

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

October 11, 2022

Senate President Hartzog called the Senate meeting to order at 8:58pm and announced that the meeting may be filmed or audio recorded and may be available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chief Justice Wiele swears in all new senators.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 79 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Abrucia**
- **Cruz**
- **Hanna**
- **Knupfer**
- **Nowak**
- **Smith**
- **Solomon**
- **Unland**
- **Velasquez-Neira**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Gabrielle Adekunle:**
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I will be discussing issues all around Graduate & Family Housing.
 - Senate and SG as a whole is no stranger to UF being called out for a lack of proper treatment towards the graduate students.
 - The first issue is that UF plans to demolish Maguire and University Village.
 - This is something that SG has written a resolution on, but I'm asking for some other ways to take action.
 - You can reach out and help by contacting me, reaching out to UF housing, and the Board of Trustees.
 - When a student who lives in Grad & Family Housing goes to vote, they're placed into districts based on the zipcode of their housing.
 - This is incorrect because they are supposed to be placed in the Grad & Family Housing constituency.
 - There is an affidavit, but for many of these students, that is the address they actually have.
 - They are doing the correct actions but receiving the wrong results.

- There was a tie in the vote, but Sadia Sarwar received votes from other places.
- Sadia is treasurer of the Mayor's Council, and is the mayor of Tanglewood Village.
- I ask for you to keep this in mind when voting.
- You are voting on behalf of the people that were denied that right.
- This is not a one time issue, it is continuous.
- Congratulations to our new senators.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett:
 - Good evening, Senators.
 - I am no longer a district D senator; I now serve district C.
 - Now that our senators are here, they are here to stay.
 - There seems to be a lot that our caucuses agree on, and I hope we can work together.
 - I hope that this year allows for senate leadership to recognize the importance of communicating.
 - I want to expand on how we can be communicating outside of this chamber.
 - The Change Caucus's biggest concern is that students are being stripped of their opportunities, communities, and resources.
 - These are organizations who are unable to survive under new classifications or feel a lack of safety.
 - Recent university decisions are threatening the student experience.
 - Going into more current matters, the Change caucus is appalled at the decision to choose a US senator with minimal experience working with universities.
 - The Change caucus has continuously been told in and out of this chamber that US politics should stay out of our senate.
 - If the Gator caucus wants to push this narrative, then the Change caucus calls on Student Body President Lemasters to vote no on the confirmation of Senator Ben Sasse as the University of Florida's new president.
 - President Lemasters was a part of the committee that unanimously voted for Ben Sasse as the sole contender to be UF's new president.
 - We saw opposition to this decision from many students and members of the faculty and staff.
 - Student Body President is a position that is supposed to represent ideas, actions, wants, and needs of the student body.
 - Our students and our communities are proud to be in a university that stands with them.
 - I am proud to attend a university where students take advocacy into their own hands when their government fails.
 - Your words and actions are contrary to say the least.

- The Change caucus is committed to resolutions condemning political encroachment on education.
- Thank you, and go gators.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- There were none.

TIE ELECTION: GRADUATE & FAMILY HOUSING:

- Aubrey Mys:
 - Hello, everyone.
 - I am running for the senate position of Graduate & Family Housing.
 - I am a law student, as well as a mother.
 - I started my Journey at UF in 2020, and I had my son 2 weeks into the first semester.
 - I have learned how to be very resilient and structured throughout my day.
 - I was able to serve as a UF ambassador for student parents.
 - I was able to do research at the UF Cancer Center.
 - I was able to have some experience being elected to the student board association at the law school.
 - Voting needs to change in Graduate & Family housing.
 - I would like to work on fixing the zip code issue.
 - My son goes to Baby Gator, which is a central location in Graduate & Family housing.
 - I know this seat has been absent for a long time, so I am excited to work on solutions to these issues.

- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- In a roll call vote of 74-1, Senator Mys has filled the Graduate & Family Housing seat.

