

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

**February 21st, 2023**

Senate President Green called the Senate meeting to order at 7:33 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 69 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- **Clark**
- **Durst**
- **Hatch**
- **Jayanti**
- **Pecora**
- **Pinsky**
- **Platovsky**
- **Seifer**
- **Stevenson**
- **Troncoso**
- **Valentin**
- **Virani**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Senator Rafanan:**
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I come before you tonight to request that the student senate add the bill that establishes Green Dot training to the agenda.
  - Green Dot curriculum focuses on three methods students can use to prevent potentially volatile situations: direct, delegate, and distract.
  - Green Dot sees all community members as potential active bystanders.
  - Through this training, we will learn education and prevention strategies that address sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.
  - It is very important that we as student representatives get this training in order to create a safer campus for all.
  - We approved SSB 2022-1069.
  - In that legislation, we all agreed that the UF student senate commits to providing support to these awareness prevention programs to boost their visibility.
  - Today, Change caucus will be making the motion to add SSB 2022-1021 to the agenda.

- This code revision establishes that all UF student senators will get Green Dot training.
- This is something that I hope we all support and recognize as important.
- I encourage you all to vote yes to add this piece of legislation to the agenda and vote to approve it
- If for some reason this endeavor is not supported by the Gator caucus, remember this: we have made a promise to our constituents.
- Through Green Dot training, everyone is empowered to actively intervene when an issue arises.
- We have the opportunity to make UF a safer campus.
- Thank you, and go Gators.
- Derek LaMontagne:
  - Hello my name is Derick LaMontagne.
  - I am a Grad student here at UF.
  - I am President of the Mayor's Council of the organization representing Graduate students living on campus.
  - I am coming to you today because I need your help once again.
  - Two years ago this body passed a resolution condemning the demolition of Maguire Village and UVS.
  - Why should we save it?
  - Honestly, it is a great space to live in.
  - There is a lot of open space and it is affordable.
  - It's been rated the highest place to live for Graduate students.
  - It is one of the only places where there is Graduate housing specifically for Graduate students.
  - I'm hoping that you guys can make another resolution before the semester is up.
  - We need it, otherwise, we are getting evicted in a few months.
  - We have sent thousands of emails to the housing administration people over the years that have basically ignored us.
  - I have worked with Senators Mys and Debari.
  - We need to bring attention to this.
  - There have been other people, including Mr. Maguire III himself, saying they oppose this.
  - I have some flyers, and we have a website.
  - I hope you guys can come through and help us with this.
- Senator Marcelino:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I come before you tonight to announce the open invitation to a caucus that I and other Change senators have established: The Pan-Asian Caucus.

- Our goal as a caucus is centered around the representation, advocacy, and execution of the interests of the Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi, and Middle Eastern population at the University of Florida.
- We have discussed the possibilities of the establishment of an APID Institute, one similar to La Casita and the IBC across the street.
- We are looking to represent Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi, and Middle Eastern student, faculty, and staff interests through a variety of ways.
- Academic support for the Asian American Minor.
- In the face of hate and prejudice we plan to move forward.
- I invite any of you who wish to move forward with us in raising APID and Middle Eastern voices at the University of Florida to ensure first-generation Asian-Americans and Asian immigrants like myself feel welcome, included, and represented.
- Thank you, and go gators.
- Senator Panish:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I am very disappointed with the transparency of the Ad-Hoc committee.
  - The only real initiative was presented at the SG Debate.
  - This is about changing the funding model for the entire university.
  - Doing things behind closed doors has never worked.
  - I would like to apply public pressure to the Ad-Hoc committee to make their meetings public.
  - I want to see this be resolved, and it cannot happen behind closed doors.
- Senator Faisal:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I wanted to announce that myself and Senator Panish, along with other student organization leaders, have workshopped a new funding model.
  - There are not enough meetings left for this legislative cycle, so we will be looking to submit it in the next cycle.
  - We want conversations about it.
  - Bullets will not be requestable.
  - I just ask that you respect our time and work.
  - I had a meeting with Pro-Tempore Giordano, and it was one of the most fun and productive meetings I've ever had in Student Government.
  - If you don't like the budget cycle that we're writing, that's fine.
  - Please reach out to me.
  - I hope you all have a great night.

Senator Corbett moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, that motion fails.

- Senator Stephens:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I will be talking about a bill that I will put up for first reading tonight.
  - The Base Funding Inflation Compensation Act increases base funding by \$570 and compensates for inflation every fiscal year.
  - It was tabled in the Budget & Appropriations meeting to be reviewed by Myla Smith.
  - I emailed Myla Smith for a critique, and I have not received a response.
  - When you look at the Ad-Hoc committee at hand, there were some concerns that there were not any meetings the public noticed.
  - Some individuals from SG advising and from administrative leadership said that those meetings did not need to be public noticed.
  - Reads the Florida Sunshine Law.
  - With that in mind, these meetings are supposed to be public noticed.
  - It is frustrating trying to get anything done.
  - I have tried to work with members of the majority party, and while some are cooperative, there are some who fail to deliver.
  - It's not that we're trying to get some political gain from this matter; we're trying to deliver to the constituents who asked for our help.
  - I ask that you all vote in the affirmative because \$70 is more than enough for us to get the greenlight to students' organizations.

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

- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to have the minutes reflect his title of Deputy Minority Party Leader by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to correct the spelling of his name by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

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

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of Tech Fee Grant appointments by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to strike Marian Caridad Enriquez for the Freshmen open permanent seat from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to strike Katherine Gaucher for the Leadership and Service Executive Nomination from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Monish Vijayaraghavan for the Murphree open permanent seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of approved absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Annabella Vigna for the District C open permanent seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Corbett moves to add Student Senate Bill 2023-1021 to the agenda under First Reading. Seconded.<sup>1</sup>

Senator Stephens calls for a five minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Senate President Green calls back to order at 8:20 pm.

