

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

June 28th, 2016

The Senate President called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 79 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Folkes
- Kynast
- Makela
- Morgan
- Johanna Phillips
- Powell
- Sultania
- Sumner
- Wei

AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- There are no amendments to the minutes for June 14th.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairman Weiner moves to approve Student Senate Resolution 2016-1029 Resolution Honoring University of Florida Alumnus Gordon Glover by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Weiner moves to approve Student Senate Resolution 2016-1031 Resolution Supporting the Continued Effort of the Innovation Academy and Innovation Cabinet to Establish Gainesville as the Main Innovation Hub of Florida by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Werk moves to approve the Permanent Replacement Seat for Springs by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Werk moves to hear the Summer B Replacement seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - She moves to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Werk moves to hear the open Committee Seats by as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - She moves to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Long moves to approve the approved absence by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Long moves to approve the approved resignation appeal by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Long moves to approve the failed resignation appeal by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Minority Party Leader Shayli Patel moves to approve Student Senate Resolution 2016-1030 Resolution Commemorating Those Affected by the 2016 Pulse Shooting by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Senator Dolan introduces herself to the Chamber as a District E Senator.
 - She represents the online freshmen, some graduate students, and other distance learners.
 - She voices her concern about the Student Body President speaking on behalf of the Supreme Court in reference to the Supreme Court decision to overturn the online voting amendment.
 - She is confused as to why the Executive Branch was speaking on behalf of the Judicial Branch, and why there has not been a public opinion from the Supreme Court yet.
 - She requests that the Student Body President comes to the Chamber soon to explain why she was speaking on behalf of the Supreme Court and why the online voting amendment was overturned.
- Senator Wilson shares concern about why the public wasn't informed on the reason that the Supreme Court met and why there are no minutes from the meeting.
 - She voices her concern about the Executive Branch releasing information on behalf of the Judicial Branch and the fact that the article could have been interpreted by the Executive Branch instead of coming from the Supreme Court directly.
 - She is also concerned about the separation of powers happening now.
 - She points out that we elected the Supreme Court for them to interpret the rulings instead of the Executive Branch to interpret.
- Audrey Guerra yields to Caroline Nickerson.
- Caroline Nickerson shares her concern for the Supreme Court ruling to overturn the online voting amendment.
 - She voices her concern that the court believes that the Supervisors of Elections have been interpreting election results incorrectly.
 - The most recent Supreme Court rulings decided the abstention votes should have been counted in the most recent elections.
 - She points out that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, to abstain is to refrain from voting so there is no such thing as an abstention vote.
 - Robert's Rule further elaborates that abstentions have no effect on the vote.
 - The Supreme Court also invalidated these 4 initiatives due to the Constitutional Provision that the text of all amendments and the ballot summary shall be published in the campus-wide print media publication one week before and on both days of elections.
 - Because this did not happen, this is the fault of the Supervisor of Elections and they should be reprimanded. It should not result in the nullification of an initiative proposed and supported by the student electorate.

