

## STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

March 21st, 2023

Pro-Tempore Giordano called the Senate meeting to order at 7:35 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 94 senators present.

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

- **Arumilli**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Senate Pro-Tempore Giordano:
  - Monday, March 20 was the first occurrence in my time in R&A that we were unable to meet quorum.
  - On Sunday, I called the current Change Party Leader Rafanan to ensure he would be there, and he told me he would call me back.
  - At 10:16 pm, he said he would be able to make it.
  - For Evan, this was clearly a blatant lie.
  - On Monday morning, I woke up at 5am in Jacksonville to drive back to Gainesville.
  - My Father is a widow, and his wedding anniversary was this past Saturday.
  - Yesterday he had to go through the difficult process of an interment ceremony by himself, because I had to go to the R&A meeting.
  - I called Majority Party Leader Rafanan five times.
  - I also called the Deputy Majority Party Leader multiple times.
  - He didn't answer, and he didn't follow up.
  - I received a call at 8:20 am that Majority Party Leader Rafanan was still in Jacksonville.
  - I was utterly shocked and felt betrayed.
  - He knew he wasn't coming, and I had just left my dad by himself.
  - I wanted to be there for my dad, but my dad understood that I had a job to do in senate.
  - I had to turn away nine applicants who drove thirty minutes, paid for parking, and prepared for this meeting.
  - If you feel that this was good for your political agenda, you must hold yourself to a higher standard.
  - In all my time here, this is the first time that the senate secretaries have had to create and send out an agenda.

- To the new senators, congratulations.
- I hope you can be better and be honest with yourself and the student body.
- Vice-Chair Vaknin:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - Yesterday, Change Party failed to provide a representative for the R&A meeting.
  - I am beyond disappointed by this occurrence.
  - I wish I could say that I'm surprised, but I'm not.
  - No matter what lies and skewed stories they tell you, they have shown time and time again that they are incapable of showing up for students.
  - Majority Party Leader Rafanan, you are a District D senator.
  - Many of the candidates that came in to interview yesterday are your constituents, and you literally did not show up for them.
  - You lied, as well.
  - In the past, this has never been an issue.
  - I am confused as to why now, when your caucus is the biggest it has ever been, you were unable to provide a single member to show up.
  - I would like to announce some open seats: District A, C, and D. Two on Judiciary, four on Budget, two on R&E, and five on I&C.
- Chairwoman Pecora:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - My committee and I met today to discuss possible options for the budget cycle and to hear a few line item transfers.
  - Currently, the funding cycle for Summer B and Fall is set for base funding to open tomorrow at 9am, and event, travel, and operational is set to open next Wednesday the 29th at 9am.
  - Senators have voiced concerns about the quick turnaround of a new committee and funding cycle approaching so close.
  - Unfortunately, there are not many options to move the funding cycle because it usually takes about 2 weeks to get back the input from IT that is necessary to do the hearings.
  - I will be available to help train and ease the new committee into this funding cycle because of the quick turnaround.
- Shelby Schultz:
  - I am here to talk about the failure of R&A to meet quorum yesterday.
  - I spent days preparing for my interview.
  - The party that refuses to show up should not be trusted with any leadership positions.
  - To my fellow students that showed up yesterday, I am sorry.
  - I hope this lack of professionalism never happens again.
  - I found it greatly disappointing to see the senate secretaries send out the agenda.

- Ronin Lupien:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I write for Understand UFSG.
  - I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any projects you want to share.
  - I can't keep up with all 94 of you at once.
- Naomi Rozenburg:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I was born and raised in Brussels, Belgium.
  - I moved here to escape the rampant and unchecked antisemitism spreading in Europe.
  - I'm here to talk to you about what you can do as senators to ensure that it doesn't spread here.
  - You are looking at the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors.
  - You need to do more than write resolutions. You need to show up for people.
  - You need to be going to Spread Cream Cheese, Not Hate to volunteer and JSU meetings to understand where SG's money is going.
  - The number one people that are going to recognize what you are doing are my people.
  - As an American, I am ashamed to see that what is happening on the federal level is beginning to spread here.
- Senator Rubin:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - During my time in the chamber, I worked hard to use my voice to be an advocate for Jewish students.
  - We all know that antisemitism exists, but I think that some individuals lack the knowledge of the extent of the Jew hatred that does exist in this world.
  - I will not stay silent as millions of people have done in the past.
  - If we do not acknowledge antisemitism, history will repeat itself.
  - I served at a diplomatic institute in Israel and was tasked with fighting antisemitism online.
  - One thing I worked on was filing a report to the Israeli government about a song that contained a message with specific plans to murder the Jewish population.
  - What I ask of you to do is not stay silent when you see discrimination.
  - I am still working to best represent Jewish students.
  - The only way to stop antisemitism is to take a stand as a student leader and ensure hatred has no place on this campus.
  - Also, I am on the executive board of the Jewish Student Union, so please don't hesitate to reach out.
- Senator Taramykin:
  - Good evening, senators.

