

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

October 18, 2022

Senate President Green called the Senate meeting to order at 7:35pm 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 82 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Aldazabal**
- **Hazlett**
- **Seifer**
- **Smith**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Faisal:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am going to speak about Student Senate Bill 2022-1044 : Resolution Acknowledging the Impact of Hurricane Ian in Southwest Florida.
 - I wanted to thank Senator Ali and Pro-Tempore Giordano for authoring it with me.
 - I also wanted to thank all the members of senate that decided to support it.
 - Southwest Florida will be hurting for a while.
 - Having most of my family there was stressful, as they spent hours in harsh winds and rainstorms.
 - Everytime the phone call dropped, so did my heart, and it was a stressful time.
 - Senator Ali is from Fort Myers.
 - I could only imagine how she felt being in the storm.
 - In the last “therefore” clause of the bill, we ask student leaders to do everything in their power to aid those struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.
 - I think it is fair for us to recognize that some of the students here are dealing with their childhood neighborhoods turned into rubble.
 - I am asking for everyone to be a friend to those who need a friend at this time.
 - The photos do not do the damage justice.
 - As always, go gators.
- Aron Ali-McClory
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I come before you today as a student.

- As many of you know, Republican Senator Ben Sasse was announced as the sole finalist for the President position at the University of Florida.
- I could talk for hours about how the senator's record is antithetical to this university's values.
- I want to talk about the Rules and Procedures, which the university violated many of in the selection of Senator Sasse as the sole finalist.
- I come on behalf of a coalition of various student organizations and social unions.
- This is a group of many people who have defined the university of the past few years and decades.
- I want to read out a list of demands the coalition put together that all senators should hear and take into account when dealing with this matter.
- We demand that 1) Senator Ben Sasse deny the job offer based on his discriminatory political beliefs.
- 2. The presidential nomination process is transparent and includes mechanisms that students, faculty, and staff can provide weighted input.
- 3) The University of Florida Board of Trustees release the names of all 12 of the presidential finalists.
- 4) The Florida State Legislature repeal SB-520
- 5) Any individual selected as the University of Florida President by the Board of Trustees demonstrates consistent respect towards people of all sexual orientations and genders.
- It's not a radical demand; it is a sensible demand.
- The university said that they would release the names of two or more finalists, and that those finalists would demonstrate commitments to values of inclusivity and diversity.
- Thank you for your time.
- Senator Stephens:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Presents legislation on the floor for the night's meeting.
 - Making sure that we recognize that we must be ethical and transparent when selecting someone as President of the University of Florida.
 - I want to bring in some policy changes that I am looking to implement this semester.
 - I am gonna start with the campus recycling overhaul act.
 - It states that all campus organizations using Student body funds have a statement saying "Please recycle me" on all recyclable materials produced for distribution.
 - The purpose behind this is to have constituents know where the flyers and other recyclable materials can go.
 - Next, we go on to The Student Organization Health and Wellness Accessibility Act.

- It creates an exception for women’s health, sexual health, and medical-aid products to be utilized by student organizations.
- I would next like to present the Senator Town Hall Explanation, Verification, and Implementation Act.
- This will create a whole new chapter within the Accountability Act that allows for these town hall events to be created for senators.
- It will allow for an additional forum for constituents to reach out to their senators, as well as allow for senators to share their legislative rules and focuses within their tenure as a student senator.
- This has a lot of different safeguards and revolves around the Rules & Ethics committee.
- The next part is the Public Records Requests Timeline and Accountability Initiative
- This is a bill that mandates that public records requests must be filled no longer than 30 days after being notified from Student Government Advising and Staff.
- There are some legality issues I have to look into, and I would love to hear from any senators as to how we can accomplish this.
- In March of 2022, we put out a resolution condemning the “Don’t Say Gay” bill.
- In it there was a clause that mentioned the Johns Committee, it was unfortunately taken out, but I want to put out a Resolution specifically condemning the Johns Committee.
- Many queer people were terrorized by this legislation.
- If you have any questions or comments, I would appreciate hearing from you.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Senator Santiago Perez moves to have the minutes reflect the correct spelling of “Santiago Perez” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to have the minutes reflect that he is the treasurer of the Pride Student Union by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to have the minutes reflect that Senator Santiago Perez nominated Senator Locasio by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to have the minutes reflect the correct spelling of “Montes” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Stephens moves to approve the bloc of absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1045: Student Senate Discovery Period Assurance Initiative (SSDPAI) by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1046: Senate Post-Recess Attendance Initiative (SPRAI) by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1044: Resolution Acknowledging the Impact of Hurricane Ian in Southwest Florida by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Vice-Chairman Harkins moves to approve Amendment 1 for Student Senate Bill 2022-1043: Resolution Condemning the Presidential Search Committee and Student Body President Lauren Lemasters for Nominating Ben Sasse as the Finalist in UF's Presidential Search by unanimous consent. Objected.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Green:
 - Yields time to Jackie Phillips:
 - Good evening, senators!
 - I serve as the Assistant Director for Student Government Advising and Operations.
 - I work as the advisor of senate as well as with the student body treasurer, some different agencies, and some different staff in our office.
 - The state of Florida has the "Sunshine Laws" which provides the right of access to government proceedings of public boards and commissions at the state and local levels.
 - The Student Government states that it will also follow the Sunshine Laws.
 - These requirements extend to the work that you do as senators at the University of Florida.
 - Any meeting in which decision making is occurring must be publicly noticed at least 24 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.
 - Public records are all materials made or received by an agency in connection with official business which are used to perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge.
 - As senators, you are all liable to get public record requests.
 - Personal notes & records as well as responsive documents are not considered to be public records.
 - If you receive an email from Zac Culpepper telling you what has been requested that you need to share, please respond with the responsive documents.

