

**STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**  
**October 23rd, 2018**

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:30pm 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 76 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- Adler
- Barnes
- Dhaliwal
- Garner
- Jameson
- Joachim
- John
- Little
- Martin
- Pearce
- Tyagi

**AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:**

- There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendation for permanent replacement senate seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendation for the open committee seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hurdle moves to hear the approved absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hurdle moves to hear the failed absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Hernandez Moves to hear Student Senate Bill 2018-1093: Funding for Gator Chess Club by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer Moves to hear Student Senate Bill 2018-1094: Resolution Addressing In-State Tuition Status for Newly Enrolled Puerto Rican Students by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Chairman Sandifer Moves to hear Student Senate Bill 2018-1095: Neutrality of Election Officials Act - 700 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos moves to add Student Senate Bill: Resolution Respectfully Requesting Instructors to Make Class Attendance Optional on November 6th, 2018, in Observance of Election Day to the agenda by roll call vote. There is an objection to the consideration of the question.
  - In a standing vote of 58 to 20, in which a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote was needed, the objection in consideration of the question passes.

### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- Zachary Amrose:
  - President of Election Matters.
  - Reads the denied proposed bill and explains what it pertains to.
  - Voting from a young age creates habitual voting in later years.
  - Not all who intend to vote will do so.
  - According to testimonies, if classes are not made optional on Election Day, many students state they will not be able to vote on Election Day.
  - Sponsors of the bill include Chomp the Vote, and Gainesville Mayor Poe.
  - Prior to last weekend, there had not been a Judiciary Committee meeting in over a month.
  - Due to a scheduling error, the committee meeting was cut short, and the resolution was tabled for the next Judiciary Meeting.
  - Must send this bill to administration.
  - Delaying the passing of this resolution will cause a lower number of voting on campus.
  - Urges the chamber to listen to the constituents and their testimonies, and pass the bill at hand.
- Kevin Verge:
  - President of Gators for No Labels.
  - Proudly sponsors the proposed resolution.
  - Explains the bill at hand, and states that is a civic duty to go out and vote on election days.
  - For many Gators, class and work schedules make this civic duty difficult to fulfill.
  - Believes it would be correct to assume that most students have a possible one to two hour break throughout the day, in which they are waiting for the next class to start.
  - Having a free hour is simply not enough time to go vote.
  - Bus rides could take upwards of 40 minutes to get to a polling location.
  - Clear to see that an hour is not enough to participate on Election Day.
  - Urges the chamber to consider the bill.
- Alfredo Ortiz:
  - The last time he was here, he wanted to petition for support for his community.
  - Was happy to see that both sides of the chamber participated in his resolution.
  - Input was considered and incorporated in the drafting of Student Senate Bill 2018-1094: Resolution Addressing In-State Tuition Status for Newly Enrolled Puerto Rican Students.

- Thanks various Senators for their efforts on this resolution.
- Also recognizes the original sponsors of the resolution.
- Mentions that Senator Dubois contacted administration regarding this matter.
- The ex-president of WEPA has been working hard to accomplish the goals of the resolution.
- Over the past year WEPA and the Spanish Caucus have worked hard for this resolution.
- Endorses Inspire Party's decision on rescinding sponsorship, and sponsors Impact Party for this non-partisan effort.
- **Bianka Ramirez:**
  - The reality is that there are a lot of students who cannot make time to vote in during the day.
  - Many students, combined with work and school, have a full day within the hours of 9:00-5:00.
  - The school that she went home to back home did not educate on the various civic responsibilities of citizens.
  - The school she went to at home did not push for civic engagement.
  - Every student should have the opportunity to voice their opinions and make a difference.
  - The university is a place of its own culture to influence students, whether they know it or not.
  - If professors do not make classes optional, students similar to her situation will not have the opportunity to voice their opinions.
  - Urges the senators to vote yes in adding this resolution to the agenda.
  - In order for Democracy to work, it needs the full participation of its citizens.
  - The United States trails in other countries regarding voter-turnout.
  - States that we can do better, and we must do better.
  - Urges the chamber to understand their position as student representatives.
- **Brandon Reis:**
  - Serve as the secretary of Democracy Matters.
  - One of the authors of the Election Day resolution.
  - This year's ballot will feature 16 questions, making it the longest ballot in the state of Florida in 20 years.
  - States that with the length of the ballot, it will take much longer to vote than other elections.
  - Some voters might take 20 to 25 minutes to read and comprehend each question on the ballot.
  - If there is a long ballot, the votes will take extended time, resulting in very long lines.
  - Before students can access the voting booths, students may have to wait in long lines for unexpected amounts of time, resulting in some students missing classes on Election Day.
  - Intention is not to cancel classes, but rather to make classes optional and suspend consequences for missed work.
  - There is no doubt that voting in this year's midterm election will be time-consuming.

