

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

April 18th, 2023

Pro-Tempore Giordano called the Senate meeting to order at 8:25 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 84 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Budhai**
- **Cable**
- **Damera**
- **Jaiswal**
- **Khuddus**
- **Natarajan**
- **Rananawar**
- **Singh**
- **Singhal**
- **Stephany**
- **Taramykin**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Seifer:**
 - Good evening, senators.
 - For those of you who don't know, Yom HaShoah started yesterday evening and ended tonight.
 - The Holocaust was a systematic killing with the goal of the total annihilation of all Jewish people.
 - The total was six million Jewish people murdered.
 - The Holocaust is the largest-scale manifestation of antisemitism in recent history, but antisemitism is still occurring today.
 - During this day of remembrance, the Jewish community comes together to hear from survivors.
 - During this day of observance, I encourage you to do more research on the Holocaust.
 - We as leaders must condemn complacency and encourage compassion.
- **Senator Cox:**
 - Good evening, senators.

- I have a few plans for the summer as far as what I would like to get done as a senator.
- I would like to get a spot for fishing on campus.
- On a more serious note, mental health is an extremely serious issue.
- One idea I would like to execute is a wellness day where there are no classes, no programming, or anything else for a day.
- If you are passionate or have any ideas for that, please reach out to me.
- Senator Vaknin gives a goodbye speech.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 to Student Senate Bill 2023-1033 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1033 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1034 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Deputy Majority Party Leader Nair moves to approve the bloc of STECA legislation by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve the bloc of Replacement & Agenda Recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve the bloc of approved and failed absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to recommit the expunged absences from 10/11/22 back to R&E by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to recommit the expunged absences from 11/29/22 back to R&E by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

SENATE ELECTIONS:

- Senator Marcelino moves to open the floor to nominations for Senate President by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino nominates Senator Santiago Perez for Senate President. Senator Santiago Perez accepts the nomination.
- Senator Marcelino moves to close the floor by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Santiago Perez presents 5 minutes for Senate President Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I represent District D.
 - I served as treasurer for the Pride Student Union, and I served on the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee and the RTS Advisory Board
 - I was the external Vice President for the Volunteers for International Student Affairs and ambassador for UF Student Legal Services.
 - When I ran last semester, I promised to be a resource for every senator, and I want to continue that sentiment.
 - As Senate President, I want to ensure that religious absences don't count towards the absence counter.
 - I want to ensure that we are connected with the greater Gainesville community.
 - I want to make sure that senate continues its advocacy for DEI initiatives.
 - Diversity is our strength and not our weakness.
- There was a five-minute question and answer period.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a roll call vote of 84-0, Senator Santiago Perez is elected as the new Senate President.
- The Senate President is sworn in by Associate Justice David Allen.

- The floor opens for nominations for Senate President Pro-Tempore by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Mia nominates Senator McGinnis. Senator McGinnis accepts the nomination.
- Senator Faisal moves to close the floor by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator McGinnis presents 5 minutes for Senate President Pro-Tempore Candidacy:
 - Hello, everyone.
 - I am the current Tolbert Area Senator.
 - One of my biggest projects is getting lighting in Tolbert.
 - I'm also in IRHA.
 - I have a lot of experience in learning about Rules and Procedures.
 - I have experience participating in legislative debates.
 - I am a quick learner, fair, timely, and amicable.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a roll call vote of 84-0, Senator McGinnis is elected as the new Senate President Pro-Tempore.
- The Senate President Pro-Tempore is sworn in by Associate Justice David Allen.

- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to open the floor for nominations for First Member-at-Large by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Vaknin nominates Senator Liu. Senator Liu accepts the nomination.
- Senator Ali moves to close the floor for nominations by unanimous consent.

- Senator Liu presents 5 minutes for First Member-at-Large Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I am a first-generation student and Chinese-American.
 - I am honored and humbled to run for this position.
 - I have served as a senator for almost two years, and have served on multiple committees.
 - I am prepared to make the transitions for summer replacements as smooth as possible.
 - As always, go gators!
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a standing vote of 83-0, Senator Liu is elected as the new First Member-at-Large.

- The floor opens for nominations for Second Member-at-Large by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Cox nominates Senator Ponce. Senator Ponce accepts the nomination.
- Senator Ponce presents 5 minutes for Second Member-at-Large Candidacy:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - I have experience serving as a Budget and Appropriations clerk, and I was eventually appointed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 - The current composition of our Replacement and Agenda Committee does not include any women.
 - Additionally, I am a PaCE student.
- There were five minutes of question and answer.
- A vote was conducted by roll call. In a standing vote of 83-0, Senator Ponce is elected as the new Second Member-at-Large.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Santiago Perez:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Thank you for electing me to this position.
 - There is a Grow & Grub event this Friday.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore McGinnis welcomes the senators.

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- District D
- District A (2)
- District C
- Veterinary Medicine

Open Committee Seats

- Judiciary (2)
- I&C (5)
- R&E (2)
- Budget
- Judiciary Chair
- I&C Chair
- R&E Chair
- Budget Chair

JUDICIARY:

- Vice-Chair Ruedas:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - We are meeting this weekend at a date and time to be determined.
 - All legislation due Friday.
 - Clarifies voter record.
 - If you have any questions, please email me at judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Vice-Chair Cox:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Budget has been working hard.
 - We met for twelve hours yesterday and allocated over \$500,000 to student orgs, which is essentially unheard of.
 - The committee will be meeting again tomorrow and Friday.
 - Congratulations to the three new members of the committee!
 - If you have any questions, please email me at budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Vice-Chair Amster:

- Good evening senators.
- Constituency is due on the 25th.
- Any senator who has not completed constituency will be on probation in the fall.
- We will have a meeting at a time and place to be determined.
- If you have any questions, please email me at rules@sg.ufl.edu.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Vice-Chair Ghozali:
 - Good evening, senators.
 - Thank you everyone who came to the senate retreat.
 - Please apply for I&C!
 - Tabling sign-ups are opening.
 - 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Stephens: I've been working on legislation pertaining to sustainability, opposing state takeover, food expenditures, and resource accessibility for the budget. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.
- Senator Marcelino: A lot of ASU organizations are finishing up elections. My caucus and I will be having a meeting to talk about DEI initiatives. Additionally, please participate in the Be the Match philanthropy event.
- Senator Faisal: Gives gifts to Senate President Santiago Perez and Senate President Pro-Tempore McGinnis.
- Senator Losardo: On Friday, I'm organizing a walkout to protest against HB 999. Please come out and show your support!

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Amster moves to use voter records as the final roll call. Seconded.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to call the previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senate President Santiago Perez moves the body into a vote on using the voter record as final roll call. In a voice vote, that motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.