- She also points out that Senate is the final arbiter of the validity of elections, and has voted each semester to accept the election results.
- Her and her friends in Global Vote, who petitioned for the online voting amendment, hope for a resolution of this issue that is in line with the interest of the student body.
- Senator Green yields to the chair.
- Chase Werther yields her time to Minority Party Leader Shayli Patel.
- Minority Party Leader Shayli Patel voices her concern about the Supreme Court decision to overturn the online voting amendment.
 - She shares her concern about, with regard to the voices of the student body, the validity of the decision made by the Supreme Court.
 - According to the Student Body Constitution, the Student Senate shall be the sole judge of the validity of election results.
 - The Senate approved the results of the 2016 election, including the referendum of the online voting amendment, months ago.
 - She thinks that it is not only unnecessary but also unconstitutional for the Supreme Court to go back and rule the results of the ratification of this amendment as invalid.
 - We should be following the Constitution which means nullified the decision of the Supreme Court and standing by the decision of the Student Senate.
 - They are representatives of the student body and should be working at the student body's best interests in mind and that means bringing online voting to the student elections.
 - She shares that 6,047 students have made it very clear that they support the online voting amendment and that we, as Senate, should not let them down.
 - She hopes this will be solved in time for the Fall 2016 elections to help the student body.
- Austin Young offers solutions to the Supreme Court decision to overturn the online voting amendment.
 - He worked with Global Vote to get all of the signatures and fight to get online voting on the ballot.
 - He shares that if another amendment that was thrown off the ballot was an amendment that moved the threshold from 10% to 5% for signatures needed, which means in order to put this back on the ballot he will have to collect, instead of 2500 signatures, he would need over 5000 signatures, which he believes is an undue burden on the students.
 - He shares that Senate can vote by 2/3 majority to put this amendment back on the ballot by spring.
 - He hopes that they are able to get this started soon so that it can be put on the ballot for spring.
 - He points out that there's nothing in the Constitution that says online voting is prohibited; it is in the codes.
 - If the senators wanted, they could strike those codes and as the Senate you can write a law that says that online voting, or remote

voting, is now the law given that it was passed with 68% if you count everyone that voted on it, and 58% if you don't count the people who didn't vote on it. It would still be an overwhelming majority.

- He points out that Student Body President Webster mentioned in the debate that she, and Impact Party, support the online voting amendment.
 - If that is still the case, you guys can rewrite the codes and to make it law. If not, they would appreciate a 2/3 vote to put this back on the ballot.
- Senator Nguyen yields her time to Praveen Varanasi.
- Senator Pellot yields her time to Praveen Varanasi.
- Senator Moodie yields her time to Majority Party Leader Werk.
- Senator Stein voices his opinion on the Supreme Court decision to overturn the online voting amendment.
 - He draws attention to the fact that the Supreme Court has not shared this decision with the public yet and that a different branch has already interpreted what they said.
 - He believes it is inappropriate for the Executive Branch to overreach and interpret on behalf of the Supreme Court.
 - He hopes this has not swayed the Supreme Court in their meeting and some of their decisions.
 - He also believes it was strange and possibly problematic that the Supreme Court met during the break between Summer A and B.
- Majority Party Leader Werk reserves her time.
- Chairman Weiner yields to Majority Party Leader Werk.
- Senator Muncan yields to Majority Party Leader Werk.
- Praveen Varanasi, a District D Senator who left town for the summer, is concerned about the Supreme Court decision to overturn the online voting amendment.
 - He shares during the past election, the Impact Party and Access Party worked together to introduce a new era of democracy through the online voting amendment to make a more just voting system that is accessible to everyone.
 - He recalls that in the past there were many struggles for everyone to vote, and compares those times to now.
 - He points out that the students studying abroad, doing full-time internships, and enrolled in the online program are not being allowed to vote because the online voting was not approved.
 - These students are still members of the University of Florida and they deserve the right to exercise their ability to vote.
 - By not continuing the online voting amendment, he believes that we are stripping those students of their constitutional right to vote in elections and that we are showing them that we, as a student body, do not care about what they have to say.

- With 68% of students voting in favor of the amendment and the Supreme Court deciding to overturn it, he is not sure it is in their constitutional right to do so.
- He asks the senators to use their power of being elected representatives of UF to help overturn this decision.
- Senator Wright yields to Majority Party Leader Werk.
- Majority Party Leader Werk yields her time to the chair.

