

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

April 25th, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:36 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 86 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Holmes**
- **Locasio**
- **Pecora**
- **Roberts**
- **Singh**
- **Singhal**
- **Vijayaraghavan**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Pelton:
 - I want to talk about SSB 2023-1043.
 - I hope to see this pass unanimously and I appreciate the bipartisan support.
 - Have a good summer.
- Senator Richter:
 - I am a newly elected CALS senator.
 - I want to talk about starting a new Green Caucus.
 - I'm really passionate about the environment.
 - Please reach out if you are interested.
 - I'd love to have a member of the other party be my co-chair.
- Senator Liang:
 - I am here to talk about Student Senate Bill 2023-1050.
 - I am glad we were able to elect Senate leadership last week.
 - Florida now has one of the strictest abortion laws in the nation.
 - I ask you to recognize the disastrous impact of this new abortion ban and vote in support of the resolution condemning this ban.
- Senator Marcelino:
 - I want to talk about understanding.
 - I came to an understanding with the Minority Party Leader to pull my resolution against HB 999.
 - To the new senators: there is actual work to be done.

- You say you want representation; it's time to do something about it.
- I pulled my resolution to encourage communication.
- This is a mutualistic relationship.
- I will keep you all accountable over the summer and will fight tooth and nail against anyone who threatens my communities and what we stand for.
- Nothing in this world is impossible for those who set their mind on it.
- Senator Wood Barron:
 - I am surprised we do not have a more direct form of communication between parties.
 - If someone from I&C wants to discuss this further with me I would love to solve this issue.
 - I want to talk about Student Senate Bill 2023-1046.
 - Gabe passed away this past semester and left behind a community that loved him dearly.
 - I urge you to pass this resolution to honor his life.
 - This resolution will recommend the Dean of Students to award Gabe with a posthumous degree and a memorial.
- Hope Lerman:
 - I am the nominee for the External Affairs Agency Head position.
 - It is super important to me that we are supporting our student body in the best way possible.
 - I feel that I am extremely qualified for this role.
 - As a member of the External Affairs team, I stepped up when needed to take legislative bill meetings from external sources who wanted our support, assist in the state of the campus address planning and writing, attend a meeting of the state of Florida Student Body Presidents, and create educational material to educate the student body on new policies.
 - Along with these direct impacts, I served as Chief of Staff to the Student Body Treasurer.
 - This is a large undertaking that I break up into two main parts: policy and student experience.
 - I want to create a calendar to track and monitor legislation.
 - It is important to me that we hear directly from students.
 - Making sure there is positive communication between all university leaders is crucial to our success.
- Conor Lynch:
 - I have been nominated to be agency head for Nightlife NaviGators.
 - Assembling a creative and innovative team will allow us to capitalize on opportunities and maximize our outreach.
 - A potential event could be a “Wait for the Crosswalk” initiative.

- We can also increase our presence on social media.
- The main reason I will do a good job in this role is my initiative.
- My experiences, vision, and motivation are what qualify me for this position.
- Reed Jeffries:
 - I am speaking to you in regard to my nomination for the role of Student Honor Code Administration Agency Head.
 - I would excel in this role because of my passion for fairness and justice.
 - I also have a wealth of experience that will lead me to be valuable in this role.
 - I have also worked closely with faculty members as a teaching assistant.
 - I am confident I can work collaboratively with all members of our community in order to ensure our honor code is administered fairly and consistently.
- Phoebe Funai:
 - I am here to talk about my nomination for Action SG Agency Head.
 - I served on Action the last two years.
 - With Action SG, I plan to start an SG newsletter and monthly recap on our Instagram feed.
 - I want Action to be the bridge between new students and students already involved in SG.
- Sergeant-at-Arms Spata:
 - I have spent countless hours dedicating my life to Gator Band.
 - Even though Gabe was not a member of the College of the Arts, his passing left a very big hole in our community.
 - Gabe's passing means that he will never get to experience future games.
 - Gator Band is the largest student organization.
 - He was from my county.
 - His entire section has been left wondering what to do now.
 - There have been two memorials held for him.
 - This resolution will advocate for a memorial to be built for him as well as establish his birthday to be a day of remembrance.
 - I encourage this resolution to pass by unanimous consent.
- Senator Hartnett:
 - I am here to speak in support of SSB 2023-1047.
 - I have been here for 7 years as a graduate assistant.
 - We do some of the most essential work here.
 - We are paid \$17,000 a year.
 - That is little enough to qualify enough for SNAP benefits in the state of Florida.
 - I am extremely privileged that I am a domestic student with no dependents.
 - Please vote in favor of this resolution.
- Cassie Urbenz:

