

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

### **January 16th, 2018**

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:32 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 74 senators present.

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

- Astudillo
- Bazan
- Brannan
- Chan
- Cohen
- Dhir
- Dubinsky
- Esperanza
- Fatzinger
- Garcia
- Gardezi
- Horland
- Krause
- Martinez
- Perez
- Vista
- Walters
- Warner
- Allie Watson
- Stephanie Watson
- Wilson

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

- There were none.

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

- Majority Party Leader Nickas moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1002: Resolution Thanking Provost Joseph Glover for Restoring Library West and Newell Hall as 24/7 by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Chairman Stanford moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1003: Funding for Nepalese Student Association by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Stanford moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1004: Funding for Knitting Gators by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Minority Party Leader Morse moves to add Student Senate Bill 2018-1005 to the agenda.
  - Voice vote: In favor of nays.

### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- Senator Pearson yields his time to Senator Joachim.
- Senator Calvin yields his time to Senator Joachim.
- Minority Party Leader Morse yields his time to Senator Joachim.
- Senator Joachim:
  - Wishes everyone a good evening.
  - Mentions original speech was geared towards President Trump's recent degrading comment about Haiti and other immigrants.
  - Implores to not use African Americans for the sole advantage of saying you are diverse.
  - Second time an African American has spoken out against tokenization in student government.
  - Will resign his position as a stand of protest against using African-Americans for political gain.
  - No longer wishes to have a more diverse senate if those who are a minority do not have a seat at the table or voice their opinions.
  - To black student organizations, it is time to stand up.
  - Demanding better treatment of minorities.
- Senator Kratt yields his time to Senator Chou.
- Senator Chou:
  - Commends Senator Joachim for taking a stand.
  - Working on code revisions on the closed captioning and transcription of SG videos.
    - Although this is already done, wants codes to make it permanent and positive in Senate.
  - Looking for a positive change for years to come.
  - Looks forward to working with everyone.
- Senator Rauseo yields his time to Austin Young.
- Senator Gatos yields his time to Austin Young.
- Senator German yields his time to Austin Young.
- Senator Belinski yields her time to Austin Young.
- Austin Young:

- Wants to speak to allow context for a recent bill that was introduced to Judiciary last week.
- Worked on chomp the vote a few semesters ago.
- Also worked on Global Vote a non-partisan campaign for online voting.
  - Earned 3,000 student petitions, around 70% of the vote.
- The following summer the rules for the constitution and how the votes are counted were changed and reinterpreted.
- They were no longer yes/no votes but also voting against the amendment.
- “Removes every constitutional amendment” making student government less accessible, less democratic, and took power away from students.
- Supreme Court doubled the number of petitions necessary to reach the ballot.
  - Causing Senate to be the only ones who could really pass constitutional amendments.
- It was a radical move two years ago causing Senate to have to calculate ballots in ways that most democracies don’t.
- We don’t inform students that when they abstain from voting they are counted as a “no.”
- Introduced 11 amendments on the ballot last year none passed.
  - 9 of them would have passed under the older rules.
  - New interpretation is not working for students.
- Wants it to go back to old ways where it is just a “yes/no” vote.
  - Judiciary committee voted to not send this bill to the floor.
- It is realistic, practical, and just for the Judiciary committee to send the bills to the floor for a vote to restore old rules.
- It was mentioned at a Judiciary meeting that if a majority of people are abstaining voting then it shouldn’t pass. Yet democracy runs on complete opposite principle.
- People who care should get to make the decisions
  - People who do not, and decide to abstain are not factored in.
- Wants to give students more of a voice.
- Asking the judiciary committee to reconsider to bring bill to the floor and is willing to work with them.
- Appreciates the work that the SG Senate does for the University.
- Nicole Smith yields her time to Zachary Amrose.
- Rebecca Ragan yields her time to Zachary Amrose.
- Arielle Gregory yields her time to Zachary Amrose.
- Zachary Amrose:
  - Last fall the University of Florida only had one hall that had 24 hour study space.