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:

- Action SG Chair Ty Robare announces that tomorrow, Wednesday June 29th, and Thursday June 30th, 11am-1 pm will be the first tabling event for the summer for SG in Turlington Plaza.
 - It gives all students the opportunity to meet their senators and officials.
 - He asks the senators to share the event on Facebook to spread the word.
- He also gives out the new SG snapchat, UFStudentGov, and asks the senators to follow it.
- Student Government will be partnering with the Dean of Student Office to bring ponchos to campus in order to replenish the supply. The Executive Branch had this initiative on their platform and they are fulfilling it.
- He opens the floor to any questions for him.
 - Senator Dolan asks if he will be taking questions on behalf of Student Body President Webster.
 - He answers that he will not.
 - Senator Stein asks if Action SG meetings will be taped.
 - Ty Robare shares that they will not because they do not have the equipment to do so.
 - Senator Stein asks what it would take to get the meetings recorded.
 - Ty Robare answers “Money”.
- Student Body Treasurer Kishan Patel announces office hours for the Summer B semester:
 - Monday 12-3 pm.
 - Wednesday 12-4pm.
 - Friday 12-3pm.
- He opens the floor to questions.
 - Senator Dolan asks if he will be taking questions on behalf of Student Body President Webster.
 - He answers that he will not.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Clements welcomes everyone to the Summer B semester.
- She shares her excitement for passing all of the resolutions tonight.
- She will be attending the Pulse Commemoration and Unity Ceremony tonight, June 29th, at 8:30 PM.
 - If you are interested in going, she asks to please join her after the meeting.

- She announces that there is a One UF focus group headed by Action SG Chair Ty Robare that will meet tomorrow Wednesday June 29th 12:30pm-2:30pm in Tigert Hall.
 - This will be an opportunity for the senators to give feedback about UF.
 - If you are interested in attending, please email Action SG Chair Ty Robare tonight, June 29th.
- She addresses the Supreme Court decision on overturning the online voting amendment.
 - The Supreme Court had met this past weekend on Saturday June 25th, and the meeting was public noticed on the public notice board.
 - On the agenda, they were reviewing the constitutional amendments from 2008 to the present.
 - During the meeting, they ruled off of Article 8, Section 4.
 - They did not pass the amendments due to the need of 3/5 approval from those voting in the spring election.
 - They overturned 4 different amendments, including the online voting amendment.
 - She recognizes that the Ad-Hoc committee worked very hard to try to implement online voting for elections.
 - She, as of now, will be discharging the Ad-Hoc Committee until further notice of the Supreme Court's decision.
 - Senator Stein asks if her decision to discharge the committee before the Court could post their opinion could be seen as hasty.
 - Senate President Clements responds that because they know that all of the amendments were overturned unanimously, the committee that was specifically created for the task of implementing online voting is no longer needed because the amendment failed. Once they know the formal decision of the Supreme Court, they will re-evaluate the future of the committee.
 - Senator Dolan asks why the committee is being discharged if, as seen tonight, there are other ways to implement the online voting.
 - Senate President Clements answers that the committee was formed to implement the online voting amendment and since the amendment did not pass, the original task that the committee was formed for did not succeed. She will be waiting the formal Supreme Court decision and will re-evaluate whether or not the committee will return.
 - Senator Dolan asks if they are still waiting on the formal decision, why the committee is being discharged tonight.
 - Senate President Clements says that we know the result of the meeting and what the vote was. Based on the vote that that amendment doesn't stand, we do not need the committee right now.

- Senator Wilson asks when and where the final decision will be posted.
 - Senate President Clements does not know when this will be posted and recommends asking the Chief Justice for that information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Meyers welcomes the senators.
- The committee met Sunday and put forth the recommendations that are on the agenda for today.
 - He adds that the committee left the permanent Accounting seat open to encourage more applicants to apply for this position.
- Due to the Holiday weekend, the committee will be continuing with interviews the weekend after.
- The following open seats are all due July 8th at noon:
 - Permanent
 - Accounting
 - Graduate
 - Summer B
 - Dentistry
 - Graduate
 - Law
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy
 - Committee
 - Budget
 - Rules and Ethics (3)
- He announces that his Summer B semester office hours will remain the same from Summer A:
 - Monday 10 am – 2 pm
 - Tuesday 10 am – 2 pm
 - Wednesday 12pm – 2 pm

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairman Brown shares that the committee is hard at work currently in the middle of SG Budget Hearings.
- There was a tour today with the Reitz Union and met with some of the behind the scenes employees.
- He announces the upcoming Budget Hearings:
 - SAI: Thursday June 30th at 4pm in Reitz Union Room 2102.
 - SG: Thursday June 30th at 5pm in Reitz Union Room 2102.
 - Rec Sports: Tuesday July 5th at 5pm in Conference Room at Southwest Rec.

