

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

**January 31st, 2023**

Senate President Green called the Senate meeting to order at 7:34 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 79 senators present.

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

- **Asuncion**
- **Pinsky**
- **Wiener**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Ronin Lupien:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Some of you may remember when I talked about my hopes for student government.
  - In light of that, I want to bring up a concern I have heard.
  - A biomedical engineering student told me that the student government didn't care about him, so why bother voting?
  - I found that very disheartening.
  - Every action you take in your elected position has an effect.
  - I want you to reflect on that as we go into election season.
- Senator Urbenz:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Congrats to Pro-Tempore Giordano and Chairman Harkins for getting positions in Cicerones.
  - Today, I received news of Ron Desantis' plan to stop funding DEI programs at Florida universities.
  - Covert enforcement of political ideology stands no chance against a pure, unadulterated sense of community.
  - I want to remind you all to be considerate of each other during this election cycle.
  - Please remember to keep full names out of discussion when possible.
  - Don't tear each other down; build each other up.
  - I would love to see continued bipartisanship.
- Senator Stephens:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I want to present a bill that is related to what I spoke about last week.

- This bill is a work in progress.
- It helps set forth guidelines for political parties and other institutions to not engage in threats, harassment, etc.
- As seen in this chamber, on social media and in other forums, we apparently do not know how to act.
- We feel it is best to show our behinds and call each other names, which is highly inappropriate.
- The emotional distress I expressed at the last meeting was hard to talk about.
- I want to make sure we are taking the steps to make sure experiences like mine never occur in this chamber again.
- If you're interested in working on projects like this, please reach out to me.
- Senator Faisal:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Gives presentation on SAI and SG budgets.
  - I want to approach this with transparency and accountability.
  - 2022-1036 and 2022-1037 failed in October.
  - 2022-1037 refers to the definitions of RSO and USSOs.
  - This failing means that 800.18 stays the same.
  - There was a meeting that concluded in deciding to fail these bills.
  - 800.18 is massively flawed.
  - How do you distinguish between an advisor and direct guidance?
  - As it stands, currently all organizations are unable to receive funding.
  - There's no way of telling which advisors are able to give guidance and which are not.
  - By this, you are showing direct discretion.
  - This is a lawsuit waiting to happen.
  - We can technically be sued by any university-sponsored organization.
  - SG Finance enforced a bill that failed.
  - If a bill fails and it's acted on, who's to blame?
  - Who in the hierarchy is wrong- SG finance or the budget chair?
  - When SAI had a conversation with SG about the new policy, we allegedly agreed to it.
  - The creation of the Ad-Hoc committee was in context of the Google Forms crashing.
  - Technically, they have no power to amend the 800 codes.
  - I brought this up because I want to work with everyone in this chamber to fix these issues.
  - My caucus and I have been excommunicated.
  - I would like to meet up and write a bill to fix this.

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

- Senator Urbenz moves to strike Hautamaki and Holder from the absence list by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to reflect the correct total quorum by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

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

- Senator Stephens moves to strike Leadership & Service Director Carolina Lopez-Varela from the bloc of Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to strike District C candidate Syni Sparkman from the bloc of Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendations. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve the bloc of approved and failed absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve the bloc of committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH:**

- Student Body Vice-President Badell:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I am beyond happy to be here for the first time in the spring semester.
  - I want to congratulate the cabinet for all they have been able to do.
  - The food-insecurity task force has been hard at work to make sure that no Gator goes hungry.
  - Our main project right now is to expand the Field and Fork pantry.
  - We understand that food insecurity is a multi-faceted issue.
  - To be clear- we will only solve food insecurity if we address students both on and off campus.
  - Our objective with this initiative is to address the problem of food insecurity at the source.
  - Noah Fineberg and his external affairs team have been advocating on a state level to secure more funding for food-related issues on campus.
  - Lastly, we received great support from many school administrators.
  - As a central philosophy of our administration, we think that working with administration is how to get things done.
  - This work can not be done without them.
  - As the first openly gay member of an executive ticket, it has been a priority of mine to ensure LGBTQ students are at the forefront of my advocacy.

- We have established a partnership with the LGBTQ presidential advisory committee, as well as UF LGBTQ+ alumni to be a joint force that works to ensure that UF remains a safe space for LGBTQ students.
- We're also continuing to meet with administration members to ensure that we are a part of the UF transition process.
- Be on the lookout in the next couple of weeks for a big announcement on what we're establishing for LGBTQ students for years to come.
- I want to congratulate Parker Rossignol for his work on the Veterans' Affairs team.
- First-gen is working on a partnership for free caps and gowns for first-gen students secured through the UF foundation.
- Sadie and her team will be working on a video for PACE students.
- We have some exciting events and projects to be on the lookout for.
- Black History Month starts tomorrow, and I encourage you all to attend events and celebrations.

**SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Green:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I want to say happy early Black History Month as well.
  - I am canceling the February 14th and 28th meeting.
  - I would like to clarify that the Ad-Hoc committee is allowed to make recommendations for whatever they want.

**REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- There were none.

**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.
  - My office hours will now be from 2-3pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**Open Permanent Senate Seats**

- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Dentistry
- Nursing

- Law
- Veterinary Medicine
- Engineering
- Graduate and Family Housing
- Freshman
- District C
- Graduate (6)

#### Open Committee Seats

- Rules & Ethics

#### **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](mailto:judiciary@sg.ufl.edu).

#### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Pecora:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - My committee met today.
  - The classification policy is based on a multitude of factors that SAI and student orgs both agree to.
  - I will definitely reach out to SG Finance to inquire about the specific situation Senator Faisal brought up.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [budget@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:budget@sg.ufl.edu).

#### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman Clark:
  - Good evening, everyone.
  - Present codes on roll call.
  - Per Rule IV 1 C, any senator who fails to respond to a roll call or quorum call will receive a ½ absence.
  - Going forward, I'm going to abide by this.
  - I want to remind everyone that probation is due tomorrow.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [rules@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:rules@sg.ufl.edu).

#### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Funai:

- Good evening, senators.
- Thank you to everyone who came to the mentor/mentee reveal!
- Probation is due tomorrow.
- Turlington table 14 is reserved tomorrow from 9am to 4pm.
- Make sure to take a picture and submit it to the Google Form.
- If you have any questions, please email me at [info@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:info@sg.ufl.edu).

#### **FIRST READINGS:**

- There were none.

#### **SECOND READINGS:**

- There were none.

#### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Santiago Perez: The city of Gainesville usually has advisory boards that take student members, and most of these positions are vacant. You can check the city of Gainesville website to apply.
- Senator Stephens: As of recently, there was a shift on one of the student government political institutions who slandered me this last campaign. If you were to hurt someone on their arm and then decide to hide the object you used to hurt them, that doesn't remove the pain or depression the individual felt. While you guys may feel like it is easier to brush that under the rug, an apology is a very simple thing. I have not heard that from many people in this chamber, and the specific individual who removed the post owes me an apology.

#### **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 8:11 pm.