

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

February 6, 2024

Senate President Brinkman 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. A land acknowledgment was given.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with a total of 78 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Dasgupta
- Kelley
- Khuddus
- McGuire
- Serret
- Shah
- Whitaker

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ronin Lupien:
 - There are two bills I have worked on.
 - I am here to talk about SSB 2024-1139 and SSB 2024-1163.
 - I hope SSB 2024-1078 will be amended.
 - There are some outstanding legal issues with it that unfortunately were not caught in the Judiciary committee.
- Senator Barrios:
 - Women's caucus is launching our social media tomorrow.
 - We are trying to focus on social media outreach with student organizations.
 - We are opening requests for "coffee chats" with our e-board.
 - If you know anyone or any organization that could collaborate with us, please let us know.
 - Elections for our policy chair are happening at our next meeting.
 - Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 18th at 4:30pm in the SAI portal.
- Nathan McGinnis:
 - I am here to give my committee report for the Rules & Procedures Ad-Hoc.
 - We plan to have our first set of revisions in before the end of the month when elections are done.
 - I ask that you submit any Rules & Procedures amendments to our committee before Judiciary.
- Senator Liang:

- The Mental Health Ad-Hoc committee meeting was last Saturday.
- A lot of our members put forth great ideas.
- We also had some resolution ideas advocating for satellite offices, crisis resources, canvas shelves for mental health resources, and more.
- I want to touch on the fact that I got a phone call that they failed a reserve transfer today in Budget.
- I think it is disgusting to go to a GAU social, and then fail their reserve transfer.
- I don't know what we are doing here.
- We had a chance to tangibly impact the lives of students through that change in A&S fees.
- I hope to see that motion reconsidered.
- Graduates are paid below the market rate for wages, they can't even afford their housing, and we can't even deliver assistance to that.
- I'm sorry, Anghelo, that this happened.
- Syd Engstrom:
 - I want to talk about why I keep coming back to public comment.
 - I do not feel safe living in Florida.
 - The crazy thing is, these laws don't just affect me, they affect a lot of people.
 - Everyone that isn't scared of this has the responsibility to stand up for those who are.
 - The current system in the United States is failing us, so why should we replicate that here?
 - In your campaign points, both of you claimed that you advocate for DEI.
 - Is the behavior in this chamber supposed to reflect these "shared promises" on both sides of the aisle?
 - I would love to see everyone here as human, but it's really hard to see them as human when they don't see their own constituents as human.
 - This presentation would have been a lot easier if the website was actually updated.
 - I heard something about the senate secretaries having to prepare resolutions before they're signed by the chair, but let's please try to speed it up.
- Parliamentarian Ortiz:
 - I sent out a When2Meet to the members of my Ad-Hoc so that we can actually meet quorum at our next meeting.
 - I think that a lot of our concerns with the two new committee chairs were alleviated.
 - I look forward to seeing what your committees will be doing for the rest of the semester.
 - I have been able to reach out to the newly appointed members to the committee about what they would like to see done.

- We also spoke about some structural changes to class councils.
- The committee is going to throw support behind each of the initiatives that its membership has, and you can count on us to work diligently to see your projects through.
- Something that has been coming up is that there is no code of ethics for the leadership of SG-funded organizations.
- The committee is going to be working on holding them to some degree of ethical standard.
- Senator Lamey:
 - I am the Yulee Area senator.
 - I will be talking about some really exciting legislation that I'll be submitting this week.
 - We have crafted a series of resolutions focusing on sustainability efforts being increased around campus.
 - The series has 5 volumes.
 - Please reach out to me if you would like to sponsor and/or for me to send you the resolutions.
 - My number is (904)515-8321 or you can DM me, email me, or talk to me after the meeting.
- Rey Arcenas:
 - I am going to present a tier-list.
 - First of all, the Modern system began in 2005, but this was a weird time.
 - System parties usually have an overwhelming advantage and realistically, they should win any election.
 - The criteria I'm basing this tier list on is electoral victories, notable scandals, and miscellaneous.
 - Gator Party lost four of nine elections; this is the worst performance of any system party in modern history.
 - Swamp party did win five of the six elections they ran in, but three of those elections were against a dying students party.
 - Vision Party did win 40 seats, but they actually performed worse than Gator Party.
 - Gerrymandering did save Vision, but how long will the gerrymandering stay?
 - Unite Party was a mediocre party since they did win 7 elections.
 - Impact Party was an amazing system party; they murdered Access Party and took back the presidency by the largest vote margin of any system party.
 - They were undefeated electorally even when there were scandals.
- Senator Budhai
 - I am going to talk about Black History Month.

