

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1045

TITLE: Student Senate Discovery Period Assurance Initiative (SSDPAI)

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SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett, Deputy Minority Party Leader Gabriela Montes, Senator Cassandra Urbenz, Senator Nathan McGinnis, Senator John Rassel, Senator Joaquin Rafael Marcelino, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Savannah Partridge, Senator Connor Panish, Senator Mohammed Faisal

RULE XI

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

(AMENDED: 2009-100, 2009-104, 2009-121, 2009-140, 2010-122, 2011-114, 2011-116, 2011-130, 2014-106, 2014-111, 2016-117, 2018-114, 2018-121, 2019-124, 2019-1104, 2020-1034, 2020-1064, 2021-1003)

4. Rules and Ethics Committee:

- a. The Rules and Ethics Committee will consist of the following members:
 - i. Nine Senators named to the committee by the Senate (See §7 of this Rule), one of which will be selected as the Committee Chair (See §8 of this Rule).
 - ii. A member of the Student Body that is appointed by the Rules and Ethics Committee Chair as the Rules and Ethics Committee Clerk, who serves as the taker of minutes, for the Rules and Ethics Committee, as an ex-officio non-voting, non-speaking member.
 - a) Should the chair choose not to fill this position, a committee member will serve as the taker of minutes.
- b. Duties:
 - i. The Rules and Ethics Committee will investigate whenever a Senator files a petition with the Senate Secretary calling for a Senator's censure or expulsion, whenever ordered by the Senate, or otherwise at the discretion of the committee, the conduct of any Senator (see below).
 - ii. The Rules and Ethics Committee will receive complaints from the student body regarding the compliance of Student Government funded organizations with the Student Body Constitution and Statutes, and University of Florida Rules and Regulations, and shall investigate complaints as deemed necessary by the committee (see below).

- iii. The Rules and Ethics Committee will review all absence excuses and recommend action on these excuses to the Senate.
- iv. The Rules and Ethics Committee will hear appeals from resignations by non-attendance and may expunge absences from a Senator's attendance record as outlined in Chapter 323 of the Student Body Statutes.
- v. The Rules and Ethics Committee will issue warning letters and letters of resignation by non-attendance to Senators as outlined in Chapter 323 of the Student Body Statutes.
- vi. The Rules and Ethics Committee will enforce constituency requirements as outlined in Chapter 324 of the Student Body Statutes.
- vii. The Rules and Ethics Committee or Senate Secretary shall collect all voting records at meetings of the Senate and file them in the Senate office.
- viii. The chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee Chair will submit an end of session transition report at the end of each Fall and Spring session to the Senate Secretary that will detail the committee's activities of that session and offer suggestions to future chairs.

c. Investigation of Senators:

- i. The Rules and Ethics Committee will set dates and times for hearings regarding the investigation and shall set deadlines regarding evidence submission.
- ii. The Rules and Ethics Committee will serve Senators with notice that they are being investigated by the committee and shall include in this or subsequent notice the times and locations of any hearings pertaining to the investigation no later than three days prior to a hearing.
- iii. The Rules and Ethics Committee will issue all subpoenas required to conduct the investigation as outlined in Chapter 308 of the Student Body Statutes.
- iv. The Senator(s) that filed the resolution of censure or expulsion will act as the plaintiff(s) in any hearing regarding the investigation, presenting evidence calling for disciplinary action against the Senator(s) under investigation. The plaintiff(s) may obtain a student designee to represent them at hearings of the committee. When conducting an investigation on orders from the Senate or on the committee's own initiative, the Rules and Ethics Committee will appoint a willing Senator to act as the plaintiff, unless another Senator is chosen to act as the plaintiff by the Senate.
- v. The Senator(s) being investigated will be considered the defendant(s) in any hearing regarding the investigation. The defendant(s) may obtain a student designee to represent them at hearings of the committee.
- vi. Both sides may present opening statements to the committee before evidence is heard, with the plaintiff presenting first.
- vii. Following opening statements, both sides will present their arguments to the committee. During the presentation of arguments, members of the

committee may interject to ask questions, but such questioning and answers thereof shall not use time afforded to the side presenting its arguments.

- viii. Following the presentation of arguments, both sides may present closing remarks to the committee, with the plaintiff presenting first.
 - ix. The Rules and Ethics Committee may impose time restrictions on each stage of the hearing, so long as each side is afforded an equal amount of time for each stage of the hearing.
 - x. Following closing remarks, the committee will move into deliberations. No new evidence may be presented and only committee members will be recognized to speak.
 - xi. If the committee deems that the charges presented are well founded, the committee shall report to the Senate a resolution calling for the defendant's censure or expulsion. If the committee deems the charges to be not well founded, the committee shall recommend to the Senate that the defendant be exonerated.
- d. Investigation of Student Organizations:
- i. The Rules and Ethics Committee will inform the president of a student organization that their organization is being investigated by the committee and shall inform them of the times and locations of any hearings pertaining to the investigation no later than three days prior to the hearing.
 - ii. The Rules and Ethics Committee will ensure that any evidence requested by the committee from the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) must be given to them at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
 - iii. The investigation will be conducted in the same manner as the investigation of Senators (see_o above), with the student(s) filing the complaint (or the designee of the committee) acting as the plaintiff, and the president of the organization or their student designee acting as the defendant. iii. The committee may recommend to the Senate any appropriate action, including, but not limited to, the suspension or termination of Student Government funding.
- e. The Rules and Ethics Committee will meet at least once every two school weeks at the time and place determined by the Chair, unless there is no business to be heard by the committee. The committee will also meet as otherwise ordered by the Senate by a two-thirds vote. The Chair may call additional meetings at their leisure.
- f. No Senator who is currently on probation for not completing constituency requirements may be appointed to the Rules and Ethics Committee. Any Senator on the Rules and Ethics Committee placed on constituency probation will be automatically removed from the committee.