- Students were discontent with having only one hall open for 24 hours.
- Both parties wanted to bring in 24/7 libraries.
  - Yet neither Impact nor Inspire advocated either Library West or Marston for 24 hour operation.
- A survey was conducted but it had flaws by only having Newell and Lib West listed as options and not Marston.
- Newell is not sufficient for students' needs.
- Never allowed for consideration of Marston Library being open 24/7.
- Student's voices have not been considered when deciding which library should be open 24 hours.
- Wrote and introduced a bill for students to indicate their optimal library for 24 hour operation.
- Certain concerns over the mechanism of the bill caused Judiciary to table the bill.
- Concern of the current state of democracy on UF campus.
- There are 600 petition signatures needed for results of the library.
- Troubling lack of regard for democracy.

***\*\*If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from [senatesecretary@sq.ufl.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@sq.ufl.edu)\*\****

- In conclusion to Public Debate:
  - Senator Pearson moves to suspend rules to add Senate Bill 2018-1005.
  - Senator Pearson moves to have a roll call vote in motion to add Senate Bill 2018-1005 to the agenda. Motion Fails
    - In a vote of 50 (no) to 24 (yes).

### **SENATE ELECTIONS:**

- Senate President Green moves to open the floor for Senate President Pro-Tempore nominations by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Minority Party Leader Morse nominates Senator Chou.
    - Senator Chou accepts.
  - Majority Party Leader nominates Senator Schaettle.
    - Senator Schaettle accepts.
  - Senator Nickas moves to close the floor for further Senate President Pro-Tempore nomination by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Chou 5 Minutes of Presentation:
  - Senator Chou tells quorum about himself:
    - The first nominated member from Infinity Hall.
    - Currently a Murphree Hall senator.
    - Has applied to 25 positions via R&A committee.

- Served as minority party leader last semester.
  - Tables for SG, only wears SG apparel.
    - Uses this as proof to how dedicated he is to SG.
- Senator Chou's goals as Senate President Pro-Tempore:
  - Ensure applications are fully read.
  - Pilot outside office hours.
    - Office hours are difficult to remember, wants to be accessible via being outside the Reitz Union, etc.
  - Pilot exit interviews.
    - Why do people leave senate?
  - Treat Individuals as individuals.
- Thanks the senators.
- Questions:
  - Senator Joachim asks, "What will you do for minority senators, to make sure that their voices are heard?"
    - Utilize Listserv.
    - Working with R&A Committee to use people's resumes and their references as a tool.
  - Senator Santalo, "Because you have been rejected from many committees, how will you apply senators' skill sets to various committees?"
    - Sometimes when people don't invite you to sit at the table sometimes you have to pull up a chair and invite yourself.
    - One does not have to be involved in a committee to understand one.
    - If you are there for the experience, you will learn about the committee, which is what Senator Chou has done.
  - Senator Murphy asks, "How as a chamber can we support you to be the senate president pro-tempore when you were voted to be taken off as the minority party leader?"
    - People inside his own caucus spoke against him, which he respects. Believes it is brave.
    - The one who voices his opinion is working very close with Senator Chou.
    - Open arms; heart is open.
  - Minority Party Leader Morse asks, "What is the most important quality of being senate president pro-tempore? How do you exemplify that?"
    - Believes integrity is the most important quality needed.
    - Says what is on his mind.

- For better or for worse it is best to have unwavering integrity.
- Senator Schaettle 5 mins of presentation:
  - During time:
  - Nominated as a District A replacement seat sophomore year. Most recently a district B senator.
    - Has had the opportunity to give back to the students of UF.
    - Voiced concerns of students through Food Service and Advisory Committee, Parking and Transportation Committee, 700 Code Revisions Ad-Hoc Committee.
    - Has also been on the Newell Hall Advisory Board committee and Career Resource Advisory Committee which have allowed him to realize the tangible change that UF students are capable of.
  - Served as Judiciary Chairman for over 2 semesters.
    - Work on judiciary video, helped educate students on legislation.
    - Worked with Student Organizations and Campus Events within SAI and former allocations committee chairwoman Janae Moody to expedite the approval process of organizational constitutions.
    - Worked with many students, to highlight legislation that will better the university.
  - Most recently, during the spring 2017, he had the ability to serve as the Senate President Pro-Tempore.
    - Focused on outreach and accountability.
    - Filling the senate committees with the most qualified and passionate applicants as chair of R&A Committee.
    - Worked with IT to make the application process easier with resume and email attachments.
    - Reach to as many students as possible by working the IFC as well as the Gator Times.
  - Transition from chairman to Senate President Pro-Tempore was a period that took just two weeks.
    - Senate cannot miss out on the lack of productivity in appointing someone unfamiliar with the tasks at hand.
  - Hoping Senate will continue productivity.
  - Has had the opportunity to work with both caucuses.
  - Wants to make sure that he is accessible to the student body.
  - Will have open office hours and have an open door to be accessible to those who need him.
  - “I will work along every single one of you to better Gator Nation.”
  - Questions

