

## **STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

### **September 13th, 2016**

The Senate President called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 73 senators present.

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

- Bhusar
- Daou
- Dowling
- Guay
- Hariton
- Holloway
- Le
- McMillin
- Smith
- Sweeney
- Titus
- Wei
- Worth

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

- There are no amendments to the minutes for September 6th.

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

- Chairman Champoux motions to approve Student Senate Bill 2016-1070 Funding for Knitting Gators by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader motions to hear the recommendations for the Honor Court Nominations as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader motions to hear the recommendations for the open Senate Seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader motions to hear the recommendations for the open Committee Seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Brown motions to approve Student Senate Bill 2016-1069 800 Code Revisions by unanimous consent. Approved.

#### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- Senator P. Varanasi yields to Senator Dwyer.

- Senator Dwyer welcomes the Chamber.
  - He was not present at the Judiciary Hearing, but he read about it in the Alligator.
    - If what he read is an accurate representation of the arguments for dismissing Campaign Finance Reform in Student Government, he would have to advise, based on his knowledge of the Constitution, that it is inappropriate reasoning.
  - Part of the reason why he says this, is the part of the Constitution where it says we have to abide by the Florida Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.
  - This issue was tackled in 2012 in the UF Supreme Court Case in the re-election cycle.
    - They were faced with the question whether or not the 700 codes violated the First Amendment Free Speech Right of the students of the University of Florida.
    - They held that this court does not have the express authority to interpret provisions of the U.S. Constitution based on the provision in the UF Constitution.
    - It further says that our jurisdiction pertains exclusively to Student Body Laws and the actions of Student Government Officials whose power derives from the Student Body Constitution.
    - If students feel their civil rights have been violated, they should seek redress from an appropriate court of law not a student tribunal.
  - Based on that logic and the UF Supreme Court's unwillingness to interpret the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution, he thinks it is also inappropriate for a committee or any individual in Student Government to claim that based on the language in the UF Constitution, they have the authority to determine what is constitutional or what is not constitutional based on the U.S. Constitution and the state Constitution.
  - He concludes by saying that he thinks the issue should be re-examined in terms of the Court's ability to interpret the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution and that the issue has been settled and the Court has not taken up this issue since 2012.
  - He realizes that in 2006, there was a UF Supreme Court decision that declared online voting unconstitutional and when it was passed by 85% of the student body and after it was passed the Court said it was unconstitutional and it derived its decision based on the authority in the UF Constitution that says that we have to conform to Florida and U.S. Constitution.
  - However, since 2009, that reasoning has not been how the Court has interpreted that part of the Constitution.
  - And since 2012, it's been the court's position that their jurisdiction pertains exclusively to the Student Body Laws and the actions of Student Government Officials.

- He would take heed on that and advise anyone from claiming they have the authority to interpret Citizens United or anything like that as it applies to Student Government.
- Senator Selogy yields to the chair.
- Majority Party Leader Werk welcomes the senators.
  - She wanted to give a rebuttal from person who has a different opinion on the issue.
  - We brought up Citizens United in a previous speech, and with the Judiciary Hearing on Sunday, the main issue of the 700 codes was constitutionality, it was not anything dealing with party politics or anything of the like.
  - One of the 700 Codes revisions tried to put a limit on campaign spending in Student Government Campaigns based on the candidates that were running it would ultimately limit a party based on how many candidates they have running.
  - There are two big Supreme Court cases, which is what made this 700 Code revision seem unconstitutional in our Student Government.
  - The first was Citizens United, which was in 2010, and the other Buckley vs. Valeo in 1976.
    - The majority opinion of Citizens United said that prohibitions of expenditures, which in this is the expenditures of a political party, violated the First Amendment's protection of free speech.
    - In Buckley vs. Valeo, it said that restrictions on large campaign contributions are justified to prevent corruption but that expenditure ceilings, which is what this 700 Code revision was looking to do, was imposed direct and substantial restraints on the quality of political speech.
      - It also defined political speech as spending money and the expenditures of money in political campaigns.
  - Ultimately, this 700 Code revision was a violation of the First Amendment because it was prohibiting an organization from using its full power to have, in our case, free speech and campaign.
  - She just reiterates that it wasn't anything else other than a violation of an interpretation of the Constitution done by the Supreme Court twice, in 1976 and in 2010.

