

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

June 20, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:05 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 60 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Avila**
- **Cable**
- **Chung**
- **Cox**
- **Khuddus**
- **Lasch**
- **Liu**
- **Neidenburg**
- **Patrick**
- **Ponce**
- **Stephens**
- **Vijayaraghavan**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senator Garcia Ramos:**
 - I am a Summer C replacement senator representing the College of Engineering.
 - I met with the Ad-Hoc committee, and we had a very warm and productive meeting.
 - I view this committee as an example of how our 2 parties can work together effectively.
 - The gator caucus members of the R&A committee do not seem to be taking notes.
 - When R&A was able to meet, Minority Party Leader Allemand, Members-At-Large Ponce and Liu would come up with the most arbitrary excuses for not showing up.
 - They claimed that the committee did not even remember the interviews or that nobody that they interviewed stood out.
 - I lost all confidence in these members being capable of any objectivity.
 - Last week, Minority Party Leader Allemand thought it was justified to file unsubstantiated charges against the senate president.

- In light of the recent attacks on the LGBTQ+ community, bodily autonomy, and DEI at the state and federal levels, quite frankly I don't care about your Roddy Ricch concert.
- The student body president will argue that the students love these traditions, but let me ask: which students exactly?
- Now more than ever, we need to work together to advocate on behalf of the student body.
- Gator party would rather play politics than look out for the good of the student body.
- Perhaps you should look at yourself before making accusations of this kind against others.
- It is very clear that the gator party's sense of self awareness, self accountability, and self responsibility has long since departed.
- Senator Richter:
 - I wanted to explain the R&E meeting from last Saturday and why I voted to exonerate.
 - The complaint consisted of three charges: malfeasance, moral turpitude, and forgery.
 - The burden of proof was on Minority Party Leader Allemand.
 - I voted against expulsion on the grounds that Minority Party Leader Allemand did not provide enough evidence that Santiago Perez was guilty beyond reasonable doubt.
 - The decision for me was dependent on the lack of evidence to prove intent.
 - Every member of the committee verbally agreed that the charge of malfeasance was unfounded.
 - I hope this serves to clarify a little bit, and I am more than open to answer any questions about the case.
- Senator Marcelino:
 - As a member of the R&E committee, I'd like to talk about the outcome of the Allemand v. Santiago Perez case.
 - I think the committee members came to a mutual agreement.
 - We upheld our promises of keeping an open mind and staying objective.
 - As a plaintiff, Allemand proposed the evidence for his testimony; still with this, the burden of proof was not sufficient.
 - The evidence presented was circumstantial at best.
 - No malicious intent could be proven to charge Santiago Perez with moral turpitude.
 - Seeing as the rules & procedures allow for senators to help other senators with voter records, there was no evidence of malfeasance.

- The plaintiff did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Santiago Perez was guilty of any of the charges.
- While some of us may have voted differently, we still respect each other and I hope we can continue to respect each other across the aisle.
- Majority Party Leader Liang:
 - I wanted to talk about respect and sacrifice in SG.
 - I want to say I am proud of my caucus.
 - I've been offended when people have told my caucus to not vote as a bloc.
 - I think it's important to recognize the sacrifice people have to make to be in SG.
 - Summer A was tough on a lot of us.
 - I have been very partisan this summer term, but moving forward I want that to change.
 - I had a great conversation with Minority Party Leader Allemand and Chairwoman Clark today as well as Chairperson Stephens.
 - We talked about making sure that we are not offending anyone in the chamber.
 - It is disappointing we can't hear two pieces of legislation tonight.
- Ronin Lupien:
 - I normally just introduce myself to senators, but I don't know if any of you heard about the \$75 million allocation for the Jacksonville campus.
 - I encourage you all to think of ways to be proactive.
 - USF, FAU, and FIU all have some form of a governor.
 - Hopefully we can have a way for graduate students to be able to govern themselves.
- Senator Bowman:
 - Ronin brought up a great point about giving representation to satellite campuses.
 - I would like to apologize for not getting my ad-hoc public noticed for today; I did not think about how holidays would affect public noticing.
 - I saw some of the most clear communication between parties about what meetings would look like.
 - Gator started pulling stunts and Change stopped communicating.
 - I implore both parties to work together.
 - Please fill these seats in R&A.
 - I am annoyed about our inability to hear the LGBTQ+ Celebration Space Legislation tonight.
 - Please meet so I and others can present legislation before the senate.
 - I wonder if you also believe that queer youth should feel valued.
 - Vindicate me.
- Senator Monson:
 - I'm a replacement senator.
 - I'm here to propose a resolution for Garage 14.