- If you do not have those documents, please respond letting us know.
- If a request is over 75 pages, there is a cost associated that we need to inform the requester of, so please let us know the number of pages the documents are.
- If you receive a public records request, you are required to respond.
- Please acknowledge the request promptly and in good faith.
- In order to serve as a senator, you need to be presently enrolled as a full-time student, maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 (3.0 for Graduates) or higher, not be on conduct probation, and not have any delinquent financial charges from the University.
- Finally, you must live in the area or be in the college you are representing.
- I worked with Chairwoman Funai on getting a livestream of our meetings broadcasted.
- Right now we are renting from Marston.
- Liaisons:
 - Reitz: Senator Cable
 - UFPD: Senator Ghozali
 - DEI: Senator Santiago Perez
 - RecSports: Senator Ponce
 - SAI: Senator Pierre
 - Executive: Senator Brinkman
- As a lot of you know, there was a funding crash on Monday.
- I recognize that in some ways this is UF ITs fault, but I would not like this to go on much longer.
- I am organizing a Student Organization Funding Review Task Force.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to me at senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Giordano welcomes the senators.
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Congratulations to everybody who got their chair and committee positions.
 - I had an awesome time at R&A on Sunday.

Open Permanent Committee Seats

- Judiciary (2)

- Budget & Appropriations (1)
- Rules & Ethics (1)

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Graduate (6)
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Law
- Accounting
- CALS
- Veterinary
- If you have any questions, please reach out to me at senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu .

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Harkins:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Thank you for appointing me.
 - I am very excited for this term.
 - If you have any questions or ideas please reach out to me.
 - I have already talked to a few senators about legislative ideas.
 - Legislation will be due on Friday at noon.
 - Next week's legislation may be due Wednesday, October 26.
 - Congratulations to Senators Alvarez and Roberts for joining the Judiciary committee.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Pecora:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I want to say thank you so much for approving me!
 - Congrtatualtion to Senator Panish and Pierre on joining the committee.
 - I want to start by addressing the website crash.
 - We did, in fact, break Google.
 - To combat this for this funding cycle, we are going to send out multiple forms per section.
 - We only had an issue with event requests.

- Organization leaders will be hopefully notified of this later tonight.
- If not, they will definitely be notified of this by 9 am tomorrow.
- We are going to be opening these at 9am on Thursday.
- Hopefully, this all works out smoothly.
- Next, I want to say that I am in full support of the Student Organization Funding Review Task Force.
- The budget committee is going to meet sometime this Friday.
- If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Clark:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I want to thank you all for approving me.
 - The next Rules & Ethics meeting will be tomorrow at 9:30pm.
 - If I mispronounced your name during roll call, please come up to me and let me know.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Thank you guys for confirming my seat.
 - I am excited to continue my work from the Spring and Summer.
 - Thank you to everyone who came out to the Senate Retreat.
 - Tomorrow, senate will be tabling at an SG event.
 - We sent out the signups on Friday.
 - This can count as an SG constituency or an SG event.
 - Wear a Student Government shirt if you have one, if not wear a plain UF shirt.
 - Senate tabling sign-ups went out on Friday.
 - When you sign up for tabling, if you are the first senator tabling, you will go to the senate corner in the SG office and ask a senate secretary for a tabling basket.
 - Once your shift is completed, bring the bucket back to the SG office if no one is tabling after you.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at info@sg.ufl.edu.

FIRST READINGS:

- Minority Party Leader Corbett gives a 5 minute presentation on Student Senate Bill 2022-1043: Resolution Condemning the Presidential Search Committee and Student Body President Lauren Lemasters for Nominating Ben Sasse as the Finalist in UF's Presidential Search.