- As someone who is going into higher education, I do not qualify for any more loans.
- This is the unfortunate reality of higher education.
- I don't want us to discount people as being whiny or greedy.
- Not everyone qualifies for a fellowship.
- This is extremely important, please support grads.
- Senator Stephens:
 - I want to bring to your attention a law we have in our statutes about a Student Government Diversity Programming Committee.
 - It is to foster greater unity among the diverse opinions of the student body.
 - It will serve the purpose of bringing leaders across the campus from many different cultures and backgrounds.
 - It will serve all students in the selection and promotion of speakers, shows, and concerts here at the University of Florida
 - It is extremely important that we are focusing on these types of provisions and opportunities.
 - From my records, we did not have one meeting take place for this committee in the past year.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to change the title of Minority Party Leader Alvarez by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to add Elliott Wilcox to the bloc of summer replacement seats under Summer C by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to add Kishan Nayak to the bloc of summer replacement seats under Summer C by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to remove Dylan Vandall to the bloc of summer replacement seats under Summer A by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to strike Dylan Vandall from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to remove Mendel Zheng to the bloc of summer replacement seats under Summer C by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to strike Mendel Zheng from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party leader moves to remove Donald Webster from the bloc of summer replacements under Summer B by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to strike Donald Webster from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve the bloc of Summer Replacement nominations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to add Student Senate Bills 2023-1033 through 2023-1038 to the agenda under 2nd readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to hear Student Senate Bills 2023-1033 through 2023-1038 as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to approve the bloc of bills under second readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pelton moves to add Student Senate Bill 2023-1043 to bills under first reading by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pelton moves to approve Amendment 1 to Student Senate Bill 2023-1043 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pelton moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1043 to add Senators Perez, Vigna, Seifer, and Whitaker to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pelton moves to approve Student Senate Bill 1023-1043 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to add Student Senate Bills 2023-1042, 2023-1046, 2023-1047, 2023-1049, and 2023-1050 to bills under first reading by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1042 to add Senators Mia, Basu, and Hartnett to the sponsor line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to approve Student Senate Bill 1023-1042 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1046 to add Senators Perez and Basu to the sponsor line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1046 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to add a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1047 to add Senators Mia, Perez, Liang, Pelton, Marcelino, Nair, Rafanan, Lasch, and Lin by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1047 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1049 to add Senators Mia, Perez, and Basu to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1049 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Liang moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2023-1050 to add Senators Mia, Faisal, Perez, and Basu to the sponsors line by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1050 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Stephens moves to suspend Rule VII Section 1E that all main motions made by unanimous consent without objection must be put on the voter record by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Senator Penin for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Senator Richter for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Senator Vigna for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Senator Budhai for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Senator Vijayaraghavan for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to add Janelle Rolle for Chief Justice under Replacement & Agenda Committee recommendations by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to add Janelle Rolle as an Associate Justice under Replacement & Agenda Committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to add Dylan Brown for Associate Justice under Replacement & Agenda Committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Dylan Brown as an Associate Justice by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Sam Rosenkranz for Chomp the Vote by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to fail Allen Kurian for the open District D seat. Seconded. ¹
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- A voice vote was conducted.
- Senator Stephens calls for a division of the house.
- In a standing vote of 43-41, that motion passes. ¹
- Senator Faisal nominates Anamika Naidu for the open District D seat. Seconded. ²
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves for a five minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Giordano moves for a five-minute recess. Seconded.