- As of now, there's 1400 open spots for faculty, 1900 total.
- There were 1,112 open spots for a parking garage.
- My resolution is to have us come together and propose for more red parking in that garage as well as more ground parking for graduate students.
- The garage was such an expensive investment that is being put to waste.
- This will benefit every on-campus student; if we can even get off-campus parking that would also be great.
- Please message me if you have any questions.
- Vivienne Serret:
 - I am a pre-law journalism and criminology student.
 - I am your student government reporter for the summer and fall term.
 - Nobody else in the Alligator and the College of Journalism wants this job.
 - I want to emphasize that I am a transparent person.
 - The typo in my most recent article was not me.
 - I like to have fun when I write my articles.
 - In two weeks, it is going to be the Alligator's new student edition.
 - If anyone wants to reach out to me for my SG article, please feel free.
 - I am very passionate about legislation, and it's extremely important to me that new students can share and read the brief so that when they come to UF, they don't lose their spark.
 - While I'm in or outside these chambers, feel free to call me Vivienne or Viv.
 - I am genuinely very happy to be here for the rest of the year.
- Senator Lim:
 - I am a summer replacement senator representing District D.
 - My seat will be vacating at the end of the Summer A term.
 - I feel it's important to share my perspective when I was making this bill.
 - Shoutout to Laurie Wang, she was a huge support when working on this resolution.
 - I came up with the idea for this resolution because the decision from the Florida Board of Governors to ban Asian social media platforms at public universities has anti-Asian, discriminatory sentiment.
 - Part of the reason they justified this ban across Florida was because of national security concerns.
 - There have been concerns about what user data is tracked by social media companies, who the data is being accessed by, and what they are doing with this data.
 - Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp are all owned by the same company, Meta.
 - Facebook has given access to private user data to Asian companies, posing threats to national security.
 - No regulations are made on non-Asian social media platforms.

- Let me pose a question: if there were genuine concerns about national security with the usage of these social media platforms, would several leaders of the free world and U.S. presidents be active users of Instagram and/or Facebook?
- The answer to this question is a resounding no.
- I firmly believe that there was racist, anti-Asian sentiment that informed the Florida Board of Governor's ban on Asian social media platforms across the state at public universities.
- I urge the student body senate to pass this resolution come Summer B.
- Chairwoman Clark:
 - While I am speaking on the perspective and knowledge that I gained while chairing Saturday's hearing, I am speaking as a concerned student first.
 - The committee's investigation/decision are finalized, so I am speaking because I think the student body deserves more than what they got with this decision.
 - Our nearly 4 hour meeting ended in a 4-1 vote to exonerate Santiago Perez of all charges against them.
 - In final deliberations, there was discussion about potentially tabling the decision until sworn statements could be obtained from Faisal and Santiago Perez.
 - The majority of committee members seemed to support this idea, but it was decided not to be beneficial with the end of Summer A quickly approaching
 - I believe there are still many questions surrounding the circumstances of the case.
 - All claims of Virani's physical attendance at the 2/21/23 senate meeting rest on her statement.
 - Although the committee learned that Virani provided many conflicting/false statements, he reclaim still remained the most critical piece of evidence in the case.
 - Virani never brought up a completed voter record in our email threads; after I brought up my confusion about the voter record, she stopped replying to my emails.
 - If Virani hypothetically entered the senate chamber that night and got Santiago Perez to fill out her voter record, why would she not fight for the committee to recognize it?
 - I bring up the inconsistencies and mistrust in Virani because it is the only written statement of events that the committee had to reach their decision.
 - I believe the senate chamber deserves sworn statements from Santiago Perez and Faisal to confidently accept the decision reached at the hearing.
 - All I want for our chambers is a corroboration of Virani's claims, and I hope that someone else can attest on sworn record that Virani did physically make it to senate.
 - At this point in time, this cannot be corroborated/confirmed in order to instill trust and confidence in the head of our legislative branch.

