

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

**October 25, 2022**

Senate President Green called the Senate meeting to order at 7:33pm 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 76 senators present.

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

- **Damera**
- **Hazlett**
- **Locascio**
- **Mys**
- **Partridge**
- **Ponce**
- **Siddiqui**
- **Valentin**
- **Wiener**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Senator Wolcott:**
  - Good evening, senators.
  - My name is Danny Wolcott, I am the Hume area senator, and I am Iranian.
  - On September 16th, 2022, Mahsa Amini died.
  - Her crime: wearing her head scarf too loosely.
  - For that, she was beaten to death.
  - Her death was the straw that broke the camel's back for the people of Iran.
  - Her gravestone reads in Farsi "You did not die, your remains will be a rally call."
  - The people of Iran have been bravely protesting the theocratic dictatorship
  - They are placing their lives on the line in colleges just like ours in order to secure their freedoms.
  - Hundreds of people had died.
  - Last Thursday I attended an event hosted by the engineering college that brought together people from the Iranian community from all academic backgrounds.
  - I spoke to people who expressed their concern for their family back in Iran.
  - They wondered what the university was going to do to help them in this difficult time.
  - A bill that you will hear today, Student Senate Bill 2022-1049 is just the beginning of the student senate's solidarity with the people of Iran.

- With that, I have a brief comment to read on behalf of the Iranian Student Association President: “40 days ago, a 22 year-old lady was tortured to death by the Islamic regime in Iran. Since then, hundreds of innocent people have been killed in a horrific manner. Among these are students just like each and every one of us. They sacrificed their lives for freedom, for women's rights and for the basic rights of every human being. The Iranian community at UF, like every Iranian community around the world, is worried about their loved ones in Iran.”
- It is time for UF to stand in solidarity with the people of Iran, and it is time to spread the word and it is time to take action.
- Thank you.
- Senator Santiago Perez:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Firstly, I want to thank Senator Stephens for authoring the bill condemning the Johns Committee.
  - For a long time, SG senators have been trying to get a resolution to address this issue through the senate.
  - Tonight, we may finally get recognition from the Student Senate on that topic.
  - Many gay men were forced out of positions here at UF.
  - Some were subjected to humiliating and terrorization.
  - All of this occurred when the university administration was complicit in the actions of the committee.
  - Tonight, we take a step toward correcting the record.
  - I hope to see the senate approve this resolution and I would like to see the University as a whole provide a formal apology for the role they took in the committee's investigation.
  - It would really show that the university recognizes and will hold itself accountable for wrongs it has committed in the past.
  - Finally, I want to finish off that I am going to continue to be the co-leader for the LGBTQ+ caucus here in the Senate.
  - Anyone is welcome to join the LGBTQ+ caucus, and if you'd like to join just let me know.
- Senator Shoemaker:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - This presentation is mainly for the new senators; the rest of you may take a nap.
  - I have been working on 24-hour libraries for a couple years now.
  - Presents other Universities with 24-hour libraries.
  - Why a 24-hour library?
  - Number 1 is student demand.
  - Surveys in recent years have revealed improving study spaces is a top concern amongst university students.

- Number 2 is improving the university's status.
- We are a top 5 university, and 24-hour libraries make the university look better.
- There are studies coming out correlating increased GPA with longer library hours.
- Comfort and security are also factors.
- Many students need a space away from their residential areas.
- I am specifically focusing on Marston since they have a high occupancy.
- Their occupancy has been at an all time high this year.
- Many people have a higher perceived level of security associated with Marston.
- Marston is more central to campus.
- Capacity is an important factor when considering 24-hour libraries.
- Newell Hall does not meet the capacity for overnight hours.
- SG last funded Marston in 2015, and since then, we've seen a
- Since then, we have seen an 89% increase in student visits to libraries.
- You'll also see the linear slope with the 3rd floor renovations. There are also 5th floor renovations occurring as well.
- It is a myth that SG fees cannot pay for libraries.
- Any time libraries have been 24/7, they have had their funding through SG.
- In the past from 2013-2017, this funding was a part of our legislative budget.
- Something that we tried to model in the summer and there have been instances where the executive branch has done a reserve transfer.
- A lot of people say that activities and service fees should not go towards funding the libraries.
- Newell Hall is known as a library without books, so we are really already funding a library.
- UF libraries have only been 24-hours with student government funding.
- I am looking for people to continue to join the movement.
- We are currently working with the Provost.
- Senator Panish:
  - Grace has been working on this forever.
  - Marston is by far the best place to have a 24-hour library.
  - SG must contribute funding if you want this to be a reality.
  - Students will benefit from this, in terms of their grades and amount of access to libraries.
  - We still need the money, so please reconsider your thoughts on this.
  - The failure of that amendment over the summer was a large disappointment to us.
  - If you want to join us, please take the time to look at our committee and report.
- Armin Niknam:
  - Hello, senators.
  - I stand here to speak in favor of Student Senate Bill 2022-1049.
  - Tomorrow marks the 40th day of the murder of Mahsa Amini.