- There is an open seat in the committee and he encourages everyone to apply for it.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairman Champoux welcomes the senators back to Gainesville for the Summer B semester.
- The committee has had a large number of Allocations Requests due to the all of the outreach they have been doing.
 - He shares that there have been a great number of Allocations special requests and that he hopes to pass 8-15 of them very soon.
 - He shares that there have been a great number of Allocations special requests and that he hopes to pass 8-15 of them very soon.
- The committee will be hard at work with the code revisions and the outreach events planned for the rest of the summer.
- Allocations requests are on a rolling basis, except for Fall Week Welcome events. He stresses that those requests must be made before the deadline!
- If anyone has any questions or is interested in getting their organization funded, please email him!

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Weiner welcomes the senators.
 - The committee met Sunday and passed the 3 resolutions seen tonight.
 - He invites all of the authors of the resolutions to come up and present their resolutions to the Chamber.
 - Majority Party Leader Werk discusses Student Senate Resolution 2016-1030 Resolution Commemorating Those Affected by the 2016 Pulse Shooting to remember the tragedy endured by those involved in the shooting. She recognizes that this tragedy hits close to home because we are so close to Orlando and those in Orlando.
 - Minority Party Leader Shayli Patel reiterates that we are here for all students on campus of all different backgrounds.
 - Chase Werther thinks it is important that Student Government stands behind every student no matter what the circumstances are.
 - Senate President Clements speaks about 2016-1029 Resolution Honoring University of Florida Alumnus Gordon.
 - Gordon Glover was very involved in Student Government and the Law Community and he is now stepping down. The resolution is to not only honor him but honor everything he has done to help Student Government and the Law Community.
 - Senator Netzer thanks everyone for passing 2016-1031 Resolution Supporting the Continued Effort of the Innovation Academy and Innovation Cabinet to Establish Gainesville as the Main Innovation Hub of Florida unanimously.

- He shares that his experience through Innovation Academy and how important it is for Student Government and the Innovation Academy to be a partnership.
- He announces that they will be meeting Friday July 1st at 2pm in Reitz Union Room 2101.
- All legislation for next week's meeting will be due tomorrow June 29th by noon.
- He announces his office hours for the Summer B semester:
 - Wednesday 2-4pm which will also serve as hours for writing workshops to author legislation.
 - If you can't make those times, feel free to reach out to him and he will schedule time with you.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Long shares a presentation on constituencies and absences to the Chamber.
 - She goes over the absence policy for the Summer B semester.
 - You can submit absence petitions on GatorConnect.
 - She goes over the probation policy for the Summer B semester.
 - Probation will end July 19th at midnight.
 - She asks the Chamber why constituency is important.
 - Senator Dolan says that it is important that the students who voted you in know that you are properly representing them.
 - Senator Moodie it is an opportunity to outreach to the student body.
 - All forms must be submitted by 7pm on the day of the last senate meeting of the term, Tuesday August 2nd.
 - You will be notified via email whether or not your form has been approved.
 - For the summer, you pick 2 points of the checklist not all 4 to complete.
 - Only professional and graduate senators are allowed to do 2 of the same category.
 - Other senators must pick 2 different categories to complete.
 - She goes over how to submit the forms.
 - She demonstrates to the Chamber step by step on how to submit their forms both for constituencies and probation.
 - She shows the constituency tracker that is a new feature for the senators to see. The committee will send out events weekly to the senators.
 - There is also a calendar that will be sent out every week.
 - She goes over the constituency punch cards.
 - She gives the total completion breakdowns by the different categories of senators.
 - The committee does have 3 open seats and she invites everyone to apply.
 - She reminds the winners of the constituency month challenge to pick up their gator pins from James.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Phillips welcomes the senators back to the Chamber.

