

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

January 10th, 2017

Mayor Lauren Poe called the City Commission meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be filmed or audio taped and may be available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

Roll was called and quorum was established with 83 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Dwyer
- Glass
- Liu
- Lu
- McCall
- Pokhrel
- Rong
- Schwallenberg
- Sultania
- Willis

AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- No amendments to the previous minutes were made

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Selogy motions to hear the Replacement & Agenda recommendations for permanent replacement seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motions to approve aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Selogy motions to approve Judiciary Seat appointment by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Muncan motions to approve the approved absence petition for J. Greenspan on 12/06/16 by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Schaettle motions to hear the Assistant Supervisor of Elections as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motions to approve aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Chairwoman Moodie motions to approve Student Senate Resolution 2017-1000 Funding for Alpha Omega. Approved.
- Chairwoman Moodie motions to approve Student Senate Resolution 2017-1001 Funding for Skin Cancer Prevention Force. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- No one signed up for public debate.

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

- External Affairs Chairman Jason Richards welcomes the chamber and the City Commission.
 - He encourages all senators to inquire and think about ways in which UF and the city of Gainesville can become more united.
- Supervisor of Elections Eric Hobbs welcomes the senators
 - He presents the 2017 elections contingency plan.
 - Students will be able to vote at any polling location to prevent technological difficulties from interrupting voting.
 - If you wish, the Contingency Plan can be found on <http://www.sg.ufl.edu>
 - He shares important upcoming dates:
 - Jan 22nd political party registration.
 - SG Executive Debate will be taking Feb 14th in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom.
- You may contact him through email or call the SG office.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Meyers welcomes the senators back from their break.
- He will send out his office hours via listserv as soon as possible.
- He thanks the Mayor and City Commission for coming out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Champoux welcomes the senators and hopes everyone had a great New Year.
- He shares that although there were a good amount of applicants, the committee did not believe there were any adequate candidates for the Budget seat. They decided that the budget seat will remain open until this Friday, January 13th.
- Open Senate seats due Friday, January 13th:
 - Business

- Law
- Open Senate seats due Friday, January 20th:
 - Nursing
 - District D
 - Dentistry
 - Keys
- His office hours for the semester are as follows:
 - M: 9am - 11am
 - T: 2pm - 4pm
 - W: 2pm - 6pm
 - R: 2pm - 6pm

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Brown welcomes the senators.
- He thanks the Mayor and City Commission for coming out.
- He adds to Pro-Tempore Champoux's report by saying after tonight there will be an additional two more open seats:
 - Agriculture
 - Budget
- He gives his good-bye speech.
 - If you wish to listen to his speech, you may request it from the SG Office

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Moodie welcomes the senators.
- Chairwoman Moodie motions to have the remainder of reports sent out through the listserv. Approved.

JUDICIARY:

- This report will be sent out through the listserv.

RULES & ETHICS:

- This report will be sent out through the listserv.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- This report will be sent out through the listserv.

SECOND READING:

- There were none.

FIRST READING:

- They were passed.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

There are no bills pending signatures.

COMMUNITY FORUM - APPENDIX A

- City Commissioners began by introducing themselves
 - Todd Chase (District II)
 - Craig Carter (District III)
 - Helen Warren (At-large)
 - Harvey Budd (At-large)
 - Adrian Hayes-Santos (District IV)
 - Lauren Poe (Mayor)
- Student Life and Safety
 - Are you planning on expanding the bike share program any time soon and is there anything we can do to help?
 - The city has a potential partnership opportunity with UF pending negotiations with the university's legal offices.
 - They have seen a steady increase in participation.
 - They would love a letter of resolution from this body so we can have some support for this movement.
 - Students provide more than 60% of RTS funding, so students have control over the city's transportation.
 - Some crosswalks near the area that I live in are unmarked. Alternatively, I have seen a great amount of students cross through areas that are not crosswalks. As students, where can we help to let the city know about crosswalk issues like these?
 - The mayor asks that the senator gives the locations to him and an officer after the meeting.
 - The 311GNV App allows citizens to send complaints and notices of dangerous or ill-maintained city facilities.
 - Citizens may also email or mail the city commission.
 - What specific design elements or plans does the city have to make cycling safer in Gainesville?
 - Cycling safety is one of the Commission's main priority
 - There are 4 things they look at when looking to tackle this problem:

