

## STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

February 2, 2016

The Senate President called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 70 senators present.

#### **Not there for roll call:**

- Athanassios
- Close
- Daou
- Feldman
- Fontenot
- Gardiner
- Garg
- Gipson
- Gridi
- Holloway
- Kerr
- Laky
- Richards

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

There were no amendments to the previous minutes for January 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Majority Party Leader Smith moves to approve R&A recommendation for Finance and Fees Advisor (Kelsey Abbey) by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Moves to hear R&A recommendations for Graduate and Engineering seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Moves to approve the aforementioned block. Approved.
  - Moves to hear R&A recommendations for District D and Murphree seats as a block by unanimous consent. Objection.
- Chairwoman McClinton moves to hear approved absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent.
  - Moves to approve the aforementioned block. Approved.
  - Moves to approve failed absence petition by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Member-at-Large Weiner moves to approve Student Senate Resolution 2016-1010 by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Robare moves to approve Student Senate Resolution 2016-1011 by unanimous consent. Approved.

### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- Senator Fletcher yields time to the chair.

- Blake Murphy, president of Gators for Higher Education, invites senators to an event on February 25th from 10-2pm; they will be hosting an Advocacy Day to write postcards in support of items on the university's legislative agenda. This will count for constituency for senators.
- Senator Jones yields time to the chair.
- Senator Wang yields time to Senator Garg.
- Senator Khan and two members of the Bangladeshi Students' Association is seeking performers for an event they are hosting. Please look up more information on their Facebook page (UF BSA).
- Senator Varanasi yields time to the chair.
- Senator Patel yields time to the chair.
- Minority Party Leader Derias asks senators to please share her survey regarding the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- Senator Ste.Claire yields time to the chair.
- Senator Feldner yields time to the chair.
- Senator Selogy yields time to the chair.

#### **OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:**

- Senator Weiner presents two members of the Gator Emergency Medical Response Unit. He thanks senators for passing tonight's resolution, and invites the two members to present about the funds being allotted to the Unit and the services that it will provide. They will be receiving just under \$20,000 from the SG Projects Line to provide more advanced medical supplies, promotional materials to make students aware of these services, and uniforms.
  - For interested student organizations, there is an event request form on their website ([www.gemru.org](http://www.gemru.org)).
  - They recently staffed a 5K for Dance Marathon and will also be staffing upcoming 5Ks. However, their services can be used for any public event.
  - Interested students must have EMR training prior to joining. That training is not provided when joining. Students are welcome to do a ride-along to see what they do.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Webster invites Reitz Union Director Eddie Daniels to speak about the renovations and tonight's resolution.
  - He announces that the Reitz Union had a "soft" opening this Monday. He was thrilled by the reactions from students and they are so excited that the building is finished.

- This project began back in the summer of 2013 and they began construction in October of 2013. This was done because there was a significant amount of deferred maintenance and because the building was created when there were fewer students attending the university. The new building is meant to accommodate the student population and the number of student organizations.
- There are a few pieces that are not yet open; they will be opening in the next few weeks.
- On February 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm, there will be a grand reopening ceremony.
- Student Government offices are open now; please feel free to take a tour around or stop by to do some homework.
- The new Senate chamber will be open on March 1st, but they are hoping to get in there before the double meeting.
- She thanks Blake Murphy for the opportunity to write postcards to the legislators.
- There are only two meetings left in this term; if anyone has ideas or projects that they would like to get done, they should contact President Webster as soon as possible.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senate Pro-Tempore Clements shares that R&A met this past Monday and they heard seats.
  - Seats due 2/5: Medicine, Graduate (3), Building Construction, Freshman, Liberal Arts, and Sophomore
  - Seats due 2/12: District A, B, C, and D
  - The spring seats due this Friday will not be heard after this weekend given that there would only be one meeting left in the term.
- Senator Stanford will be Senate's representative for Dance Marathon. He will be sending out an email tonight with more information.
- Presentation of District D replacement seat
  - Alex Everitt presents his qualifications for the District D seat.
  - Three minutes of Q&A
    - Senator Jones
    - Senator Varanasi
    - Senator Selogy
    - Senator McKibbin
  - Three Rounds of Pro-Con Debate
    - First Round of Con
      - Senator Jones
      - Senator Varanasi
    - First Round of Pro

- Majority Party Leader Smith
    - Member-at-Large Brown
    - Chairwoman Werk
  - Second Round of Con
    - Senator Varanasi
  - Second Round of Pro
    - Chairwoman Werk
    - Senator Boyett
    - Senator A. Smith
  - Final Round of Con
    - Senator Saetta
    - Senator Varanasi
  - Final Round of Pro
    - Senator A. Smith
    - Senator Selogy
  - Final privilege.
  - Final vote. Alex Everitt is approved.
- Presentation of Murphree replacement seat
  - Jonathan Frish presents his qualifications for the Murphree seat.
  - Three minutes of Q&A
    - Senator Selogy
    - Majority Leader Party Leader Smith
    - Senator Boyett
  - Pro-Con Debate
    - First Round of Con
      - None
    - First Round of Pro
      - Senator Robare
      - Senator Green
      - Senator A. Smith
    - Second Round of Con
      - Senator Jones
    - Second Round of Pro
      - Senator A. Smith
      - Senator Moodie
      - Senator Rivera
      - Senator Selogy
    - Third Round of Con
      - Motion to call the previous question by unanimous consent.  
Approved.

