

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
September 4th, 2018

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 6:46 pm 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 70 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Batra
 - Brue
 - Dunn
 - Epstein
 - Fine
 - Grady
 - Hoffman
 - Hudson
 - Hurdle
 - Marwah
 - Mitchell
 - Muller
 - Ospina
 - Patel
 - Perez
 - Rauseo
 - Ro
 - Singh
 - Smith
 - Temeliescu
-
- All 7 Gainesville Commissioners are in attendance.
 - Lauren Poe: Mayor
 - Gail Johnson: City Commissioner At-Large
 - Helen K. Warren: City Commissioner At-Large
 - Gigi Simmons: City Commissioner for District 1
 - Harvey Ward: City commissioner District 2
 - David Areola: City Commissioner for District 3
 - Adrian Hayes- Santos: Mayor Commissioner Pro-Tempore and District 4
 - Mayor Poe motions to adopt the agenda. Motion is seconded.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Boone moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the Allocations Chair: Katie Hernandez by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Boone moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda committee recommendation for the Committee Seats by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Boone moves to approve the Replacement and Agenda recommendation for the Elections Commission: Alexis Castro by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Shaw moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1085: Fall 2019 Reapportionment by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Shaw moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1086: Spring 2019 Reapportionment by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- No public debate.

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

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:

- No report given.

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT:

- No report given.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

- Supervisor of Elections Fair welcomes the senators.
- Gives a presentation regarding the procedure of outages during polling for the upcoming student body election.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Grosse welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the City Commission for coming into the chamber for this joint meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate Pro-Tempore Murphy welcomes the senators.
- Committee seats that are open:
 - Budget (2)
 - Allocations (3)
 - Judiciary (2)
 - Rules and Ethics (2)
 - Information and Communication (2)
- Permanent Replacement Seats now open and due on September 14th:
 - Architecture
 - District A

Before the Budget and Appropriations report, Majority Party Leader Boone motions to send all other committee reports electronically, excluding Judiciary Committee, by midnight tonight by unanimous consent. Approved.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Report will be sent electronically.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Report will be sent electronically.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairwoman Shaw welcomes the senators.
- Explains the procedure that goes into apportioning the senate seats every fall and spring semesters.
- The spring reapportionment will occur this upcoming spring. The fall reapportionment will be enacted next fall, not this current fall cycle.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Report will be sent electronically.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Report will be sent electronically.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

SECOND READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There were none.

CITY COMMISSIONS REPORT:

- Mayor Lauren Poe:
 - Welcomes the senators.
 - Wants to host many more joint meetings in order to hear the voices of those on campus on the University of Florida.
 - Wants Santa Fe students to also be included.
 - Wants everyone to get engaged with their host community and find ways to use the opportunities given by the city to expand their experiences outside the classroom.
- City Commissioner Gail Johnson: Commissioner At-Large:
 - Thanks everyone for having her.
 - Makes remark on how efficiently meetings are held by the UF Student Senate.

- Wants to make sure they are communicating as best as they can to the people they serve in this city. Believes it is crucial to be transparent.
- To work towards that goal of transparency and communication, she is utilizing a newsletter and using her Facebook more to make sure the community is hearing what is being talked about.
- Cut down from 10 to 7 hours of being able to meet with people.
- “Equity is something that is very important to me.”
- Equity recognizes disparities between groups and tries to remove them through programs and support.
- Searched for conferences around the nation regarding equity. Found one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Understands how passionate people are about the issues in Gainesville.
- It is going to take every single person, organizations to address the disparities in Gainesville.
- Gigi Simmons, City Commissioner for District 1:
 - Represents the East side of Gainesville.
 - Believes that there are many disparities within the East side of Gainesville, including schools, crime, income, etc.
 - Represents Downtown Gainesville which includes the Innovative Hub.
 - Tomorrow at 5:30 pm there will be a city district address where she will be talking about her first 100 days in office and about what is going on in District 1.
 - Is interested in the idea of affordable housing, as well as programs for the children of District 1.
 - Wants there to be a level playing field for children in after-school programs, especially for children of color.
 - Has partnered with multiple school district board members to come up with STEM after school programs for the students and children of District 1. Would love for UF to help her develop this program because of its prestigious ranking.
 - Most of the students are here to improve the world, however help is “needed at home.”
 - Is reaching out for big help from the University of Florida students because it is greatly needed in our community.
 - There is a transportation issue, as well as a utility issue.
 - Her email is simmonsgg@cityofgainesville.org. Pleads for everyone to reach out to her.
 - Extremely interested in Community Land Trust.
 - Community Land Trust is a nonprofit corporation that develops and stewards affordable housing, community gardens, civic buildings, commercial spaces and other community assets on behalf of a community.
 - September 26: Camille Reynolds will be coming in from Winter Park, Florida to speak on the topic of Community Land Trust. Invites people to come to the event.
- David Areola, City Commissioner for District 3:
 - 1st generation American.
 - Youngest City Commissioner elected.
 - Wants to talk about the success that we have had already, in order to set priorities.
 - Have supported new and innovative programs for the Reichert House.