- 1. Design
 - 2. Enforcement
 - 3. Education
 - 4. Technology
- They know what the problems are, they have done their analysis. They are looking to implement some of their ideas to start diminishing crashes and accidents.
- Students must ask themselves what they can do to personally make roads safer.
- There is much positive support coming from the university and the city.
- Street lighting and safety at night: Is the City working on anything to increase lighting and safety on campus?
 - Commission does not administer lighting on campus.
 - The commission would certainly work with areas that are poorly lit to make them safer.
- Some cities allow street artists to paint in crosswalks with their own personal art. It has been proven to slow down traffic since bright colors sometimes indicate 'caution.' Is this something you would be interested for the city?
 - The commission can only do this if it is a city street intersecting a city street, and they are currently working towards implementing this on applicable roads.
- Texting and driving is only a secondary offense in the city of Gainesville. Is there anything you are doing to maybe turn this into a first offense?
 - This is a state legislation matter, it is not something we have the power to create.
 - The city does offer the resolution of the option of lobbying.
- Has the city updated its infrastructure and disaster plans regarding hurricanes?
 - They coordinate with the state and the county to prepare for this. The coordination is very descriptive and significant.
 - They believe our city is incredibly prepared.
- What are the city's future plans to connect the local job market with UF grads?
 - The city hosts a job fair every year that has very strong representation.
 - They had discussion about removing part of business tax, to make the city more attractive for businesses/

- They also had discussion on creating an incentive program for businesses to hire locally.
 - The commission's goal is to have as many graduates stay in Gainesville as possible.
- Gainesville Strategic Plan and Experience
 - How will UF and GRU's relationship be beneficial for students?
 - The commission believes they have significant partnership opportunities in the coming years. They hope to eventually be the University's sole energy provider.
 - The University is the largest consumer of both in electricity and in water in the city of Gainesville.
 - They believe that if UF used GRU instead of Duke Energy, it would be cheaper for UF students.
 - What are the commission's expectations for the road construction and developments behind Midtown?
 - In terms of the street, there will be a more walker-friendly area. Since Midtown usually gets really busy and University Dr. is a busy road, this area will be used to have a safer area for the people in Midtown.
 - Underground plumbing and sewage will be moved so future expansion can be done.
 - How can SG work with local government to further both group's strategic plans?
 - They are seeking to institutionalize the relationship between the university and the city, so that anyone would be able to have a productive relationship.
 - They would love to see students show up to the meetings and advocate for the student body.
 - There is no such thing as too much student participation.
 - Students should be involved so that the city may know the student needs, rather than assuming.
 - There has been a great increase in the amount of residential space that is being built in Gainesville. I feel like the increase is so large that within the next five years there will be more supply than demand. Is it correct to have this assumption?
 - The projects would not be financed if not for a clear rise in demand.
 - The way the market is going, this is definitely a trendline we must follow.
 - The commission believes that the rent will actually decrease, to be more appropriately proportional to the residents' incomes, as a

result of more non-students residents and the supply of housing outweighing the demand.

- Are there any plans for forward thinking regarding Gainesville schools and afterschool providers?
 - The school system is independent from the city. There is an investment, however, that the city can make for the school.
 - This is an analysis that is currently going on. The Chair of Commerce is currently funding this.
 - Some questions that the Commission are trying tackle are: What spaces can we have available for after school programs? How can we help local business provide recreational activities for students.
 - The city tries to fill the need for afterschool programs for underserved, lower-income areas.
- If each of you could say one thing we should pass down to our constituents after this meeting, what would it be?
 - 1. 311GNV App, it will allow the students to experience the responsiveness of the City of Gainesville.
 - 2. You all should lobby. Never be afraid to show up and lobby for what you believe in. Make your voices heard.
 - 3. Attend City Commission meetings and public comment your opinion. The student body will be able to get their voices heard and will see results.
 - 4. Apply for committee seats.
 - 5. Your voice will be heard and your opinion has value.
 - 6. Find how you can help in the “other universe” outside of the University.
 - 7. Find places out in the community where you can give back.
 - 8. Meet with the mayor or a commissioner as a group to explore and get to know the City of Gainesville to find your path.
- How can SG and the University help with the City of Gainesville’s plan to help fight homelessness?
 - It will take a significant investment in infrastructure to make housing available first.
 - The resources for the “Housing First” plan will not be easily attained, but the mayor and the commission are up to the challenge.

Closing remarks:

- Mayor Lauren Poe shares that it is an honor to be here. He wishes to commit this to happen once a semester. He will remain in contact with the SG leadership to

maintain this relationship alive. He is excited about the future of this city and University.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Kasmirski shares about Health Professions Day on January 18th at 5:45PM. They are offering 3 MCAT courses for free.
- Chairwoman Phillips reminds everyone about the email she sent regarding the MLK Day of Service, email her to sign up.
 - Meet your Senator day is next Wednesday @ 1-3 PM in Turlington.
- Senator Abbott announces the First Annual CLAS Career Day, an email will be sent over the listserv pertaining to this event.
- Senate President Pro-Tempore Champoux thanks Charlie Brown for his service in senate and adds that we now have 2 Budget seats due this Friday and the Budget Chair seat will be due next Friday!
- Chairwoman Moodie announces that Cicerones applications are now open and Spring Forum is this Thursday.

ROLL CALL:

A motion to use voting records for final roll call passed.

No Vote Record Received:

- Dwyer
- Glass
- Liu
- Lu
- McCall
- Pokhrel
- Rong
- Schwallenberg
- Sultania
- Willis

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.