

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
October 13 2009

Senate President Ashton Charles called the meeting to order at 7:39pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Senator Kara Olesky led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Charles announced the disclaimer that the meeting may be filmed or audio taped and may be available to the public.

ROLL CALL:

R&E Chairman Jason Cornman called roll. Quorum was established with 84 senators present.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

There were no amendments to the minutes for the two meetings on October 6.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

1. **Senator Severin Walstad**, speaking on the R&A recommendations, said the committee had worked diligently for over six hours deliberating and made their recommendations based on the individual's work ethic, merit and qualities that make a great committee member, not on party affiliation or personal opinion. He urged every senator to approve these recommendations.
2. **Chairman Louis Holzberg**, following in former Senator Aaron Ginsburg's footsteps, shared this inspirations quote from Eleanor Roosevelt, "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." Louis said that motivation is the key to effective leadership and what better way to motivate a roomful of leaders than offering the words of great leaders before them. He said this body has great minds and should discuss ideas for students, faculty, the campus, the city and the future.
3. **Nick Mildebrath** welcomed Senator Haridopolis to the meeting. Nick said that tonight the Senate is handing the administration a check for \$150,000. He said they asked for one-third of that this fiscal year and have now decided they want more. He asked what this is paying for and said the money belongs to students and it is the Senate's duty to use it to their benefit. He said this money could keep the HUB open 24 hours per day for four years, fund hundreds of new student organizations or eight *New York Times* Readership Programs over two years. It represents more than one-quarter of the money the Reitz Union says it needs to make repairs to the building. He asked the senators to ask questions before approving these funds. He checked other state schools to see if their Student Governments are asked to subsidize these types of services and found that FSU, UCF, UNF and FAU do not pay these fees. He hoped the senators would do their due diligence before passing this bill.
4. **Senator Jonathan Ossip**, speaking on Senate Bill 2009-1104 to transfer \$150,000 to the Administration, said the most important question is "what is it used for?" Receiving five different answers, he said the most overlapping answer is that it is used to pay for the use of the University's financial system. Next year's budget is slated to raise this fee to \$800,000. He said this is a classic example of the Administration "strong arming Student Government and this Senate." He said the

Administration has no right to do this and giving them this money in no way benefits the students Senate represents. He said members of the minority would be moving to postpone this bill to give it the time it deserves.

5. **Senators Michelle Miller and Eric Ho**, Kaleidoscope board members, showed the Asian American Student Association video. Michelle said Kaleidoscope Month celebrates the awareness of all Asian American cultures. The Mr. & Ms ASU Pageant will be on October 29 and AASU's Got Talent on November 5.
6. **Senator Rebecca Rowley** reported on the Health and Human Performance State of the College address with their dean. HHP has the second highest teaching load amongst colleges and is the most diverse college on campus. In the past two years they have been able to increase the average salary for its teachers by 18%, added a \$1million expansion to the Center for Exercise Sciences and saved the Athletic Training department, which was scheduled for elimination under budget cuts last year. They host an HHP Tailgater for students before games and only had a 2% budget decrease last year. She said the college council would be hosting an inter-major social on October 21.
7. **Senator Alan Yanuck** said he had to pay a \$50 late fee on his tuition and knows the fee goes to whatever the University wants to spend it on and it includes A&S fees that he gives to Senate. He said the Senate is in charge of entrusting that fee to provide him services and he doesn't expect that money to be laundered through Student Government in some bazaar protection racket tuition hike with the Administration. He said the message Senate sends here is obvious; that they are okay with giving the students' money to the Administration because they have given SG some offer they can't refuse. Alan said Senate can refuse that offer, take time to consider it and can say no if it isn't in the best interest of the students. He said Senate seriously needs to look into what the money is going towards.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Charles welcomed the guest speaker, Florida State Senator Mike Haridopolos.

Senator Mike Haridopolis, who also teaches at UF on Tuesday and Thursday, spoke on the state's budget reduction from \$74 billion to about \$66 billion including stimulus money saying it's a trying time for everyone with about one in ten Floridians out of work. He said he has been given the honor of serving as President of the Florida Senate and, as a teacher and author, education is one of his major goals. He told the senators that first and foremost, students have a voice in a Senate that is getting younger and is on track with technology adding that in the past few years the Florida Senate has tried to preserve the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. He said he works out of Pugh Hall and would welcome ideas for debate. He invited students to submit their opinions on the proposed health reform, which if passed, would give approximately 1.85 million additional people insurance with the state being responsible for 45% of the bill. In closing, he informed everyone of the "Tallahassee Semester" program through the Graham Center which allows students to spend the spring semester in Tallahassee for the legislative session. Students can apply to Kim Martin in the Graham Center. Senator Haridopolos responded to questions on fully funding Bright Futures or raising the GPA requirements; how the state's stimulus money is being dispersed; how Florida will be affected by cuts at NASA; and the effect of changed property tax laws and how lost revenue will be replaced. He invited students to visit him during his office hours from 11:00-11:45 on Tuesday and 12:00-12:50 on Thursday or email him at mike@senatormike.com.

