I don’t know what hoops I have to jump through but I will do it just tell me which ones to jump through.
- Senator Shoemaker:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am hoping to briefly address last week’s senate meeting as well as the work of the minority caucus in general.
 - As petty and funny as the Change caucus leaving the last meeting may seem, look at you and look at us.
 - Threatening to impeach even one of us threatens to eliminate our entire caucus.
 - Maybe some of you would enjoy that, having a true one-party system.
 - You have to admit that the Change party has heart and we are made of action.
 - I’m not sure that all of you know what we work on unless you are on the judiciary committee.

- We have submitted 50 pieces of legislation, some including public comment accessibility. Others include resolutions and revisions to the 300 codes.
- The majority of our legislation has been postponed indefinitely.
- Whether you agree or not with most of these bills, we should at least have the option to vote for them.
- At the end of the day, we are just student representatives. Please don't mistake this chamber for the U.S. Senate.
- When you want to laugh or roll your eyes, think for a second about how it feels to be in the minority caucus.
- Plenty of times I have empathized with your frustrations and this is one of ours. Although we have seats, our voices are nothing but noise to you, our legislation is normally something to refute, and our messages are usually something to ignore.
- Apparently, student government has always been this way, and I hope that we can change that. There are so many nasty rumors about each party; this is petty and immature.
- Consider bringing one of us into a committee.
- All in all, even if you don't agree with us, I ask for more understanding.
- Senator Montes:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am here to address some comments made about applicant Raj Mia.
 - Before I continue speaking on this matter, I want to issue a trigger warning
 - My following statements contain references to acts of gun violence
 - I am a survivor of the Stoneman Douglas shooting.
 - Let me be very clear that the statements I will be making have little to do with the matter at hand
 - On Friday, May 27, 2022, Chairman Brinkman sent out legislation
 - In the resolution, the date of the event was wrong, the names of the victims were misspelled or missing, and ages were incorrect.
 - There is no justification for this work to come from our senate body.
 - These grievances were written off as "clerical"
 - Raj Mia had issues with wording his own original thoughts, but President Hartzog and Pro-Tempore Green failed to properly copy information into the document.
 - My point boils down to this: the standards in this chamber should be the same for every person in this room.
 - Within our line of work, it is only inherent that mistakes occur.
 - We all need to consider the implications that this has in terms of Senate President Elizabeth Hartzog and Senate Pro-Tempore Olivia Green putting so little effort into their own legislation.
- Member-at-Large Cable:
 - Good evening, senators.

- The quotes previously stated by Senator Urbenz were taken out of context
- Not all information was available in that first draft of the legislation.
- The line was not a clerical error, but it was a sentence that was incomprehensible to the members of the committee.
- I am addressing our senate body to publicly address an email I received concerning my performance as a member at large and as a member of the replacement-member committee.
- I want to first respond to Senator Andreoli.
- I just want to point out through this whole process that I am also a student working a job while holding multiple demanding positions on campus.
- To reply that I cannot relate to applicants is insensitive.
- I think we have already addressed that the R&A committee does not discriminate against applicants.
- To say that the responsibility for the failure to be in a seat does not fall on the person that applied for it fundamentally disregards the whole process that goes into an interview.
- The entire point of deliberation is for the committee to share their opinion of the application and the interview of the applicant.
- Andreoli writes that the individualization of the outcome to be solely based on the applicant not trying hard enough needs to stop.
- I disagree with this statement, and I will draw on the concern I have that applicants should not need to try or be qualified for the seats that they are applying for.
- To see that members of the minority party are ok with applicants being accepted solely because of their persistence in applying and not qualifications and potential for success is concerning.
- I did choose to review the promise I made during my election, and I know that I have and will continue to fulfill my promises
- I won't accept bullying from any organization on campus, especially not one that considers itself to be full of student leaders
- I am a human being, and to have memes and sexist callouts made against me is upsetting.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to suspend the special rule to hear the Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Aleah Henley for the open Beaty Towers seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Haley Rubin for the open Judiciary committee seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Bianca Barrios for the open Rules & Ethics committee seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Daniel Kopelman for the open Information & Communications Committee seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to fail Caroline Patterson for the open Graduate seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to fail Thomas Dunham for the open District B seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the bloc of failed absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago moves that the minutes reflect that 95.61% of all applicants through R&A since 2019 have affiliated with the majority party. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion does not pass.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Green reads a message from Senate President Hartzog reminding everyone to take care of themselves and of changes to office hours.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am a speaking member, and I am allowed to vote in R&A
 - I choose not to vote in order to abstain from having a bias in the committee
 - Referring to Senator Urbenz, I wanted you to come to me during my office hours so that I could address your questions and concerns prior to your interview.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to call the previous question on Daniel Kopelman for the open Information & Communications committee seat. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Daniel Kopelman for the open Information & Communications committee seat. In a standing vote, that motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- District B
- Graduate and Family Housing
- Graduate (6)
- Dentistry
- Tolbert
- District A
- District D (2)

