

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

July 11, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:09 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 66 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Clark**

Senate President Santiago Perez gives a land acknowledgement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Gangano:
 - A couple hundred bills got passed in Florida.
 - I thought I would mention two of the ones that I thought were most relevant to educational systems.
 - The Graduate Assistants United Union is at risk of being subject to a host of new requirements to keep our union afloat.
 - If you value your graduate assistants and unions, I wrote a resolution that condemns this bill.
 - The UFF (University Faculty of Florida) has filed a lawsuit against the governor of Florida because of how union busting is going to impact lives and jobs throughout the state.
 - If you have any interest in supporting my resolution, my email is anghelo.gangano@ufl.edu and I will email you that resolution.
 - The second piece of legislation when we were off campus was H.B. 1069.
 - Florida is the epicenter of book banning in the past year among the United States.
 - This one is really personal to me; if you value freedom of speech, the second resolution I wrote is about that.
- Ronin Lupien:
 - I want to first speak on surveys I have done before and during elections.
 - I am encouraged by what I heard in R&A from Senators Wang, Kinggard, and Rodriguez said about using data from surveys.
 - The surveys I do usually get around 80 respondents.
 - I encourage the student government to be proactive on finding ways that they can collect data from the student body.

- I am glad that Senator Mia has put forward a shape to how legislation regarding satellite campuses can be put forward.
- Senator Lasch:
 - We've all taken an oath to serve this student population, and this time of service is a gift.
 - It's a gift because it teaches us about the virtues of courage, temperance, justice, and wisdom.
 - As we all know, our service comes with great responsibility and our voices are heard by every student at UF.
 - We borrow our power from the people we serve.
 - There's a responsibility to be accountable for each other and ourselves.
 - We don't shy away from PRR's and we acknowledge that these processes are good governance.
 - Being responsible and accountable means that the time in these chambers is well-spent and not spent perpetuating gridlock.
 - The concepts of justice and fairness should not be contingent upon whether we are in the majority or not.
 - We should have the courage to acknowledge that we are all better when there is not an oppositional voice demanding that we consider alternatives.
 - As students in academics, we should be enthusiastic about engaging people with different views.
 - I would like to reflect on some of the important lessons that I think we've learned in the last two legislative sessions that have mostly ended in gridlock.
 - There's going to be a lot of work to get done over the next couple weeks so buckle up.
 - If you're simply here because you're motivated by external recognition, political power, or blind party allegiances, you may have sold your personal integrity at too low of a price.
 - Most importantly, there's over 60,000 students watching and waiting to see how we will meet their needs.
 - We are all accountable for those we serve.
 - We need look no further than our own federal government to see the chaos that we live under when we play a zero-sum game of politics.
- Michael Lim:
 - I served as a summer replacement senator.
 - I'd like to take a moment to thank Laurie Wang; it was a pleasure to work on legislation with her.
 - When it comes to this resolution, my primary intent was two-fold.
 - I wanted to make it clear that UF stands against discrimination in any form wherever it may occur.

- I also wanted to make sure that we have an explicit acknowledgment of the challenges faced by international students as they attend this university.
- Many international students are attending UF on an F-1 or F-2 visa which means that they are unable to find employment off campus.
- I'd like to emphasize that with this bill, we're looking to have a concrete action plan moving forward including a call to action.
- The proviso includes the student body presidents of every public university in Florida.
- We want to see the repeal of this racist, discriminatory decision taken against Asian communities.
- The next Florida Board of Governors meeting is going to be held in the Reitz Union from August 28th-29th.
- I think it would be awesome if you could all add yourself to the sponsors line of this resolution and join me in demanding the immediate repeal of this decision.
- Senator Bowman:
 - I am here to talk about the meeting the mental health ad-hoc had with the CWBC.
 - The waitlist has been drastically reduced.
 - They are continuing to increase the services they can provide, even with a limited staff.
 - They continue to do work with other student resources to give students more comprehensive health options.
 - The one ask we left that meeting with is to help them give this message to students.
 - Most students at this university have no idea that they can schedule an appointment and not be put on a waitlist for months.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls for a 3-minute recess.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 7:43 pm.
- Senator Garcia-Ramos moves to suspend the rule to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Savannah Partridge:
 - In light of university committee applications being extended, I thought it would be appropriate to discuss student engagements, specifically amongst nominees.
 - University committees make important decisions on university-level projects.
 - It is essential that students be a part of these committees.
 - We have some things like the new DRC building, but nobody knew about that.
 - There are five students nominated for parking and transportation, 1 student for lakes, vegetation and landscaping, and 3 students for land use and facilities planning.
 - These meetings only happen once or twice a month.

