

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

March 14th, 2017

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:35 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 87 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Baldwin
- Caruso
- Dempsey
- Epstein
- Fine
- Girschick
- Hernandez
- Hoffman
- Jones
- McMillan
- Zhou

AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- No amendments were made to the previous minutes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Shaw motions to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Budget Committee Chair, Emily Dunson by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Shaw motions to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Allocations Committee Chair, Trevor Pope by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Shaw motions to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Judiciary Committee Chair, Nick Adams by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Shaw motions to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Rules and Ethics Committee Chair, Amanda Holloway by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Majority Party Leader Shaw motions to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Information and Communications Committee Chair, Audra Weeks by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Shaw motions to hear the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for Budget committee seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motions to approve aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Natalia Ortega
 - Wishes the senators a good evening.
 - Early voting for Alachua County Elections is going on until March 17th.
 - Locations will be given out soon.
 - Encourages to pass along to networks and constituents.
 - Legislative session is now concluded now and won't be open until March 2019.
 - We should be working toward legislative interpretation right now and not new legislation.
 - Would love to have as many students involved in this as possible.
 - More than happy to as many hands on deck in order to help.
 - The upcoming election is one of the most important elections in recent Florida history.
 - Wants to make sure we have an early voting locations on campus for the upcoming election.
 - During August of 2018 it will be the primary elections and November 2018 will be for the general elections.
 - Wants to work without party lines.
 - Contact her at chomp@sg.ufl.edu.
- Senator Saint yields his time to Minority Party Leader Morse.
- Senator Calvin yields his time to Minority Party Leader Morse.
- Senator Rauseo yields his time to Minority Party Leader Morse.
- Minority Party Leader Morse:
 - Wishes everyone a good evening, hopes everyone had a good spring break.
 - Excited to see many people come out for committee seats.
 - R&A recommended four seats to the Budget committee and they were just heard as a block.
 - The Inspire will be objecting to the four budget committee seats.
 - It has been a long time since there has been a debate in this chamber.

- Any controversial legislation has been filtered by the Replacement and Agenda Committee.
- Has reached a point where he can no longer just sit back and let recommendations be breezed through.
- Believes the Budget committee is one of the most important for this campus.
- This weekend, the Budget committee will be reviewing all organizations that gets funding from Student Government.
- Learned firsthand that the Budget committee members must be qualified and informed especially on the codes.
- It is confusing to him that 3 of the senators elected to the Budget Committee are senators serving their first term.
- Feels that only one senator elected for the Budget committee had experience and that some of the budget nominees were unqualified.
- Upset that there were so many other qualified senators that were denied.
- Hopes each of the rejected can make positive initiatives on campus.
- Encourages everyone to get involved in the process and stay involved.
- It is important to hold yourself accountable to the standards set.
- Must be able to come together to make unbiased decisions as a group.
- Looking forward to see what can be accomplished when working in a more democratic and merit based system.
- Senator Jenkins:
 - Represents district C.
 - Wants to speak about the early voting resolution.
 - In summary the early voting resolution talks on the importance of passing legislation to update Florida Statue 101.657 to allow early voting locations on college campuses and universities across Florida.
 - The support behind the solution is a bipartisan senate matter.
 - Asked his district C colleagues if they wanted to be sponsors on his legislation.
 - Met former Senate President Ian Green and former Pro-Tempore Trevor Schaettle, and gained full support and endorsement from Schaettle.
 - Both sides of the aisle supported his legislation.
 - Organizations on campus also support his legislation.
 - Overall, his resolution has support.
 - Goes through steps of how legislation was not presented last week.
 - One cannot remove oneself from the committee and chair position and not have responsibility.
 - Feels he was not informed that he could have sent the legislation to the senate secretary himself.