- Our elections matter, and our democracy is dependent on this election.
- Would like to remind senators that November 6th, Election Day, is approaching fast and the bill is time sensitive.
- The nature of this resolution is time-sensitive.
- Students should not be at the expense of mismanagement.
- Senator Patel:
  - Speaking on behalf of Democracy Matters.
  - The student senate should advocate on a potentially historical election.
  - Senate should be representative of students as a whole.
  - Voting on this resolution would be a disservice to the student body in instilling civic duties.
  - According to the resolution, Student Affairs is dedicated to students participating in civic obligations.
  - 28% of registered voters who failed to vote in the 2014 election said that they did not have enough time.
  - It should be a goal for Student Senate to help increase voter turnout.
  - Should recognize that students not voting in Alachua County may have to travel home in order to vote.
  - Our goal as a Senate is to make the lives of students easier, not more difficult.
  - Giving people a chance to vote should not be dependent on classes.
- Sarah Long:
  - President of the Young Americans for Freedom.
  - YAF is a conservative organization, which shows the bipartisanship of this proposed resolution.
  - YAF is a sponsor of the Election Day resolution.
  - Declined sponsoring the resolution at first, however the legislation was modified and YAF sponsored the legislation.
  - Government overreach would complicate class schedules and syllabi.
  - The rewritten legislation fixed this problem, and it truly should nonpartisanship.
  - Last midterm on campus, around 24% of students participated in the election.
  - YAF is committed to increasing this percentage.
  - Many other organizations have said that students are not capable of voting and studying.
  - YAF rejects the idea that students cannot balance their civic obligations with their class and work schedule.
  - Hopes that encouraging students to vote with this legislation, will result in an increase in voter turnout.
  - We are facing an election where people are more enthusiastic to vote, implores those not to have to miss out on this.
- Senator Lima:
  - Wants to speak tonight about the Election Day resolution and voice his support for the legislation.
  - Thinks that is disappointing that the Senate rejected even a debate on the floor.
  - “This is simply an encouragement that professors make classes optional.”
  - States that the resolution is not mandatory, but rather an “ask.”
  - A debate and review on the resolution is owed to the student body.

- Wants to thank the Senate for unanimously passing Student Senate Bill 2018-1095: Neutrality of Election Officials Act - 700 Codes Revision.
- This legislation moves to increase a lack of bias in the election officials that are appointed.
- This is a bipartisan effort.
- Notes that this is what we can achieve when debate is encouraged and enabled.
- Looks forward to the consideration for the second reading of the legislation.
- Maya Lowe:
  - Internal Advocacy Director of Gators for Underrepresented Voters.
  - Shares testimonies that were received in regards to the Election Day resolution. Many of the testimonies involve not having enough time to vote on election because of school.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
  - Thanks everyone who came to Senate and spoke on behalf of the Election Day legislation.
  - Because of the timing of the resolution, it is important to pass this resolution.
  - Glad to see that the first of two resolutions regarding displaced Puerto Rican students was passed.
  - Over the next few weeks, hopes to address this issue through the means of Bright Futures.
  - If any fellow senators would like to work on this legislation, reach out to Minority Party Leader Gatos.
  - Feel free to contact him if interested in working on this legislation with him.
- Joel Kratt:
  - States that the chamber is not dependent upon Committees.
  - As senators, you do not have to rely on the Judiciary Committee to pass legislation.
- Chairman Sandifer:
  - Welcomes the senators, introduces the Judiciary Committee.
  - Gives quick explanation as to why the Election Day bill was tabled, and did not appear on the agenda.
  - The reason he voted against this legislation was because of the way that this legislation was brought up, without it being reviewed by the committee.
  - Judiciary Committee reviews legislation every week and has adopted a type of expertise when reviewing legislation.
  - This could ultimately lead to a complete bypass of the Judiciary Committee as a whole.
  - Suggests to bring this legislation to the Faculty Senate.