- If you are in Red 1, you are expected to pay \$360 on top of the \$180 for parking on campus, where parking is already limited.
- There was not a single student member present in the TAPS meeting today.
- Stop nominating students who are not willing or adequately able to represent the student body.
- You don't have to be a nominated member, you can just show up if you want.
- You can email the project managers for major developments.
- If you are a visiting member of the community, you still have a voice, so use it.
- Being proactive will be the most efficient way that you can induce change on campus.
- Cassie Urbenz:
 - For those who have been talking about me, I am a student this summer.
 - I also want to talk about land acknowledgements.
 - I actually agree with President Green's reasoning for vetoing this.
 - It means a lot to briefly address the communities whose land was stolen and it only takes a moment.
 - We have been trying to get any provision for over a year.
 - I look forward to hearing one at the state of the campus address.
 - I would like to talk about me leaving Change party.
 - I was going through a lot when I first joined SG.
 - I feel broken because it hurts, but I know the pain was coming and necessary.
 - There is too much at stake with GAU.
 - Change has become too much of a distraction for me.
 - I would be more than happy to maintain connections with those within this chamber.
- Senator Mia:
 - As many of you should know, there were over 19 bills submitted which were authored by myself.
 - I submitted 2 bills referring to the satellite campuses.
 - Article 2 Section 5 of the constitution lays out a framework for satellite campuses.
 - For reference, we currently have 4 satellite campuses.
 - In light of there being 10,000 students in this new Jacksonville satellite campus, they need something more substantive to represent them.
 - That being said, the 900 codes I wrote lays out the framework for governing a student body.
 - This 900 codes revision would establish a governor, a lieutenant governor, and their own legislative body.
 - Our supreme court here on campus would be the supreme power and the end-all be-all.
 - I also have a proviso regarding the Jacksonville satellite campus.

- The Jacksonville Jaguars put aside money for the satellite campus to be built close to the Jags stadium.
- I added these because if the satellite campuses are established, they would have power in which they could act autonomously.
- I also added a clause that included monetary benefits.
- I also have a section for a necessity clause for an initial establishment of our electoral system.
- We would establish an initial electoral system within their student government, and then afterwards they would have their own constitutional convention as long as it's in tandem with the university body constitution.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Julia Seifer for the open I&C seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Laurie Wang for the open Judiciary seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Saketh Damera for the open Judiciary seat by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Christian Rodriguez for the open Judiciary Committee seat by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve the bloc of approved absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Parker Rossignol for the open Academic Affairs Executive Secretary position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Clayton Bush for Campus Safety by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Aaron Sindhu for the open Diversity Affairs position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Nadya Defreitas for the open Finance & Fees position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Filomena Selvanic for the open Health Affairs position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Giulliana Perez for the Legal Affairs Executive Secretary position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Ellie Stokes for the open Press Secretary position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Jason DeHart for Solicitor General by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Adam Birnbau for the open Special Projects position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Max Geller for Student Services by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Gokul Muralidharan for the open Technology Secretary by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Phoebe Funai for Action SG by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Luke Holderman for the open Student Government Productions by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to rescind his objection to the Solicitor General nominee. Senate President Santiago Perez rules that motion out of order.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to appeal the decision of the chair. In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- The motion to approve Jason DeHart for Solicitor General by unanimous consent passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Jack Levy for the open Student Government Productions Comptroller by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Hope Lerman for External Affairs by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Connor Lynch for Nightlife Navigators by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve the bloc of cabinet nominees by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Christian Rodriguez for the open Judiciary seat. Seconded. ¹
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman moves to make a special rule to allow for the Senate President to choose how to conduct votes for the remainder of the meeting by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- In a standing vote of 33-31, that motion fails. ¹
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to move R&A committee recommendations to after Bills under third reading. Seconded.
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- In a standing vote of 36-27, that motion fails.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to call to a recess until called back to order by the Senate President by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to call a recess until called back to order by the Senate President. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion fails.
- Senator Garcia-Ramos calls for a division of the house.