- I would like to thank Naomi and Haley for their comments.
- Prior to becoming a CLAS senator, I worked at the state level for the Fair Elections Center.
- I have been on the front lines of the nationwide struggle for a fair and more inclusive democracy.
- There will be much discussion on HB 999 over these next weeks.
- It is a blatant attack on our marginalized communities.
- Time and time again, it appears that leaders care more about personal advancements than public good.
- I can think of no better legacy for our divided senate than for us to say with one voice that UF is a place where we embrace our differences and celebrate diversity.
- UF is a place where we protect others and empower each other.
- Maya Idiculla:
  - Hello senators.
  - I am an assistant director in cabinet.
  - I have been blessed with the opportunities I have been given in the executive branch.
  - Student administration has provided excellent resources to help students get involved.
  - The Leaders for Change Cohort is a great opportunity that allows students to ask student leaders questions.
  - Gators of Tomorrow taught me about what it means to make good relationships.
- Isabel Penin:
  - My parents are both immigrants from Cuba.
  - There are organizations such as HSA and CASA that help Hispanic students foster a community with their peers.
  - These organizations may be at risk due to HB 999.
  - I ask that we fight against this as one united front.
- Angelina Del Toro:
  - I am the director of the First Generation Affairs Cabinet.
  - The First Generation Open House was really successful.
  - Our newsletter is sent out once a month.
  - We have more events planned for this spring.
- Senator Stephany:
  - I was a write-in candidate, because the College of Dentistry did not have a single person running for senate.
  - Graduate students need to be focused on more.
  - We make up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the university, but the student senate rarely focuses on us.
  - Parking is an issue that needs to be addressed.
  - Safety at Shands hospital is an issue.

- Senator Stephens moves for a five-minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Whitaker:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I want to talk about adding a coffee lab to campus.
  - Everything at the Coffee Lab I visited was marked to be sold at a fair market price.
  - All of the decorations and art pieces to be sold were made by local artists from Guatemala.
  - The Coffee Lab was also a place where students could learn about entrepreneurship.
  - I would like to implement something similar here.
- Wilson Roberts:
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I'd like to talk about Gators Going Green.
  - There is no such thing as a natural-born leader.
  - Leadership can be learned and developed.
  - We need to invest in leadership development programs, such as the Immersion Leaders Program.
  - The Freshman Leadership Experience has proven to be a powerful force in developing and guiding the next generation of leaders at UF.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Giordano moves for a 10-minute recess. Objected.
- Senator Faisal moves for a five minute recess. Seconded. In a voice vote that motion passes.
- Pro-Tempore Giordano calls the meeting back to order.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 91 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- **Arumilli**
- **Banach**
- **Smith**

Senator Cox moves for a quorum call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 93 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- **Smith**

Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to table public comments until after amendments to the agenda. Seconded.

Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to appeal the decision of the chair.<sup>1</sup>

Senator Vaknin moves for a five minute recess. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

Pro-Tempore Giordano calls the meeting back to order at 9:52 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 92 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- **Mys**
- **Smith**

Senator Vaknin moves for a quorum call.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 94 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- **Mys**
- **Smith**

Senator Santiago Perez moves to appeal the decision of the chair. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion does not pass.

In a standing vote, that motion fails.<sup>1</sup>

- **Bianca Barrios:**
  - Good evening, senators.
  - I am a retired Graduate Senator.
  - The graduate constituency has never been truly represented.
  - One of the most pressing needs for grad students is financial support.
  - Graduate students also need mentorship and support.

- They need recognition and validation for their contribution to the academic community.
- Finally, they need affordable housing.
- Bronson Allemand:
  - Yesterday morning, I was scheduled to interview with the Replacement and Agenda committee.
  - However, I was unable to share my ideas due to quorum not being established.
  - I find this extremely disrespectful towards me and the other applicants.
  - This is a disservice to both the applicants and your constituents.
  - I was met with blatant disrespect by a member of the Replacement and Agenda committee who could not be bothered to show up.
  - To the member of the Replacement & Agenda Committee who was not in attendance yesterday: why did you choose to fail your chamber, your caucus, and your constituents?

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

Pro-Tempore Giordano calls the meeting back to order at 10:42 pm.

Senator Santiago Perez moves to suspend the rule to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. Objected.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 94 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- Mys
- Smith

Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to appeal the decision of the chair. Seconded. In a standing vote, that motion fails.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 pm.