STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
February 13th, 2018

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be filmed or audio recorded and may be available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:
Roll was called and quorum was established with 68 senators present.

Not there for roll call:
- Arboleda
- Baer
- Bond
- Boone
- Brannan
- Calvin
- Dubinsky
- Dunn
- Eastland
- Garcia
- Gardezi
- Gatos
- Harden
- Lanoue
- Martinez
- Muller
- Ritterband
- Snyder
- Vista
- Watson, Allie
- Wilson
- Zhou

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:
- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:
- Chairwoman Dunson moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1017: Funding for Line Item Transfer for Pride Student Union to Travel by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairman Nickas moves to hear R&A committee recommendation for Executive Nominations as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  ○ Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairman Nickas moves to approve R&A committee recommendation for open Beaty seat, Nicole Caruso by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairman Nickas moves to approve R&A committee recommendation for open Allocations committee seat, Fraleigh Krause by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairman Nickas moves to approve R&A committee recommendation for open Budget committee seat, Branden Pearson by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairman Nickas moves to approve R&A committee recommendation for open Information and Communication committee seat, Audra Weeks by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairwoman Holloway moves to hear the approved absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  ○ Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
• Chairwoman Holloway moves to hear the failed absences petitions as a block by unanimous consent.
  ○ Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:
• Timothy Tia:
  ○ UF Senior and member of Alachua County labor coalition.
  ○ Here to speak on difficulties faced by OPS employees and how SG can help improve that.
  ○ OPS stands for other personnel services.
  ○ There are over 15,000 OPS workers at UF.
  ○ Around 4,000 of the 15,000 OPS workers are non-students and are paid by the hour.
  ○ OPS are considered temporary or part-time employees so they don’t receive benefits or paid sick-leave, paid administrative leave, or payments from social security.
  ○ OPS temporary workers normally do not work more than a year. Yet 68% of OPS workers have been at their position longer than a year, some for 5 years, or even for 18 years.
  ○ Because of OPS workers at UF, they make our institution great but some believe OPS workers are treated poorly.
  ○ UF opts out of social security for OPS workers.
OPS workers at UF were denied pay during a time of crisis during Hurricane Irma.

On Friday, two student government resolutions were introduced for the support of OPS workers.

- The first resolution was asking UF to compensate for hours OPS workers missed following Hurricane Irma and for UF to develop an administrative leave program for future unforeseen closures.
- The second resolution consisted of classifying OPS workers into a position where they would receive benefits and better fit the definition of a temporary worker.

The judiciary committee was not able to hear the legislation because members were sick and quorum could not be met so they will be heard two weeks from now.

He is glad that committee members can request days off but he believes that everyone on UF's campus should have that right yet OPS workers are denied it.

OPS workers who live paycheck to paycheck and have low medical benefits cannot afford to miss days off.

States that SG most likely employees and pays many OPS workers therefore students should have say in OPS benefits.

Over campaign, he has heard many heartbreaking stories of the struggles that OPS workers face.

States that OPS workers are afraid to speak a public events because of fear of getting in trouble.

A survey of over 535 OPS workers was conducted and yielded results that are valuable to listen to.

Their struggles and successes are also ours.

OPS workers need a voice, which SG can provide.

**Omar Syed Muhmahan:**

- Senior at UF.
- Responding to the question that “Please describe some of the experiences of lost wages and work due to Hurricane Irma and/or Richard Spencer Event”:
  - “If I don’t work, I don’t get paid and if I don’t get paid I can’t pay my bills. Such is the life of someone living paycheck to paycheck.”
  - “I had to lose two days of work because of the hurricane. I was not allowed to make up the hours because I am only allowed to work 40 hours a week.”
  - “Loss of wage means loss of living.”
“During Hurricane Irma I lost a week’s worth of pay which set me back significantly financially and I am still trying to catch up.”
“During Hurricane Irma I lost power for a week and a half and was not able to work, my lab manager was extremely rude.”
“Between Hurricane Irma, Richard Spencer, and holiday weekends, I am in over $1,000 of credit card debt.”
“I ended up homeless because I could not pay rent. I had to use my savings to pay for rent.”
“Other employees with benefits were paid during time off but I did not and I lost many wages, which made me struggle to make ends meet.”
Omar reads a few more responses that continue to emphasize the concerns of treatment of OPS workers.
As students, we have a right to take a stand for those that we employ.

● Fi Stuart Taylor:
  ○ Thanks everyone for listening to us speak.
  ○ Will be sharing a few more answers from OPS workers from the survey that will continue to emphasize and share the importance of better treatment of OPS workers.
  ○ OPS workers depend on those paychecks to pay for bills and provide for their families.
  ○ OPS workers contribute greatly to UF and it is important that we do right by them.

● Chase Werther:
  ○ Will also be reading responses given to OPS workers about wage losses because of Hurricane Irma and Richard Spencer.
    ■ “Between Hurricane Irma and Richard Spencer I lost around $400 which was a hard hit.”
    ■ “I lost a lot of hours.”
    ■ “Had to relocate to my parents.”
    ■ “Monthly expenses were paid late because of wage loss.”
    ■ “I missed more than the days that UF was closed because I had to repair damages to my home during Irma.”
    ■ “The question should be why UF discriminates against OPS workers and treats us so poorly.”
    ■ “Being able to make up hours is not predictable unlike for other workers.”

