

**STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**  
**February 3, 2009**

**Senate President Jordan Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Senator Will Harrell led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

R&E Chairman Matt Michel called roll. Quorum was established with 69 senators present.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Senator Abbott made a motion to add Senate Bills 2009-1018, 2009-1019 and 2009-1020. Senator Miorelli asked that they be voted on separately. Senate Bill 2009-1018 was approved for first reading. Senate Bill 2009-1019 was approved for first reading. Senate Bill 2009-1020 was approved for first reading. The agenda was approved as amended.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

There were no amendments to the minutes for January 27.

**PUBLIC DEBATE:**

**Matt Michel** encouraged the senators to table at SG's Housing Fair on Wednesday. A sign-up sheet was available.

**Casey Zych** announced Gator Wesley Foundation's "Love" campaign next week with the theme "What is Love?" She said they would be taking over Gatornights next week.

**Yooni Yi**, Student Body Vice President, announced the Housing Fair on Wednesday from 10am to 2pm and the Cabinet meeting on Thursday at 8:15pm in the CSA&I area. She reported on the success of the Young Leaders Conference held over the weekend with 201 students attending and over 120 UF students participating. She especially thanked SG Advisor Sarah Cunningham and CSA&I Grad Assistant Josh Earley for their help in making the conference so successful. She said there had been several speakers with University President Machen speaking at the brunch on Sunday attended by the students and their parents.

**Jason Cornman** asked the senators to make this a quick meeting and invited them to Swamp afterwards.

**Sam Miorelli** said Senate Bill 2009-1019 was opposed by the Budget Committee and felt the Senate meeting should be adjourned to have all the bills go to R&A to be placed on next week's agenda.

**Jesse Sherman** announced that next Tuesday he will be dancing in the Mr. UF Pageant.

**Alden Gillespy** corrected Senator Miorelli saying it was actually Senate Bill 2009-1020 that was opposed by the Budget Committee, or maybe both bills. He said the Budget Committee is not sponsoring the bill as shown and felt it should be stricken from the agenda as there are no other sponsors.

**Cecil Duffie** announced this week's Black History Month events with lunch at the IBC on Wednesday, the general BSU meetings on Thursday at 6:00pm and "Showtime at the Swamp" on Friday in the Rion Ballroom.

**Alan Yanuck** said suspending the rules was like playing a game and urged the senators to play by the rules instead.

**Jonathan Ossip** said that campaign season has begun and wished everyone the best of luck.

**Jennifer Falcon**, District D senator, said that she is now Vice President for the Hispanic Student Association and announced her resignation tonight from the Senate.

**Josh Krivisky**, Chair of the Reitz Union Board of Managers, supported Senate Bill 2009-1020 to fund the installation of more efficient florescent lighting in the Reitz Union saying it received unanimous support by the Board.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

There were no reports.

Senator Miorelli moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion failed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**R&A:**

**Senator Cecil Duffie**, reporting for Chairman Matz, said the committee met on Sunday and makes the following recommendations: Troy Simpson for Graduate, Blake Harris for Law and Audrey Goldman for District A. Each recommendation was approved. He announced the following open seats: Education, Graduate (1), Journalism (1); Nursing, Family Housing and the first announcement for one District D seat. There is one Budget seat open.

**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

**Vice Chairwoman Virlaney Taboada**, reporting for Chairman White, said he had not seen the changes that have been made to Senate Bill 2009-1020 and would like the bill tabled until next week. She announced that budget hearings would be held on Wednesday

**Senator Ossip** moved to recommit Senate Bill 2009-1020 to the Budget Committee. The motion failed.

**Senator Miorelli** moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion failed.

**Senator Gray** moved to postpone hearing Senate Bill 2009-1020 until next week. The motion failed.

**ALLOCATIONS:**

**Chairman Grasshopper Illangkoon** reported the committee would meet on Thursday at 6:00pm to hear requests from six groups.

**JUDICIARY:**

**Chairman Thomas Cockriel** reported the committee met on Monday and passed Senate Bill 2009-1018 5-0 to the floor with no recommendation. The committee passed Senate Bill 2009-1019 5-0 with a favorable

recommendation and tabled an antidiscrimination resolution for more research. The committee will be writing their resolution for fallen Gators at their meeting on Sunday at 5:00pm.

