

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

March 7th, 2023

Senate President Green called the Senate meeting to order at 6:36 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 70 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Ali
- Asuncion
- Baesler
- Hautamaki
- Holmes
- Murtha
- Shaw
- Stevenson
- Valentin

PUBLIC COMMENT:

GOODBYE SPEECHES:

- Senator Pierre gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Ramos gives a goodbye speech.
- Chairman Harkins gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Brinkman gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Shoemaker gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Corbett gives a goodbye speech.
- Senator Urbenz gives a goodbye speech.
- Minority Party Leader Montes gives a goodbye speech.

*****If you wish to hear any goodbye speeches given, please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu*****

- Raj Mia:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Today is a momentous day, and hopefully this senate will validate the results for this senate and validate the results for the first female ticket.
 - I urge you to set aside all conflicts from this campaign.

- I would like to address the next executive officers: I am optimistic that your term will be fruitful.
- It is crucial for you to work with both parties of student government.
- The road ahead of you is long and arduous.
- Rachel Hartnett:
 - I am here to speak on Student Senate Bill 2023-1029.
 - I am a graduate student and teaching assistant in the English Department.
 - I am a graduate student senator-elect and the co-president of GAU.
 - The graduate assistants here are grossly underpaid.
 - The minimum salary for graduate assistants is \$17,000 a year.
 - That is less than half of the cost of living for a single person in Gainesville.
 - There is a serious lack of affordable housing in the Gainesville area.
 - University Village South and Maguire are two affordable places for graduate students and families to live.
 - They are being demolished for recreation fields.
 - Their plans are to replace them with Varsity House and the Continuum.
 - This will almost double the cost of rent.
 - Most of the people who live in graduate and family housing are international students.
 - You can tell the priorities of a university by its budget.
 - The University of Florida has failed its graduate students when it comes to housing.
 - Graduate assistants teach the majority of the general education courses.
 - We also conduct the research that brings in millions of dollars of grants to this university.
 - This will hurt recruitment and retention of graduate assistants as well as grants.
 - I urge you to vote in favor of this resolution. Thank you.

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

Senate President Green calls the meeting back to order at 8:55 pm.

Senator Stephens moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent.
Objected.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 68 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Baesler
- Giordano

- **Hautamaki**
- **Holmes**
- **Lopez-Lugo**
- **Murtha**
- **Shaw**
- **Stevenson**
- **Valentin**

- **Derek LaMontegue:**
 - I am the president of Mayor's Council.
 - I am here to speak in support of SSB 2023-1029.
 - I thank you for your support.
 - As a grad student, I appreciate being welcomed with open arms.
 - Thank you SG for funding the shows you do at the Phillips Center.
 - I'm hoping that this resolution gets a little traction with other bodies on this campus.
 - We don't have much time.
 - I'm happy to answer any questions.
 - If anyone has any personal experiences with Maguire Village and UVS, please let me know.
 - Thank you for your time, and go gators.

- **Senator Panish:**
 - It is so incredibly sad to see so many great senators leaving.
 - I've noticed that because this is not a double meeting there will have to be a very quick turn around.
 - A lot of the budget seats are going to be vacated.
 - For those of you who will be on the budget, be prepared to start to work immediately.
 - Have a great night.

- **Bryn Taylor:**
 - I am a third-year PhD student and the co-president of GAU.
 - I am here in support of SSB 2023-1029.
 - Most of you have probably not been to Maguire Village or University Village South, but I encourage you to visit.
 - It's a real shame that those buildings are being demolished for recreational fields and parking lots.
 - They announced their plan to demolish Maguire Village and University Village South in 2019.
 - I inherited this fight 2 years ago.
 - International students often come here with their spouses and families.

