

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

January 24th, 2023

Senate President Green called the Senate meeting to order at 7:31 pm 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 72 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Antonszewski**
- **Cable**
- **Hatch**
- **Liu**
- **Lopez-Lugo**
- **Marcelino**
- **Mys**
- **Pinsky**
- **Rubin**
- **Solomon**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Ronin Lupien:**
 - I don't have a presentation as I am still gathering data.
 - I encourage you to speak to me about any bill that you're passionate about.
- **Senator Kanfer:**
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Yesterday, during the Budget & Appropriations Committee, Senator Stephens suggested a countdown timer.
 - This shows you how much time is left in public comment.
 - Thank you for the idea.
- **Senator Stephens:**
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Today's public comment should be about the work that Minority Party Leader Corbett, Deputy Minority Party Leader Montes, and I accomplished in regard to SSB 2023-1007.
 - However, I can't talk about that.
 - Instead, I have to talk about another cycle of insanity.
 - Yesterday, I went to the Budget & Appropriations committee meeting to review five of my bills.

- I have never felt so disrespected in terms of my time, energy, and perspectives in this chamber.
- Thank you, Senator Panish, for taking my bills for what they provided, continuously clarifying what the bills said, and answering easy questions that only required a glimpse at the bills.
- I provided a Robert's Rules of Order remedy to Chairman Harkins weeks ago to fix this issue.
- Then again, it was better to catch me on video making a careless mistake instead of working with me.
- Today's public comment will be hitting points of suicide.
- I have to defend my humanity for the ninetieth time.
- Life these past couple of semesters has been pretty rough because of Student Government.
- This past semester, I contemplated taking my own life.
- Some of you might take this as a shock.
- You might be wondering why: there are so many reasons
- Things like having the senator representing journalism be complicit in her family and her boyfriend sending bigoted threats to my health prior to and during the campaign cycle.
- Things like having the senate president question "my biases in the real world" when applying to a judiciary seat and refusing to take accountability for her actions.
- Things like having the current Budget and Appropriations chairwoman blatantly lie about people accusing me of making an ableist gesture.
- Things like being publicly defamed by a political institution for defending my friend from being laughed at for talking about issues like gun violence and sexual assault.
- Things like this are some of the highlights.
- I say all this to come to this one simple ask to leaders in the majority party: please recognize that a major portion of your party is borderline bullying people.
- People always speak to my flaws and mistakes in this chamber.
- Consider this simple idiom: "Hurt people hurt people".
- I want people to know that I am okay.
- I want a more perfect Gator nation.
- I am ready to work with this caucus.
- Senator Santiago Perez:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The state of Florida has taken a hostile approach to our education these past few weeks.
 - At first, it seemed to be limited to K-12 schools.

- The state government has not stopped at just President Sasse’s nomination, it has decided to push culture-war nonsense into higher education.
- We recently even saw Sante Fe college cutting back on DEI policies and positions.
- The University of Florida is not immune to these attacks.
- Students and faculty need to recognize the urgency of this issue.
- As representatives of the student body, we need to recognize that these recent events will not stop.
- There are tools and opportunities that we as student representatives can take to ensure that our rights as students and individuals are not being infringed upon.
- I urge you all to use whatever tools necessary at your disposal to protect the rights of your student body.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to amend the minutes so that the phrase “I think someone needs to say something very similar to what Mr. Fineberg said” is read as “I think someone needs to say something very similar to Mr. Fineberg” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett moves to amend the minutes so that the phrase “free \$100,000” is read as “\$300,000” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Aysia Lewis for the open ASOE seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Andrei Berekhovski for the open Lakeside seat. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Samantha Kinggard for the open District D seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of approved and failed absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1007: Resolution Advocating for the Discriminatory Acts as an Official Violation to the Orange Book Conduct Code Sections by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1001: Gender Neutral Wording Amendment to the Student Body Constitution by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1009: Town Hall Productivity Act- 300 Codes Revisions by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Stephens moves to rescind the decision of the Judiciary committee on Student Senate Bill 2023-1008: Budget and Appropriations Criteria of Review Act (BACORA) by unanimous consent. Objected.

President Green calls for a two-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

President Green calls the meeting back to order at 7:55 pm.

- Senator Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to rescind the decision of the Judiciary committee on Student Senate Bill 2023-1008: Budget and Appropriations Criteria of Review Act (BACORA). Seconded.¹

There were two rounds of one-minute con-pro debate.

Senator Stephens moves for a ten-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

President Green calls the meeting back to order at 8:16 pm.

