

## **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 Jelhwai:
  - 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 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Little Hall in room 101.
  - Also wants to invite everyone to his campaign meet and greet tomorrow February 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Ngyuyen:
  - 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](mailto:senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu)\*\****

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

- Chomp The Vote:
  - Reminds everyone that next Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>-March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Student Leadership Institute will occur on March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, contact Senator Hernandez if willing to volunteer.
- Senator Hassan:
  - Islam on Campus will be having an event talking about marriage in Islam on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - 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 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Address is 901 NW 8<sup>th</sup> 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.