- Senator Murphy asks, “How have your previous roles prepared you for the role of Pro-Temp?”
  - Initially a replacement senator.
    - Was denied District A seat twice before getting a chance to occupy a seat.
  - As Pro-Temp, was able to work alongside many of the senators.
  - Was able to serve on the R&A committee for almost over a year.
  - As majority party leader, has reached across the aisle to make things happen in SG.
- Senator Joachim asks, “How will you make sure that minorities have a voice and opinion in the senate, as well as senate committees, and on campus?”
  - To his point in The Alligator, he believes that student government is very diverse.
    - We all come from different backgrounds.
  - Believes that you cannot mark diversity by a checkbox.
  - Will continue to have an open door policy.
  - Offers open office hours.
    - Would love to bring up a seat.
  - “Would love to bring a seat up for you.”
- Senator Grosse asks, “What was your biggest take away serving during the senate pro-temp? How will you use those takeaways to help you serve better?”
  - Replacement senators was his favorite time
  - Loved setting up one-on-ones.
  - Wants to make it feel familiar and have them know someone when they come back.
- Senator Victorienne asks, “How can we trust that you can provide unity when SG needs it the most?”
  - Impact does not necessarily agree with allegations of misrepresentation.
  - Does not think that this problem lies only in the Impact Party.
  - Does, in fact, recognize various problems in misrepresentation and will continue to help.
- Senator Pope asks, “What makes you want to come back as serving as the senate pro-temp?”

- With four weeks left in the term, the senate does not need a transition period, which is why being familiar with the job is imperative.
  - Senator Schaettle's 5 minutes expire, leaving him unable to completely answer the question.
- Per the Rules and Procedures, a roll call vote was cast of the 74 present senators for appointment of senate president pro-tempore:
  - Chou: 20.
  - Schaettle: 54.
  - Senator Schaettle is appointed Student Senate President Pro-Tempore.

### **OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Action SG Chairwoman Phillips:
  - President Meyers would like to apologize for not being present.
  - Office Hours:
    - 9:00am-2:00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays
  - Platform Tracker Video over Bright Futures will be released later this week on Facebook. Please make sure to like, share and let your constituencies know.
  - Applications due:
    - Gator Innovators: January 19<sup>th</sup>.
    - Student Honor Codes Administration: January 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - Students Taking Action Against Racism: February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Outreach events will start next week:
    - First week: Slices with Smitty: Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in Turlington.
    - Second week: Mingle with Mario.
    - Third week: Refuel with Revel
    - Fourth week: Lunch on the Lawn.
  - Working on WiFi problems on campus
    - Survey will be sent out, asking about the largest Wi-Fi problems across campus.
  - Working on advertising the upcoming elections and important dates.
    - Posted in various areas on the UF campus.
  - Putting in an order form for SG quarter zips soon.
    - Prices will be given soon.
  - Advertising of SG elections for social media are being created and specific dates will be released shortly.

### **SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senate President Green welcomes the senators and that everyone had an efficient MLK day.
- Liaison Report for UFPD with Senator Pearson:
  - This morning met with UFPD and Leadership and Service. About details on Ride-Alive program about drinking/texting and driving.
  - February 27th on Reitz Union North Lawn.
  - UFPD Ride-Along opportunity:
    - Senator Pearson participated last Saturday and assures that is a very great and interesting experience.
  - Officer Holcomb will be speaking next meeting.
- Spring into Involvement Event:
  - Will be held next Thursday from 12:00pm-3:00pm in the Plaza of the Americas.
  - Great for constituency.
- Liaison for Reitz Union:
  - Arts and Crafts center will be reopening this week
  - Times:
    - Wednesday: 1:00pm-5:00pm.
    - Thursday: 1:00pm-5:00pm.
    - Friday: 1:00pm-8:00pm.
- Tomorrow, January 18th is the Gator Career Closet Expo in Plaza of the Americas.
  - From 11:00am-1:00pm.
- All students were sent a transportation survey:
  - Due on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Allows parking and transportation services to get a clear view of how students really feel about the on-campus parking and transportation services, in order to make appropriate adjustments.
- Applauds Senator Joachim on stance taken on minority representation.
- Speaks about Treasurer Lubin's recent change of party affiliation around time of elections.
  - Believes he is using it as political theatre for his campaign for Student Body President.
  - No more party politics in the chamber for the rest of the term.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Schaettle welcomes the senators.
- District A and Vet Med seats are due Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm.
- Open Liberal Arts seat due Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Graduate seat will also be open.
- Opening on Rules and Ethics Committee because of vacancy in District A seat.