- Senator Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- ¹Senator Stephens moves to rescind the decision of the Judiciary Committee on Student Senate Bill 2023-1008: Budget and Appropriations Criteria of Review Act (BACORA). In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Senator Stephens moves to rescind the decision of the Judiciary Committee to postpone indefinitely the original version (2022) of Budget and Appropriations Criteria of Review Act (BACORA) by unanimous consent. Objected.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

- External Affairs Agency Head Noah Fineberg:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - One of the main things we have focused on is the Federal Appropriations Process.
 - There has been a \$500 increase per student in the discretionary portion of the Pell Grant.
 - Please remember to do your FAFSA.
 - We are continuing to push for an even bigger increase in Pell Grant coverage.
 - The second big focus we have had on the federal level is the Textbook Affordability Program, which has increased in budget from \$5 million to \$12 million.
 - We are preparing for the Florida Legislative Session.
 - Committee Weeks and Sessions are coming up.

- The Hunger Free Campus Act is still in negotiations.
- The Interstate Psychology Act is a personal favorite that I have been working on.
- We have also been working on Disaster Aid for Students.
- Email me at externalaffairs@sg.ufl.edu.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Green:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Yields time to UFPD Liaison Senator Ghozali:
 - I have a couple of updates on UFPD projects.
 - The next Drug Take back event will take place on April 18th in Turlington Plaza.
 - On March 25th, UFPD will be hosting a bicycle rodeo.
 - Starting yesterday, the campus-restricted areas are being strictly enforced on weekdays from 8:30-4:30.
 - Personal e-scooters are now being included in the bike registration program.
 - There have been some construction delays on the new UFPD headquarters on Museum Road.
 - I will be canceling senate on February 14 and February 28.
 - February 14th is to honor MSD.
 - February 28th is elections.
 - Housing fair is coming up, and I am hoping to set up a constituency opportunity there.
 -

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on the open Lakeside seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Green moves the body into a vote to approve Andrei Berekhovski for the open Lakeside seat. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Giordano welcomes the senators.
 - Good evening, senators.
 - We will be meeting at a time and place to be determined.

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Medicine

- Pharmacy
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Law
- Veterinary Medicine
- District C
- Sophomore
- CLAS
- Freshman
- Graduate (5)

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Harkins:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Legislation will be due on Friday.
 - Clarifies voter record.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Pecora:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - An email has been sent out regarding a timeline for the next funding cycle.
 - Base funding will open the Wednesday after we get back from spring break.
 - Event, travel, and operational will open the Wednesday after that.
 - My committee will be meeting at a time and place to be determined.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

Minority Report

- Senator Panish:
 - I am the sole member of Change caucus on the budget committee.
 - I would like to begin this report with an apology to Senator Stephens.
 - Too many important decisions are happening in committees where the justification for their decisions is questionable.
 - Often the incredible work done by people like Senator Stephens is overlooked.
 - Yesterday, the budget committee heard five pieces of legislation written by Senator Stephens.
 - Two of them pertained to sustainability in the Big Five, one concerned the implementation of a food voucher pilot program, one about the implementation of a countdown timer, and one concerned an increase to base funding for student organizations.

- The Big Five entities include the Reitz Union, South West Rec, Student Government, Student Organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.
- Overall, this meeting reminded me that the committee is choosing not to use its power when it comes to the Big Five, and is instead taking a very hands-off approach with the distribution and regulation of student money within the Big Five.
- I would like to publicly apply some pressure on the Student Funding Ad Hoc Committee and the Student Body Vice Presidents Food Insecurity Task Force to move as quickly as possible.
- I thank you so much, Senator Stephens, for all that you do, and I hope one day you will receive the standing ovation from everyone in this chamber that you deserve.
- As the only member of Change Caucus it is my responsibility to increase transparency and communication regarding the reasoning of the budget committee.
- Thank you for your time.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Clark:
 - Good evening, everyone.
 - Probation is due February 1st.
 - There will be no extensions.
 - I will be sending out an email with an upcoming constituency event calendar.
 - There's an event for an attendance credit this Thursday.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I&C is hosting a mentor/mentee reveal on Thursday.
 - We will be starting with a mentor-mentee reveal, and there will be a social afterward.
 - If you are a mentor, I will be texting or emailing you tomorrow telling you who your mentee is.
 - 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:

- Minority Party Leader Corbett: For women's history month, we are working on programming revolving around health and wellness.
- Senator Santiago Perez: With the passing of SSB 2023-1001, we have our first constitutional amendment on the ballot since 2020. I am excited to see whether this constitutional amendment will be ratified by the voters.
- Senator Urbenz: SGI is coming.
- Senator Wolcott: I spoke to the interim honors director, and she said that there are some things Student Government can be doing to help out with the honors program.
- Senator Montes: I am the director of social justice for IRHA. The Writing on the Wall is an event where we encourage the student body to speak out about different narratives that have affected them.
- Senator Kanfer: If you have any ideas to make senate better with code, let me know.
- Minority Party Leader Corbett: If any senator, any student, or any person feels vulnerable enough to divulge personal experiences, you should be ashamed if you were smiling and having to cover your face from laughing. How dare you.
- Senator Stephens: I am working on a couple of bills regarding the Budget & Appropriations process.

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 8:59 pm.