SENATE ELECTIONS:

- The floor opens for nominations for Senate President by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pecora nominates Senator Green for Senate President. Senator Green accepts the nomination.
- Senator Ali nominates Senator Santiago Perez for Senate President. Senator Santiago Perez accepts the nomination.
- Senator Green presents 5 minutes for Senate President Candidacy:

- Good evening, senators.
- I want to congratulate the senators that just got sworn in this year.
- I am honored to be running for senate president tonight.
- Now in my third term as a District A senator, I can definitely say that I have seen it all.
- I am forever grateful for the experiences I have had with leadership, campus involvement, and students on campus.
- However, I would be remiss to begin my presentation without thanking the UF Senate for all the friends and memories I have made thus far.
- Without the senate, I don't think I would be satisfied leaving the university.
- I am a second-generation gator from Atlanta, Georgia.
- My experience on the Budget & Appropriations committee opened new possibilities for me to see what students can really achieve on campus.
- As I finish my term as the Senate President Pro-Tempore, I look over 8 months of chairing Replacement & Agenda Committee, 33 weeks of agendas and interview schedules, over 200 student interviews, and 132 office hours.
- I was able to meet and discuss with students all around campus.
- However, these numbers alone are not what makes me qualified for the position.
- The highs and lows, weekly parliamentary procedure, and personal relationships I have made with each member in the senate that make me qualified for this position.
- This is not a position that I take lightly.
- One thing that we have as a duty of senators is to remain impartial and just, actively working to achieve the concerns of our students with actions that are feasible and efficient.
- If I am elected, it is time to set out to do what we all signed up to do: work together.
- We need to work closer with the executive branch to reach our tangible goals.
- My next initiative is to implement a senate form for all students.
- Although the Information & Communications session provides great information for incoming senators, it is not always enough.
- I was hoping that with the addition of this form, we can increase the likelihood of having qualified candidates.
- My final initiative is codifying the various campus programming as you see at this university.
- Taking a deep dive into the codes we use on a daily basis will not only help our chamber run more smoothly, but also avoid the back-and-forth we have seen in the past.
- Once again, I want to thank you for all of your time and patience.

- I hope as your next Senate President, I can guide senators, old and new, to use this resource to the advantages of the constituencies we set out to.
- Thank you, and go gators.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- Senator Santiago Perez presents 5 minutes for Senate President Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am a recently re-elected District D senator, and this is my second term.
 - I am a 3rd-year Political Science and Criminology double major and treasurer of the Pride Student Union.
 - In the role as Senate President, I want to be a resource for every senator.
 - I want to have workshops so senators can become familiar with the rules and procedures.
 - This may seem daunting, but I want to make this information digestible for everyone here.
 - I want to be able to host town hall meetings where senators and other students can interact and communicate.
 - I can work with the Rules & Ethics committee to make this a constituency opportunity.
 - I want to work with the Budget & Appropriations committee in order to give our student organizations the funding they deserve.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a roll call vote of 51-27, Senator Green is elected as the new Senate President.
- The Senate President is sworn in.
- The floor opens for nominations for Senate President Pro-Tempore by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Ali nominates Senator Panish. Senator Panish accepts the nomination.
- Senator Harkins nominates Senator Giordano. Senator Giordano accepts the nomination.
- Senator Panish presents 5 minutes for Senate President Pro-Tempore Candidacy:
 - Hello, everyone.
 - I am a 2nd year math and statistics major.
 - I am the previous Hume senator, and a current Yulee senator.
 - My main accomplishment is writing the resolution that was passed last meeting.
 - I spent my entire first term understanding the financial and power structure of the university.
 - I view being a student senator as being an advocate for students.
 - I have a deep knowledge of Robert's Rules.
 - If the time came and I had to take over the chair, I am very confident in my ability to follow Robert's Rules.