- Disappointed by former Judiciary Chairwoman Dempsey's actions, but is not surprised.
- If concerned with the resolution - lets debate.
- If we care about our democracy, "it will pass."
- If we care about our students, "it will pass."
- If we care about having a voice in our future, "it will pass."
- "Let us vote, let us vote."
- Senator Muller:
 - Wishes everyone a good evening.
 - Wants to address the concerns and inaccuracies regarding the resolution denied at the past meeting.
 - Wants to update Florida Legislation 101.567 to allow college campuses to be considered early polling locations.
 - The resolution is a step forward towards developing a civically involved campus.
 - It was further claims that future pieces of legislation regarding the early polling will not go through this year.
 - There is no place in our resolution that states the changes must be for this term. We recognize that this is a process.
 - They are aware that it will take a long time for changes to be made which is why they started with a resolution.
 - The goal would be to get other universities in the state of Florida to follow the steps by University of Florida.
 - Act as a model for other schools.
 - We expected SG to embrace that role.
 - Putting pressure on the state legislature will allow ground to be made on the issue.
 - There are obstacles that will be coming up which is why action must be taken now.
 - Last week it was stated that there are two weeks of early voting in Alachua County, yet there is only one week in this election occurring now.
 - It was stated that UF was not the best geographical location for early voting in Alachua County last week but the students make up 25% of Alachua County.
 - We can do a better job in regards to early voting locations on campus.
 - The resolution isn't just about early voting at the University of Florida.
- Tatiana Grower:
 - Here to represent Young Americans for Liberty, in strong support of the resolution regarding early polling locations on campus.
 - As we all know, college students are busy.

- A lot of us lack reliable transportation.
- This makes getting to polling locations very difficult to college students.
- There are only 3 early voting locations in Alachua County, none of which are close to UF.
- An early voting location at UF would increase voter turnout.
- Some of us disagree on the steps needing to be taken by the student body.
- Here to support the resolution for early voting on campus.
- We need to change the law that university buildings are not currently on the approved voting locations list.
- It is essential for campuses to be stated as places for early voting, especially for local elections. These elections tend to have the lowest student turn out.
- Alexander Pizarro:
 - Wishes Senators a good evening.
 - Here on behalf of Democracy Matters in UF.
 - Accepts that most students in this room wish to take their civic engagement beyond the collegiate level.
 - Unfortunately, the sentiment and engagement in voting does not leave this chamber, and lack of access is a large barrier.
 - Many hindrances and barriers draw away the student who only has an hour of time to vote on a school day.
 - Passing this resolution would be a step in the correct direction.
 - Forcing students to walk miles or take public transportation to vote is disenfranchising the younger generation.
 - This is an issue that affects everyone on campus.
 - Fighting for an early voting location on campus is something we should all be fighting for.
- Megan Newsome:
 - Wishes everyone a good evening.
 - Was a Lead Vote Everywhere Ambassador for the Andrew Goodman Association for 3 years.
 - Picked up initiatives for early voting locations on campus, starting in 2014.
 - Currently, the Reitz Union is not considered a convention center, which would be an appropriate location for early voting.
 - Ken Detzner, Florida Secretary of State, holds discretion of whether this is the appropriate interpretation, and could change his mind tomorrow.
 - Most permanent solution is a change of statutes.

- Relying on State level interpretation means relying on state level government.
- This would give power back to local government.
- UNF and UCF both have early voting polls 3 and 4 miles away but do not have access to public transportation.
- According to a study, 62% of UF students voted in 2016.
- Indeed, the study shows that UF has an above average voting turnout compared to other universities, which should be boasted.
- Envisions a day where people taking a tour are pointed towards a building where there is early polling locations.
- Senator Stanford yields his time to the chair.
- Senator Berrocal yields her time to the chair.