● Eric Higbie:
○ Will be reading response from “are there any assets from being an OPS worker at UF?”
  ■ Response One: “My lab manager has been extremely rude to others and me. I believe we are underpaid and undervalued.”
  ■ “I would not have taken the position if I knew how many days of work I would be losing. It has added a significant amount of stress in my household.”
  ■ “I often feel sick but can never go home because of the low paycheck.”
  ■ “It does not help morale knowing that you are optional to the University. It also does not help morale that we cannot make teams.”
  ■ “I score admission essays for UF and get paid too low for the job I do.”
  ■ “I cannot afford to ask for days off. I ended up with many health problems because of bad working conditions.”
  ■ “It should be illegal to remove that state of Florida workers can be removed from the social security system. I understand the need for OPS workers and the need for a budget but after many years in my position without being moved to a teams position I am upset.”
  ■ “There should be a position between OPS and teams where we can get paid for time off.”
  ■ “OPS workers from minority backgrounds are not trained well or payed as much but yet are expected to work twice as hard as his white counterparts.”
  ■ “I have been treated unfairly as an OPS worker and have no form to submit a complainant.”
  ■ “We cannot speak up without feeling as if we will lose our position.”
  ■ “It is not fair that we are called the face of this University yet paid the least and treated the worst.”

● Jenny Brown:
  ○ Post-Doc at UF, an OPS worker so she has no social security.
  ○ She was paid during Hurricane Irma but is here to speak for those workers who did not.
  ○ Reads responses to the question “What is the joy you find in your job?”

● Jeremy O’Briem:
  ○ Wishes senator a good evening.
  ○ Reads responses to question, “Are there any aspects of being an OPS worker at UF that you care to share with us?”
Reads more response to: “Please describe some of your experiences with loss of work or wages due to Hurricane Irma and/or Richard Spencer.”

- Shayli Patel:
  - Reads responses from OPS workers to the question, “In the past 3 months have you taken any time off for personal time such as sick days, doctor appointments, and family matters. If so how many hours did you take off?”
  - Reads responses to, “Are there any qualities of being an OPS worker at UF that you care to share with us?”

- Chairwoman Dunson yields her time to the chair.

- Jared Machado:
  - Wishes senators a good evening.
  - Hear to advocate for amazing UF OPS employees.
  - Question asked, “Do you feel that the faculty senate or any other entity at UF has accurately voiced the concerns of OPS workers.”
  - Please have an empathetic mind when thinking of this issue.

- John Etieure:
  - Won’t be speaking for long just wants to highlight everything that was said.
  - Hopes that Senate understands that these people are being brought into the system of modern day economic slavery.
  - Please think of the responses read when considering this legislation.

- Amol Jelhwaui:
  - Wishes Senators a good evening.
  - Thanks everyone for the time extension.
  - Pleased to announce the appointment of the University Of Florida College Of Democrats SG Liaison is Jared Machado. He will be the point of advocacy through SG.
  - Wants to invite everyone to UF’s College of Democrats Executive Ticket Debate on Friday February 19th at 6pm in Little Hall in room 101.
  - Also wants to invite everyone to his campaign meet and greet tomorrow February 14th at 11:45 am in Turlington Plaza.
  - Also invites everyone to his campaign kickoff party this Thursday at 6:30 pm at the First Magnitude Brewing Company.
  - The passing of the introduced resolutions will allow for the representatives of the student body to indicate that they stand with OPS workers who contribute so much to our university.
  - There are over 15,000 OPS workers and more needs to be done for them.
  - UFCD stands here in support with the OPS workers.
  - Urges Senate to stand with OPS workers too.

- Robert Mermer:
Here to represent Graduate Students United which is the Graduate Assistant Teaching Union.

Will be reading responses to question on OPS survey, “Has your position changed since you were hired?”

Second question, “Have you talked to your supervisor for a team’s position and what was the response?”

According to Florida law statute, OPS workers are meant to be temporary workers who should be working on a discrete task.

No one should be an OPS worker for years.

GAU is here tonight to endorse the resolutions that will be introduced to the Judiciary committee.

- Ashley Nguyen:
  - Here to make a closing statement.
  - Here as a concerned student.
  - Thanks everyone for speaking.
  - It is heartening to see that people care about the workers at this university.
  - UF is a top 10 public university and is something she is proud of, but UF should not be proud of the way that OPS workers are treated.
  - Here to ask Senate to help stand for OPS workers.
  - Has talked to multiple senators for the help but it is not enough.
  - All three party candidates have promised to be a voice for those who do not have one and it is important that they are not just saying that but will act upon it.
  - It is time senate stands for those they claim they represent.