Press Secretary Eric Conrad reported that Student Body President Jordan Johnson had attended the first preliminary meeting of the search committee for the University's Chief Information Office. He said approximately 150 people had attended the grand opening of the HUB's extended hours and 804 visitors

had attended last week's Museum Nights program. Opening the floor to questions, he said President Johnson has issued no executive orders; the administrative fee, as the Johnson administration sees it, is primarily used for resources that all SG uses that all departments pay for such as Human Resources and Purchasing and President Johnson has signed the proposed budget for next year; and the number of terminals in the Computer Lab has increased from 36 to 52. He will try to get information on Museum Nights attendance during the summer and information on the RTS meeting.

President Charles thanked the senators who attended the orientation session and asked them to keep the packets they were give. She commended Chairman Holzberg on the orientation. She asked the senators to practice courtesy when entering the room and limit the trips for food during the meetings. President Charles informed the new senators of their mailboxes in the Senate office, invited everyone to visit the office during office hours and encouraged the senators to set up their Senate email accounts with IT Administrator Steven Bourdon. She will be presenting her legislative agenda for the term next week and asked the senators to discuss their ideas with her this week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

R&A:

Chairwoman Naadira Renfroe reported that the committee met on Sunday to interview 35 applicants and thanked the members for their hard work. The committee made the following recommendations for committee seats: Senators Aerial McKenzie, Jonathan Ossip, Josh Roberts and TJ Villamil for Budget; Senators Jennise Acosta, Andre Haughton and Severin Walstad for Allocations; Senator Kara Olesky for Judiciary Chair and Senators Chelsey Campbell, Michelle Miller and Ju'lia Samuels for Judiciary; Senator Spencer Pylant for Rules & Ethics; and Senator Danisbel Avello for I&C. Senator Roberts moved to suspend the rules to approve all the recommendations and Senator Ossip moved to approve all the recommendations by unanimous consent. There was no objection. Chairwoman Renfroe announced the following open seats: Education and Building Construction and one seat on Allocations. She said she would be in her office on Friday from 4:00-5:00pm. Applications are due by 5:00pm on Friday.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

Chairwoman Virlany Taboada asked the new members to meet with her for contact information. She announced that Special Event hearings will be held October 21 and 22. Senator Yanuck asked her to send committee messages to the listserv.

ALLOCATIONS:

Chairman Thomas Hilton congratulated the new members and announced the committee would meet on Wednesday at 1:00pm to hear five organizations.

JUDICIARY:

Chairwoman Kara Olesky said she plans to continue in former Chairwoman Charles' path for the committee and encouraged everyone to write legislation. She said she will hold office hours and welcomed the new members to the committee. She announced the committee would meet on Sunday at 5:00pm to review organization constitutions. New legislation is due by 5:00pm on Friday to her by email at both us06@sg.ufl.edu and kolesky8@ufl.edu. Applications for Vice Chair for the committee will be due on Sunday.

RULES & ETHICS:

Chairman Jason Cornman reported that the committee has not met. The next meeting will be on Sunday at 4:00pm in the SG office. He said “charm school” will return and there will be a newsletter for constituency requirements. He said he had reviewed the constituency requirements that were turned in and everything looked good. Probation letters will be sent soon to those who did not complete their requirements.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

Chairman Louis Holzberg thanked the senators who attended the orientation session and said makeup sessions will be held for those who were absent. He reminded everyone to turn in their Affiliation Form and announced the committee would meet on Thursday at 5:00pm. He asked everyone to mark tonight’s vote record if they would like to be either a mentor or mentee. Chairman Holzberg announced that Senate is now on Twitter at [ufstudentsenate](#). He asked anyone who has not picked up their tee shirt to see him. Senator Ossip suggested changing the name of the “No Picture Available” Senate Facebook group and Chairman Holzberg will talk with Steven Bourdon about having pictures posted on the website.

Pro Tempore Renfroe announced that the SG offices will be closed on Friday for Homecoming so she will be holding office hours on Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:00pm and applications will be due on Thursday by 5:00pm.

SECOND READINGS:

There were no second readings.