RULE XIII

CENSURE, EXPULSION, AND OFFICER REMOVAL

(AMENDED: 2020-1064, 2021-1003)

1. Censure:

- a. Any Senator may request the censure of another Senator by filing a petition for censure with the Rules and Ethics Committee.
 - i. Censure will be the official warning of the Senate to refrain from similar actions in the future.
 - ii. Senators may be censured for repeatedly disrupting the business of the Senate, inappropriate actions during the discharge of statutorily mandated duties, or for violations of Student Body Law.
- b. Upon receiving a petition for censure, the Rules and Ethics Committee will investigate the charges as outlined in Rule XII §5(c). The Rules and Ethics Committee may choose to not investigate a petition for censure that is substantially similar to a petition that has already been heard.
- c. The Rules and Ethics Committee will ensure that any evidence requested by the committee from the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) must be given to them at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- d. If the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends censure to the Senate, the Senator subject to censure will be informed by the Rules and Ethics Committee no later than three (3) days before the meeting of the Senate at which the resolution for censure will be heard.
- e. The Senator subject to censure will have final privilege when a resolution for censure is being debated in the Senate.
- f. A vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Senate is required to censure a Senator.
- g. When the Chair has called a Senator to order, and has subsequently named that Senator and asked the Senate of what actions should be taken, a Senator may move from the floor to censure that individual. The motion to censure in this case will be heard immediately after being properly moved and seconded.
- h. If a Senator is censured twice within a one-year period, the Rules and Ethics Committee will automatically investigate that Senator and may, at the committee's discretion, submit a resolution calling for that Senator's expulsion to the Senate.

2. Expulsion from the Senate:

- a. Any Senator may request the expulsion of another Senator from the Senate by filing a petition calling for expulsion with the Rules and Ethics Committee.
- b. Upon receiving a petition calling for expulsion, the Rules and Ethics Committee will investigate the charges as outlined in Rule XII §5(c). The Rules and Ethics


Committee may choose to not investigate a petition calling for expulsion that is substantially similar to a petition that has already been heard. A petition calling for expulsion of another Senator must have at least twenty (20) signatures of support.

- c. The Rules and Ethics Committee will ensure that any evidence requested by the committee from the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) must be given to them at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- d. If the Rules and Ethics Committee fails to initiate proceedings within two weeks of the filing date of the petition or does not submit a recommendation to the Senate within four weeks, the full Senate will take up the matter.
- e. If the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends expulsion to the Senate, the Senator subject to expulsion will be informed by the Rules and Ethics Committee no later than three (3) days before the meeting of the Senate at which the resolution for expulsion will be heard.
- f. The Senator subject to expulsion will have final privilege when a resolution calling for expulsion is being debated in the Senate.
- g. A vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Senate is required to expel a Senator.
- h. The expulsion of a Senator becomes effective immediately after the final announcement of the vote.

3. Removal of Officers, Liaisons, and Committee Members:

- a. Senators may request the removal of a Senate Officer, Liaison, Committee Chair, or Committee Member from their respective offices in the same manner as requesting the expulsion of a Senator, namely by filing a petition to remove the Officer or Liaison with the Rules and Ethics Committee.
- b. The Rules and Ethics Committee will ensure that any evidence requested by the committee from the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) must be given to them at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- c. If the Rules and Ethics Committee recommends removal to the Senate, the Officer, Liaison, Committee Chair, or Committee Member subject to removal will be informed by the Rules and Ethics Committee no later than three days before the meeting of the Senate at which the resolution for removal will be heard.
- d. The Officer, Liaison, Committee Chair, or Committee Member subject to removal will have final privilege when the resolution calling for removal is being debated in the Senate.
- e. A vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Senate is required to remove a Senate Officer, Liaison, Committee Chair, or Committee Member.
- f. The following Officers and Liaisons may be removed using this procedure:
 - i. Senate President
 - ii. Senate President Pro Tempore
 - iii. Senate Member-At-Large
 - iv. Senate Parliamentarian
 - v. Sergeant-at-Arms
 - vi. All Senate Liaisons
 - vii. All Committee Chairs

viii. All Committee Members

 11.15.22

Olivia Green Date
Senate President