- In a standing vote of 33-28, that motion fails.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to recommit the ACCENT nomination back to the R&A committee. Seconded. ²
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Mia moves for a five minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Mia moves to add an extra round of con-pro debate. Seconded. ³
- In a standing vote of 33-32, that motion does not pass. ³
- Senator Mia moves for a quorum call.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 66 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Clark**
- A voice vote was conducted. ²
- Chairperson Stephens moves for a division of the house.
- Senator Mia calls for a quorum call.
- Chairman Cox calls for a recess. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 9:34pm.
- Senator Mia moves to suspend the rule to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Cox moves to reconsider the motion to move R&A recommendations to be after third readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes. ²
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to move the Budget committee report to after amendments to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Cox presents the Budget committee report:
 - Budget & Appropriations committee met last Wednesday-Friday to conduct first hearings for the Big Five entities.
 - One of the most important things to note is that there was a little over \$350,000 of a refinanced student bond that gave us additional money for the 0% budget.
 - For the recreational sports budget, the biggest change is under personnel: there has been an increase in personnel.

- We allocated money to student jobs to avoid these jobs being lost.
- Sports clubs get a small increase.
- Four of the five Big Five entities no longer have to pay an overhead fee.
- The operations line of the Reitz Union is getting a \$300,000 increase.
- Event services, RU Experiences, and Programmatic chose to increase the budgets.
- For the 5% increase, that is just an increase to the overall budget.
- The Sorority & Fraternity Life's only increase in the 5% is going back to their staff salaries as well as graduate assistants.
- The administration is getting decreased; the leader of this entity stated that they simply did not need that money.
- Student Activities & Involvement's increase is in salaries and staff.
- There is a decrease in programming because of summer Gator Nights.
- Administration and Continuing Education is simply to retain staff as previously stated.
- We were told that Class Councils was a little short on budget, so we felt that this was a good place to allocate some funding to.
- As for the SG Projects line: out of the \$62,000, \$33,000 of it is coming out of other line items.
- The Admin Fee is the overhead, just called something different.
- In group budgets, there is a \$311,000 increase.
- Please reach out; I care a lot about this budget and I put a lot of hours into it, so if you have any questions please email me.
- Senator Mia gives a minority report:
 - Budget did its job and we worked hard for the last three days.
 - I will talk about some of the disagreements I had with the budget as well as some context.
 - Some of the disagreements I have included the Class Councils decision.
 - A big thing you will see here is Student Academic Success and Travel.
 - The concern I raise is that this money would still be spent towards these lines, and they couldn't give me an exact number because it varies.
 - I highlighted in the first, second, and third hearings that I'm very opposed to moving these lines.
 - If you have money left over, 99 times out of 100 that leftover money gets cut.
 - When it comes to salaries, there is a lot of inflation that has to be addressed.
 - One of the things that I'm most proud of and support wholeheartedly in this budget is the increase to organizations that we fund.
 - As for ACCENT and SG, the concern that I raised is that I'd like to see more structural things changed within these two departments to assure the quality control is to the utmost.
 - We got a tour of the Student Legal Services and it was great.

- I also had some other qualms with some other Big Five organizations, but those were dealt with.
- The big thing with Class Councils that I wanted to highlight is the ring dance.
- I believe that traditions that we bring to campus are valuable; and having class community is an important thing, but I want to see a change in leadership and some better oversight.