- In terms of assisting the senate president, I have met with many administrative personnel.
- If the senate president ever asked me to do something, I would use my connections to help serve her.
- In terms of other supportive roles, I serve in the Math Society board.
- My main experience with the R&A was through applying 4 times this past fall.
- This gave me a deep understanding of how R&A works.
- What I think I bring to R&A specifically is that I have a very good understanding of data.
- I feel I can effectively be an unbiased representative.
- No matter how this election goes, I want you all to know that I am very much a resource to all of you.
- My main takeaway is that if I'm elected, I am 100% a resource for you.
- Thank you, and welcome new senators.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- Senator Giordano presents 5 minutes for Senate President Pro-Tempore Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Senate has changed my life for the better, and I am so excited to be back in the chamber for my third term representing District A.
 - I'm a 3rd year accounting major.
 - Looking back at my first term in the chamber as a freshman, I began my first term through zoom.
 - My freshman fall, I applied for a seat on the Budget & Appropriations committee.
 - I served as Member-at-Large for one semester, and in that role I served as Vice-Chair for the Replacement & Agenda Committee.
 - My various leadership roles in Senate have prepared me to be the best equipped for Senate President Pro-Tempore.
 - As vice chair of R&A, I have had an extensive look at the responsibilities and what that entails for the chair.
 - I know the trials and tribulations of serving as a member of the Senate executive team.
 - I have experience with not showing discretion, and I will carry these values into my role as Senate President Pro-Tempore.
 - I have worked to allocate over 2 million dollars to student organizations.
 - I know how to run meetings with proper decorum.
 - As Senate President Pro-Tempore, I have so many initiatives that I wish to accomplish.
 - I want to continue to work closely with Budget & Appropriations to ensure student organizations get funding.

- I want to workshop with organizations to think of creative ways they can fundraise for additional funding.
- I want to continue to be actively working with the Information & Communications committee to promote open seats on social media.
- I want to use our social media to reach new audiences that we don't normally reach.
- Finally, I want the senate to work with the executive branch to collaborate on more events.
- Both branches accomplish so many things and reach so many people separately, and I know they can do even more working together.
- I want to thank you all for giving me the time to speak with you today.
- I can't wait to make new memories with you this semester, hopefully as Senate President Pro-Tempore.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a roll call vote of 52-25, Senator Giordano is elected as the new Senate President Pro-Tempore.
- The Senate President Pro-Tempore is sworn in.

- The floor opens for nominations for First Member-at-Large by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez nominates Senator Locasio. Senator Locasio declines the nomination.
- Senator Funai nominates Senator Vaknin. Senator Vaknin accepts the nomination.
- Senator Faisal nominates Senator Natarajan. Senator Natarajan accepts the nomination.
- Senator Vaknin presents 5 minutes for First Member-at-Large Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I was an extremely engaged senator in the fall and spring semesters where I spent time with my constituents working on legislation, applying for committees, and making meaningful friendships with my fellow senators.
 - This summer, I continued my commitment to this chamber by making weekly 8-hour drives to attend meetings.
 - I believe I will be able to achieve even more as a Member-at-Large.
 - As far as objectivity goes, I feel like I have been kind, respectful and open to every senator in this chamber.
 - I have sponsored and expressed my support for bills on both sides of the aisle.
 - I will look at applicants in the same objective way that I have looked at legislation.
 - I have sat in the interviewee's seat many times, and I can empathize with each candidate that will walk through the doors each Sunday.

- I have a very thorough understanding of the skills and work ethic necessary to succeed in this chamber.
- I want to make this chamber the absolute best it can be.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- Senator Natarajan presents 5 minutes for First Member-at-Large Candidacy:
 - Hello, everyone.
 - I was a summer replacement senator this last summer.
 - I am a biomedical engineering major.
 - I served as an independent senator over the summer, because I felt like it was better to vote along the lines of my constituents rather than a party.
 - I was just elected Graham Area Senator.
 - I have knowledge pertaining to the other standing committees.
 - I would make decisions on R&A with an open mind.
 - I would justify my decisions based on the resume and the interview that they give, rather than on outside interactions.
 - I would deliberate each candidate thoroughly and fairly with my committee members.
 - I would like to give feedback to prospective candidates if requested to tell them ways that they can improve.
 - I would like to hold office hours so people could meet with me and speak about their interviews and applications.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a roll call vote of 49-27, Senator Vaknin is elected as the new First Member-at-Large.
- The floor opens for nominations for Second Member-at-Large by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pierre nominates Senator Troncoso. Senator Troncoso accepts the nomination.
- Senator Montes nominates Senator Urbenz. Senator Urbenz accepts the nomination.
- Senator Troncoso presents 5 minutes for Second Member-at-Large Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I was elected in Spring 2022 for the engineering seat.
 - There are a lot of experiences in my life that have shaped me into who I am today.
 - I was born and raised in Ecuador, and I came to the United States in 2012.
 - I am a first generation college student.
 - I want to make this university a place that people can call home
 - Throughout my time at UF, I have been involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.
 - Currently, I hold a director position as an education director.
 - This position has taught me how to identify talent and potential in others.

