

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

August 1st, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:11 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.

Senate President Santiago Perez gives a land acknowledgement.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 59 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- **Ali-McClory**
- **Avila**
- **Kinggard**
- **Khuddus**
- **Ponce**
- **Richter**
- **Rickert**
- **Wentworth**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Akshat Pant:
 - I am a computer science student here at UF and co-founder of Candor.
 - I find that many students like myself feel disconnected with the political community.
 - We feel that there is a lack of understanding within what goes on in student government.
 - There's no easy way for a student to voice their opinions with student government.
 - *Presents video.
 - Candor is a communication platform for all things politics.
 - Our platform is change oriented, we display transparent updates, and we display aggregated public profiles.
 - We believe this will positively impact politics and allow students to feel less apathetic towards being involved.
 - We also believe this will increase voter turnouts.
 - Transparency and trust will be built amongst the student body.
 - I can confidently say that our app is geared toward making tangible change.
 - I encourage you to scan the QR code and contact me with any questions.

- Our email is candor.now@gmail.com
- Michael Lim:
 - I can not use my presentation here, so it will be a bit more difficult to make a public comment.
 - The best word to describe the political atmosphere is tense.
 - Whenever I interact with members of either caucus, both parties have always treated me with respect and kindness.
 - I would encourage all of you to take a moment to reconnect with your humanity.
 - I wish to speak on one of the vetoed pieces of legislation that is going to be heard today: The ALFREDO Act.
 - I was planning on presenting an annotated version of the ALFREDO Act that highlights every clause from the bill.
 - I would like to make it exceedingly clear: I have read the Student Body President's concern, and I discussed extensively with Alfredo on this and all the language used in this bill is pulled directly from Florida state statutes.
 - If there are any concerns regarding the first amendment and any violations, I would encourage you to reach out to me.
 - If anyone here is not convinced that the contents of the ALFREDO Act are not aligned with the constitution, please reach out to me.
 - If there are any concerns whatsoever, please reach out.
 - I would like to remind the chambers that we have already passed the ALFREDO Act in two readings tonight.
- Senator Naidu:
 - I want to talk about a bill I've written: SSB 2023-1141.
 - I want to give a shoutout to Michael Lim for helping me write this.
 - This bill says that polling location data should be recorded and made public information.
 - Digitized methods should be utilized preferably over manual methods
 - I'm part of the election lab of Florida on-campus.
 - This data is very important because we're supposed to look at it during every voting cycle.
 - For us, this would be a bit more about certain areas of campus potentially being served better than others.
 - Fairness in voting is very big in this, and this data would be so vital for us in examining fairness.
 - I'm asking that when the time comes, you all can show support for this and for student government as a whole.
- Senator Bowman:
 - I would like to discuss the actions of the Judiciary committee this last Sunday.
 - For the failed bills, none of the five criteria were mentioned.

- I will be writing a Rules and Procedures change that makes it mandatory to cite the five criteria when tabling in the Judiciary committee.
- I would like to thank the Budget Committee for passing allocations for student government to both create a better bussing app and place a contraceptives vending machine.
- Tonight, I will be moving to discharge a bill tabled by the Judiciary committee.
- I do not understand why this was tabled as no five criteria reasons were cited.
- For my committee report: we have received promotional materials from the director of the CWC.
- Senator Rodriguez:
 - There's a couple things on the budget I wanted to discuss.
 - The consideration of the reapportionment bill that the ad-hoc committee recently drafted should be on the agenda.
 - Our caucus, change party, moved to add the reapportionment bill to the agenda; gator party provided no piece of evidence, and all they said was that they don't think it's a good idea.
 - They proposed to make a giant, off-campus, at large district to replace districts A through E.
 - The fact of the matter is that giant, at large districts like that are just the definition of voter dilution
 - When you have every single vote in the same election, people who live in districts that are mostly lower-class no longer have a representative they can vote for.
 - I really do hope we get to third readings.
 - In terms of the Land Acknowledgement Act, President Green cited that it would mandate speech of the executive branch, which would be crossing checks and balances.
 - By that logic, the state of the campus address is mandated speech and half of the things we require above the executive branch is unconstitutional.
 - President Green herself said that she likes the idea, so what is the issue?
 - In terms of ALFREDO, Michael Lim gave good reasons as to why we should override the veto.
 - Since when is it the president's responsibility to determine constitutionality?
 - The ALFREDO Act comes from the Florida statutes.
 - At the end of the day, if we want to worry about constitutionality, let the Supreme Court handle it.
 - The current system is just unfair and blatantly discriminates and disenfranchises graduate students over the summer.
- Senator Budhai:
 - I would like to inform our senate chambers about voter dilution and its significance to reapportionment.

