How to Write Legislation

PREPARED BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Judiciary Committee Overview

- Reviews all non-budgetary bills, resolutions, and constitutional amendments submitted to the Senate.
- Reviews the qualifications of all executive nominations to the judicial branch.
- Reviews the constitutions of any student organization requesting special allocations or requesting or again receiving an annual budget.
- The Judiciary Committee shall, before every fall general election, submit to the Senate legislation regarding the apportionment of the Senate.
Writing Your Legislation
What is a Bill or Resolution?

- Resolutions: a resolution expresses a sentiment but does not mandate action on behalf of the Senate.
- Bills: a bill may or may not express a sentiment, but it always mandates action on behalf of the Senate.
Why write a resolution?

- To support, encourage, congratulate, etc
- For projects
  - Before: enhances the argument for a project when working with administration
  - After/close to: shows that the student body supports the project being completed
How to Write a Resolution

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2016-(the number after the four digit number of the last resolution)

TITLE: Student Body Resolution (addressing, commemorating, or recognizing your issue).

AUTHORS: Name(s) (the names of your co-authors, if any).

SPONSORS: Name(s) (the names of your sponsors).
How to Write Resolution

WHEREAS, foundational information for your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, supplemental information for your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, additional information about your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, explanation of the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, support for the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, solid proof for the core of your resolution; and,
WHEREAS, any important times or dates to consider in your resolution; then,
Resolutions: WHEREAS Clauses

- No specific amount of WHEREAS Clauses are required
  - General rule of thumb, 4-8 Clauses
- Each WHEREAS clause should be only one sentence
- WHEREAS clauses are similar to building blocks
  - Introduce
  - Why is it important/relevant?
  - Important Facts/details
  - Action/solution
How to Write a Resolution

Therefore Clauses:

● The Conclusion/Goal

● Statement of Senate Support

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a basic principle behind your resolution.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a more fundamental principle behind your resolution.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the core of your resolution and encourages everyone to act in accordance with the spirit of this resolution.
Proviso

- *Italicized*
- To Whom/Where the bill gets sent after passing
  - Ex. President Fuchs, Director of Department/College, etc.

Proviso: *A copy of this resolution shall be sent to anyone who you feel should receive a copy of your resolution once it is adopted by the Senate.*
How to Write a Bill

- Formatted similar to resolutions
- Mandates an action
- Usually consists of additions to, revision of, or elimination of current Student Government governing codes
- Other examples of bills include Budgetary bills from the Budget and Appropriations and Allocations Committees
How to Write a Bill

● Start with a similar structure to resolutions

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2016-(the number after the four digit number of the last bill)
TITLE: Applicable to what is being changed or the intent
AUTHORS: Name(s) (the names of your co-authors, if any).
SPONSORS: Name(s) (the names of your sponsors).
How to Write a Bill

- Copy codes in their exact form
- Draw lines through what is being removed
- Underline text that is being added
Example of a Bill (Code Change)

721.1 The Elections Commission shall consist of six (6) members. The Student Body President shall nominate two (2) law students. The Student Senate President shall nominate two (2) law students. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall nominate two (2) law students who have completed at least one (1) full year of law school. The student senate shall be notified of nominations no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the senate meeting at which the nominee will be presented for confirmation. The nominations will be presented to the Student Senate for approval by a 2/3 vote. Members shall serve staggered one-year terms, so that one (1) of the nominees of each branch ends his or her term after each election.
What does the committee review legislation on?

5 Criteria for Review:
- Constitutionality
- Legality
- Clarity
- Format
- Implication
Proofread Your Legislation
Proofing and Important tips

- Make sure each WHEREAS Clause enhances the argument
- Each statement should be as clear as possible
- Be sure to cite all factual information with a valid footnote (Preferably a website)
- Input from Judiciary Chair
  - Bill Writing Workshop (Office Hours)
  - Thursday from 11-1PM in the SG Office
  - Email/Call/Text/AIM/Myspace/Carrier Pigeon to set up an appointment
The Legislation Process
1. Write and proofread the piece of legislation
2. Send it in to Judiciary@sg.ufl.edu by noon on Friday
3. Present the legislation at the Judiciary Committee meeting
4. If approved, it will be added to the agenda by the Replacement and Agenda Committee
5. Heard at Senate
Write Your Own Resolution!

*Resolution supporting the Gators winning the 2017 NCAA Football Championship*

- Separate into groups of about 5 Senators
- Judiciary members will be around helping
- We will be judging resolutions and will announce the winner during our report