Open Committee Seats

- Rules & Ethics (2)
- Information & Communications (2)

Minority Party Report

Minority Party Leader Corbett:

- Good evening, senators.
- I hate it here for a lot of reasons, but it is mainly because of R&A
- It's difficult when the entire committee is in agreement that you are the enemy
- I have extensive notes on those individuals, and I have recordings of deliberation.
- They have a keeping of minutes, but it is usually just main motions.
- I am uncertain if R&A even keeps notes on the meetings
- Right now, I'm at a point where I'm only facing an uphill battle
- During a Member-at-Large speech, Senator Cable said that she recognizes her prejudices
- We've seen biases, and we've seen your caucus referring the committee to table seats rather than giving them to qualified individuals.
- I vote against my own party more than you think, and I have prioritized a lot of you over candidates that have come from my own caucus.
- That is because, I will say, a lot of you are qualified and are putting in the work, but the ones that are most qualified do not make it into the committees they deserve.
- The only seat we have is mine because you are forced to have someone from the minority party
- We have spoken so often about how the judiciary does not have to give a reason as to why they postpone things indefinitely.
- Know that your lack of worrying about impeachment, expulsion, or censorship is highly entitled
- In terms of this last Replacement & Agenda meeting, I have never been so victimized and villainized
- And to continue to publicly shame them by quoting the sentence that they themselves didn't finish writing? That's disrespectful.

- Is R&A truly fair, objective, and unbiased?
- I argue that even I am not any of those things. We are given literally no standards to follow.
- In the end, I think you guys should question whether we're unqualified or disadvantaged.
- I hope to see a lot of you come in.
- There are plenty of open seats because we fail to fill them.

JUDICIARY:

- Senator Solomon:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Please submit all of your legislation by Friday, September 16th by noon.
 - We will be meeting this weekend at a time and place to be determined.
 - Have a good week, and go gators.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Giordano:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The Budget Appropriations Committee will be meeting later this week at a time and place to be determined.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Thompson:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - We're going to be meeting next week on Tuesday at 6:30 pm.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Tomorrow is the last day to table for probation.
 - The merch link is still broken, and we are waiting on UFIT.
 - It is coming next week, though.
 - Senate Retreat is on October 16.
 - I thought Senator Urbenz was coming to me to help better the Senate and assist I&C with increasing the Senate's image and presence on this campus.
 - I&C does more than just graphic design and social media.
 - I am heavily disappointed that we are talking about a graphic offered to me four months ago.

- It seems that it is being used to gain a seat or to be put on a resume, rather than to help better Senate as a whole.
- My committee and I work very hard to improve the overall Senate experience, especially for new senators.
- All the work that has been done on social media is more than just that sticker for “Why Senate Wednesday?”.
- 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: It was very clear that the language of use was not in a demeaning, disruptive, or inappropriate manner. It was only to quantify that Cassie has done things for I&C. *Plays recording of R&A deliberation*. It wasn't my intention to bring this, it was just showing that the committee appreciates Cassie's work.
- Senator Urbenz: When I went to office hours, I was told that there were no concerns. I don't appreciate things being taken out of context. I find it extremely hard to believe that I found five different quotes that were out of context. I firmly believe that there are no political points to be gained from sitting on the I&C committee.
- Senator Pierre: STAAR is holding a diversity summit on Sunday, September 25 from 1-3:30 pm. The purpose of this summit is to improve student diversity, equity, and inclusivity on campus.
- President Pro-Tempore Green: Hopefully this is the last time we have to reiterate things that happen over multiple Senate meetings. Clarified voter record.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett: I would like to address why we do this. I encourage you to go to these meetings. It's really about increasing your knowledge as much as increasing ours.

ROLL CALL:

- Chairwoman Thompson moves to use voter records as the final roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.