

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

October 11, 2022

Senate President Hartzog called the Senate meeting to order at 6:34pm 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:

- **Allen**
- **Athay**
- **Chatrathi**
- **Damera**
- **Fernandez**
- **Jafry**
- **James**
- **Knupfer**
- **Lopez-Lugo**
- **O’Keeffe**
- **Partridge**
- **Pearce**
- **Shakib**
- **Solomon**
- **Tak**
- **Thomas**
- **Toro**
- **Unland**
- **Verville**
- **Welsh**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

GOODBYE SPEECHES:

- Senator Graham gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Allemand gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Lekebusch gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Gaines gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Liu gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Haley gives a goodbye speech.

- Joseph Conroy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am here to discuss section 800.18
 - This section will have dismal ramifications in practice.
 - Organizations such as Design-Build-Fly and Space Systems Design Club allow students to produce machines on a caliber no other clubs can match.
 - This support is not charity, rather an investment from the university into students and ideas which affect tangible positive change and garner respect for the entire institution.
 - While I appreciate the bill's intent, I contend that the student design teams are exceptionally beneficial to the university on every level.
 - Relegating the finances of these institutions to the insufficient department and SGA funding sources will demolish a valuable pillar of the UF engineering community.
 - Having worked in three engineering research laboratories, I can attest the esteem to which professors hold toward students who have already flown successful missions.
 - Being a successful engineer predisposes you to being a successful engineer.
 - The best applicants are those who have experience.
 - Renowned researchers will raise the prestige of universities.
 - I want to stress the perils of getting rid of these teams.
 - They attract the most motivated and disciplinary students to UF.
 - If we cut support, then this shows that the University of Florida is not a place for motivated engineers.
 - Graduate and undergraduate students are more likely to disregard the University of Florida.
 - Neither my colleagues nor I would like to stake our credibility as engineers on a degree from a university known for its lackluster engineering.
 - You may contend that this is the concern of the engineering department alone, but this is not so.
 - Not only does the quality of the engineering college affect the aggregate reputation of the university, but it also affects the departments that collaborate with the engineering department.
 - Research projects rarely have a single discipline.
 - In my own lab, NASA funds both physicists and aerospace engineers to develop laser technologies aboard satellites.
 - They will take their funding elsewhere if either department is lacking experience.
 - I don't believe the authors of this bill intended to damage the engineering department.
 - I do believe that if left unchanged, it will impact us all.

- Senator Mikhaylov:
 - Yesterday was worldwide Mental Health Day.
 - There is a national mental health crisis.
 - 1 out of 6 young people experience depression or panic attacks.
 - Suicide is now the leading cause of death of people aged 10-24 in the US.
 - Emergency departments visits are filled 50 percent more due to suicide attempts.
 - We must ask ourselves, “What does UF have to combat all of this?”
 - UF’s main mental health resources are from the DRC and CWC.
 - These 2 institutional organizations are underfunded, undervalued, and understaffed.
 - Something needs to be done and somebody must do something about it.
 - I’m tired of begging and pleading for people who don’t care to do something.
 - I’m taking things into my own hands.
 - Senator Panish, Senator Montes, and I have made a bill for this.
 - We have record breaking sponsorships for this bill.
 - I promise this is just the beginning.
 - Ladies and gentlemen, we just made UF history. Thank you.
- Jack David:
 - Good evening.
 - I am the president of Gator Motorsports.
 - I am here not only on the behalf of my team, but also on the behalf of everybody affected by these amendments.
 - Across all design teams, our members contribute 50+ hour weeks 48 weeks a year.
 - This new classification of student organizations not only undermines the work and dedication these members have shown, but also the countless years of history and progress throughout our teams.
 - Our alumni spans across many notable companies.
 - These classifications kill all design teams on campus.
 - The University of Florida is responsible for this, because these classifications were done without consulting colleges and various student groups all across campus.
 - The major repercussions of these acts are a loss of funding for student organizations.
 - Design teams will fall, and so will every student organization dependent on Student Government funding.
 - The engineering department does not have the resources to fund all these teams.
 - It is imperative that SG facilitates a solution.
 - I want to work with both sides of senate, student organizational leaders, and the administration.

- As of right now we have been let down by our administration.
- The best interests of the students are not being represented.
- I simply do not understand the reasoning behind this self-cannibalistic act.
- We will keep fighting until it is remedied.
- Maximillian Benach:
 - Hello everyone.
 - I wanted to take the time to represent the UF Model UN team.
 - I am grateful to share with you all that the UF United Nations team has ranked 21st internationally over this past year.
 - In my role, I am currently planning our training conference.
 - This year we are hosting a conference in Daytona from October 21-23.
 - We provide our staff members the opportunity to staff and lead.
 - Model UN is open to any student interested in developing their communication skills.
 - As a Student Government funded organization, we thank the senate chamber for their support in getting us where we are today.
 - Feel free to join us through the Linktree on our Instagram.
- Nathaniel Pelton :
 - Good evening senators.
 - I wanted to commend Senators Brinkman, Hartman, Schultz, and Cable for offering the resolution affirming the importance of free expression and civil discourse.
 - These rights are now threatened by the decision to appoint Ben Sasse as the unanimous contender for the role of UF President.
 - UF trustee and chair of the staff that recruited Sasse says that he has no intention of imposing his political beliefs on the UF student body.
 - Whether or not he will impose these political ideals on us, this appointment will harm civil discourse and free expression.
 - In fact, it already has.
 - When student protestors approached the event with Senator Sasse at Emerson Hall yesterday, they were restricted from entering the student forum.
 - Additionally, comments online have gotten way too far out of hand.
 - Our community on both sides has resorted to name-calling and threats to the other.
 - Does that put our best foot forward as a UF community?
 - If you truly want to protect the rights of free discourse, you will vote in favor of any resolution that denounces the unjust decision to appoint Senator Sasse as our next president.
- Senator Dibari gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Shin gives a goodbye speech.