- Voter dilution is the limitation and effectiveness of a particular group's vote by way of political gerrymandering.
- The real world cause and effect of it is that you drown out that area's voice instead of focusing on that area's particular struggles.
- This manifests into racial voter dilution.
- Of course, there are Supreme Court Syllabus about this.
- The Supreme Court unanimously voted against "At-Large" districts.
- You can no longer plead ignorance to this.
- Senator Reich, you suggested a 25 at large member district, and when I asked you about racial oppression voter dilution, you said you will not be answering.
- When I asked about another thing that included racial oppression, there was also no response.
- Minority Party Leader Allemand, you also proposed a more unjust plan: a 36 at large member district.
- You are going to take away the voices of these racial minorities by creating at large districts as proven by the Supreme Court.
- What about the people who need better RTS services because they are poor but won't have representation because you decided to take away their vote and their voice?
- I am really surprised that you guys are delegates, seeing as though you failed your constituents by proposing an unconstitutional plan and it is blatantly disrespectful.
- If anyone in Gator Party can answer this, please reach out: do you want to disparage students based on ethnic and racial discrimination and take away their voices?
- The way that your vote reflects on how you feel future students should be represented is how you will vote on reapportionment.
- Chairperson Stephens:
 - Senator Budhai and Rodriguez did a great job of breaking down the unconstitutionality of at-large districts.
 - I really have to talk to the individuals who, outside of this chamber, will post their instagram stories critiquing the legislatures of our nation that dilute the powers of so many minorities and then come to the senate chamber and reaffirm this blatantly racist map.
 - I can pull up my email archives and I did not receive any plans from the minority party.
 - I wonder what the goal of the gator caucus is.
 - It would be different if I saw a map of strategic lines drawn.
 - I submitted two amendments recently yet I did not see any amendments submitted by the gator caucus to amend this map.