- As a Hispanic woman in STEM, I would like to bring a new perspective to the senate.
- If I'm elected as Member-at-Large, I will use my voice and experiences to bring the most qualified candidates to this senate floor.
- Thank you for your time.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- Senator Urbenz presents 5 minutes for Second Member-at-Large Candidacy:
 - Hello, I am running to be the next Member-at-Large.
 - I'm a first generation student.
 - I'm a spring senator representing the College of Fine Arts.
 - I am already FERPA trained.
 - I have experience with many types of interviews in committees.
 - I have experience interviewing people for both professional positions and student organizations.
 - I am aware of nuances that would help us set our meetings up to be efficient.
 - I would be more than willing to assist the President and Pro-Tempore with anything they may need my help with.
 - One of my main ideas is to ensure that a statement about being respectful is included in the agenda each week.
 - I would love to hold office hours and meetings to make sure candidates are as informed as possible.
 - I would also like to make the agenda more efficient and cohesive.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a roll call vote of 45-26, Senator Troncoso is elected as the new Second Member-at-Large.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

- External Chairman Fineberg:
 - Back in August, President Biden announced the cancellation of some student debt.
 - Starting next week, we are going to have tabling events out in Burlington in order to educate students about how they can apply for this relief.
 - We got some great information from the department of education today.
 - The process is going to be incredibly simple.
 - Please have your constituents, friends, etc come out and get the relief they need.
 - If you have any questions, please let me know.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Green:
 - Thank you guys for electing me!

- I hope to work with both sides of the aisle.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Giordano welcomes the senators.
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I'll be sending out the affiliation forms tomorrow, so please make sure to submit them.
 - Applications are due by 12:00pm on Friday.

Open Committee Chair Seats

- Judiciary
- Budget & Appropriations
- Rules & Ethics
- Information & Communication

Open Permanent Committee Seats

- Judiciary (2)
- Budget & Appropriations (2)
- Rules & Ethics (3)
- Information & Communication (2)

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Graduate (6)
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Law

JUDICIARY:

- Senator Harkins:
 - Hi, everyone.
 - I am the vice chair of the Judiciary Committee.
 - Clarifies voter record.
 - Legislation is due Friday by 12pm.

- We will be having a meeting at a time and place to be announced.
- If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Senator Pecora:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Base funding opened yesterday, and it will close on October 24.
 - Travel, Operational, and Event requests open on the 17th at 9am.
 - They are first come, first serve.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Senator Clark:
 - First of all, I would like to congratulate all the new senators on their seats.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Senator Vaknin:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Senate retreat is coming up.
 - 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.
 - The Senate will be tabling at an upcoming SG event, and I will send the sign-ups for that as well.
 - 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 McGinnis: Good evening, y'all. I am the Tolbert senator. As you may be aware, lighting is an issue on campus. Please reach out if you want to work with me on this.

- Senator Faisal: I want to bring back the Green Caucus. Sustainability is my passion, and I want to focus my term on legislation pertaining to that.
- Senator Bowman: I am currently working on revisions to the 500 Codes to hold Student Government accountable.
- Senator Stephens: I want to bring back the Black Caucus.
- Senator Ali: Senator Faisal, Giordano, and I are working on legislation pertaining to Hurricane Ian. Reach out to me if you are interested in sponsoring or collaborating with us on this.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:26pm.