- The University has stonewalled graduate students from initiating a discussion about this.
- The University's reasoning behind this planned demolition is that the buildings are in disrepair, yet they have provided no evidence of this.
- We really hope you stand with us today.
- Senator Faisal:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Grace talked about individualism tonight, and I agree with her wholeheartedly.
 - I signed up tonight to talk about the budget committee.
 - I wanted to thank everyone who is leaving tonight.
 - I want to start by saying that this campaign was run by children.
 - There are some stand-up people in this chamber, but there are also people that want to make it miserable for everyone.
 - Bipartisanship is the only way out.
 - I put Student Government above a lot, including my own homework.
 - It is scary that the years-long tradition of double meetings was not upheld tonight.
 - I workshopped a budget change.
 - When I last brought this up, there was a very underwhelming response.
 - It's disheartening that few senators put days and nights into this.
 - Blake was the only one to reach out.
 - Hopefully, more will reach out to me.
 - I personally will never want this to pass by ramming it through now that we have a majority.
 - I want it to pass by unanimous consent.
 - I will meet with every senator about this.
 - Can we please put aside our differences to fix the broken cycle we have?
 - I hope you all have a great night.
- Senator Stephens:
 - I was the author of SSB 2023-1029.
 - Presents amendments to the bill.
 - I will be voicing these through friendly amendments.
 - If anyone has any questions, you can ask them through points of information.
 - I'm in International Development Policy.
 - Ideology, ignorance, and inertia are the three things that lead to bad policy.
 - It has been frustrating to hear people not want to change policy solely because of tradition.
 - I think it's time for us to take a step back and recognize our position as student senators.
 - Your votes matter, and I want you to think about the impact of every decision.
 - It's important for us to take this position with very clear and concise seriousness.

- I'm willing to open the door and work with many of you.
- We have immense power, so let's use it to make this gator nation better.
- Thank you, and go gators.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Senator Urbenz moves to correct the spelling of Senator DiBari's name by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Stephens makes a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1029 to include Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez and Senators Panish, Rafanan, Nair, and Marcelino to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to strike the first WHEREAS clause and insert "WHEREAS in December of 2022, the University of Florida Board of Trustees approved the Campus Master Plan that included the demolition of Maguire Village and University Village South, and subsequently in March of 2021, approved the Campus Development Agreement with Gainesville and Alachua County which still contained those same demolition plans [1];" by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to strike the fifth WHEREAS clause and insert "WHEREAS the residents and their supporters have made multiple attempts as of recently to fight for their homes as reflected by multiple media sources [4,5], with several attempts at their freedom of expression being forcefully opposed by UF's Department of Housing and Residence Life [11]; by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to correct the spelling of Maguire by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to insert a twelfth WHEREAS clause that states, "WHEREAS, all students at the university benefit from the open space and amenities, such as public pools, playgrounds, picnic areas, and welcoming communities offered by Maguire Village and University Village South; and," by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to insert a clause that states, "THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate calls on the immediate repairing and maintenance of all facilities within the Maguire and UVS facilities, alongside cooperation with the Mayors' Council on priorities within such efforts; and," by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to insert a clause that states, "THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate calls for the UF Housing Department to immediately begin taking applications for new residents at Maguire Village and UVS and filling as many apartments as possible; and," by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Stephens moves to strike the second to last THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED clause by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to add University of Florida Alumni Association President James Gadsby to the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to insert source [11] <https://saveufgradhousing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Edinger-Letter-to-UF.pdf> by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1029: Resolution Calling for the Immediate Reversal of the Plans to Close and Demolish Maguire Village and University Village South (UVS) Graduate and Family Housing Facilities by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1030: STUDENT GOVERNMENT FOOD EXPENDITURES EXPANSION DENOTATION (SG FEED) ACT by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1031: BUDGET ONLINE RESOURCES ACCESSIBILITY ACT (BORAA) by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1023 to add Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez and Senator Marcelino to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1024 to add Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez and Senator Marcelino to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1027 to add Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez and Senator Marcelino to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Montes moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1023: Resolution Condemning Recent Mass Shootings and Acts of Hate Towards Individuals of the Asian Community by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Montes moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1024: Resolution Addressing the February 13, 2023 Shooting at Michigan State University by unanimous consent.
- Minority Party Leader Montes moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1027: Resolution Commemorating the Lives Lost During the Turkey-Syria Earthquake on February 6th by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Clark moves to add the approved absences to the agenda as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Clark moves to add the Rules and Ethics Committee's decision to uphold Anam Virani's resignation by nonattendance to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Katherine Gaucher for the Leadership and Service Executive Nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve Aubrey Mys for the open Graduate and Family Housing Seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the bloc of approved absences by unanimous consent. Objected
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to approve the Rules and Ethics Committee's decision to uphold Anam Virani's resignation by nonattendance by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to amend the open permanent seat from District C to District D by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Green:
 - John Michael Stratton Award: Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez opens the floor for nominations.
 - Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez nominates Senator Ghozali. Senator Ghozali accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Nair nominates Minority Party Leader Montes. Minority Party Leader Montes accepts the nomination.
 - Chairman Harkins nominates Senator Kanfer. Senator Kanfer accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Bowman nominates Senator Corbett. Senator Corbett accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Rafanan moves to close the floor for nominations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - In a roll call vote of 5 for Ghozali, 5 for Montes, 12 for Corbett, and 40 for Kanfer, Senator Kanfer receives the award.
 - Paul Clark Memorial Award for Outstanding Committee Chairperson: Majority Party Leader Cox opens the floor for nominations.
 - Senator Liu nominates Chairwoman Pecora. Chairwoman Pecora accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Vaknin nominates Chairwoman Funai. Chairwoman Funai accepts the nomination.
 - Senator Amster nominates Chairwoman Clark. Chairwoman Clark accepts the nomination.