- This is the work of the system: they'll put up an idea of a map and then not do anything.
- It goes to show how absolutely frustrating it is to sit in this chamber and really look at some of you who advocate for the rights of so many individuals and then agree with blatant ideas while not showing any work.
- It's upsetting because genuinely, I want to give some of these individuals the benefit of the doubt and tonight will be a second witness test.
- How far will you sacrifice your morals to uphold an almost century-old regime that hasn't done anything substantial for students?
- I hope that a map gets approved and that we can come up with a policy but I wonder how any progress can get done.
- I urge the chamber to think about the impacts of their vote.
- **Minority Party Leader Liang:**
 - I would like to provide a recap of Summer B Senate.
 - An incredibly qualified candidate was blocked by the Judiciary for having too short of a brief.
 - Not a single person in the committee affiliated with Gator Party who applied for Judiciary mentioned a single legal term in their application.
 - What good is quorum if they are just going to table over 15 bills?
 - Gator party had an issue with the apportionment data, but didn't say anything until the last week.
 - To this day, no comprehensive plan has been submitted by Gator.
 - After the meeting where Gator said they wanted 36 At-Large seats, we offered a compromise.
 - We decided to compromise because government is founded upon compromise and nobody gets what they want.
 - I presented Senator Reich with a plan to make two At-Large seats.
 - Gator Party, how about instead of trying to change the entire election landscape to win back the majority that you lost, you write policy to get the student body to like you?
 - Is doing this and going against your morals worth the Florida Blue Key tap?
 - When public comment is over, I am going to motion to add the apportionment map to the agenda.
 - I hope you vote with your morals for once.
 - We have submitted over sixty bills this Summer.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Chair Stephens moves to amend the minutes so that it displays that “The motion to add Ronin Lupien to the proviso” was approved by unanimous consent, by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senate President Santiago Perez moves to a five minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 8:17pm.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to add SSB 2023-1133 to the agenda.
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman moves to add a special rule to have any senator be able to request a standing vote when the threshold is majority by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to a 3-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 8:26pm.
- Chair Stephens moves to suspend the rule to have a roll call after recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to add one more round of pro-con debate by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There was one round of con-pro debate.
- Senator Mia moves to add 4 minutes of presentation after con-pro debate. Dilatory.
- Minority Party Leader Allemant moves for a one minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Bowman moves to a one minute recess. Seconded.¹
- Senator Mia moves to amend the motion to a three-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to amend the motion to be three minutes or until called back to order by the chair. In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes.¹
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 8:36pm.
- Chair Stephens moves to suspend the rules for roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to add SSB 2023-1133 to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1110 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1098 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1130 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1132 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1138 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1139 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1140 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1142 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1143 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1144 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1146 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1148 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to add SSB 2023-1105 to the agenda. Seconded.
- Senator Reich moves for a one minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 8:45pm.
- Senator Mia moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Minority Party Leader Allemand requests that the vote be a standing vote.
- In a rising vote of 31-27, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to add SSB 2023-1141 to the agenda in first readings. Seconded.
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Reich receives their first warning.
- Senator Bowman moves to add SSB 2023-1141 to the agenda by unanimous consent. Objected.
- In a rising vote of 30-29, that motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to add SSB 2023-1147 to the agenda under first readings. Seconded.
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman requests that the vote be a standing vote.
- In a rising vote of 29-28, that motion fails.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to move bills under first reading to go under third readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to add nominations for the faculty senate student delegate to the agenda under president's report to the agenda by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Majority Party Leader Liang moves to add nominations for the faculty senate student delegate to the agenda under president's report to the agenda. Seconded.
- Senator Mia calls to previous question by unanimous consent. Objected.
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman moves to add nominations for the faculty senate student delegate to the agenda under president's report to the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to discharge SSB 2023-1136 from the Judiciary committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to have SSB 2023-1136 be heard under Bills Under First Reading by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to add the ad-hoc committee on satellite campuses report to the agenda after the ad-hoc on reproductive rights report by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to adopt the agenda. Seconded.
- There was a voice vote. Division.
- In a rising vote of 30-29, that motion passes.

THIRD READINGS:

- Senator Garcia-Ramos moves to call previous question to SSB 2023-1061 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senate President Santiago Perez shows a presentation on behalf of Student Body President Olivia Green:
 - I apologize for my absence today; I am currently in Chicago.
 - If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.
 - I have not gotten any communications regarding this legislation thus far so I will be going off of what I currently have.
- Senator Garcia-Ramos moves to suspend the rules to allow for the Student Body President to present for all bills at once by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - SSB 2023-1064 is to alleviate the summer enrollment requirement for all graduate and professional students who are enrolled for courses in the Fall semester.
 - The bill specifically violates article 2 section 3 of the UF constitution.
 - When you are currently not enrolled in courses, you are not considered to be a student of the University of Florida.
 - The University of Florida specifically states under Rule 6.2.1 that in order to be an officer of a student organization, you have to be an enrolled, degree-seeking student as defined by the Registrar.
 - I personally believe that holding an officer position in a student organization aligns with holding a student government position.

- Although I understand that many departments and students have trouble and cannot take classes in their respective school, any student of the University of Florida is able to take a course in the regular school.
- SSB 2023-1062 seeks the requirement of an indigenous land acknowledgment act.
- I believe this bill is written as an inappropriate overreach of the executive branch.
- If the senate would like to add a land acknowledgment to their own rules and procedures, I would support that.
- I would like to welcome a conversation with members of the legislative branch in pertinence to this.
- There was no amendment on this bill.
- SSB 2023-1061 seeks to remove the possibility of intimidation throughout the election period.
- This will aim to do so by punishment of disqualification.
- Unfortunately, I have experienced both during campaign, as I am sure other senators have as well.
- Since the gray-area is so large, I am forced to veto this bill, even though I agree with the original sentiments.
- There was a three minute response by the bill author, Chair Stephens:
 - This bill bars any candidate or party affiliate from using threats or any tactics of coercion or intimidation to interfere or attempt to interfere with an election.
 - Threats and tactics of coercion/intimidation are not considered to be protected speech.
 - Protected speech, which includes hate speech, is protected under our constitution despite many of us disagreeing with that.
 - Speech that incites fear or potential violence is not protected speech.
 - The intent to wrongfully harm any candidate is not protected speech and it is also a high-bar offense and a violation of our student code of ethics.
- There were five minutes of Q&A.
- Senator Reich moves for a 3 minute recess by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Reich moves for a 3 minute recess. Seconded.
- A voice vote was conducted. Division.
- In a standing vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 9:53pm.
- Senator Mia moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were 3 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman moves to previous question by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Mia calls to previous question by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Bowman moves to previous question by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Chair Stephens moves to table the consideration of SSB 2023-1061 under third readings. Seconded.
- There were two rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman receives their first warning.
- In a rising vote of 30-29, that motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to reconsider the adoption of the agenda. Dilatory
- Chair Stephens moves to table the consideration of SSB 2023-1062. Seconded.
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Minority Party Leader Allemand receives their first warning.
- In a rising vote of 29-28, that motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to table SSB 2023-1064. Seconded.¹
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Minority Party Leader Allemand receives their second warning.
- Senator Bowman moves to table SSB 2023-1064 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Bowman requests that the vote be conducted as a rising vote.
- In a rising vote of 30-29, that motion passes. ¹
- Chairman Cox moves to have committee reports be sent electronically through the ListServ if not heard tonight by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to table SSB 2023-1105. Seconded.
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Minority Party Leader Allemand receives their third warning and is deemed constructively absent.
- Senator Bowman moves to table SSB 2023-1105 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were five minutes of presentation on SSB 2023-1133 by one of the authors, Chair Stephens:
- Senator Mia moves to add five minutes of presentation time by unanimous consent. Objected.
 - I looked at the zip codes and I separated as “local” and “legal without local”
 - We went with local first because that’s where people indicate where they live.
 - I will now be going into Majority Party Leader Liang’s map.
 - There will be 2 at large seats and we came to that decision because we wanted to come with a compromise that would also represent the 2,340 students who still would not be accounted for after scrubbing the data.
- There were five minutes of non-debatable Q&A.
- Chairman Ghozali moves to extend Q&A by 3 minutes by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chairman Ghozali moves to extend Q&A by 3 minutes. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion fails. Division.
- Chairman Ghozali’s motion for a division was ruled dilatory.

- Chair Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 to SSB 2023-1133 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- There were 2 minutes of presentation on Amendment 1 to SSB 2023-1133 by one of the authors, Chair Stephens:
 - It is mandated within our constitution to have area governments have a seat.
 - It was just something that was missed by our committee due to how frustrating the committee was in general.
- Chair Stephens moves to add the consideration of Q&A period by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Chair Stephens moves to call previous question. Seconded.
- In a rising vote, that motion fails.
- There was a two-minute period of Q&A.
- There were 2 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Bowman moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to approve Amendment 1 to SSB 2023-1133 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were 2 minutes of presentation of Amendment 2 to SSB 2023-1133 by the author, Chair Stephens:
 - This adds the title.
 - This is a five criteria thing, it's just to make sure that the format is correct.
 - I will not answer any questions.
- Senator Garcia-Ramos moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chair Stephens moves to approve Amendment 3 to SSB 2023-1133 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were 3 rounds of con-pro debate.
- Chair Stephens receives their first warning.
- Senator Bowman moves to call previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Bowman moves to have a roll call vote by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- **Roll Call Vote:**
 - Alvarez - Yes
 - Aria - Yes
 - Athay - Yes
 - Bowman - Yes
 - Brantmeyer- No
 - Brinkman - Yes
 - Budhai - Yes

- Chung - No
- Cox - Yes
- Clark - No
- Damera - Yes
- Gangano - Yes
- Garcia- No
- Garcia-Ramos - Yes
- Ghozali- Yes
- Haddad - Yes
- Harrell- Yes
- Hartnett - Yes
- Hendricks - Yes
- Hockman - Yes
- Islam - Yes
- John - Yes
- Kleppe - Yes
- Lasch - Yes
- Lekebusch - Yes
- Liang - Yes
- Lieber - Yes
- Liu - No
- Marcelino - Yes
- McGinnis - Yes
- Mia - Yes
- Monson - Yes
- Naidu- Yes
- Nayak - Yes
- Neidenberg - No
- Oh - Yes
- Patrick - Yes
- Polavarapu - Yes
- Polsky - No
- Rabinovitz - No
- Rassel - Yes
- Reich - No
- Rodriguez - Yes
- Rubaii - Yes
- Russo - Yes
- Scanlon - Yes
- Seifer - Yes

- Scramoncin- Yes
 - Sparkman - Yes
 - Stephens - Yes
 - Summerville-Yes
 - Vijayaraghavan - Yes
 - Villarta - Yes
 - Wang - No
 - Wilson-No
 - Wood-Barron - Yes
 - Santiago Perez - Abstain
- In a vote of 45-11, that motion passes.
 - Senate President Santiago Perez clarifies the voter record.
 - Senator Mia moves to take up from the table SSB 2023-1064 by unanimous consent.
 - Senator Mia calls for the orders of the day.
 - Chair Stephens moves to appeal the decision of the chair to rescind the motion to adopt the agenda. Dilatory.
 - Chair Stephens moves to appeal the decision of the chair. Second.
 - In a rising vote, that motion passes.
 - Chair Stephens moves to approve Supervisor of Elections Ethan Halle by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - Chairman Cox moves to approve the approved absence by unanimous consent. Objected.
 - Chairman Cox moves to approve the Elections Commissioner nominee Connor McClayby unanimous consent. Objected.
 - Chairman Cox moves to approve Julia Van Bogart for the Chief Justice by unanimous consent. Objected.
 - Senator Bowman moves to approve SSB 2023-1141 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - Senator Bowman moves to open the floor to appointments for the senate faculty. Dilatory.
 - Chair Stephens moves to add a special rule to have senators put their names down on a list to add themselves as sponsors to SSB 2023-1146 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - Vice-Chair Marcelino moves to strike “Provost Joe Glover” and to insert “Interim Provost Scott J. Angle” to the proviso of SSB 2023-1146 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - Chair Stephens moves to approve SSB 2023-1146 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
 - Chair Stephens moves to approve SSB 2023-1105 by unanimous consent. Objected.

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- There was none.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore McGinnis welcomes the senators.
 - We will be meeting Monday and applications are due Friday.

Open Permanent Senate Seats

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

Open Permanent Committee Seats

- Judiciary (4)
- R&E (2)

FIRST READINGS:

- There were none.

SECOND READINGS:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chairperson Stephens clarifies the voter record.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:59pm.