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:

- Nathalia Ortega, Chomp the Vote Chairwoman:
 - Wants to address the concerns with rejecting a resolution regarding early polling locations on campus.
 - Believes that we are all on the same page.
 - Happy that people are here in regards to their concerns.
 - Worked a lot on this issue through her internships.
 - Learned from one of the state legislators that UCF have an early polling location on campus.
 - UCF was the first one to do an early access location.
 - There are more important things to be done in this chamber.
 - Working on a resolution that better hits these points.
 - Please email her at chomp@sg.ufl.edu if there are any questions.
 - Most important goal right now is providing an early polling location during the mid-term election.
 - We need to work step by step.
 - Has looked to work with Secretary Detzner.
 - While we are looking for something permanent, we are working with multiple offices to change the state statutes.
 - Wants to make this as efficient as possible.
 - Sending a resolution that won't be seen until legislation session starts again, seems inefficient to her.
 - These members have many things on their agenda.
 - Senator Jenkins mentioned that it was a bipartisan effort, which it was.
 - Are working towards making a better worded resolution through bipartisan effort.

- Wants to work with Senator Jenkins on this issue. Says he does not want to work with her.
- FLC Director of Internal Relations:
 - St. Baldrick's Event this Thursday in Plaza of America's, 1:00pm-5:00pm.
 - Jersey Mike's Sub Fundraising Event all week.

PRESIDENT ELECT REPORT:

- President Elect Green:
 - Here to announce the opening of agency heads, cabinet chairs, executive secretaries, deputy chief of staff, and judicial positions, cabinet directors applications open today and close April 4th at 5PM.
 - Introduces his chief of staff: Terry Delahunty.
 - Wants these dates to be known by not only the senators, but constituents.
 - Wants to make sure he has the best executive team to best serve the students.
 - Please reach out at presidentelect@sg.ufl.edu.

SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

- Senate President Grosse welcomes the senators.
- Liaison applications are due this Friday at 11:59pm.
- States her office hours:
 - Monday: 8:30am-11:00am
 - Tuesday: 1:00pm-4:00pm
 - Wednesday: 1:30pm-4:00pm
 - Thursday: 1:00pm-3:00pm

REPLACEMENT AND AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

BUDGET COMMITTEE SEATS

- Senator Abraham, Senator Brown, Senator Dunn and Senator Sandifer have been recommended to fill the 4 open seats in the Budget and Appropriations Committee, and are to be approved as a block, as per the agenda.
- There was a motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Objection.
- 3 Minutes of Presentation:
- Senator Brown:
 - One of the proudest moments of his life was being sworn in last week.
 - Loved the passion and energy in the chamber.
 - Knew he didn't want to be a "Tuesday" night senator.
 - The reason Budget Committee is so important is because it funds over 275 organizations on campus, including the Big 9.

- Looks forward to sitting down this weekend and listening to every organizations case, and why they do what they love in their organization.
- Wants to make sure that the students' service fee for every credit hour is used to their greatest benefit.
- Senator Abraham:
 - There are 50,000 students at the University of Florida.
 - Knows that her experience and background will prove her to be an important role in the budget process.
 - Thinks it is amazing that we can help so many organizations so effectively and efficiently.
- 3 Minute Q&A:
 - Majority Party Leader Shaw: Can you speak on your experience that will make you valuable on the committee.
 - Senator Sandifer: He is a finance major and he works at a bank where he is learning skills that he hoping to bring to the Budget Committee.
 - Senator Brown: Is involved in the FLC and was a member of Gators for Tomorrow. Served as a finance intern in Winter Park, Florida. Worked on finance staff for Florida Blue Key.
 - Senator Dunn: Served as a clerk for the judiciary committee. Served as treasurer for the NHS at his high school.
 - Senator Abraham: Was previously the Orange and Blue Cabinet director. Heavily identifies with the Indian Student Association. Is the Freshman Leadership Experience Director in the ISA.
 - Minority Party Leader Morse: What experiences do you have in SG finance?
- 3 Rounds of Pros and Cons Debate:
 - 1st round of Cons:
 - Senator Chou: My first concern is that 2 of the 4 applicants did not even bring their resume like they were told to do so. Lack of background in SG finance is worrying.
 - Senator Beliniski: My concern is that budget committee members need to know the 800 codes and she is not sure that they have any knowledge of the 800 codes.
 - Senator Rauseo: Concerned with having only week to learn this process along with learning how senate works, since you are mostly first-term elects.
 - Senator Joachim: A couple weeks ago he was told that as a freshman he was told he didn't have the experience to lead so why are those who got selected for the committee freshman?
 - 1st Round of Pros:

- Chairwoman Dunson: As the previous and current chairwoman and committee member of the budget she feels she is qualified to say what is needed to serve in the committee. These individuals have interest unlike any other to serve on the Budget Committee. The next few days are crucial for learning to make sure they can serve both fiscally and empathetically.
 - Senator Pearson: Senator Abraham has done an amazing job working in the Orange and Blue cabinet. Major is directly relevant with finance. Senator Dunn does an amazing job in taking the minutes of every Judiciary Committee meeting. Senator Brown has done an amazing job with freshman leadership council, shows that he is very passionate about the budget committee through seeking not just the chair and committee member.
 - 2nd Round Cons:
 - Senator Calvin: Mentions the proposal of legislation that changes the way the Replacement and Agenda committee selects committee members. Believes that the R&A Committee has failed in their recommendations.
 - Senator Morse: Is proud of the members and their passion but he does not feel that cramming the 800 codes in 3 days will allow them to learn them effectively in time for the budget hearings which is an extremely crucial time of the year. He has read through the 800 codes himself and he still struggles.
 - Senator Chou: Only one person has experience with SG finance directly. Believes that the lack of experience is very problematic. Believes that effort and qualifications are two different things. Mentions his 30 applications for committee seats as effort.
 - 2nd Round of Pros:
 - Senator Krause: It is not exactly what is on the resume. It is about their potential to grow. Senator Brown's passion is noticeable, as she has worked with him in FLC.
 - Senator Santalo: Believes it is important that they all work together as team in addition to knowing the codes and working with SG finance. Knows that Senator Abraham knows how to correctly submit SAR's because of her past experience.
 - Majority Party Leader Shaw: Goes down the line and explains great qualities of each committee member recommended by the Replacement and Agenda Committee. Mentions the passion and willingness to learn.
 - 3rd Round of Cons:

- Senator Kratt: Believes we all care, but believes that doesn't translate to being qualified.
 - Senator German: Wants to reiterate that it is about the most qualified people, not about partisan politics. He believes that there are more qualified people in the chamber to serve, regardless of party.
 - Senator Victorianne: Believes his party has continuously been shut down based on qualifications. Cannot support the lack of experience. Believes there is a sense of hypocrisy in the chamber.
 - Senator Joachim: Believes that just reaching out to members of the committees does not make you the most qualified to serve the committee.
 - Minority Party Leader Morse: Believes that the arguments have been flipped.
 - 3rd round of Pros:
 - Majority Party Leader Shaw: Senator Krause was not saying that qualifications are not valid she was trying to say that there are other factors that are taken into consideration by the R&A committee.
 - Chairwoman Dunson: These four reached out to her, and was impressed about their knowledge of the 800-codes, knows that these selected members are very knowledgeable and willing to learn more.
 - Senator Pearson: Senator Brown has served a finance internship at his hometown which is tremendous. Senator Sandifer has experience in finance which will allow him to bring fiscal responsibility to the committee. Believes that we need people to have a different approach to stretching the dollar.
 - 2 minutes of Final Privilege:
 - Senator Brown: Believes that if all four members selected had no knowledge on the 800 codes they would have never been added. It is also important to have a heart of service because they will be serving multiple organizations throughout campus.
 - Senator Sandifer: We all have the passion for student organizations and their intent to benefit the campus. We wouldn't have applied if we had no knowledge on the 800 codes.
 - Senator Abraham: Did the research, and is very happy to be able to work with the various organizations on campus.
 - Senator Brown: Is looking forward to being transparent and getting to know every single senator in the chamber.
- Voice vote: In the eyes of the chamber, the eyes have the vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Murphy welcomes the senators.
- Has previously served on the budget committee and is aware of the qualifications needed for the Budget Committee.
- Was not looking for most qualified, was looking for the best people.
- 2 Allocations seats, 6 Information and Communications seats, 6 Rules and Ethics seats, 2 Judiciary seats, and 1 District B seat is open.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators and hopes everyone had a rejuvenating break.
- As has been touched on, there is a big weekend coming up with the committee, in form of the Budget Committee hearings.
- The reason she fell in love with Budget in the first place was because of budget hearings.
- Would love to see all senators in attendance.
- Entire schedule for budget hearings will be posted.
- Congratulates her new committee members.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairman Pope welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the senators for approving Chairman Pope as Allocations Chair.
- SG Finance and Allocations is where he has found his niche.
- Two committee seats are open.
- If interested, he strongly encourages to apply for these seats.
- Looking to recruit a scribe or clerk to take notes during the meetings.
- Still figuring out when he wants to do office hours and has been looking into making joint office hours with Chairwoman Dunson.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Adams welcomes the senators.
- 3 seats will be opening up for the committee.
- Would like to meet with those who are looking to apply or who have questions about legislation.
- Will stand after the meeting to answer questions.
- Thanks senators for approving him as chairman.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Holloway welcomes the senators.

