

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
November 6th, 2018

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:30 pm 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:

- Adan
- Adler
- Barnes
- Brandies
- Calzon
- Carroll
- Diaz
- Entringer
- Herman
- Joachim
- Lima
- Little
- Longland
- Matei
- Patel, Dilan
- Patel, Shaan
- Perez
- Piper
- Saint
- Tyagi
- Watkins

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Senator Abraham moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1098: Resolution Advocating for the UF Administration to Join the University Climate Change Coalition by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Senator Abraham moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1099: Resolution Respectfully Asking the UF Administration to Consider Signing the We Are Still In Declaration 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.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Zach Amrose:
 - Greets the senators.
 - Thanks everyone for approving the two bills concerning climate change.
 - One of them asks administration to sign the “We Are Still” in declaration which supports signing and standing with the Paris Courts Climate Change agreement.
 - The other resolution that was just passed asked the administration to joining the University Climate Change Coalition (UCCC).
 - Here to speak on a third resolution which is asking for stronger resources for sexual assault survivors.
 - Notes the many sponsorships of those in the executive branch.
 - Very proud of the resolution, calls for specific actions that may be part of the program.
 - Calls for specific action. Such as an information escrow: an agreement that makes both parties report information that is based on certain criteria.
 - Reports will not be released or accessible to the public.
 - Most assaults are stopped before they happen if repeat assailants are caught.
 - Hopes that UF adopts the platform talked about in the resolution.
 - Ask everyone to try to imagine what they would do in order to find resources regarding how to go about being sexually assaulted. The point is that the information is very difficult to find.
 - Hopes that the executive branch continues to work with the legislative branch and looks forward to this bill passing as well.
 - Thanks everyone for their time.
- Senator Calvin:
 - Wishes Senators a good evening.
 - Recognizes the Model United Nations team who competed at the University of North Carolina this past week. Four of the seven competitors brought home awards and UF won second place overall.
 - “It’s always great having Gators take home awards.”
- Jordan Brown yields time to Bailey Triggs:
- Seth Hact yields time to Bailey Triggs:
- Amy Vera:
 - Gives a content warning for tonight’s topics.
 - As a friend of survivors, the University of Florida does give a reporting system that provides support and protection to victims of sexual assault.
 - Sexual assault victims should not have to wait eleven months for feel safe to report what happened. Should not live in fear for any extended amount of time.
 - Currently, the University of Florida has no anonymous reporting system for victims of sexual assault.
- Bailey Triggs:
 - One of the authors on the Sexual Assault resolution.

- Brought up an online sexual assault reporting system to Student Government last year, and has dedicated 10 months of work to this initiative.
- Thanks everyone for giving her time.
- The University of Florida currently has no effective way to report sexual assault, and therefore is no deterrent.
- Here for the two girls on her floor last year that were raped. She is also here for the girl that came to her door this semester that was abused. Both cases were dissolved and therefore never resolved.
- Here for her best friend that was sexually assaulted last year by her male best friend.
- Goes to a school where part of the reason she changed majors was because she was groped by a male in a political science class, and did not want to be in the same classroom as him ever again. Mentions that this person is still in someone's classroom.
- "We don't have to go to school where someone who violates basic human rights gets to walk free."
- Matt Barocas:
 - Welcomes senators.
 - Co-authored on the sexual assault after hearing too many stories from his classmates, both male and female, about being sexual assaulted.
 - Sexual assault is the most pressing issue across campuses in the nation.
 - Over 11% of students on a college campus are sexual assaulted, and the numbers are non-discriminatory.
 - 20% of female and queer students are found victims of sexual violence.
 - 90% of the perpetrators will sexually assault again.
 - UFPD reported only 17 sexual assault cases on a campus of nearly 9000 residents.
 - It is this University and the student body's responsibility to close the gap between offences and reports.
 - The implementation of a digital system to help report these offences will close this gap.
 - Senators have the chance to pass a resolution tonight that will bring a new front to combat violence against students, and a new opportunity for the promotion of inclusivity of all Gators, and hopes he will take the opportunity.
 - Sincerely hopes that Senators take this chance to make change.
- Senator Jenkins yields his time to Ashley Grabowski.
- Ashley Grabowski:
 - In a world where 20% of female, 4% of male and 20% of queer or non-gender conforming students are sexually assaulted in college, it is imperative for our University and Student Government to make efforts to both combat sexual assault on campus and support the victims with the resources necessary.
 - 88% of rapes and 96% of sexual battery are not even reported.
 - Only 6% of assailants spend even a day in prison.
 - With these factors considered, assailants have 99% chance of avoiding jail time.
 - University of Florida's system in reporting sexual assault incidents is behind the times.

