

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

May 23rd, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:04 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 62 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Ali-McClory**
- **Basu**
- **Chung**
- **Fisher**
- **Gurary**
- **Levine**
- **Mys**
- **Polavarapu**
- **Rananaware**
- **Reich**
- **Sinclair**
- **Stephany**
- **William Grame**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Maya Idiculla:**
 - I am currently nominated to become the District A senator
 - I want to talk about my time in the Executive Branch.
 - I have become a part of the Freshman Leadership Experience this year under class councils.
 - I have learned, planned, and staffed five events this year.
 - I have made an effort to sign up and show up to every single event that is put into our cohort.
 - Becoming Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is one of the best positions I could have taken this year.
 - As a Cabinet Assistant Director, I have gained skills based on event planning, staffing, and how to put on events for respective audiences and communities.
 - Staffing the Disability Affairs event, I got to learn about the DRC and the importance of giving attention to the DRC.

- Under my division, I helped plan a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion summit for students a part of respective organizations to recognize their unconscious biases.
- On top of my work in Cabinet, I spent my time in the Leaders for Change Cohort.
- I was Director of Promotional Items for SGI this year.
- I want to make sure people are being educated about things they would not otherwise hear.
- I wrote a piece of legislation recently about religious holidays on the academic calendar.
- Halle Burton:
 - I was selected by the Replacement and Agenda Committee for one of the District A seats.
 - I am a public relations and political science major from San Antonio, Texas.
 - I have extensive experience for this position.
 - I am a UF Office of Strategic Communications Intern and a Gatorette Baton Twirler.
 - I am adamant about collaboration with clubs and organizations as well as bringing creative projects and ideas to life.
 - I also want to further my campus-wide mental health and safety initiatives.
 - This year alone, I already have 100 hours of community service and last year I was a Presidential Service Award recipient.
 - I want to collaborate with Nightlife Navigators to work on campus safety.
 - I want to bring solar-powered motion sensor lights to busy places like bus stops as well as bringing flashing lights to crosswalks in District A specifically.
 - I founded a nonprofit organization for mental health after my friend took his own life.
 - I hope to work with all of you in the future
- Senator Gangano:
 - I want to share some NCES numbers with you.
 - It is very clear that education is directly correlated with your income, job satisfaction, and retention rate at said job.
 - I would not have gotten into the graduate program without student loans.
 - The Biden-Harris administration has proposed student-loan relief this summer which will be ruled on by the Supreme Court very soon.
 - I would like to extend an invitation to you all on a resolution I have written in support of the student-loan relief program that the executive branch has proposed this summer.
 - I will be submitting my legislation to the Judiciary Committee.
- Senator Vijayaraghavan:
 - I am a current senator for the Murphree area.

- The SGI Conference is a conference for student leaders across the southeast to collaborate on solutions for problems that are facing all of our student governments.
- We have staff positions opening soon.
- These applications will be due by May 29th.
- It is a great way to network with different student leaders from across student campuses.
- The dates are June 2-4.
- Student Body President Green:
 - I am back to talk about my executive nominations.
 - All of these applicants are the best we have.
 - I sat in these interviews for 20 hours.
 - Every single Agency Head nomination has served in that agency for at least a year, some two or three years.
 - We are running out of time.
 - I have seen nothing short of corruption from the majority party.
 - I will be giving an update about the senate at the next Board of Trustees meeting.
 - I have not seen a single email regarding my recommendations.
 - To blindly oppose or approve these applicants is an abuse of power.
 - You have pushed back the SGI Chair even though she was already chair, and her conference is in 2 weeks.
 - It's a shame that this is what bipartisanship looks like.
 - They were all here last week, but unfortunately can't be here today.
 - I will be sharing some of the presentations from my nominations.
- Senator Mia
 - I was a summer replacement last summer.
 - Summer is a very chaotic time in senate.
 - Senate is for the greater good of the student body.
 - This is not the time we have had a split senate.
 - Checks and balances is here, we are vetting all the nominees.
- Member at Large Ponce:
 - I will be speaking to you about SSB 2023-1052 on behalf of senator Joah Levine.
 - The first revision focuses on the senate body approving the R&A committee recommendations if there is a nomination of a new candidate on the floor.
 - This pivotal revision aims to grant the senate an invaluable opportunity to hear directly from the candidates.
 - The second and third revisions are making the voter threshold for committee's recommendations and majority in the fore nomination a $\frac{2}{3}$.
 - This is to make sure that every member of the senate possesses a thorough understanding of the candidates being nominated from the floor.