- Oscar is one of only two paid senators; if the student body has any concerns about holes in this story, they should email them at senatepresident@sg.ufl.edu.
- Senator Leavengood gives his goodbye speech.
- Senator Faisal gives his goodbye speech.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Senator Marcelino moves to correct his public comment by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairperson Stephens moves to hear SSB2023 1065-1079 as a bloc by unanimous consent.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve that bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to have committee reports after the amendments to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. In a voice vote, that motion does not pass.
- Chairwoman Clark moves to add five absences to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Clark moves to hear those absences as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - The following absences are to be heard:
 - 5-23-2023: Sinclair (failed)
 - 6-6-2023: Hartnett (approved)
 - 6-13-2023: Cable (approved)
 - 6-13-2023: Wilson (approved)
 - 6-13-2023: Leitao (approved)
- Chairperson Bowman moves to approve the bloc of approved and failed absences by unanimous consent.
- Chairperson Bowman moves to approve SSB 2023-1059. Seconded. 1
- Chairperson Stephens moves to appeal the decision of the chair. As there was no second, that motion does not pass.
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Gangano moves to suspend the rules to add a round of pro-con debate by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- In a standing vote of 31-26 with 1 abstention, that motion passes. 1

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore McGinnis:
 - I will start off with the open seats.
 - We will not be meeting the Sunday before classes start in Summer B, so we will meet the following Sunday.
 - I will take time to talk about the R&A meetings.
 - I think the R&A committee was not too productive during this Summer A term, so I'd like to see that change.
 - I have noticed there's a lot of discrepancies within our codes & procedures and our constitution.
 - If you see any discrepancies, please let me know so we can work on codes to change and amend that.

Open Permanent Committee Seats:

- I&C
- Judiciary (5)
- R&E (3)

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Beaty
- Dentistry
- District C
- District D
- Graduate (2)
- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Veterinary Medicine

Open Summer B Seats:

- Accounting
- Building Construction
- Design, Construction, and Planning
- District B
- District D
- Engineering
- Graduate (4)
- Graduate & Family Housing
- Hume (Summer B)
- Lakeside
- Law

- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Springs
- Sophomore (2)

JUDICIARY:

- Chairperson Stephens:
 - Legislation will be due Thursday, July 6 at noon to my email.
 - I am planning on the week of July 3rd to host a legislative workshop; this is for those who are interested in writing legislation to come in and learn more.
 - Please apply for Judiciary seats; there were supposed to be 2 resolutions heard on the floor tonight, but they will not be because of a lack of judiciary seats.
 - It's important for us to prioritize these committees.
 - If you have any questions or interest in the legislative process, please talk to me.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Vice-Chairman Brinkman:
 - Big Five hearings are coming this July so get ready for that.
 - If you have any questions about budget in general or would like to submit any code revisions, please send them to budget@sg.ufl.edu.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Clark:
 - Constituency is due today so please submit it by 11:59PM.
 - R&E is meeting tomorrow at 3:00PM in the SG conference room to go over any absences.
 - We will be releasing a probation status in Summer B for those who did not meet their constituency requirement in Summer A.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairman Ghozali:
 - Nametags have been ordered, so those are going to be coming in.
 - We have a LinkTree in our Instagram bio.
 - We are going to be looking into getting the livestream cameras in the senate chamber so we can get a full view.

AD-HOC ON MENTAL HEALTH:

- Senator Bowman:
 - I'm excited that we have our first supporter for Mental Health days from a college.
 - We have a CWC meeting and DRC meeting in the works so I'll keep you all updated.

AD-HOC ON FALL 2023 REAPPORTIONMENT ALIGNMENT:

- Chairperson Stephens:
 - We will be having a meeting tomorrow in the SG Conference room at 2:00PM.
 - We will be discussing some pending business.
 - We are projected to get reapportionment done around the middle of the Summer B Legislative Cycle.

FIRST READINGS:

- Chairwoman Clark yields her time to present on Student Senate Bill 2023-1055.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Deputy Majority Party Leader Nair:
 - This is my last meeting as deputy.
 - I'm still around in Gainesville.
 - To my caucus, it has been great getting to know all of you.
 - I'm almost approaching a year of senate so you can ask me anything.
- Senator Mia:
 - GAU is having their bargaining session on the 23rd.
 - I just wanted to highlight graduate issues because GAU is undergoing some massive changes possibly and graduate students are under threat.
- Senator Richter:
 - Green Caucus had our first meeting.
 - We talked about potentially opening a thrift store in the Reitz Union in tandem with the clothes rental exchange.
- Senator Marcelino:
 - I wanted to congratulate us on not being here until 11:00PM.
 - Thank you to all of the R&E members for being respectful.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.