- Good evening, senators.
- The nomination for Ben Sasse as the sole finalist for UF's next president was conducted in a unanimous vote, meaning that Student Body President Lemasters voted in favor of him.
- I would first like to thank the sponsors of the Gator caucus for stepping up to the plate to hold their affiliates accountable.
- Being the minority party, we believe that it is our duty to hold the majority accountable.
- When faced with SG legislation condemning the "Don't Say Gay" bill, past Gator-affiliated senators implied that SG shouldn't comment on state or federal politics.
- When Change caucus put forward legislation as objective as a land acknowledgement, our members were called radical.
- Yet Student Body President Lemasters is able to appoint Ben Sasse, opening the university to an unprecedented amount of state and federal influence.
- On multiple occasions in writing, Sasse has expressed racist and homophobic sentiments.
- He has never led a body this large and has never attended a public university.
- The Nebraskan senator is unfit to serve as the president.
- A top 5 institution deserves top 5 leadership.
- Unfortunately for Ben Sasse and the committee that appointed him, he doesn't fit the bill.
- It's time for the Board of Trustees, the Presidential Search Committee, and President Lemasters to get on the same page and vote "no" on Ben Sasse.
- Student Body President is a position where one represents the student body, but the wants and needs of the study body are not being represented.
- In this case, Student Body President is a position of privilege that was abused when making this appointment.
- Recent changes to Florida law no longer create an obligation for universities to present their list of presidential candidates.
- We believe this process is flawed, and President Lemasters should exercise transparency.
- Student Government senators affiliated with Change caucus felt obliged to participate in protests, calling on Lemasters to vote "no" on the confirmation of Ben Sasse.
- Although in Judiciary, the list of demands were excluded for conciseness.
- 1) The UF Board of Trustees revoke their job offer to Ben Sasse on the grounds of his discriminatory political beliefs and unjust nomination process
- 2) The presidential nomination process is transparent, and there will be opportunities for the UF community to provide input.

- 3) The UF Board of Trustees release the names of all twelve presidential finalists.
- 4) The Florida state legislature repeal Senate Bill 520.
- 5). Any individual selected as president by the UF Board of Trustees demonstrates consistent advocacy and respect for people of all sexual orientations, genders, and races.
- We hope that in the future, President Lemasters makes this a more communicative process.
- We acknowledge that this legislation is a step forward.
- We hope students feel encouraged to share their dissent of President Lemasters's decision.
- We urge that the Presidential Search Committee find more appropriate finalists.

There was a five-minute technical question and answer period.

- Chairman Harkins moves to call the previous question on the debate by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Harkins gives a two-minute presentation on Amendment 1 for Student Senate Bill 2022-1043: Resolution Condemning the Presidential Search Committee and Student Body President Lauren Lemasters for Nominating Ben Sasse as the Finalist in UF's Presidential Search.
 - Gives a presentation on the amendment.
 - I wanted to clarify everything that is a part of the amendment.
 - This Sunday, the Judiciary committee made a mistake by striking the wrong "WHEREAS" clause.
 - The intent behind this amendment is to centralize the focus of the goal of supporting the interests of students and seeing Student Body President Lemasters vote "no" on Ben Sasse.
 - We are also striking the first "LET IT BE RESOLVED" clause to fix an error, since this clause refers to the demands that were already removed by the Judiciary committee.
 - We added senators to the sponsors line.
 - We also added GAU Co-President Rachel Hartnett to the proviso.

There was a two-minute technical question and answer period.

There were two rounds of con-pro debate with one minute on each side.

- Senator Faisal moves to call the previous question on ending debate by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Kanfer moves to make a friendly amendment to strike his name from the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to make a friendly amendment to add himself to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to make a friendly amendment to add himself and Senator Ali to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Faisal moves to make a friendly amendment to correct the titles of the chairs by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Velasquez-Neira moves to make a friendly amendment to add himself to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Howard moves to make a friendly amendment to strike her name from the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 for Student Senate Bill 2022-1043: Resolution Condemning the Presidential Search Committee and Student Body President Lauren Lemasters for Nominating Ben Sasse as the Finalist in UF's Presidential Search. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1043: Resolution Condemning the Presidential Search Committee and Student Body President Lauren Lemasters for Nominating Ben Sasse as the Finalist in UF's Presidential Search by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Stephens: I am part of the food science and human nutrition club. We are having a panel on November 16. For more information, please visit the instagram page @uffshnclub.
- Senator Urbenz: Thank you guys for approving me. The School of Theater and Dance is presenting Cabaret starting this Friday.
- Chairwoman Pecora: Email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu if you have any questions.
- Chairman Harkins: Clarifies voter records.
- Pro-Tempore Giordano: Applications will close at noon on Friday.
- President Green: If you made a friendly amendment to add or strike your name as a sponsor please tell a senate secretary so they can add it to the minutes.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.