- Amendment 1 works to lessen the required threshold to approve a potential senator.
- Section G addresses the situation when a committee's recommendation fails and the floor is automatically opened up for nominations.
- The revisions introduce a comprehensive process for floor nominations
- Retaining the $\frac{2}{3}$ voter threshold guarantees a genuinely bipartisan decision.
- Please consider Senator Levine's original intent when reviewing this legislation.
- Member at Large Liu
 - I would like to go over a message from President Green: This was the first time that the Change party has been in power within the senate.
 - I will now go over SGP nominee Luke Holderman's presentation.
 - As a member of Student Government Productions for going onto three years, I have had the opportunity to play my essential role in putting on four organizational shows.
 - After holding the position of assistant comptroller, I can confidently say I am the most capable of continuing to provide the student body with memorable experiences.
 - As comptroller, I've also had the opportunity to communicate with other organizations and provide funding for those wishing to throw their own event.
 - If approved tonight, I'll continue to use my experience to put on the most cost-efficient shows for the entire student body while continuing to foster organizational communication with those wishing to provide it for the greater good.
- Chairman Stephens:
 - I am trying to focus on expanding our public health access on campus.
 - I am looking to work on some early voting provisions.
 - I want to make sure the Judiciary committee is filled with objective criteria.
 - I want voter thresholds to remain consistent.
 - I want to address some of the negative comments about this amendment.
 - It hurts me that I submitted this amendment and nobody talked to me about it until now.
 - I think it is ridiculous that we are using other individuals to spread political smear campaigns about other individuals just so that we can gain political capital.
 - I hope in the future we can have that conversation and share these opinions.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Parker Rossignol for the Academic Affairs Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Myzell Amaro for the Athletics and Recreation Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Clayton Bush for the Campus Safety Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Nadya Defrietas for the Finance and Fees Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Paul Camardo for the Graduate, Professional, and Family Affairs Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Filomena Selvanik for the Health Affairs Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Giulliana Perez for the Legal Affairs Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Ellie Stokes for the Press Secretary Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Jason DeHart for the Solicitor General Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Adam Birnbau for the Special Projects Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Max Geller for the Student Services Executive Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Gokul Muralidharan for the Technology Secretary nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Reagan McGurk for the Class Councils Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Phoebe Funai for the Action SG Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Samuel Hendler for the ACCENT Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Luke Holderman for the Student Government Productions Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Jack Levy for the Student Government Productions Comptroller Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Elizabeth Hartzog for the Student Government Institute Agency Head nomination by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Sophia Fakhouri for the Summer B Sophomore seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Timothy Sinclair for the open Judiciary seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Laurie Wang for the open Judiciary seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve John Brinkman for the open Budget & Appropriations seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Anghelo Gangano for the open Budget & Appropriations seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Ana Alvarez for the open Budget & Appropriations seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Michael Lim for the open Budget & Appropriations seat by unanimous consent. Objection.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Zoe Richter for the open Rules & Ethics seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Joaquin Marcelino for the open Rules & Ethics seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Raj Mia for the open Rules & Ethics seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Eric Oh for the open Rules & Ethics seat by unanimous consent. Objection.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Cec Wood-Barron for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Eric Oh for the open Information & Communications seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Halle Burton for the open permanent District A seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Maya Idiculla for the open permanent District A seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond moves to approve Mikhail Mikhaylov for the open permanent District C seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Timothy Sinclair for the open Judiciary seat. Seconded. ¹
- Chairman Stephens moves to call previous question by unanimous consent.
- That motion passes.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes. ¹
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Maya Idiculla for the open District A seat. Seconded. ²
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.

