

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

December 5, 2023

Senate President Santiago Perez called the Senate meeting to order at 7:44 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 58 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Ana Alvarez
- Santiago Alvarez
- Hewitt II
- Ponce
- Rassel
- Roberts
- Rubaii
- Vance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ronin Lupien:
 - I did in fact resign being parliamentarian on November 21st.
 - I have asked that in the Spring semester, the acting chief justice, Julia Van De Bogart, be investigated for a censure.
 - Based on some behavior I've seen from her, she'd always deflect concerns I had.
 - I know accountability is not something that often happens in student government, but we do have measures that wouldn't kick her out of her position but would be a statement from the student senate.
 - I hope that both parties will look at this.
 - Hopefully, tonight is celebrating the joy of validating the election and approving the bills in the first, second, and third readings.
 - Please consider looking at the allegations that I made.
- Senator Lim:
 - I want to give some brief remarks on two pieces of legislation that we will be discussing tonight.
 - One of these is the ALFREDO act, a previously vetoed piece of legislation.
 - This act made it so that parties can not coerce others during election season.
 - This information is almost all pulled from Florida statutes.
 - There are penalties such as \$5 or potential disqualifications.

- Alfredo and I have run this through a number of attorneys at the law firm where he works, and none of them could find any potential litigation issues.
- We would not put student government in the crosshairs of any potential litigation.
- The other piece of legislation is an authorization that would disperse funding to a special commission for the sole purpose of the creation of an RTS bus app.
- Many would agree that constituents have come forward relaying issues with the current RTS bus app.
- We seek to disperse \$2,000 in the line item.
- I am encouraging everyone here today to please override the vetoes for both of these bills.
- Rey Arcenas:
 - I would like to congratulate the new Florida Blue Key tapping class.
 - In the old days of Florida Blue Key, it was very powerful, and it is less so now.
 - You used to have to be in Blue Key to be a politician in Florida.
 - There was a lawsuit against Florida Blue Key in which the court decided that FBK does in fact control student government.
 - Florida Blue Key operated under the group system.
 - Under the three block structure, they would negotiate positions to give each other.
 - Since 2004, Blue Key has lost only one election.
 - Attendance of Gator Growl dropped, and Blue Key has lost money.
 - In 2011, SGP stepped in and offered to sponsor Gator Growl's performers.
 - Blue Key is barely in the green lately.
 - This organization is an embarrassing shell of its former self.
- Senator Panish:
 - I hope that everyone here will consider the R&P changes on the agenda.
 - I know if we validate, the minority will become even smaller.
 - Please pass the Fall and Spring replacement bill.
 - R&A is an extremely un-objective committee.
 - In a fair government, I should have the right to leave and appoint my replacement.
 - Please consider these changes.
- Senator Liang:
 - I am a CLAS student and the former party leader for Change.
 - Today, I met with associates from UF and talked about a few mental health days.
 - It's been fun to have policy actually happen.
 - I wanted to encourage all the incoming senators to please take your position seriously.
 - I'd like to see this happen and I am really excited about it.
 - I am trying to start the Women's Caucus; Faith Corbett started it, and I wanted to move it forward.
 - I think there could be a lot more support for women in senate.

- If anyone from either Gator or Vision caucus would like to be my co-chair, please let me know.
- The three pillars I'd like to work on are candid conversations, leadership training, and policy advocacy.
- I've been in contact with a person from the University of Austin, Texas.
- I think it's important to see women in high leadership positions.
- I know there's been a lot of drama, but don't get too caught in it, because time will fly by and there's not much you can do.
- Senator Mia:
 - I was originally going to give a five-minute speech calling people out.
 - I would like to see the R&P bills passed tonight.
 - I think these protections should be passed.
 - I do not see how senate could continue to function without them.
 - I think that we should start expanding committee seats to 15.
- Deputy Majority Party Leader Marcelino delivers a goodbye speech.
- Chairperson Stephens delivers a goodbye speech.
- Majority Party Leader Pelton moves for a five minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 11:21pm.
- Senator Marcelino moves to suspend the rule for roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez delivers a goodbye speech.
- Senator Lin delivers a goodbye speech.
- Chairperson Stephens moves for a five minute recess or until called back to order by the chair. Seconded.
- In a voice vote, that motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 1:27am.
- Senator Marcelino moves to suspend the rules for roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve the minutes by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairperson Stephens moves to table all bills under third readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to hear and vote on all bills under second reading as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Wood-Barron moves to approve all bills under second readings as a bloc by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve SSB 2023-1293 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 SSB 2023-1235 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve Amendment 1 SSB 2023-1284 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve Jacob Kanfer for the Local Fee Committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to table all R&A committee recommendations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve all Rules & Ethics absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to a recess until called back by the chair by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Santiago Perez calls the meeting back to order at 1:32am.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to suspend the rule for roll call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to strike the special rule for the Faculty Senate Delegate Elections by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve Simone Liang for the Faculty Senate Delegate position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve Michael Lim for the Faculty Senate Delegate Alternate position by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve Anghelo Gangano for the John Michael Stratton Memorial Award by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve all bills under first reading from SSB 2023-1235 to SSB 2023-1290 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to add a special rule to allow the senate secretaries to make any clerical fixes to SSB 2023-1291 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to make a friendly amendment to Amendment 1 of SSB 2023-1291 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to add Senator Hunter Monson to the sponsors line to Amendment 1 to SSB 2023-1291 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to add Senator Anamika Naidu to the sponsors line to Amendment 1 to SSB 2023-1291 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Marcelino moves to approve Amendment 1 to SSB 2023-1291 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Marcelino moves to approve SSB 2023-1291 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve SSB 2023-1299 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to table all remaining bills under first readings, SSB 2023-1292, 2023-1294, 2023-1295, 2023-1296, 2023-1297, and 2023-1298 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to add to the agenda the R&E decision to waive Fall constituency requirements due to unforeseen circumstances by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to add to the agenda the R&E decision to waive the Spring constituency requirements if the senator has completed all of their Fall requirements by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to approve both of the previous decisions from the R&E committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. Dilatory.
- Senator Mia moves to add bills pending signature to before the validation of election results by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairperson Stephens moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chairperson Stephens moves to open the floor for nominations for the Paul Clark Memorial Award by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Liang nominates Senate President Pro-Tempore McGinnis for the Paul Clark Memorial Award. Pro-Tempore McGinnis accepts.
- Senator Damera nominates Chairman Cox for the Paul Clark Memorial Award. Chairman Cox accepts.
- In a vote of 28-27, Pro-Tempore McGinnis receives the award.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURE:

- Senate President Santiago Perez signs Student Senate Bill 2023-1293.

VALIDATION OF ELECTION RESULTS:

- Supervisor of Elections Halle presents the vote totals.
- Majority Party Leader Pelton moves to validate the election results by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senate President Santiago Perez:

- This has been the honor of my life, but it has also drained me.
- Chairman Cox:
 - The budget committee committed no mistakes, which has never happened before.
Congratulations to Budget for all the work we have done.
- Chairperson Stephens:
 - I have appreciated my time here.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- Senate President Santiago Perez adjourns the meeting at 2:09am.