



Student Government
Office of the Senate President

Monday, July 10, 2023

300-54 JWRU
PO Box 118505
Gainesville, FL 32611-8505
352-392-1665 ext. 34422
352-392-8072 Fax

Dear Senate colleagues:

On Sunday, I received veto messages for 4 bills that were passed under second readings by the Student Senate. These vetoed pieces of legislation will be heard on Tuesday night under third readings. Legislation under third readings requires a two-thirds vote to override the veto. If an override vote fails, the veto is sustained, and the bill does not go into effect.

As the Senate President Pro-Tempore, Nathan McGinnis, has already sent out the bills for all to review, I will be sending the veto messages verbatim to you through this means.

“SSB 2023-1064: Graduate and Professional Student Summer Vacancy Requirements-300 Codes

SSB 2023-1064 seeks to alleviate the Summer enrollment requirement for all Graduate and Professional Students as long as they are enrolled for the following fall semester. While I agree that this is a beneficial addition for some professional schools such as the Levin College of Law, this bill appears to violate Article II, Section 3 of the UF Constitution. When you are not currently enrolled in courses, regardless of your Fall enrollment, you are not considered a current student at the University of Florida. Incoming first year students are not able to hold positions the summer before they start classes, students who are not enrolled during the summer do not have access to the Student Recreation Center, and individuals who are not enrolled are not currently able to hold Student Government positions. Additionally, the University of Florida specifically states under Rule 6.2.1, in order to be an officer of a Student Organization you have to “Be an enrolled, degree-seeking University student as defined by the Registrar during their term”. I believe holding a Student Organization Officer position aligns with holding a Student Government position and therefore to adhere to the rules outlined under the Constitution I am vetoing this bill. I will add that hopefully the Executive Branch will eventually have a Solicitor General confirmed by the Senate and once someone is in that role, I will ask them to research and engage the Court for further clarity on this issue.

SSB 2023-1062: The Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Act- 100 Codes

[SSB] 2023-1062 seeks to require the reading of an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement before a variety of Executive and Judicial Branch events. While I am evaluating how my administration may incorporate land acknowledgement into areas of our work, I believe this bill as written is an inappropriate overreach by the Legislative Branch. As a general rule, one branch mandating speech from another branch strikes me as a violation of the separation of powers. If the Senate would like to add a land acknowledgement to their own Rules & Procedures for their meetings, I support them in considering that. I would also welcome a conversation with members of the Legislative Branch in the future if they would like to discuss particular topics before writing legislative mandates that impact the Executive Branch. For these reasons, I am vetoing this bill.

SSB 2023-1061: Accountability Law For Regulating Election Disruption and Oppression (ALFREDO) Act

SSB 2023-1061 seeks to remove the possibility of threats, coercion, or intimidation throughout the election period. This bill aims to do so by punishment of disqualification. I believe there is merit in seeking to limit the probability of verbal attacks and threats and I unfortunately experienced both throughout the most recent campaign; however, it is my belief that as written, this bill has the potential to infringe on the First

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Amendment rights of our student body. I believe the author's intent was valid, but simply put it is too high a risk for litigation for this to be enacted as written. Therefore, I am forced to veto this bill.

SSB 2023-1067: Budget Online Resources Accessibility Act (BORAA)

[SSB] 2023-1067 seeks to require the Budget and Appropriations Committee to routinely update the 800 Codes summary document for student organizations to utilize. I wholeheartedly agree with the contents of this bill and look forward to this bill being resubmitted, passed, and approved. However, I am unable to approve SSB 2023-1067 at this time due to a grammatical error within the bill. In section 826.3 the segment “*for the purposes of provide a quick and succinct resource for student organizations to utilize*” the tense of provide is incorrect, as it should be “providing”. Other than that, I support Student Senate Bill 2023-1067 and look forward to signing it once reintroduced. For that reason, I am vetoing this bill.”

Thank you for taking the time to read these, and I will see you all on Tuesday night in the Senate Chambers.

Sincerely,
Oscar Santiago Perez

University of Florida Senate President

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1064

TITLE: Graduate and Professional Student Summer Vacancy Requirements (GPSVR) - 300 Codes Revisions

AUTHOR(S): Senator Anghelo Gangano

SPONSOR(S): Senator Raj Mia, Judiciary Vice Chair Joaquin Marcelino

CHAPTER 340 VACANCY REPLACEMENTS (Origin unknown; 68-132, 68-138, 72-108, 72-166, 72-193, 73-221, 76-135, 76-201, 76-202, 77-206, 81-112, 82-101, 82-118, 81- 121, 82-166, 83-123, 84-134, 84-166, Fall Election 1985 Initiative passed 340.72, 86-155, 86-156, 87-138, 87159, 90-133, 90-151, 91-119, 94-114, 94-122, 98-100, 98-114, 2000-136, 2001-138, 2005-126, 2006-101, 2007-118, 2008-138, 2015-109, 2020-1042, 2021-105)

- 340.1 A Student Senate seat shall be vacant when the incumbent Student Senator:
1. Fails to maintain the legal qualifications for office (SB Statutes 732.2) except for Student Senators who, during the summer, are not enrolled and instead invoke SB Statute 309.2.
 2. Representing a living area fails to maintain residence in that living area, except where non-residence is unavoidable due to the temporary closing of that living area.
 3. Representing a college or school transfers from that College or School; but transferring from Undergraduate Freshman Class or Undergraduate Sophomore Class shall not cause the seat to be vacated. (Article III, Section 2(b))
 4. Submits a written resignation to the President of the Student Senate.
 5. Is expelled from the Student Senate, in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 330.
 6. Fails to meet the constituency requirements in Chapter 324.
 7. Fails to meet the attendance requirements in Chapter 323.

8. Fills or continues to hold an office in the Judicial or Executive branches of Student Government in violation of Chapter 130.
9. Fails to register for summer course work at the University of Florida in either Summer A, B, or C, or any combination thereof.

340.11 Graduate and professional students who completed the Spring Semester as a registered full time student directly prior to the Summer term in question (Innovation Academy students notwithstanding) shall be exempt from 340.1 (9). This student must be registered for the Fall Semester directly following the Summer term in order to be eligible for this exemption.

340.111 Graduate and professional student replacements who completed the Spring Semester as a registered full time student directly prior to the Summer term in question (Innovation Academy students notwithstanding) shall be exempt from 340.1 (9). This student must be registered for the Fall Semester directly following the Summer term in order to be eligible for this exemption.

340.1~~1~~2 Definitions

1. Vacancy: A vacancy in the Student Senate shall occur upon the resignation, removal, expulsion, or impeachment of a Student Senator or upon the abandonment of the seat by the Student Senator.
2. Replacement: Replacement of a Student Senator is the filling of a vacated Student Senate seat.

Proviso: This law shall be enacted after the validation of the Fall 2023 Election Results.