- This resolution recommends that University of Florida considers to implement sexual assault resources that are not only proven to be useful in reporting incidents, but also allows for victims to come forth in the first place.
- Specifically aims to provide flexibility to both SG and UF administration.
- Personally met with many cabinet directors to make sure that this piece of legislation can be passed.
- Hopes that they can have everyone on board with them to help them stop these kind of cases from happening and creating a more effective way to support victims.
- Thanks chamber for their time.

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

SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Murphy welcomes the senators.
- It is flu season, encourages everyone to stay healthy.
- Thanks everyone for coming to the State of the Campus Address. Almost every seat was filled.
- Reminds everyone about their constituency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Vice Chair Emmett welcomes the senators.
- 4 Open Permanent Replacement Seats:
 - Building Construction
 - Graduate
 - Medicine
 - Vet Med
- 1 Open Committee Seat:
 - Rules & Ethics

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Hopes everyone had a great weekend.
- Let’s everyone know that her committee will be meeting. Will send out an email to everyone letting them know when it is.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Hernandez welcomes the senators.
- Will not be meeting this week.
- Thanks everyone for being helpful despite her absence last week.
- If there are any questions, office hours will be held from 9-11 am tomorrow.
- Feel free to email her at allocations@sg.ufl.edu if you have any questions.

JUDICIARY:

- Senator Abraham welcomes the senators.
- Will be having a legislation workshop.
- Legislation is due to Chairman Sandifer's email by 12pm on Friday.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairman Hurdles welcomes the senators.
- Gives presentation of the consistency tracker.
- December 4th will be the final day to submit constituency.
- Forms for absence petitions or consistency have to be submitted 7 days from event/absence for it to count.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes senators.
- Meet Your Senator Day is this Thursday in Turlington Plaza from 10:00am-12:00pm.
- Next Thursday on November 15th will be the Senate Retreat in the Reitz Union Bowling Alley.
- Tonight, after Senate, will be Mentor/Mentee reveal.

SECOND READING

There were none.

FIRST READING:

Hearing of Student Senate Bill 2018-1097: Resolution Recommending Stronger Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors:

Senate President Murphy asks the author of the bill to speak.

- 5 Minutes of Presentation:
 - Thanks various organizations, senators, individuals, and the survivors of sexual assault that were willing to meet about this resolution.
 - Sexual assault is an issue that touches the lives of students all around us.
 - Thanks the authors and sponsors for their efforts on the bill.
 - This was a collaborative effort and thanks everyone who was a part of it.
 - Looks forward to continue working with everyone to move these actions forward.
 - Suggests an amendment to the sponsorship line on the resolution.

Senate President Murphy motions a motion:

Senator Abraham motions to make an amendment to the sponsorship line of Student Senate Bill 2018-1097: Resolution Recommending Stronger Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors to now read, "LGBTQ Affairs Cabinet Director Jordan Laib, Greek Affairs Cabinet Director James Davis, Women's Affairs Cabinet Director Nicole Corder..." by unanimous consent. Approved.

- 5 Minutes of Question and Answer:
 - Senator: On the last Therefore clause, asks for clarification regarding the information escrow.

- Grabowski: The resolution was intended to suggest resources to support sexual assault victims, as well as allow for a more effective way to report incidents. The information escrow is one of these resources, in which the report will not be filed until another report includes the same assailant, since many offenders repeat. Note that this is only one of the options proposed.
- Senator: Will there be any training for UF “health” individuals in collecting physical evidence of sexual assault?
- Ashley: Rape kits are the items used for forensic evidence, and they are available at UF Health Shands Hospital. However, many are intimidated to go into the hospital to ask for one of these kits. Wants to make sure there is a free, articulated website to help victims know where they can get free rape kits, find advocates or supporters to help victims through this
- 5 Minutes of Con:
 - There were none.
- 5 Minutes of Pro:
 - Chairwoman Dunson: Commends the authors, sponsors, and those who shared their stories.
 - Chairwoman Hernandez: Believes this is a very strong resolution and shows that there is an effort by the University to provide more resources for sexual assault victims.
 - Senator Zelin: The fight does not end here. We need to make sure we are providing as many resources to survivors as we can.
 - Minority Party Leader Gatos: Believes that this is a very important resolution
 - Senator Calvin: One of the most comprehensive resolutions. It is a tragedy that so many of these crimes go unreported. It is “better late than never” to take this crime as seriously as one would with a murder, homicide, etc.

Senator Abraham motions to call the previous question. Motion passes.

In a voice vote, in the eyes of the chair, the ayes have it. Student Senate Bill 2018-1097: Resolution Recommending Stronger Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors has been passed under first reading.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chairman Sandifer:
 - Reminds the senators to correctly fill out there voter record.
- Senator:
 - HSA general body meeting in the Reitz Union Chamber on November 8th at 7:00pm.
- Senator:
 - Member Leadership Program outreach event this Friday, 7:00pm.
 - Asks chamber to come and support the event.
- Senate President Murphy:

- Makes a correction on the attendance from 54 to 74 senators.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.