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to suspend the rule for roll call by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rule for roll call. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, that motion fails.
- <sup>1</sup>In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.
- Senator Stephens moves to add Base Funding Inflation Compensation Act (BFICA) under First Reading. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.

### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH:**

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

- Senate President Green:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - There is no meeting on February 28th.
  - Reminder to fulfill your constituency.
  - We're still partnering with IRHA for the housing fair on March 17th.
  - The double meeting is on March 7th at 6:30 pm.
  - There is a public noticed meeting for the Ad-Hoc committee for tomorrow, and I implore you to come.

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

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on Annabella Vigna for the open District C seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Green moves the body into a vote to approve Annabella Vigna for the open District C seat. In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on the bloc of Tech Fee Grant appointments. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Green moves the body into a vote to approve the bloc of Tech Fee Grant appointments. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:**

- Senate Pro-Tempore Giordano welcomes the senators.
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I'm only going to announce the open permanent Fall seats because if I were to approve anyone for a Spring seat, they'd only be there for the first meeting because of the elections.
  - Please take care of yourself.

### **Open Permanent Senate Seats**

- Graduate and Family Housing

### **Minority Report:**

- Minority Party Leader Montes:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I did not expect this meeting to go the way it has.
  - My first and foremost goal in making this speech is making every senator aware of their actions in regards to this bill.
  - I hope we can all take the time to read what you all have failed.
  - Reads bill.
  - Green Dot training is training in prevention and response to sexual attacks.
  - I am not here to bash Judiciary; I am here to say that there is a code in place for certain pieces of legislation to be heard by R&A if Judiciary is unable to.
  - I do not understand how, in these circumstances, those reasonings were not met.
  - We are here to represent students.
  - Please consider what you have done.

## **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Harkins:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I just want to address the previous report and the vote that took place.
  - The bill that you saw on the screen just now was not the bill that we voted on.
  - That was SSB 2023-1025, and it was submitted to my committee this past week and was unable to be reviewed.
  - SSB 2023-1021, which was the bill authored by Senator Rafanan, was tabled because there were certain critiques my committee offered.
  - The bill presented reflected some of those critiques, and so the bill we did not bring back to the floor was the original version made before the critiques.

- Senator Cable and Senator Solomon both said that since Green Dot training is in-person via the UF website and students do not have the availability based on those in-person trainings, they can be punished for not meeting this requirement.
- The original version had 8 weeks as a requirement, and the new version that we just saw had 15 weeks.
- We did not review the 15 week adjustment, so the requirement was the old version that was trying to be added to the floor. Therefore, that is why we did not bring it back to the floor.
- We agree and believe that this is a good initiative, but we think that there needs to be conversations to take place to ensure that we fix the critiques that we provided and make sure the best initiative is brought forward.
- We already had this positive communication through the committee, and we want to continue to see this conversation.
- So the bill that was presented just now was not the bill we just voted on. It was the original version that was tabled, and a newer version was just submitted.
- Judiciary will not be meeting this week since there is no senate on Tuesday.
- Clarifies voter record.
- If you have any questions, please email me at [judiciary@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:judiciary@sg.ufl.edu).

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Vice-Chair Kanfer:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I wanted to speak on the BFICA bill.
  - While I appreciate the intentions, the majority of the budget committee disagrees that the increase of base funding from \$500 to \$570 per semester will adequately address the issue of inflation and rising costs for student organizations.
  - Inflation rates have been historically unpredictable, and a minor increase like this might not be sufficient in the long run.
  - This was an issue that the Ad-Hoc committee was created to review.
  - It is important that we allow the committee to continue the work before making any hasty decisions on specific proposals such as this one.
  - We will be meeting at a time and place to be determined this week.
  - If you have any questions, please email me at [budget@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:budget@sg.ufl.edu).

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Vice-Chair Amster:
  - Good evening senators.
  - The Big Event is coming up, and attendance will count towards your constituency.
  - Registration for it has been extended.
  - We will be meeting at a time and place to be determined.

- 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.
  - There is currently no tabling available due to it being the peak of campaign season.
  - However, you can do events to get your constituency.
  - 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 Stephens: While you may have your interpretation on whether what is a personal attack or not, me being able to sit in a meeting for hours on end because this body couldn't sit there and stomach their own mess up to pass a bill that would allow for that to be shorter, and for me to watch and not hear one critique until you come up to the pulpit, it a lie. Next time, please recognize that you need to stop projecting your opinions on certain things. Every single time we're working on things, you need to stop invalidating it.
- Senate President Green: Once again, not having personal attacks. I, as the chair, am allowed to interpret the codes. Calling someone a liar is a personal attack, whether you like it or not.
- Senator Urbenz: Congratulations Monish!
- Senator Marcelino: About the caucuses I mentioned in public comment, if you have any questions or are interested, please let me know.
- Senator Wolcott: I think we all noticed that it's election season. Be kind to each other. At the end of the day, we're all students. Don't let what happens in this chamber affect your perceptions of people.
- Senator Corbett: I would like to say that if you refer to the livestream, the phrase was "That's a lie" not "He's a liar."
- Senator Cable: I would like to congratulate Annabella!



- Senate President Green: The next meeting is on March 7th. Take a look at the top of the agenda; remain respectful in the chamber.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Senator Rafanan 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.