- Final vote. Jonathan Frish is approved.

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Vice Chair Robare shares that the outreach program is going well. They are currently organizing their schedules for the spring hearings.
- They are working with the marketing departments of the Big Four to produce videos introducing the entities.
- Their meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday and they will be hearing a line item transfer from VISA.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairman Champoux shares that the committee didn't meet this week but that they are still working on their liaison program. They are continuing to reach out to organizations to get information about events to share with the Senate.
- There was a meeting with the Board of College Councils to discuss transitioning organizations from allocations to the BOCC and vice versa. He is also working to differentiate between BOCC and allocations to make sure that everyone is on the same page.
- Office hours are Friday from 10am-12pm in the new SG office.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Vice Chair Weiner shares that the committee met this weekend; they passed two resolutions as well as tabled one.
  - Senator Robare presents his resolution to the Senate and explains his reasoning for why he felt it was appropriate to honor those involved in creating the new Reitz Union.
- He thanks everyone again for passing Student Senate Resolution 2016-1010.
- Chairman Richards will have his office hours and bill-writing workshop on Thursday from 2-4pm.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman McClinton thanks senators who finished their probation.
- She announces events for constituency:
  - Java with Jos
  - City commission meetings (information can be found on the city website)

- IRHA GBM every Monday night in the Graham Gallery
- Chinese Spring Festival at 6pm on 2/7 in the Phillips Center
- They will be meeting on Sunday at 3:10pm in the SG conference room.
- She reminds senators to be proactive about their constituency and their absence petitions.
- She asks senators to reflect on their promises that they made while campaigning and to ask themselves what they have and haven't done to uphold those.

#### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Newport-Jones shares that they are continuing to work on projects, including planning a retreat and a bowling social.
- They are working on creating a new t-shirt; that mock-up will be available soon.
- If anyone has ideas for her, please let her know.
- Please like the Senate page on Facebook.
- The committee should meet in the back following tonight's meeting.

#### **DIVERSITY OUTREACH AD HOC:**

- Chairman Buiey discusses the Town Hall that took place last week, hosted by Teach for America. They were able to talk to students on campus to get a better idea of how to fix the problem.
  - There will be 1,200 African-American students graduating in the spring.
  - The class of 2019 had only 395 admitted to the University. That's a loss of almost 1,000 students in just three years.
  - They hope to go into the community and remind people that UF is a welcoming environment, as well as to approach the administration about the problem.
- Chairman Fletcher says that they are still looking into the minority scholarship; they are trying to find an alternative source of funding.
  - The semester wrap-up report will be next week.
  - The Black Student Union will be having a meeting on Thursday at 6pm.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AD HOC:**

- Chairwoman Werk announces that the committee will meet on Sunday at 1pm in the food court. They are hoping to have their videos done by the presentation during the double meeting.

#### **FIRST READING:**

- There are no bills.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- President Webster reminds senators about the mentoring program with PK Yonge and asks them to consider serving as a mentor.
- Senator Garg says that he is disappointed as he feels that the Senate has not addressed enough issues that affect large numbers of students and has instead focused on smaller issues. He wishes that he had been able to do more with these but thanks senators for all that he has learned during his time here.
- Senator Khan shares that February is Islam Appreciation Month. On February 4th, there will be a MythBusters event. Information is posted on the IOC Facebook.
- Senator Black discusses Hispanic Heritage Month; they are releasing director applications tomorrow.
- Senator McKibbin announces that Florida Players will be selling Candygrams until February 14<sup>th</sup> for \$2 each. There are going to be two productions: Spill in the Constans Theatre now until February 5th, and Melancholy Play from February 12-14.
- Senator Weiner lets everyone know that Gator Day is on February 16th. More information will be sent out this week.
- Senator Selogy reminds senators that they should be debating the major issues affecting students.
- Senator Green announces that February 20th at 7pm at the O'Dome is FISS (Florida Invitational Step Show). The Mr. and Ms. BSU Pageant will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Rion Grand Ballroom. This will count for constituency.
- Senator Wedemeyer shares that Saturday will be this semester's first "Learn to Sail" event. The sign-up is located on the Facebook page. Wear something that you can get wet and take the swim test.
- Senator Guerra announces that this Thursday is the HSA meeting at 6pm in Little Hall.
- Senator Ste.Claire shares that Saturday is the Gator Run and invites everyone to participate. Registration is open online.
- Senator Patel shares that the Indian Student Association, Sigma Beta Rho, and Chomp the Vote is hosting an event on political efficacy on Wednesday at 7pm.
- Pro-Tempore Clements announces that there are also two open committee seats due on Friday.
- Senator Moodie shares an inspirational quote.

## **ROLL CALL:**

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

## **No Vote Record Received:**

- Athanassios
- Close
- Daou
- Garg

- Gipson
- Gridi
- Holloway
- Kerr

- Laky
- Maniar
- Meyers
- Richards

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.