#### **RULES & ETHICS:**

**Chairman Matt Michel** reported the committee met on Sunday and makes the following absence recommendations: Senator Cynthia Kan excused for January 20; Senators Alexa Jennings and Annie Martin excused for January 27; Senators Cecil Duffie and Tim Taxter unexcused for January 27; Senator Marcus Kraft excused for January 29; and Senator Nicholas Licht excused for February 3. The recommendations were approved. An absence for Senator Avello was tabled. Senators notified of resignation by nonattendance have ten days to appeal. Chairman Michel welcomed Senator Goldman back to the Senate. He explained that ½ absence may be expunged for committee attendance for both committee members and nonmembers and stressed the importance of committee chairs turning in their attendance reports.

**Senator Ossip** said Senator Cecil Duffie had been removed from his At-Large seat on R&A for absences and called for an immediate election for his replacement.

**President Johnson** called a recess. The meeting resumed at 8:13pm. Chairman Michel called roll and quorum was re-established with 71 senators present.

**President Johnson** opened the floor for nominations for R&A-at-Large. Senators Shire Patel, Mario Garcia, Stacey Gray and Marcus Kraft were nominated. Senators Garcia and Kraft declined.

**Senator Patel** said he had previously served on the R&A Committee and felt qualified to do so again. He responded to questions saying he had not received instructions from neither President Dale nor Pro Tempore Bell while on the committee during the Summer B session. If elected, he will not resign from his seat on Allocations and felt his prior experience on the committee would be helpful.

**Senator Gray** spoke on her experience being interviewed by R&A and her ability to be fair. Responding to questions, she said she had never received instructions from President Dale nor Pro Tempore Bell and felt that Senator Patel, and in fact the entire committee during that time, was suspect. Not having personal transportation to meetings would not pose a problem for her and currently being a candidate for Student Body Vice President would not affect her decisions. She felt she would be more fair to minority applicants.

**Chairman Michel** called roll. Senator Shire Patel was elected R&A-at-Large by a vote of 46 to 21 with Senators Abbott, Acosta, Allman, Araujo, Avello, Campbell, Charles, Clements, Cockriel, Cornman, Cutshall, Downing, Estler, Foster, Fuller, Garcia, Ginsburg, Goldman, Harding, Harrell, Hershman, Hilton, Isgut, Jennings, Joseph, Kan, Katz, Kimbell, Kraft, Lane, Lubart, Martinelli, McCabe, Michel, Miller, Olesky, O'Mara, Patel, Prywes, Russell, Seabrook, Sexton, Sherman, Smith, Taboada, Torres and Ulman voting for Senator Patel. Senators Benedix, Billiodeaux, Cavataro, Dictor, Fyda, Gillespy, Goodell, Gray, Illangkoon, Martin, McShera, Miorelli, Mohata, Ortega, Ossip, Peters, Pittman, Schneider, Steiger, Vernon, and Yanuck voted for Senator Gray and President Johnson abstained.

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

**Chairwoman Suzanne Hershman** had no report.

## **SECOND READINGS:**

There were no second readings.

## **FIRST READINGS:**

SB2009-1018 Standing Committee Attendance Resolution – Chairman Michel presented the bill to amend Senate Rules and Procedures Article XI, section 9 to show in sub-section (a) that upon accumulating one unexcused absence from committee meetings, rather than two, R&E would notify the senator that an additional unexcused absence would be resignation from the committee by non-attendance. Sub-section (b) would be amended to show with two unexcused committee absences, rather than three, the senator would result in resigned from the committee for non-attendance. Senator Goldman questioned there being no limitation on excused committee absences. The proposed changes would not affect the limits for the summer sessions. Senator Cavataro called previous question. The motion failed. Senator Goldman moved to recommit the bill to R&E to include a provision for excused absences. In debate, Senator Miorelli said the R&E had debated the bill and presented what they had agreed upon. Senator Goldman felt including excused absences would make the senators more accountable. Senator Ossip said he was willing to amend the bill for excused absences and Senator Yanuck told the senators they could express their opinion by their votes and write another bill if they felt it was needed. Senator Goldman withdrew her motion to recommit. Senator Ossip offered an amendment to add “or 2 combined” to section (a) and “or 3 combined” to section (b). There was no second to his amendment. Previous question was called. The bill passed as presented.