- I'll talk about the Black Campus Movement that happened in 1971 where the BSU organized in Tygert Hall at Stephen O'Connell's office to advocate for black faculty and black admissions.
- They protested for a couple days until he gave into their demands.
- Thank you to the NAACP as well as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which were two of the larger movements/organizations that helped with the black movements in Gainesville.
- The DEI Committee had our first meeting today.
- We were able to delegate sections that related to different represented communities on campus.
- We will submit a large piece of legislation (about 20 pages minimum) that will be submitted by the end of the month.
- I have submitted a resolution over the summer condemning Ron DeSantis' rhetoric and actions as the governor of Florida.
- This doesn't have to be a partisan issue.
- Please, if anyone would like to sponsor this bill, please approach me, text me, or email me.
- I think students want to hear this, and they need to hear this affirmation from the student senate to know that we support them.
- Julia Seifer:
 - The Rules & Ethics committee met this last weekend.
 - We saw that a lot of senators completed parts of their spring constituency, and submitted them after 7 days.
 - The committee has decided to make a motion to waive the code that requires constituency to be submitted within seven days of completion due to the confusion with the form.
 - Everyone has until this Friday at 11:59pm to submit their constituency from this semester.
 - After Friday, we will revert to the regular rule.
- Senator Gangano:
 - I am the only graduate senator left after a year of SG elections.
 - 1/3 of all the money in the \$24 million budget comes from graduate students.
 - The 20,000 grads here pay a \$19.06 SAI fee per credit hour we are enrolled in.
 - I wrote a bill nine months ago asking for \$1,000,000 for graduate student relief.
 - The living wage of Alachua County is \$33,781.
 - UF's minimum stipend is \$22,753.
 - This is less than the Florida federal minimum wage.
 - We are not eligible for Bright Futures, two of our five housing units were demolished last year, and the waitlist for one of these units is over three years long.

- I wrote a bill that is almost identical to Trevor Pope’s rent relief bill, and it was failed tonight because it is discriminatory to allocate money to only certain groups.
- I don’t see how we couldn’t give \$100,000 to graduate students suffering for basic living necessities.
- Jonathan Stephens:
 - That was a hard public comment to listen to.
 - It is disappointing to see that we have students working here that make below minimum wage.
 - I hope that if a motion is made to rescind the Budget Committee’s decision, it is passed with bipartisan support.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton:
 - Senate President Brinkman, you have failed our student body.
 - You came into power making many promises.
 - Everything that we have seen in this chamber in the past few months leads to you, Senate President.
 - We can not even pass climate change legislation without it being objected to.
 - Your rebrand has failed to offer relief to graduates.
 - We are acting like graduate students are our piggy bank, while offering nothing in return.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Ponce moves to amend SSB 2024-1091 to strike the final “Therefore, let it be resolved” clause by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Ponce moves to amend SSB 2024-1092 to strike the final “Therefore, let it be resolved” clause by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Ponce moves to amend SSB 2024-1093 to strike the final “Therefore, let it be resolved” clause by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1109 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1124 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to strike SSB 2024-1129 from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1104 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1115 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1044 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1071 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to refer SSB 2024-1078 back to the Judiciary committee by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1136 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1162 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1163 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1012 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1028 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1036 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Majority Party Leader Seifer moves to approve SSB 2024-1061 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Rafanan moves to approve SSB 2024-1100 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Kinggard moves to suspend code 324.23 and change the deadline for submitting constituency to Friday, February 9th at 11:59 pm by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1027 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1000 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1024 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1035 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1041 by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1042 by unanimous consent. Objected.

- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve the bloc of committee seat nominations by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve all of the approved and failed absences by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Richter moves to make a friendly amendment to SSB 2024-1139 to re-include the following quote: “In 2006, the university promised to achieve zero waste - when 90% or more of waste is not put in by landfills - by 2015, but it failed on that promise when the deadline came” by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Richter moves to approve SSB 2024-1139 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Monson moves to make a friendly amendment to SSB 2024-1125 to add the following people to the author’s line: Senate President Pro Tempore Damera, Majority Party Leader Seifer, Judiciary Chair Aaron Amster, and Rules & Ethics Chair Samantha Kinggard by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Monson moves to approve SSB 2024-1125 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Monson moves to strike SSB 2024-1126 from the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to rescind the decision of the Budget & Appropriations committee to fail the Allocation of Reserves for Graduate and International Student Off-Campus Rent Relief Fund reserve transfer. Seconded.
- There were four rounds of con-pro debate.
- Senator Mia moves to extend the con-pro debate by one round by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Mia moves to extend the con-pro debate by one round. Seconded.
- Senator Mia moves to have the vote be conducted as a roll call vote by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Chairwoman Ponce moves for a five-minute recess by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Brinkman calls the meeting back to order at 9:27 pm.
- Senator Rappoport moves for a recess until called back by the chair by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senate President Brinkman calls the meeting back to order at 9:57 pm.
- Senator Mia moves to rescind the motion to extend debate by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to rescind the decision of the Budget committee to fail the reserve transfer by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Senator Mia moves to rescind the motion to have a quorum call by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

- Senator Mia moves to rescind the decision of the Budget committee to fail the THRIFT Act by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to add SSB 2024-1052 to the agenda under second readings by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to approve SSB 2024-1052 by unanimous consent. That motion passes.
- Minority Party Leader Pelton moves to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent. That motion passes.

