

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1242

**TITLE: THE INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN THE SENATE
ACT – RULES AND PROCEDURES REVISION**

AUTHOR(S): Senator Arturo Zárrate

SPONSOR(S):

**RULE III
MEETINGS OF THE SENATE**

(AMENDED: 2014-106, 2019-124, 2020-1064, 2021-1003, 2023-124, 2023-147)

1. Regular Meetings:

- a. Regular meetings will be conducted on campus at as consistent a time and location as is possible.
- b. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will set the time and location for regular meetings at the beginning of each academic term, but this decision can be overturned by a majority vote of the Senate.
 - i. The Senate Executive Board will release an amendable religious holiday calendar every fall, spring, and summer term.
 - ii. The Senate Executive Board will release a tentative calendar of all planned senate meetings during the academic term to all senators within one week after Replacement and Agenda Committee sets the time and location for regular meetings at the beginning of each academic term.
- c. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will prepare the agenda for regular meetings.
 - i. The agenda may be amended from the floor at the specified time by a majority vote. The Senate may adopt the agenda by a majority vote and if passed, will end amendments to the agenda. The motion to adopt the agenda will be considered dilatory if there are still members of the Student Senate waiting to be recognized by the chair. This motion is non-debatable and non-amendable.
 - ii. The agenda will include sections for Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation/Moment of Silence, Amendments to the Agenda, Amendments to the Minutes, Public Comment, Student Body Officer Reports, Committee Reports, Vetoed Legislation (if any), Second Readings (if any), First Readings (if any), Announcements, Final Roll Call, and any

other matters which the Replacement and Agenda Committee deem necessary.

- iii. If the Replacement and Agenda Committee fails to meet, prepare, and send the agenda by 3:00 PM ET on the day before the meeting of the Senate, the Senate Secretary will prepare an agenda consisting only of Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation/Moment of Silence, Amendments to the Agenda, Amendments to the Minutes, Public Comment, Vetoed Legislation (if any), Second Readings (if any), Old Business (if any), Announcements, and Final Roll Call. This agenda may be amended from the floor during Amendments to the Agenda.
- iv. All legislation to be considered at a Senate meeting will be provided to all Senators and will be made accessible to the public by being posted on the Student Government website no later than 5:00 PM ET the day before the meeting of the Senate for which the agenda will be used.
- v. The agenda will begin with the following statement: "We will be respectful of each other even when we disagree. We will direct all comments to the issues. We will avoid personal attacks." A Student Senator who acts contrary to this statement, as determined by the Chair of the Senate, will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct.
- vi. Motions made to approve agenda items during Amendments to the Agenda can only be approved by unanimous consent. Motions to move the order of agenda items will be debatable and amendable. Motions to approve agenda items without unanimous consent will be deemed dilatory and will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct. Other motions made in amendments to the agenda are debatable.
- vii. Ten (10) minutes prior to the space where the meeting of the Student Senate is being held will close to the public, the Chair of the Senate will use their discretion to allow the current business to conclude or to proceed to the announcements section of the meeting to allow the Student Senate to adjourn in an orderly manner. Any agenda item left unconsidered will be postponed to the next Senate meeting.
 1. If the Student Senate acquires permission for extended hours and allows for methods for the public to enter the meeting, the rule will apply to ten (10) minutes prior to the extended time.
- viii. Agenda items that are postponed in a Student Senate meeting will automatically carry over to the next Student Senate meeting without the need to be reheard in a committee of the Student Senate.
 1. This rule does not apply to legislation that is procedurally withdrawn pursuant to Rule XIV Section 1(g).
 2. Pursuant to Section 1(c)(iii) of this rule, if the Replacement and Agenda Committee fails to meet, prepare, and send the agenda by 3:00 PM ET on the day before the meeting of the Senate, the agenda created by the Senate Secretaries will include any

postponed or unconsidered agenda items in accordance to the previous subsection in the Old Business section.

- d. The President of the Senate may cancel a regular meeting set by the Replacement & Agenda Committee at their individual discretion. The President of the Senate must cancel a regular meeting at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the regular meeting. The President of the Senate may cancel a regular meeting with less than twenty-four (24) hours notice if a meeting space is not reserved or the meeting was not properly public noticed. The President of the Senate may not cancel two consecutive regular meetings unless quorum is unattainable due to vacancies.
- e. The University of Florida Student Government, in its commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, hereby adopts the following Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. This statement will be read by the Chair of the Senate at the commencement of each Student Senate session:
 - i. We, the University of Florida Student Government, recognize that our campus is located on the ancestral and traditional territory of the Seminole tribe of Florida and the Timucua tribe. We recognize that the historic displacement and violence against Indigenous people has led to severe plights for Indigenous individuals throughout our American history. Despite these circumstances, the Indigenous communities across this nation have continued to stay connected and nurturing with this territory and with their cultural ways of life. We pay our respects to these Indigenous elders and descendants of the past and present, especially those who have called the University of Florida home within their lifetime. We shall commit ourselves to supporting Indigenous sovereignty and culture within and beyond the University of Florida. And now, for a moment of silence.

2. Special Meetings:

- a. The President of the Student Senate or the Student Body President may call special meetings of the Senate.
- b. The President of the Student Senate will call for a special meeting of the Senate upon receiving a petition requesting such bearing the signatures of a majority of sitting Senators. This petition must include the intended purpose for the special meeting, which must be reflected in the call for the meeting and the agenda (see below).
- c. Notice must be given a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the meeting to all members of the Senate.
 - i. Notice may be given at a prior meeting of the Senate, so long as that meeting occurs more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the special meeting.
 - ii. Notification may be given by email
 - iii. The purpose of the meeting must be included in the call for the meeting.
- d. The officer who called the special meeting will prepare the agenda for that meeting.

- i. The agenda must remain germane to the purpose of the meeting, as mentioned in the call for the meeting.
- ii. The agenda may be amended from the floor during Amendments to the Agenda by a majority vote. The Senate may adopt the agenda by a majority vote and if passed, will end amendments to the agenda. The motion to adopt the agenda will be considered dilatory if there are still members of the Student Senate waiting to be recognized by the chair at the moment the motion is made. This motion is non-debatable and non-amendable.
- iii. The agenda will begin with the following statement: “We will be respectful of each other even when we disagree. We will direct all comments to the issue at hand. We will avoid personal attacks.” A Student Senator who acts contrary to this statement as determined by the Chair of the Senate will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct.
- iv. Motions made to approve agenda items during Amendments to the Agenda can only be approved by unanimous consent. Motions to move the order of agenda items will be in order. Motions to approve agenda items without unanimous consent will be deemed dilatory and will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct. Other motions made in amendments to the agenda are debatable.
- v. Ten (10) minutes prior to the space where the meeting of the Student Senate is being held will close to the public, the Chair of the Senate will use their discretion to allow the current business to conclude or to proceed to the announcements section of the meeting to allow the Student Senate to adjourn in an orderly manner.

3. Virtual Meetings:

- a. The Student Senate and the committees of the Student Senate may only conduct virtual meetings in the event of a federal, state, or local state of emergency as determined by the University of Florida administration impacting the Student Senate’s ability to meet in-person.
- b. Virtual meetings must comply with all applicable open meeting and public notice requirements as established by Student Body Law.
- c. Virtual meetings will be conducted in a manner consistent with these Rules and Procedures of the Student Senate. The Replacement and Agenda Committee may by a two-thirds vote adopt special rules to ensure the orderly conduct of virtual meetings.



Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

4/4/24

Date