- In Iranian culture, the 40th day of a person's death is generally a time of gathering and reflection.
- This is something that is expected to be happening tomorrow on the streets of different cities in the country.
- The government of Iran has already started to take preventative measures.
- I stand here to support the resolution.
- I would also like to highlight a number of points.
- The government of Iran regulates the dress of all women in the country.
- Although hijabs are a religious dress code, people of all religious backgrounds are enforced to wear them.
- When this law was first enforced, women were the first group to come into the streets to go against the enforcement of hijab.
- Attacks to junior high schools and high schools resulted in many deaths.
- This also happens in a lot of impoverished communities in the country.
- The hijab is a symbol of religious expression, but in Iran, it is an infringement on women's choice and bodily autonomy.
- Other universities have put out a public statement about what is going on in Iran.
- I believe the University of Florida should do something to that effect.
- It is discouraging and disheartening that the University of Florida has missed out on this occasion for 40 days.
- I would again like to thank everyone for this occasion.
- Senator Stephens:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Obviously, there are some very good pieces of legislation being put out.
  - I want this public comment to address some issues I have seen in this chamber since this last summer.
  - Looking back around April 2022, I applied for a District D seat.
  - I presented the original copy of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Act, which would have been codified into our 600 codes.
  - A committee member called me a "radical" for that.
  - I've always been considered "out-there," "eccentric," and "different."
  - It seemed like a term of villainization.
  - So I wanted to explain to you how much of a radical I have been.
  - This is all the legislation I have written. Most bills were postponed indefinitely or failed.
  - I was critiqued for proposing ideas that would hinder student engagement.
  - I was also critiqued for spelling errors.
  - I want to go back to the word "radical."
  - People like to paint people who want to make progress as "radicals."
  - I have three things I want us all to do.

- I want us to stay consistent in our actions.
- Read our bills, messages, and correspondence.
- Not only reading that message is important, but also sending a heartfelt response.
- Presents statement by Eden Goodman addressing the shortcomings of CALS candidate Clayton Bush.

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

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to amend the minutes to change the wording of “Senate President Hartzog” to “Senate President Green” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

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

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of University Committee recommendations by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1047: Resolution Condemning “The Johns Committee” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of SSB 2022-1051, SSB 2022-1052, SSB 2022-1053, SSB 2022-1054, SSB 2022-1055 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1048: Resolution Encouraging University of Florida Students to Vote in the 2022 Midterm Elections by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of open permanent and open committee seats by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to approve Amendment 1 for Student Senate Bill 2022-1050: Senate Town Hall Explanation, Verification, and Implementation Act (STHEVIA) by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1050: Senate Town Hall Explanation, Verification, and Implementation Act (STHEVIA) by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to approve Amendment 1 for Student Senate Bill 2022-1049: Resolution in Solidarity with the Women of Iran by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2022-1049: Resolution in Solidarity with the Women of Iran by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Elizabeth Hartzog for the Student Government Institute (SGI) Chair by unanimous consent. Objected.

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH:**

- SGP Agency Head Michael Higgins:
  - Good evening.
  - I am the Agency Head of Student Government Productions.
  - We held the first concert of the year on the first day of classes.
  - We are in the process of filling our staff positions, and we have released applications.
  - We have plans for the spring to work with Black Student Union on events for Black History Month, and we are having talks of another concert in the spring.
  - If you have any questions, please refer to [sgp@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:sgp@sg.ufl.edu) .

## **SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Green:
  - Yields time to Senator Pierre:
    - Good evening, senators.
    - I serve as the Sophomore senator.
    - I was the DEI liaison, and I'm now the SAI liaison.
    - STAAR is an agency of student government.
    - Want to shift from focusing on just racism to focusing on diversity and inclusivity.
    - Our vision is that STAAR operates on empathy and awareness both of which are foundational to promoting DEI across the student body.
    - Our vision is strongly based on the importance of building relationships and subsequently growing to understand the perspective of fellow students.
    - Using our curriculum, workshops, and events, we are hoping to foster togetherness and awareness.
    - We are wanting our students to hold us accountable.
    - We are constantly updating our Anti-Racism Pledge and DEI curriculum.
    - After every presentation, we ask for people to respond to the feedback form to see what we can do better for our students.
    - We have reached many students.
    - We are excited to work with more orgs.
    - We recently had our diversity summit.
    - We're also working on our ambassador program.
    - We now have a STAAR DEI handbook.
    - There is a weekly Anti-Racism report, and we have a monthly STAAR newsletter.
    - Senate serves as an important tool to improve race, religion, sexuality, and other relations across campus.