FIRST READINGS:

SB2009-1104 Allocate Reserves to Student Government for Increase in Administrative Fee – Chairwoman Taboada and members of the Budget Committee presented the bill to allocate \$150,000 for the University’s increased Administrative Fee for support services. The fee for the 2009-2010 fiscal year has increased to \$300,000 from the \$150,000 that was budgeted. Chairwoman Taboada explained that SG has always paid the fee, but it is being increased by 3% for this year due to the economic situation and the fact that the University has not changed rate for a very long time. There will be a 6% increase for the next fiscal year that has been implemented in that budget. She said the Admin. Fee covers services that are essential to Student Government. Pro Tempore Renfroe read an email sent to Treasurer Laguna from Associate Vice President Dave Kratzer stating that the fee is for infrastructure services including Payroll, Purchasing, the IT backbone, UPD, Finance and Accounting, auditors, Human Resources, General Counsel, etc. Questions were asked on whether or not A&S fees should be going to these services; the list of services and when there was an independent audit of SG; when the fee payment is due; if other state universities pay this fee; why SG, which is neither a department nor an auxiliary, is being asked to pay the fee; what the consequences would be for nonpayment; the cost of providing the services separately from the University; and the original amount of the fee. A line item breakdown of how the funds would be used was requested. Speaking con, Senator Ossip said other SGs are not charged this fee and the Senate should draw a firm line now. He said there was not enough information on fee and moved to postpone the bill one week. Senators Yanuck, Roberts, Walstad, Regalado, Ossip, Pino, Vernon, Munikoti and Mais spoke in debate on the motion to postpone. Speakers favoring the motion asked the Senate to take a week to see if students were getting their monies worth from the fee; students have as much power as they will stand

up for; there was little or no information; no representation from the Administration and questions to be answered; no breakdown of usage and no idea of the support services included. Senator Vernon said he had made a pledge to his constituents to not approve spending money with adequate knowledge. Speakers opposed to postponing said the University cannot function without these services; SG has agreed to pay the fee in the past and owes what they are told they owe; SG must work with the Administration; and the bill should be passed and allowed to move to second reading. Offering points of information, Pro Tempore Renfroe said the A&S Fee has increased from \$10.04 per credit hour to \$10.53 and Senator Walstad asked if the information could be brought for the second reading of the bill next week. Senator Regalado called previous question on the motion. The motion passed. Senator Munikoti called for a roll call vote but withdrew his motion. Pro Tempore Renfroe asked that the motion be changed to recommitting the bill to the Budget Committee rather than postponing. Senator Ossip agreed; Parliamentarian Siegel said the motion could not be changed. The motion to postpone the bill for one week failed by voice vote. Con debate resumed on the bill with Senator Yanuck moving to recommit the bill to Budget. Chairwoman Olesky called for a recess and President Charles ordered a five-minute recess at 9:38pm. The meeting resumed at 9:42pm; however, since President Charles could not legally call a recess without a motion and vote, roll was not called to re-establish quorum. Chairwoman Taboada said that Treasurer Laguna would be present next week with the information requested; she would talk to Business Manager Stan Beckerdite this week for answers; and the Budget Committee would meet this week to review the bill. Senator Roberts moved to recommit the bill to the Budget Committee. Senator Ossip moved to pass the motion to recommit by unanimous consent. There was no objection.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

SB2009-122 2010-2011 A&S Fee Budget: 9/15

SB2009-124 2010-2011 Reapportionment: 10/6

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Senator Hunt reminded the senators to remove the bill from their vote record.
2. Senator Curtwright announced the Graduate Student Council would meet next Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Florida Gym. Participant applications for Florida Alternative Breaks are available and are due October 21.
3. Senator Sherman announced the first meeting of the Alternative Student Housing Association on Sunday at 8:30pm. The group, with 400 members on its Facebook group, is peer based for low cost and free housing. The meeting will be held at 1064 SW 9 Street. For information, call Senator Sherman at 727-204-1488.
4. Senator Thompson announced BSU Homecoming Week with king and queen voting on the Plaza.
5. Senator Cronin announced Gator Growl on Friday night. Tickets are still available for \$15.
6. Chairman Holzberg asked senators to pick up their tee shirts, turn in Affiliation Forms and note their mentor/mentee choice on their vote record.
7. Senator Ossip announced the second annual A Spring of Hope Water Pong Tournament on the North Terrace to raise funds to building wells for schools in Africa. Pre-registration is \$10 for 2-person teams. Day of event registration will be \$12. There will be prizes.
8. Senator Triana a forum on immigration in the Grand Ballroom on Wednesday co-sponsored with Kaleidoscope.
9. Chairman Cornman invited everyone to Swamp.

ROLL CALL:

Senator Mohata moved to use vote records for final roll call. The motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.