#### **OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:**

- Chief of Staff Haley Smith welcomes the Chamber.
  - She gives a few updates from the Executive Branch:
    - Last Night, September 12<sup>th</sup>, the first President's Council Meeting was held to reach out to the Big 9 Organization, the presidents of the Big 9 to be more specific, to continue open communication between them and the Executive Branch/all of Student Government and that they are looking forward to continuing these meetings every first Monday of every month at 9:15pm.

- Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, there is a Scream theater event from 2-3pm in the Ryan Ballroom.
  - Scream is an organization that is making students aware of sexual assault and informing them on bystander intervention.
  - She asks that everyone spread the word and shares it with their constituents.
- Applications closed on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - The agencies are now underway with interviews and they received an enormous number of applications.
  - The Big Event received 100 applications in its first year!
  - She thanks everyone for spreading the word to their constituents and organizations and she is very excited to see all of the work that the agencies are going to do.
- This is the week that the Gator Growl talent will be announced!
  - When the video goes live, please share it!
  - They are very excited about this partnership between Student Government and Gator Growl and they will continue to foster this in the future.
  - She asks everyone to spread the word, buy tickets, and encourage everyone else to buy tickets as well.
- They had the wonderful opportunity through the STAR Agency with External Affairs as well as the Diversity Affairs Executive Secretary to begin a program to essentially adopt a middle school.
  - The University of Florida Student Government will now have a club at this particular middle school to incentivize and encourage students to really look forward to their higher education to start this at a younger age so they can foster this passion that will continue when they are seniors in high school and start to apply to colleges.
- Finally, she asks that everyone shares the Platform Tracker Video that was just released.
  - The Platform Tracker Video was in regards to the returning program of having free parking in the Bledsoe Lot during non-lifted parking hours so that students without parking decals could utilize Southwest Rec during those hours.

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

- Senate President Clements welcomes the senators.
- She welcomes up Gator Emergency Medical Response for a presentation and explains that Chairman Weiner has worked with them for the past year or so to collaborate with Student Government and Gator EMR.
  - Chairman Weiner says that he invited Bo Walters of Gator EMR to speak to the Chamber to explain some of the services that Gator EMR provides to our campus.
  - Gator EMR has done a lot this summer to expand their service, so it really has grown to a whole new program and have been collaborating with the

University Police Department and Student Government to expand their program to help keep students safer.

- Bo Walters is the Administrative Director of the Gator Emergency Response Unit.
- Last spring, Gator EMR received funding from Student Government to purchase supplies to help their unit get off the ground.
  - They held their first event, or staffed their first event, in January of 2016.
  - It was a 5K, and that is what they refer to as event standby and they usually do 30-40 of those per year.
  - Those are events that are held on campus and are staffed by the University of Florida Police Department.
  - As they moved deeper into the Spring Semester, they started to work bigger events, such as Relay for Life, Dance Marathon, Swamp Con, etc.
  - Once they hit the Summer B Semester, they were able to partner with UPD to kick off their 911 response on campus.
    - Which basically means that anytime a 911 call was generated to the University Police Department where they would be responding, Gator EMR responders were riding with them to those class and providing medical support to anyone the University of Florida campus.
  - The program is still continuing to grow now in the Fall Semester.
    - They have secured their own “rental” vehicle through UPD and now use their off-road vehicle and offer that service on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 10pm to 3pm.
    - They take calls from all over campus through UPD dispatch as well as call from Good Samaritans that come up and ask for help.
    - They are bound by the perimeter of UF campus.
  - They are also getting into the UF Athletic Association events so they are staffing football games, soccer games, and are looking into staffing baseball and lacrosse games when those sports kick off later in the year.
  - If anyone see Gator EMR, they are welcome to come say hi.
- Walters thanks the Chamber for all of their support.
- Chairman Weiner adds that some of the equipment is here in the Chamber tonight if anyone wants to look at it.
  - He asks everyone please pass this information along to their constituents and friends.
- Senate President Clements reminds everyone of the grand opening of the CORE Building from RecSports and invites everyone to their open house on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm to 5pm.
  - Come join us and check out the new facility!
- She just reminds everyone that there are 3 weeks left in the term.