- In a voice vote, that motion fails.
- Senator Solomon calls for a division of the house.
- Senator Giordano moves to appeal the decision of the chair. Seconded.
- In a standing vote, that motion fails.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes. ²
- Senator Faisal moves to fail Dawson Geller for the open District A seat. Seconded. ³
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Cox moves to extend debate by one round by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Liu moves for a 10 minute recess. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion does not pass.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves for a division of the house. Dilatory.
- A voice vote was conducted. ³
- Senator Stephens moves for a division of the house.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes. ³
- Senator Faisal nominates Isabella Scramoncin for the open District A seat.
- Senator Liu nominates Maya Idiculla for the open District A seat.
- In a standing vote, Isabella Scramoncin is approved for the open District A seat.
- Senator Faisal moves to approve the bloc of committee chairs by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Faisal moves to approve Senator Marcelino for the open permanent Judiciary seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Rafanan moves to approve Matthew Reich for the open permanent Judiciary seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Matthews moves to approve Mahir Rahman and Johanna Moncy for the open STAAR agency head by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez moves into a 3 minute recess.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 9:32 pm.
- Chairman Cox moves to suspend the rule to conduct roll call. Objected.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 86 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Arumili**
- **Jaiswal**
- **Jayanti**
- **Marcelino**
- **Pecora**
- **Roberts**
- **Singh**
- **Singhal**

- **Stephany**

- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to add Brittany Deas as a Supreme Court Justice Nominee to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Brittany Deas for the Supreme Court role by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to add Mark Freeman as a Supreme Court Justice Nominee to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Mark Freeman for the Supreme Court role by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Janelle Rolle for the Supreme Court role by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader moves to add Ethan Halle as Supervisor of Elections nominee to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader moves to approve Ethan Halle as Supervisor of Elections by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to strike Satellite Affairs from the bloc of Executive Secretary nominations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to strike the Satellite Affairs nominee from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to strike Diversity Affairs from the bloc of Executive Secretary nominations by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Reagan McGurk as Class Councils Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Hope Lerman as External Affairs Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Phoebe Funai as Action SG Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Samantha Simon as Gators Going Green Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Brett Barnett for Gator Innovators Agency Head by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Conor Lynch for Nightlife Navigators Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Samuel Hendler for ACCENT Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Luke Holderman for Student Government Productions Agency Head by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Jack Levy for Student Government Productions Comptroller by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Nikhil Edouard for Bridges Agency Head by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Elizabeth Hartzog for Student Government Institute by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Elle McCreary for Young Leaders Conference by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Phillip McCrady and Lauren Bonet for Big Event by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve Reed Jeffries for Student Honor Code Administration by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve the bloc of Executive Secretary nominations by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Alvarez moves to approve the bloc of Assistant Treasurer nominations 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.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Young Leaders Conference nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Student Government Institute nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Student Government Productions Comptroller nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Student Government Productions Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the ACCENT Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Nightlife Navigators Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Gators Going Green Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Action SG Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the External Affairs Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the Class Councils Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Giordano moves to suspend the special rule to hear the Executive Secretary nominations as a bloc by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Giordano moves to suspend the special rule to hear the Executive Secretary nominations as a bloc. Seconded.

- In a standing vote, that motion fails.
- Senator Giordano moves to table the bloc of Executive Secretaries by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

- Chomp the Vote Agency Head Darren Peters:
 - We had a lot of outreach and events this last semester.
 - We had 21 tabling events throughout the year.
 - We helped change 63 voter registrations to Gainesville.
 - Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chomp the Vote Agency Head.
- STAAR Agency Head Alejandro Ortiz:
 - Thank you for having me here.
 - STAAR has accomplished a lot this year.
 - Being an Agency Head has been an honor.
 - Thank you to everyone involved.
- SGI Chair Lizzie Hartzog:
 - I am very excited to report on what SGI has been doing these last seven months.
 - My team and I have been making great strides in contacting 100+ schools so far.
 - We are going to be hosting a multitude of panels.
 - It has been a pleasure to serve.
- Student Body Vice President Daniel Badell:
 - Campaign is one of the best times of the year.
 - However, I have never felt more uncomfortable than I did during every day of the election.
 - I worked tirelessly to expand the reach and impact of Cabinet, and our work was constantly minimized in the name of politics.
 - Our chairs and directors who serve and represent some of the most underrepresented communities on campus deserve better.
 - Thank you to everyone who helped me through my time here.
- Student Body President-Elect Green:
 - Clara and I interviewed over 200 applicants.
 - We did not turn a single applicant away.
 - People deserve to be heard, not passed around like a political pawn in senate.
 - My administration is ready to work; pushing nominees for agency heads back for a political play is hurting your constituents.
 - I have no problem coming here every week with the same sentiments, because these are the people that should be in office.
 - I am going to yield my time to the rest of the people who came out and sat here for the last three hours being belittled.

