

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

April 17th, 2018

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. 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 83 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Dempsey
- Dunn
- Epstein
- Grady
- Hoffman
- Jenkins
- Jones
- Nguyen
- Randhawa
- Robusto
- Singh

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1043: Diversity Empowerment Act by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Shaw moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendation for the open Allocations seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1044: Resolution Encouraging the Office of Sustainability to Limit Availability of Single Use Plastic Drinking Straws at University of Florida Dining Locations and Applauding Related Efforts by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1045: Resolution Recognizing the Positive Impact the Big Event Makes on the Greater Gainesville Community by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1034: Absolute Neutrality for Election Officials Act - 700 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1035: Mandatory Meeting Reform Act - 700 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1037: Voter Protection Act - 700 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1038: General Body Meeting Act - 700 Codes Revision by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Adams moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1040: Student Body Accessibility Act by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Dunson moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1041: Academic Budget Full Year 2018-2019 by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Dunson moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1042: Organizational Budget Full Year 2018-2019 by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Holloway moves to hear the approved absences as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Holloway moves to hear the failed absences as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Senator Birnholz:
 - Takes a moment to explaining the rejection of Student Senate Bill 2018-1043: Diversity Empowerment Act.
 - Notable change of removal of MCDA cabinet director and addition of the Student Body Vice President who would serve as chair.
 - President Elect Ian Green gave good reasoning.
 - Presidents of the Big 8, who made a pact with the committee, didn't even know the committee existed or that changes had been made to the bill's composition.
 - It is critical to consult with elected officials before decisions have been made.
 - Could not approve bill as the presidents of the Big 8 had not been informed and given their approval.
 - After conversation with President Elect Green, he gained a majority recommendation by the Big 8 officials.
 - Commends president elect Ian Green for willing to communicate the party's legislation.
 - Celebrates this step as one towards a more diverse and inclusive environment for everyone.
- Senator Muller:
 - Facebook post start circulating regarding Student Body President Smith Meyers and Turning Point USA.
 - Senator Smith came forward and inquired on why Student Body President Smith Meyers' photo was used in a brochure in its campaign.
 - Has been a week and no answer from President Smith Meyers on why his image has been used.
 - Questions if there is a place for national politics within UF Student Government.

- Recites UF SG's mission statement.
- Denounces national partisan politics within Student Government.
- Believes SG is great place for learning about political systems.
- Knows that "red and blue" lines do not apply in Senate.
- Outside affiliations should not affect the politics of Student Government based for the student body.
- Turning Point USA funds student executive candidates on campuses such as University of Colorado: Boulder and the University of South Florida, to push their own agenda.
- Some goals of Turning Point including defunding progressive organizations, expanding their own free speech bills, and other policies under the radar.
- Nothing inherently wrong with the goals of Turning Point USA, however they are trying to undermine the very democracy that we stand for.
- Student body has the right to know why Student Body President Meyers was used within the brochure.
- Believes a code revision could be used to denounce those who use national party lines to affect their student government duties.
- Insists SG at UF must be leaders in order to repel corruption.
- Zachary Amrose:
 - Here to talk about Student Senate Bill 2018-1044: Resolution Encouraging the Office of Sustainability to Limit Availability of Single Use Plastic Drinking Straws at University of Florida Dining Locations and Applauding Related Efforts.
 - Thanks Senator Jenkins and the bill's sponsors, UF College Democrats, Gators Going Green, senators from both parties, and Jennifer Cumbie.
 - This is in line with what the UF Sustainability Office has done in the past.
 - Several Florida cities have moved to ban straws in their jurisdictions for problems such as environmental problems
 - Straws are in top ten debris found on beaches.
 - Alternatives include paper straws and reusable metal straws, while UF saves thousands of dollars.
 - Looks forward to work with students in this initiative.
- Senator Lima:
 - Wants to point out that the private Twitter account of Student Body President Meyers is not an appropriate way to denounce Turning Point USA's use of Meyers' photo.
 - Wants to address shortage of resources for Disability and Resource Center.
 - Stated that UF promised to give the Disability and Resource Center additional staffing and resources in Cypress Hall.
 - A specialist and graduate student, along with four additional rooms in Cypress Hall will be provided to assist disabled students.
 - There is more work, but this step is worthy of celebration.
 - Announcement was made just one day after the signing of the bipartisan bill by the Senate President.

- Testament that your advocacy matters.