- As liaisons, we are working for the students.
- Please connect with us and give us feedback.
- As of right now, Mondays and Tuesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm are my office hours.
- We have a tabling event on November 14.
- If you want to be a part of that just reach out to me or Phoebe.
- Regarding the Ad-Hoc committee, I received a lot of emails, so I'm still in the process of forming the task force.
- Thank you to everyone who has reached out.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu).

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

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on the Agency Head Nomination. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.

There was a five-minute question and answer period.

- Senator Bowman moves to extend the question and answer period by three minutes. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion does not pass.

There were three rounds of con-pro debate.

- Senator Faisal moves to call the previous question on the Agency Head Nomination. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to approve Elizabeth Hartzog for the SGI Chair. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to call the previous question on the University Committee recommendations. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to approve the bloc of University Committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Pecora moves to call the previous question on the bloc of open permanent and open committee seats. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rules where the open permanent and committee seats are heard as a bloc. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Chairman Harkins moves to a five-minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.

Senate President Green moves for a five-minute recess. There was an objection, but in a standing vote, it was not sustained.

Senate President Green moves the body into a five-minute recess.

Senate President Green called the meeting back to order at 9:04pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 77 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- **Damera**
- **Hazlett**
- **Locascio**
- **Mys**
- **Partridge**
- **Ponce**
- **Siddiqui**
- **Wiener**
  
- Pro-Tempore Giordano:
  - I believe that all the candidates should be approved.
  - My committee went through every single applicant line by line.
  - The deliberations took over 40 minutes.
  - The vote was cast the way it was by the committee.
  - I did not vote.
  - This is the way that the committee voted, and I trust my committee.

There was a three-minute question and answer period.

There were three rounds of con-pro debate.

- Pro-Tempore Giordano:
  - I believe this committee put forth the applicants in the most objective manner possible.
  - We reviewed applications, resumes, and interviews.
  - Clayton came to the interview with an idea sheet, which you don't see with every candidate.
  - I firmly stand with the decisions of my committee.
  - Isabel Ponce clerked the Budget meetings; she is very qualified.
  - Again, we are voting on an entire bloc as a whole.
  - These candidates are the most qualified.
  - They were put into a bloc by unanimous consent, which included the vote of Minority Party Leader Corbett.
  - They were put onto the agenda because the committee believed that they were best fit for these positions.

- Senate President Green moves the body into a vote on approving the bloc of Replacement & Agenda committee recommendations. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:**

- Pro-Tempore Giordano welcomes the senators.
  - Good evening, senators.
  - R&A will be meeting at some time on Sunday.

### **Open Permanent Senate Seats**

- Building Construction
  - Dentistry
  - Graduate (6)
  - Law
  - Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Pharmacy
  - Veterinary
- 
- If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatepresidentprotempore@sg.ufl.edu) .
  - Senator Santiago Perez moves to have the remaining committee reports sent electronically. Objected.
  - Senator Santiago Perez moves to have the remaining committee reports sent electronically. Seconded. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- There was no report.

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- There was no report.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- There was no report.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- There was no report.

### **FIRST READINGS:**

- There were none.

### **SECOND READINGS:**

- There were none.

### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Chairwoman Pecora: We are going to be meeting again at 9am on Thursday to hear the 800 code revision and line item transfer. The hearings are going to start next Tuesday. We also have \$400,000 more to allocate.
- Senator Santiago Perez: If anybody wants to come to me for the LGBTQ+ caucus, please come find me after senate.
- Senator Natarajan: There is an ISA event this Friday, so please show out!
- Minority Party Leader Corbett: WSA is having a movie night tomorrow.
- Chairman Harkins: Clarifies voter records.
- Senator Faisal: There are a lot of IRHA events this week for the dorms. Please attend!
- Chairwoman Funai: I will not be taking orders after this meeting, but you'll have another opportunity next week. I'll send out a link for the senate t-shirt.
- Pro-Tempore Giordano: Applications for the open seats close at 12pm on Friday.
- President Green: I want to say that for next week, please maintain decorum. I do not want to repeat this. I do not want another term with these back-and-forths; it's disrespectful and uncalled for.
- Chairwoman Clark: I want to remind all of you to double-check your voter records and make sure they are completely filled out. Incomplete voter records count as a half-absence.

### **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 9:44pm.