- Reichert House is a program where students who are at risk are put into a new environment to elevate their sights to an eventual career.
 - Supports alternative options for ID for those who may have a hard time obtaining a government ID.
 - Began to initiate a local food secure policy. Looking for help from UF as well.
 - Has initiated for GRU energy to be 100% renewable.
 - Bad environmental policies are harming the state of Florida, especially in the Southern portion.
 - Wants to highlight the UF and Gainesville partnership. It has formalized for government to be working with administration.
 - In this partnership they have developed funding for the first automated shuttle in the state of Florida
 - Has created the first city wide Smart Road Network in order to research the traffic and assess problems and solutions.
 - Absolutely need to raise wage floors.
 - One of the most exciting projects is a portal for the entire city to connect community service volunteers to the organizations that need their help.
 - Urges this generation to fix the political climate where there is a “lack of respect.”
- Helen K. Warren, City Commissioner At Large:
 - Ran for office four years ago. Moved back to Gainesville in 2002.
 - Was a student at the University of Florida in 1975-1981.
 - Just returned from a trip in Washington D.C. and saw *Hamilton*, the musical.
 - Watching the musical made her realize that her understanding of U.S. government was limited to her high school experience. Is thankful that our younger generations are able to get more involved and more educated.
 - These conversations have never reflected such a shift in the political conferences that have occurred.
 - Urges students to step into their leadership roles well.
 - “How is this community going to grow?” Also asks how we are going to address the growing population of the city of Gainesville.
 - Trying to fight hard to protect the land that belongs to Gainesville that other counties might be trying to take over because of expansion.
 - Has gotten involved in the housing crisis, including addressing the problem with homeless students.
 - 800 students are homeless and sleep in cars, couch surf, etc. This is a reality that most of us aren’t aware of.
 - Felt that when UF wanted to open their relationship with the community again she felt engaged with her educational community again.
 - There are opportunities for everyone to become engaged in the community, in order to solve the many problems and gain experience that will benefit them anywhere they go in life.
 - It is going to take a community to develop trust with families, and an education system to keep students in school.
 - Excited that our generation has the opportunity to see change but we must get engaged and involved.
- Adrian Hayes-Santos, District 4 and Commissioner Pro-Tempore:

- Hopes that there can be more joint meetings, continuing to have one every spring and fall semesters.
- Encourages everyone to get involved.
 - Even though some are only here for 4 years, “This is your city too.”
- Is currently working with landlords and properties to help the renter more, through lower utility bills, move out dates, etc.
- Also working with waste problem. There is an environmental problem. We need to take action now.
- There are more plastics on our ocean than there are fish.
- The decisions we make today are decisions that are for our future generations.
 - We cannot keep kicking the can down the road.
- Hoping that the city will adopt a ban on single use plastic bags, single use straws, as well as Styrofoam because those are the most common items of litter seen.
 - Most of these wastes are found in the streets, and will go straight to the creeks in the city.
- Working with the county to see how we become a county of zero waste.
 - UF has tremendously helped with this initiative.
- Wants to work towards having compost in homes not just restaurants.
- Working on the rates for broadband with Cox cable.
 - Gainesville pays some of the highest broadband rates in the state.
 - Looking at a gap analysis to see how we might fix this problem.
 - It is essential to the people of Gainesville, as everyone uses internet today.
- Is looking for an increase in activities to do in Gainesville such as music lounges, bike trails, sporting facilities, etc.
 - “There are not enough things to do in Gainesville.”
- Another major thing coming forward is the referendum for GRU authority.
 - Says that the referendum is a special interest bill. Advises voters to vote no on the referendum.
- Harvey Ward, City Commissioner for District 2:
 - Represents North, Northeast, and Northwest Gainesville.
 - Assumes that most of us have not been to North West Gainesville.
 - Challenges students to get to know this town.
 - Asks students to “Take a ride around town.”
 - Believes that Gainesville has some of the best park systems in the South-East U.S. region. Believes that there are a lot of wonderful parts of Gainesville.
 - But also wants students to go to places where things are not working.
 - Wants students to get involved with all parts of Gainesville.
 - Wants to raise the wage floor, and it has been successful so far in the city of Gainesville, along with the county.
 - The University of Florida has not enacted a higher wage floor.
 - Encourages students to stand up to administration for OPS and part-time workers.
 - Working on doing something with Cabot/Koppers are.
 - It is an EPA superfund site in Gainesville.
 - The area is just an empty lot.