- Explained absences and constituency to newly elected senators in an orientation meeting.
- Will be sending out a listserv email with a quick refresher on constituency, submitting absences, etc. for all senators as a refresher.
- Cannot conduct business because of 6 open seats.
- Provides a brief description of the Rules and Ethics committee.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Weeks welcomes the senators.
- Thanks senator for approving her as the chairwoman.
- Has 6 open seats in the Information and Communication committee.
- Has retreat and other exciting things coming up so she needs help.
- Reach out to Chairwoman Weeks regarding questions about Information and Communication
- Information will be sent out on a make-up information session for new senators who could not attend tonight.
- Tabling sign-ups will be open soon, as well as SG merchandise. Emails will be sent out.

SECOND READING:

- There were none.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

There are no bills pending signatures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator President Pro-Tempore Murphy:
 - Seat due dates:
 - Committee seats: Friday, March 16th at 12:00pm.
 - District B is due Friday, March 23rd at 12:00pm.
 - We are also looking for a scribe.
- Senator Krause:
 - FLC is hosting St. Baldrick's Event this Thursday in Plaza of America's, 1:00pm-5:00pm.
- Senator Stanford:
 - Looking for replacements for University of Florida Student Affairs Board of Managers for the O'Connell center, and Advisory Board for RecSports.

- Senator Abraham:
 - This Friday is the Off-Campus Housing Fair at the Reitz, from 10:00am-1:00pm.
- Senator Bond:
 - This Sunday, former Senator Watson will be having her play reading at 2:00pm in Reitz Union room 2330.
- Senator Grodi:
 - Accent is presenting Dan Mullen on Tuesday, March 20th at 8:00pm.
- Senator Hasan:
 - The Arab Student Association Arabic Ball is this Saturday at 7:00 pm at the Touchdown Terrace.
- Senator Victorianne:
 - On the UF Trial Team and they will hosting their charity tournament on April 14th and they need volunteers.
- Senator Lima:
 - Gators Vote Everywhere and Gator Represent Voters will be hosting a co-forum on April 4th at 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Reitz Union.
- Senator:
 - The Hispanic heritage month graphic design applications are open, please apply.
- Senator Berkley:
 - Next Wednesday: will be hosting an event regarding Islamic Extremism.
- Senator Cockram:
 - Engineering will be hosting their Pie Day event in Turlington at 3:14pm.
- Senator Morris:
 - Will be having Grateful Gator Day tomorrow in Plaza of the Americas from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.