

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES DRAFT

October 9th, 2018

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 7:30 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 76 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Barnes
- Boone
- German
- Joachim
- Levy
- Miller
- Probert

AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- No amendments were made to the previous meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A Committee recommendation of William Jameson for the open Agriculture and Life Sciences seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A Committee recommendations of Taylor Watkins for the open Engineering Seat by unanimous consent. Motion objected.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A recommendation of Derlis Leyva for the open CLAS seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A recommendation of Emily Little for the open Sophomore seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A recommendation of Emily Dunson for Budget Chair position by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A recommendation of Katie Hernandez for the Allocation Chair position by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the R&A recommendation of Will Sandifer for the open Judiciary Committee Chair position by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the R&A recommendation for Joshua "Clay" Hurdle for the open R&E Committee Chair position by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A recommendation of Meryl Jones for the open Information and Communication Chair position by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to approve the R&A recommendation of Connor Haffey for the open Budget and Appropriations Committee Seat by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the R&A recommendations for the open Judiciary committee seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the R&A recommendations for the Allocations committee seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the R&A recommendations for the open Rules and Ethics committee seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the R&A recommendations for the open Information and Communications committee seats as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Alfredo Ortiz:
 - Asks what happened a year ago, referring to Hurricane Irma and Maria.
 - Puerto Rico continues to suffer after last year's hurricane season.
 - His community has felt the compassion of the state of Florida, but believes more can be done.
 - The purpose of education is to equip students with the resources they need to help and better society.
 - There exists a duty to humanity to help in any capacity, especially in any academic institutions like the University of Florida.
 - New, incoming students have not been extended the same aid as have returning students, despite some of them actually living the hurricane.
 - Those financially affected by Hurricane Maria have had their hardships not recognized.
 - Petitions the Student Senate to create legislation to combat this problem.
 - Senators have an opportunity send a message of compassion.
 - Wants the resolution to pass unanimously.
 - When thousands of citizens of Puerto Rico left the island, they left because there was not much to stay for
 - "Our academic futures remained uncertain."
 - "Our society collapsed to the most basic needs" in Maslow's Hierarchy.

- Government officials ruled that power would possibly be restored to only half of the population by Christmas.
- Senator Beltran:
 - Thanks Ortiz for sharing his story.
 - Since last year, has been able to benefit from the in state tuition that has not been given to the Puerto Rican students who are freshmen.
 - WEPA has been working to bring recognition to the incoming Puerto Rican students.
 - Asks those to reach out.
- Senator Berrocal:
 - Here on behalf of Bianca Ramirez
 - Shares a speech written by Ramirez regarding “Indigenous People’s Day,” approved by the City Council.
 - Wants this day not to be recognized as “Columbus Day,” but rather “Indigenous People’s Day”.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
 - After attending the Replacement and Agenda Committee meeting, discusses some of the applicants that interviewed for the Permanent Engineering Seat, shared some of the ideas that these applicants had.
 - Notes that the applicants were not given proper time, and the seat was given to someone who was “less qualified.”
 - States that the Inspire Caucus will be objecting the nomination of the nominee for the Permanent Engineering Replacement Seat.
- Senator Lima:
 - Wants to talk about a proposed 700 codes revisions to increase election fairness on campus.
 - Explained the legislation that has been drafted regarding the election officials.
 - Piece of legislation was passed by the Judiciary Committee and the Senate, however it was vetoed by former Student Body President Smith Meyers earlier this year.
 - Wants to ensure that the election officials are truly nonpartisan and unbiased.

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

- Class Council Agency head Trevor Pope:
 - Gives presentation on “Student Government’s Class Councils Agency”.
 - Introduces new Class Council Presidents.
 - Nicole De Brigard: Junior Class President.
 - Chandni Pooran: Sophomore Class President.
 - Bhakti Patel: Freshman Class President.
 - When asked why he started class councils, points out that some of the best Student Governments in Universities across the US all have Class Councils.
 - Wants to create a sense of community for each graduation class.