- Senator Pearson:
  - Before presentation, a motion was proposed to suspend the rules and procedures to voice vote in order to extend speaker’s time to 7 minutes.
    - Motion passes with a roll call vote in favor 64 (yes) to 0 (no).
    - In a voice vote, motion passes in favor of the ayes.
  - As many know, Senator Pearson disassociated himself from the Inspire Party, and now identifies as an independent senator.
  - Initially did not want to bring this issue to chamber.
    - However, after many comments including mistreating members of the Inspire Party he feels the need to shine light on the “corruption” of the Inspire Party.
  - Disregarded political affiliation when making decisions in senate.
  - The leaders question members of the party when they vote of line.
  - Refused to vote for Senator Kratt for being a member at large based on qualifications.
    - Immediately questioned by Senator Lima, as well as other.
- Needs to do a better job in “whipping” the votes.
  - Drafted a resolution regarding the Richard Spencer event.
    - Judiciary Chairwoman Dempsey suggested to better encompass Student Government’s stance on the event.
    - Inspire Party refused to make any changes to the resolution.
      - Pearson explains that the unwillingness to change is in direct contradiction to bipartisanship.
  - Claims that Inspire is “not pro student,” but rather “anti-Impact.”
  - Knows that Impact is willing to work across the aisle, because they worked with Senator Pearson before his disaffiliation with Inspire.
  - Explains Inspire’s disinterest with the legislation passed regarding menstrual hygiene products.
  - “Inspire is not transparent.”
  - “Now that I am a minority of one, I will share the truth, and nothing but the truth.”
  - Had an opportunity to continue in the party (was offered chief of staff if student body presidential candidate Revel Lubin won the election), but instead chose to speak out.
  - Chooses to serve the students.

**If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu**

**OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**
- Chomp The Vote:
  - Reminds everyone that next Tuesday, February 20th, is the last day to update Voter Registration in Alachua County for the March 20th election.
  - Will be sending Senate Pro-Tempore Schaettle an email to send out, so all Gators are registered to vote in the upcoming elections.
  - Will be sticking around at the end if anyone has questions. If not email chomp@sg.ufl.edu

**SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**
- Senate President Green welcomes the senators.
- Thanks all the students for coming out to public debate to let Senate hear the student bodies concerns.
- MCDA Liaison Report:
This morning had a meeting with Will Atkins and he said he is excited for this organization.
  ■ He will be having an open door policy, will be posted soon.
  ■ If you are part of any groups such as Black Affairs, it is encouraged to visit.
  ○ He will be creating a student ambassador to help him keep in touch with all events going on around MCDA
  ○ Please join Black Student Union tomorrow, February 14th at Soul Café it is a SG funded event so it can go towards constituencies.

- Senator Gatos:
  ○ Student Involvement Fair was a success.
  ○ Organization fair was also a success.
  ○ Involvement Awards applications will be open to student organizations February 16th-March 16th.
  ○ Student Leadership Institute will occur on March 31st. direct questions to Senator Gatos
  ○ Brown Center of Leadership and Service beginning “Lead UF” in the middle of March.
  ○ More alternative break trips will be released for Spring Break.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Schaettle welcomes the senators.
- Dentistry, Engineering (2), Graduate, HHP, and Veterinary Medicine committee seats will be open and are due Friday, Feb 23rd at 12:00pm.
- In conclusion to the Replacement and Agenda Committee report, Senator Pearson makes a motion to send all remaining committee reports electronically by unanimous consent. Approved.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Committee Report will be sent out through email.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Committee Report will be sent out through email.

JUDICIARY

- Committee Report will be sent out through email.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Committee Report will be sent out through email.
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:
● Committee Report will be sent out through email.

AD-HOC REVISIONS:
● Committee Report will be sent out through email.

SECOND READING
● There were none.

FIRST READING:
● There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:
● There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
● Pro-Temp Schaettle:
  ○ Please turn in your own voter record to be counted, otherwise you will be given a half-absence.
● Senator Girschick:
  ○ Big Event is on April 17th
  ○ Signed up Senate as a team.
  ○ Link will be sent out with Senate Pro-Temp Schaettle for everyone to sign up.
● Senator Watson:
  ○ Senator Watson’s show that she directed will be going shown next weekend and she’d love to see familiar faces.
● Senator Hernandez:
  ○ Grateful Gator Day is on March 15th, contact Senator Hernandez if willing to volunteer.
● Senator Hassan:
  ○ Islam on Campus will be having an event talking about marriage in Islam on February 15th.
  ○ Location is in Reitz Union.
● Senator Lee:
  ○ CPR registration is still open, price is $30.
  ○ More dates will be made.
  ○ Half of proceeds go to DM.
● Senator Jenkins:
  ○ Thanks Timothy Tia organizing this event regarding OPS pay.
There will be a Living Wage meeting on March 15th at 5:30. Address is 901 NW 8th Street.

- Senator Lima:
  - Attempts to respond to Senator Pearson’s remarks in public debate, but is asked to do so outside of announcements by Senate President Green.

**ROLL CALL:**
- A motion to use voting records for final roll call by unanimous consent. Approved.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**
- The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.