- Jonathan Stephens:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I wanted to hit on the main points that Senator Shin had mentioned.
 - Life is too short to be mean and disrespectful.
 - Life has not been the funnest for myself.
 - A lot of the individuals in this room contributed to the reason why this is the case.
 - When I wake up every single day, there's always a mark.
 - A mark because I am black, queer, too loud, eccentric, and I don't fit in with the "it-crowd".
 - I take accountability for any sort of action that has not been perfect.
 - No one should ever be publicly humiliated to set accountability forward.
 - No one should ever get threats of physical harm to set a point.
 - No one should ever be questioned about their masculinity and blackness.
 - I have to think back to who I am serving.
 - Thank you to the people who were by my side through some very dark times.
 - Welcome to senate.

*****If you wish to hear any goodbye speeches given please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu*****

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairwoman Giordano moves to table Student Senate Bill 2022-1036: Administrative Regulations- External Control- 800 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Giordano moves to table Student Senate Bill 2022-1037: Finances Generally- 800 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Jordan Hricko for the open Community and Involvement Cabinet director position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1040: Resolution Affirming the Importance of Free Expression and Civil Discourse by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1041 to strike Senators Vaknin, Liu, Rubin, Toro, and Josephson from the sponsors line and to add Senator Mikhaylov to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1041: Resolution Recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Brinkman moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1042 to add Senators Vaknin, Liu, Rubin, Toro, and Josephson to the sponsors line and to remove Senator Mikhaylov from the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1042: Resolution Recognizing the Disability and Mental Resource Crisis at the University of Florida by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Pecora moves to approve the absence of Senator Aldazabal by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Hartzog:
 - John Michael Stratten Award: Senator Santiago opens nominations to the floor.
 - Majority Party Leader Pecora nominates Senator Liu. Senator Liu accepts the nomination.
 - Minority Party Leader Corbett nominates Senator Shoemaker. Senator Shoemaker accepts the nomination.
 - In a roll call vote of 50-8, Senator Liu receives the award.
 - Paul Clark Memorial Award for Outstanding Committee Chairperson: Senator Santiago opens nominations to the floor.
 - Senator Santiago nominates Chairwoman Thompson. Chairwoman Thompson accepts the nomination.
 - Majority Party Leader Pecora nominates Chairman Brinkman. Chairman Brinkman accepts the nomination.
 - Majority Party Leader Pecora nominates Chairwoman Giordano. Chairwoman Giordano accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Liu nominates Chairwoman Funai. Chairwoman Funai accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Liu nominates President Pro-Tempore Green. President Pro-Tempore Green declines.
 - In a roll call vote of 20 for Thompson, 8 for Giordano, 22 for Brinkman, and 3 for Funai, Chairman Brinkman receives the award.
 - Senate President Hartzog yields time to Ethan Halle:
 - Presents election results.

- Chairman Brinkman moves to validate the results of the Fall 2022 Election by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Hartzog presents paper-plate awards.
- Senate President Hartzog gives a goodbye speech.

If you wish to hear any goodbye speeches given please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Green welcomes the senators.

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Law

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Brinkman:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Clarifies voter record.
 - Legislation is due this Friday at noon.
 - I wanted to give a brief thank you.
 - I thank you all who wrote legislation and sent it in for review.
 - Thank you to the judiciary team and everyone else who helped out.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Giordano:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Docutraq opened yesterday for base funding, and it will close on October 24 at 4pm.
 - Operational, event, and travel requests will be open October 17 at 9am.
 - This will be first come, first serve.

- I absolutely loved budget.
- I wanted to thank my committee.
- I am forever grateful for this position.
- If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Thompson:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - I just wanted to thank you all for your continued patience.
 - Receiving this title was a very big deal to me.
 - I didn't realize what I was taking on with this role.
 - This summer was truly enlightening.
 - I'd like to thank my committee.
 - I think this senate chamber should give each other grace and recognize that we make mistakes.
 - Please lean on each other, give each other grace, and lift each other up.
 - Thank you all, again, so much for everything, and have a good night.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I&C has a lot coming up these next couple of weeks.
 - This Sunday is the senate retreat.
 - Next Tuesday there will be a new senator orientation at 6:15pm.
 - All newly-elected senators have to attend to hold their seat.
 - I will be sending out the tabling sign-ups for tomorrow.
 - Senate will be tabling at an upcoming SG event, and I will send the sign-ups for that as well.
 - I've had a really great time serving as the I&C chair.
 - I hope I've made senate fun for all of you.
 - Thank you for a great term, and have a good night.
 - 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 Liu: I wanted to thank Mara Vaknin for being such a great supporter and friend to me.
- Chairwoman Thompson: Do your constituency.

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 8:33pm.