

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

April 4th, 2023

Pro-Tempore Giordano 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 91 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Jaiswal**
- **Pecora**
- **Pham**
- **Singh**

Chief Justice Wiele swears in all new senators.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Pelton:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Gator Caucus has attempted to undermine democracy.
 - On March 7th, the Senate failed to elect a new senate leadership.
 - Gator Party's filibuster thwarted the March 21st meeting.
 - Gator's quorum bust on March 28th and the resurrection of the Liberation Party contribute to Gator Party's goal to strip Change Party of its victories.
 - Gator Party has set a precedent that allows power-hungry individuals to reject the vote of the student body, no matter the cost to the students.
 - I am disappointed to call myself a senator.
- Senator Panish:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am very disappointed that I have to spend 30 hours per week supporting the people I care about.
 - Do you believe in democracy?
 - You chose to quorum bust and filibuster an election.
 - If you did this in the real US government you would be impeached by now.
 - I ask that you do the bare minimum.
 - I have to believe you are just following orders.
 - I am the only member of Change on the Budget committee.
 - I have spent all of my time in Senate only experiencing defeat.
 - I am doing this so I don't have to see my friends get strangled by procedure.

- We don't have a mandate for revenge.
- Senator Taramykin:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I recently completed a brief stint as Deputy Party Leader for the Liberation Caucus.
 - I am no longer in Liberation Party.
 - What Senator Stephens and I did yesterday was restore the reality of the R&A Committee.
 - Until the party that lost the last two elections allows for a peaceful transition of power, there is no legitimate R&A, and there is no legitimate senate.
 - The fact that senators can flip back and forth between parties means that this can continue to happen.
 - I intend to change this rule.
- Senator Wood-Barron:
 - Hi, I'm the newly-elected arts senator.
 - There are real people, money and stakes at play here.
 - Last week, a UF arts building was vandalized.
 - UF has not issued a police report and does not seem to care.
 - I'm here to get stuff done.
 - Let's get this over with.
- Senator Wolcott:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - For those of you that both know me, I am not a hyperpartisan.
 - Dear Gator Caucus, I'm sorry that democracy is a joke to you.
 - I am sorry for the students that showed up to tell you what they think.
 - You set this house on fire.
 - Gator Party lost two senate elections in a row. Why?
 - It's your failures that caused this.
- Ronin Lupien:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am so glad to see that 91 senators are here tonight.
 - Congratulations to my hall-mate Chancellor Wilson.
 - I look forward to reporting on whatever happens.
- Senator Faisal:
 - I wanted to talk about what happens when senate does not meet for a month.
 - Currently, the Budget Committee only has four members and one chair.
 - This week, Budget was unable to meet for line item transfers due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - Fast-a-Thon is short \$4,000.
 - I hope going forward, we can avoid situations like that.

- Senator Ali:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I served over the summer as a permanent District D senator, a role I am currently serving
 - From navigating 24/7 libraries, online voting, and quorum busts, Change has been through a lot.
 - Even after all that, the disrespect and the childishness we dealt with is some of the worst I have ever seen.
 - Let it be known that we are all adult student leaders, yet some of you are acting like children.
- Senator Stephens:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - This public comment will deal with subject matter such as sexual misconduct, deportation, food insecurity, mental health, and financial scarcity.
 - *Moment of silence*
 - For some of you, you may be confused as to why there was a moment of silence at the beginning of this public comment.
 - I just performed a music piece that serves the purpose of being a whole period of silence.
 - This piece brings into question how crucial silence is to any piece of music.
 - These chambers have been nothing more than a bunch of noise.
 - Behind this silence is the students struggling with real issues that need our help.
 - They have no help, no leaders, no one to fight for them.
 - To the folks who have overextended this election, ask yourself: are you willing to let this silence persist?

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Cox moves to add student body officer reports to the agenda. Seconded. That motion passes.
 - Senator Santiago Perez moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Cox moves to add the President's report under student body officer reports on the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Cox moves to add committee reports under the President's report on the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Cox moves to add the approved, failed, and expunged absences under the Rules and Ethics report. Seconded. That motion passes.