SB2009-1019 Revision to Food Related Items in the 800 Codes – Senator Patel presented the bill with Chairman Illangkoon and Senators Miller and Clements added as sponsors. The bill would amend SBS 808.41 to state that food related expenditures may be deducted from the programs line item. The wording “and food related items each fiscal year” would be stricken from 808.44. Senator Patel explained that this change would allow organizations the option of using the food line for food for human consumption exclusively and was being offered as an alternative to having to raise the funding cap on food lines. Senator Cavataro noted that the bill had no committee sponsorship. Senator Miorelli moved to extend questions on the bill by five minutes. The motion failed. Speaking con, Senator Ossip felt the bill would reward less sustainable groups and require two SARs for the same event. Senator Miorelli said it would create classes for two budget lines and Senator Gillespy felt related items should be limited to one line. Senator Charles moved to table the bill. Senator Miorelli called for a rising vote. The motion to table passed.

SB2009-1020 Allocation of Reserves to Reitz Union for Efficient Lighting Retrofit – Senator Cynthia Kan and President Johnson presented the bill to allocate \$35,000 from SG Reserves. The rules had been suspended to allow the bill to be presented without Budget Committee sponsorship. Judiciary Chairman Cockriel presided. Senator Kan said the bill had passed unanimously in the Budget Committee and would greatly decrease utility bills. Board of Managers Chairman Josh Krivisky said buildings on campus are facing a 10% to 30% increase in utilities and this would offset those costs saving the Reitz Union a lot of money and move the campus to more efficiency. Senator Kan used a Power-Point presentation to show a breakdown of the Reitz Union’s energy use. She said the cost to retrofit lighting in the basement, on the ground

floor, second and third floors and on the Colonnade would be a one-time transfer of \$35,000 and would save \$44,000 annually. She said the proposal and estimate had been prepared by John Lawson from Physical Plant and responded to questions on what effect the lights might have on the appearance of the artwork in the Art Gallery and the life expectancy of the lights with the questioning period being extended by three minutes. Lighting on the first floor was updated with last year's renovations. Senator Cavaturo offered an amendment stating that no monies from this bill would be allocated for retrofitting lights in the Art Gallery without the express written prior approval of Dr. Nancy Chrystal-Green, Director of Student Involvement. Senator Steiger moved to accept the amendment but change the approval to Jill Keezer, Director of the Art Gallery. Senator Goldman objected, but withdrew her objection. The amendment was accepted. Previous question was called and passed on the bill. The bill passed as amended.

**BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

SBL2008-148 Nightlife Navigator Creation Act: 1/27

SBL2009-108 Amending the Deadline for Organizational Budgets: 1/27

SBA2009-102 Special Request-Orthodox Christian Fellowship: 1/27

SBA2009-103 Special Request-Gator Chess Club: 1/27

**IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:**

February 4 – Mandatory Candidates Meeting, 10:30pm, JWRU 282

February 6 – Notification of Absentee Ballot request process

February 24 & 25 – SG Spring Elections 8am-8pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Senator Joseph announced she would be a contestant in the Miss Black and Gold Pageant on Sunday at 8:00pm in the Grand Ballroom.
2. Senator Goodell announced the Theatre and Dance production of "Electronic City" through Sunday.
3. Senator Smith announced the first meeting of the Association of Black Communicators on Wednesday in Weimer Hall.
4. Chairman Michel asked that the tabling sign-up sheet be returned.
5. Senator Campbell said the Budget Cuts Task Force did not meet because of lack of attendance and asked the members to see her.
6. Russell Ward announced that the Research Cabinet will be surveying at the Housing Fair on Wednesday.
7. Senator Cornman invited everyone to Swamp.

**ROLL CALL:**

Senator Cornman's motion to use voting records for roll call passed.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.