- **EXECUTIVE BRANCH:**

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Student Body President Green:
 - Thank you for approving the majority of the nominations.
 - As far as Campus Safety, ACCENT, Graduate, Gators Going Green, and YLC, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me.
 - Sam, in addition to responding to that email, has also given several public comments and a whole 4-minute video as well as reaching out to members of both sides to see if they had any questions or concerns.
 - He is one of the most qualified people who applied as well as having the most significant experience in ACCENT.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Santiago Perez:
 - I want to announce there will be a meeting at Southwest Rec on July 25th.
 - I believe there will be a tour offered around Southwest Rec at 6:15pm, so 45 minutes before the senate meeting begins.
 - I have been coordinating to have a joint city commission and senate meeting here in the senate chamber.
 - If you have any suggestions for topics or ideas that could be discussed during the senate meeting with the city commission, please talk to me after this senate meeting.
 - I want to announce one more ad-hoc committee for reproductive rights.
 - The membership of the committee is to be determined, and I hope to have non-senators on the ad-hoc.
 - The president of this committee will be Faith Corbett and the Vice-Chair will be Isabella Scramoncin.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore McGinnis:

- Regarding R&A behavior, there are a lot of times when we approve candidates based off numbers.
- Please do not nominate someone in a committee to be put on the agenda just to speak against them if you don't intend on supporting them.
- These are people we are dealing with, not numbers.
- R&A will be meeting again this Sunday.

Open Permanent Committee Seats

- Judiciary (4)
- R&E (3)

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Beaty
- Dentistry
- District C (2)
- District D (2)
- Graduate (4)
- Veterinary Medicine
- CLAS (2)
- Journalism

Open Summer C Seats:

- Accounting
- Building Construction
- Design, Construction, and Planning
- District B
- Engineering
- Graduate (4)
- Graduate & Family Housing
- Hume
- Lakeside
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Springs
- Sophomore (2)

JUDICIARY:

- Chairperson Stephens:

- Legislation will be due this Friday at noon.
- We're currently working on a project to reformat some of the student body statutes.
- If you have any questions or concerns about that, please let me know.
- I will be presenting on my Legislative Workshop; this will talk about the legislative process.
- I've been a part of senate since Summer of 2022.
- Through this process, I began to grow on my love for legislative writing.
- I'm very glad and humbled to be in this chamber for about a year.
- Legislation means a matter of business for or under consideration by a legislative body.
- There are five types of legislation: bills of law, resolutions, authorizations, special request authorizations, and primary or subsidiary budgets.
- Bills of law refer to amendments, additions, or removals of Student Body Statutes or legislative records of law similar to the Student Body Statutes in enforceability.
- Resolutions refer to an expression of the sentiment of the Student Senate.
- Authorizations refer to a directive that advises, orders, or prescribes the method for an officer to fulfill a duty provided for in the Constitution.
- Special request authorizations refer to an appropriation from special request funds.
- Primary or subsidiary budgets refer to budgets, usually deriving from the Activity and Service Fee Funds, which have been allocated to departments, organizations, entities, or other authorities for usage as outlined generally within the constitution.
- The standing committees who can review bills are the Judiciary, Budget, and Replacement & Agenda committees.
- The five criteria are outlined as constitutionality, legality, clarity, format, and implication.
- These are the standards that assess legislation to ensure that it's either effective or won't cause significant changes that could affect the student body.
- Some tips include reaching out to your constituents, checking in with Judiciary Committee Membership, checking constitution/laws to help fulfill legality and constitutionality, looking back at bills that have passed, sharing with the Party Leaders and Independents, and using apps like Grammarly or asking a trusted friend.
- You can contact me through email or reach the link through the website.

- Chairperson Stephens clarifies the voter record.

RULES & ETHICS:

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

AD-HOC ON MENTAL HEALTH:

AD-HOC ON FALL 2023 REAPPORTIONMENT ALIGNMENT:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

FIRST READINGS:

SECOND READINGS:

THIRD READINGS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Bowman moves to use voter record as final roll call by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chairman Cox moves to make a special rule to have all remaining committee reports be delivered electronically by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Allemand moves to use voter records as final roll call. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:53pm.