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

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ELECT

- Student Body President Elect Green welcomes the senators:
 - Thanks senators for passing the second readings of the Diversity and Empowerment Act Bill.
 - Wants to make sure that the bill was one of the first things to get passed while in office.
 - Looks forward to working with the Big 8 presidents and making sure to be more transparent.
 - Thanks all for outreach and challenges senators to reach out to constituencies for the best application pool available for executive positions.
 - Finished 35 hours of interviews for executive positions.
 - Wants to commend senators for reaching out to constituents.
 - Will have nominations at next week's Senate for remaining positions.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Grosse welcomes the senators.
- Introduces UFPD Captain Holcomb:
 - Wants to start with talking about theft during the last few weeks of the semester.
 - Requests to reach out to constituency to watch out for students moving in/out and watching for their belongings.
 - If you can, put out those messages.
 - Talks about abandoned bicycles.
 - A five day grace period is enforced before the bicycle is tagged and removed.
 - States to make sure to move the bicycles away from housing and Reitz Union racks if leaving the bicycles for an extended period of time.
- Invites the SAI liaison Senator Gatos:
 - 2018-2019 Florida Alternative Site Leaders had their kickoff weekend this past weekend.
 - Lead UF just concluded this weekend as well.
 - SFA hosted a student and alumni event this past Saturday and had a good turnout.
 - Thursday: Involvement Awards Ceremony.
 - SAI is recognizing contributions of student organizations to the UF community.
 - SAI is hiring student assistants for the summer term.
 - Proposal forms reopen July 1st to start a student organization.
 - Pop-a-Plaza is still occurring over the summer for student organizations to table for free for outreach on campus.

- Share the Diversity Week Event on Facebook.
- Next week is the last senate meeting of the semester.
- If there is a summer replacement, please bring them to the next meeting to get oriented.
- Reminds everyone that the voter record must be marked yes because of unanimous approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Murphy welcomes the senators.
- Approved the Allocations seat.
- Open seats:
 - Budget committee
 - Med-seat
 - Two District D
 - Rawlings
 - Graduate
 - Due at 12 PM on Friday
- Block Party at Newell Hall was a success today with over 1,500 in attendance.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Encourages senators to apply for open seat on Budget committee.
- Reach out to Chairwoman Dunson via email or office hours.
- Committee is discussing amended budget and will be moving it into the summer period.
 - Discusses updates within the next fiscal year.
- Will also be working on outreach to organizations.
- Shake Smart is handing out free smoothies today:
 - Wants as many people to get out there to beat other schools in a competition.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairman Pope welcomes the senators.
- Allocations did not meet because of failing to make quorum.
- Planning on meeting this upcoming Sunday around 10 AM.
- This will be the last committee meeting until summer.
- The fiscal year is ending soon.
- Reach out to constituents to request funds.
- Will be holding office hours at 11 AM this upcoming Friday.
- Congratulates Senator Miller for allocations seat.

JUDICIARY

- Chairman Adams welcomes the senators.
- Reviewing Supervisor of Elections during the last meeting.
- Looking to meet in the afternoon on Sunday.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairwoman Holloway welcomes the senators.
- Constituency is due next Tuesday at 7:30 PM once the gavel hits.
- Tracker will display what is missing and what events are needed to attend.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Weeks welcomes the senators.
- Thanks everyone who came out to Senate Retreat.
- Special shout-out to Senator Felipe.
- Mentor/Mentee reveal tonight after Senate meeting.

SECOND READING

- There were none.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Muller: Asks to work with senators across the aisle to denounce national politics within Student Government.
- Senator Stanford: Chief Diversity Officer will be speaking this Thursday at 10:15-11 AM at Reitz Union.
- Senator Eastland: Reitz Union Board Managers will be meeting on April 24th at 7 AM to discuss why college affordability at every level is important.
- Senator Bradley: Groovy Moving Student Society will be having an annual event this Sunday at Lake Wauberg's North Shore for free Caribbean food.
- Senator Probert: Florida players is opening showings of Jesus Christ: Superstar - April 20th-April 22nd:
 - 8 PM on Friday.
 - 3 PM and 8 PM on Saturday.
 - 3 PM on Sunday.
- Senator Florez: Fundraiser at Hurricane BTW for Hispanic Student Association.
- Senator Grodi: Jodi Cantor will be speaking next Wednesday with Accent.
- Senate Pro-Tempore Murphy: Mentions Shake Smart.

ROLL CALL:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.