- In a standing vote, that motion passes. ²
- Majority Party Leader Liang nominates Jeff John for the open District A seat.
- Minority Party Leader Allemond nominates Christian Jubran for the open District A seat.
- In a standing vote of 32-29, Jeff John is approved for the open District A seat.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Halle Burton for the open District A seat. Seconded. ³
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- In a standing vote of 30-31, that motion fails. ³
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Clayton Bush for Campus Safety Executive Secretary Nomination. Seconded. ⁴
- Senator Mia calls to previous question by unanimous consent. Objected
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Brinkman moves to appeal the decision of the chair that there should be no debate on R&A recommendations in Amendments to the Agenda. Seconded.
- In a standing vote of 30-32, that motion fails.
- In a standing vote of 34-27, that motion passes. ⁴
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Nadya Defreitas for Finance and Fees. Seconded. ⁵
- Senator Mia calls to previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- In a standing vote of 30-28, that motion passes. ⁵
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Jason DeHart for Solicitor General. Seconded. ⁶
- There were two rounds of pro-con debate.
- In a standing vote of 33-29, that motion passes. ⁶
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to recommit Halle Burton to the Replacement & Agenda committee. Seconded. ⁷
- There were 2 rounds of pro-con debate.
- In a standing vote of 31-32, that motion passes. ⁷
- Senator Brinkman moves to appeal the decision of the chair that the District C Replacement & Agenda recommendation must be heard in Amendments to the Agenda and not in the Replacement & Agenda Committee recommendations in which presentation time is allowed. Seconded.
- In a standing vote of 31-30, that motion fails.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to recommit Mikhail Mikhaylov to the Replacement & Agenda committee. Seconded ⁸
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- In a standing vote of 34-27 the motion passes. ⁸
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Adam Birnbau for Special Projects. Seconded. ⁹
- Senator Mia calls to previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- In a standing vote of 34-27, the motion passes. 9
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Max Geller by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Gokul Muralidharan by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to fail Phoebe Funai by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to table Samuel Hendler by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to table Luke Holderman by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to table Jack Levy by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to table Ellie Stokes by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to table Parker Rossignol by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1053 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 to Student Senate Bill 2023-1052 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 to Student Senate Bill 2023-1054 by unanimous consent. Objection.
- Senator Marcelino moves to make a friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1051 to amend the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to make a second friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1051 to amend the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to make a third friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1051 to amend the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to make a fourth friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1051 to amend the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to make a fifth friendly amendment to Student Senate Bill 2022-1051 to amend the proviso by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2023-1051 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to make a special rule to hear all approved and failed absences as a bloc by unanimous consent.
- Senator Bowman moves to approve the bloc of approved absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Chairman Stephens moves to make a special rule to exempt senators from writing main motions made by unanimous consent on the voter record by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to make a special rule that any senators wishing to add their names to the sponsors line for Student Senate Bill 2023-1051 are able to approach the Senate Secretary to request their name be put in by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Student Body President Green:
 - I would like to start off by asking everyone who was present during the executive nomination interviews to raise their hand.
 - Who has reached out to said nominations regarding questions or concerns?
 - Since Chairman Stephens objected to turning the camera to the crowd of senators, I will just tell everyone watching for full transparency that not a single hand was raised.
 - Raise your hand if you have reached out to me about your questions or concerns.
 - Once again, no hands are raised.
- Chairman Stephens addresses the chamber for ten seconds: President Green is badgering Change Party.
 - I would actually like to piggyback off of what Chairman Stephens just said.
 - In my presentation both last meeting and today, I said specifically both sides of the aisle.
 - Neither Gator nor Change was present at these interviews or reached out about any concerns.
 - This is not a party issue, it is a senate issue.
 - From what I have seen these past two meetings, it seems like only one side of the aisle is standing up.
 - From that same aisle, nobody has reached out about questions or concerns.
 - I am going to reach out to you all and email any senator voting against these nominations asking if you have questions, concerns, or comments.
 - For example, you did not even give Clayton Bush a chance to come and speak, but instead spoke for him and stated that he used his sexual assault as a chance for a political ploy.