- Senator Faisal moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Cox moves to add a special rule to hear the approved and failed Rules and Ethics absences as a block by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Faisal moves to add the election of Senate President, Senate President Pro-Tempore, and Member-at-Large 1 and 2 after the President's report. Seconded. That motion passes.
 - Senator Santiago Perez moves to amend the motion to move the elections to before officer reports by unanimous consent. Objected.
 - Senator Santiago Perez moves to amend the motion to move the elections to before officer reports. Seconded. That motion passes.
 - Senator Faisal moves to previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Faisal moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanon moves to open the floor for nominations by unanimous consent.²
- Minority Party Leader Santiago Alvarez moves for a quorum call.
- That motion passes.²
- Senator Faisal moves to nominate Senator Santiago Perez for Senate President. Senator Santiago Perez accepts the nomination.
- Senator Faisal moves to close the floor for nominations by unanimous consent.
- Pro-Tempore Giordano moves for a five-minute recess. Objected.
- Senator Mys moves for a quorum call.
- Senator Faisal moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Pro-Tempore Giordano moves for a five-minute recess. Objected.
- Senator Mia moves to declare the chair as vacant and elect Mohammed Faisal as chair. Seconded.³
- Senator Faisal moves to appeal the decision of the chair.
- That motion passes.³
- Senator Giordano moves for a quorum call.
- Senator Roberts moves for a quorum call.
- Senator Ghozali moves for a quorum call.
- Senator Ghozali was issued a warning.
- In a roll call vote of 46 for Santiago Perez and 2 abstentions, Senator Santiago Perez is elected as the new Senate President.
- Senator Roberts moves for a quorum call.
- Senator Santiago Perez moves for a five-minute recess. Objected.
- In a vote of 35-2, the motion to sustain the objection passes.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called with a total of 47 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Alvarez, Santiago**
- **Amster**
- **Antonik**
- **Bader**
- **Berekhovski**
- **Cable**
- **Clark**
- **Cox**
- **Damera**
- **Ghozali**
- **Giordano**
- **Hazlett**
- **Howard**
- **Imbrigotta**
- **Kelley**
- **Khuddus**
- **Kinggard**
- **Lekebusch**
- **Levine**
- **Lieber**
- **Liu**
- **Locascio**
- **Murtha**
- **Patel, Drashti**
- **Patrick**
- **Pecora**
- **Penin**
- **Pham**
- **Platovsky**
- **Ponce**
- **Rappoport**
- **Reich**
- **Roberts**
- **Robson**
- **Rosenkranz**
- **Ruedas**
- **Seifer**

- **Solomon**
- **Stephany**
- **Thomas**
- **Vaknin**
- **Vijayaraghavan**
- **Vigna**
- **Wang**
- **Whitaker**
- **White**
- **Wilson**

- Senator Roberts was issued a warning.
- Quorum has not been established.
- Chief Justice Wiley swears in Oscar Santiago Perez as the new Senate President.
- Senator Faisal moves to appeal the decision of the chair that quorum has not been met.
 - Senator Santiago Perez rules that motion dilatory.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to appeal the decision of the chair. Seconded. ⁴
- Senator Santiago Perez moves for a three-minute recess. Objected.
- In a standing vote of 29-3, that motion passes. ⁴
- Senator Faisal moves to suspend the rule of quorum by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Faisal moves to suspend the rule of quorum. Seconded.
 - Senator Santiago Perez rules that motion as dilatory.
- Senator Faisal moves to appeal the decision of the chair.
 - Senator Santiago Perez rules that motion as dilatory.
- Senator Faisal moves to give Senator Santiago Perez the power to make the next senate meeting a compelled senate meeting that will result in consequences for those in non attendance by unanimous consent.
 - Senator Santiago Perez rules that motion dilatory.
- Senator Mia moves to give Senator Santiago Perez the power to make the next senate meeting a compelled senate meeting that will result in an offense against the student body and a lost seat for those in non attendance by unanimous consent.
 - Senator Santiago Perez rules that motion dilatory.
- Senator Mia moves for a five-minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.