

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
May 22nd, 2018

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:01 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 64 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Belinski
- Bond
- Boone
- Brandies
- Brue
- Caruso
- Chhajed
- Jesurajan
- Khantawang
- McBride
- Pellet
- Randhawa
- Rosello
- Smith

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation, Libby Shaw, for the Judiciary chair by unanimous consent.
 - There was an objection.
- Senator Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation, Clay Hurdle, for the Rules and Ethics chair by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Hernandez moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendations for the open permanent Senate seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent.
Approved.
- Senator Hernandez moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendations for the open Summer C replacement seats by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Senator Bradley
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - States that petty politics, grudges, and complacency has corrupted Student Government's idea of legislation.
 - Stated that he was told that certain disapprovals of actions along party lines caused concern within the party he campaigned with.
 - Reiterated the veto of former Student Body President Smith Meyers of previously unanimously passed legislation.
 - States that Senate did not pro/con the vetoes of the bill, and is ashamed of those for not speaking up.
 - States that he respects most in the chamber, but has reservations against the leadership of the IMPACT party.
 - Urges senators to think and choose for themselves, and to set aside party politics.
 - "The university is an arena of sorts, where ideas must be discussed, argued, and challenged".
- Chairman Pope
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Addresses the concerns of the vetoed legislation in the previous week.
 - States that the vetoes were justified and do not contradict values that senators swore themselves to.
 - States that former Student Body President Meyers vetoed the legislation due to finding fundamental flaws that need to be reworked.
 - Emphasizes that the power of the veto exists for a reason and sees no reason why the legislation could not be looked back over.
 - Guarantees that senators of his affiliating party are definitely representative of the student body.
- Minority Party Leader German
 - Thanks Chairman Pope on the vetoes but feels as if he should have stated those sentiments the previous week.
 - Believes the vetoes were done maliciously as the notice of their approval was given 2 hours before the senate meeting.

- States that changes to legislation could have been made if the vetoes had been announced earlier.
- States that the vetoes set back the Student Body.
- States that the motion to push back the vetoed legislation discussion due to short notice failed and is not a good example of democracy.
- Would love to hear why senators who approved the legislation originally decided to flip stances on the issue.
- States that he feels disrespected that the floor was closed before the debate of pro/conning the vetoed legislation.
- Mentions that upcoming speakers will speak on various stances of the vetoed legislation.
- Encourages senators to vote for what they believe in and come together for the greater good.
- Senator Ospina
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Re-states the issue of the vetoed legislation during the previous week.
 - Re-states that the legislation was passed unanimously.
 - Asks senators if they are aware of the power of their vote, and if they know the content of the bills they vote for.
 - Re-states that any attempt for discussion for the vetoed legislation was turned down.
 - Asks senators if they want to perpetuate gridlock and partisan politics within the UF Student Government.
 - Encourages senators to compromise; “at the end of the day, we are all Gators”.
- Senator Lima
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Wants to talk about decency and democracy; states they’re intertwined.
 - Shares that for several months, senators from both sides of the aisle worked together to revise codes to assist the Student Body.
 - States the decency should be required to notify the authors, uphold the pros/cons, and to explain the impact of the bills on the Student Body.
 - States that senators must hold each other accountable and call out undemocratic behavior.
 - States to put party politics and affiliations aside in order to do what is “decent and democratic”.
- Senator Wonicker-Cook
 - Welcomes the senators.

- Struggles to understand why the previous legislation was vetoed; specifically where subtitles of live streams of Senate meetings be mandatory.
- Asks “how is it great to be a Gator if some students are left underrepresented?”
- States little transparency within Student Government and how students can make an impact within Student Government.
- Senator Lemos
 - Thanks the senators for upholding the vetoed legislation.
 - States the Voter Protection Act would only have increased meaningless bureaucracy, along with the other five bills that were vetoed.
 - Disagrees that the Senate shut down the debate and states that public debate exists for discussion on the legislation and their vetoes.
 - States that not all legislation is argued on pro/con debates and would be useless to expend all the time on that topic.
 - States that SG is not a democracy, but a republic, with laws to uphold.
- Senator Chou
 - Re-states the late notice of the vetoed legislation.
 - States Rule 3 Part 1-C4.
 - States how R&A may have been negligent of the timeline and issuing of the news related to the vetoed legislation.
 - Hints that this action may have been “above the law”.
 - States the role of Student Government allows people to assert themselves in more public speaking.
 - States that public debate allows senators to not become a stereotype of a “Tuesday night senator”.
 - Asks if UF SG pushes senators as an organization to better themselves, or is it a place to not allow room for debate.
 - States that no one answered the question of why debate was not given during the previous week.
- Amira Al Khatib
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - States that she is the president of Delta Alpha Pi, the new honors organization for disabled students on the UF campus.
 - Here to support the Student Body Accessibility Act.
 - States that not all student government recordings have closed captioning, bringing a disadvantage to certain students.
 - States the “society is made of able bodied people for able bodied people.”
 - States that veto of the legislation is a step backwards.

