

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

October 24, 2023 (Part 1)

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:45 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. A land acknowledgment was recited. There was a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 52 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Rafanan
- Howard
- Huber
- Lasch
- Liu
- Platovsky
- Scanlon
- Solomon
- White

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Akshat Pant:
 - I am a computer science student here at UF and co-founder of Candor.
 - Leaders lack a platform to consistently understand the student body's needs, and Candor is an app to bridge that gap.
 - Three key features of Candor are proposal posts, progress updates, and aggregated profiles.
 - Since other students can comment on other students' posts, you can see exactly what the student body is thinking.
 - Clicking the progress bar will take you to a concise status update.
 - Constituents will be able to view a consistent track record of what senators have been doing for their community.
 - You have the opportunity to finally publicly showcase your work with legislation here.
 - After launching just this semester, we have had over 700 downloads.
 - We are proud to announce that Candor is not only on the app store but also on Androids as well.
 - Scan the QR code to download Candor.
 - If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us on Instagram: @Candor.now

- Senator Amster:
 - I wish that I was addressing you guys as the majority party leader, but unfortunately I am still an independent Rawlings senator.
 - I moved out of Rawlings a long time ago.
 - The current student senate is not an equal representation of the student body.
 - Senator Amster is issued a warning.
 - I have here over 100 pages of legislation written by Vision-elect senators.
 - If you care about the student body, then you will not delay the peaceful transition of power any longer.
- Senator Mia:
 - It's the first time in a while that we have proper discourse about legislation.
 - From our side of the aisle, we already have over 60 pieces of legislation ready.
 - To new senators: I hope, regardless of the side of the aisle that you're on, that you do not experience senate in the same way that I have.
 - When we won the first time, we never got a seat at the table; when we won a second time, people systematically tried to take our rights away from us.
 - We have experienced bullying from day one.
 - My time in SG has not been enjoyable in the slightest.
 - In high school, I was student body president, and I thought that SG here would be a step up.
 - I want to fight for students, but every term I am gaslighted by people from the opposing side of the aisle, and it is just frustrating.
 - At times, I know that people from my side of the aisle may think I'm a hard-liner, but I just want to get things done.
 - This entire ordeal has been very disappointing.
 - I hope that if you are part of the super-majority, that you have the votes to give a voice for the minority.
 - Senator Mia receives their first warning.
 - We still have bills in first readings that we have to get through, including bills for the 900 codes.
 - I doubt any of you have read that legislation or even read the titles.
 - Senator Mia receives their second warning.
 - Make the most of your time in SG, whether it is partisan or not, and fight for your fellow students.
 - I am now the Chief of Staff to the Senate President Pro-Tempore.
- Senator Damera:
 - Please download Candor; I have known Akshat for a long time, and I know he does nothing halfway.
 - We want to get started and get to work.
- Majority Party Leader Pelton:

- For the new members of senate, I have had the opportunity to create the Green Caucus; let me know if you are interested in joining.
- There's a lot of issues going on with Florida's groundwater, and I would really like your help in fighting for these sustainability issues.
- We are so excited to get the validation through and for the legislation to get passed.
- We understand that some of you are frustrated, but our side has seen some of the worst from some members in this chamber and some senators in the past.
- We're excited to have a great semester here in senate.
- Jagger Leach:
 - I am a former senator, but I now focus most of my attention on being president of a historically Jewish fraternity on campus, ZBT.
 - On Saturday, October 7th, Hamas terrorists entered villages, homes, and even a peace festival in Israel.
 - The death toll that day alone was over 1,000.
 - Even if we do not know someone who was killed or kidnapped, we do know someone very close to someone who was.
 - Many of my friends are now on the front lines to retrieve those who were kidnapped.
 - I have had one of the roughest weeks in my entire college career, basically crashing in my bed from exhaustion, even on days when I have nothing going on.
 - As one of the foremost student organizations, it is important for SG, Senate, and you as senators to unequivocally show your support for your Jewish constituents.
 - It is not controversial to want those who burned our grandmothers alive, who slaughtered our children, who sexually assaulted women, and who still hold over 200 of our family and friends away from us held accountable.
 - The University of Florida has the largest undergraduate Jewish population in the United States.
 - I implore you to reach out to your friends, classmates, and constituents to make sure they are doing okay during this time.
- Senator Liang:
 - If you don't know who I am, I am a Liberal Arts and Sciences major, as well as the former majority party leader.
 - I could not have done the job at all without Jonathan and Raj.
 - Jonathan, no words can explain how much I will miss you; I only could have gotten through it because you believed in me.
 - Oscar, thank you for always letting me crash in your office.
 - To my deputies, Navya and Joaquin, it has been a pleasure serving with you throughout this process.

- Connor was my Hume senator when I knew nothing about Change party or student government, and now I got to work with you as majority party leader.
- To my caucus, it has been my pride and joy leading you for the past 4-5 months.
- We wrote over 160 pieces of legislation, we had 2 Senate President expulsion cases, and our first budget veto.
- Nathaniel and Chalisa, I am very proud of you, and we couldn't have anyone better to take up the role of leading this caucus.
- My advice for incoming senators is to take care of your mental health.
- You will hear long goodbye speeches from people next to you, and it is for a reason.
- Your grades and your well-being come before senate.
- Be careful who you put your trust into; I was lucky to find a whole side of the aisle to make that happen.
- Find something to believe in, because it's hard to sit through these senate meetings if it's not for something you believe in.
- Don't get lost in the politics, because it happened to me when I first started here.
- I gave a speech about women in politics about a month ago, and it is important to me to see women in positions of leadership in this chamber.
- I looked around recently and didn't see too many women sitting at the front of the chamber, so please believe in yourself because you are more than capable.

GOODBYE SPEECHES:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore McGinnis delivers their goodbye speech.
- Senator Giordano delivers their goodbye speech.
- Chairman Cox delivers their goodbye speech.
- Senator Ali delivers their goodbye speech.
- Chairperson Stephens moves for a five-minute recess or until called back by the chair by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 9:10pm.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to suspend the rule for roll call after recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Nair delivers their goodbye speech.
- Chairman Ghozali delivers their goodbye speech.
- Senator Natarajan delivers their goodbye speech.
- Senator Panish delivers their goodbye speech.
- Majority Party Leader Pelton moves to fix the time to which to adjourn to October 31st at 5:30pm at the Reitz Union Senate Chamber by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senate President Santiago Perez:
 - If you gave a goodbye speech, I will not be taking another one from you.
 - All the remaining goodbye speeches will be able to be delivered at the next senate meeting.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- Senator Marcelino moves to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.