- I think that that is not “avoiding personal attacks” as we put on the top of the agenda.
- Your voter record is public record.
- If you felt uncomfortable about what Senator Stephens said about Chayton Bush’s sexual assault, yet you still voted to fail him, that is public record.
- If you think these people are qualified, then vote for them.
- You shouldn’t have to feel pressured to vote a certain way.
- Your fighting is screwing over students.
- Both Student Government Productions and Comptroller nominations that I have put up are the only people that have served in this role.
 - Presents on behalf of Jack Levy:
 - I have had two years of experience in SGP.
 - I am looking forward to applying what I have learned to the comptroller role for this upcoming school year.
 - I am unable to be here tonight because I am studying abroad, but I am looking forward to, if elected, working with you all soon.
- As for Class Councils, Reagan came ready with an entire plan for restructuring Class Councils.
- She came with a month-by-month plan to rework Class Councils.
 - Presents on behalf of Reagan McGurk
 - While I am unable to be here with you today, I am honored to have been nominated for the role of Class Councils Agency Head.
 - I hope I will be able to shed some light on my qualifications and plans for this position.
 - I have been serving in Class Councils for the last two years as Sophomore Class President and Junior Class Representative.
 - I have learned how the traditions we implement impact the student body.
 - I have many internal and external plans for the upcoming year.
 - Internally, I would like to restructure some of the positions in Class Councils.
 - I would like to integrate our flex program more closely to Class Councils.
 - Externally, I would like to create and expand upon several traditions.
 - A tradition I would like to improve upon would be the Great Gator Welcome.
 - This event is in jeopardy if the Agency Head role is not filled.
 - Our freshmen could benefit from a more comprehensive welcome to UF.

- I have plenty more ideas and suggestions, but for the sake of time I will wrap it up.
- Presents a video on behalf of Samuel Hendler of ACCENT.
- I will now present for Phoebe Funai.
- She was the only applicant with prior experience in Action SG.
 - Presents on behalf of Phoebe Funai:
 - 2021-2022, I was Vice-Chair of Special Projects.
 - 2022-2023, I was Director of Graphic Design.
 - I was Information and Communications Chair for the Student Senate for two terms.
 - I plan to do an SG newsletter and monthly recap on the Instagram feed, work on getting new merch, and give a platform to underrepresented organizations.
 - I would like to collaborate with other agencies, cabinet, and student organizations to do story takeovers and join events.
- I am not trying to come with any aggression or anger, but I am angry.
- As Student Body President, I have a responsibility to uphold for the student body, but your filibustering is hindering this process.
- Please reach out to me so I can ensure the student body's opportunities are not hindered by the senate.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Santiago Perez:
 - I would like to announce that Chairman Ethan Ghozali is my new liaison for UFPD.
 - The new RecSports liaison is John Rassel.
 - I would like to introduce Alejandro and Jenna, the Senate Secretaries.
 - Some of these nominations that were tabled will still be able to be heard during R&A recommendations.
 - I want to make sure the time during Student Body Officer Reports is not abused.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Student Body President Green presents on behalf of Aaron Sindhu:
 - There were five minutes of Q&A.
- Senator Bowman moves to make a special rule to allow for three minutes of presentation on behalf of the applicant by their designee after a two minute Q&A period. Seconded.
- Senator Bowman moves to make a special rule to allow for a three minute presentation period for Aaron Sindhu by unanimous consent. Objected.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes.

- Senator Bowman moves to make a special rule to allow for a three minute presentation period for Aaron Sindhu. Seconded.
- In a standing vote, that motion fails.
- There were 4 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Chairman Stephens moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to table Aaron Sindhu by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to hear the remaining executive nominations as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to table all remaining executive nominations within the bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to call previous question on the Summer B replacement by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to table Sophia Fakhouri by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Stephens moves to recommit Laurie Wang to R&A. Seconded. ¹⁰
- Senator Mia calls to previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- In a voice vote, that motion fails. ¹⁰
- Senator Mia calls for a division of the house.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes. ¹⁰
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to open the floor to nominations for the open Budget & Appropriations seat. Seconded.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senator Bowman nominates Senator Mia for the open Budget & Appropriations seat. Senator Mia accepts the nomination.
- Senator Lim is up to be considered for the open Budget & Appropriations seat. Senator Lim yields his presentation time.
- There were 3 minutes of Q&A followed by 3 rounds of pro-con debate.
- In a standing vote of 37-22, Senator Mia is chosen for the open Budget & Appropriations seat.

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Brinkman moves to use voter records as the final roll call. Seconded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pro-Tempore McGinnis announces open seats.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.