- States a personal hearing impairment and encourages senators to be proactive and ensure that as many students as possible can take part in everyday activities in the UF community.
- Cheyenne Cheng
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Speaking on behalf of her advisor.
 - Was deeply disturbed and saddened to hear news of the vetoed legislation, especially the Student Body Accessibility Act.
 - States that its passage should have been a “political slam dunk”.
 - States structural disadvantages that students with autism have that could have been broken down with passage of the aforementioned bill.
 - States that it is fair to critique a bill for veto, also states that a bill will never be “perfect”.
 - States that students with disabilities “don’t have time to wait for the perfect bill”.
- Senator Berrocal
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Speaking on Senator Belinski’s behalf.
 - Re-states the issue of the vetoed legislation during the previous week.
 - States that there should have been 3 weeks of notice for the vetoed legislation.
 - States that this notice would have been announced, but the discussion was shut down.
 - States that she does not blame senators for not knowing what the vetoed legislation entails; but it is still their responsibility to read legislation before making a final decision.
 - States that majority of senators wants to do what is best for others and for the university.
 - Speaks on her own behalf.
 - States that vetoed legislation personally affects her due to her being bilingual.
- Senator Kratt
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - States former Student Body President Meyers’ comments on Student Senate Law 2018-101.
 - States that passage of law that affects the Executive branch is not an attack, simply a usage of powers given to the Legislative branch.
 - Reminds all senators that they are the ones given power to create the laws for the student body.

- Reminds senators that they do not follow the whims of the Executive branch.
- Senator Cowan
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Re-states the unanimous passing of the vetoed legislation.
 - Re-states short notice of the vetoes and the wanting of discussion.
 - Says it is disrespectful to shut down discussion of the vetoed legislation to those who want to discuss it.
 - Asked constituency on when debate should be shut down by a majority party.
 - States he is speaking as discussion was not available, not that the legislation was vetoed.
 - “It’s a mistake not to show each other and their constituents this respect”.
- Senator Jenkins
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Thanks the previous speakers.
 - States that students must hold senators accountable.
 - Emphasizes that students must lobby with their organizations if change is not made through their senators.
 - States that Allison and Matt will be speaking on behalf of the Office of Sustainability.
 - Thanks Senate President Grosse.
- Ashley Grabowski
 - Re-states the vetoed legislation and the comments made by former Student Body President Meyers.
 - States the Student Body Accessibility Act.
 - States that the veto “requested room for excuses”.
 - States that students have no choice, so why should senators uphold a veto that limits them.
 - States that everyone who upheld the vetoes should be ashamed.
 - States that the current rules of harassment via a political body is not strict enough; the vetoed bill was to be codified so that the “party has more at stake”.
 - Hopes that each senator’s party is representative of the student body, not their own interests.
 - States that even live streaming of Senate meetings has been lackluster, despite party efforts by Inspire.
 - Claims vetoing of legislation during Summer A was strategic and used to manipulate new and replacement senators.

- Asks if senators vote on their own accord or because of their party's leadership.
- Chairwoman Dunson
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - States that vetoing of legislation occurred due to varying wording and "external forces".
 - States that she researched the reasoning of the vetoes.
 - States that the R&A committee sent out the vetoed bills the Monday before the previous week's meeting.
 - States that issues of conduct are under jurisdiction of the Dean of the Student Body.
 - States that senators should be more aware of the codes they write and revise; not to write codes just for "namesake".
 - States that livestreaming of Senate meetings should be reworked for benefit of both parties and should be controlled by appropriate executive figures.
 - Reads former Student Body President Meyers' altered legislation notes of the vetoed legislation.