- The committee has planned a “Meet Your Senator Day” for next Thursday July 7th, 11 am-2pm in Turlington Plaza.
 - A sign-up sheet will be sent out via email.
 - Senator Netzer asks if that will fulfill a constituency requirement.
 - Senate President Clements answers that at the next meeting, July 5th, they will announce what category of constituency it will count for, but it will count.
- There will be a Summe B retreat on July 10th at Lake Wauberg in the Cypress Lodge.
 - Attendance to the retreat will result in a half-absence back.
- SG Polos are in so please pick them up tonight.
- Senate t-shirts will be in tomorrow Wednesday June 29th, so pick them up in the SG Office on Thursday June 30th or at the next meeting on July 5th.
- Tabling events
- Chairwoman Phillips and Vice-Chair Twymon give a Tabling 101 presentation.
 - When you table, you represent yourself and SG.
 - Be prepared to table.
 - Dress appropriately
 - Dress code is either business casual or your senate t-shirt or polo.
 - Business professional for preview tabling
 - Show up early
 - Knowing why you are tabling
 - Elevator pitch prepared
 - Bringing a laptop for Facebook likes
 - Attitude is everything.
 - Keep a professional demeanor because you are representing Student Government
 - What not to do
 - Excessive phone use
 - Gossip
 - Rudeness
 - Sitting excessively
 - Looking uninterested
 - DO NOT WEAR POLITICAL AFFILIATION T SHIRTS
 - Proper Check-In and Check-Out Procedures
 - If there any questions, please reach out to the committee and they will answer them quickly.
- The presentation will be sent out shortly for everyone to have.

SECOND READING:

- There are no bills in second reading.

FIRST READING:

- There are no bills remaining. They were approved.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

There are no bills pending signatures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Long announces that the constituency forms are officially active on GatorConnect
- Senator Champoux asks his committee to stay after the meeting to discuss a meeting time for this week.
- Senator Stein thanks everyone for passing the Student Senate Resolution 2016-1030 Resolution Commemorating Those Affected by the 2016 Pulse Shooting. He shares that Orlando is his second home and the support means a lot to him.
 - He also shares that he will be meeting with Graduate Assistants United next week.
 - There will be a Graduate Assistants United Social on Friday July 1st 5-7pm, which would fulfill a graduate constituency requirement.
- Senator Traywick reminds those who want to renew their voter registration to see him.
- Senator Everitt hopes everyone stays safe over the holiday weekend and asks them to remember what the holiday is truly about.
- Chairwoman Phillips announces that Senate will be a part of RecSports's Live in Motion Campaign.
 - There's an online calendar out with all the events; starts July 1st. If you want to be involved, please email her and let her know.
- Senator Hanley will be taking headshots for the Summer B senators next week July 5th before the Senate meeting and to look out for the link this week of all of the headshots
- Senator Leasure shares that if you are interested in the upcoming local state elections, there will be a Meet and Greet for College students At Swamp Thursday June 30th at 7 PM.
- Senator Wedemeyer extends an invitation for her to teach anyone who is interested in learning to sail at Lake Wauberg.
- Chairwoman Long reminds everyone to grab a constituency punch card up at the front.
- Senator Everitt, adds on to what Senator Leasure said, that if anyone is interested in getting involved in that, please reach out to him.
- Pro-Tempore Meyers shares that he and Ty Robare are trying to set up a Humans vs. Zombies within Student Government.

ROLL CALL:

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

No Vote Record Received:

- Folkes
- Makela
- Morgan
- Johanna Phillips
- Powell
- Steinmeyer

- Sultania
- Sumner
- Wei

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.