

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

### **February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 72 senators present.

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

- Athanassios
- Feldman
- Gipson
- Gridi
- Herriff
- Kennedy
- Kravetz
- Laky
- O'Neil
- Rong
- Todd
- Woodbury

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

There were no amendments to the previous minutes for February 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Majority Party Leader Smith moves to hear the recommendations for Replacement Seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Moves to approve the block. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Smith Moves to approve recommendation for Allocations seat – Dakota Stanford by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Richards moves to approve Certification of Elections Eesults by unanimous consent. Approved.

#### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

*Those who wish to hear entire goodbye speeches may request the audio recording of the meeting.*

- Student Body President Padron-Rasines, giving her report since she must leave early, congratulates the newly elected senators. She discusses the success of

Gator Day last Tuesday and recognizes Chairwoman McClinton for her efforts in helping with the event. They also lobbied for a Board of Governors Initiative called Campus Safety, this initiative provides funding for Mental Health Resources. Lastly, she announced that she launched a Task Force to ensure Online Voting gets done by next election cycle. E-mail her if you are interested in serving in the Task Force.

- Senator Bell gives his goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Saber gives his goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator McKibbin gives his goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Connor Corzine thanks Minority Party Leader Derias for her contributions to the Senate and the University of Florida campus as a whole.
- Minority Party Leader Derias gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Guerra gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Alexander Orta, President of the Entrepreneurship Club, announces that the Founder of Priceline will be coming to campus to present his life story on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Innovation Week is also happening right now, and involves organizations promoting innovation throughout the campus and Gainesville.
- Senator Feldner gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Boyett gives his goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Ste.Claire gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Saetta gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Campanale gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Senator Ezenwa gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.
- Student Body Treasurer Elect Patel gives his goodbye speech to the Senate.

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

- From the Vice-President's office: David Nassau discusses Innovation Week, I-Week; more information about the events being held this week can be found on the Innovation Academy Facebook page. He echoes that on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Founder of Priceline will be coming to speak to students. Please try to show up and contact him if you have any questions.
- Student Body Treasurer Carre announces that his cabinet is working to build a permanent stage in the Pugh Hall Ocora so Pugh Hall nor Student Organizations have to pay out of pocket to set up and break down a stage every time; this will be funded by Student Government, CLAS Dean's Office, Dr. Dickinson in the Graham Center and the Graham Center itself. Since the current chamber does not have any AV equipment as of yet, Carre could not present the plans. If anyone would like any of the presentation materials about this project, feel free to contact him or look for it on the listserv.
  - They are continuing to work on the Gator Career Closet initiative.

- He also speaks in support of the Gator EMR team that spoke at the most recent Senate meeting.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Webster announces that the AV and sound systems in the new chamber will be done when Senate returns following spring break.
- She thanks everyone for a great term and congratulates the new Senators who were elected.
- The Ad Hoc committees will be giving presentations tonight as a wrap-up as they will be discharged following tonight's meeting.
- There are going to be two awards voted on tonight: Paul Clark, John Michael Stratton.
  - The John Michael Stratton Memorial Award
    - Senator Robare, Minority Party Leader Derias, and Senator Ste.Claire are nominated.
  - The Paul Clark Award
    - Chairman Meyers, Chairman Richards, Chairwoman McClinton, Senate Pro-Tempore Clements, Chairman Champoux, and Chairwoman Newport-Jones are nominated.

Winners will be announced at the End of The Year SG Banquet.

- Senate President Webster presents the notorious Paper Plate Awards.
  - Best Personality: Senator Ezenwa and Senator Rivera
  - Best All-Around: Minority Party Leader Derias and Majority Party Leader Smith
  - Most Facey Award: Senator Brown and Senator Green
  - Successful Spokesperson for Both Parties: Saneh Ste. Claire
  - A Real Fire Emoji: Senator Selogy
  - The Real MVP Award: Senator Campanale
  - Most Likely to Live in Hume Hall All Four Years: Senator Jones
  - Most Dedicated: Senator Saetta
  - Most Likely Person to Say "Go Gators": Chairman Meyers
  - The #Savage Award: Senator Worth
  - Most Sincere: Senator Weiner and Chairwoman Werk
  - Most School Spirit: Chairman Champoux
  - Senate Sweetheart: Senator Moodie
  - Number 1 Teacher in our Hearts: Chairwoman McClinton
  - Most Improved: Senator Robare
  - Best Dynamic Duo: Chairman Fletcher and Chairman Buiey
  - Chairs of the Most Fun Committee: Senator Boyett and Senator Todd

- Best Dressed: Chairwoman Newport-Jones
- Best Friend Award: Senator Kishan Patel
- Cutest Senate Couple: Senate Pro-Tempore Clements and Chairman Richards
- She recognizes the Senate Executive Committee for their time in Senate.
- Senate President Webster gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senate Pro-Tempore Clements thanks everyone for approving the open seats at the beginning of the meeting. She also congratulates Senator Stanford for making it on the Allocations seat.
- There are two open seats: District B and District D. The District B seat will be closed pending the resignation appeal of Senator Holloway. Applications will be due March 11th at noon.
- She thanks everyone for their service to the Senate and thanks Senators for their individual accomplishments.