- In the interest of time, I encourage you to consider the judicial nominations even if they do not have the opportunity to present.
- Yields time to Reagan McGurk.
- Reagan McGurk:
 - I have been nominated for the position of Agency Head of Class Councils, and I would like to share with you why I am the most qualified candidate for this position.
 - I would like to touch on internal initiatives, external initiatives, and I am qualified.
 - Class Councils need to be restructured, and I have a proposed system to do this.
 - I also want to grow our social media presence.
 - I would also like to extend our welcome festivities.
 - I would like to implement a year long marketing push for juniors to purchase their class rings.
 - I would like to develop a class logo and slogan.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Santiago Perez:
 - I have nominated 4 liaisons: Ana Alvarez for SAI, Monish Vijayaraghavan for Executive Branch, Raj Mia for Reitz Union, and Joaquin Marcelino for DEI.
 - If you would like to apply to be a Rec Sports or UFPD liaison, please feel free to reach out to me.
 - We will not have senate until May 16.
 - I have appointed Matthew Spata as Sergeant of Arms.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Senator Faisal moves to call for previous question on Conor Lynch by unanimous consent. That motion passes
- Faisal moves to table Conor Lynch for Nightlife Navigators by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to call for previous question on Emma Antonik by unanimous consent. That motion passes
- Chairman Stephens moves to recommit Senator Antonik's Rules and Ethics committee nomination to the Replacement and Agenda committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Faisal moves to suspend the rule to allow Justices three minutes of presentation and two minutes of question and answer by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Brittany Deas presents for three minutes:

- I would like to serve in the Supreme Court because I have extensive Student Government experience from my undergraduate years and I really enjoy bettering the student experience.
- I was the first black woman in over 20 years to serve as Student Body President at USF.
- In this role, I worked closely with the Supreme Court.
- I also served as an intern for the United States House of Representatives Congresswoman Kathy Castor.
- I have many ideas and I would love to be appointed.
- There were two minutes of question and answer.
- Chairman Cox moves to approve Brittany Deas for Associate Justice by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Mark Freeman presents for three minutes.
 - My experience as a paralegal at a law firm and a clerk for both a state court and federal court judge secured me a deep understanding of the legal system and the importance of upholding the law.
 - My involvement in various organizations has allowed me to develop strong communication and leadership skills.
 - I believe my experience and dedication make me an ideal candidate for this role.
 - Thank you for your time and consideration.
- There were two minutes of question and answer.
- Senator Faisal moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Faisal moves to approve Mark Freeman for Associate Justice by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to have all committee reports be delivered virtually by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Supervisor of Elections Ethan Halle presents for three minutes:
 - In the fall and spring I worked to secure a better and more transparent election process for all parties and candidates involved.
 - This past fall, we had a voter turnout of a little over 9,000 students.
 - I also dealt with issues in the fall and worked to reschedule voting days because of a hurricane that hit campus.
 - In the spring, I oversaw an election that had a turnout of over 12,000 students, which is the second-largest voter turnout in Student Government history here at the University of Florida.
 - I think my past work speaks for itself.
- There were two minutes of question and answer.
- Senator Faisal moves to suspend the rules to add two more minutes of question and answer by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Chairman Stephens moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to table the consideration of Ethan Halle for Supervisor of elections by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chairman Stephens moves to table the consideration of Ethan Halle for Supervisor of elections. Seconded. 4
- Senator Giordano moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes. 4

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Per a special rule, committee reports for this meeting are to be delivered virtually*

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pro-Tempore McGinnis: The open seats for Summer A are Jennings and Public Health & Health Professions. The open Summer C seats are Lakeside, Building Construction, Medicine, Nursing, Sophomore, and four Graduate seats. The open committee seats are Judiciary (4), Budget and Appropriations (4), Rules and Ethics (7), and Information & Communications (2). For open permanent seats, we have District A (3), District C, and Veterinary Medicine. R&A should be meeting May 14.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 pm.