- Talks in detail about some ideas he has for the current and upcoming years to instill Gator traditions and pride. They include but are not limited to:
 - “Blue Out” at this past week’s LSU football game.
 - Senior Send Off.
 - President’s dinner.
 - “My Gift. Our Legacy.” Program.
 - Class lapel pins.
 - Senior class gift.
 - Reselling UF class shirts from respective convocations.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- Senate President Murphy welcomes the senators.
- Hurricane will be coming through Gainesville, asks the Chamber to be safe and careful.
- Office Hours:
 - Monday: 1:00pm-4:00pm.
 - Tuesday 3:00pm-6:00pm.
 - Wednesday: 1:00pm-4:00pm.
 - Friday: 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Replacement and Agenda Committee Recommendations:

College Of Engineering Seat:

Motion to open the floor to nominations.

- In a standing vote of 19 to 53, the motion to open the floor for nominations is not approved.

Taylor Watkins: 3 Minutes of Presentation:

- His sister told him about the College of Engineering and knew he wanted to be part of it.
- Wanted to be an active part in leading, knew Senate would be “me.”
- Must always exceed beyond the expectations given to you within this college.
- It is impossible to slide under the radar in this college.
- Number one goal would be to retain as many first and second year students in the College of Engineering while still fulfilling general education credits.
- One of the sad aspects at the University of Florida is that many first and second year students will change their majors from engineering to another major.
- Recognizes the importance of engineers in our world.
- Will lead to a positive impact overall.

Three Minutes of Question and Answer:

- Majority Party Leader Brown: Can you share some of your experiences?
- Senator Watkins: Had to come up with solutions to the problems presented with. Have to take ideas from students within the college and work with them.
- Senator Schulte: Can you go over some of your ideas?
- Senator Watkins: Create a study session for first and second year engineering students to avoid the overwhelming stress that he personally experiences. States that studies have proven that students do better when they study in groups. Second idea is to create a club for first year students that would allow them to get their foot in the door and get them prepared for higher level clubs and organizations.

First Round of Three Minutes of Con:

- Minority Party Leader Gatos: The point is to choose the most qualified. Those who were rejected were far more qualified. Does not believe that Watkins is the most qualified applicant.
- Senator Lima: The duties of the Replacement and Agenda committee is to select the most qualified applicant, which Watkins is not. "He will not get my vote."
- Senator Chou: Main concern is about not being involved with the college he represents. Must be involved, and the other applicants were involved within the college.
- Senator Berrocal: Not being involved in the various engineering organizations is not good. Some of the presented ideas have already been implemented.

First Round of Three Minutes of Pro:

- Senator Schulte: Knows Senator Watkins personally. Believes many ideas that Senator Watkins presented are tangible and possible.
- Chairwoman Dunson: It is clear that Watkins is well qualified. Knows his peers very well, and believes that Watkins can retain first and second year engineering students. Notes that he has tutored students, and his experiences are valuable.
- Majority Party Leader Brown: Wants to talk about Senator Watkins' character. Mentions part of his speech and states that it displays his effort that will go into fulfilling his role for the Engineering Seat.

Second Round of Con:

- Senator Chou: Says that his ideas have been implemented already. Reiterates the importance of qualification, not character.

- Minority Party Leader Gatos: Would like to reflect Senator Chou's feelings. Must focus on the qualifications and experiences of the candidate and not simply the character. Must find the most qualified candidate.
- Senator Lima: There must be a distinction of "qualified" to "most qualified." Is he the most qualified applicant at this time?
- Senator Berrocal: Character and effort were present in other applicants. It is important that an applicant be involved in various organizations tied to the college.

Second Round of Pro:

- Chairwoman Hernandez: Trusts the Replacement and Agenda Committee's decision in Watkins being the most qualified applicant.
- Chairman Sandifer: Speaks about the process for picking the candidate for the replacement seats. States it is a holistic process. He brought forth ideas to implement in order to solve problems within his college.
- Chairwoman Jones: As an engineering student, believes that the ideas brought forth are very important in the College of Engineering.
- Senator Pearson: It is clear to him that Senator Watkins took the time to find the problems within the College of Engineering. States that there were no major support programs for first and second year students within the college.