- Senator Liu nominates Chairman Harkins. Chairman Harkins accepts the nomination.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez nominates President Pro-Tempore Giordano. President Pro-Tempore Giordano accepts the nomination.
- In a roll call vote of 28 for Giordano and 33 for Harkins, Chairman Harkins receives the award.
- Presents paper plate awards.
- Gives a goodbye speech.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on approving Aubrey Mys for open permanent Graduate and Family Housing seat. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Green moves the body into a majority vote. In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on approving Katherine Gaucher for the Leadership and Service nomination. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Green moves the body into a majority vote. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Giordano welcomes the senators.
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The chairs do not vacate until the new Senate President and Pro-Tempore are elected.
 - The current chairs will be able to monitor those emails, and vice-chairs will monitor emails for the chairs that are leaving.
 - This happened last time with open seats.
 - We have done this before.
 - Gives goodbye speech from the R&A Committee as Pro-Tempore.

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- District D

JUDICIARY:

- Vice-Chair Ruedas:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - The committee will be meeting at a time and place to be determined.
 - Clarifies voter record.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Pecora:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I cannot express how grateful I am to my committee.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

Senator Faisal moves for a two-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Senate President Green calls the meeting back to order at 10:41 pm.

Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rule to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Senator Faisal moves for a two-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Senate President Green calls the meeting back to order at 10:48 pm.

Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rule to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Senator Faisal moves to suspend the rules to strike the appeal of Senator Virani's seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Majority Party Leader Cox moves to call the previous question on the bloc of approved absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

Deputy Minority Party Leader Santiago Perez moves to approve the R&E absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Chairwoman Clark:
 - Good evening senators.
 - I would like to thank my committee for all the hard work they have done.

- I love R&E with my whole heart.
- Thank you for dealing with me.
- Congratulations to Senators Nair and McGinnis who are always the first to finish their constituency.
- If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Funai:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I&C will be holding orientation on March 21st at 6:30 pm in the Senate Chamber
 - Attendance is mandatory.
 - Gives a goodbye speech.
 - 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.

VALIDATION OF ELECTION RESULTS:

- Supervisor of Elections Ethan Halle:
 - This election had a great turnout with no technical issues.
 - Presents election results.
- Senator Corbett moves that the University of Florida Student Senate validates the election results of the Spring 2023 election by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Vaknin: Following the validation of the election results, District A, District C and District D seats are all open.
- Senator Stephens: I hope you all have a great night. Good luck on midterms.
- Senator Ali: I want to congratulate everyone again.
- Senator Faisal: I want to acknowledge that previous Senator Faith Corbett gave the longest goodbye speech in Senate history.
- Senator Urbenz: I would like to acknowledge Senator Mia, who is now the third black CALS senator.

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Cox moves to use voter records as the final roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 pm.