STUDENT BODY OFFICER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Brinkman:
 - There was an earlier point made by Parliamentarian Ortiz about electronic voting; that is still in the process of being worked on by IT.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Pro-Tempore Damera:
 - Permanent Senate Seats:
 - Graduate and Family Housing
 - Off Campus
 - Building Construction
 - Dentistry
 - Design, Construction, and Planning
 - Graduate (8)
 - Pharmacy
 - Veterinary Medicine
 - Open Committee Seats:
 - Information & Communications (1)
 - Budget & Appropriations (1)
 - I am going to touch briefly on the University Committee nominations.
 - Samantha Simon is the Gators Going Green Agency head.
 - The Food Service Advisory committee does not have much student input and meets at an inopportune time for students.
 - I think it's about time that the 5 people nominated get approved for the committee.
 - Please take in Shelby Schultz for the Transportation Parking and Advisory Committee nomination.

- Minority Party Leader Pelton:
 - I want to comment on one of the decisions that I tried to protest at R&A: to keep the special rule to hear the University Committee nominations as a bloc.
 - My caucus has shared with me that most of these nominees we would like to approve.
 - For that reason, I asked the R&A committee to rescind and to remove that special rule so we can approve the nominees individually.
 - I hope that in the future, those considerations can be taken into account so we can move forward swiftly.
 - I hope that we can have a very amicable debate regarding these nominations, thank you.

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were 3 rounds of con-pro debate for the approval of the bloc of University Committee Nominations.
- Senator Mia moves to remove Samantha Simon from the bloc of University Committee Nominations by unanimous consent. Objected.
- Senator Mia moves to remove Samantha Simon from the bloc of University Committee Nominations. Seconded.
- In a standing vote, that motion fails.
- In a standing vote, the motion to approve the bloc of University Committee passes.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Amster:
 - The committee will be meeting this Saturday at noon in Little Hall.
 - All legislation is due by Thursday at noon.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Ponce:
 - We met today, and we will send those bills back to budget.
 - Everyone that wants to work with me, I'd love to set up a meeting before budget meets to work out specifics.
 - Anyone that is interested in sponsoring or authoring, have that run by Anghelo.
- Senator Mia:
 - I dissented on some of the bills in the budget meeting.
 - There seems to be a clear lack of communication from both sides.
 - Please just talk to each other because we shouldn't be dropping bombshells on each other right before senate.
 - It was because of the miscommunication that this debacle happened.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Kinggard:
 - If you are submitting an excuse for being sick, please submit some form of documentation.
 - If you're submitting constituency for a city council meeting, please make sure you submit a picture of you with a time stamp or some form of evidence.
 - Try to have good descriptions when submitting constituency so we know exactly what you did.
 - We met this week and finished approving any constituency that was lingering from last semester.
 - Rules & Ethics will be meeting sometime this weekend after that deadline passes.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Chairman Vijayaraghavan:
 - The senate retreat will most likely be on March 27.
 - Senator Naidu and Senator Burton are making a nice graphic to encourage students to sign up for public comment.
 - I will be putting in a nametag order.
 - If you go through our LinkTree, you can fill out a form.
- Senator Burton:
 - Next week is Valentine's Day so I encourage you all to wear pink, red, or white to the senate meeting.

AD-HOC ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT & REFORM:

- Parliamentarian Ortiz:
 - Our agenda is going to be going over vetoed legislation and some referrals from the Judiciary committee.
 - I want to comment that as far as absences go for our committee meetings, I am very lenient; I understand that things pop up, but I'm starting to sense that two members have been missing in action and not been responsive.
 - I'm not too sure on how to proceed with that, so when we do have our committee meeting for them to decide if we should make a formal recommendation to remove these members.
 - There have been a series of comments directed towards members of the committee that may warrant an investigation.
 - I will be getting into details about a potential subpoena later.
 - I want to yield to the Judiciary chair.
 - I've made a strong point that we don't want to overstep our mandate.
- Chairman Amster:

- These ad-hocs are made to help make more specific actions manageable for the senate.
- The Judiciary committee has an obligation to help these ad-hocs.
- I think this is a special opportunity to really work together.
- I look forward to working with Judiciary, Alfredo, the rest of his committee, and the entirety of senate.

AD-HOC ON UF RULES & PROCEDURES:

- Senator Rafanan:
 - We're currently working on public comment.
- Senator Mia:
 - Be careful with the bills you write, especially in the legality of it.
 - Please forward any discrepancies to us.

FIRST READING:

- Senator Mia presents on SSB 2024-1027:
 - This bill creates a canvas page that has to do with student government to let students know about when meetings are and what bills are being passed.
 - The original draft had it automatically populated.
 - It was amended in Judiciary to make it opt-in only.
 - I will remind everyone that we met with UF administration and they were on board with it.
 - Communication is something that student government lacks completely.
 - Please look at the bill for yourselves online.

- Chairman Amster clarifies the voter record.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Chairwoman Ponce moves to user voter records as final roll call by unanimous consent.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 pm.