- Bordered by good neighborhoods that wish something great would happen there.
 - Only three or four years away from growth to happen in this area.
 - Growth is happening in a big way here in Gainesville.
 - About 3,000 people a year move to Gainesville.
 - Believes that this number will increase in the coming years.
 - Believes it is important that we have plans in place in order to handle the growth in the city.
 - Also working really hard on broadband issue to make sure we are a very connected city. Very thankful for the great communication and cooperation with Tigert Hall in this issue.
 - An ongoing conflict with the city is the fact that Gainesville does not produce things here.
 - Refutes the claim, saying that education and health care are the two products that are produced wonderfully in Gainesville.
 - Wants to push and make sure more people are proud of the fact that so many people come here to be educated and be healed.
 - Is also working on the GRU Referendum. States that anyone in Gainesville has ownership in Gainesville regional utilities. Citizens are able to speak to their board about these issues. If the people allow the referendum to pass, citizens will lose ownership in their utilities.
 - Hopes that the people will vote for moving the city elections' dates.
 - Of the registered voters in Gainesville, only 12% show up to vote for Spring elections for district seats which he believes is unacceptable and no way to run a democracy.
 - Wants to move spring elections to August for bigger voter turnout.
 - Wants elections to be every two years. If there is a runoff, elections will take place again in November.
 - Very excited to announce that there will be a Campus Early Voting Site this year for the elections in November.
 - Site will be for both students and faculty.
- Lauren Poe, Mayor:
 - Two-time Gator.
 - Number one mission as mayor is to bring back a national championship football title back to Gainesville.
 - It is a disadvantage to run as an incumbent. So most incumbent only serve for three years.
 - This is the most diverse city commission in the history of Gainesville.
 - Is very proud of this.
 - Is going to focus on the university and city partnership.
 - Wants to blend the city's and university's goals in order to elevate the public school ranking for the University of Florida.
 - The university knows that to be ranked as a top 5 university, they need a world-class city.
 - It is a symbiotic relationship in aligning each entity's goals.

- Has the first autonomous shuttle in the United States that crosses highways, city and county roads.
- Working in Partnership with BMW and Audi on predictive analytics to prevent fatal and severe accidents on the road.
- Has teamed up with the university on the topic of health care for the community members of Gainesville to determine why people are calling 911 so often in a week, as well as addressing common health problems.
 - Has seen an over 50% drop in 911 calls.
 - Has seen an over 90% drop in people treated in hospitals.
- Is installing the same lighting technology throughout the entire city.
 - Using various methods to both save money and keep walkers safe at night.
 - “At the tip of the iceberg” of the breakthroughs with the city-wide lighting situation.
- Mentions the opportunities for students to serve the community.
 - Has a new platform called Serve GNV that will help connect anyone who wants to volunteer with organizations around Gainesville who need volunteers.
- Wants to expand Gainesville carpet for welcoming international members.
 - 50% of the citizens of Gainesville were born in another country.
 - Wants everyone to feel welcome.
 - The more we can attract people to Gainesville and its local culture and economy the more our city will benefit.
 - Working with organizations to create an international center in the city of Gainesville.
 - Unfortunately, we have seen a decline in the income of international students and African-American students to the University of Florida.
- If you have not checked out the “Lauren Poe Dank Meme” page, Mayor Poe advises those in the chamber to check it out.
- Mayor Poe opens the floor for questions with senators and public.
- Encourages all to download “311GNV” and “SAFEGNV” apps.
- Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos motions for a discussion of pilot programs to look at an updated open-container policy for game days. Motion is seconded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Bradley:
 - Call to action for senators regarding lost culture in Museum, in light of a museum in Brazil catching fire.
- Senator Pellot:
 - Everyone in R&E committee please meet at the front of the room after the meeting ends.
- Senator Hernandez:
 - Hispanic Heritage Month is having a Hip-Hop Fundraiser event tomorrow in dance studio B for \$4 that will be going towards their philanthropy.
 - Everyone in the allocations committee please meet by the American flag at the end of the meeting.
- Senator Jones:

- Rock to Vote concert at Flavel Field at 6:00pm on September 7th, 2018. Come enjoy the concert and register to vote.
- Senator Brandies:
 - Asks members of I&C to meet in the front.
 - The College of Health and Human Performance is hosting an involvement fair tomorrow, September 5th from 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Florida Gym.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM