

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

September 12, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:39 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 65 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Asuncion
- Bowman
- Giordano
- Jayanti
- Murtha
- Drashti Patel
- Pecora
- Ruedas
- Russo
- Vijayaraghavan
- Wolcott

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR PRESENTATION:

- Dr. Wright presents:
 - I did this 17 years ago and I came to this senate meeting once then, and you all freaked me out.
 - I did not get involved in the senate the last time because the prior senate chair had no idea how to do Robert's Rules so it was an utter disaster.
 - We are far more laid back than you all are.
 - I will talk a little bit about senate as well as my initiatives this year.
 - We have 150 members in the faculty senate.
 - We cover all academic matters across colleges, including academic degree programs and changes to the number of credits for a masters degree.
 - If you want to create a new college, that goes through us.
 - We have 5 policy councils: welfare, academic policy, infrastructure, research, and budget.
 - There's usually a faculty committee somewhere that is interested in what you all are doing.
 - We don't know what the students are thinking, so we need your input and your voice.

- We meet once a month for two hours.
- As faculty senate chair, I have four main initiatives that I am working on.
- I'm working on shared governance.
- I am instructing all the faculty councils to think about what the proper amount of faculty/student input is in decisions for the colleges.
- If you are interested in getting involved in your college-level governance, please contact your faculty council chairs.
- A third initiative I have is academic excellence; this is not about ChatGPT or Honorlock, but instead a lot of it is about incentivizing faculty to be more up-to-date on the best practices.
- I have been teaching the same way I taught 25 years ago.
- I am asking for the president to support resources for faculty to find best practices.
- Moving up in the rankings, we spend a lot of time talking about research dollars and not a lot of time talking about our teaching excellence.
- The fourth main initiative is administrative burdens.
- I heard that the average funded researcher is spending 40% of their time doing administrative tasks that have nothing to do with their research.
- I will turn to Senate Bill 266.
- The first big piece of SB 266 is mission alignment.
- There is a provision that says that the Board of Governors will develop a strategic plan specifying roles and objectives for the state university system and each constituent university will have an accountability plan; they haven't done that yet.
- HB-7 has been enjoined, so those concepts are not applicable.
- If the government passes a law that says that you can not do X, they have to make it clear what X is and you need to be made aware when you are engaging in X.
- It is absurd that they think we should be able to regulate with such vague terms.
- Another provision of 266 talks about the hiring of faculty.
- The legislature says that the president should just be able to hire who they want, but I disagree.
- The faculty are upset that faculty judgment as to the qualifications of other people who are teaching is to be ignored.
- Another provision is DEI.
- Student fees to promote student organizations are an exception as well as student use of student facilities.
- We need DEI for our research mission as well as for our foundation, and frankly we need it to be in compliance with federal law.
- The Hamilton Center provides that UF has to report to the governor.
- We have a few years before our accreditation is coming up, and we will probably have to change our accreditors.

- As for post-tenure review, it is based on assigned duties and not a political litmus test.
- For gen-ed, three major changes are happening to our curriculum.
- The communications core courses require a public speaking component.
- We are not allowed to disallow transfer credits even if we don't offer that course
- Gen-ed courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates HB-7, or is based on theories of systemic racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege.
- The bathroom bill requires that anyone who enters a bathroom and fails to leave when asked by a faculty, administrator, or security personnel will be removed by the police.
- The trans healthcare bill has been enjoined with regard to minor children but not to adults.
- I will urge all of you to be as vocal as possible during the next legislative cycle.
- There was a question and answer period.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Senator Pelton:
 - I want to talk about the Green Caucus.
 - Feel free to fill out the interest form.
 - I was recently selected by the Senate President to be the Sustainability Liaison.
 - I would like to have some Future Events with the Florida Spring Council.
 - I would like to see the vetoes for the budget, Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, and the ALFREDO Act.
 - I would also like to see Student Senate Bills 2023-1196, 2023-1201, and 2023-1211 pass.
- Senator Wood-Barron:
 - If you were here over the summer, you know I talked about legislation pertaining to a student arts pantry.
 - This resolution was written before my time by Cassandra Urbenz and Evan Rafanan, and it says that art students need money/resources as they are paying for hundreds of dollars of supplies just to pass their classes.
 - I resubmitted the authorization because this needs to be done now.
 - As we saw, our president has been trying to profit off of us.
 - When I was younger, my parents lost everything in the recession and I was pulled out of dance for a very long time of my life.
 - I've been withheld from my art various times in my life, including multiple surgeries.
 - I don't want others to lose art the way I have multiple times.

- How are you going to tell a student that you don't want them to pass a class because you don't want to provide them with the necessary resources to do so.
- I highly encourage you all to vote in the affirmative of the resolution tonight.
- Withholding the ability to give students these resources is a disservice to them, and I am here to be a service to the students.
- Chairman Cox:
 - I'm up here begging for us to hear the budget.
 - Please take a look at code 821.7, it's an interesting code.
- Chairman Cox receives their first warning.
 - It's been 16 days since the last veto message has been submitted to the senate president.
 - We are all violating the codes right now.
 - Regardless of whether you feel that the veto should be upheld or overturned, I hope we can all agree that it needs to be heard.
 - I feel very strongly about the sentence at the top of everyone's agenda about how we will be respectful of each other when we disagree and that we will direct all comments to the issues and avoid personal attacks.
 - Nobody should be upset, anxious, or very unhappy to be here.
 - Please keep debate on the budget related to issues because, frankly, I am tired of politics getting in the way of our budget.
- Parliamentarian Lupien:
 - I just want to let you know that next week is bisexual awareness week.
 - I hope that all members of this chamber will be sponsors on this upcoming resolution when the time comes.
 - I'm not the writer of the resolution but it is something I feel strongly about.
- Minority Party Leader Liang:
 - I would like to applaud Senator Wood-Barron for coming up here and speaking about their personal experiences as it is not easy to do so.
 - I agree with Chairman Cox that this budget is important and needs to be heard.
 - Being a woman in politics sucks.
 - Women are shut out of conversations, being constantly belittled, and never being taken seriously while sacrificing your academics.
 - Being a woman in politics is being enraged all the time but being unable to express it because people will call you emotional, unstable, or unprofessional.
 - I wouldn't wish this on anyone in this room.
 - Being a woman in politics is being so smart, yet still feeling like you have to subscribe to some political machine to get somewhere because that machine will never admit how capable you are.
 - Being a woman in politics is wondering how Nancy Pelosi can put up with this for 35 years.

- Being a woman of color in politics is wanting to prove to your parents that women that look like you can have a future in politics.
- Being a woman in politics is being the only one to chase after your friend after she storms out of a committee meeting.
- Being a woman in politics is just being a human being.
- Being a woman in politics is going through some of the worst betrayal in the past two weeks.
- If you've ever experienced any of these situations I just listed off, I see you and you deserve better.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Avantika Naidu for Assistant Supervisor of Elections by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Faith Elwell for Assistant Supervisor of Elections by unanimous consent. That motion passes
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Karin Rashid and Carter Behm for Assistant Supervisor of Elections by unanimous consent. That motion passes
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to override the veto on SSB 2023-1162 by roll call vote. Dilatory.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve all bills under second reading by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Rafanan receives their first warning.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1185 by unanimous consent. That motion passes. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1196 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1200 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1201 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1205 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1206 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1207 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Ali moves to approve SSB 2023-1208 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Wood-Barron moves to approve SSB 2023-1209 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pelton moves to amend SSB 2023-1211 to correct the spelling for the name of Abi Whitaker by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Pelton moves to approve SSB 2023-1211 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1212 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to amend the language in the proviso for SSB 2023-1213 to change it from “Pakistano Student Association” to “Pakistani Student Association” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1213 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Elsa Brantmeyer for Pace Affairs by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve SSB 2023-1185 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Lauren Bonet for the Career Connections Center Advisory Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Jacob Kanfer and Mason Solomon for the Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Jason DeHart for the LGBTQ Concerns Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Aidan Coffey for the Persons with Disabilities Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Wiley Johannesmeyer and Sidney Ruedas for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Michael Chehade and Jessica Ellingsworth for the Student Petitions Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Jonathan Hurst and Fabie Jacques for the Student Financial Aid Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to approve Elizabeth Stokes and Emma Carter for the University Libraries Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to adopt the agenda. Dilatory.
- Minority Party Leader Liang moves to adopt the agenda. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes.

THIRD READING:

- Senate President Santiago Perez presents the veto message from Student Body Treasurer Pierre:
 - I apologize for not being able to be in senate tonight.
 - I am vetoing the specific line items because I believe the stakes are too high for a massive procedural error to occur in the budget bill.
 - I cannot in good conscience allow these line items without full confidence in a valid vote.
 - According to the voter record, there were 29 senators who voted in the affirmative, 34 who voted in the negative, and 1 incorrect voter record.
 - A majority vote is required for this bill to pass yet it was still considered passed.
 - This led to major confusion in the senate chamber, and this could have been fixed by displaying the votes in front of the chamber.
 - Unfortunately, the discrepancies between the voter records and the results of the vote gives me major concerns about the validity of the vote.
 - I am thankful for the dedication from all authors of this amendment, but I currently believe that addressing these inaccuracies is of the utmost importance.
 - I remain committed to working together to address this issue, and together we can hold up the principles of democracy and ensure that all the decisions within our legislative branch are both accurate and reliable in order to gain trust within the senate chamber and the student body.
- Chairman Cox moves to suspend the rules to allow Senate President Santiago Perez to play the recorded message from Student Body Treasurer Nyla Pierre by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Student Body Treasurer Pierre:
 - I apologize for not being able to be in senate tonight.
 - I am vetoing the specific line items because I believe the stakes are too high for a massive procedural error to occur in the budget bill.
 - I cannot in good conscience allow these line items without full confidence in a valid vote.
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 - I am thankful for the dedication from all authors of this amendment, but I currently believe that addressing these inaccuracies is of the utmost importance.

- I remain committed to working together to address this issue, and together we can hold up the principles of democracy and ensure that all the decisions within our legislative branch are both accurate and reliable in order to gain trust within the senate chamber and the student body.
- Chairman Cox gives a response to Student Body Treasurer Pierre about SSB 2023-1115:
 - I will spend my time re-presenting the bills.
 - Just for clarification, the entire bill has not been vetoed, just the specific highlighted line items.
 - I know many of our senators here today were not here over the summer when I presented the bill originally.
 - If we get a fee increase, the 5% budget will go into effect.
 - If you have any questions about these line items, please feel free to let me know.
 - All of the vetoes were within the student government budget.
 - If we do not get a fee increase, the proviso states that the 0% budget will automatically be adopted.
 - The subtotals technically weren't vetoed, but the line items affect the subtotal.
 - If the veto is overridden, all the line items will go into effect.
 - If the veto is upheld, these line items will go back to the Budget committee and be deliberated upon in order to reallocate the items.
 - This is a very high priority topic and we need to figure it out quickly.
- There were five minutes of non-debatable Q&A.
- Senate President Santiago Perez moves for a four-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 9:25pm.
- Senator Mia moves to suspend the rules to conduct roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Cox moves to make a special rule to allow for any amendments to subtotals within the budget to not cause the bill to go back into second readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairman Cox moves to add a special rule that all subtotals will be automatically amended due to the addition of the line items in the specific budget by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were four rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Pelton is issued their first warning.
- Chairman Cox gives 3 minutes of final privilege.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 1, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 2, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.

- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 3, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 4, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 5, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 6, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Marcelino moves to conduct a roll call vote for overriding the veto on line item 7 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Marcelino moves to conduct a roll call vote for overriding the veto on line item 7. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion fails.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Marcelino calls for a division of the house.
- In a rising vote of 29-34, that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 7, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 8, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- In a rising vote to override the veto on line item 9, the two thirds threshold was not met and that motion fails.
- Senator Mia moves to postpone SSB 2023-1061 and SSB 2023-1062 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Marcelino was issued their first warning.
- Student Body President Green has their presentation projected to the chamber:
 - SSB 2023-1064 was to alleviate the summer enrollment requirements for all graduate & professional students.
 - While I do think that this is really beneficial, you have to consider the other colleges and/or programs, such as PACE or Innovation that also have trouble enrolling in classes.
 - I completely understand where you're coming from with the sentiment, but the bill violates specifically Article II Section III of the Constitution.
 - When you're currently not enrolled in courses, regardless of what your next enrollment is, you are not considered a student at UF.
 - Rule 6.2.1 says that in order to be an officer of a student org, you have to be an "enrolled, degree-seeking university student" as defined by the Registrar during your term.
 - We need to adhere to the rules outlined by the Registrar and the constitution.
 - If you have any questions about the original veto, please reach out to me.

- Although I understand med and pharmacy students have trouble taking classes in their respective school, any student is allowed to take a class over the summer at the regular school; it could be Theater Appreciation.
- While it might be annoying and unfortunate, that's what keeps it fair for all students and that's why I have to veto this bill.
- Senator Ganghano presents on SSB 2023-1064:
 - Two semesters ago, I didn't know a single one of you in this room.
 - I saw that there was a severe discriminatory injustice to graduate students.
 - The \$23 million is allocated in the summer and every summer, there are thousands of graduate students who are systematically not allowed to enroll in classes.
 - This is not the fault of the student but instead the fault of the procedures here.
 - As our current statutes dictate, that means that they can not serve as senators because they are not enrolled.
 - You are collecting the fees that graduate students pay and spending it during the summer; this is the definition of taxation without representation.
 - Because of my age and degree I have pursued, I should not be disallowed a say in where my money is spent.
 - All graduate students deserve a representative in this chamber to argue where their money will go.
 - We are disenfranchising thousands of graduate students by not allowing them to hold office as senators.
 - Student Body President Green stated that this is unconstitutional and that it does not account for PACE and Innovation students.
- There were five minutes of non-debatable Q&A.
- Senator Mia moves to suspend the rules to allow 30 more seconds of Q&A by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- There were three rounds of con-pro debate.
- Chairman Ghazali moves to previous question by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Ganghano two minutes of final privilege.
- Minority Party Leader moves to override the veto to SSB 2023-1064 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- In a standing vote of 62-3, that veto is overridden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senate President Santiago Perez clarifies the voter record.

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore McGinnis welcomes the senators.

Open Permanent Senate Seats

- Agricultural & Life Sciences
- Beaty Towers
- Dentistry
- Design, Construction, & Planning
- District A
- District C (3)
- District D (2)
- Graduate (8)
- Journalism
- CLAS (2)
- Pharmacy
- Veterinary Medicine

Open Permanent Committee Seats

- Budget (1)
- I&C (3)
- Judiciary (4)
- R&E (4)

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Cox:
 - The budget committee will be meeting at around 1:45pm on Friday.
 - All legislation is due by tomorrow afternoon.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Chairman Ghozali:
 - Tabling is now open, it will start tomorrow in the SAI portal, but we will also have additional ones in Turlington.
 - If you want to do mentor/mentee, that application is still open; it will be revealed next week.
 - If you want senate merch, please venmo me all the details or email me.

JUDICIARY:

- Deputy Minority Party Leader Marcelino:
 - The judiciary committee will be meeting at a time that is yet to be determined, most likely Sunday at noon.

- All legislation is due on Friday at noon to judiciary@sg.ufl.edu.
- Senate President Santiago Perez:
 - Next week, we will have the city commission joining us at our student senate meeting.
 - We will be discussing three topics: transportation, traffic safety, and sustainability & housing.
 - I've been working with the External Affairs Agency Head to ensure that we create some sort of "cheat sheet" to inform the senate of the topics; those will hopefully be handed out at the next meeting.
 - Senator Pelton is my new sustainability liaison.
 - I want to tentatively cancel the October 10th senate meeting.

ROLL CALL:

- Senator Wood-Barron moves to use voter records as final roll call by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Deputy Minority Party Leader Marcelino moves to use voter records as final roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Senator Mia moves to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 pm.