Third Round of Con:

- Senator Witte: Appreciates Watkins' character. Does not see his involvement, and cannot vote for him at this moment.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos: There were other candidates that brought forth ideas to implement that would make the college better. Claims that Senator Watkins is not better than the other candidates in regard to qualifications.
- Senator Calvin: Qualitatively disagrees with the decision by the replacement and agenda committee. Wants someone who can "hit the ground running." due to the condensed amount of time that Watkins would have as a senator.
- Senator Berrocal: Wants to touch on the ideas that Senator Watkins came up with. Points out the problems within Senator Watkins' ideas.

Third Round of Pro:

- Senator Pearson: Goes back to the point of retaining engineering students. Notes that public rankings looks at retention. Watkins was also a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Says that this candidate does have experience in dealing with struggling students in the college of engineering.
- Majority Party Leader Brown: As a member of the R&A committee, says that Watkins had the best interview.

- Chairman Hurdle: Most fundamental thing looked for in candidates is the passion for the community he would be serving. Has been sold on this passion by listening to the presentation by Watkins.

Two Minutes of Final Privilege:

- Very much for his engineering community.
- His engineering community was all he had in high school, and it presented him with a passion to provide that for everyone around him.
- Wants to provide as best of an experience as possible for the new engineering students.

The recommendation is now moved to a voice vote. In a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Motion for a division of assembly, motion goes towards a standing vote.

In a standing vote of 59 to 18, Senator Watkins has been appointed to the open Permanent Replacement Engineering Seat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Shaw welcomes the senators.
- Thanks everyone for voting for the R&A Recommendations.
- All applications will be due next Friday, October 19th.
- There will be another College of Agricultural and Life Science seat.
- Office Hours:
 - Monday: 9:00pm-1:00pm.
 - Tuesday: 12:00pm-3:00pm.
 - Friday: 1:00pm-4:00pm.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the chamber for approving her as Chairwoman.
- Keep an eye out for an open seat on the committee.
- Feel free to reach out to her with any questions about the position.
- Working on having one-on-ones with each committee member.
- Wants to work with organizations' presidents as they shift between terms in order to understand their budgets better.
- Reach out to learn more about the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Hernandez welcomes the senators.

- Thanks everyone for approving her as Chairwoman.
- Congratulates everyone appointed to the Allocations Committee. Asks to meet at the end of the meeting.
- Looking forward for internal growth within the committee.
- Feel free to start reaching out to her now, if a seat happens to open up.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairwoman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- Thanks everyone for confirming him as Chairman.
- Wants to achieve two things in as chairman:
 - Higher equality legislation.
 - Outreach.
- Look forward to a “Legislation Ready Workshop.”
- Will be getting email set up in the next few days.
- Email judiciary@sq.ufl.edu with any inquiries.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairman Hurdle welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the chamber for appointing him as Rules and Ethics chairman.
- Wants to make sure everyone has the best experience they can have while in the chamber.
- Committee will not be meeting this week.
- Welcomes the new committee members.
- Email at Rules@sq.ufl.edu regarding Rules and Ethics business.
- Will have a presentation next meeting.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes the senators.
- Thanks everyone for confirming her as Chairwoman.
- Has many ideas to be implemented.
- Like the Facebook Page.
- Follow the Student Senate Instagram as well.
- Congratulates all new members to the committee.
- There is one open seat on the committee.
- If interested in applying, feel free to reach out with any questions.
- Will be reaching out to those who did not attend tonight’s orientation.
- As soon as she get everything up and running, information on tabling will be sent out.
- Committee will not be meeting this week.

SECOND READING

- There were none.

FIRST READING:

- There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

- There are no bills pending signatures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senate President Pro Tempore Shaw:
 - Goes over the voter record and the open permanent replacement and committee seats.
 - Affiliation will be due next Tuesday before next week's meeting starts.
- Senator Beltran:
 - Hispanic Students Association has their second GBM on Thursday at 7:00pm.
- Chairwoman Hernandez:
 - Florida Blue Key Legal Professions Day in Reitz Grand Ballroom, 5:00-7:00pm
 - Hispanic Heritage Month closing ceremony this Friday from 6:00-9:00pm at Gator Wesley Foundation.
- Senator Tyagi:
 - Talked about an application at last week's meeting. This deadline has been extended.
- Senator Schulte:
 - The IFAS is putting on seminar on beekeeping this weekend. Invites anyone who is interested to come join.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
 - Ambassador applications for SAI are still open.

ROLL CALL:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.