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

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Grosse welcomes the senators.
- Welcomes Matt and Allison Vick from the Office of Sustainability.
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Thanks Senate President Grosse and Senator Jenkins.
 - Gives PowerPoint presentation.
- Will send the presentation via Listserv.
- Office Hours:
 - M-W : 12 PM - 3 PM
- Senator Parliamentarian and Liaison positions are reopened.
 - Applications are due Monday, May 28th at 5 PM
- States that party affiliation forms need to be submitted at the end of the meeting.

In response to objection for approval of Senator Shaw for Judiciary Chair

Three Minute Speaking Time

- Senator Shaw:

- States that Minority Party Leader is for her approval along with former running-competition, Senator Boone.
- Displays resume and explains her leadership qualities.
 - Gator Growl.
 - Florida Cicerone.
 - Director and co-creator of Sister Support Ambassadors; sexual assault awareness.
 - External Affairs Director of Policy at the state level.
 - Student Senator.
 - R&E and Judiciary committee positions.
 - Code Revisions Ad-Hoc committee member.
 - Previous involvement with R&A committee.
- States the purpose of the Judiciary committee.

Three Minute Question and Answer

- Chairwoman Dunson
 - Asks Senator Shaw to finish her presentation.
- Senator Shaw speaks:
 - Emphasizes a goal of creating a women's caucus.
 - Stresses that this would allow cohesion between the Senate.
 - Would like to hold two workshops.
 - Would like to create a SparkNote for the current codes to be made available to the public.

Con Debate

- Senator Bradley
 - Thanks Senator Shaw for her presentation.
 - States that the only reason he objected was due to not having seen any qualifications and requirements.
 - Emphasizes that he does not like the idea of senators unanimously consenting to approvals.

Pro Debate

- Chairwoman Dunson
 - States the presentation has ideas for the Judiciary chair and her experience are worthy of the position.
 - Gives a personal recommendation of Senator Shaw.
- Minority Party Leader German
 - Likes to see debates being available.
 - Believes Senator Shaw is the most qualified candidate.

- Is looking forward to seeing these ideas completed.
- Senator Chou
 - Appreciates the ideas related to constituency.
 - Gives personal recommendation to Senator Shaw,
- Senator Hurdle
 - Gives personal recommendation to Senator Shaw.
 - Considers Senator Shaw as an “outstanding leader”.
- There was a motion to call the previous question by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - The chair motions to decide via a voice vote.
 - In the eyes of the chair, the ayes have it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Murphy welcomes the senators.
- States that the R&A committee will be meeting this Saturday, with all applications being due on Thursday at 12 PM.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Opportunity to go through the 2018-2019 amended fiscal budget proposal for Student Activities and Involvement.
- Open budget committee seat.
- Encourages anyone interested to speak with her.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairman Pope welcomes the senators.
- Allocations committee has 6 open seats.
- Explains the purpose of the allocations committee.
- Chairwoman Dunson and Chairman Pope are being approved to the Capital Improvement Trust Fund and asks if there were any questions or concerns to be addressed at the upcoming meeting.

JUDICIARY:

- Senator Boone welcomes the senators.
- Thanks senators for the approval.
- Open spots available on the Judiciary committee.
- On Friday, the NYSE will have its first female president.

- Fischer School of Accounting for the first time in 25 years has more female undergraduate students than male.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Senator Hurdle welcomes the senators.
- Introduces himself as a Graduate senator.
- Excited to be the new R&E chair position.
- Seven open seats on R&E committee.
- Would like to learn the names of all the senators.
- Asks to email him directly in regards to absences, excuses, etc.
- Gives presentation relating to Rules and Ethics.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Weeks welcomes the senators.
- Encourages to tell new senators to send in excuses and absences.
- Preview tabling opportunities and other opportunities will be upcoming.
- Six open committee seats for I&C.
- Encourages senators to like the UF Senate page and share the open committee seat graphic.

SECOND READING

- There were none.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Jenkins
 - Has an item for a reusable bottle.

ROLL CALL:

- A motion to use voting records for final roll by unanimous consent. Approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.