- She encourages everyone to continue and finish no matter where they are in their term because they were elected for a reason.
- She asks them to think back to their first 3 weeks in Senate rather than focus on the last 3 weeks and finish strong.
- If anyone has questions or need help on finalizing any projects or initiatives they want to continue to please come talk to her.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senate Pro-Tempore Meyers welcomes the senators.
- He builds on finishing the term.
- He knows that there have been a number of resignation letters coming in and reminds the senators that they took an oath and it is their duty to be a service to the students.
- He announces the Open Senate Seats:
  - Applications will be due on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at noon for the following seats:
    - Dentistry
    - District C (2)
  - Applications will be due on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at noon for the following seats:
    - Graduate (2)

### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairman Brown has no report.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairman Champoux welcomes the senators.
- The committee met this past Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - They heard 3 requests.
    - They tabled 1 request and failed the other 2 requests.
- He thanks everyone for approving Student Senate Bill 2016-1070 Funding for Knitting Gators.
- He reminds everyone that the Allocations Committee cannot hear anymore requests because of the election season and the 800 Codes rule that they cannot hear any requests within two weeks of elections.
- Organizations are welcome to still send requests but they will not be heard until after elections.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Weiner welcomes the senators.
- The committee met this past Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - They hear 3 bills and 2 constitutions.
    - Failed 3 bills

- 1 was due to unconstitutionality, and the other 2 were because they were redundant in the codes.
  - Passed 1 constitution
  - Failed 1 constitution
- Congratulates Senator Schaettle on becoming the Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee.
- The committee will meet on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> around 8am
- All legislation due Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at noon
- Chairman Weiner reiterates Majority Party Leader Werk's rebuttal in public debate on the unconstitutionality of the bill that was failed.
  - If anyone has questions on the matter, please approach him after the meeting and he will answer them.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairwoman Long welcomes the senators.
- She explains that the committee didn't meet this week due to lack of quorum.
- The committee will meet on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm and hear all of the forms that have been submitted in the last 2 weeks.
- Probation is due tonight before midnight, so get those in!
- She says that she has gotten a lot of questions about constituency for those Fall senators who are ending their term.
  - If you won't be here at the end of the semester, you don't necessarily need to complete your constituency.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Phillips welcomes the senators.
- The committee met on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed upcoming projects for this semester.
  - They are trying to write a tabling script and make a new trifold for display.
  - There is a tabling opportunity tomorrow, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm to 3pm in Turlington.
    - The Executive Branch will be holding an event with Vice President Brendon "BJ" Jonassaint playing basketball and they will hand out food to students.
- Spike It with Senate is September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Broward Courts.
  - \$30 per team for teams of 6.
  - Please continue to spread the word and get a lot of people to come out to the event.
- She congratulates Senator Selogy and Senator Evans for joining the committee.

### **SECOND READING:**

- They were approved.

### **FIRST READING:**

- They were approved.

### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

There are no bills pending signatures.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Majority Party Leader Werk announces that the grand opening of the Sigma Kappa House on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm.
  - There will be free food and activities!
  - She invites everyone to come out!
- Senator Smith announces that the Project Makeover Share Night at Chipotle is tonight so please come after the meeting!
  - It is a great way to give back to Alachua County schools.
- Senator Rong announces the Chinese Student Association's event the Mid-Autumn Festival to the Chamber.
- Senator Fletcher says that the first Black Student Union general body meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> but was cancelled due to the storm that closed down all of UF.
  - The first official Black Student Union general body meeting will now be held on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Reitz Union Chamber.
- Senator Bahmad announces that Hispanic Heritage Month is starting this Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - The opening ceremony is Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom from 6:30pm to 9pm.
  - There will be a guest speaker as well as free dinner so come out to the event!
- Senator Abbott retouches on the unconstitutionality of the bill that was not passed by the Judiciary Committee.
- Chairwoman Phillips asks her committee to see her after the meeting.

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

### **No Vote Record Received:**

- Dowling
- Guay
- Hariton
- Holloway
- Le
- McMillin
- Sweeney
- Titus
- Wei
- Worth

- Zink

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.