***\*\*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)\*\****

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:**

- There were none.

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

- Next week is the State of the Campus Address next week on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Following the Address, the Senate meeting will be held in the University Auditorium.
- Dance Marathon at UF is in the midst of Transform Today, and urges those to donate any amount to the various fundraisers on campus.
- Thanks the Senate.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senate President Pro Tempore Shaw thanks the chamber for approving the permanent replacement seats and committee seats.
- All committee seats are now filled.
- Open Permanent Seats:
  - Building Construction
  - Graduate
  - Medicine
  - Pharmacy
  - Vet Med
- Feel free to reach out with any questions.

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Congratulates the newest committee member.
- There is no current pending business.
- Gives an update on student organization events this week:
  - Duwali show at 6:30pm in the Phillips Center, hosted by ISA.
  - On Wednesday, there will be an AKM spoken word and a workshop on Thursday.
  - This week is MCDA's anti-racism week, many events are happening tomorrow and Thursday. Check out the Facebook page for more information events.
- Wishes everyone good luck on midterms.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Hernandez welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the chamber for passing Student Senate Bill 2018-1093.
- Will not be meeting this week.
- Feel free to meet with her or contact her with any questions or concerns.
- Asks the senators to urge organizations to apply for allocations.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Any bills pending due to being tabled will be heard in this week's meeting.
- Legislation will be due on Friday at 12:00pm.
- Asks the new committee members to meet after the meeting.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairman Hurdles welcomes the senators.

- Committee will be meeting this Thursday at 11am.
- As far as constituency, it is important to fulfill constituency before 7:30pm on the day of the last meeting for the semester.
- Emails on constituency status will be sent to each senator.
- As of now, the last meeting will be on November 27th which is when constituency will be due.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes senators.
- Congratulates Senator Entringer on joining the committee.
- Thanks those who participated in the social media push.
- Fewer than half of the chamber participated in the social media push and hopes that more senators will participate next time.
- “Senate 101” campaign started this week on social media.
- Mentor/Mentee interest forms have opened. Encourages those to fill this out.
- Committee will not be meeting this week.

### **SECOND READING**

There were none.

### **FIRST READING:**

There were none.

### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

There were none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Calzon:
  - ASL Bingo at the Delta Zeta house tomorrow from 7:30pm to 9pm.
- Senator:
  - Florida Cicerone Fall Forum is this Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
  - Gator Nights will be having a haunted house event, needs people to scare people in the house.
- Senator:
  - Mexican American Student Association is having the first GBM tomorrow in McCarty Hall A from 6:30pm to 8pm.
- Chairwoman Hernandez:
  - Gators of Tomorrow information event will be next Monday, October 29th in Pugh Hall.
  - Starts at 6:30pm.
- Senator Perez:
  - Anti-racism week has two more events for the week.
  - “Documenting Hate” will be tomorrow at the Reitz Union there will be a Cultural Exchange Fair on Thursday.

- Senator Patel:
  - ISA is having the Duwali show at the Phillips Center.
  - Doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 6:30pm.
  - Event counts as constituency.
- Senator Zelin:
  - Early voting, for the first time, is available on the ground floor of the Reitz Union.
  - Urges everyone to go out and vote.
- Senator:
  - School of Theatre and Dance is hosting *Hairspray*.
  - Show starts today and runs thru Sunday.
- Senate President Pro Tempore Shaw:
  - Everything was passed unanimously.
  - States senators must mark yes on vote record to avoid a half absence.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.