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairman Meyers announces that the committee will be working on the times for Spring Hearings for Student Academic Organizations. They will take place on 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> of March.
- He says it was a pleasure serving with the Senators leaving and he looks forward to seeing what they accomplish outside the chamber.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairman Champoux announces that the committee is now active now that the elections period is over and they will be hearing five different requests after the Spring break.
- There will be a new Special Request Form being launched after Spring Break.
- He thanks Senator Gipson and Senator Feldner for their service, and welcomes Senator Dakota. The committee will also have two open seats.
- He thanks the Senate Executive Committee for all of their work.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Richards announces the committee did not meet this past Sunday due to lack of quorum. He also announces that all pending legislation will be

effectively failed because it cannot carry over to the next term; everyone is encouraged to submit legislation.

- He gives personal shout outs to members of Senate that are leaving.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman McClinton presents the resignation appeal of Senator Holloway.
  - There is a motion to approve the appeal by unanimous consent.  
Approved.
- Chairwoman McClinton presents the reasons for the expulsion recommendation for Senator Boyett.
  - There is a motion to approve the recommendation by unanimous consent.
- She presents the alternate constituency requirements for Senator Trawick, who did not complete probation.
- Chairwoman McClinton presents the approved absence petitions.
  - There is a motion to hear the petitions as a block by unanimous consent.  
Approved.
  - There is a motion to approve the block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- She gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Newport-Jones announces that the next committee chair will be fulfilling the order for new Senate shirts.
- She gives her goodbye speech to the Senate.

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

- Chairman Buiey gives a brief background of why this committee was charged in the first place. They were mainly worried about the decline in Black student enrollment. Their goal shifted to become collaboration with other organizations on campus focusing on issues of campus diversity, and they have created partnerships with several of these organizations.
- Chairman Fletcher says that there is a lot of work that will be done in the future with the new administration.
- Chairman Buiey says that they first separated the committee into four small subcommittees; Campus Climate, Financial Aid, Retention Program, Admissions. The Campus Climate subcommittee, which Chairman Buiey thought was the most important one, dealt with the retention of black students on campus. They saw that although Black students were enrolling, they were not staying in the University. They found that the state has 16% African-American residents while the university only has 7%, and they want the campus population to reflect that.

- Chairman Fletcher discusses the availability of a minority scholarship at other universities as opposed to UF, and they have been looking into that this term. The school does not have the funding available, but they are working with other organizations to accomplish this.
- Chairman Buiey talks about the retention rate at UF and the low number of students that return after their first year. There is a program called AIM that seeks to help with the retention of minority students, but the program is losing funding. They began looking into the PAT program, which served as a Preview-style program for minority students, and they hope to bring that back to campus.
- The final committee was the admissions committee in which they looked at admissions statistics as a whole. They looked specifically into the admissions for black students; they hope to continue working with admissions on this endeavor. The goal is to see how the university is changing as a whole and the different trends involved.
- Chairman Buiey thanks Senate President Webster for creating this committee and allowing them to pursue this issue.
  - He also thanks Chairman Fletcher for his work as a co-chair.

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

- Chairwoman Werk says that it has been an honor to serve as the chairwoman of this committee. She invites her committee members to discuss initiatives.
  - Health Affairs Cabinet helped to put together the first Mental Health Awareness Week on campus and they received great feedback from this. Students were surprised that this was the first event of this nature, especially given the competitiveness of the university. They opened up discussions with different mental health entities on campus and students.
  - In their research, they looked into different universities. One thing that they found was the ability to talk with a counselor online. 64% of students who dropped out did so because of a mental health issue.
  - They looked at the different reasons for effective mental health resources as well as the reasons for poor mental health resources. They also investigated the barriers to getting help on campus; an online appointment scheduling service is most beneficial.
  - Their initiatives include continuing MHAW, including U Matter We Care information on class syllabi, creating a comprehensive video of the mental health entities, getting help hotline numbers printed on Gator1, and the creation of an online triage system.
- Chairwoman Werk will be meeting with Dr. Jen Day Shaw after spring break, as well as with David Looney about getting the National Suicide Hotline printed on

Gator1 IDs. She is looking forward to working with the new administration on mental health issues in the upcoming term.

- She thanks Senate President Webster for allowing her to take on this task and to chair this committee.

### **SECOND READING:**

- There are no bills for second reading.

### **FIRST READING:**

- There are no bills for first reading.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Campanale shares that there will be a 5K on April 2nd. She asks senators to please take a sponsorship letter to their apartment complexes; she is leaving them with her replacement. She thanks everyone again.
- Chairman Richards asks senators to please write a note on the postcards available up front to send to state legislators.
- Chairwoman Newport-Jones asks her committee to meet her following the meeting.
- Senator Guerra announces that Changeville is happening this week on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There is an event for Teach for America on the 25<sup>th</sup>, if you're interested, check it out on Facebook. If anyone wants to attend TedX UF, register on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. If you don't register early, they might run out. Women's History Month opens on March 9th. Pride Awareness Month will be coming up soon.
- Senator McKibbin announces two events in the College of Arts opening on March 18<sup>th</sup>, get your tickets today. \$13 for students in the Constans Theatre.
- Senator Buiey thanks his committee for their work.
- Senator Moodie thanks everyone for the impressions they have left on her and says she will miss Senate President Webster, even though they live together.

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

### **No Vote Record Received:**

- Athanassios
- Cronin
- Felder
- Feldman

- Gipson
- Gridi
- Herriff
- Jellie
- Kennedy
- Kerr
- Kravetz
- Laky
- Natal
- O'Neil
- Roddenberry
- Rong
- Shaddock
- Todd
- Woodbury

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.