## **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators and wishes everyone a good three day weekend.
- Shares her favorite quote by MLK Jr.:
  - “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?”
- Past Monday: met with committee about a line item transfer, and it failed based on misunderstanding by the author. Will be further discussed.
  - Committee also reviewed the Student Senate Bill: Gators Matter 800 Code Revisions.
  - Article written in the Alligator was not accurate and is disappointed in the lack of transparency.
  - Only denied the bill because they felt there wasn’t enough initiative to change codes but gave the option of further exploring possibilities to launch to work on code revisions.
- Further exploration in funding for menstrual hygiene products on campus is needed.
- Will organize any meetings needed amongst senators.

## **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairman Stanford welcomes the senators.
- Allocations committee met in the Reitz Union food court this past Sunday.
- Thanks those for approving two bills tonight:
  - Knitting Gators.
  - Nepalese Student Association.
- Failed Stomp the Swamp, tabled Young Americans for Freedom for later.
- If there are any questions, please reach out to Chairman Stanford via email.

## **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairwoman Dempsey welcomes the senators.
- Invites down Senator Nickas and Senator Dunn:
  - Worked on the Student Senate Bill 2018-1002: Resolution Thanking Provost Glover for Restoring Library West and Newell Hall 24/7.
    - Thanks the senators for passing the resolution.
    - Resolution was inspired by Student Body President Smith Meyers.
  - Our duty is first and foremost for the students.
- Committee will be meeting on Monday morning.
- Legislation will be done Saturday, January 20th at 12:00pm.

## **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman Holloway welcomes the senators.
- Senators on probation: constituency is due January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Senator Hassan:
  - Slices with Smitty: Friday Jan 26th at 11:00am in Turlington Plaza.
  - Spring into Involvement with SG from 12:00pm-3:00pm at Plaza of the Americas.
  - Keeping up With the Cabinet: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm-2:00pm
  - College Council Meeting January 18th 5:00pm-7:00pm at Norman Hall.
  - Iranian Student Association first general body meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, at Maguire Village at 6:00pm.
- Mentions open seat on Rules and Ethics Committee, and encourages them to apply.
- R&A committee will be meeting this Friday at 12:00pm.

#### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Grosse welcomes the senators.
- Met last night and discussed taking the responsibility of handling the livestream of meetings.
  - Working on logistics to make it consistent.
- Check out open seats graphic on Facebook, pass to constituents.

#### **CODE REVISIONS AD-HOC COMMITTEE:**

- Chairman Nickas welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the senators for this opportunity to be chairman.
- Purpose of committee is to streamline the process of code revisions.
- Look at bills more closely before than they have been before.

#### **SECOND READING**

- There were none.

#### **FIRST READING:**

- There were none.

#### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

- There were none.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Minority Party Leader:
  - Wants to echo Senate President Green's mention on politics parties not taking part in this senate.
  - Welcomes Student Body Treasurer Lubin to Inspire party.
- Senator Berkley:

- Young Americans for Freedom meeting this Thursday at 7:30am, at Matherly 107.
- Senator Snyder:
  - Contact if interested in traveling to Israel.
- Senator Hassan:
  - Islam Appreciation Month starts January 31<sup>st</sup>, until the end of February.
  - January 31<sup>st</sup>: National Hijab Day.
    - Encourages senators to talk to those wearing hijab and their experience.
  - Events will be held through entire month of appreciation.
- Chairwoman Dempsey:
  - Florida Blue Key is hosting Health Professions Day in the Reitz Union Ballroom on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00pm-7:30pm.
- Chairman Stanford:
  - Talks about the pottery arts event coming up Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.